

Awards...from Page 1A

"It's an honor to be a part of the effort to keep drunk drivers off the road," White said. "For every drunk driver we take off the road, there is one less opportunity for law-abiding citizens to have to face the dangers of serious injury."

"Every time there is a drunk driver on the road, innocent motorists are faced with the dangers of a being in a volatile game of Russian Roulette," White said.

Post 27, of which White is a member, set a record with 235 DUI arrests in 2013.

In addition to winning Agency of the Year, Blairsville Police Department's Dustin Walker, last year's MADD Rookie of the Year, was named MADD's DUI Officer of the Year. Officer .

"Keeping the roadways safe is a big part of all of our jobs," Walker said. "It's humbling to be recognized for doing your job. It's a tremendous honor."

Shawn Dyer also brought home the DUI Hero Award for Blairsville Police Department.

"It's an honor to receive the Hero Award," Dyer said. "It's a good feeling to get recognized for what you do best."

"Our job isn't just to arrest people; our job is to



Blairsville Police Department repeats as MADD's Agency of the Year. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

serve and protect," Dyer said. "By taking drunk drivers off the road, that's the best way we can do our jobs of serving and protecting the public."

Union County sheriff's Sgt. Adam Deyton won top honors as DUI Hero for county sheriff's departments.

"It's nice to get the recognition," Sgt. Deyton said. "But I think the most important part is allowing people to see that we're accomplishing what we're trying to do."

"Keeping drunk drivers off the road is the main goal, with or without an award," Sgt. Deyton said.

Union County Sheriff Mack Mason said the MADD organization played a ma-

major role in keeping Georgia's roads safer.

"More than 30 years ago, they saw a need to rid Georgia of the good old boy system," Sheriff Mason said. "They went to the courts, they monitored the court proceedings and basically stopped the practice of drivers getting reduced charges on DUIs."

"We're not out here trying to win an award," the sheriff said. "We really never know the fruits of our labors. The one drunk driver we take off the road tonight might save the life of your family member or mine."

"Mothers Against Drunk Driving has been a main tool in changing the

way the courts view drivers who drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs," Sheriff Mason said. "I'm thankful for that organization."

Walker, Dyer, and Union County Chief Deputy John George each were awarded an Alco Senser. Each donated their prize to the Union County Sheriff's Office.

"And we appreciate that," Sheriff Mason said. "That's \$1,200 that taxpayers won't have to pull out of their pockets. We say thank you to Blairsville Police Department and Chief Deputy George."

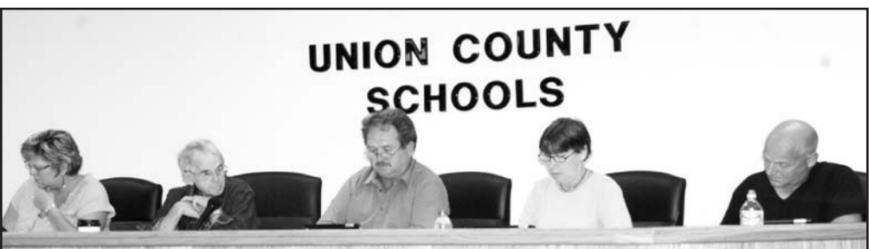


Post 27 TFC Tony Saunders accepts the Post's award at MADD's Patrol Post of the Year. Post 27 recorded 235 DUI Arrests.



Blairsville Police Chief Johnny Carroll gifts an Alco Senser to Union County Sheriff Mack Mason. Carroll's department actually gifted two Alco Sensers to UCSO. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

BOE...from Page 1A



Camp. A memorandum of understanding was presented to and approved by the board and with a new County Coordinator, Cummings suggested that a new memorandum of understanding - showing the responsibilities of the county and the board of education - should be written and signed.

Cummings listed those responsibilities on the memorandum of understanding. "Number one: provide a portion of our salary and benefits to the personnel agreed upon by the extension and the county board of education. Number two: when an individual terminates employment and chooses to take a lump sum payment for accumulated leave, the board agrees to pay

their share of annual leave payment. Number three is to reimburse travel expenses for county extension personnel as it relates to school matters."

"Next is to approve or disapprove of appointment recommendations of county extension personnel."

"If something is not to your satisfaction, you have the right to contact the Northeast Georgia Corporate Extension District and talk with our boss. And finally, evaluate financial support annually and make adjustments as necessary."

Before the board went into executive session, Pat Thibodeaux was given the floor during the public comments segment of the meet-

ing.

Thibodeaux asked the board to allow public comments at all meetings, to all concerned citizens, not just to those who ask ahead of time, seeking approval from the board to voice his/her opinion.

Finally during the executive session, personnel changes were discussed. Teachers Randi Brown and Lauren Dyer, parapro Kara Driskell were approved, pending background checks.

Carol Underwood changed positions from parapro to teacher, and Jennifer Cagle and Tommy Schutzenhoffer resigned.

Walk...from Page 1A

miles so far," said Chick, referencing his wife Barbara who has been by him every step of the way.

"I walk facing traffic. I've only had to jump out of the way twice, so my reflexes are pretty good," joked McGill.

Yet, his mission is one of a serious cause. Walking Coast 2 Coast is an idea he can not credit to be his own.

"My drive has been purely and merely the call of God. I had a three-night encounter with God in Arizona and at first I didn't want any part of it. I'm too old, I'm in pretty good shape, but not in that good of shape," joked McGill. "The second night he was talking to me about it some more, and I thought, 'Hey, I thought we settled this last night.' And on the third night, I realized when God's serious about something, you'd better pay attention."

His goal is to reach Sana Monica, Calif. before the year's end. In the meantime, McGill will be afoot passing 12 states, including North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California.

Conley greeted Chick as he entered Blairsville, greeting him with hugs and a tour of the city in patrol car, followed by more patrol cars, as locals and businesses ushered in a wave of hellos and warm welcomes on one of the cooler days of the summer thus far.

"The Mayor is very nice," Chick said with a small element of surprise in his voice. "There's a positive energy emanating. My faith in the American People, We the People, is growing stronger every day. I'm not finding the hypocrites that everyone's finding out about so much. I think what's happened is our country has been lulled to sleep by prosperity. Someone's waiting for someone in authority to relieve the situation. I'm trying to encourage the community to speak up and be heard. We have to be participating citizens because liberty, though God gives it freely, still costs."

Throughout his walk, McGill and his wife Barbara have been putting together a series of home movies, one of which they edited over the 4th of July weekend.

"This video will be a tribute to Towns and Union counties. Some people turn around after seeing me and

stop and shake my hand. A lot of younger people are, and that's been a surprise for me. America's youth are seeing and feeling what positive energy toward a stranger can do, and that speaks volumes to me."

McGill can be seen at times donning an orange t-shirt and an American Flag, at certain stopping points giving ministries or finding people who inspire him because he's inspired them. Some offer him supplies, some offer money or a good pair of walking shoes.

"This whole thing has so many layers," he said. "If God has laid something on your heart, I'm not going to interfere. It's about the transfer of positive energy, not the money. They feel gratified to give to something they see as a worthy thing. It's very gratifying, this whole experience. I creak, I get sore, I'm an old man. My wife has been right along with me in this thing, seen the hardships, the good, the bad. But the positive energy is there and it's growing."

Chick and Barbara's adventures can be seen updated every day or so on their face book page or by way of their website, <http://www.walkingcoast2coast.com>.

Blairsville Mayor Jim