

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



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Towns County Middle School Indians split with visiting Leopards

By James Reese
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Towns County Middle School Lady Indians Head Coach Lana Parker had her girls well prepared on Dec. 9 facing the visiting Banks County Lady Leopards. The Indians were coming off an emotional win on Dec. 2 against the White County Lady Warriors. With heavy hearts Coach Parker and the girls dedicated their game to the loving memory of Jessi Patrick who lost her battle with Cancer on Thanksgiving Day. The Lady Indians retained their momentum with a hard fought 23-21 victory over the visiting Lady Leopards.

throughout the fourth quarter until Misty Lindemuth broke a 20-20 deadlock on a layup putting the Lady Indians up for good 22-20 with 2:11 remaining in the contest. Seconds later Madison Johnson dropped in a free throw to seal the deal with a 23-21 victory.

In the nightcap, Head Coach Frank Johnson faced a tougher challenge as an oversized and older group of Leopards took the court. The Leopards made things happen fast as they ran off to a 28-2 first quarter lead. Johnson and his Indians managed to slow the pace and slow down the Leopards allowing only 3 points in the second quarter but faced a 31-6 deficit heading into the locker rooms.

Led by a hot-handed and determined Cruz Shook, the Indians drew to within 20 points as they stared up at a 37-17 disadvantage going into the final quarter. Unfortunately for the Indians the damage was done in the first quarter. Coach Johnson's Indians were dealt a 43-24 defeat at the hands of the Leopards.



Tyler Davis nails a jumper in the Indians loss against Banks County Photo by James Reese.



Tori Morgan fires a shot in the Lady Indians win over Banks County in Hiawassee Photo by James Reese.

Quilter Max Barlow shows off his latest quilt creation



Max Barlow and Margaret Frizzell, of Blairsville, GA

Max Barlow, who has been a member of the Misty Mountain Quilters Guild for six years, proudly shows his latest quilt creation. He took a beginning quilter class at age seventy-four from quilt artist Margaret Frizzell, and he has enjoyed sewing beautiful quilts ever since. Mr. Barlow also learned techniques from classes held in the Paducah, Kentucky National Quilt Museum.

Max has completed a large quilt each year for the past six years. According to Mr. Barlow, Ms. Frizzell has "prodded and encouraged" him to complete the lovely quilts in his collection and has been a teacher and a friend in the process.

For more information about the Guild, visit the website at www.mistymountainquiltguild.com NT(Dec29,Z3)CA



Trace Moss fires a jump shot in the Indians battle against Banks County Photo by James Reese.



Misty Lindemuth pulls down a rebound in the Lady Indians win over Banks County Photo by James Reese.



Cruz Shook goes up high for the rebound against Banks County on December 9 in Hiawassee Photo by James Reese.



Carly Gilfilian is in the right place at the right time in the Lady Indians win over Banks County Photo by James Reese.

January is National Blood Donor Month

Join the American Red Cross in celebrating National Blood Donor Month. Throughout the month of January, the American Red Cross celebrates the contributions of thousands of volunteer blood donors in our area who give the gift of life with every blood donation. January has been designated National Blood Donor Month to raise awareness of blood donation during the time of year when blood supplies often fall to their lowest levels. Donations traditionally decline during the post-holiday season, due to busy schedules and inclement weather which can prevent people from keeping donation appointments. At the same time, the need for blood remains constant in the early months of the year.

On Wednesday, January 19th the Young Harris College Blood Drive in Myers Student Center on College Street, Young Harris will be from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Please call 379-5110 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins welcome! Appointments preferred.

All presenting donors have a chance to win one of two pairs of Delta Air Lines tickets!

All eligible donors are asked to schedule an appointment to donate blood by calling 1-800-RED CROSS or visiting redcrossblood.org.

Castaway Critters Pet of the Week



Rico is a young adult male

Castaway Critters is featuring Rico this week. Rico is a young adult male with a sweet temperament. He's a little shy, but loves to be petted and has lots of other cat friends. He is neutered and vaccinated and looking for a permanent loving home for the New Year.

Rico, like so many of our cats, has been at the shelter quite a long time waiting. If you are looking for a new addition to your family, please consider adopting a lifelong friend from us. We have kittens, young cats and adults - so many to choose from. There is surely one that would be a great match for you!

Call June at 706-379-2169 for more information or visit our website castawaycritters.org for more dogs and cats available. Happy Holidays! NT(Dec29,Z1)CA

NASCAR 2010

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Robby Gordon to race in Dakar Rally

Robby Gordon turns up his winter racing schedule in preparation for the Dakar Rally

Gordon will be participating in his seventh Dakar Rally and piloting the No. 303 Speed Energy / Toyo Tires Hummer. Gordon will depend on his navigator, Kellon Walsh, to maneuver through the ever changing terrain of the cross country race

2011 marks the 33rd running of the international test of endurance and determination known as the Dakar Rally, which for the third consecutive year will take place in the South American countries of Argentina and Chile after security threats in Mauritania in 2008 caused the ASO, the race organizers, to move the race from Africa.

