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he said. "We would worry about Mr. Hockman at another time."

Once the wife and child were safe, Sgt. Davenport asked for assistance.

"Backup was coming in, we asked for the Georgia State Patrol helicopter to help search the area for Mr.



Bryan Hockman

Hockman. They searched the area, but the foliage was just too thick to see any one in that area.

The search for Hockman at 541 Cozy Cove Road was called off due to darkness, Sgt. Davenport said.

"We went door-to-door warning residents that if they saw anything at that residence or in the neighborhood to call us," he said. "We kept patrols in the area to keep a lookout for Mr. Hockman."

"It was one of those situations where, the only person that Mr. Hockman was going to harm, was himself," Sgt. Davenport said. "He never threatened anyone, but he was pretty adamant that he would take his own life."

"He repeatedly asked me to shoot him," he said. "I told him the world wasn't coming to an end and we could talk this thing out."

For the next two days, no one saw Bryan Hockman, and then on Thursday, Sgt. Davenport returned with backup.

"We had secured arrest warrants, and I went to serve them," he said. "There was something different when we arrived. A family pet was roaming around in the yard. When we left on Monday, that pet was in the house."

"We had a pretty good idea that he was inside the house at that point," Sgt. Davenport said.

Hockman was inside the house as witnessed by one of the other sheriff's deputies at the scene.

"He had barricaded

himself inside a bedroom," Sgt. Davenport said. "We had deputies all around the house. I kicked in the front door and entered with a shotgun in hand."

"I started talking to him through the bedroom door and asked him to turn his pistol over to me," he said. "Mr. Hockman did not comply."

Sheriff's Detective Andrew Hammond, Deputy Sally Tanner and Sgt. Davenport then began taking turns talking with Hockman.

The deputies scored a breakthrough after more than two hours of negotiations, Sgt. Davenport said.

"He was very despondent, very critical of himself," Sgt. Davenport said. "He never really threatened any of us. He was the biggest threat to himself. He was ready to hurt himself."

Finally, Sgt. Davenport talked Hockman into walking to a bedroom window to surrender his weapon, a .22 caliber pistol.

"I went outside around the side of the house and he opened a side window and handed it to me, butt first," Sgt. Davenport said. "We went back in the house, got him out of the room. He surrendered without incident."

No one was injured during the ordeal.

"All the way around, nobody got hurt," Sgt. Davenport said.

What had begun a few days prior related to a domestic dispute over food, money and stress was over.

"He did shoot a family pet," Sgt. Davenport said.

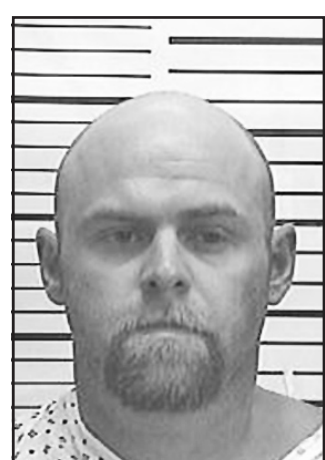
"Overall, a great response from law enforcement, Union County Fire & Rescue and EMS, Georgia State Troopers and Vogel State Park's Cliff Tippens helped bring an end to the crisis," Sgt. Davenport said.

"I can't say enough about the teamwork involved in this," Sgt. Davenport said. "It was just a valuable response by all agencies involved."

"Everyone was staring at a very dangerous situation, and everyone went home at the end of the day," Sheriff

Mason said.

Hockman was taken to a facility for mental health evaluation. Afterward, he was charged with cruelty to children in the first degree, cruelty to animals in the first degree, simple battery in violation of Georgia's Family Violence Act, simple assault in violation of the Family Violence Act and misdemeanor obstruction for fleeing the scene.



Matthew Lee Anderson

In an unrelated, but just as bizarre incident, it took four law enforcement officers to subdue a 33-year-old naked Towns County man on Smyrna Road in Gum Log on June 2nd, Sheriff Mason said.

"We got a call about a naked man up in Gum Log that was rolling around in a cow pasture," the sheriff said. "Andrew and Bradley Glass were the first deputies up there."

"He worked our deputies over pretty good," Sheriff Mason said. "We got response from Dustin Walker and Seth Dyer from Blairsville PD as backup."

