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COUNTY

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Page B01

Stuart auctioneer enjoys his calling

By Kim Hughes

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Although Stuart auctioneer K.C. Daniel didn't make it to the final round of the International Auctioneer Championship Friday in Orlando, he said he'd do it all over again.

"It was really quite an honor to be around such great auctioneers," he said. "I was happy to have been a part of it."

A total of 86 competitors took part in the event. The men's and women's division champions — Joseph Mast of Millersburg,

Ohio and Camille Booker of Eltopia, Wash. — were announced later that evening.

Daniel said the seven judges, including some former championship winners, were "the best of the best in the industry."

No stranger to competition — he is the current Florida State Bid Calling Champion — Daniel admitted the event was a bit nerve-racking.

"It was a lot different starting at a crowd of judges than a crowd of bidders. It's a whole different environment."

In the preliminary round,

each contestant had to sell three randomly selected items. Daniel's designated items were a rolling duffel bag, a men's watch and a set of microfiber kitchen mitts for drying items.

After seeing the other auctioneers in action during the competition, Daniel said the knowledge will come in handy in the future.

"Now I see where I could compete a little bit better. I definitely learned a lot. My eyes are a bit wider open."

Although Daniel didn't earn one of the 15 spots in the final

round, he only had to recall the real estate auction his firm, Auction Associates, conducted in North River Shores Thursday evening to know he's good at what he does.

"It was extremely successful," Daniel said of the sale of a home that hadn't been on the market since the 1960s. "It was a good day for the buyer and a good day for the seller."

Looking ahead, Daniel anticipates competing in the championship event again someday.

"The experience in and of itself was great."