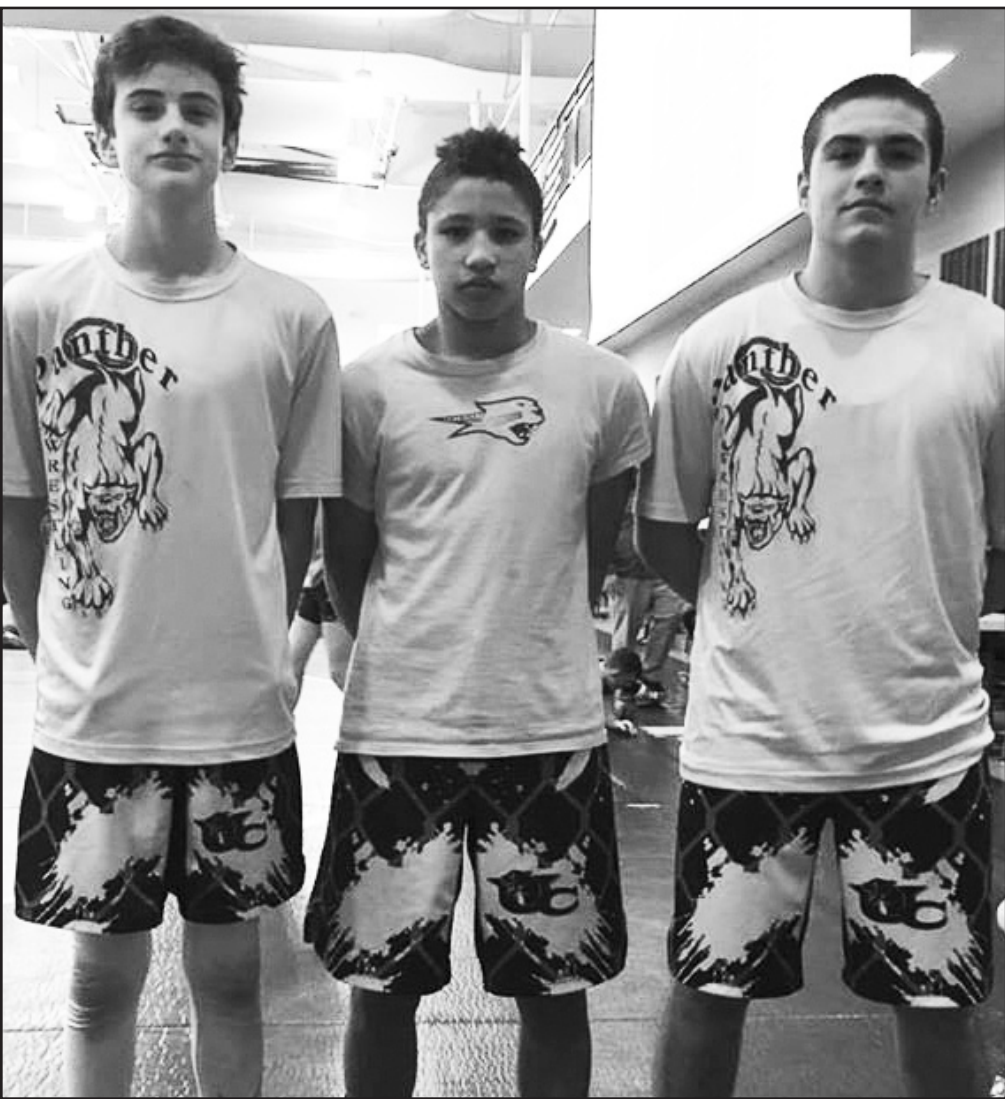


Union wrestling 10th at KOM; returns to Towns Co on Friday for program showcase



Pictured (L-R): Freshman Alex Barrett - 4th at 106 pounds, freshman Tyree Mackey - 4th at 126 pounds, sophomore Grizzly Breedlove - 3rd at 182 pounds. Sophomore Adrian Shaw reached the semis at 132, Freshman Isaac Tritt reached the semis at 138, Noah Bierce left the tournament early due to sickness at 145, freshman Logan Tritt reached the semis at 152, freshman Dakota Havard reached the quarters at 195, and freshman Christian Robertson reached the quarters at 220. Union had no one competing at 113, 120, 170, and 285. The JV: At 106, freshman Ben Howard went 3-2, at 113 sophomore Brendan Mason went 5-0, at 132 sophomore Kyle English went 5-0, sophomore James Rosser went 4-1 at 138, freshman Bryan Smith went 4-1 at 152, freshman Chad Buzzard went 4-0 at 160, freshman Liam Green went 2-3 at 160 as well, and junior Zach Peyton went 4-0 at 220. Union is at Towns on Friday at 4:30 p.m. the varsity, JV, middle school, and youth wrestlers will all compete.



