

# Ramp Day...continued from Page 1A

Local entrepreneurs were the ever-necessary bee traps for this time of year, fresh local honey, and all manner of arts and crafts.

The Union County Canning Plant, located right there at the Farmers Market, opened up for several cooking demonstrations, and Assistant Market Manager Kristy Peney said people really liked the cooking demos at the cannery.

By 10:30 a.m., the parking lots were almost overflowing, and hundreds of people made their way leisurely through the market, while at least a hundred more stood patiently in line for

ramps and shish kabobs. Though the lines were long, they moved fairly quickly, and Peney said the food samples lasted until about 1 p.m.

The regular season of the Union County Farmers Market will be starting on Saturday, June 2, and considering all the rain that's fallen in North Georgia this year, farmers ought to be bringing in a bumper crop.

For more information on the Farmers Market, feel free to contact Kristy Peney or Market Manager Mickey Cummings at farmersmarket@uniongov.com.



Photo by Lowell Nicholson  
Members of the Blue Ridge Mountain Cattlemen's Association celebrated Beef Day right alongside Ramp Day at the market on Saturday, May 5.



Photo by Mark Smith  
Quite the crowd turned out for Ramp Day at the Union County Farmers Market on Saturday, May 5.

# Chase...continued from Page 1A

8 p.m. that Thursday, when a deputy with the Fannin County Sheriff's Office attempted to pull Hester over for a traffic violation on old U.S. 76 in Morganton, according to Blairsville Assistant Police Chief Michael Baxter.

"A chase ensued in Fannin County coming towards Union County," said Baxter. "The vehicle was traveling at a high rate of speed and refused to stop for them."

It was just past sunset that evening, and when Hester cut the headlights of his '91 Honda Accord, Fannin County authorities decided to call off the chase in the interest of public safety, said Baxter.

"At that time, they did radio Union County to let them know that the vehicle was headed our way," said Baxter. "On Blue Ridge Highway, the Union County Sheriff's Office

observed the vehicle traveling at excessive rates of speed (98 in a 55-mph zone).

"Due to safety reasons, they did not pursue the vehicle, but they notified us to tell us that it was traveling at a high rate of speed into the City of Blairsville."

With enough notice from their brothers in blue, Blairsville Police were able to set up a roadblock with spike strips at the intersection of Blue Ridge Street and old Blue Ridge Highway, said Baxter.

"The vehicle drove around the spike strips that were laid in place by our units," said Baxter. "It did go up into the Park & Ride area. He went in the wrong way of the Park & Ride, but thankfully, nobody was there."

"The individual went to the end of the Park & Ride and jumped the curb, damaging his

vehicle, and into the intersection of Georgia 515 and US 129, and at that point continued to travel eastbound on 515."

Hester's vehicle was damaged in the pursuit, including his front tires, which dramatically reduced his speed to between 30 and 40 mph as he made his way up 515, said Baxter.

"The individual was still trying to elude us, and at that point, the decision was made that we would make contact with the vehicle and stop the pursuit," said Baxter.

Driving alongside Hester, Baxter made a PIT maneuver - Pursuit Intervention Technique - into the damaged vehicle, causing Hester's car to spin to a stop, said Baxter, and the vehicle came to a rest near the main entrance of the United Community Bank on 515.

Another person was in the car with Hester, though that person was allowed to leave the scene at the conclusion of the investigation that Thursday, said Baxter.

"Thank the Lord nobody got hurt, because this individual appeared to be acting recklessly without regard to anybody's safety, any of the motoring public, and he had to be stopped," said Baxter.

Assistant Police Chief Baxter added that he was thankful for the cooperation of other law enforcement agencies that responded to the incident, including the Union County Sheriff's Office, the Fannin County Sheriff's Office and the Georgia State Patrol.



Photo by Mark Novak  
In all, four different law enforcement agencies responded to the May 3 high-speed chase between Fannin and Union counties.

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