

Union swim team records 10 top three finishes at Clarkesville

CLARKSVILLE-Union County High & Middle Schools attended a swim meet on Saturday Dec. 10th at Ruby Fulbright Aquatic Center in Clarksville. They had several top 10 finishes. Please take a moment to congratulate these swimmers.

200-yd Medley Relay:
Fourth Place (High School) Jeremy Herum, Brian Williams, Aidan Francis & Steven Williams.
Sixth Place (High School) Savannah Damon, Grace Weldon, Leannah Gambrell, Kaiya Wilkes.
First Place (Middle School) Wilson Walker, Alden Wilkes, Luke Gambrell & Hunter White.
200 Yard Freestyle:
Fifth Place (High School) Leannah Gambrell.
200-yd Indiv Medley:
Fourth Place (High School) Aidan Francis.
Second Place (High

School) Grace Weldon.
Fourth Place (Middle School) Hunter White
Sixth Place (Middle School) Alden Wilkes.
Tenth Place (Middle School) Libby Hendrick.
50 Yard Freestyle:
Fourth Place (High School) Brian Williams.
Tenth Place (High School) Steven Williams
Second Place (High School) Kaiya Wilkes
First Place (Middle School) Luke Gambrell
Eighth Place (Middle School) Michael Leird
Tenth Place (Middle School) Cale Winkler
100 Yard Butterfly:
Fourth Place (High School) Brian Williams
Ninth Place (High School) Steven Williams
Tenth Place (High School) Jeremy Herum
Fourth Place (High

School) Kaiya Wilkes
50 Yard Butterfly:
First Place (Middle School) Luke Gambrell
100 Yard Freestyle:
Sixth Place (Middle School) Michael Leird
Ninth Place (Middle School) Cale Winkler
Tenth Place (Middle School) Autumn Skinner
500 Yard Freestyle:
Tenth Place (High School) Katie Yaboni
200 yd Freestyle Relay
Fourth Place (High School) Jeremy Herum, Steven Williams, Aidan Francis, Brian Williams
Second Place (High School) Kaiya Wilkes, Megan Foster, Leannah Gambrell, Grace Weldon
First Place (Middle School) Alden Wilkes, Michael Leird, Hunter White, Luke Gambrell.
Eighth Place (Middle