Union County High School Band and Chorus Concert, Tuesday, December 15, 6:30PM, Union County Fine Arts Center

NASCAR 2015

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Harvick Is Top Money Winner

The 2015 NASCAR Sprint Cup season is over. Kyle Busch was honored as the champion last Friday night at the season ending banquet in Las Vegas, but Kevin Harvick, the 2014 champion, was the big money winner.

In addition to many manufacturer and sponsor contingency awards, Harvick's track winnings totaled \$9,012,821.

Any way you look at it that's a pretty good paycheck. Harvick will not collect all of that. Depending on his contract, his percentage will be somewhere between 50-60 percent. The remainder goes to the Stewart-Haas Racing team, owner of his No. 4 Chevrolet.

"It's just exciting," said Harvick. "I think when you race your whole life and you accomplish what you've raced for your whole life, it's exciting. I've been fortunate to experience that last year and know that feeling and know how gratifying that is. You know, it's fun to see that excitement."

"It's been a great couple years, and I know we're disappointed about finishing second, but it's kind of the theme of the year, finishing second."

"Unfortunately it's just one short, but all in all, it's been a great couple years, and I couldn't be prouder of our bunch of guys. At least we know what we have to shoot for next year."

The remaining top-10 money winners: 2. Joey Logano - \$8,400,213, 3. Jimmie Johnson - 7,238,747, 4. Denny Hamlin - 6,537,373, 5. Brad Keselowski - 6,497,691, 6. Dale Earnhardt Jr. - 6,095,610, 7. Jeff Gordon - 6,026,506, 8. Matt Kenseth - 5,973,076, 9. Martin Truex Jr. - 5,391,296, 10. Clint Bowyer - 5,223,413.

Note: Kyle Busch missed 11 races due to injuries, and that is why his winnings (4,892,617) are not equal to the other top drivers.

An emotional Jeff Gordon received a standing ovation by everyone at the banquet after being introduced by Tom Cruise.

The pair chatted and kidded each before Gordon began to speak, struggling several times as he tried to hold back the tears.

"Now I've had a lot of people this year ask me, why not just one more year?" said Gordon.

"Make it an even 24. It made me think, yeah, for a second about it, but then I really quickly responded, hey, this goes all the way back to April of 1977 for me. When I first was introduced to a quarter midget, so to me it's more like 38 years. It's been a long time. It's been an amazing ride. To all those who know my stepfather, John Bickford, they know that by maybe August or September of 1977, I was racing professionally. That's just the way it worked in my family, and I couldn't be more thankful. So will

there be another year? No, there won't be. I am so ready. I am so content because I'm just so proud of all that I've done. I will say it's been absolutely amazing, and I couldn't have ever imagined how my life would turn out.

"Motorsports has provided me lifelong memories and stories that I get to reminisce and talk about for years and years to come. NASCAR in particular has changed my life in ways that I could never really even describe. It's still really just a blur to me. It seems like it was just, you know, not that long ago that I was traveling from Indiana to North Carolina to see what NASCAR was even all about, and now here I am 25 years later stepping away from one of the most prestigious series in all of motorsports and a fulfilling career.

EARNHARDT IS MOST POPULAR DRIVER

Dale Earnhardt Jr. won his 13th consecutive Most Popular Driver Award, becoming the first driver to have won the award since 16-time winner Bill Elliott was named the recipient at the conclusion of the 2002 season.

Earnhardt was awarded the trophy and the National Motorsports Press Association will donate \$10,000 in Earnhardt's name to the charity of his choice. NASCAR fans cast 410,000 votes during the year's 11-week voting window that ended with the Sprint Cup Series finale race at Homestead.

CHASE ELLIOTT WINS SNOWBALL DERBY

PENSACOLA, Fla.—Kyle Busch developmental driver, Christopher Bell took the checkered flag in the 48th Snowball Derby, but was disqualified during a post race inspection for illegal weight placement, and runnerup, Chase Elliott was declared the winner.

Fans that remember the 2013 Derby, the driver who inherited the win was KBM's Erik Jones, after Elliott was DQ'ed. This year there was a role reversal as Bell was disqualified and Elliott took home the trophy.

The win was Elliott's second, the other coming in 2011.

"We gave him (Bell) three chances to get the weight right this week," said Five Flags Pit Steward Ricky Brooks.

Remaining unofficial top-10: 2. Zane Smith, 3. Ty Majeski, 4. Dalton Sargeant, 5. Bubba Pollard, 6. Casey Smith, 7. Preston Peltier, 8. William Byron, 9. Derek Thorn, 10. Daniel Hemric.

