

Bodie...continued from Page 1A

year, at the age of 14, and his ultimate end of watch came last month on March 22, when Deyton made the difficult decision to end the suffering of an aging dog.

"I want people to know that Bodie was a great proactive tool for this community," said Capt. Deyton. "Bodie took numerous amounts of narcotics off the streets within the community. Bodie was a legend in his own. He may be a dog, but he was a deputy also."

Deyton and Bodie initially partnered up in 2005, when Deyton was still a sergeant with the sheriff's office.

Bodie, then 2 years old, had traveled from the Czech Republic to train as a police dog, and Deyton first met the full-blooded German Shepherd at a K9 training program in Savannah, after Bodie had received some initial training in Texas.

"I went to Savannah in August of 2005 to undergo the K9 training academy program at Chatham County Sheriff's Office," said Capt. Deyton. "When we arrived that first morning, I'll never forget it..."

Deyton said that the first time he ever saw Bodie, the dog immediately grabbed his attention because he was running up and jumping off the walls of his kennel, reaching heights of about 8 feet in the air.

"And I thought, holy cow, that's a wonderful dog," said Deyton. "Sure enough, the instructor stops at that door and says, here's your dog, get to know him."

From that moment on, Deyton and Bodie became fast friends and partners through a relationship built on trust. The two trained together all over the state in the years between then and now, and regularly assisted the other K9 handlers in Union County.

"Bodie is a dog that I had 100 percent confidence in," said UCSO Sgt. Tyler Miller, who handles K9 Zoey. "I've worked and trained with dogs from the Atlanta area up, and one thing is for sure - the Union County Sheriff's Office will never have another one like Bodie."

UCSO Deputy Chad Berry has worked with Deyton



K9 Bodie served Union County for more than a decade, assisting in hundreds of arrests and making a real difference in his community.



Capt. Deyton said that Bodie truly was a best friend.

and Bodie many times since 2007, and he said he will always remember the remarkable

working friendship the two were able to achieve.

"Capt. Deyton and K9 Bodie had a bond that was undeniable," said Berry, who handles UCSO K9 Jet. "They worked as a team for 12 years and made countless drug arrests. K9 Bodie will truly be missed, and for those of us that were fortunate enough to have worked with him, he will never be forgotten."

Those who provided Bodie's medical care from his arrival in Union County through the end of his days said that they, too, felt the same way about Bodie and Deyton.

"Bodie was well-cared for, even into his retirement," said Dr. Patricia Kenney, owner/operator of Union County Pet Hospital. "Chad was a devoted handler. He obviously loved him not just as a partner, but as a valued family member."

In the past year, Bodie began to suffer more and more from the ailments of age, and when he retired from his K9 job in January, Deyton said the German Shepherd didn't understand at first that he wouldn't be riding with his handler to work anymore.

And though he couldn't be there like he used to as Deyton's K9 partner, Bodie made sure to be there to greet Deyton in the driveway when he got home from work each day.

Which is why, at the end of the day, and at the end of his watch, Bodie was more than just a partner to Deyton.

The K9, who lent his nose and cool temperament to the service of the Union County Sheriff's Office for 12 years, was a beloved friend to Chad, and he was a full-blooded member of the Deyton family.

"When my daughter Kaylee was younger, when I would come in from work, she would say, 'Daddy, did Bodie catch any bad guys?'" said Deyton. "I would say yes or no. If I told her yes, we had this agreement that she got to throw him his ball if he caught somebody. That was a big thing I'll never forget."

Jeannie Harris-Matheson receives Georgia Certified Emergency Manager Certification

Administrative Assistant Jeannie Harris-Matheson has been with Union County Fire Department and Emergency Management Agency (EMA) since 2006. She has served as an Assistant to Retired EMA Director and Fire Chief Charles Worden and is currently serving as an Assistant to EMA Director and Fire Chief R. David Dyer. Mrs. Matheson has obtained numerous hours of emergency management and fire training throughout her career. In March 2017, Mrs. Matheson completed all courses, total of 180 hours, required to obtain and received her GA Certified Emergency Manager certification.

