

Olympians...from Page 1A

Dream Ride, specifically, is a motorcycle ride from Palm Beach, Florida, to Farmington, Connecticut.

This more than 3,000-mile ride has many stops along the way, one of which will be in Blairsville at the Copperhead Lodge on August 21.

The Hometown Foundation Inc. is the nonprofit organization behind the Dream Ride Experience. Aside from Dream Ride, Hometown Foundation also provides financial support for those with disabilities who may not have the means for the special equipment needed. Hometown Foundation also assists with certified service dog placement, as well as supports countless other core community needs.

Dream Ride does not stop with the motorcycle ride; it expands across an entire weekend in Farmington, Connecticut, with plenty of opportunities for Special Olympians and their families to

share fun-filled experiences. Of the many activities throughout the weekend, the Olympians will have the opportunity to participate in what is known as Dream Cruise.

Dream Cruise is an 8-mile ride in an exotic or classic car for the Olympians and their driver companion. The ride is police escorted and ends with a red carpet arrival at the Farmington Clubhouse, along with a party for the Olympians afterward.

Throughout the weekend, Olympians will be treated to concerts, tournaments and demonstrations that highlight the wonderful spirit of the athletes, something Katie wishes to share with her fellow Olympians this year.

"Michael Bozzuto, he came and got Katie (last year) to sing the national anthem," said Dyer. "They were having a conversation and he asked if she was having fun and what she liked to do. She said

she was having fun but was a little sad.

"So, he asked her why she was feeling sad. She told him that she was sad because her classmates couldn't be there with her. So this is our goal, to be able to raise enough money for all her classmates to go."

It will cost a total of \$9,000 for all eight of Union County's Special Olympians, as well as a chaperone for each student, to participate in Dream Rides. As of right now, the Olympians still need \$6,000 to reach their goal.

The Olympians will be holding a barbeque and yard sale on Saturday, July 23, at the Haralson Memorial Civic Center to help raise money for the Dream Ride Experience. They will also be hosting a homerun derby at Meeks Park on August 16.

Donations for the Dream Ride Experience are greatly appreciated, and can be made out to Bozzuto's Incorporated, with a specification for Dream Ride Blairsville.

Sheriff...from Page 1A

dispatch that the subject had no significant pulse, and dispatch got on the horn with first responders from the Union County Fire Department.

"At that point in time, dispatch related to us, and I advised the sheriff that, since he was on the scene, to go ahead and start chest compressions for us," said Firefighter/EMT Dustin Lee out of Fire Station No. 1.

The sheriff administered chest compressions on the subject until Union General Hospital EMS workers and Union County firefighters arrived on the scene and took over, by which time the

young man had re-established a pulse.

It was determined prior to EMS arriving on the scene that the young man was likely suffering from a drug overdose, so when paramedics arrived, they were able to supply life-saving medicine to the subject.

"We can't stop all drugs," said Lt. Osborn. "But if we can save their life, that's what we're here for. And it might give them a second chance - I still believe everybody deserves a second chance, even if they're on drugs."

Lee said that he was thankful for the quick response

by the sheriff and chief deputy.

"They got the wheels rolling early for us, made it a lot easier on us when we got there, we were able to access the patient right away and do what we needed to," said Lee. "The quick response from everyone definitely made a difference. That's something that we talked about after the whole situation was over with, was everyone's quick response."

Added Lee: "That's one thing about us - the Union County Sheriff's Office, the fire department and EMS, we've got a good relationship. Everybody does a phenomenal job. If something happens, you want to be in Union County when it happens."

Election...

from Page 1A

Tuesday, July 26, will be the actual Election Day for the runoff, and voting will run from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. that day. On Election Day, voters will be voting at their pre-determined polling precincts, of which there are 11 in Union County.

It should be noted that those who voted the Democratic ticket in the May 24 election will not be able to vote in the Republican Primary Runoff.

However, voters who did not vote in the May 24 Primary can still vote in this runoff, though they must have been registered in time to have voted in the May 24 Primary in order to vote in the July 26 Runoff.

Also, those who voted Non-Partisan in the May 24 Primary can vote in this runoff as well.

The election will occur after press time next week, so for election results check out the newspaper's website at www.nganews.com.

Gowder...continued from Page 1A

Gowder and Heaton were arrested in North Carolina on Wednesday, March 2, following indictment by a Cherokee County, NC, grand jury, both for five counts of trafficking in Opium or Heroin, and five counts of obtaining a controlled substance by forgery, according to Cherokee County, NC, Sheriff Derrick Palmer at that time.

Gowder was charged on Feb. 4 in Union County with three counts of fraudulently obtaining a controlled substance, one count of conspiracy; Heaton was charged with 40 counts of unauthorized distribution and dispensation of controlled substances, one count of conspiracy.

Turnage...continued from Page 1A

according to then Sgt. Daren Osborn, now a lieutenant, with the Union County Sheriff's Office.

According to Osborn at the time, the assault occurred at the home of the 39-year-old female victim.

"Oct. 22 (2014), dispatch received a 911 call at

approximately 4 p.m. of what was believed to be an assault and rape," said Osborn. "It was being viewed via Skype. Deputies responded and I responded as well.

"Upon our arrival, we started an investigation. The end result was the arrest of Billy Joe Turnage. Mr.

Turnage was at the scene when we arrived."

Two days of intense interviews and investigation followed, which included special agents with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, culminating in the arrest of Turnage on Oct. 24, 2014.

The July Term 2016 Indictments were filed on Monday, July 11, in the office of the Union County Superior Court Clerk Judy Odom.

Webster...from Page 1A

Clyde Harkins. She is also the granddaughter of the late Ed Webster and the daughter of Todd and Connie Webster.

Last month, Nealy joined more than 80 other hopefuls in attendance at an audition at Coolray Field, where she was selected to perform at the July 4th game against the Norfolk Tides, the AAA affiliate of the Baltimore Orioles.

"Getting asked to do the July 4th game was a huge deal for us because it's one of their biggest games, and it was sold out with 11,000 people," Connie Webster said. "The bigger the crowd, the better for her. She doesn't call it 'nerves,' she calls it 'excitement.'"

In 2015, Nealy performed the national anthem at the fireworks in Suches, and was scheduled to perform there this year, but she was still at the Gwinnett Braves game when the fireworks began. However, a video phone recording was sent via text message back to Suches, where it made its way into the hands of her grandfather - and fireworks emcee - Larry Wood, and he was able to use her recording to open the festivities back in Suches by putting the phone up to the microphone.

Nealy has been singing for most of her life, but it wasn't until two years ago that her mother allowed her to receive voice lessons.

"I've never seen a kid with such passion," Connie Webster said. "I try to keep her held back because of her age, but (singing) is all she wants to do."

Recently, Nealy, who is entering the fifth grade at White County Intermediate School, was awarded First Place at the Kiwanis Talent Show in Cleveland, and Third Place at the Stars of the Center Stage Talent Show at the Smoky Mountain Center for Performing Arts in Franklin, NC. She will be giving an "open mic" performance this weekend at the Georgia Mountain Fair, as well as the Suches Indian Summer Festival in October. She is also hoping to earn a spot at this year's Sorghum Festival in Blairsville.

"Nealy's already got her plans," Connie Webster said with a laugh. "She always tells me that she is going somewhere with (her singing) and she is going to be on stage, whether it be Disney or Broadway."



Webster said that she was more excited than nervous ahead of her big Independence Day outing.