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separated from one another in harsh, unforgiving terrain to hunt, build shelters and fend off predators. They will face extreme isolation and psychological distress as they plunge into the unknown, self-documenting their experience.

The series, which will

reach more than 96 million homes, is labeled as the ultimate test of man's will to survive.

"Alone is a one-of-a-kind survival series, that pits people against the unknown in complete isolation," said Russ McCarroll, vice president of

Development and Programming for the History Channel. "Without producers or camera crews following their every move, the survivalist experts are truly going off-the-grid to persevere with endurance."

Kay is joined on Vancouver Island by Josh Chavez, a 32-year-old law enforcement professional from Jackson,

Ohio; Dustin Feher, a 38-year-old carpenter from Pittsburgh, PA; Sam Larson, a 22-year-old customer relations representative from Lincoln, Neb.; Brant McGee, a 45-year-old private military contractor from Albermarle, NC; Lucas Miller, a 32-year-old wilderness guide from Albuquerque, NM; Mitch Michell, a 34-

year-old apprentice butcher, from Bellingham, MA; Joe Robinet, a 30-year-old research assistant from Windsor Ontario, Canada; Wayne Russell, a 47-year-old carpenter from New Brunswick, Canada; and Chris Weatherman, a 42-year-old author from Umatilla, Fla.

Kay chose 10 items to

bring on his survival journey to Vancouver Island: a saw; an axe; a sleeping bag; a large 2-quart pot; Ferro rod; a water bottle/canteen; 300 yards of single filament line with 25 assorted hooks; a small gauge gill net; 3.5 pound wire; and a knife.

Grant...from Page 1A

Worden said.

The County received \$16,344.64 from federal grants administered by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security (GEMA/HS) to purchase those vehicles for the Union County Emergency Management Agency.

GEMA/HS' Charles Dawson formally presented a check to Union County Commissioner Lamar Paris and

EMA Director Worden last week. The County provided a 50/50 match and purchased two All-Terrain Vehicles for Union County EMA to be used in search and rescue activities.

"We are pleased to partner with Union County to purchase this essential life-saving equipment," said GEMA/HS Director Jim Butterworth. "Rescue team members will better be able to respond to

wilderness search and rescue missions quickly, efficiently, and safely."

The grant is funded through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Management Agency's Performance (EMP) Grant Program. EMP grants, which are awarded annually, can be used for day-to-day operations of local emergency management programs.

Drug Court...from Page 1A

that's going to take place in the criminal justice system, not just in this area, but in a lot of areas," said Superior Court Judge Stan Gunter. "And I don't mean by geographical – areas of the law when it comes to dealing with criminals. This is the future of criminal justice, these accountability courts."

To get into drug court, participants must be referred by, for example, a public defender or the district attorney's office.

The basic foundation of the program requires a minimum commitment of 24 months, multiple and random weekly drug screenings, mandatory counseling and treatment sessions, as well as a secure means of employment.

Further, participants must earn or already possess a high school diploma or GED, and attend weekly AA/NA meetings.

Lumpkin and White counties – the two other counties in the Enotah District – have had a similar program since the early 2000s, and Enotah District Attorney Jeff Langley has seen dozens of graduation ceremonies there since that drug court's inception.

"The program works," said Langley. "It's not a panacea, it's not the right answer for everyone – there are people that just need to go to prison. But, this is a program for people who want help if they'll apply themselves. It gives them an option to get clean, to stay clean and to stay out of jail. It's a great program that returns them to being productive. Rather than soaking up the taxpayer dollar, we get them back in the position of being a productive citizen."

Funding for the non-profit comes in the form of grant money from the state, with funding gaps coming largely from weekly fees paid by participants throughout the course of the program.

Barbara Honaker, who is the acting court coordinator and case manager for the program, thanked Fellowship of the Hills Church and the District Attorney's Office for providing food for the graduation, and several area businesses that provided gifts for participants attending the first graduation who have excelled in the program, like gas cards



and salon treatments.

"To have more community support like that – we have all of the gifts that were given to us – that kind of thing is necessary to give them that pat on the back when they are striving to do well," said Honaker.

"We all like to have a little something extra every once in a while, and to have something like that given to them and say, you're doing great, we're proud of you – that means a lot. If the community can continue to help with things like that, that would be great."

Graduation sponsors were Amour Beauty Salon & Studio, Cabin Coffee Co., Chuck Honaker with his wood turn art, Debbie Sommer's GED tutoring, Fellowship

of the Hills Church, Grinds and Glazes, Harbin Cleaners, Heavenly Hands Spa & Salon, Monte Alban, *North Georgia News*, Paradise Hills Resort & Spa and Tri-County Office Supply.

Program administrators are Judge Gunter; Chief Assistant District Attorney Cathy Cox-Brakefield; public defenders Monica Baron and Jeanne Tiger; surveillance officers Chad Deyton, Mark Henderson, Tyler Miller and Aaron Stanley; Probation Officer Sallie Parker; Bonnie Lockwood, Jeff Jones, Dawn Ward and Taylor Woodruff from Cornerstones Counseling Center; screeners Officer Bradley Glass, Millie Baxter and Judy Rhodes; and Acting Court Coordinator and Case Manager Barbara Honaker.

Buy Local ...

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This week the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce, the *North Georgia News*, and 33 local businesses are joining together to offer you a variety of amazing sales and discounts in celebration of Union County's Fourth Annual Buy Local Weekend.

Participating businesses will be featuring hot selling items at Buy One, Get One Free and 50 percent off discounts during normal business hours.

The core of the program is to promote *Eat, Shop, Play & Stay Local* in Blairsville-Union County."

The entire mission is to support local businesses in Blairsville-Union County, to maintain the unique community character of our County, attract tourism, and build economic strength.

For full details of all the discounts being offered by participating businesses, subscribe to the FREE e-coupon newsletter by going to www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com and clicking the "request newsletter" tab then selecting the *Buy Local Coupons & Events* option. You may also call the Chamber at (706) 745-5789 or stop by the Chamber office.

Every purchase you make has the potential to significantly impact our local economy.