

Softball...continued from page 10A

year for the Lady Panthers. Although most schools across the state wouldn't consider it a rebuilding year when returning two All-State selections and five seniors.

But for those who want to write off the Lady Panthers in 2012, Coach Stewart and her squad say go ahead. The Lady Panthers have other plans though, and they involve gunning for a Region 8-AA three-peat.

"I have heard several people and coaches this summer say this will be a rebuilding year," Stewart said. "I think we have enough experience coming back that we will be competing for a third Region Championship. No doubt the four seniors that we lost were a big part of our program and success but I think from year to year you put people into positions to step up and take over. They know what their

role is on our team, and they work hard knowing that their time to shine might be the next season. I am confident in our program that these girls are ready and our five seniors will lead the way."

The Lady Panthers will host a scrimmage game on August 7 with Lumpkin County at 5:30 p.m.

"I hope everyone comes out to support us and get a preview of what the season will be

like," Stewart said. "Lumpkin is going to be a tough game. We have played them several times this summer with the end result going both ways."

On Saturday, the Lady Panthers would like to invite everyone to it's annual 100 inning softball game at 10 a.m. at Union County High's softball field. Last year's contest was a megahit as players, families, friends, and fans of all ages took part in this unique event.

Local Dancers win Grand Champion at Regional Competition

On July 28, 21 dancers from Blairsville School of Dance participated in the R2K Invitational in Clayton, GA. The group competed in seven categories, winning trophies with every routine.

In addition to winning six First Place trophies in their age divisions and one Second Place trophy, the group also won the Grand Champion trophy for their Show routine "Once Upon a Fairy Tale."

"Though it required working during the summer months, our dancers worked so hard to get ready for this competition, and we were ecstatic to achieve such success," said Angela Puleo, Studio Director. "This was the last competition of the 2011-12 season for us, and we are looking forward to working hard over the next few months to get ready for our next competition."

As an added pressure at

this competition, a TV crew was there filming for a new series about competition clogging that is to air on TLC.

"There were cameras and crew everywhere," said Puleo. "It was definitely a new experience for most of our dancers! We were very proud of how well they performed."

In addition to successes in the team categories, three BSoD soloists also won over the weekend. Eight-year old Emily Pollin won 1st place in traditional solos, and fifteen year-old Raven Heyer placed third in the highly contested 13-15 female contemporary solos. In the six and under contemporary solos, six year-old Jewell Massey received the 3rd place award in the females division and three year-old Silas Puleo won 1st in the 6 and under contemporary male solos.

Participating dancers



were Caroline Collins, Hannah Cook, Edie Donaldson, Haley Edmondson, Emily Galpin, Kaley Hester, Raven Heyer, Kaelyn Jones, Mikala Jones, Caitlyn Ledesma, Cayla Ledesma, Ada Belle Massey, Jewell Massey, Ryleigh Miller, Karis Nix, Kaitlyn Odom, Kameron Odom, Kenan Ol-

son, Amy Pollin, Emily Pollin, Molly Post, Angela Puleo, Trista Taylor and Hannah Williams.

Blairsville School of Dance is located at 80 Blue Ridge Street in the Merchant's Walk Plaza across from the Blairsville Police Department. BSoD also offers competition and recreational classes for ages 2-adult in ballet, jazz, hip hop, lyrical, preschool dance, break dance, musical theatre, Cardio Hip Hop, ballroom and Zumba. NT(Aug1,C)1ac

Mountain United Soccer registration deadline Aug. 10

The Mountain United Soccer Association is ready for Fall Soccer.

Registrations are currently being accepted. Forms will be mailed to all players who have participated in a previous season. Forms are also available by visiting the league's website: www.mountainssoccer.org.

The spring 2012 season was a big success.

Our younger teams played in Blairsville, Hiawassee, and Blue Ridge. The older age groups competed throughout Georgia.

We had players registered from all the surrounding counties as well as some from North Carolina.

In Blairsville, Cott Beverage is our community host for the soccer fields.

In Hiawassee, the fields at the Towns County Fairgrounds are utilized through the cooperation of the local recreation department. The

league is grateful for their commitment and support.

The fall season will begin in early September. Anyone who is interested in playing needs to register promptly. In some cases space is limited.

M.U.S.A. is a volunteer run organization and is also a 501C3 non profit. Any and all donations are directed to the youth player. Field Sponsors, Sign Sponsors, and Team Sponsors are always needed. If you are interested in supporting the youth soccer player in our community through sponsorship and/or a donation, please contact the Association.

