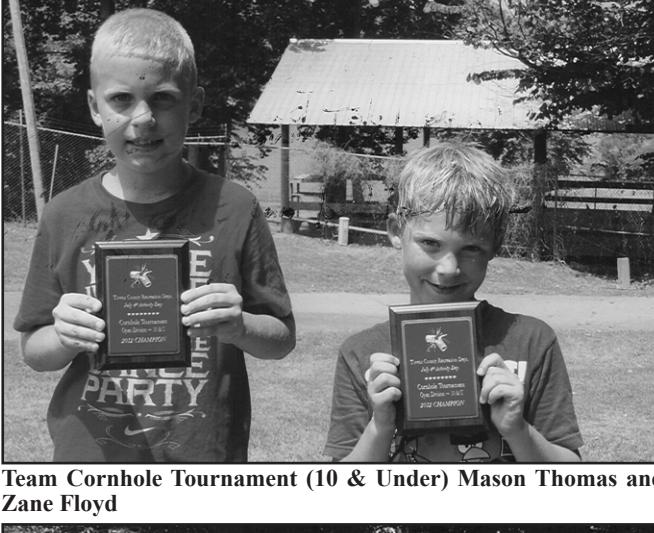


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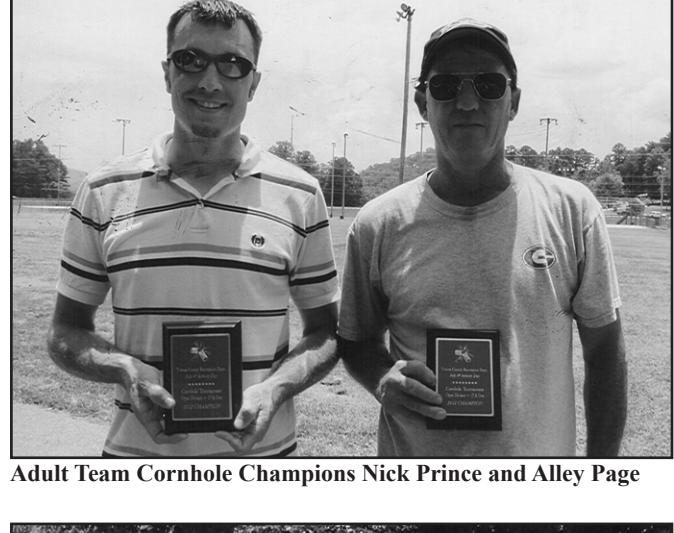
Towns County Recreation Department holds July 4th Activity Day



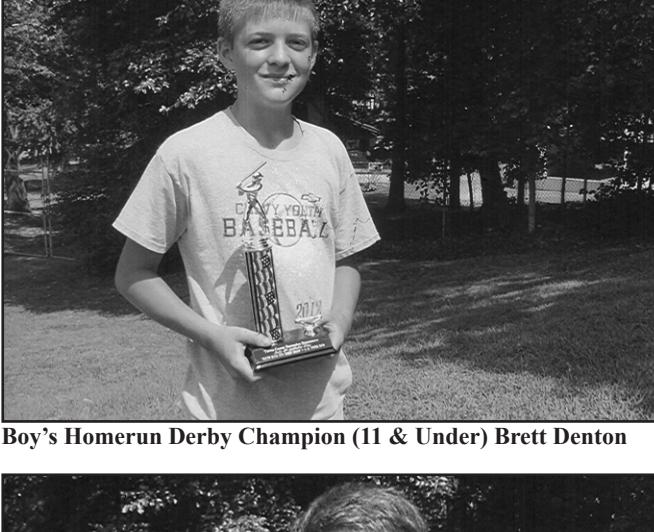
Team Cornhole Tournament (10 & Under) Mason Thomas and Zane Floyd



