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Since 1889

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Ron Massey to be inducted into KM Sports Hall of Fame

1B



HOMEFRONT

Mountaineer Partnership town meeting tonight

"What do you want for Downtown Kings Mountain?" is asked among bright green flyers throughout town. Mountaineer Partnership, Inc. invites the public to a town meeting Thursday at 7 pm in the Patrick Senior Center. The non-profit corporation will be focusing on what Director C. Morgan Edwards calls the "Main Street Approach." "It's a participatory program defining what you would like to see and spend money on downtown," Edwards said. He continued to say that no matter how nice a downtown is to look at if it doesn't bring a profit and is not supported by the community, it probably will not last.

Hoping for a big turnout he encourages everyone in the community to voice their opinion. "Tell us what you want and we'll try to find someone to offer it," he said. Public ideas will be taken to private sectors in search of funding. Edwards wants the people to feel comfortable downtown while offering things that the community can feel excited about.

Founded in 2003 and established through real estate taxes, the Mountaineer Partnership was set up for the community to make its businesses more appealing. For more information, call Edwards at 704-730-0283 or go by the Partnership's office at 241 South Battleground Avenue.

Ingram still critical from grenade blast

Roosevelt Ingram, 71, of 403 Belvedere Circle, remains in critical condition at Wake Forest University Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem after a white phosphorus grenade exploded in his hand around 8 pm on Monday, April 10.

The World War II grenade sent a fireball up his arms, chest and face. The loud explosion brought neighbor Greg Gray to the rescue with a water hose that he used to extinguish the fire.

Ingram was transported to Cleveland Regional Medical Center and airlifted to Wake Forest University Baptist Hospital, where he remains in the Burn Unit under critical condition. The family has asked for prayers during this crucial time.

Primary candidates to speak at Woman's Club

The Kings Mountain Woman's Club will be holding a "meet your candidates" forum for the May 2nd primary at 7 pm on Monday, April 24th at the Woman's Club on Mountain Street. This meeting is open to the public. Candidates for upcoming elections among the Board of Commissioners, Cleveland County Sheriff, Cleveland County Coroner and Clerk of Superior Court will be allowed 3-5 minutes to tell who they are and what their plans are for the desired positions. Afterwards, the public will have a chance to ask questions.

The Woman's Club believes the forum will give the public a better opportunity to get to know the different candidates and make more of an informed decision on who to vote for in the primary.

RADAR WATCH

Kings Mountain Police Department will be running radar April 23-29 at the following locations:

Sunday - I-85, US 74 Bypass, York Rd.

Monday - I-85, US 74 Bypass, Margrace Rd.

Tuesday, I-85, US 74 Bypass, Waco Rd.

Wednesday - I-85, US 74 Bypass, Fulton Dr.

Thursday - I-85, US 74 Bypass, Linwood Rd.

Friday - I-85, US 74 Bypass, Shelby Rd.

Saturday - I-85, US 74 Bypass, Phiifer Rd.

COMING NEXT WEEK

Jerry Morris, who will be inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame on May 13, remembers his baseball days with Bethware High and Post 155.



'It happened very fast'



Charred ceiling of Ronda Fender's home near Grover. Below, two Bibles were scorched on the outside, but not a single word inside the covers was burned.

Fire destroys woman's home but not a word in her Bibles was damaged

EMILY WEAVER

eweaver@kingsmountainherald.com

Within minutes of carefully stepping into the scorched and charred remains of what once was the Fender family's home - clothes, hair and nostrils absorb the smell of its demise.

The fire started as Ronda Fender was getting ready for work Tuesday morning, April 11th, at 9:20 am. She was sitting on her bed, taking the paint off of her nails with fingernail polish remover and toilet paper. Her cigarette was smoking in the ash tray beside her. She accidentally knocked over the flammable remover, soaking the toilet paper that was draped close to her cigarette, which then ignited the combustible fumes.

"It happened very fast," said Fender. Working on instinct, she tried to smother the

fire with a comforter but noticed that it only fanned the flames. She ran outside and yelled for help. A 911 call was placed. Help was on the way.

Her cat, Belle, stayed by her side, following Fender outside when she screamed for help and then back inside when she attempted to save some belongings. Before she knew it, the flames were licking the ceiling in her bedroom.



She said that it felt like a very long time for the responders to reach her off of Hwy. 29. But the ambulance, Bethlehem and Grover Volunteer Fire Departments were there within minutes.

The flames burst through the bathroom and bedroom windows. Firemen were still putting the fire out when she was in the ambulance. Fender was taken to the hospital where she received breathing treatments for

See Fire, 8A

10th Firehouse Cook-off crown goes to B.S. Pitmeisters team

EMILY WEAVER

eweaver@kingsmountainherald.com

Winning scores differing from only a thousandth of a point showed how close and fierce the competition was last Friday and Saturday at the 10th Annual Kings Mountain Firehouse Cook-off. "We haven't had one that's been that close in a while," said Fire Inspector Joey Davis while looking at the scores. B.S. Pitmeisters, with an overall score of

626.2856, championed over Home on the Range, who had a final score of 626.2848, for the title of NC State Champion.

Fifty-eight teams from across the East felt the pressure as turn-in times drew nearer on Saturday morning. Meats were cooked in various ways and at various temperatures but all were cooked through dedication and determination in a sport called Barbeque.

Some competitors were newcomers to the Cook-off

while others returned to fight for glory. Regal BBQ decided to come out for the first time all the way from Buffalo, NY after hearing about it from fellow champion-seekers at the Rockingham, NC BBQ Competition.

"Vermont is the farthest north we have been and this is the farthest south we have been," said Karin Krauss, wife and cooking partner of Steve Krauss. The whole team could not join them in

See Cook-off, 8A

KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE

Through the eyes of an American soldier

(First of 3 parts)

EMILY WEAVER

eweaver@kingsmountainherald.com

"I shall be telling this with a sigh Somewhere ages and ages hence: Two roads diverged in a wood, and I— I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference." - Robert Frost from *The Road Not Taken*

Jeff Goode has also chosen a road that many have shied away from. It was

not a road of great riches or corporate success, fame or timidity. It was a road of adventure, excitement, pain and pride. It was the road of an American soldier. It stretched through treacherous lands, with hills that seemed too steep to climb, through frightening forests that would make a grown man cry and with the sharpest curves that only bravery, fast-thinking and hope could stay the course. But all of the turns, narrow and wide, have lead him to where he is today.

Goode, a long-time

Kings Mountain resident, works for a contracting team called Military Professional Resource Incorporated (MPRI), which provides military, combat and defensive training where needed. Goode was in the 5th US Army Special Forces, Green Beret division before his retirement. After the army, he worked as a supervisor in a trucking business, but he always felt like something was missing. When MPRI called him, after Sept. 11th, to ask if he would help train US Air

Marshals, he decided to give it a shot.

Since then, MPRI has sent Goode to many different countries including Germany, Iraq, Rwanda, Bosnia, Czechoslovakia, Sarajevo, Egypt, Kuwait, Qatar and Kenya. He has recently returned home after a month and a half training session in Rwanda. He was there to provide the Rwandan Defense Force with military tactics, knowledge of clearing buildings and raids and defensive techniques. This African coun-

See Goode, 8A



JEFF GOODE