

LOCAL

COOK-OFF

From 1A

the showdown, leaving just husband and wife to do the cooking. Steve stayed by his grill all night while Karin took the kids to a hotel. They came to have fun, to win if they could and win they did. Regal BBQ received a 3rd place trophy and check for \$200 in the Pork category.

Returning competitor, King's Cooking from Shelby, said that they have come a long way since they began competing in 1989. "We started out in the back of a truck and a tent," said teammate Danny Sneed. Now the group has a couple of trailers and enough equipment to really heat things up. King's Cooking competes in 8 to 10 cook-offs every year.

They decided not to vend this year in order to focus on their meats. "A lot of people will vend and that takes con-

centration away from cooking for the competition," Sneed explained. In it to win it, the team walked away with a \$100 check and plaque for the Highest Cleveland County Team, a 7th place ribbon for Ribs, a 7th place ribbon for Pork, and a check for \$150 and 4th place trophy for Brisket.

Another Shelby team, Smokey Mountain Smokers, has been competing in the Kings Mountain Firehouse Cook-off for the past 7 or 8 years. They were sponsored this year by Rick Moore from Timm's Furniture. Members of the group also run a BBQ business and catering service in Shelby, called Dayn's Single Shack.

"This is probably one of the nicest events we go to," said teammate Larry "Bubba" Black. "Everyone is very accommodating. You always feel welcome."

Smokey Mountain Smokers has competed in

cook-offs for the past 10 years and they have won many trophies. Black said that it can cost \$1,000 to compete and his team was glad to have a sponsor this year. "Timm's Furniture, that's where people need to go if they need furniture," Black said.

Starting out with only a beach umbrella or two for shade, they now have a camper, tents and more sophisticated grills. The team was not able to place this year but they will be ready for the next one.

Another first-timer, Big Daddy Butt Rub, came all the way from Clearwater, Fla. Kings Mountain is the farthest location north they have competed. "We've been doing this professionally since 2003," said Chief Cook Rooster Roberts. Starting with a win in St. Augustine, Fla., three short years ago, this talented team already has a room full of trophies.

They competed in the Tryon, NC competition last year, winning 2nd in Pork, 6th in Ribs, 8th in Brisket, 2nd in Whole Hog and 11th Overall. The team is ranked 2nd in Pork throughout the state of Florida and won 1st place Brisket in the US Open. Big Daddy Butt Rub also vended at this cook-off. They were not able to win another trophy but many people commented on the delicious food the team served.

A group from Eden, NC came out to sell refreshments after seeing the cook-off in a BBQ magazine. A team from Columbus, NC, Foothills Mountain BBQ, came out just to vend. The former NC State Poultry Champion wanted to compete but was not able to do so this year. But the team decided to come and cook anyway.

Fifth place winners received a check for \$100 and a plaque, 4th received \$150 check and plaque, 3rd

received \$200 check and trophy, 2nd received \$300 check and trophy, and 1st place winners received a check for \$550 and a trophy. Top winners of each category are listed below.

NC State Champion - B.S. Pitmeisters (won \$4,000, a trophy and a flag)

Reserve Champion - Home on the Range (won \$1,000 and a trophy)

Highest Cleveland Co. Team - King's Cooking (won \$100 and a plaque)

Best Booth - Mountain Magic (\$100 and a plaque)

Anything But Meat - The Allnighters (\$100 and a plaque)

Anything But Dessert - Pirates of the Grillbean (\$100 and a

plaque)
Mayor's Choice - B. S. Pitmeisters (newlywed couple awarded \$100 for sharing their wedding cake with Mayor Murphrey)

5th Chicken - Checkered Pig
4th Chicken - Butts & Breasts
3rd Chicken - Barenuckles
2nd Chicken - Whoop-de-Que
1st Chicken - Mountain Magic

5th Pork - Late Night Whiskey Smokers

4th Pork - Pit Dog BBQ
3rd Pork - Regal BBQ
2nd Pork - Jack's Old South
1st Pork - Home on the Range

5th Brisket - Tarheel Smokers
4th Brisket - King's Cooking
3rd Brisket - Jack's Old South
2nd Brisket - Pigs in Heat
1st Brisket - B.S. Pitmeisters

GOODE

From 1A

try is still struggling after a devastating genocide that happened in 1994.

"The army stepped in and stopped the genocide causing one of the warring tribes to flee to the Congo," Goode said. He also explained that when one of the criminals from the fleeing tribe is captured, which are distinguished by their "pink pajamas," he is returned. His punishment or forgiveness is then decided by the villagers he harmed. "He is given a chance to repent and if the villagers choose to forgive, he will walk away a free man," Goode said. But if not, he will be hanged in the village and stay there as a symbol to all of his transgressions.

"It's very hot in Rwanda," he said. "It's three degrees below the equator and a mile above sea level. It's nothing like it is here."

Goode said that it is currently the rainy season. "Ninety percent of the popu-

lation grows their own food. So if they miss a rainy season, they'll starve to death. They are one rain away from starvation," he said.

Goode and his men killed a 9-foot mamba - a very common snake in Africa that is deadlier than a cobra. "We're Americans. We kill everything," he said with a sly grin.

Rwanda also has mimosa trees (referred to as premis trees) that are known for its many thorns. "If you lean against them, you'll get stuck," he said. But since "snakes will not go up trees that have thorns" those are the only ones that are safe to walk under.

"Snakes are every where," Goode said.

While there, his friend decided that he wanted to film being chased by a water buffalo. The villagers advised against it, warning that violent animals are among the paths they wanted to walk. "But we're Americans. We're the most violent animals in the world," he said.

Locals just shook their heads, sure that the Americans were "full-blown crazy." But off Goode and his men went traversing down roads others would not take. "Every so far we'd walk, we'd be looking for trees to run up in case we're chased. Then we get to an area further away from the trees and see a water buffalo," he said. But luckily, the massive creature did not charge them.

However, on a later day, Goode's friend Charlie, went back to try again. Two buffaloes began to charge him so he scrambled quickly up a tree to safety. He found the chase he went looking for. "And he didn't even get it on film," Goode laughed.

One of the people from a nearby Arab village that he refers to as "Grumpy Town" charged their vehicle. "We were going down the road and he started coming at us with a knife in his hand," he said. But instead of making this grumpy townsman a Rwandan speed bump, their guide avoided him and kept driving.

On his many travels he has

seen things that some people only have nightmares about. He has been shot at too many times to count. His humvee has been destroyed once and shot up numerous times. He has been hit once with a rocket propelled grenade in his right arm. But through all of the bad times, he has made memories and built adventures with friends he will never forget.

He has seen so much, experienced so much and survived to tell the tale. Goode is a hero who works with other heroes to give our soldiers the training they need to survive. Although, if asked he would deny the hero label. He would probably shrug and say that someone has to do it.

But continuously putting your life in danger to save others is not a rule in the average Joe's handbook. These selfless acts of bravery are only found in the hero's manual.

Next Week - Read about Goode's adventures in Iraq and catch a better glimpse into the mind of a soldier.

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