Georgia State Law requires a deputy director of local emergency management organization appointed after July 1, 1999, to be a certified emergency manager under the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency's Certified Emergency Manager Program. Although Mrs. Matheson is not a deputy director, she has obtained her certification to better serve as an Assistant to the Director, Deputy Directors and the citizens of Union County.

The curriculum of the Certified Emergency Manager Program and requirements for certification are determined by the state director of emergency management and includes, but not limited to, professional development series training, independent study courses, emergency preparedness courses, and field-delivered courses. Courses



Jeannie Harris-Matheson included 11 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) courses, 9 Georgia Emergency Management and

Homeland Security Agency courses (GEMAHS) ranging from preparing for hazardous weather and flooding; Hazardous Material incidents; disaster recovery, Emergency Operation Center management, resource management and several other classes on county planning and preparedness.

Personnel certified under the Georgia Certified Emergency Manager Program must complete annually a minimum of 24 hours of continuing education to maintain certification. The continuing education includes programs and courses sponsored or approved by the state director of emergency management.

UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Children's Story Time	Every Monday: Union County Library	11 am
Kiwanis Club	Steve's Steakhouse	Noon
Civil Air Patrol	Blairsville Airport	6 pm
Boy Scouts #101	United Methodist Ch	7 pm
	Every Tuesday:	
Tri State Bus. Women	Blairsville Restaurant	8 am
Tuesday Strippers	Mtn. Presbyterian Ch	9:30-2:30 pm
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
Smoky Mtn. Melodies	United Methodist Ch	6:30 pm
Hi Country Harmonizers	Branan Lodge	6:30 pm
	Every Wednesday:	
BINGO	Civic Center	7 pm
	Every Thursday:	
Butternut Ladies Golf	Golf Course (Apr-Oct)	8:30 am
Masonic Luncheon	Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Rotary Club	So. Bank & Trust	Noon
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
	First Monday of each month:	
Lockheed-Martin Ret.	Blairsville Restaurant	9 am
Volunteers/Handicap	First Baptist, H Bldg.	6 pm
CERT	St. Francis of Assisi	6:30 pm
Allegheny Masonic Lodge #114	Masonic Lodge	6:30 pm
	First Tuesday of each month:	
Brownie Scouts	United Methodist Ch	3-5 pm
Blairsville City Coun.	City Hall	6 pm
Amateur Radio Club	Branan Lodge	7 pm
Gaddistown Hmakers	Woody Gap	7 pm
Knights/Colum. #2563	place TBA	7:30 pm
Enotah Ch. #24 RAM	Masonic Temple	7:30 pm
	First Wednesday of each month:	
Exercise class	Senior Citizens Center	10:30 am
Tri-City Wom. Lunch	Monet's Rest.	Noon
Better Breathers	UGH Classroom 2nd Fl.	1 pm
	First Thursday of each month:	
Quilts of Valor	Coosa Methodist Ch	9:30 am-2:30 pm
MMQG	Mtn. Presbyterian Ch	10 am-3 pm
Awake America	City Hall	11:59 am
NAMI Fam. Support	New Hope Counseling	12-1:30 pm
Blairsville Sorghum Fest.	Fort Sorghum	6:30 pm
Open Road ORV	Civic Center	8 pm
	First Friday of each month:	
"Nailed" Book Club	G-N-G Bakery	10:30 am
UG Hospital Aux	UC Nursing Home	Noon
Cruisers Block Party	Farmer's Market	5 pm (Apr-Oct)
Feel Good Friday	Wellness Center	7 pm

Swap Meet

CB, Radio, and Ham Radio enthusiasts - come enjoy an old fashioned swap meet. Saturday, May 6, Meeks Park, first pavilion on left, rain or shine, 8 AM - ? Buy, sell or trade. Soft drinks and coffee available.

Everyone is welcome. For more information call 706-745-1013 or 706-745-0201 or 706-400-8091. NT(Apr26 Z2)CA