

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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

Pickleball Thank You



The 260+ competitors from 11 states, the tournament organizers, and many volunteers would like to express their sincere appreciation to the citizens, government and merchants of Towns County and the city of Hiawassee for their support for the Georgia Mountain Spring Pickleball Classic. The unsurpassed beauty of the mountains, the hospitality of North Georgia, the 14 beautiful pickleball courts, and the generous support and sponsorship of local businesses and governmental agencies all contributed to the success of the tournament.

Free Seniors Fishing Rodeo and Family Fishing Festival

Mark your calendars! Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery located in the beautiful North Georgia Mountains on Rock Creek Road off GA Hwy. 60 near Suches will host a Seniors Fishing Rodeo on Friday, June 3, 2016, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon for adults ages 55 and older and a Family Fishing Festival on Saturday, June 4, 2016, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon for youth ages 16 and under.

The events will take place rain or shine and are free to the public. Participants must bring their own fishing gear and bait and register upon arrival.

All Georgia Sport Fishing Regulations will apply. There will be free lunch and prizes each day. Additionally, there will be exhibit booths and a scavenger hunt for youth and families on Family Fishing day.

Rock Creek will be stocked with many beautiful

trout. All other non-eligible family members are encouraged to try their luck at fishing after 12 noon each day for remaining stockers.

Everyone come on out for the fun! Friends of the Hatchery, Trout Unlimited, and many other loyal volunteers make these events possible.

For more information, please contact Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery at 706-838-4723. NTJuni12/CA

Win a new Ram truck at the Blairsville Pro Rodeo



In just 16 days you may have the opportunity to win a brand new Ram truck. Mountain Valley Motors - Ram Trucks, Union County Saddle Club, and Circle N Rodeo Production will be bringing the fifth annual Blairsville Pro Rodeo to the beautiful Union County covered arena.

During this year's event you will be able to enter a drawing for the horse-shoe toss for a chance to win the truck. If you get a ringer, you win! The International Professional Rodeo Association (IRPA) has over 3,500 members and sanctions over 300 rodeos every year.

This year's event will be held on June 17 and 18, 2016. Gates will open at 6 p.m. and the fun will start at 8 p.m. Both nights will begin with a presentation by our very own Union County Sash 'n Saddle Precision Drill Team. They will also perform an additional routine at intermission.

Everyone loves the rodeo clown, right? We are pleased to announce that Mr. Colt Hartt will be our rodeo clown this year. Colt resides right here in Georgia and he will be bringing his family oriented comedy that will definitely enhance the show!

We are also excited to announce that Miss Rodeo USA, Miss Harmony Latham will be attending and highlight the Blairsville Pro Rodeo this year. Harmony is from Wrightwood,

CA. She will be part of the Opening and Grand Entry and will also be carrying the Nelson Tractor flag for the Winners Circle victory lap after each event.

There will be plenty of other action going on during this year's event to include: Bareback Bronc Riding, Saddleback Bronc Riding, Steer Wrestling, Team Roping, Tie-Down Roping, Ladies Break-away Roping, Barrel Racing, and of course everyone's favorite, Bull Riding. Top quality livestock provided by Hedrick Rodeo Company will be used to ensure some thrills and spills!

Additionally, there will be plenty of things to do for our little Cowboys and Cowgirls like the calf scramble, pony rides, and other activities. There will be plenty of great food so help spread the word and come on out and enjoy a night of excitement. Advanced tickets will go on sale June 6th. Advanced prices are: Adults - \$10, Children 6-12 - \$5 and children under 5 enter free. Advanced ticket sales locations are Mountain Valley Motors in Blue Ridge, all United Community Bank Branches in Fannin, Union, and Towns County, American Cowboy Store, General Supply, and Nelson Tractor Company.

