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Georgia's Champions

September 2014

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News and Stories

Equestrian Athlete Plays Softball at State Fall Games in Gainesville; While Some Compete at the State Horse Show Next Month

Cobb County Athlete Beth Bridgers will switch from holding a horse's bridle at the State Horse Show to swinging a bat at State Fall Games this year; which are both being held in Gainesville October 10th-12th.

"I'm excited," Beth said. "I get a hit in about every inning. The coach didn't know I hit that well!" Beth said and laughed. Not everyone knows she already has a history with softball as a youngster.



Soon, however, she will once again prepare to return to showing horses after Fall Games.

At Fall Games, Beth will join an anticipated 1,500 athletes and unified partners from across the state as they compete in bocce, cycling, golf and softball with competition being at North Hall Park, Laurel Park and Chicopee Woods Golf Course. The State Horse Show also being held that weekend will be at Chicopee Woods Agricultural Center. That weekend, both State Games will feature an Opening Ceremony Friday night with competition continuing Saturday and Sunday morning. Athletes will also receive health screenings Saturday at both events.



Thank you to the following sponsors of State Fall Games: Appalachian Tech Services, Belk, Bennett Thrasher Foundation, Woodward Management, Knights of Columbus-Georgia Chapter, Northeast Georgia Inc., Teradata, Lakeshore

Upcoming Events

Strike the R-word September 16th

Strike the

R-word and bowl

with former

Atlanta Falcon and Georgia Bulldog Dj Shockley, former Pittsburgh Steeler Kordell Stewart and other celebrity supporters Tuesday, September 16th at Bowlmor Atlanta. Enjoy bowling, food, silent auction, and goodie bags, while striking the r-word "retard," which demeans and hurts people. For more information, contact **Wendy Bigham**.



California Pizza Kitchen September 17th

The California Pizza Kitchen restaurants in Perimeter, Lenox Square, North Point, Pine Straw Plaza, Atlantic



Mall, Franca Orefice, North Georgia EMC, Controlled Products, Allied World Assurance, Mar-Jac Poultry, Jaemor Farms, and Shaw Industries.

Thank you to the following sponsors of the State Horse Show: Hall County Farm Bureau, Allied World Assurance, Georgia Farm Bureau, The Pritchett Family, and the Georgia Quarter Horse Association.

Three Kay Center Athletes Head to the Czech Republic for Powerlifting Competition

Three athletes from the Kay Center in Fort Valley will compete in the World Master IPF Championship in Prague, Czech Republic September 18th. Louis Maxwell, Sammy Lewis, and Dion Thomas will be lifting on September 20th and attending a master training class the next day. This is a great honor to lift in this competition. Congrats to Sammy, Louis, and Dion and their coach Todd Youngblood!



State Masters Bowling: Success in Competition, Friendships and Health

With her typical score of around 95 to 100, Amanda Bridges did not disappoint at State Masters Bowling last month. She and her unified team won the bronze that weekend.



Amanda's team was among the 1,540 athletes, unified partners and coaches who competed August 22nd-24th in Warner Robins. Athletes competed and participated in the Opening Ceremony and the Athlete Dance.

State Games is more than competition as it's a way for athletes to stay connected with friends and learn more healthy habits. For instance, more than 200 athletes received dental screenings through the Healthy Athlete Initiative Special Smiles. Twenty-seven volunteer dental hygienists with the Georgia Dentist Association and the Middle Georgia Technical College gave the athletes check-ups and showed the athletes how to take care of their teeth. Athletes received goodie bags that contained an electric tooth brush and other dental necessities.



New Monthly Donors Earn Our Athletes An Extra \$100!

Great news! In September and October, for every new Sustaining Partner - those who commit to give monthly to Special Olympics Georgia - one of our partners, MTM Recognition, will generously contribute \$100. As a Sustaining Partner, your steady, ongoing monthly gift of any amount you choose will help ensure we're always able to



Station, and The Forum at Peachtree will hold a FUNdraiser give back day for SOGA on Wednesday, September 17th. Simply **print this flyer**, present it to your server when ordering, and California Pizza Kitchen will donate 20% of your check to Special Olympics Georgia. This offer is valid both for dine-in and take out orders. For more information, contact **Susan Skolnick** or 770-414-9390 x111.

GLOW for Gold September 20th

Help us encourage SOGA Athletes to Go for Gold at the first **GLOW for Gold**



5K/FunRun in

Valdosta at the Freedom Park Softball Complex on September 20th. For more information on how to participate or sponsor, contact **Whitney Warren** at 229-712-9973.

