

Fling... continued from 1A

45 vendors taking part in the Sixth Annual Mountain Fling, an arts and crafts show sponsored by Mountain Regional Arts & Crafts Guild at North Georgia Technical College's Blairsville Campus.

Wilson said knife-making isn't for everyone. For those that want to get started for hobby or craft, he says you start with a good piece of steel.

"You just grind away everything that doesn't look like a knife," Wilson said. "I make a lot of different patterns. I work with 300 different patterns that I've developed over the years.

"My knives are mostly geared toward hunting and fishing. I do a lot of collectibles and I also make kitchen cutlery," he said.

Wilson says all-in-all, he derives a lot of pleasure from his hobby-turned-craft.

"It's a lot of self-satisfaction," he said. "It's a pleasure to create something from raw material. A lot of people don't have the talent to do that, so, it's a self-rewarding venture to be able to do it."

Wilson has been featured in *Blade Magazine*, and that's also a measure of self-satisfaction.

"It's nice to be noticed for doing something that you love to do," he said.

Wilson's kitchen cutlery starts at \$30 for a paring knife and goes up to \$150 for a chef's knife.

His outdoorsman knives range from \$135 to \$300, he said.

"I've sold almost 8,000 knives in my day," he said. "That's counting everything that I've put my name on. I've replaced two knives in 30 years. I've got a pretty good track record. My knives come with a lifetime guarantee."

The two-day event was a popular one. Folks venturing into town for the weekend were visitors. For the most part, many were paying customers for the crafters.



Mike Wilson, founder of Wilson's Custom Knives displays his work at Mountain Fling, held at North Georgia Technical College's Blairsville Campus. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

"We've had a lot of traffic this weekend," said event organizer Carolyn Barton. "And the people that are coming in are spending money, which is always nice."

Blairsville's Paul Grossman, founder of Willie's Wooden Wonders, was selling his wooden bowls left and right.

"It's been a good weekend," Grossmann said. "We had a great day on Saturday, and (Sunday) has been slower. This is a great show. We do three shows a year with the Guild and this is our third year."

Grossman got into the wood-turning craft five years ago.

"I always liked to work with wood," he said. "I retired about five years ago and I decided to do it full-time. I concentrate just on the bowl work. We collected so many around the house, and gave away a bunch to friends and relatives."

"Finally, I decided to try my hand at the craft shows," he said. "We've been blessed.

We make some money, but we have fun doing this and meet a lot of interesting people. We've made a lot of friends as well. It's been a good retirement project."

Paul, and his wife Helena, have a saying: "please enjoy your bowl."

Barton said the Fling was a great success.

"We had a great buying crowd this weekend," she said. "They were getting some really quality crafts. All of our crafters are high quality."

"I think everyone was really pleased, patrons and crafters," she said.

"Everybody has been really supportive of Mountain Fling. It's a time of year when things can get iffy," she said. "People are on vacation, everyone's out of town and that sort of thing."

"We had a lot of people from out of town this weekend," she said. "It was a great crowd this year."

The Guild will add a third show that will debut in September, *Celebrate Autumn*,

Barton said.

"We're hope that show will do as well as this one," Barton said. "And of course, in November, we have the 15th year of Mistletoe Market and that's always a big event. We have crowds come up that have been coming to the Market for years."

The Mountain Regional Arts & Crafts Guild supports artwork and children's summer art programs.

"So many people in the area have lost their jobs, they can't afford to go on vacations and the kids sometimes have nothing to do," Barton said. "The arts are seemingly disappearing in the schools, so we started a program where the children pay \$5 for their class, and the merchants, the Guild and these craft shows pay for the rest of the summer art classes for the children."

The Guild usually has 200 children come through the Summer Arts Program each summer, Barton said.

"It's been a very rewarding program," she said.

Back to School help for Foster Children in Towns and Union County

Volunteers are sponsoring a "Back to School" project again for the 9th year in Towns & Union County. This project gives every Foster child an opportunity to purchase the very needed school supplies, new outfit, shoes & book bag for this coming school year. We would like to help our Foster Children prepare for the new school year & allow them to feel proud and excited about going back to school.

