

Green Bean...from Page 1A

kazoo band. The crowds were amazing and everybody had fun. There were lots of balloons given away, we had lots of kids enjoying themselves. We're trying to make this a family affair because little kids aren't really all that interested in corn and beans, but they had a blast today."

The Green Bean Festival has always been known for bringing in a crowd, but this year, not only did they fill the Farmers Market, they cleaned out most of the vendors.

"I've been very pleased," said Union County Farmers Market Manager Mickey Cummings. "We had a great turnout and a really good crowd. A lot of our vendors were selling out which is good. In times past, we had a lot of people come but they didn't buy much. But I've been talking with the vendors and this year is a different story. Most of the time it doesn't start getting busy until around 9:30 but this morning at 8:15, people were already having to park in the lower parking lot."

The Green Bean Pizza Eating Contest wrapped up around 12:30 p.m. with Blairsville's Jason Anheier surviving the contest and walking away with his arm raised in victory following his first Green Bean Festival.

It all came down to a battle of wills at the end," said Anheier, the owner of Infinity Window Washing Inc. "I saw



it in the paper and wanted to do it last year, so my son (fellow competitor Rob Avery) and I decided to have a little fun and try something new."

The Quilt Show winners were: Martha Batchelor in the Nature Category. Susan Smith-Tate (Art), Sandy Marletter (My First Quilt), Ruth Murrell (Hand Sewn), Eleanor Smith (Traditional) and Morgan Peney (Youth).

The Canning Contest winners were: Diedrick Brown in the Green Beans category; Eleanor Smith (Relish); Dot Patterson (Chow-Chow, Pickles, and Pickled Beans); Charles Totherow (Pickled Vegetables); Barbara Burch (Tomatoes); Bud Puett (Fruit); Heather Marshall (Meat); Linda Weatherwax (Chili); Hal Crisp (Soup and Jelly).

The Tall Tale Storytell-

ing contest winners were Judy Davis and Ron Aylor. Local storywriters Pat Aube Gray and Bette Sherman judged the contest.

Next weekend, the Farmers Market will be holding its Customer Appreciation Day that will be highlighted by free tomato sandwiches. The sandwiches will be available at 10:30 a.m. in the canning plant.

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a search warrant. He went back to the residence and announced that he had a search warrant and someone came to the door.

"Meredith Purvis, John David Purvis' wife, came to the door," Osborn said. "Meredith told the officers that her husband was there and hiding in an air conditioning duct. He was arrested and most of the

property was recovered and returned to the owner."

SSgt. Osborn said the success of solving the burglary was a joint venture between Uniform Patrol, investigators and the public.

"A neighbor was observing the vehicle that John David Purvis was driving," Osborn said. "That neighbor actually took pictures of the

vehicle John David Purvis was driving. We went from there."

Items taken during the burglary included birdbaths, walking sticks, bird houses, wooden figurines, a fountain, replica antique signs, NA-SCAR memorabilia, and bird cages, Deputy Dyer said.

"The owners were happy to get their merchandise

back," Deputy Dyer said. "An observant neighbor helped solve this case. We're thankful to the public for their assistance in this case. The path to John David Purvis started with the help of the general public."

"It was a really quick turnaround on a burglary case," Sheriff Mason said.

Fair...from Page 1A

going," said Altman. "And we like the Country Music shows."

The craftspeople included leatherworkers, woodworkers, soap and candle makers, a hammock maker, and knife makers.

Altman and Norris were visiting a leatherworker, Billy Collette of Bill Creek Leather. Collette makes and sells belts, wallets, wristbands, and hats. He's been leatherworking since 1976, but this is his first time selling at the Georgia Mountain Fair.

"I just picked it up as a hobby," he said. "Self taught. It's relaxing, working on it, the creativity. The durability. When somebody does

buy something they get their money's worth. They buy something that's not going to tear up in two days. Made in the USA, not made in China. Things of that nature."

"You learn every day," he explained. "You learn something new every day. It's really, it's hard to say because next week I'll have something different because I'll have learned something different. It's just something constantly different every day. Different combinations, different techniques, different mixes of the dyes. It's always something different."

He explained that he makes everything in the shop himself, including the dyes.

"You can't get it over the counter," he said. "Everything we have, we make it ourselves. Any of our stuff, we don't buy any of it. All I do is I buy the leather and make everything from scratch."

Another craftsman who makes his entire product from scratch is Mike Wilson of Wilson's Custom Knives. For the past 31 years, Wilson has made high-end knives out of bone, local wood, and steel with high carbon content.

"I acquired some equipment and just got started and finally figured out pretty much on my own how to make one by reading a lot of books and visiting a couple of knife makers that were still around," he

said. "You've got to learn how to grind the blade, you throw away a lot of steel just learning how. So it's pretty hard to master it, but once you master it, you pretty well know what to do."

Wilson makes knives in batches of 10-15 at one time. He had plenty to display, from tiny paring knives to enormous handcrafted hunting knives.

"I stayed with it for several years part time, then the demand got so much that I went full time," he explained. "Now it's sort of a way of life. But now I'm kind of looking forward to my second retirement."

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