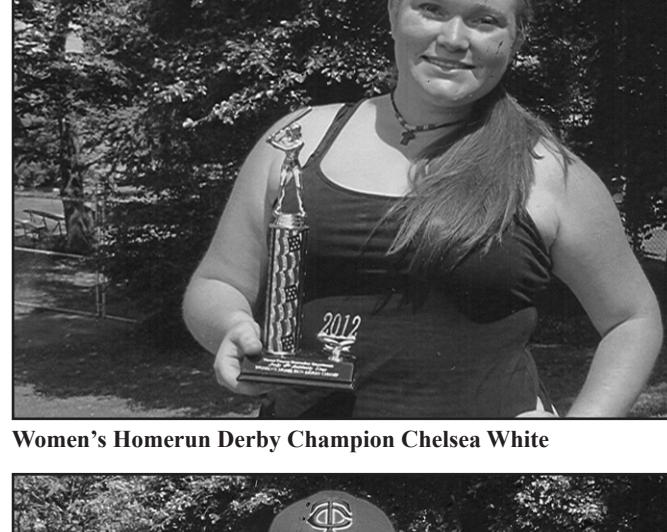
Team Cornhole Tournament (16 & Under) Kirsten Ledford and Shea Underwood



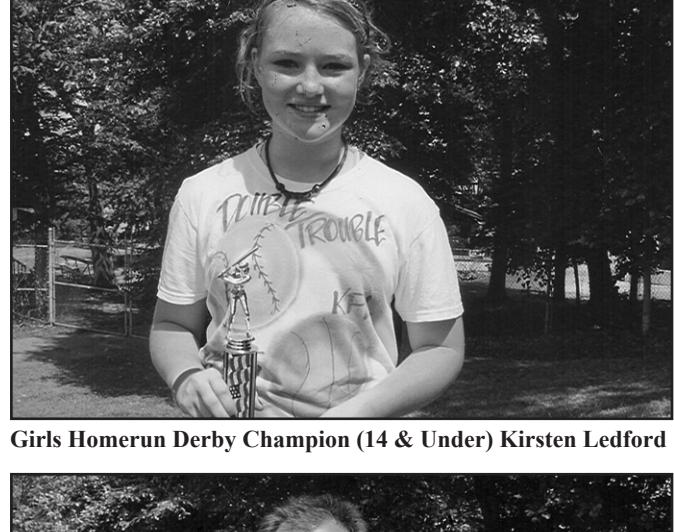
Adult Team Cornhole Champions Nick Prince and Alley Page



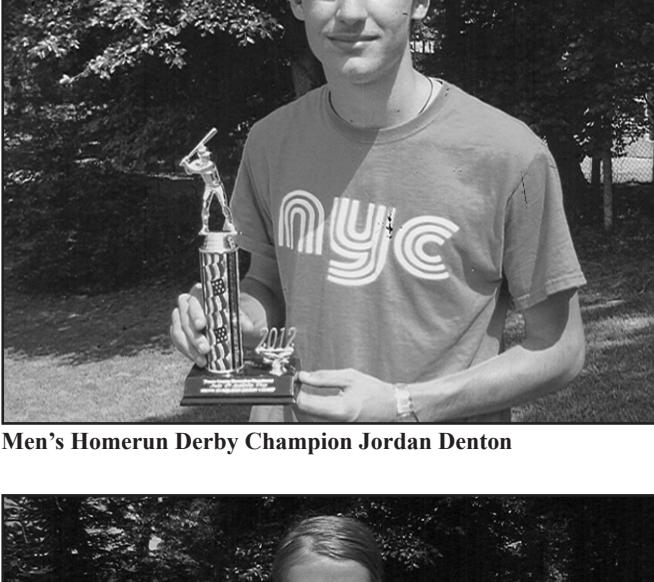
Boys Homerun Derby Champion (11 & Under) Brett Denton



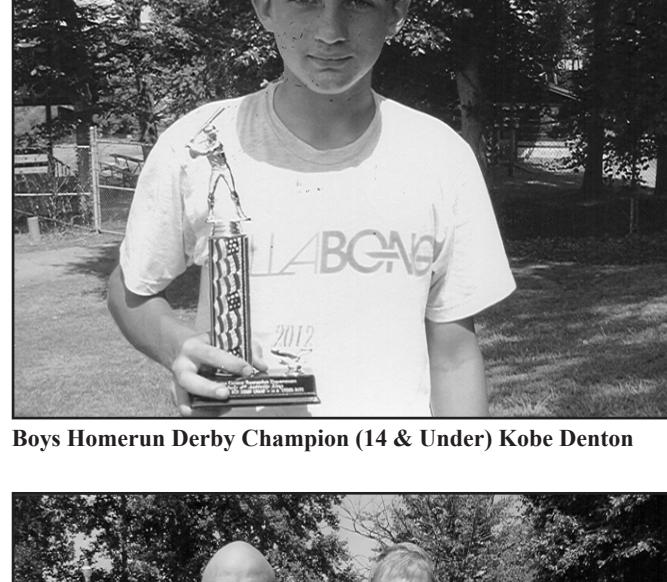
Women's Homerun Derby Champion Chelsea White