Our Volunteers created the Towns & Union Foster Children's

Narcotics Anonymous

A new NA group called "One Is Too Many" has started meeting in Young Harris at Sharp Memorial Methodist Church. Meetings are being held every Wednesday and Friday evening at 6 p.m. The church is on campus and the meeting entrance is through the back door.

For further questions about Narcotics Anonymous please call the NA Help Line at 706-974-9990.

dren's Enrichment Program which is a non-profit charity that has sponsored both the Back to School Program & Foster Children's Christmas Program for many years in both Towns & Union County. All money collected goes totally to benefit Foster Children.

The Back to School Program will assist our very dedicated Foster Families in their efforts to get their Foster Child ready for the first day of a new school year. We will be purchasing an individual gift certificate from area merchants for each Foster Child in Towns & Union County before school begins again this year. This gift will allow every child to select their own clothing, shoes and school supplies.

If you would like to make

Union County Retired Educators June 2013 meeting

The Union County Retired Educators Association held its June 12th meeting at Steve's Steakhouse where President Terry Queen welcomed everyone before Myron Turner gave the devotional and blessed the food.

The business session of the meeting included the reading of minutes, treasurer's report, and information from the State Convention held in May. June is our designated "Awards" month, and we began with Myron Turner announcing the local scholarship recipient from U.C.H.S. - C. J. Byers, along with his school counselor, Gina Donahue. C. J. thanked the organization and related that he plans on attending Young Harris College this fall to explore the fields of education and physical therapy. Other local awards presented were:

Outstanding Educator Award - Debbie Morgan, Union County Primary School
Outstanding Educator Award - Daphne Sarrell, Union County Middle School
Leadership Award - Ter-

ry Queen, U.C.R.E.A. President
Volunteer Award - Bill Parker
At the recent State Convention, our association received twelve awards which were individually recognized, and many thanks were conveyed to all those who helped meet the standards required for obtaining them. These included the Scrapbook of Excellence, Membership, Unit of Excellence, Community Service, Handbook/Newsletter Participation, Public Relations, Scholarship Participation, "With Our Youth", and History Participation awards. This year's scrapbook dedication to Terry Queen was presented by Charles Adams.

Spotlight Ad forms were then distributed, and all members were asked to contact businesses about purchasing ads which assists us in providing a local scholarship(s) and helps our state association to provide services to members. These ad forms should be mailed or turned in personally to Betty Sexton - Treasurer, by our July meeting. Next year's officers

see).

If you have any questions, please contact the following volunteers: Pat Elliott 706-896 3749; Sherry Wendt 706-897 1047; Richard Paolillo 706-745 1190.

The Foster Children of Towns and Union Counties thank-you!

Degutis named to Honor List

Justin Degutis of Young Harris, GA was named to the Honor List of Oxford College, the two-year liberal arts division of Emory University located in Oxford, GA, for the 2013 spring semester.

Students must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher to be named to

the Honor List.

Emory University is known for its demanding academics, outstanding undergraduate experience, highly ranked professional schools and state-of-the-art research facilities. Emory encompasses nine academic divisions.

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were announced, new members present were recognized, cares/concerns were presented, and other announcements made.

The next meeting will be our annual picnic/covered dish lunch at 11:30 on July 10 at Meeks Park. Meat and paper products will be provided, so please bring side dishes - vegetables, desserts, bread, etc. - and a drink. Local dues of \$10 for the 2013-14 year can be paid at this meeting also. The program will include the installation of new officers.

Union County Retired Educators Association is an affiliate of Georgia Retired Educators Association and all retired educators are invited to join this local unit.

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C.J. Byers, Scholarship Recipient, Gina Donahue, Counselor



Debbie Morgan, Outstanding Educator Award, Troy Collins, Principal, U.C. Primary School



Daphne Sarrell, Outstanding Educator Award, Gwen Stone, Asst. Principal, U. C. Middle School



Local Awards presented at State Convention



Scrapbook Dedication to Terry Queen