We would like to thank all our sponsors this year. The Main sponsor is Mountain Valley Motors - Ram Trucks. Premier Sponsors are: American Cowboy Store, Zaxby's, Complete Cash-Discount Title Pawn, Alexander's Store, McClure



Miss Rodeo USA, Miss Harmony Latham

Truck & Trailer Sales, Nelson Tractor Company, General Supply, EMC, Chick-fil-A, and Total Recovery Paint & Body. Additional sponsors are: Home Depot, Jim's Smokin Q, Michelle Vaughn, Lance Law, Mike's Seafood, Rick's Rental, United Community Bank, Ingles, Head Westgate Corp., Circle K, Charles, Denise, & Brittany Long and Michael Sossei, and Gooch Trucking.

Come on out and enjoy 2 great nights of pro rodeo excitement. The arena and show grounds are located on the corner of Hwy. 515 and 325 in Blairsville.

For complete information and photos of last year's rodeo action, visit the official website at www.BlairsvilleProRodeo.com or on Facebook. NTJuni12/CA

National Trails Day Saturday, June 4

National Trails Day is Saturday, June 4th. Kemmy Garrett, with TVA and Andy Ladd with Union County, will be at the new trails out at the Dam to give a guided tour. They will be giving basic information about the building of the trails and why and how this project came to be. The walk through will begin at 10 a.m., Saturday, June 4th. Hikers should meet at the second parking lot at the hiking and biking trail.

Towns County Youth Football gearing up for another exciting season

Towns County Youth Football League signups begin June 4, from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center.

Signups will continue at the Rec Center on June 11, from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m., and on June 25, from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m.

July 9 will be the Annual Youth Football Camp at the High School Practice Field, starting at 8 a.m. until noon that Saturday.

Football camp will be free of charge, and will feature

drills put on by all the youth football coaches, the new Towns County Indians Head Football Coach John Cornett, as well as the Towns County Indians themselves.

TCYFL Director Jimmy Smith will be signing up youth football players after the camp on July 9, and signups will continue for two weeks after the football camp.

Required at time of sign-up will be \$90 to play for the season, which covers the game jersey, insurance and a trophy at the end of the season.

Also, kids new to youth

football will need to bring a copy - not the original - of their birth certificates. If youth athletes played last year, they will not need to bring a copy of their birth certificates.

"I'm looking forward to an exciting year," said Director Smith, now in his 20th year directing youth football. "We had a great year last year, but this year is going to be even better. I've been waiting for this since last season came to an end. We're looking for a lot of kids to come out and play the great game of football in Towns County."



NASCAR 2016

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Truex dominates the Coke 600

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - Martin Truex set an all-time NASCAR record by leading 588 miles, on the way to victory in Sunday night's 600-mile Coca Cola 600.

No other driver could even come close to catching or passing him.

He started on the pole and led all but eight laps of the 400-lap race. At one point he was leading the second-place driver by over 9-seconds. When he took the checkered flag, he was 2.61-seconds ahead of Kevin Harvick.

"This means a lot now, but I'm sure it will mean even more when it sinks in," said Truex in Victory Lane. "We've come so close in the past, but fell short. This is the type race you dream about."

"But we're only here because the team just refused to give up."

Harvick did not lead any laps, but was able to get by Jimmie Johnson for second.

"Our car got better later on, but we had a lot of handling issues at the start," said Harvick. "I thought we might be able to drive around him, but he just had too much."

Jimmie Johnson led five laps, and ran up front for most of the race, but slipped to third near the finish.

"We had a fast car, but Martin just had a real fast car," said Johnson.

Larson battled each other near the end of the Charlotte Xfinity race, but after a caution came out with two laps to go it went into overtime, allowing Danny Hamlin to finish as the winner.

Hamlin pitted for four fresh tires under the caution flag. When the race restarted, he was sixth. With the newer tires, he was able to work his way through the field for his 15th career Xfinity victory.

"It was a collaborative call," Hamlin said, "He (Chris Gayle, crew chief) leaned towards staying out, but I thought that I could get around those guys in just two laps even though we were way faster than that last run."