16th Annual Marlow's Tavern Golf Classic September 22nd

The 16th Annual Marlow's Tavern Golf Classic benefiting SOGA



will be September 22nd at the Country Club of Roswell. Since 1999, this annual golf tournament has raised more than \$431,000 for our athletes. This year's tournament goal is to raise \$58,000! The fun-filled day will include a putting contest, shotgun start, hole contests, and an awards ceremony, reception, and silent auction at Aqua Blue Restaurant.

Available sponsorships.

provide training and competition opportunities to our athletes year-round. Thanks to the match, there's never been a better time to join, because your generosity will stretch even further. **Please help the athletes take advantage of this incredible opportunity by becoming a Sustaining Partner today.** Help our athletes receive an extra \$100 just because you signed up.



Athlete of the Month: Joey Franken

September's Athlete of the Month is Joey Franken with Forsyth County Special Olympics.

In addition to being a great athlete while playing softball and basketball among many other sports, Joey demonstrated his love for Special Olympics by fundraising for the Over the Edge fundraiser. That meant also rappelling 20 stories in support of all his fellow athletes! We're looking forward to seeing Joey and his Forsyth team play softball at State Fall Games.

Congrats, Joey!



Sponsor of the Month: Winter Construction

For over 35 years, **Winter Construction** has tackled the industry's most challenging projects with expertise and agility. Winter is more than a general contractor; they strive to be a strategic partner and trusted ally, delivering a good experience, outstanding results, and building the foundation for success tomorrow. Their most important legacies, though, are the good relationships they build with their valued clients.



Consistently ranked one of the ENR Top 400 Contractors in the United States, **Winter** provides a comprehensive range of commercial construction services to the hospitality, retail, government, higher education, K-12, student housing, aviation, religious, healthcare, industrial, multi-family, recreation, and historic restoration sectors throughout the Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic regions. Privately-owned and operated, Winter Construction is based in Atlanta, Georgia.



Winter is passionate about supporting Special Olympics Georgia and raising the much-needed funds to support SOGA programs. In 2004, Winter inaugurated their first annual golf tournament with SOGA as the beneficiary. To date, Winter has donated over \$338,000, and hundreds of Winter employees and their families have volunteered and provided hands-on assistance at Team Basketball during the State Indoor Winter Games and Volleyball during the State Summer Games.

Thank you **Winter** for believing in SOGA's mission, for believing in our athletes,

Registration Form. For more information, contact **Susan Skolnick** or 770-414-9390 x111. Thank you Marlow's Tavern and past and current sponsors for your generous support over the years!

Clay Shoot September 25th

Secure your spot now for the Sporting Clay Charity



Tournament, called the **2014 Shoot for Champions**, Thursday, September 25th at Foxhall Resort and Sporting Club in Douglasville. The event benefits the athletes of Special Olympics Georgia. Costs \$425 per person and includes breakfast, lunch, shells, snacks, beverages, and awards. **Click here** for the flyer. For more information, contact **Thomas Ritch**.

Vineyard Vines Event September 25th

Visit Vineyard Vines Store from 5-7 p.m.



September 25th at Lenox Square Mall in Atlanta. During that time, 10% of the sales will go back to Special Olympics Georgia. Everyone will also receive a 10% discount on purchases. Enjoy food, drinks and live music while you shop! For more information, contact **Morgan Sumner**.

RunDunwoody October 19th



RunDunwoody is a 5K Run and a Peachtree Road Race

and for helping our athletes realize and reach their potential! Know that as part of the Special Olympics Georgia family, you are impacting and changing thousands of lives - the athletes, their families, and the community as a whole.

Members of the Honorary Board, We Thank You

We count on a group of leaders in the community to help steward the future of Special Olympics Georgia. Members of SOGA's Honorary Board help insure the best quality sports competition and opportunities that we can offer the athletes. They help level the playing field in the community and in their areas of expertise for the 26,702 children and adults with intellectual disabilities in Georgia.



Thank you to the Honorary Board for helping to continue SOGA's success in 2014. [See the current list of Honorary Board members.](#)

Summer Games Fundraising

Volunteers are needed to help identify and/or approach potential corporate sponsors and individual donors for the State Summer Games. This is an extremely important component to the success of Summer Games, as it is funded by sponsorships/donations. By generating new ideas and discovering new opportunities that can help us meet or exceed our revenue goals, you will make a vital contribution to SOGA. For more information, contact [Susan Skolnick](#) or 770-414-9390 x111.