"They pepper sprayed the man, used the baton, and finally had to use the tazer," the sheriff said. "It turns out, he was doing mushrooms."

The naked man was Matthew Lee Anderson, Investigator Darren Osborn said.

Anderson was charged with four counts of obstruction, public indecency, two probation violations and aggravated assault on an officer for choking Deputy Andrew Glass, the sheriff said.

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The atmosphere even caught the attention of Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris.

"The weather and the mountains do remind you of Scotland," Paris said.

According to Jim McAfee, sometimes things just come together perfectly.

"In Gaelic a Ceilidh simply means a Scottish party," said Jim McAfee. "We always kick off the Highland Games with a Ceilidh. It's a traditional Gaelic social gathering that originated in Scotland and Ireland. It can be a sit down dinner or a party, but we decided to go with a sit-down dinner and it has always gone very well for us."

Gates opened at Meeks Park at 8 a.m. on Saturday and the Kilted Mile Race was off and running at 10 a.m. and the opening ceremonies took place at high noon, with the Parade of Tartans.

By the time the ceremonies were held at noon, the park was already filled with hundreds of visitors from across the Southeast.

The Children's Field, thanks to the hard work and dedication of Gary and Kimberly Miller, and many others, played host to various events all day Saturday and Sunday, including putt-putt golf, a bouncy castle, face-painting, train rides, and more.

The young lads and lasses weren't the only ones allowed to get in on the action as there was ax throwing and archery contests for all ages at the main field.

Vendors sat up across the park offering everything Scottish, from haggis at the food vendors, to Celtic jewelry, kilts, scarves, tartan pins, and a little bit of something for everyone.

Border Collie and falconry demonstrations along with bladesmithing and forging demonstrations were held in the afternoon.

At 4 p.m. things began to wind down for a few hours with the Massed Bands performing "Flowers of the Forest," in memory of those who passed away since the 2012 Scottish Festival.

Awards were handed out in the athletic categories, including the Kilted Mile Race and the Tug-of-War competition.

Despite the festival closing down at 5 p.m., things were only starting to heat up at the Entertainment Tent where



The 2013 Scottish Festival and Highlands Games may have been the best ever in the 10-year history of the event. Photos/Todd Forrest

three of the most requested acts of the weekend performed for an enthusiastic crowd.

At 7 p.m. Blairsville's own Modern Vinyl hit the stage, followed by up-and-coming Irish Band, L.O.C.H. - or Lads of Corkscrew Hill - also from Blairsville, before the headliners, Uncle Hamish and the Hooligans performed at 8 p.m.

Other acts included Georgia-based Blarney Girls, Scottish folk singer and humorist, Colin Grant-Adams, Keltic Kudzu's Celtic music with a "southern accent," The Oatcakes, another Blairsville native, Dr. Michelle Thompson was on hand to perform not only our National Anthem, but the anthems of Canada and Great Britain.

Sunday saw another large turnout, with a Church Service led by official BSFHG Chaplin, The Rev. Travis Adams at 9 a.m.

The Southeastern Scottish Amateur Athletic Association was back in action on Sunday with the Stone of Strength, Hammer Toss, Weight Toss, Sheaf Toss, Turning the Caber and more before the rains came later in the afternoon.

However, one cannot discuss the Blairsville Scottish Festival without mentioning the McAfee family. Jim and

his wife Linda McAfee, who were honored at Friday night's Ceilidh. The couple, have been instrumental in bringing the festival to Blairsville, and continue to play a vital role to this very day.

"Somewhere around 2002, the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce were holding a brainstorming session where they were sitting around trying to figure out ways to get people to come to town in the spring," Joe Satterfield said. "The idea of holding these games belonged to Jim McAfee, and he volunteered to study the possibilities of having a festival here, and rounding up more than 100 volunteers that make this happen every year."

"And on the on the 10-year anniversary of these games, I can't think of anyone else better to recognize," Satterfield said.

Valentine, echoed that sentiment and noted that McAfee and family are the finest representatives for the people of Blairsville and it's mountain neighbors.

"I can't say enough good things about Jim, in fact, I can't think of a more hospitable group of people or a more beautiful place to hold the Scottish Festival than Blairsville, Georgia," Valentine said.