"I thought tires were the thing. I knew if I could start on the outside that I wanted new tires and it just worked out on pit road where I came out on the outside. It all worked out and it was very exciting in that last corner, a little more exciting than what I expected."

Austin Dillon recovered from an earlier accident to finish second. Joey Logano was third, followed by Cole Custer, Justin Allgaier, Kyle Larson, Brandon Jones, Ty Dillon, Brandon Poole, and Brendan Gaughan.



Martin Truex Jr. Dominates Coke 600 Furnished by NASCAR

Top10- leaders after 11 of 33: 1. Suarez-376, 2. Sadler-362, 3. Allgaier-353, 4. T. Dillon-352, 5. Gaughan-336, 6. B. Jones-324, 7. E. Jones-320, 8. Poole-314, 9. Wallace Jr.-283, 10. Reed-266.

NASCAR RACE FANS ARE BIG BUSINESS

Long before the roar of the engines, NASCAR racing adds a big boost to the local economy. According to television station WJZY in Charlotte, NASCAR fans come to the track ready to spend money.

Fans from all 50 states walked the grounds of Charlotte Motor Speedway over the last week.

The speedway estimates they added \$250 to \$275 million to the local economy.

The sea of fans entering the track, already spend hundreds of dollars even before getting to their seat.

"I would say about \$300 dollars after everything is all said and done," said one fan visiting from South Carolina.

"Just on souvenirs alone for me, probably between \$300 and \$500," said Lisa Woodmore.

Lisa Woodmore and April Armstrong traveled all the way from Nashville. It was their 60th race together.

"We have been to Bristol, Charlotte, Talladega, Atlanta, Daytona," said Woodmore.

They travel across the country, easily spending thousands of dollars every year on things like merchandise, tickets and food.

They say it's worth every penny.

"You love the smell and the taste and the people. You just can't get enough of it," said Armstrong.

For other fans the pain to

the pocketbook forces them to experience a shorter NASCAR season.

"I don't go to as many races as I used to because of the travel and other expenses. You could spend a lot of money," said Alan Green.

Ed Clark, president of Atlanta Motor Speedway said Delta Airlines conducted a survey and found that a typical race weekend is worth \$500 million to Atlanta and the surrounding communities.

"Our race weekend is a win-win for everyone," said Clark. "The fans spend money and the businesses benefit. It's good for the fan and merchant, from the largest corporations down to mom and pop operations."

There are dozens of Waffle House restaurants in and around Atlanta, but the one in Griffin, Georgia, about 10 miles south of the track, has their busiest morning of the year on race day. They serve an estimated 700 breakfasts.

ROSSI WINS 100TH INDY 500

Alexander Rossi of Nevada City, California won Sunday's Indianapolis 500.

Rossi, who is normally a road course and street racer was competing in an oval race for only the second time in his career. Although largely unknown in America, Rossi is the second American to win the Indy race in the past three years. The two previous American winners were Hunter-Reay (2014) and Sam Hornish Jr. (2006).

Weekend Racing: The Sprint Cup and Nationwide teams will be at the 2.5-mile Pocono Raceway. The Trucks have an off weekend.

Sat., June 4, Nationwide Series race 12 of 33; Starting time: 1 pm ET; TV: Fox.

Sun., June 5, Sprint Cup Series race 14 of 36; Starting time: 1 pm ET; TV: Fox-sports1.

Racing Trivia Question: What year did Bobby Allison win the NASCAR championship?

Last Week's Question? Who won the first race at Charlotte Motor Speedway? It was ran in 1960, and was called the World 600. **Answer:** Joe Lee Johnson.

You may contact the Racing Reporter by e-mail at: hodges@race500.com NTJuni12/CA

Towns County Touchdown Club Bass Tournament
 Lake Chatuge June 18, 2016
 6:30 PM - Midnight
 Georgia Mountain Fairground Boat Ramp
 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Big Fish!
 Entry fee \$60 per boat
 50/50 payout!
 Rules: Posted at sign up