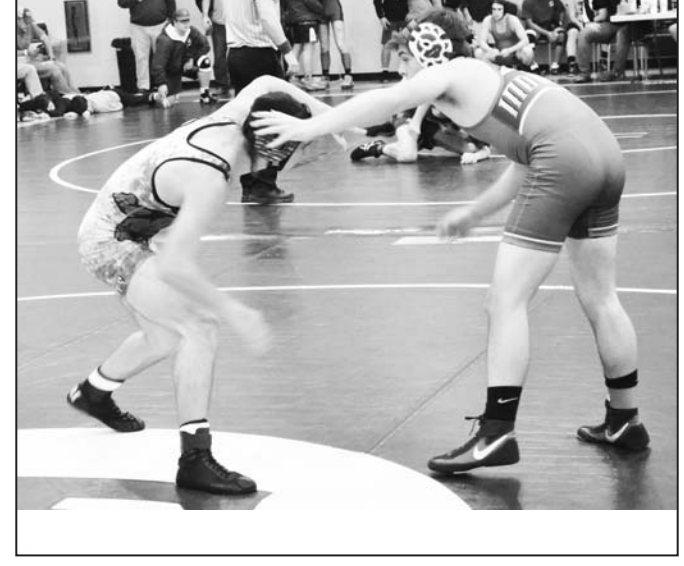
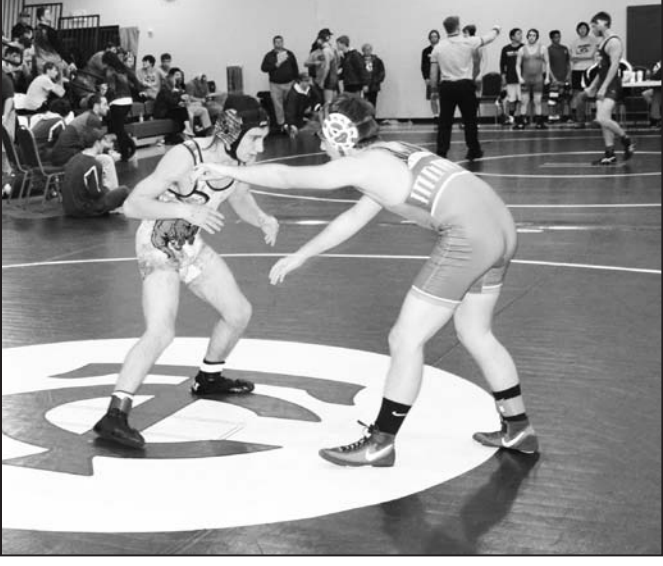
School) Wilson Walker, Preston Perren, Riley Howse, Cale Winkler.
Seventh Place (Middle School) Hannah Patter, Autumn Skinner, Libby Hendrick & Yuliana Morales.
100 Yard Backstroke:
Fifth Place (High School) Jeremy Herum
Second Place (High School) Grace Weldon
50 Yard Backstroke:
Fifth Place (Middle School) Alden Wilkes
100 Yard Breaststroke:
Fourth Place (High School) Aidan Francis
Eighth Place (High School) Megan Foster
Ninth Place (High School) Leannah Gambrell
50 Yard Breaststroke:
First Place (Middle School) Hunter White
Third Place (Middle School) Libby Hendrick

Lady Panthers... continued from 4B

with 15 points and 3 assists while Fannin's Cate Mosley and Hope Franklin finished with 10 points each.
McCarter added 6 points, 5 boards, and a block, Grace Wischmeyer also scored six to go along with 2 assists. Adeline Dockrey pulled down a team-high 9 rebounds while scoring four. Brooke Dockrey scored 5 points with 2 assists. Junior Maggie Beth Stuart hauled in 5 boards to go with a team-high 2 blocked shots.
Sophomore Jordan Rogers scored 2 points and blocked a shot while Fair scored 2 points, grabbed 8 boards, and finished with a team-high 3 steals. Freshman Mary Wischmeyer chipped in one rebound and one assist for the Lady Panthers.
TIGER - Lady Panthers 28, Rabun County 64: the third ranked Lady Cats jumped out to a 22-7 early lead and continued to pour it on with a 30-5 second quarter run.
Trailing 52-12 after the break, Union broke even with six points going to each squad.
The Lady Panthers took the fourth quarter 10-6 as the loss dropped them to 3-3 on the year.
Brooke Dockrey finished with 6 points and 2 assists while McCarter also scored six while grabbing a

team-high 7 rebounds and blocking two shots.
Ashley Fair scored four, Daniel was held to a season-low 3 points, while Adeline Dockrey had 2 points, 6 boards, and 2 dimes.
Stuart finished with 2 points and blocked a shot, meanwhile Mary Wischmeyer had 2 points and a team-high 4 steals.
On Tuesday, Union runs into a juggernaut when they take on GAC in Norcross at 6 p.m..
The Lady Spartans defeated Rabun County by double-digits in last year's Class AA Elite 8.
They return all five starters and the entire bench with the exception of one player. They have already routed Dawson and North Hall by 32 and 26, respectively.
On Friday Union hosts 4-4 North Hall at 7 p.m. The Lady Trojans fell by three to East Hall and defeated Providence by 15.
Providence's girls beat Towns County by 13.
The Lady Panthers visit 1-3 Hayesville, NC on Saturday with tip-off scheduled for 5:30 p.m.
The Lady Jackets fell 47-40 to Hiwassee Dam, NC and 46-43 to Andrews, NC.
They knocked off Highlands, NC 54-25.