Defending winner John Hunter Nemechek's car caught fire while he was leading the race with 25 laps to go in the 300-lap race. He finished 21st.

PATRICK AND STEWART NEW CREW CHIEFS

For the third time in four years, Danica Patrick has a new



Kevin Harvick crew chief.

Billy Scott has been named crew chief for the No. 10 team of Danica Patrick. The 38-year-old from Land O' Lakes, Florida, comes to SHR from Michael Waltrip Racing where since 2014 he was the crew chief for the No. 55 team, which featured drivers David Ragan, Brian Vickers and Michael Waltrip.

He also served as crew chief for MWR's No. 15 team and driver Clint Bowyer from June 2015 through the end of the season. Prior to that role, Scott was a race engineer working under crew chief Rodney Childers, who joined SHR in 2014 and led Harvick to the 2014 Sprint Cup championship.

Meanwhile, Michael Bugarewicz has been promoted from race engineer on the No. 4 team, driven by Kevin Harvick, to crew chief for the No. 14 team of Tony Stewart. The 33-year-old from Lehigh, Pennsylvania, replaces Chad Johnston, who has left SHR to work as a crew chief on the No. 42 of Kyle Larson.

We have great people at Stewart-Haas Racing and these changes prove that," Stewart, said in a press release. "We were able to promote from within while also adding new talent."

"Change isn't easy, and that's particularly true when it comes to my relationship with Chad Johnston. He served as my crew chief during two very difficult seasons. He was always supportive, and he's become like a brother to me. I think very highly of Chad."

The SHR shake-up was expected following disappointing seasons for both drivers. Patrick finished 24th in the standings, while Stewart finished 28th.

Stewart announced in September that the 2016 season would be his last as a driver.

Racing Trivia Question: How many Cup championships did Richard Petty win?

Last Week's Question: Where is Martin Truex Jr.'s hometown? Answer: It is Mayetta, New Jersey.

You may contact the Racing Reporter by e-mail at: hodges@race500.com. N1D09217CA

Both Union Swim teams compete at Habersham twice in November

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
sports@nganews.com

Clarksville - Union County placed 22 swimmers among the top 10 when both the high school and middle school teams attended a swim meet on Nov. 7th at Habersham County.

They returned to Habersham the following week and those results are listed in the box below.

UCMS' Grace Weldon was Union's top performer with a first place finish in the 50-yard Freestyle event, setting a new school record in the process.

Weldon also set a new record while taking second place in the 100-yard Individual Medley.

The middle school boys' relay team of Jack Wiarda, Hunter White, Brian Williams, and Steven Williams brought home second in two separate events, the 200-yard Medley Relay and the 200-yard Freestyle Relay.

Individually, Brian Williams recorded a fourth place finish in the 50-yard Freestyle and Steven Williams took home fourth in the 100-yard Backstroke - setting new school records in the process.

Kaiya Wilkes' fifth place finish in the 50-yard Freestyle was the high school's best performance of the day.

Katie Yaboni placed sixth in the high school's 500-yard Freestyle event.

The middle school finished the meet with a sixth place finish in four different events. White took sixth while setting a new school record in the 100-yard Individual Medley. He also placed 10th in the 50-yard Freestyle.

Allison Vincent broke a school record with her sixth place finish in the 100-yard Backstroke.

Steven Williams was



On-line registration is now open for Upward Indoor Soccer for boys and girls in grades Kindergarten through 8th Grade at www.hopb.org or at www.fumc-unioncounty.org.

The registration price to participate is \$60, through December 10, 2015, and an additional \$10 will be applied thereafter. Payment plans are available, if needed. Convenient weekly practices commence January 11, 2016, while games will be held every Saturday between January 30 and March 5, 2016.

Registrants should attend the evaluation that will be held on Thursday, December 10, 2015 on a drop-in basis between the hours of 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. at the House of Prayer Family Life Center located behind the sanctuary.

For more information regarding registration, contact (706) 745-5925. Information regarding Upward Sports can be found online at www.upward.org.

sixth in the 50-yard Freestyle and the guys' 200-yard Freestyle Relay team of Aiden Wilkes, Sloan Sutton, Payton Ivester, and Nathan Cobb was also sixth.

Cobb picked up a ninth place finish in the 100-yard Freestyle event.

UCMS' Aliceyn Covington came in seventh in the girls' 100-yard Breaststroke.

The high school's 200-yard Medley Relay guys team of Gavin Thompson, Jeremy Herum, Adian Francis, and Tyler Harkins placed eighth. They would pick up a 10th place finish in the 200-yard Freestyle Relay event, as well.

