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QUOTE

'All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.'

—Edmund Burke

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SOFTBALL Ward steps down as DHS coach

BY ASHLEY WADDELL

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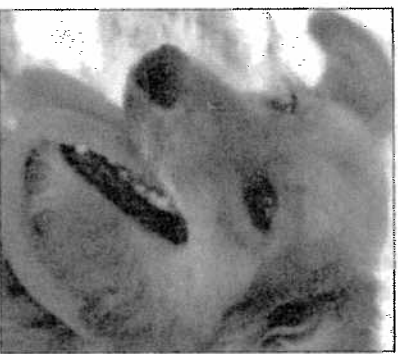
Michelle Ward has been coaching softball for what seems like an eternity and although she's enjoyed the sport and working with different teams, she believes the time has come to work harder



Michelle Ward has coached softball at Darlington High since 2005.

SEE COACH RESIGNS 2A

HUMANE SOCIETY



SAVANNAH is still in search of a home. She has a really sweet, affectionate nature and is already spayed. She warms right to you, loves lap time and petting time.

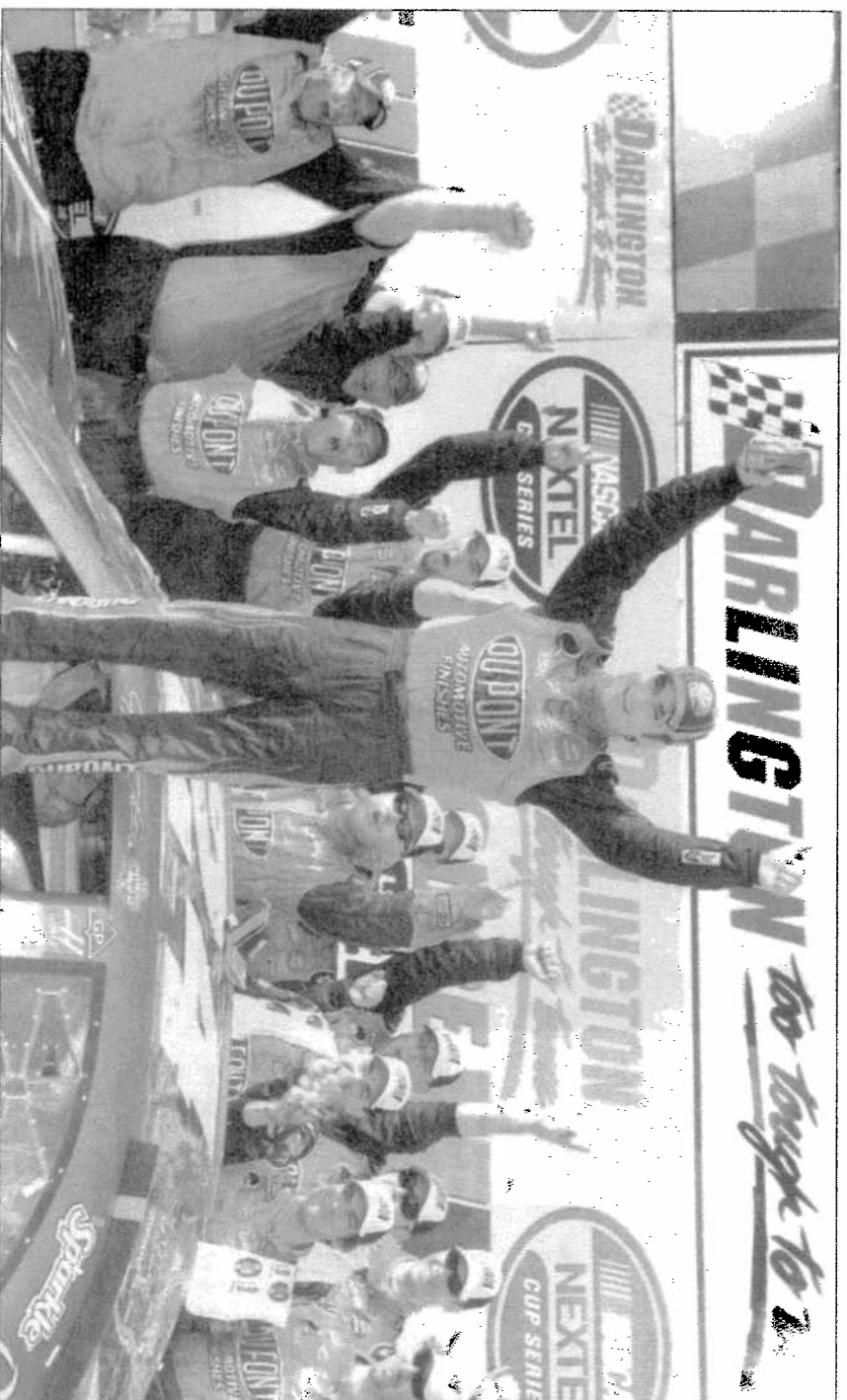
The shelter is located off Highway 151, 1/2 mile west of Darlington Raceway. Turn beside the water tower. Shelter hours are M-Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

More pet photos on the Animal Adoption page at www.darcosc.com.

 Darlington County Animal Shelter 398-4402

RACE WEEKEND A BLAST

NEXTEL CUP DRIVER Gordon tops off weekend with another win



HIGHLIGHTS

- Dale Earnhardt Jr. (pictured above) steals the spotlight by announcing his departure from DEI.
- Rain returns to the track postponing the Dodge Avenger 500 from Saturday to Mother's Day. Only farmers are happy.
- Denny Hamlin wins the Diamond Hill Plywood 200 but blows the Cup race.



Rainbow Warrior Jeff Gordon won his third race in four tries, this time complaining about his car all day until he drove it into Victory Lane at the Darlington Raceway on Mother's Day. It was the 78th win of his career and continued the domination of the

"Car of Tomorrow" races by Hendrick Motorsports. Gordon also extended his lead in Chase Championship points. Denny Hamlin had the car to beat but blew his chances with a bad pit stop.

PHOTOS: NEIL HOPWOOD

LOCAL SINGER IN NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT Lesa Hudson fills in for country star Josh Turner

Hudson called in after
Turner leaves after rainout

BY NEIL HOPWOOD

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An unexpected phone call led to the biggest break of local singer Lesa Hudson's career this past Monday afternoon, when she sang "The Star Spangled Banner" for tens of thousands of fans gathered at the Dodge Avenger 500 at the Darlington Raceway. And of course the race was telecast nationwide by FOX.

Hudson, who just this past December scored a number two hit on the Christian charts, received the 11th hour call from a friend at the Raceway, Joanna Baker, when scheduled singer

Josh Turner couldn't show for the anthem after the previous night's rainout. "She asked me if I was available and I said absolutely, I think I can work that into my schedule," Hudson joked. Her trio N'Accord had performed at the track before in front of smaller audiences, but this was her first solo performance and also her largest audience.

"I was calm until I got up on stage and then [Harold King] started praying (during the invocation for the race), and then my heart started beating a little bit, but I really enjoyed it," she said.

Her group, N'Accord, a female Christian vocal trio, includes Debbie Anderson, Heather Anderson and Hudson.



Hudson's big break at the Raceway

Lesa Hudson is part of N'Accord, a female Christian vocal trio which sings in a variety of Christian musical styles from Praise and Worship to Contemporary Christian Country and Southern Gospel. The group has performed the National Anthem for Vice President Dick Cheney, and made their national TV debut on Speed TV. They next appear at the May Fly show in Florence May 26 at 1 p.m. PHOTO: NEIL HOPWOOD