

Larkin...from Page 1A

love and support of everyone here, I wouldn't be able to accomplish what I have."

And one of his greatest accomplishments yet was Larkin's recent win of the 2017 Atlanta Open Golf Tournament held at the beginning of June.

A milestone for upcoming golfers, the Atlanta Open is one of the oldest tournaments across the country, and the oldest in Georgia. This year's tournament marked the 99th anniversary of the Atlanta

Open, preceding the Masters Tournament by 14 years.

Each year, the winner of the tournament is presented with a trophy to carry with pride for a year's time until the following year, where the golfer goes to defend the title at the next Atlanta Open tournament. This year, Larkin earned that honor.

"This was a big deal for me when I won it," said Larkin. "I actually didn't know how big it was until I won the tournament, then

everyone started to explain it to me. It's the oldest event in Georgia. Bobby Jones has won it. The tournament started at the beginning of the 1900s, so it's a very old event for Georgia golf.

"In a way, it's very prestigious to win because your name gets to go on a trophy with all of these past legends. That's the greatest part about it."

According to Larkin, he hopes to come back even stronger next year and hold the trophy for another year, something that does not seem like a far-fetched idea for the nearly life-long golfer.

Beginning at an early age, Larkin was practically born with a golf club in hand and hasn't let go since. For Larkin, golf is simply who he is.

"I've been playing golf since I could walk, basically," said Larkin. "My first competitive tournament was when I was 5 years old and my first birdie was when I was 3 years old."

And, as far as Larkin is concerned, it hasn't just been a lifetime of golfing, but a lifetime of learning, facing challenges and continuing to roll with the punches and keep moving forward.

"My favorite thing about golfing is the challenge," said Larkin. "The game teaches you about life, a lot of times. It teaches you about the ups and downs and how to handle yourself as a person and how to conduct yourself as a gentleman, always. It gives you a look at every part of life and how to overcome everything."

"Golf is a powerful sport that teaches you about more than just the game. It teaches you about life."

Gowder

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or greater than four years ago, even though no arrests were made until Dr. David Gowder in 2015.

However, O.C.G.A. 17-3-2, subsection 2, provides other exceptions that include if crimes are unknown to law enforcement. The alleged crimes were unknown to law enforcement when allegedly committed, and as such, it wasn't until the time of discovery – starting in 2015 – that the clock began to tick. Thus, the arrest warrants are well within the four-year statute of limitations.

Bottom line: the arrest warrants are not drying up.

Not knowing about O.C.G.A. 17-3-2, subsection 2, the newspapers only reported on O.C.G.A. 17-3-1 as it pertained to the Gowder, Heaton cases. The newspapers apologize for the oversight.

Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney Jeff Langley aided in this clarification.

Meanwhile, Mike Gowder's Towns County indictments, as presented last week by Langley, include 16 counts of fraud in obtaining a controlled substance and 16 counts of Violation of Georgia's Controlled Substance Act, court records show.

The fraud charges allege that Gowder illegally obtained prescriptions from Dr. James Heaton for controlled substances that were not prescribed for legitimate medical purposes, the indictments show.

The VGCSA charges are in regard to Gowder's alleged unlawful possession of Schedule II narcotics, namely hydrocodone and oxycodone, the indictments show.

Heaton did not face any charges in Towns County, according to arrest warrants.

As previously reported, Mike Gowder and Heaton's



Mike Gowder

North Carolina criminal cases came up earlier this year in Feb. 27 administrative sessions at the Cherokee County Courthouse in Murphy, resulting in both receiving June 26 continuance dates for future administrative sessions.

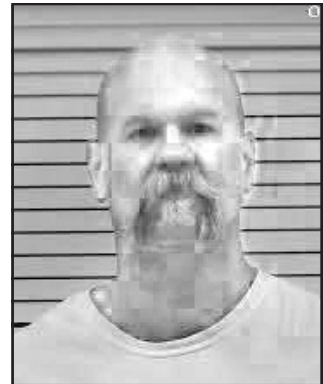
Resulting from their June 26 administrative sessions, Gowder and Heaton have received continuances in their North Carolina cases until Dec. 11.

Heaton and Mike Gowder were arrested in North Carolina on Wednesday, March 2, 2016, 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.

Previously, Mike Gowder and Dr. Heaton received 2016 continuances in their North Carolina cases from March 28 to April 4, then from April 4 to July 11, and from July 11 to Nov. 7.

