



Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

www.townscountyherald.net • E-mail: tcherald@windstream.net

YHC Summer baseball camps

Head Baseball Coach, Rick Robinson, will coordinate all instruction. Website access: www.yhathletics.com/sports/bsb/index or TheROCKSports.com.

Come learn from the best! 3 camps each week to accommodate all players at different levels. Camp weeks: June 18-22 and July 23-27.

Indian basketball camp

Girls and boys entering grades 1-8 for the 2012-2013 school year are invited to attend. Indian Basketball Camp is divided into two sessions. Session I is for grades 1-5 and Session II is for grades 6-8. Indian Basketball Camp is designed to develop basketball skills, as well as promote enthusiasm and pride for future Indian basketball players.

Cost: \$60 for 3 days, \$50 each for 2 or more from same family. Date: May 29, 30, 31, 2012. Session I (Grades 2-5) 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Session II (Grades 6-8) 12:30 p.m.-3 p.m.

Camp focus areas will be: Basketball Agility and Quickness, Drills, Shooting Techniques and Ball Handling, Basic Offensive Moves, Basic Defensive Position, Team Game Play.

For more information please call Coach Melton or Coach Hamilton at Towns County High School 706-896-4131.

2012 Summer Day Camp

Summer is just around the corner and that means hot weather and Summer Day Camp for boys and girls ages 6 thru 12. This summer The Recreation Department will offer day camp for 3 sessions, each session being two weeks, running Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sessions will be as follows: Session I - June 4th thru June 15th. Session II - June 18th thru June 29th. Session III - July 9th thru July 20th.

The fee for the two week session is \$120. The fee is payable to the Towns County Recreation Department the first Monday of each session.

Day Camp offers chil-

dren sports game activities, social game activities, field trips, nature hikes and much more. Give your child a lot to do this summer and sign them up for Day Camp. You may send your child to any or all of the sessions. Children need to bring a swimsuit, towel, sprayable sunscreen and sack lunch. The Recreation department will furnish the drinks for the campers.

Registration will be the first Monday of each session at the Recreation Department located on Hwy. 76 west of Hiawassee. For more information please call the Recreation Department at 706-896-2600.

Youth cheerleading registration

We are very excited for another season of cheerleading. Registration will be held June 2, 2012, at the Towns County Recreation Center from 9am to 12pm. We recommend that your daughter wear a bathing suit to aid in the fitting process (however, there are locker rooms available to try on uniforms). The fee for participation this year is \$80. The fee includes the uniform, bow, bloomers, team socks, and liner. We will have optional information available for purchasing cheer shoes, which will be required if your daughter is interested in participating in competition. If you are unable to attend the above fitting, please contact one of the directors below within one

week of the above fitting and arrange another day for fitting. We will not take anyone after one week. Lastly, this summer we are hosting a cheerleading camp, being directed by the Universal Cheerleading Association. This two and a half day camp is open to all elementary schools girls (even if you aren't registering for the cheerleading season). It is being held July 10-12. The cost is \$87. Camp registration will take place on June 2 as well. At that time, parents will sign participation waivers and we will hand out the camp schedule.

If you have any questions, please contact Amy Markham 706-897-1337 or Lisa Walls 706-994-0215.



Blairsville School of Dance members.

Blairsville School of Dance wins in Maggie Valley

On May 5, the Blairsville Schools of Dance Force competition clogging teams attended the Stompin' Ground Competition in Maggie Valley, NC. In addition to winning several trophies in their age divisions, the group also won the top clogging award for the Exhibition category.

"This was the first American Clogging Hall of Fame competition we've attended in several years," said Angela Puleo, Studio Director. "It is a much more traditional clogging competition circuit than we are used to, but it was great to see different teams and dances and to see how well we fit into this very different type of competition."

The BSoD Force teams have been enjoying a successful competition season. So far in 2012, the groups have won

over 30 First Place trophies, 7 Grand Champion trophies and 3 Overall Grand Championships. Competitors range in age from 3-72, and the teams include Tiny Tot (6 and under), PeeWee (7-9), Elementary (10-11), Junior (12-14), Senior (15-18), Young Adult (19-29) and Adult (30 and over.)

Participating dancers were Caroline Collins, Edie Donaldson, Haley Edmondson, Kaley Hester, Raven Heyer, Kaelyn Jones, Mikala Jones, Hope Koluder, Caitlyn Ledesma, Cayla Ledesma, Ben Lilly, Ada Massey, Jewell Massey, Karen Massey, Ryleigh Miller, Karis Nix, Kaitlyn Odom, Kameron Odom, Kenan Olson, Molly Pollin, Emily Pollin, Molly Post, Angela Puleo, Silas Puleo, Brooke Seabolt, Brooklyn Shields, Brett Tay-

lor, Trista Taylor, Hannah Williams, Meghan Winner and Trinity Winner.