Union County Wrestlers at last week's King of the Mountain



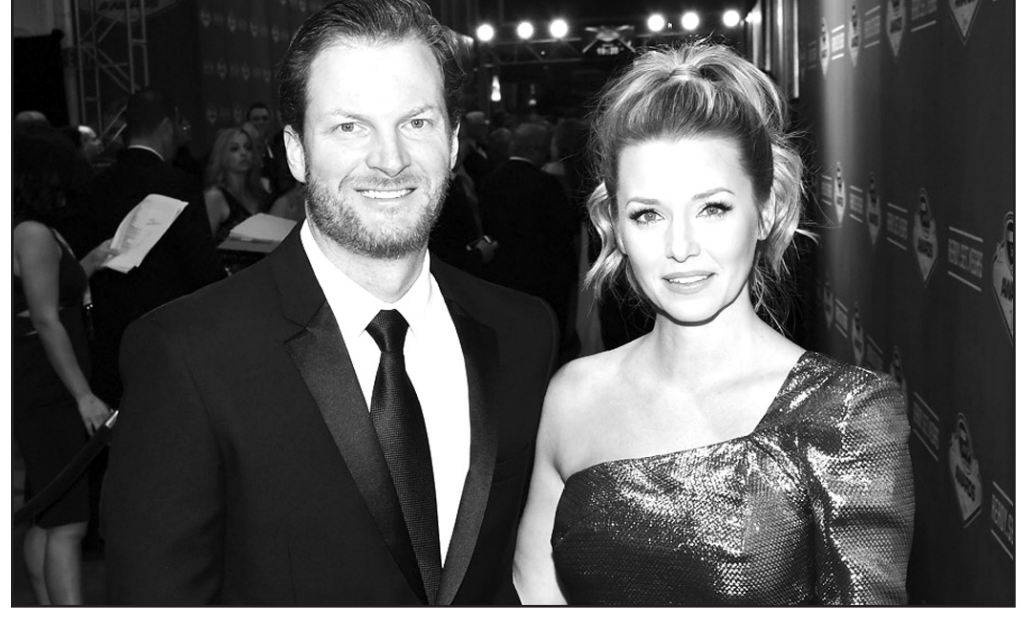
KOTM Wrestling photos by Lowell Nicholson

NASCAR 2016

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Dale Jr. Fans Can Rejoice

There is good news for those fans who have wondered if Dale Earnhardt Jr. would ever return to racing.
This past week, Earnhardt Jr. announced that he had been medically cleared to race after a special racing and test session at Darlington, and would be negotiating an extension of his contract with Hendrick Motorsports. In addition, he said he was looking forward to marrying his fiancée, Amy Riemann on December 31, 2016.
Dr. Jerry Petty, Earnhardt's neurologist, attended the test, and proclaimed him fit to return to full-time racing.
"Dale is one of the hardest-working patients I've ever encountered," Petty said. "He's done everything we've asked, and we believe he is ready to compete at a professional level again and can withstand the normal forces of a race car driver. Dale has been very open with us, and we've had plenty of time for his treatment, so we feel very good about his long-term prospects and how this has been managed by everyone involved."
Earnhardt completed 185 laps during a five-hour session at Darlington under the guidance of his crew chief, Greg Ives.
"I wouldn't be coming back to the seat and wanting to drive and be excited about driving cars if there was any risk other than the typical risk that every driver faces on Sunday," said Earnhardt. "I feel very confident in what I've seen in myself, my improvement and I feel confident in what my doctors tell me about my future."
In addition to the on-track test, which was observed by NASCAR, he spent more than 15 hours in a racing simulator during his recovery.
Speaking during a teleconference with team owner Rick Hendrick, Earnhardt was upbeat about his return after missing half of the 2016 NASCAR season due to the effects of a concussion suffered during the June race at Michigan.
"I feel great, and I'm excited to officially be back," Earnhardt said. "I expected things to go really well yesterday, and that's exactly what happened. Actually getting in a race car was an important final step, and it gives me a ton of confidence going into 2017.
Thanks to the staff at Darlington for hosting our team and to NASCAR for giving us the opportunity to put a car on the track. I'll do more testing in January to help knock the rust off. When it's time to go to Daytona, I'll be ready."
Earnhardt Jr. said he believes his health is better now than it was before the crash at Michigan, which caused a concussion, and triggered balance and vision issues as well as nausea that kept him out for the final 18 races of 2016. He plans to resume contract nego-