Kroger Community Rewards® Re-Enrollment/Enrollment

If you have previously enrolled in the Kroger Community Rewards® program and selected SOGA as your charity, **you must re-enroll in September** for SOGA to continue to receive money from your purchases. To re-enroll, go to www.kroger.com/communityrewards, sign into your account, select view rewards details, scroll down to the Community Rewards section, click edit or re-enroll, enter Special Olympics Georgia, select Special Olympics Georgia, and click enroll. If you haven't enrolled previously, now is a great time. Kroger Community Rewards® makes supporting SOGA super easy . . . all you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Plus Card! Sign up with your 12 digit Kroger Plus Card number at www.kroger.com/communityrewards, and in the Community Rewards section, select Special Olympics Georgia (code 57973) as the organization you wish to support. Once you're enrolled, you'll earn rewards for SOGA every time you shop and use your Plus Card, and you'll keep earning rewards points for yourself! **Enroll now for the Kroger Community Rewards Program** (you must re-enroll each year to continue earning rewards for SOGA). If your Kroger Plus Card is not already registered online, you will need to create an account. If you already have an account, simply sign in, find the Community Rewards section, and select Special Olympics Georgia. Questions or problems, contact [Susan Skolnick](#) or 770-414-9390 x111.



Volunteer of the Month: Reggie Ammons

Qualifier, 1 Mile Fun Run, Tot Trot, and family festival rolled into a morning of activities on October 19th in the heart of Dunwoody. As a beneficiary of RunDunwoody and long-time partner of the Rotary Club of Dunwoody (the run's founding and presenting sponsor), Special Olympics Georgia has created a team for the Team Challenge in the not-for-profit category. Registration fees start at \$15 and increase to \$35 as it gets closer to the date of the race. For more information on the race or to register as part of Team Special Olympics Georgia, go to www.rundunwoody.net.

Bob Busse Memorial Classic November 3rd

Special Olympics Georgia once again proudly hosts the [Bob Busse Memorial Classic](#). The tournament will be held at a prestigious golf club in Sandy Springs November 3rd. This event promises to be a great way to spend your day. Each year, this tournament grows and becomes better than the last. Expect a great golf game, prizes, a silent auction and wonderful reception. Email [Riley Cerone](#) for more information.



Georgia Gives Back Day November 13th

Special Olympics Georgia aims to raise as much money as possible in 24 hours through Georgia Gives Day:



September's Volunteer of the Month is Reggie Ammons with Henry County Parks and Recreation.

Reggie has been involved in Special Olympics for many years now and is a coach, unified partner, and mentor who all athletes look up to, said Terry Nash, therapeutic recreation coordinator with Henry County Parks and Recreation.



"Reggie is a one of kind person who goes above and beyond for all our athletes," Terry said. He is in charge of the county's youth Special Olympics program, which has increased numbers over the last few years, she added. He coaches softball, basketball, volleyball, athletics, power lifting, and aquatics.

Most recently, Reggie bowled on a Unified Bowling Team at Masters Bowling last month and will bring athletes from Henry County to the SOGA Sprint Invite at Georgia Tech this weekend. Reggie has also acted as a clinician at numerous coaches clinics over the years.

"Every area needs a Reggie," Terry said.

End of Year Giving

The end of the year is an excellent time to consider a donation to Special Olympics. And there are several ways you may more easily support us - gifts that *pay you back*. While Special Olympics will always be grateful to accept cash gifts, we'd like to share some other financially prudent options for donating other assets. For example, did you know you can make significant gifts *without* reaching for your checkbook? Gifts of appreciated stock or other securities enable you to help us accomplish our mission with no impact on your cash flow during your lifetime. Similarly, you might consider funding a charitable gift annuity (CGA) this year. A CGA will pay you a fixed, regular income for the rest of your life, regardless of any swings in the stock market. We would be happy to provide you with all the details on these and other creative giving techniques, but it is urgent to make your decision soon, before December 31st. Contact our staff of planned giving professionals to discuss a stock transfer or CGA donation to Special Olympics with your broker without delay. You can call us toll-free at (866) 690-3951 or email us at Plannedgiving@Specialolympics.org.



Tell Us Your Story

We want to tell your stories! Email [Wendy Bigham](mailto:Wendy.Bigham@SpecialOlympics.org) with a story about a Special Olympics event or person who has inspired you! You can also [submit](#) your story online.



November 13th. Georgia Gives is a statewide initiative that focuses the attention of the public on the work and worth of nonprofits. [Click here](#) for more information.

Volunteer Opportunities



Strike the R-word Bowling Event September 16th Atlanta

Special Olympics has a worldwide campaign to eliminate the word "retard" and educate people on the effects of the hurtful word. Volunteers are needed day of to help with this event.

If you are interested in the volunteering opportunities above, please contact [Stephen Sparks](#).

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