In addition to the team events on Saturday, several dancers also placed in the solo events. BSoD Force Elementary team member Emily Pollin placed Second in Contemporary Solos in the 8-9 year old age division. BSoD Force Tiny Tot member Trista Taylor placed first in the 4-5 year old age division and preschool clogger Ada Massey placed second. Silas Puleo placed first in the 3 and under male traditional solos.

All the dancers who participated in the competition are now preparing for the 2012 EPIC Nationals on July 21 in Spartanburg, as well as the R2K Clogging Invitational on July 29 in Clayton, GA.

The Nashville Songwriters Tour at Peacock Playhouse

Saturday, May 26th at 7 p.m. The Nashville Songwriters Tour headlines at the Peacock Playhouse. The players are: Sabrina Murdaugh, James Casto, JP Williams and Joe West.

They came together in 2004 at a place called Douglas Corner in Nashville, TN and something sparked; and no, it wasn't the amplifier. It was their creative forces that melded into one of the most entertaining live shows in acoustic music today.

The Nashville Songwriters Tour truly showcases the broad spectrum of sounds from Music City, U.S.A. To put it plainly this ain't just a country music show.

Now, the accolades; Murdaugh, Casto, Williams and West have played to

standing room only crowds in Atlanta, Chicago, Charleston, Nashville and beyond. They've shared the stage with Charlie Daniels, Bruce Hornsby, Randy Travis and Ricky Skaggs, just to name a few.

Their impressive venues include the world-famous Bluebird Cafe in Nashville, Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., Arie Crown Theatre in Chicago and Regal Room in London, England and now they're coming to the Peacock Playhouse.

The Nashville Songwriters Tour is unlike any acoustic music show you've ever seen. It's about real music.

Don't miss The Nashville Songwriters Tour, Memorial Day weekend, Saturday, May 26th at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for stu-

dents 13 and up. To purchase tickets call the Peacock Playhouse at 828-389-2787 or visit Cafe Touche or Phillips and Lloyd Book Store in Hayesville, The Curiosity Shop in Murphy or Anderson's in Hiawassee.

The Nashville Songwriters Tour is being sponsored in part by Walker Storage, Hayesville.

Ride with the Mountain Miatas

Do you have a Mazda Miata? The Mountain Miatas have formed a group right here in the North Georgia Mountains. We ride on the first Saturday of every month and a few rides in between. Come join us. Call Jon or Pegg at 706-897-3784.

NASCAR 2012

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Johnson claims third All-Star win

Jimmie Johnson beat Brad Keselowski to the finish of Saturday night's exhibition All-Star Race at Charlotte Motor Speedway by .841 seconds. It was Johnson's third win, tying him with Dale Earnhardt Sr. and Hendrick Motorsports teammate Jeff Gordon for most all-time.

"It means a ton to me," Johnson said of tying Earnhardt Sr. and Gordon. "Those are two of the greatest drivers that have ever been in a stock car. I want to set my goals high, and I want to be considered one of the best to sit in a stock car, and the only way you can do that is by winning big races and piling up those stats."

All told, Johnson won \$1,071,340 for his third win in 11 All-Star starts.

The All-Star Race victory was the seventh as a car owner for Hendrick, who sat on the window ledge and took a ride on Johnson's winning Chevrolet after the race.

"That was the dumbest thing I've ever done in racing," said Hendrick, who caught his foot in the dash while straddling the window.

Keselowski thought Johnson showed his hand early in the race.

"He started sixth, I believe, and drove to the lead in 20 laps," Keselowski said. "I think that's probably a pretty good indicator of the strength of his car. I don't believe he passed anyone that was not good."

"He passed Kyle, I think Denny, maybe Harvick, and Newman. Those aren't slouches. Whether that's car or driver, I'll let you all figure it out."

Matt Kenseth ran third, followed by Kyle Busch and Dale Earnhardt Jr., who qualified for the event by winning the preliminary Sprint Showdown, Kevin Harvick, Marcos Ambrose, Kurt Busch, Kasey Kahne, and Ryan Newman rounded out the top-10.

Though Dale Earnhardt transferred into the main event with a victory in the Sprint Showdown, the compelling story of the preliminary event was polesitter A.J. Allmendinger's run from the back of the field to the second transfer spot after pitting with a flat tire coming to green at the start of the race.

Tony Stewart drove to a quiet 17th-place finish, ending a five-race streak of top-five finishes in the non-points event.