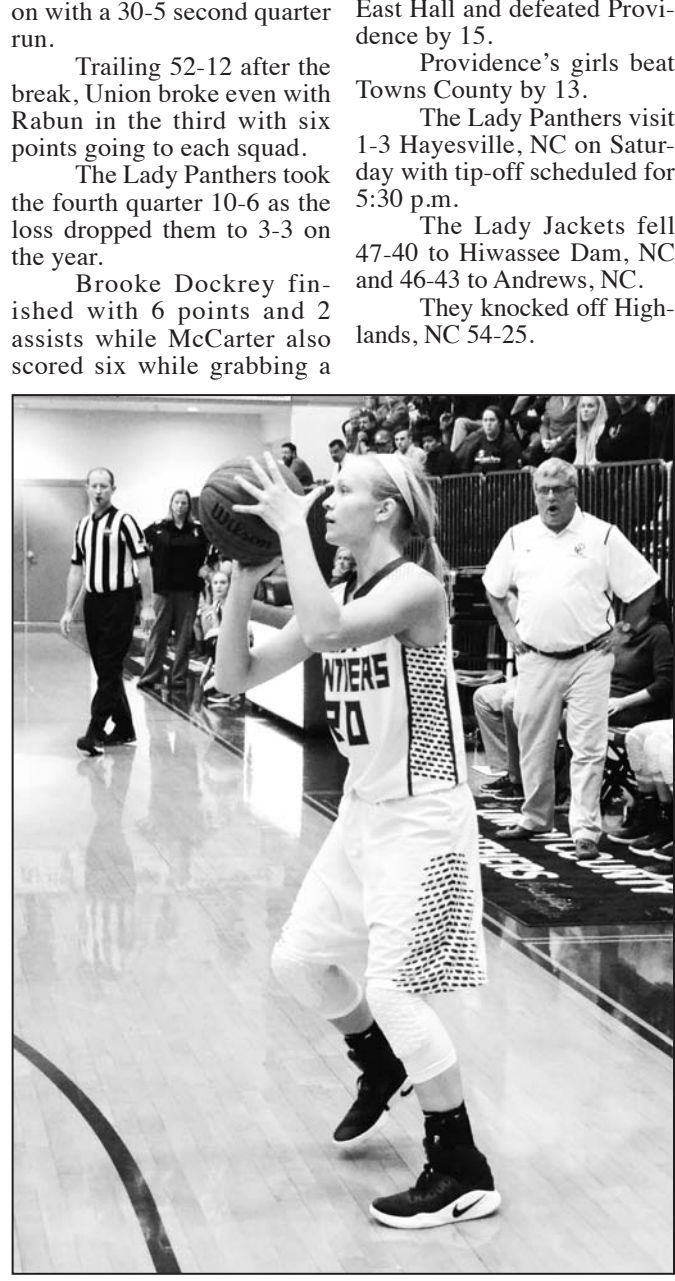


Dale Earnhardt Jr and Fiancé Amy Riemann

tiations with Hendrick Motorsports before he returns to racing in February, 2017.
Earnhardt's driving contract is up at the end of 2017, and contract negotiations were put on hold after he stepped out of the car in July.
"We're probably going to revisit our contract extension before the season starts," Earnhardt continued. "I've told you guys that before I got sick, me and [team owner] Rick [Hendrick] had been sitting down and talking about our future and the extension and what we wanted to do and all that stuff was starting to come together."
Earnhardt said he does not expect he will have to undergo any additional tests because of his concussion history if he gets into a crash other than the evaluation given to any other driver.
Team owner Rick Hendrick said he was thrilled to have Earnhardt back.
"Dale deserves so much credit," said Hendrick. "I'm proud of him for listening to his body and standing up to take responsibility for his health. He's worked extremely hard and set a terrific example for others. It's great news as we go into the off-season, and we can't wait to see him back on the racetrack at Daytona."
While Earnhardt will take part in all the practice sessions leading up to the Daytona 500, he will not participate in The Clash, a non-points preliminary race, which is run one week prior to the Daytona 500.
Alex Bowman will race the No. 88 Chevrolet in that race on Feb. 18, which will feature pole winners from the previous year. Bowman won the pole at Phoenix in November.
"Alex did such a great job in the car this year, and I felt like he deserved another opportunity," Earnhardt said. "When I spoke with Rick and the team about him driving The Clash, everyone agreed that he more than earned it, and Nationwide was one hundred percent on board. I'm re-

ally grateful to him and Jeff for what they did for our team, and I'm glad Alex is getting another run with us."
Earnhardt will test again Jan. 31-Feb. 1 at Phoenix International Raceway.
In 2016, Earnhardt was winless in 18 starts, although he did finish second four times. For his career, Earnhardt has 595 NASCAR Premier Series starts, which have produced 13 poles, 26 victories, 148 top fives and 252 top tens.