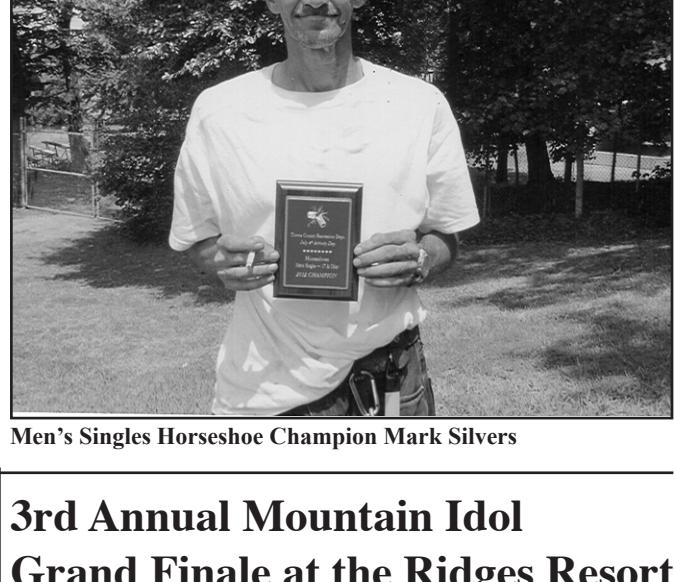
Girls Homerun Derby Champion (14 & Under) Kirsten Ledford



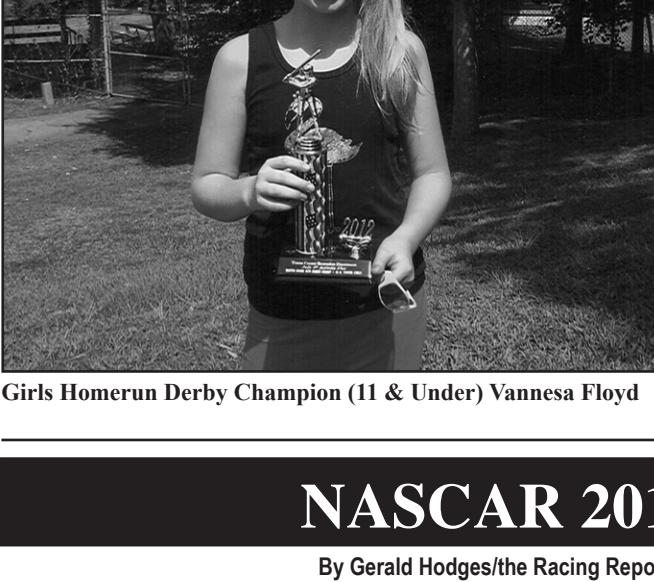
Men's Homerun Derby Champion Jordan Denton



Boys Homerun Derby Champion (14 & Under) Kobe Denton



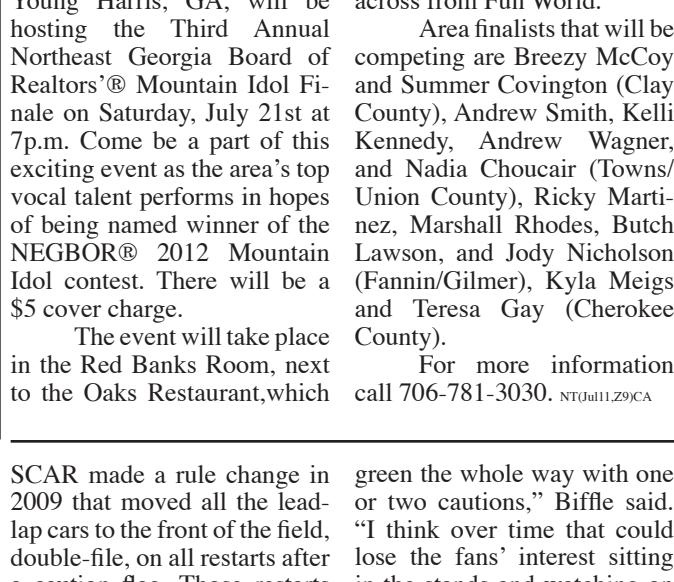
Men's Singles Horseshoe Champion Mark Silvers



Girls Homerun Derby Champion (11 & Under) Vannessa Floyd



Men's Partners Horseshoe Champions: Richard Greene and Kenny Silvers



Tony Stewart celebrates his Daytona Cup win.

