



KEVIN JOHNSON/SENTINEL

Shoppers browse the wares of local artists and craftspeople on Wednesday at a new section of the Santa Cruz Farmers Market, the Makers Market.

Not just about food anymore

Makers Market features products reflecting sustainability values

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SANTA CRUZ — The downtown Farmers Market isn't all about food anymore.

Shoppers can now find locally made art and crafts at the Makers Market: a section of the Farmers Market, formed April 20.

Santa Cruz County artists and craftspeople display handmade wares such as soaps, candles, jewelry, solar art, woodwork and leatherwork. The vendors' wares are created with an eye toward sustainability.

"It made sense to involve people using repurposed materials and creating here in Santa Cruz County," said Garrett Kautz, an assistant manager at the Farmers Market who organized the Makers Market.

"It's still in its infancy, but we're getting a lot more interest," Kautz said.

Jeweler Daniel Hughes was a vendor at the market for the first time Wednesday. "I've been getting a really good response so far," said Hughes, a Boulder Creek resident who designs and cuts the stones for his jewelry. Hughes' wife, Bree Karpavage, crafts the wire parts of the jewelry.

Hughes' booth was one of seven in the Makers Market. His display featured earrings and necklaces made of fossilized bone, jade from Big Sur and fossilized shells from Davenport Landing.

"I surf at Davenport, so I walk along the beach



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Mary Vernier waits for customers in her business tent at the Farmers Market on Wednesday. Vernier's business, Mary's Green and Clean Handcrafted Soaps, sells scented soaps at the Makers Market.

and find this stuff," Hughes said. "People love the local pieces."

Shopper Olivia Heron admired the vendors' handiwork. "I like community stuff like this,"

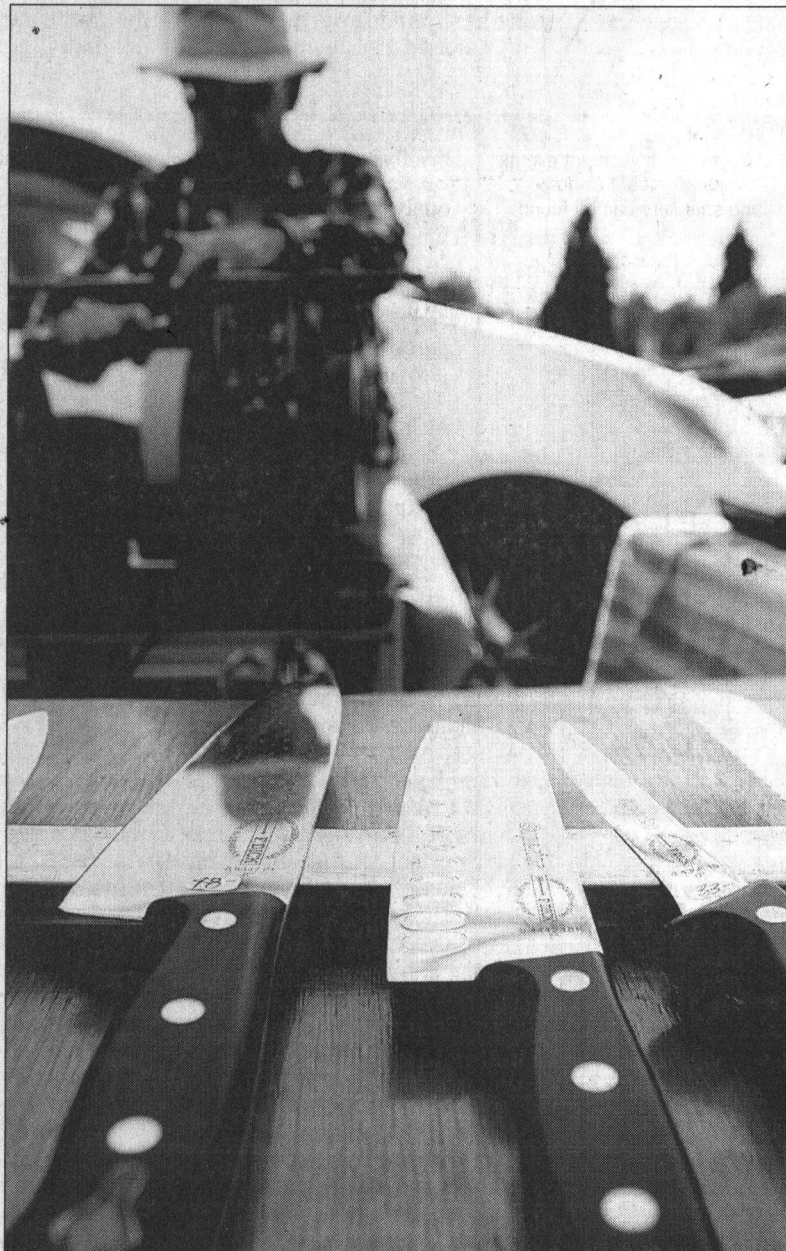
she said of the market.

Kyle Nabbefeld, another customer, agreed.

SEE MARKET ON B3

Business owner Craig Chadwick sharpens a blade on Wednesday at the Farmers Market in Santa Cruz. Chadwick's business, Restoration Edge Sharpening Service, has a tent at the new Makers Market.

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MARKET

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"This is very well done," he said. "There's good variety here."

Solar artist David Lyons has been coming to the market since April. He said he thinks the venue is "just getting warmed up."

"I make everything from scratch," said Lyons, who has been constructing art in Santa Cruz for more than 10 years. He showed solar-powered animal sculptures on a tarp at the market.

Perched atop football-sized rocks, the copper wings of Lyons' butterfly sculptures flapped. A motor inside each rock, connected to a small solar panel embedded in the rock's side, powered the motion.

Woodworker Paul Smith and soap-maker Mary Vernier are neighbors in Scotts Valley, and shared a booth at the market.

Vernier started selling her unique soaps and bath salts in the Farmers Market's craft isle last year, before Kautz formed the Makers Market.

"The tourist traffic was pretty good last summer," she said. "I'm hoping we can draw even more attention now."

Smith was showing his wooden boxes and bowls at the market for the first time Wednesday. He got his start making wooden can openers, but recently studied with Santa Cruz artist Mike Shuler, whose work is in a permanent collection at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington.

"Even if I don't sell anything today, this is great exposure," Smith said.

The Makers Market would welcome more local artists and craftspeople.

"There's so much creativity and talent in Santa Cruz," Kautz said. "Some people have been making art for a while, and some people are just getting started selling on [the popular online store] etsy.com. We want to give local artists the opportunity to get together and sell their stuff here."

The Makers Market handbook and application form are available on the Farmers Market website. Email scmakersmarket@gmail.com with questions.