"Personally, just going through that process you learn a lot," Earnhardt continued. "I don't know if we've got time to go over it all, but you certainly realize the things that you might be taking for granted in life. You learn to appreciate a lot of different parts and aspects of your life a lot more. I had that same kind of experience before in 2012. When you get something kind of taken away from you, you certainly realize what it is worth. We gripe about our schedule and this and that and the other, but once you are not doing it and you are watching all your friends out there on the track and watching your crew work without you, really puts thing into perspective.
"It helps you kind of appreciate really what you've got. Definitely feel recharged and energized about the opportunity to be able to come back and race. I felt like I have a lot left in the tank. I'm excited about getting to Daytona. We are going to test in Phoenix, which I'm really looking forward to. Testing is kind of boring, but I'm ready to get more and more laps in the car so I feel real confident in myself. Confidence is really critical for me to perform well. The more I can do to help build my confidence before we get to Daytona the better.
"I'm excited."
Meanwhile Rick Hendrick believes that Monster Energy, the new NASCAR series title sponsor will bring new and younger faces into the sport.
There's no secret that NASCAR's fan base is made

up mostly of middle aged and older people. With an influx of younger drivers, the new sponsor might help attract a younger audience. Monster Energy has done well in the other forms of motorsport they have become involved in; Formula 1, MotoGP, AMA Supercross, NHRA, Australian Supercars, Global Rallycross, World RX, the Dakar Rally and the Baja 1000.
"We see the demographics of the people in our fan base because of drivers like Chase Elliott. They are a lot younger and we need that in our sport," said Hendrick. "Sponsors are looking for that younger demographic too. We need the veterans, but we've got a great crop of young guys."
"I think Monster could be a big boost. You look at what they do with the demographics of the young people they have, and the energy they have behind all the other series they're in. I think it could be really good for our sport. They've done a good job of marketing. I think their fan base is really good, so I'm excited about it."
Racing Trivia Question: What year did Tony Stewart win the NASCAR Sprint Cup Rookie of The Year?
Last Week's Question: What year did Dale Earnhardt win his last NASCAR Cup championship? Answer: It was 1994.
You may contact the Racing Reporter by e-mail at: hodges@race500.com.