"We just weren't very good. We struggled all night," said Stewart, who has participated in each All-Star Race since joining the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series as a rookie in 1999 and won the 2009 All-Star Race. "We just missed it tonight. I mean, we're not going to hit it every week, and if you're going to miss it, you'd rather miss it on a night like tonight."

Star Race served as test session for the Coca-Cola 600 next Sunday at Charlotte - a point-paying race that also happens to be the longest event on the Sprint Cup schedule. When asked what he learned from the All-Star Race that could be applied to the Coca-Cola 600, Stewart replied, "We won't bring back what we just ran tonight."

STENHOUSE SHOWS STRENGTH AT IOWA

NEWTON, IA—Ricky Stenhouse Jr. picked up his third Nationwide win at Iowa Speedway Sunday, as he led 210 laps of the 250-lap race, and extended his points lead over Elliott Sadler, who finished second.

"Man, we had a dominant car," said Stenhouse. "Rubber from the track was getting on the grill and causing it to overheat. If it hadn't been for that, we could have gone faster."

Michael McDowell, Austin Dillon, Kurt Busch, Justin Allgaier, Cole Whitt, Parker Kligerman, Darrell Wallace Jr., and Brendan Gaughan were the remaining top-10 finishers.

Kurt Busch had been racing Sadler for second, before falling back to third on the last lap. Michael McDowell gave Busch's No. 54 a bump as they came out of turn-4, causing Busch to brush the wall, and lose two spots.

Unlike last week, when Busch ran into Ryan Newman's car after the race, Busch was all smiles.

"We had a lot of fun," said Busch. "McDowell was just racing me hard. That's what racing is all about. We just got the short end of the stick today."

Top-10 leaders after 10 of: 1. Stenhouse-412, 2. Sadler-384, 3. A. Dillon-369, 4. Hornish-338, 5. Whitt-320, 6. Annett-301, 7. Allgaier-299, 8. Bliss-259, 9. Nemechek-247, 10. Patrick-233.

LOFTON GETS FIRST TRUCK WIN

Justin Lofton held off Brad Keselowski to win Friday night's Truck Series race at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

"I think I had some help from Ron Hornaday, when he and Keselowski got in a little battle," said Lofton. "Once I got out front (with four laps left), I knew I was OK. There was a short amount of laps left that I knew I could stay out front. I surprised myself, definitely."

Keselowski lost the lead on the restart on Lap 125 of 134 when Hornaday, who lined up behind him, ran into the back of his No. 19 Dodge. To Keselowski, the contact was unjustified.

"I came on the radio and asked him, 'Hey, man, I'll play it cool; just be nice and smooth, and we'll both have great days,'" Keselowski said of his communication with Hornaday before the restart. "Instead he



Jimmie Johnson celebrates after his All-Star win

decided to be a jackass and just run me over."

Todd Bodine ran third, followed by Jason Leffler and Ron Hornaday Jr. After the race, Keselowski had a heated exchange with Hornaday, stemming from contact between their trucks on the next-to-last restart with nine laps left.

For Hornaday, who scored his first top-five finish of the season, time was running short with just nine laps left.

"They stopped and played jackrabbit," Hornaday said of Lofton and Keselowski, "And somebody got into the back of me, and I just had to go, too. Sorry about that to him, but we're all looking for spots -- and it's pretty cool to get a top-five."

The remaining top-10 finishers: Jason White, Joey Coulter, Jeb Burton, Timothy Peters, and Ty Dillon.

Top-10 leaders after 5 of 22: 1. J. Lofton-200, 2. T. Peters-199, 3. T. Dillon-184, 4. J. Buescher-182, 5. P. Kligerman-170, 6. R. Hornaday Jr.-169, 7. J. White-158, 8. N. Piquet Jr.-155, 9. T. Bodine-151, 10. J. Coulter-145.

Weekend Racing: The Cup and Nationwide teams remain at Charlotte. The Cup drivers will face their longest race of the season, the 600-mile (400-laps) Coca-Cola 600. The trucks have an off weekend.

Sat., May 26, Nationwide History Channel 300, race 11 of 33; Starting time: 2:30 pm ET; TV:ABC.

Sun., May 27, Sprint Cup Coca-Cola 600, race 12 of 36; Starting time: 5:30 pm ET; TV:FOX.

Racing Trivia Question: Who was the 2011 winner of the Coca-Cola 600?

Last Week's Question: What is Ryan Newman's favorite charity? **Answer:** The Ryan Newman Foundation, started in 2005 by Newman and his wife, Krissie, encourages people to spay and neuter their pets and adopt dogs and cats from animal shelters. He recently helped an animal shelter destroyed by fire in South Dakota by sending them 25 dog kennels

You may contact the Racing Reporter at hodges@race500.com.