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overflowing with people from all over the southeast. Besides traffic congestion and parking problems for a couple of hours in the morning, all went well and the festival was deemed a great success.

Nelson Thomas entertained the crowds at noon and then Sammy Ensley and Wade Powell the 3rd (The Branches) took over the Blackberry Jamming Stage at 1:30 p.m.

The Dunking Tank was popular with several local celebrities joining in the fun. Cary Cox, Matt Pilgrim, Bear Baxter, Mark Cox and several others were cool as cucumbers after getting dunked! They had it made in the shade.

Devan Persaud took best

overall in the Recipe Contest for his Green Bean Strudel. Diane Oliver took best overall in the Canning Contest for her Tomatoes with Okra. Judges say all entries were winners and thanks to all that participated!

The 5K Race results are in! Faith Trammell was the female open winner with a time of 21:39.7. Male open winner was Tyler Bennett with a time of 17:18.3.

Female master winner was Sue Astley with a time of 34:29.7 and male master winner was Mike Ernestes with a time of 22:06.0.

More than 115 runners participated in the event. Congratulations to them all!

Many thanks to the sponsors: Alexander's Store, Hoyt's Furniture and Appliances, Wal-Mart, Merciers Orchards, United Community Bank, Nelson's Tractor, Blue Ridge EMC, Cadence Bank, Georgia Farm Bureau, Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association, King Ford, Law Offices of Cary Cox, Wet & Wild Car Wash, and Papa's Pizza. Also thanks to the many volunteers who made the event possible.

Look for more information about pizza contest winners, beauty pageant winners, and other Green Bean Festival events on the website at GreenBeanFestival.com.



Mr. Green Bean, Sammy Ensley



The Third Annual Green Bean Festival at Union County Farmers Market left Assistant Blairsville Police Chief Michael "Bear" Baxter feeling all wet on Saturday. A little water never hurt a bear and it didn't hurt the "Bear." Photos/Janice Boling



Food was in big demand at the Third Annual Green Bean Festival at The Market on Saturday on Old Smokey Road. The festival experienced record attendance over the weekend.