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is athletic, that number can be adjusted.

"They're going to have to work a little harder than the little old lady down the street, but the end result of that is they're going to have a stiffer knee that's going to be able to handle the kind of demands they want to put on it," said Dr. Nuelle.

And the good doctor has been involved in a myriad of other advances, crossing disciplines to break new ground earlier in his career to work with an orthodontist.

"We were the first anywhere in the world to do and report on arthroscopic surgery of the TMJ," said Dr. Nuelle. "We're still involved in this in a variety of ways, but we reported our first case in 1984, and we kind of shook the dental profession that an orthopedist was involved in

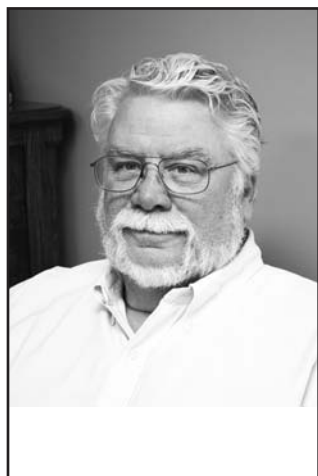
something like this."

Two inventions came from this collaboration. One is a mechanical device called a Polycentric Hinge Articulator, which aids in the placement of teeth in conjunction with how the TMJ moves, so that when dentists make teeth, the teeth fit more accurately in the mouth.

"And most recently, we've been working with a software designer, and we've patented what's called a virtual articulator, which is essentially the same design concept, except it's done on a computer," said Dr. Nuelle.

Dr. Nuelle also works with his wife, Tonya, who is a Registered Autologous Blood Therapist. Together, they specialize in autologous, meaning originating from the same individual, growth factors.

They draw blood from a



**Dr. Doug Nuelle**

patient and separate the platelets using a centrifuge, then make a concentrated product called platelet gel and spray the mixture into wounds to aid in regeneration after surgery.

Making a logical leap, Dr. and Mrs. Nuelle have

looked to bone marrow, where platelets are made, in taking healing to another level using bone marrow stem cells.

"I've used that for about five years now in selected cases to help cartilage heal itself, which doesn't happen," said Dr. Nuelle. "But with stem cells, it does."

Tonya Nuelle also uses platelets to create autologous platelet-rich plasma (PRP) eye drops, which have reportedly cured certain eye conditions, like dry eye and corneal damage.

"We will make these for an ophthalmologist who's going to actually follow the patient if they want to do it," said Dr. Nuelle.

The Nuelles have helped thousands of people over the years, and have no plans of stopping. Union General Hospital is glad to have the Nuelles on board.

## EMC...from Page 1A

NC, Julie Payne of Towns County, and Lenny Parks of Suches are seeking reelection to the Board of Directors.

There are four persons nominated by petition of the Membership. They are Chris Logan of Brasstown, NC, Steven Phillips, of Towns County, Charles Jenkins of Blairsville, and Mike Patton of Blairsville.

Members from the five-county service area can vote for all three Board members' seats. Trout recently joined the

Blue Ridge Mountain EMC Board of Directors with his appointment as a Clay County, NC director in April 2014. He fills the unexpired term of the late Elois Anderson.

His opponent, Logan, currently is on the Board of Directors for the North Carolina Forestry Association, serving as Western Vice President of the North Carolina Forestry Association.

Payne was appointed to fill the unexpired Towns

County term of former Board of Directors' President Terry Taylor. Payne is a closing assistant for a local attorney's office.

Her opponent, Phillips, is the owner of Benny's Sanitation in Hiawassee, and also serves as a local radio personality in the Towns County area. He has served on the Board of Directors of Towns County FFA Alumni Board, and Towns County Food Pantry.

Parks has been an appointed Union County direc-

tor for the past 11 years, and has been elected by his peers on the EMC Board of Directors to serve as Vice-President for the past five years.

His opponents include former State House District 8 State Rep. Charles Jenkins, of Blairsville, and Mike Patton, also of Blairsville, the owner of Patton Excavating, who has served on the Board of Directors for the Union County Board of Health, and Coosa Water Authority.

## Courts award more than \$10,000 to UCSO

By Charles Duncan  
North Georgia News  
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The Union County Sheriff's Office has been awarded \$10,033 worth of property and cash by Union County Superior Court.

The cash and items were awarded based on civil seizures filed by the Sheriff's Office.

The department was awarded \$1,033 in cash from two different individuals, and a 2005 Nissan 350Z Coupe, a Hewlett Packard laptop, a flat screen television, and a Sanyo flat screen television.

The car, computer and televisions are valued at \$9,000, court records show.

No challenges were made to prevent the court award, court records show.

The Sheriff's Office has sold 13 vehicles seized in drug arrests since Jan. 1, 2013. The vehicles have brought in \$48,650 from the sales, sheriff's records show.

"When financial seizures are made by Union County sheriff's deputies, 90 percent of the award remains within the Union County Sheriff's Office and 10 percent of the financial seizures awarded go to the Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office for the legal process.

"I would rather work the drug cases in-house," Sheriff Mason said. "Collecting 90 percent of a financial seizure or zero is easy math to me."

Union County filed financial property seizures of



**Sheriff Mack Mason**

approximately \$480,818.20 in assets via drug arrests in 2013, according to Enotah Judicial Circuit statistics.

Of those cases, more than \$50,000 in assets was awarded to the Sheriff's Office, with \$394,600 in forfeited assets pending, according to the circuit.

"The seizure money/property to the Sheriff's Office is by law strictly regulated and can only be used for Sheriff's Office training, firearms, vehicles, anti-drug programs and other equipment for law enforcement purposes. Under no circumstances can salaries be paid or supplemented with this money.

In 2013, Sheriff Mason and his department, utilizing seized assets, were able to purchase and or, trade for nine

used low mileage Ford Crown Victorias, two investigative vehicles and a new 2013 Animal Control 4x4 truck. These vehicles replaced obsolete, high mileage vehicles that were in disrepair.

The Sheriff's Office opted out of the Appalachian Drug Task Force earlier this year.

The program, dependent on state and federal dollars, is scheduled to run out of money in two years, leaving the four counties - Union, Lumpkin, Towns and White - that make up the task force to support the program out of each county's general fund.

The Sheriff's Office opted out of the drug task force and expanded its Narcotics Division in February.

"Our message to the drug dealers and drug couriers is simple, stay out of Union County," Sheriff Mason said.

Sheriff Mason believes his county is better off opting out of the drug task force considering that his department has two officers who made almost as many cases in 2013 as the other three departments that made up the task force combined.

"We were told that the federal and state grants are continuing to be cut out and the counties would have to bear the whole financial burden themselves in the next couple of years if it (drug task force) was to stay in effect," Sheriff Mason said. "Our narcotics officers know the push-

ers and users here in Union County and like to handle cases themselves instead of turning them over to the drug task force.

"This in part is the reason our agents in Union County made about the same number of arrests and seized the same amount of property (dollar-for-dollar) as did the other three counties in the drug task force combined," Sheriff Mason said.

Sheriff Mason has kept his promise to step up the Union County drug investigations and enforcement in 2014 by stepping out of the drug task force and focusing closer on the issues within Union County.