Also coming in eighth was the high school's 200-yard Freestyle Relay girls

team of Savannah Damon, Megan Foster, Leannah Gambrell, and Kaiya Wilkes. Gambrell went on to record a 10th place finish in the 50-yard Freestyle event.

Megan Wiarda of UCMS took home ninth in the 50-yard Freestyle. The Middle School's 200-yard Freestyle Relay girls team of Vincent, Hannah Patterson, Katelynn Rash, and Brittany Pendley also finished in ninth place.

In the high school's 100-yard Backstroke event, Ariel Caputo-Sullivan placed 10th.

More results from both the Union County Middle and High School swimming teams will be in next week's edition of the *North Georgia News*.

UC Panther Swim Team competes in "Rocking Raider" Swim Meet

On Saturday, November 14th, Union County High School and Middle School Panther Swim Teams journeyed to Clarksville, GA to compete in the Habersham Central "Rocking Raider" Swim Meet versus many other teams from across North Georgia. All gave valiant efforts and represented the Panthers and Union County with outstanding results, fierce competition and excellent sportsmanship. Below are the results for their second meet of the season:

- Men's Results:**
200-yd / Medley Relay / HS - 5th Place
200-yd / Medley Relay / MS - 2nd Place
100-yd / Ind Medley / MS - 8th Place (Top UC Finisher: Jack Wiarda / 6th Grade)
50-yd / Freestyle / HS - 6th, 8th, 13th, 16th, 19th, 23rd (Top UC Finisher: Aidan Francis / 10th Grade)
50-yd / Freestyle / MS - 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 20, 23, 24, 25 (Top UC Finisher: Steven Williams)
50-yd / Butterfly / MS - 2nd (Top UC Finisher: Brian Williams)
100-yd / Freestyle / HS - 10th, 11th, 21st (Top UC Finisher: Jeremy Herum / 11th Grade)
100-yd / Freestyle / MS - 9th, 12th, 13th, 14th (Top UC Finisher: Michael Gernannt / 7th Grade)
200-yd / Freestyle Relay / HS - 4th Place
200-yd / Freestyle Relay / MS - 3rd & 7th Places
100-yd / Backstroke / HS - 8th, 11th Places (Top UC Finisher: Gavin Thompson / 9th Grade)
100-yd / Backstroke / MS - 2nd, 5th, 12th, 14th, 18th, 21st (Top UC Finisher: Brian Williams / 8th Grade)
100-yd / Breaststroke / HS - 2nd (Top UC Finisher: Aidan Francis / 10th Grade)
50-yd / Breaststroke / MS - 4th, 8th, 10th (Top UC Finisher: Hunter White / 6th Grade)

- Women's Results:**
200-yd / Medley Relay / HS - 4th Place
200-yd / Medley Relay / MS - 6th Place
100-yd / Ind Medley / MS - 2nd Place (Top UC Finisher: Grace Weldon / 8th Grade)
50-yd / Freestyle / HS - 3, 6, 14, 17, 19, 24, 25, 26, 30, 33, 34 (Top UC Finisher: Kaiya Wilkes / 9th Grade)
50-yd / Freestyle / MS - 1, 8, 10, 14, 18, 22, 28 (Top UC Finisher: Grace Weldon / 8th Grade)
100-yd / Freestyle / HS - 5th, 13th, 27th Places (Top UC Finisher: Kaiya Wilkes / 9th Grade)
100-yd / Freestyle / MS - 5th, 17th Places (Top UC Finisher: Brittany Pendley / 7th Grade)
500-yd / Freestyle / HS - 4th, 10th Places (Top UC Finisher: Leannah Gambrell / 9th Grade)
200-yd / Freestyle Relay / HS - 4th, 10th, 12th Places
200-yd / Freestyle Relay / MS - 6th Place
100-yd / Backstroke / HS - 8, 9, 14, 18, 19th Places (Top UC Finisher: Maggie Davis / 12th Grade)
50-yd / Backstroke / MS - 9th, 12th, 19th Places (Top UC Finisher: Allison Vincent / 7th Grade)
100-yd / Breaststroke / HS - 4th, 8th Places (Top UC Finisher: Megan Foster / 11th Grade)

Each swimmer is awarded points for their finish and those points are tallied for overall standings:
Men's High School Category - 6th Overall
Women's High School Category - 5th Overall
Men's Middle School Category - 3rd Overall
Women's Middle School Category - 5th Overall
Overall High School Standing - 5th Place
Overall Middle School Standing - 4th Place

These swimmers performed beyond expectation for this meet and are excited for their next competition! Congratulations to all the members of the UC High/Middle School Swim Teams!