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up exhibits of paintings, jewelry, birdhouses, decorative arts, fabric arts, turned wood, knives, and everything in between. People strolled around the Blairsville square while enjoying arts, crafts, demonstrations, entertainment, and festival type foods.

Southern hospitality and beautiful weather brought fun times for both vendors and visitors. New this year was a food court with a whole array of delicious treats. Paintings (utilizing lots of primary colors) by Sandra Vales from Riverdale, Georgia received lots of attention (Sandra won first place in the Fine Art category). Another crowd pleaser was decorative artwork by Nancy Moore of Recycled Treasures (from Ormond Beach, Florida). Her hand painted windows and washtubs were a big hit and brought her a 3rd place ribbon in the Craft category.

With so many talented artists and craftsmen, it was a difficult choice for the judges. One booth did stand out from the rest and won Best in Show Overall - Mike Wilson took home a blue ribbon for his outstanding knives! Congratulations to Mike Wilson and the rest of the winners: Best of show - Overall Mike Wilson, Fine art (painting & photography) 1st place Sandra Vales, Fine craft 1st place Brett Glidden, 2nd place Gwen Berger, 3rd place Gra-



Welcome to Downtown Blairsville, home of the Spring Arts and Crafts Festival

Photo/Janice Boling

ham White, Craft 1st place Juanita Fisher, 2nd place Angie Hernden, 3rd place Nancy Moore, and Craft - food categories 1st place Judy Berry.

The Blairsville Square is a great place for a family orientated festival! With the North Georgia Mountains as backdrop and the Union County Historical Courthouse as a centerpiece, tents nestled in like icing on a cake! Thanks to all the artists, craftsmen, organizers, and volunteers that worked hard to make the event possible. For more information, visit [www.downtownblairsville.com](http://www.downtownblairsville.com).



Art vendor Nancy Moore from Ormond Beach, Florida

Photo/Janice Boling



Face jugs and pottery

Photo/Janice Boling



Mayor Conley with Best in Show knife maker Mike Wilson

Photo/Janice Boling

# Graduation...continued from page 1A

He was also awarded an additional scholarship to YHC-thirteen thousand dollar per year, renew-

able for up to 4 years.

"The Union and Fanin Site faculty and staff are proud of our thirty-seven students present tonight and the 5 others who have received diplomas earlier this year. Tonight we are pleased to have twenty-six Honor Graduates with us," said Union Site Administrator Judy Waldroup. Chastain presented the MECHS Senior Class of 2012 and assisted Behren in the delivery of diplomas. "I want to thank each of you for coming and assisting in honoring the Mountain Education Center High School's 2012 Graduates," said Chastain.

## Salzer featured at Writers' Night Out

Writers' Night Out is a free event for those who enjoy hearing local authors read their own works. Featured this month is Ron Salzer who will read his special brand of entertaining fiction. An open microphone follows for those who'd like to share their own poetry or prose. Writers' Night Out takes place on Friday, June 8 at 7 p.m. in its new location: the private room upstairs at Brother's Willow Ranch Restaurant in Young Harris, GA.

Writers' Night Out takes place on the second Friday of each month and is open to the public. Each open microphone reader can sign up at the door and has two-and-a-half minutes to read. The upstairs room is accessible via stairs inside the restaurant or the ramp (no stairs) from the upper parking lot. Food and beverages will be available for purchase; please come early to order.

For more information, please contact Karen Holmes at (404) 316-8466 or [kpaulholmes@gmail.com](mailto:kpaulholmes@gmail.com). NTJun6.A1JSH



Artist Sandra Vales from Riverdale, Georgia wins 1st Place in Fine Art

Photo/Janice Boling



Janet Hartman and Betty Turner greet and meet at info tent

Photo/Janice Boling