Union County Head Coach David Tucker looks on as junior guard Grace Wischmeyer fires away from long distance during the win over Fannin County. Photo/Todd Forrest

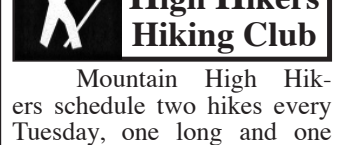
Arthur Woody and the Legend of the Barefoot Ranger, The Man Who Brought Deer Back to the North Georgia Mountains

Arthur Woody (1884-1946) was the most famous forest ranger who ever refused to wear a uniform. Born in 1884 near Suches, GA, legend tells us that he witnessed his father kill the last living white-tailed buck in Fannin County around 1895 when he was 10 years old. In 1912, he was hired by the government to help survey the first tract of land purchased in the North Georgia mountains by the newly-formed U.S. Forest Service. He quickly worked his way up through Forest Service ranks and was named Georgia's second official forest ranger in 1918. Arthur Woody quickly became a larger-than-life American folk hero and later earned the nickname "the Barefoot Ranger of Suches."
The "Ranger" lived during a very historic time when massive changes were taking place in the field of conservation across the U.S., especially in the Southeast. Forest and wildlife management were in their infancy. As a visionary and dedicated forest ranger with the U.S. Forest Service, he pioneered numerous conservation initiatives and helped bring the rural mountains of North Georgia into the 20th century.

Among his many achievements, Ranger Arthur Woody single-handedly introduced rainbow trout and brown trout to the mountain region and worked to restore the badly depleted brook trout fishery (Georgia's only native trout). He also restored deer to the mountains, protected and rebuilt turkey populations and restocked black bears to his beloved Rock Creek Refuge (later to become Georgia's first wildlife management area under his direction, Blue Ridge WMA).
In addition to his incredible conservation achievements in forestry and wildlife, Arthur Woody dedicated his life to helping his community during difficult economic times and enriching the lives of his neighbors by loaning money, building roads, parks, lakes, trails, a school, and by providing food and other resources to those in need during the desperate times of the Great Depression.
Duncan Dobie is the author of 10 previous books and thousands of magazine stories. He has had a lifetime interest in Ranger Arthur Woody. This book has been a four-year project. N(Dec14)218/CA

Bowling Scores

Monday Night Men: 215, Bert Rodgers 215, 214, Greg Wittenberg 213, Bill Smith 201, Jeremiah Plott 236, John Delphino 213, Joe Teague 212, 211, Derick Rice 258, 236, 236, Series 730, Mel White 205, 212, Richard Twinner 205, Bart Rodgers 233, Doug Tanner 278, 253, 232, Series 763, Michael Brandenburg 212, Ron Wingate 215, Keith Rhodes 232, Justin Miller 212, Branden Hartness 257, Jay Burrell 256, 252, Series 702.
Monday Night Ladies: Nicki Austin 200, Monita Rodgers 203.
Young At Heart Seniors: Del Neiffer 236, 203, Walter Carpenter 220, Mo Rodgers 215, Bert Rodgers 215, 214, Stanley Tyler 224, Bob Landis 211, 234, Ron Gaucher 203, Rainy Hughs 204, Gene Langford 205, 223, Herb Popkey 201, Mel White 204, Barry Rice 213, John Delphino 220, Series 692, Bob Bischoff 229, Bill Cox 204, 220, 216, Series 640.
Thursday Night Fun: Ray Everett 212, 217, Tee Turner 205, Curtis Corn 210, 202, Bonnell 202, Paul Lierd 201, Phillip Brix 199, 190, Brande Hartness 235, Justin Miller 210, Greg Wittenberg 215, Doug Roberts 200, Jimmy Southern 200, Tony Lynch 203, 210, Stanley Tyler 223, 216.



Mountain High Hikers schedule two hikes every Tuesday, one long and one shorter, as well as occasional specialty hikes. Weekly trail maintenance trips are scheduled every Thursday.
Come enjoy the beautiful mountains and waterfalls we have here. Check the website www.mountainhighhikers.org for schedule and contact numbers. NT(Dec14)218/CA