NASCAR 2012

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Stewart is "Smokin"

Tony Stewart pulled off a victory in Saturday night's Coke Zero Sprint Cup race by making a stunning last-lap pass around Matt Kenseth.

"I wish I could explain it," said Stewart, who has five restrictor-plate victories in Sprint Cup, with four coming at Daytona. "The great thing about restrictor-plate racing is that 43 cars all have the same shot at winning the race, but that's also part of what makes it frustrating, too. It's just being at the right place at the right time, and when those last two big wrecks happened, we were in the right spot. We were ahead of them both times."

Stewart took the lead on lap 131 after a multi-car accident in turn four and led for 21 laps before relinquishing the spot to the duo of Matt Kenseth and Greg Biffle on lap 152. When another massive crash set up a two-lap dash to the finish, Stewart regained the lead on the final lap with an impressive drive around Biffle and Kenseth off turn two and down the backstretch.

As Stewart and the leaders approached the finish line, a massive wreck broke out that claimed the cars driven by Jeff Gordon, Clint Bowyer, Kyle Busch, Marcos Ambrose, David Gilliland, David Ragan, Juan Montoya, and Trevor Bayne.

Jeff Burton finished behind Stewart in the runner-up spot as the race ended under

caution, while Kenseth, Joey Logano and Ryan Newman rounded out the top-five. Carl Edwards, Kasey Kahne, Brad Keselowski, Michael Waltrip and Bobby Labonte comprised the remainder of the top-10.

Kurt Busch, winner of Friday night's Nationwide race was involved in a multi-car accident on lap 92, which proved to be the beginning of the end of the bid by the 2004 Sprint Cup champion for his second victory in as many nights at the 2.5-mile superspeedway and led to a disappointing 35th-place finish.

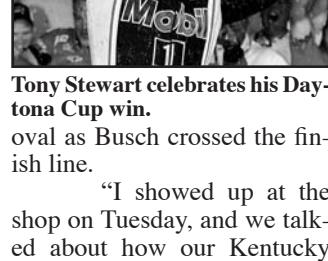
Jimmie Johnson wound up with a DNF after his car spun into the inside wall on lap 125, finishing 36th.

Top-12 Chase contenders after 18 of 36: 1. Kenseth-676, 2. Earnhardt-651, 3. Biffle-632, 4. Johnson-618, 5. Stewart-592, 6. Harvick-586, 7. Hamlin-584, 8. Truex-584, 9. Keselowski-572, 10. Bowyer-572, 11. Edwards-541, 12. Kyle Busch-516.

KURT BUSCH CAPTURES NATIONWIDE RACE

Kurt Busch left Daytona Friday night with total satisfaction, after winning the Nationwide race in a battered orange-colored Chevrolet that lacked even one sponsor.

With a strong push from defending series champion Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Busch took the checkered flag in a wild race that ended with Austin Dillon wrecking in the tri-



Tony Stewart celebrates his Daytona Cup win.

oval as Busch crossed the finish line.

"I showed up at the shop on Tuesday, and we talked about how our Kentucky week went, what we could have done better," Busch said.

"I went out back in the fab (fabrication) shop, and they were wrapping on both of our cars, this fluorescent orange color. And I'm like, 'What's going on?'

"It's just the energy James Finch has for Daytona. He wanted his cars orange, so they could be seen up front, so that car could be recognized without a sponsor on it. And we drove an unsponsored car into Victory Lane tonight. I was just being my normal sarcastic self on the radio, and I said, 'The Great Pumpkin is here, and the Great Pumpkin isn't going to lift coming to the checkered flag.'"

Stenhouse came home second, followed by Michael Annett, who was pushing Dillon during a green-white-checkered-flag finish that took the race one lap beyond its scheduled distance of 100 laps.

As the action intensified over the final quarter-mile, Dillon slid sideways across the stripe in fourth place, with Joey Logano and series leader Elliott Sadler taking fifth and sixth, respectively. The top-five for Logano, the series' top winner with five victories this season, took a sour turn in post-race inspection when his Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota was ruled too low in front. Penalties for the No. 18 team are possible early next week.