With more than 5,903 miles to be completed from January 1st to 16th, 2011, the Dakar Rally is easily the "world's most grueling race."

Based on fourteen stages, known as "specials", the winner of the rally is the team with the shortest elapsed time over the fifteen day event. The terrain that competitors traverse is extremely difficult. Most of the competitive specials are off-road, crossing dunes, mud, camel grass, rocks among other elements.

To be successful at the Dakar Rally, a team must possess three things: state of the art equipment, first rate driving and navigational skills, and true determination and perseverance. The slightest mistake by man or equipment can cost a team valuable seconds in their effort to achieve the ultimate objective: winning the Dakar Rally.

Sports Illustrated named Jimmie Johnson's fifth consecutive Sprint Cup championship as their top racing story of 2010.

The careers of most of the Sprint Cup drivers younger than 35 will eventually be considered in context of the Jimmie Johnson era. Like baseball's Dead Ball Era, Johnson's dominance will influence the consideration of every achievement within it. And there's



no telling when this epic NASCAR epoch will end. Not in 2010. Johnson withstood a challenge from Denny Hamlin, overtaking him for the title in the final race of the season in what might be both Johnson's and crew chief Chad Knaus' most masterful effort.

For Johnson fans it was good news, but others in NASCAR didn't see the previous season as all that glamorous. NASCAR battled declining TV ratings and attendance.

New Hampshire Motor Speedway president Jerry Gappens says NASCAR has sustained a 67 percent drop in interest from the coveted 18- to 34-year-old demographic and is "at the tail end of losing a whole generation." Television ratings have cratered, and attendance continued to flag despite a compelling season and the most interesting Chase for the Championship ever.

NASCAR's woes involve more than the financial plight of its fans. After years of wild growth, the sport faces great self-evaluation as it attempts to prevent a recession out of the major leagues.

For the past several years, NASCAR has been trying to promote a friendly oriented approach. They encourage drivers like Johnson and Jeff Gordon to bring their babies to the track, so they can be seen by viewers on television. Another angle NASCAR has taken is to introduce Hollywood celebrities during racing events, in hopes of creating more "glitz."

One of the latest drivers to try his hand in Hollywood is Carl Edwards

Edwards has been cast in HBO's forthcoming Civil War mini-series, "To Appomattox", as General John B. Gordon, a Confederate General selected by Robert E. Lee to surrender the Army of Northern Virginia.

The real Gordon became one of the two authors of "Honor Answering Honor" and, by this gesture, returned the private Southern soldier to the Union with respect and dignity.

The series centers around the final battle of the Civil War and stars Michael C. Hall (Dexter) as General Ulysses S. Grant, William Petersen (CSI) as General William Tecumseh Sherman, Paul Giamatti (John Adams) as James "Pete" Longstreet and Bill Paxton (Big Love) as Stonewall Jackson. The series is in discussions with additional NASCAR drivers to play other roles.

There was much hype about Danica Patrick's 13-race Nationwide Series excursion into NASCAR this past season. It was documented with opinion-page scrutiny and reality-show drama. Crowds swarmed her, especially early in the season at Daytona; other drivers humored her, then stopped abruptly late in the season, leading the 28-year-old IndyCar star to ask if she had a target on her person or race car.

Ultimately, the statistical analysis was mundane: an average finish of 28th with three DNFs. Her final race of the season, at Homestead-Miami Speedway, was her best, starting fifth, finishing 19th. She'll do it all again in 2011, and the drama this time around will be the fact that she's racing in

a contract year with both her IndyCar team and JR Motorsports.

Unless her performance improves, she is not likely to garner as much attention as she did this past season. The new has worn off.

There are various theories about the causes for NASCAR's decline, and one of them involves Patrick's car-owner, Dale Earnhardt Jr.

He needs to win some races. He leads the sport in fans, T-shirt sales and commercials, but he rarely leads a race. The move to Hendrick Motorsports didn't produce the expected success, but if he could get one or two checkered flags, 2011 could be a different story.

Racing Trivia Question: Which Cup team will Ryan Newman drive for in 2011?

Last Week's Question: How many Cup championships does Bobby Labonte have? **Answer:** His single Sprint Cup championship came in 2000. You may contact the Racing Reporter at: hodges@race500.com. NT(Dec29,C1)ac

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group

Sharon Penner Van Huss leads the Local Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group at Cadence Bank in Blairsville on the first Monday of the month from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Sharon has a library of information on hand (brochures, videos, books and literature) and offering workshops for caregivers to understand this devastating disease.

Please contact Sharon at (770) 789-2044 or pennervan-huss@yahoo.com for more information about Alzheimer's disease, caregiving, volunteering, donations, caring closet, or becoming an advocate for Alzheimer's. NT(Dec29,Z1)CA

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