



Entertainment & Life

Cyclists hit the road for backpack food program

By Special to The Gazette

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The Gaston County Cyclists held their 26th annual Polar Bear ride on Jan. 5 to benefit the Bessemer City Backpack Program.

Starting in Cramerton, the ride took cyclists through Gaston and York counties on a beautiful, sunny Saturday.

Proceeds from the ride -- \$4,000 -- will go to the program that provides food to Gaston County students who qualify for free meals. Each participating school is paired with an organization that has agreed to fund the program for a year. The organizations purchase, pack and deliver food for the weekend to the schools.

Sponsors for the Polar Bear event were:

- Title Sponsor: Sundrop/Choice Beverage
- Gold: McKinney/Salinas Honda and Roberts Law Firm
- Silver: Ride-A-Bike Bicycle Shop, Core Hydration, and Röchling US
- Bronze: New Era Embroidery, Tricia Hageman/Allen Tate Reality, and M&M Sales

The Gaston County Cyclists encourage and promote the use of bicycles as a means of recreation, fitness and transportation. Meetings are held monthly and rides scheduled weekly throughout the year. To learn, more see gastoncountycyclists.com.