Danica Patrick was involved in a late race accident and finished 31st. Johanna Long, the other female driver was 12th.

Top-10 leaders after 16 of 33: 1. Sadler-591, 2. A. Dillon-589, 3. Stenhouse-573, 4. Hornish-556, 5. Allgaier-519, 6. Annett-496, 7. Whitt-488, 8. Bliss-427, 9. Patrick-383, 10. Malsam-369.

ARE MORE CAUTIONS NEEDED

Bruton Smith said NASCAR needs to implement mandatory cautions, or race stoppages, to bring more excitement to the races, but top NASCAR officials said, "Not so fast."

"Call it what you want, but you've got to have caution flags," Smith said last week. "That creates excitement. You can't just sit there with nothing happening. It ruins the event. It's damaging to our sport."

"Cautions flags and caution laps are down this year in NASCAR. Many races this season have produced long green-flag runs without a lot of passing up front."

Smith said NASCAR needs to deliberately create more double-file restarts. NA-

SCAR made a rule change in 2009 that moved all the lead-lap cars to the front of the field, double-file, on all restarts after a caution flag. Those restarts often cause bumping late in races, and sometimes additional accidents. Smith said he wouldn't mind seeing a pseudo halftime at each race to cause an additional restart.

"I'd rather have that than some mysterious debris caution," Jeff Gordon said. "The integrity of racing is about letting the race play out, and sometimes that's the most exciting finish, sometimes it's not. Trying to get in the middle of that can be challenging. If you're going to do it, it's got to be something planned in advance, and you take a break. I'm not totally against it."

Meanwhile NASCAR CEO Brian France met the media at Daytona to assess the sport as the season hits the halfway mark. But France was firm in saying there is no intention of creating mandatory caution periods for TV timeouts.

France said there is a possibility of more events being shortened in an effort to enhance competition and create better racing.

"Our product on the track is exciting, and sports is a true reality show in how it unfolds as an event," NASCAR President Mike Helton said. "You have to be careful when you think about artificially creating the outcome of that."

Greg Biffle seemed to offer the prevailing attitude of most drivers.

"I would not be against it if the races continue to run

green the whole way with one or two cautions," Biffle said. "I think over time that could lose the fans' interest sitting in the stands and watching on TV. That's not what we want."

Area finalists that will be competing are Breezy McCoy and Summer Covington (Clay County), Andrew Smith, Kelli Kennedy, Andrew Wagner, and Nadia Chouair (Towns/Union County), Ricky Martinez, Marshall Rhodes, Butch Lawson, and Jody Nicholson (Fannin/Gilmer), Kyla Meigs and Teresa Gay (Cherokee County).

For more information call 706-781-3030. NT01111.Z9CA

3rd Annual Mountain Idol Grand Finale at the Ridges Resort

The Ridges Resort in Young Harris, GA, will be hosting the Third Annual Northeast Georgia Board of Realtors® Mountain Idol Finale on Saturday, July 21st at 7p.m. Come be a part of this exciting event as the area's top vocal talent performs in hopes of being named winner of the NEGBOR® 2012 Mountain Idol contest. There will be a \$5 cover charge.

The event will take place in the Red Banks Room, next to the Oaks Restaurant, which

is located off highway 76 across from Fun World.

Area finalists that will be competing are Breezy McCoy and Summer Covington (Clay County), Andrew Smith, Kelli Kennedy, Andrew Wagner, and Nadia Chouair (Towns/Union County), Ricky Martinez, Marshall Rhodes, Butch Lawson, and Jody Nicholson (Fannin/Gilmer), Kyla Meigs and Teresa Gay (Cherokee County).

Sat., July 14, Nationwide New England 200, race 17 of 33; Starting time: 2:30 pm ET; TV: ESPN.

Sat., July 14, Camping World Trucks Iowa 200, race 9 of 22; Starting time: 8 pm ET; TV: SPEED.

Sun., Sprint Cup Lenox Tools 301, race 19 of 36; Starting time: Noon ET; TV: TNT.

Racing Trivia Question: Which Cup team has the most wins at Daytona Speedway?

Last Week's Question: How many Cup championships did Dale Jarrett win? His single championship came in 1999.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at hodges@race500.com. NT01111.C2JAC

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