For additional information contact the league at 706-835-1077, musa.soccer@gmail.com, or visit www.mountainssoccer.org on the web.

You can Like "Mountain United Soccer Association" on Facebook and also follow the league on Twitter @MUSoccerA.

Blairsville School of Dance welcomes Karen Massey

Blairsville School of Dance is pleased to welcome Mrs. Karen Massey to its 2012-13 staff. Massey will be heading up the studio's new Musical Theatre program.

"We are very excited to have Karen join us," said Angela Puleo, Studio Director. "Her daughters are students at BSoD and are members of our competition group, so she has already been an important part of the BSoD family. In addition, she has much experience in the field of musical theatre and will be such an asset to the studio in her new role."

Massey holds a B.A. in Music with performance emphasis. Her 20 years of performance experience includes four years performing Madrigal dinner theater and many stage productions. Some highlights include CATS, Oklahoma!, Jesus Christ Superstar, Annie Get Your Gun, Tommy, Phantom of the Opera, and Annie. Karen is a "triple threat" as they say in the theatre business with skills in acting, singing and dance. In addition, she is an accomplished musician, playing saxophone as well as clarinet. Inspired by her love for young people and teaching, she is currently pursuing her Georgia teaching license where she will be a great asset to not only our students, but



Karen Massey

the community as a whole. Though BSoD is entering its seventh season, this is the first time the studio has offered Musical Theatre.

"We believe in only offering classes in which we can provide the best possible instruction," said Puleo. "Now I believe we can offer that in musical theater with Karen heading up our program."

Blairsville School of Dance is now registering for the 2012-13 season. The studio is located at 80 Blue Ridge Street in the Merchant's Walk Plaza across from the Blairsville Police Department. BSoD also offers classes in ballet, jazz, hip hop, lyrical, preschool dance, break dance, musical theater and Zumba. NT(Aug1,C)1ac

NASCAR 2012

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

JOHNSON GETS FOURTH BRICKYARD VICTORY

Indianapolis, IN—Jimmie Johnson powered his way to his fourth career Sprint Cup Brickyard 400 victory. He led 99 laps of the 160-lap race, finished nearly five seconds ahead of runner-up driver Kyle Busch, and completely dominated the last 30 laps.

His teammate Jeff Gordon, who finished fifth, said, "He had it easy, there was no that could race with him."

Johnson took command with 31-laps remaining and pulled away from the rest of the field.

"To get four wins at this track is awesome," said Johnson. "We put it on them today, but it was a total team effort. The guys in the pits got me out, and I never lost any positions on the track."

Kyle Busch had an up and down race, but near the end he clearly had the second-best car.

"I had to congratulate Jimmie and his team," said Busch. "They really had the car dialed in. We couldn't even get close to them."

Greg Biffle led four laps, but at the end, his No. 16 Ford was no match for Johnson's No. 48 Chevrolet, and he was third.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. finished fourth to take over the points lead. This is the first time he's led the points since 2004.

"We worked on the car all day," said Earnhardt. "We were fast, but we only had about a fourth or fifth-place car. We've still got a long ways to go in the season, and I feel like we should be able to get some more wins."

Jeff Gordon had a fast car, but he had problems in the pits, and finished fifth.

"Track position cost us," he said. "We had a car that could compete with Jimmie, but we lost track position several times. On that last restart, I had to start on the outside, and that killed me."

Denny Hamlin, Ryan Newman, Martin Truex, Brad Keselowski, and Tony Stewart were the remaining top-10 finishers.

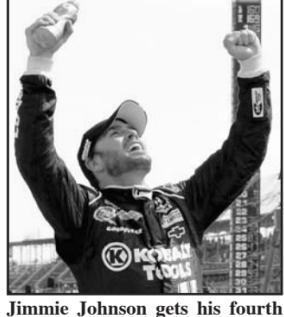
Carl Edwards, one of the drivers struggling to make the Chase field had engine problems and finished 29th, four laps off the pace.

Previous points leader Matt Kenseth was the victim of a Joey Logano spin during lap 133, and wound up 35th with a DNF.

Top-12 Chase leaders after 20 of 36: 1. Earnhardt-731, 2. Kenseth-717, 3. Biffle-709, 4. Johnson-704, 5. Hamlin-667, 6. Harvick-653, 7. Truex-653, 8. Stewart-652, 9. Keselowski-649, 10. Bowyer-643, 11. Kyle Busch-588, 12. Edwards-582.

