

FAIR

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PHOTOS/Gabe Roberts

Eggs fly during "Egg Toss" the final event of Kid's Day.

From May 31st to June 8th the Russell County Jaycees hosted their annual county fair. Every day contained events that were certain to appeal to audiences from all around. With pageants, livestock shows, demolition derbies, talent shows, kid's day events, the rodeo and the carnival—provided by Paradise Amusements. These, of course, are just a sampling of attractions that were to be found at Veteran's Fairground.

While there are many things that appeal to the community's youth during the fair's events, Kid's Day provides something just for them. For over thirty-five years, Jaycee Keith Ellis has hosted this event. Ellis felt the turnout for the day was terrific given the pending forecast. The conversation of success left Ellis feeling nostalgic as recollected the time when they would send out school buses along their routes and pick up any children who wanted to come. "There would be hundreds of kids," Ellis commented, "Families would set up picnics; and everyone would just have a great time."

Looking past the material success of fair, something more valuable can be viewed by the keen observer.

The fair gives all its attendees an opportunity to slow down, to enjoy



Jaycee Keith Ellis hosts the Kid's Day Events, June 8th, 2019.



A competitive cowgirl runs the course during the "Barrel Racing" event.



From left to right: Benisha Parnell, Brody Karnes, and Callie Jo Cumpton, of Columbia, are whipped around by the "Scrambler."

an evening of festivities after a hard day's work. Vendors come to peddle their wares, food, and services. Walking around, there was not a bad time to be found for anyone; people were laughing, eating delicious foods, playing games, and enjoying the

company of each other.

Overall, the fair is opportunity for the community to come together; it provides a pulse to the town's heartbeat that even inclement weather cannot inhibit.

Duo Broadband Annual Meeting



Duo Broadband Annual Meeting

Thanks to all who helped make this year's Annual Meeting a success!

Our annual meeting was held Tuesday evening at the Russell County High School gym, and as in years past we had another great crowd. Over 340 members registered with over 425 in total attendance.

After registration we meet in the gym for a quick business meeting where Mr. Tom Preston, Executive VP/CEO, gave an update on the cooperative's very strong operational status with the new name - DUO Broadband - and the same great company with the same great employees to serve you. Refreshments were available and door prizes were given out to 13 lucky members.

Here are this year's winners:

- 1 \$100 Cash Prize Drawing - TNT Carpet
- 2 LG 65" UHD - 4K SmartTV - Elizabeth McGowan Slone
- 3 WEBER Grill - Lowell & Judy Robertson
- 4 STIHL Trimmer F556RC - Jerry &



Lucky winner of the LG 65" UHD 4K SmartTV, Elizabeth McGowan Slone.



Lucky winner of the WEBER Grill - Judy Robertson.

- Carol Hadley
- 5 STIHL Trimmer F556RC - Mark Evans
- 6 STIHL Blower BG56C - Lewis Stargel Jr.
- 7 STIHL Blower BG56C - Ricky Helm
- 8 \$150 DUO Broadband Gift Certificate - KG Andrew
- 9 \$150 DUO Broadband Gift Certificate - Jackie Nation
- 10 BUNN Coffee Maker - Arnold Fletcher
- 11 BUNN Coffee Maker - William & Jeanne Will
- 12 RING - Video Doorbell - Bridgette Kean
- 13 RING - Video Doorbell - Carlie Roy

CHAMPIONS

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Championship in August on Carol County Lake in Tennessee.

They have worked hard all year for this opportunity. The Russell County Bass Fishing teams

want to thank all of their sponsors for making this dream come true for these young anglers.

RSES Soccer Champions

Russell Springs Elementary School won the 4th/5th grade boys soccer championship on June 9th vs Salem by the score 5 to 0. Scoring for RSES were Xavi Medrano with a goal, Brian Pineda and Connor Holmes each

scored 2 goals. RSES has been undefeated the past 2 years in league play vs Jamestown and Salem.

RSES is coached by Daniel Needham and Saul Sanchez.



Back row L to R: Ryan Martinez, Aldo Lucas, Caleb Brown, Juan Carrera, Cameron Brown, Diego Gomez, Noah Bennett, Alex Norton, Brian Pineda, Webber Wilson, Connor Holmes, Front row L to R: Curtis Stone, Aden Roy, Xavi Medrano, Kamden Templin



Biffle Returns Behind the Wheel

Steve Mickey, NASCAR Columnist

Greg Biffle at one time was the banner carrier for Jack Roush and his Roush-Fenway Racing organization that fielded multiple teams in the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series. Roush had made his mark in the series with Mark Martin as his driver but he soon began adding drivers to his stable that at one point brought the number of Roush teams to take the green flag on race day to five.

Roush benefitted from being in the sport when it went through its greatest period of growth in the 90's when companies were lined up to get their name across the hood of a Cup car. The sudden expansion of what was once a one car operations began to grow as multi-car teams from one organization began to be the blueprint for success in the series.

The sudden explosion of teams called for an influx of talented drivers and Roush was able to attract some of what would turn out to be the more successful drivers during that period. Joining Martin at Roush was Jeff Burton, Matt Kenseth, Kurt Busch, Carl Edwards and Greg Biffle. All of these drivers won races and Kenseth brought Roush his first title and would soon add another championship with Busch.

It was one of the most successful operations in the sport but with that much talent in the stable, other organizations came calling and the talent pool began to shrink as well as the number of teams that raced under the Roush banner. Martin ended up at Hendrick Motorsports, Kenseth went to Joe Gibbs Racing and would later be joined there by Edwards. Burton took his talents to Richard Childress Racing and Busch who had struggled after winning his title left to drive for Penske Racing.

Soon Biffle found himself as the elder statesman for the organization while younger drivers began filling the empty seats left by the departures. That much talent leaving would be hard for any organization to overcome and Roush never re-

ally did regain the dominance that it once enjoyed as Biffle was left to guide the younger drivers while the resources that was once at Roush's disposal also began to shrink as the once proud organization fell behind to the point that it was no longer a serious threat not to just win a title but to win races.

Biffle stayed with Roush until his retirement after the 2016 season. Many in the sport believed that after he left Roush that he would end up in another Cup ride but no quality ride came his way and he elected to leave the sport instead of taking a ride with a team that didn't have the resources for him to be competitive. Biffle's absence from the sport of racing ended Friday night as he crawled behind the wheel of a Gander Outdoors Truck Series truck for Kyle Busch Motorsports at Texas Motor Speedway. It was his first time driving in the Truck Series since the season finale at Homestead-Miami Speedway at the end of the 2004 season.

The former 2000 champion of the series returned in style on Friday night at Texas as he took the checkered flag and a \$50,000 bonus for winning the first race in the series' three-race Triple Truck Challenge bonus that pays any eligible driver that wins all three races \$500,000. Although the Texas ride was the only race announced by KBM for Biffle, speculation began to swirl in victory lane on whether or not Biffle would compete in the next two races at Iowa Speedway and Gateway Motorsports Park in an effort to go after the bonus money.

A closer look at the eligibility requirements for the bonus required that a driver had to have his entry in by the deadline of Tuesday, June 4 for this weekend's race and with the Texas race being a one and done deal at the time, he will not be eligible for the bonus. He could still enter the race but KBM is already entering four truck teams and it would be tough at such a late date to put together a fifth team in less than a week.

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