On Nov. 7, Mike Gowder received a continuance to Feb. 27, 2017, while Heaton got a Jan. 3, 2017, court date to appear in front of a North Carolina Superior Court Judge.

The result of that Jan. 3 appearance was a continuance for Heaton to a Feb. 27 administrative session, the



James Heaton

same day as Mike Gowder, as previously reported.

Heaton and Mike Gowder were arrested in Union County on Feb. 4, 2016, Gowder for three counts of fraudulently obtaining a controlled substance, one count of conspiracy; and Heaton for 40 counts of unauthorized distribution and dispensation of controlled substances, one count of conspiracy.

Dr. David Gowder, Mike's brother, was also arrested that Feb. 4 for 36 counts of fraudulently obtaining a controlled substance and seven counts of unauthorized distribution and dispensation of controlled substances. Three other Gowder family members were arrested that day in connection with the incidents in question.

David Gowder, and three other family members, Gail Gowder, Virginia Lou Harkins, and Jamie Harkins were indicted in Union County during the April session of the Union County Grand Jury.

Agencies involved in the investigation at the time of the February 2016 Union County arrests were the DEA Tactical Diversion Squad, the DEA Digital Forensics Lab, the Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency, the Union County Sheriff's Office, and the Cherokee County, North Carolina Sheriff's Office.

Moonshine...from Page 1A

said Parrish, who spent his childhood growing up in the Owl Creek community. "It's good that we're reaching out that far to bring people into the Towns County community."

While many vendors and spectators will be coming in on Wednesday, July 12, to bring their cars and accessories, the festivities will not officially begin until Thursday morning, when the first cruise of the

weekend, a beautiful 60-mile scenic view of the mountains, will pull out of the Fairgrounds at 9 a.m.

From about noon to 2 p.m., residents and car enthusiasts alike can check out the Mayor's Block Party on the Hiwassee Town Square, with hot rods and classic cars filling the downtown area, Parrish said.

"That event features fun, food and more," Parrish said.

Another cruise will follow later in the day and conclude at Granddaddy Mimm's Moonshine Distillery in Blairsville, the host of the Ninth Annual Moonshine Kick-off Bash.

Parking for the Bash will be at Shady Grove United Methodist Church. A shuttle service to Granddaddy Mimm's will be provided. Parking cost is \$5, which goes to the church, Townsend said.

The Bash will feature music by Tom Floyd Band and plenty of food to go around, said Granddaddy Mimm's founder Tommy Townsend of Waymore's Outlaws fame.

"This is our first year hosting the Bash," Townsend said. "We're excited about it. There will be plenty of music, plenty of food and plenty of moonshine. We'll actually be running a batch that afternoon."

"I think folks will have an incredible time," Townsend said. "They'll get an up close and personal look at how moonshine is made and get a tour of the facility. It should be a treat for everyone."

The fun does not stop there. Friday morning, bright and early at 8 a.m., patrons can come out to the Fairgrounds and enjoy a day of folk show exhibits, swap meets, mountain music and checking out automotive part vendors. Pioneer Village will also be open so that visitors can experience authentic mountain crafting.

Friday also features a 7 p.m. concert by The Kentucky Headhunters and Confederate Railroad. Tickets to that event hosted at Anderson Music Hall cost \$37. Call the Fairgrounds at (706) 896-4191 for more details.

And Saturday, the final day of the 2017 Georgia Mountain Moonshine Cruiz-In, the Chris Clinton Band will perform in Pioneer Village, and the weekend will end with a bang as the Cruiz-In hosts its Saturday Night Hill Top Party at Lake Chatuge Lodge in Downtown Hiwassee.

"We see the spectators more and more every year," said Parrish. "We're still getting the large amount of cars every year, ending up with close to 800 cars every year."

"But it's really getting to be so big that we're filling up hotels from Hiwassee to Blairsville, all the way to Murphy, North Carolina,



Granddaddy Mimm's Moonshine Distillery & Museum will host the 2017 Georgia Mountain Moonshine Cruiz-In Kickoff Party on Thursday, July 13.

and Helen. But we're getting more people driving up from wherever on Saturday to bring their cars, which is always a good time."

Admission to the Cruiz-In for spectators is \$10 per day, and children 12 and under get in free. The gate fee includes all nightly activities.