Keselowski wins controversial Nationwide Race

Brad Keselowski won



Jimmie Johnson gets his fourth Brickyard victory

Saturday's Nationwide race at Indy, after Elliott Sadler was penalized for jumping a restart.

"NASCAR got it all wrong," Sadler said.

Taking advantage of the NASCAR penalty to Elliott Sadler, Brad Keselowski cruised to victory ahead of Sam Hornish.

Sadler, who got a push into the lead from Richard Childress Racing teammate Austin Dillon on a restart late in the race, asserted that race leader Keselowski had spun his tires coming to the green flag, and that is why he crossed the stripe ahead of Keselowski, who was the leader.

"It's so wrong to penalize me for a mistake they made," Sadler radioed to his crew. "NASCAR just took the championship away from me. They just took the damn championship right out of our hands."

Keselowski beat Penske Racing teammate Sam Hornish Jr. to the finish line by 3.3 seconds. Ty Dillon ran third, followed by Denny Hamlin, Austin Dillon, Michael Annett, Joey Logano, Paul Menard, Ricky Stenhouse, and Jeremy Clements.

Top-10 leaders after 19 of 33: 1. Sadler-704, 2. A. Dillon-703, 3. Stenhouse-691, 4. Hornish-676, 5. Allgaier-629, 6. Annett-607, 7. Whitt-577, 8. Bliss-525, 9. Scott-460, 10. Patrick-452.

France to improve racing

NASCAR chairman Brian France doesn't buy the argument that if it isn't broke, don't fix it. France said he is committed to ensuring the Cup series has the best racing possible, even if some believe there's nothing wrong with the current product.

"We can do better. We can have the packages better, tighter racing," France told The Associated Press. "That's our stated goal and we have to get there. With the new car coming, we want to get this right. And we know it will be hard to keep it right."

Fans have complained about stretches of racing this season, particularly a two-month swing that saw lots of strung-out, green-flag racing. NASCAR has made slight aerodynamic changes to the cars twice this season to try to make passing easier, and series leaders want the best possible package on next year's

car. France said if there are improvements that can be implemented now, he won't wait for the 2013 car.

In other news, NASCAR is kicking around the idea of qualifying the top-38 drivers on time and cutting the number of provisionals down to four plus one for former champions. With sponsors at a premium right now, it could be catastrophic to eliminate provisionals altogether, particularly when a driver missing a race could result in a sponsor pulling out.

NASCAR is sticking to its policy of not disclosing the specific substances that cause positive drug tests. President Mike Helton said Thursday that even though the rulebook allows series officials to disclose which drugs a competitor has tested positive for, he does not intend to stray from the long-standing policy of keeping those results private.

Helton cited federal privacy laws as one reason the series has not publicly said what caused A.J. Allmendinger's positive test.

Allmendinger was suspended hours before the July 7 race and is now serving an indefinite suspension. His business manager, Tara Ragan, said he tested positive for an amphetamine.

Allmendinger has said he did not knowingly ingest a banned substance, and has hired an independent laboratory in an attempt to figure out how he tested positive. But Allmendinger is not fighting the suspension and has instead said he will participate in NASCAR's anti-drug program, which includes an evaluation by a substance abuse professional, along with potential counseling and rehabilitation, so he can be reinstated.

Weekend Racing: The Cup and truck teams will be at the 2.5-mile Pocono Raceway, while the Nationwide series is at the seven-eighths-mile Newton, Iowa track.

Sat., Aug. 4, Camping World Truck Series Pennsylvania Mountains 125, race 11 of 22; Starting time: 12:30 pm ET; TV: SPEED.

Sat., Aug. 4, Nationwide Series Iowa Summer 250, race 20 of 33; Starting time: 7:30 pm ET; TV: ESPN2.

Sun., Aug 5, Sprint Cup Pennsylvania 400, race 21 of 36; Starting time: 12 noon; TV: ESPN.

Racing Trivia Question: Which Cup team does Jeff Burton drive for?

Last Week's Question: Note: Last week's question should have read: Who was the first driver to win three consecutive NASCAR Cup championships? Hint: They came in 1976, '77, '78. Answer: Cale Yarborough.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at hodges@race500.com. N(Aug1,Y3)gg

Friday Art Walk

Join us for Art Walk on first Friday, August 3 from 5-8 p.m. in downtown Murphy. Art Walk features original art and live art demonstrations, live music, food and fun. For an added treat, the August Art Walk includes a Scavenger Hunt with prizes, prizes, prizes! This event is fun, free and open to the public. For more information call Dianne at 760-974-6583. N(Aug1,Z5)CA

Bingo night cancelled

The Northeast Georgia Board of Realtors® Family Bingo Night that was to be held on August 3, 2012 at the Stephens Masonic Lodge in Young Harris, GA has been cancelled until further notice. Thank you! NT(Aug1,Z19)CA

Appalachian Trail video contest

ity, etc.

To commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the completion of the Appalachian Trail (A.T.), the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) is hosting a video contest to find out what people love most about the A.T. The contest entitled "Why Do You Love the Appalachian Trail?" is currently accepting submissions until September 2, 2012. The grand prize winner will receive several prizes including the opportunity to have their video screened in theaters during the ATC's membership drive this fall.

With over 2-3 million people hiking the A.T. each year, the ATC is providing the opportunity for the public to share what they enjoy most about the A.T. with the rest of the world.

"Everyone has their own reasons for hiking the Appalachian Trail," said Javier Folgar, Marketing and Communications Manager of the ATC.

"This contest provides the opportunity for Appalachian Trail enthusiasts to showcase to the world what the Trail means to them in their lives."

The ATC's Facebook fans will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite videos. The top three videos receiving the largest number of votes will be awarded prizes.

Videos will be accepted until September 2, 2012. Voting period begins on September 4 and will run until October 5. The top 3 videos will be announced on Monday, October 8.

"Why Do You Love the Appalachian Trail" - Video Contest Summary:

Rules and requirements: Participants must answer the question, "Why do you love the A.T.?"

Participants can only submit one video.

Any video conflicting with the ATC's Leave No Trace™ principles will be disqualified.

Inappropriate material is strictly prohibited and will not be displayed for voting, which includes, and is not limited to nudity, profanity, illegal activ-

ity, etc.

The video must fall within time length restrictions, minimum of 30 seconds and a maximum of 3 minutes.

Videos must be submitted by using a YouTube or Video URL.

Submission: Visit ATC's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ATHike) to upload your video. Click on the "Video Contest" tab, click "Enter", fill out the required information, upload your video and click "Submit".

Timeline: Video submission deadline: Sunday, September 2, 2012; voting period: Tuesday, September 4, 2012 - Friday, October 5, 2012; top three videos announced: Monday, October 8, 2012

Prizes: Prizes will be awarded for the three videos receiving the highest number of votes.

First place - Custom ATC hammock, courtesy of ENO™, Video screened in front of au-

Annual Sadie Hawkins Day Golf Tournament at Butternut Creek

Attention Ladies!! It's time again to 'Pick a Partner' and sign up to play in our Annual Sadie Hawkins Day Golf Tournament to be held on Saturday, August 11 at Butternut Creek Golf course.

Format is 'select shot' between you and your partner. cost is \$50 each (\$100.00/couple. Prizes will be awarded to flight winners and closest to pins.

Registration along with a delicious breakfast prepared by our ladies, will begin at 7:30 a.m. in the Cart Barn. Tee

diences at this year's Discover

the Appalachian Trail: 2012 fall membership drive featured in A.T. Journeys (official magazine of the A.T.) video featured on the ATC's YouTube page, one-year membership to the ATC.

Second place - ATC themed tote bag, glow-in-the-dark water bottle, featured in A.T. Journeys (official magazine of the A.T.) one-year membership to the ATC.

Third place - ATC themed hat; featured in A.T. Journeys (official magazine of the A.T.) one-year membership to the ATC.

For more information on to submit a video, visit www.appalachiantrail.org/videocontest.

About the Appalachian Trail Conservancy: The Appalachian Trail Conservancy mission is to preserve and manage the Appalachian Trail - ensuring that its vast natural beauty and priceless cultural

time is 8:30 a.m. with a Shotgun Start.

Lunch will be prepared by the View Grill and served upstairs in the Banquet Room after play.

To sign up call Betty Taylor at 706-745-2248 or 706-781-9910 or go by the pro shop and sign up with Blair or the guys or gals who work at the pay counter.

We need you!! And hey, we have tons of fun! Come out and join us for a good day of golf. NT(AUG1,C)1ac



Trout stocking sites week of July 23-27, 2012

FANNIN: R o c k Creek, Toccoa River, and Toccoa River Tailwaters (Below Lake Blue Ridge Dam).

LUMPKIN: Etowah River and Nimblewill Creek.

UNION: Cooper Creek. ***NOTE: Information is subject to change. Please call the hatchery at 706-838-4723 for questions. The hatchery also provides trout for the state. Please contact Georgia DNR for information on sites stocked by the state. N(Aug1,Y4)gg