



Funny cop headlines inaugural Blues, Brews and BBQ event

By ALICIA SPATES - H&R Staff Writer

Comedian Dwayne Gill of Lansing, Mich., knows not to mix work with pleasure, but finds it to his advantage.

Aside from comedy, Gill is a sergeant of the Michigan Police Department and relies on his comic appeal to nab the bad guy.

"Being able to make people laugh makes a difference," he said. "You get more cooperation when you get (criminals) to chuckle."

Gill, nicknamed "Funny Cop," will keep his gun in his pants when he performs at the Decatur Police Benevolent and Protective Association's inaugural Blues, Brews and BBQ event.

The event, which will include entertainment from blues band the Dave Chastain Band, is from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. Saturday at the Decatur Civic Center Arena.

Also, the Decatur Blue Knights, the national policeman's motorcycle group, is hosting a poker run at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Civic Center.

Funds from the event will go toward the Decatur Police Benevolent and Protective Association's, a non-profit group, yearly fundraisers, which funds the Thanksgiving Food Basket Drive, Shop with a Cop and other charitable events.

Gill, who says he's been funny all his life, was hooked to comedy when he received his first laugh.

It wasn't until later that he found out he could get paid for being funny.

"I have to be on stage," Gill said in a phone interview. "If I couldn't be on stage, I couldn't breathe. It's the joy of my life."

Gill has been featured on the television show "America's Dumbest Criminals" and is the 2006 winner of the World's Funniest Cop Competition, held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, said the comedian's Web site.

"I gotta get out here and let people know who Dwayne Gill is so I can retire from the police force and do comedy full time," he said. "Police work, believe it or not, is kind of dangerous."

After winning the competition, Gill has been booked performing all over the nation, and luckily he has also been able to keep his day job.

"I'm blessed, actually," he said of the support from his lieutenant and police colleagues of his new-found comedy career.

In his material, Gill doesn't just talk about cop life and doughnuts, he said, his varied material also includes current events, observational humor and his personal life.

"Come out. Have a good time and leave your worries because they'll be there when you're done," he said with a laugh.

Gill said comedy gives him the opportunity to be free and express his self, while still leaving the audience with a good feeling.

"When I enter, I perform for 300 strangers," he said. "When I leave, I have 300 new friends."

**WHAT:** Blues, Brews and BBQ

**WHEN:** 6:30 to 11:30 p.m., Saturday; doors open at 6 p.m.

**WHERE:** Decatur Civic Center Arena, 1 Gary K. Anderson Plaza

**ADMISSION:** \$10 per person, \$15 per couple; tickets available at the door and the Wharf Tavern

**EXTRA:** Decatur Blue Knights' poker run is at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Decatur Civic Center; sign up is at 1 p.m.

**ON THE WEB:** [www.dwaynegill.com](http://www.dwaynegill.com)

Alicia Spates can be reached at [aspates@herald-review.com](mailto:aspates@herald-review.com) or 421-6986.