

RANCE STAFFORD, BRANT DAMON AND HUCK DAMON

# AAU team awarded

Photos provided  
During competition Saturday in the TNAAU Wildcat Invitational, eight members of the Pioneer Pride AAU team earned medals.



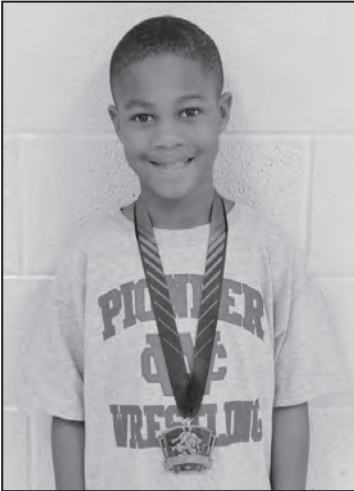
BURGESS GALLIGAN



DRAKE MARTIN



KASEN MULLICAN



TRAVIAN MATHIS



ZERICK KEEL

## Homecoming

Continued from page 1B

Jones recalled a time when the girls had to mix in with the boys, something she didn't struggle much with as a state qualifier. But now with a girls division set up, and a state qualifier at the high school in junior Allison Vazquez, Jones is happy to see the growth.

"I was the first female wrestler to qualify for the boys state tournament in Tennessee," said Jones. "It has come a long way with girls having their own sanctioning now. It's great."

Vazquez will become the latest state representative after finishing second

over the weekend in the East Regional tournament. Vazquez punched her ticket for the state event Feb. 15-17, while members of the boys team will have their chance to advance at the region tournament on Feb. 9-10.

Turner hopes he'll have more wrestlers join Vazquez, but even if it's just one wrestler, they'll be more than enough support for the Lady Pioneer.

Tuesday's showcase helped bring the team to the forefront and punctuated something Turner and other coaches have been working to achieve - wrestling becoming mainstream in Warren County.



Photo courtesy of Painted Barn Media  
Alec Smith puts his opponent down for the pin. Smith was one of many successful WCMS wrestlers during Tuesday's homecoming event at Charlie Dalton Gym.

## Fisher returns to Predators

**NASHVILLE (AP)** — Mike Fisher insists he never thought of returning to the NHL and that watching players come out of retirement always bugged him.

Fisher can add his name to that list.

He and the Nashville Predators announced Wednesday that the veteran center is coming out of retirement for his 18th NHL season as they try to win the Stanley Cup.

"I believe this team is built to win and has a very good chance, so that is part of the reason why I want to come back and compete and be a part of it," Fisher said. "But we didn't win last year, and it was the best time in my career and we didn't win. So I believe that this year can be our year, and that's why

I want to be a part of and have some fun."

Fisher started skating Wednesday and will spend the next few weeks working himself into shape to rejoin the team. Fisher has not signed a contract yet, and general manager David Poile said they will sign Fisher officially at some point before the Feb. 26 trade deadline for the stretch run in what he called one of his better moves.

Poile believes Fisher has some unfinished business and wants to help the Predators win two more games than they did last year when they lost the Stanley Cup Final in six games to Pittsburgh. The current leadership with defenseman Roman Josi as captain will not change.

## Gronk expected to play

**BLOOMINGTON, MINN. (AP)** — New England Patriots star tight end Rob Gronkowski says he expects to play in Sunday's Super Bowl against the Philadelphia Eagles.

Gronkowski has been in the league's concussion protocol after taking a hit from Jacksonville's Barry Church in the AFC championship game. He made his first public appearance on Tuesday night while playing former teammate and current Eagles running back LeGarrette Blount in a game of "Madden 18" at the Mall of America.

Gronkowski said he's still in the concussion protocol and would leave his status up to those in charge of making medical decisions.

"We'll see how it goes. I'm not the guy to say I'm

out of the protocol. That's the doctors' calls," said Gronkowski.

**(Editor note:** Late Thursday, NFL reporter Ian Rapoport tweeted Gronkowski would be a part of a media day session, an indication he was medically cleared for the game).

Gronkowski led the Patriots with 69 receptions for 1,084 yards and eight touchdowns this season. He missed last year's Super Bowl win against Atlanta because of a back injury.

Blount, who won two Super Bowls with Gronkowski and the Patriots before joining the Eagles, dominated his virtual matchup on Xbox in front of a packed crowd of Patriots fans at a Microsoft store. They left disappointed as Blount led his Eagles to a 33-13 win over Patriots.



James Clark photo  
Rob Gronkowski has been cleared to play in Sunday's Super Bowl LII.

# Puzzlemania

PUZZLES ON PAGE 7A

## CELEBRITY CIPHER

"Having a dream is what keeps you alive. Overcoming the challenges makes life worth living." — Mary Tyler Moore

TODAY'S CLUE: *U equals B*

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# SUDOKU

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5	8	7	4	3	2	6	1	9
9	1	3	8	5	6	4	7	2

## Love is... Being a Proud Grandparent

Put a Photo Where Your Heart Is... Show Everyone Your Grandchildren!

**EXAMPLE**

CHILD'S NAME  
Grandchild of:  
Grandparents' names

**We'll place your Grandchildren's photo in examples as shown. It will include the child's name and grandparent's name. Cost is only \$15.**

On Wednesday, February 14, your Grandchildren's photos will be published in the Southern Standard.

**DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, FEB. 9 @ NOON**

MAIL OR BRING PHOTOS, CHILDREN'S AND GRANDPARENT'S NAMES AND PAYMENT TO  
ATTN: BRINDA  
SOUTHERN STANDARD  
105 COLLEGE ST., P.O. BOX 150  
McMINNVILLE, TN 37111

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