



EMILY WEAVER/HERALD
Leslie Fretwell, left, and Charles Fretwell, of Boiling Springs, SC, came to the Cook-off three years ago on their honeymoon. They have returned to compete ever since.

Couple shares second honeymoon at Firehouse

By EMILY WEAVER
Editor

Charles and Leslie Fretwell, known among BBQ contenders as "B.S. Pitmeisters" and recognized for their rib-bone top hats, first came to the Kings Mountain cook-off three years ago — on their honeymoon.

They have returned ever since to compete and to relive that special honeymoon.

Leslie said that they met in 2005 at a Waffle House they both frequented. They had seen each other there for years, but never spoke until one day...

Her father had passed away and Charles overheard the waitress ask Leslie and her mother what they were going to do for Mother's Day now that he was gone. "He joined in the conversation," she said.

The conversation eventually blossomed into a blessed romance. They laughed. They loved. They grilled.

The two started barbecuing together, or at least she started helping him, she laughed. "He's the cook."

They competed in local events and soon the pair were "bit" by the cook-off bug. They were engaged in November.

Charles gave Leslie his grandfather's top hat, a special heirloom that still held the embroidered initials of Charles Burlington

Fretwell. But the hat was transformed into something even more special.

On the outside, Charles had decorated the hat with rib bones to match the one he wore in competitions. He also made her a rib bone necklace. With that hat, I really knew I was part of the family, she laughed.

To honor her father, who had passed, they wed on Leslie's parent's anniversary on April 2, 2006. Even though her father was not physically there to walk her down the aisle, he was there in spirit. She wore his wedding ring on her necklace.

They spent their honeymoon at the Firehouse Cook-off. "For me, there will never be another contest that is more special to my heart than Kings Mountain," Leslie said. "This place will always be very special to me."

In honor of their new marriage in 2006, Sheryl Middleton, a member of BBQ cooking team "Red, White and Que" made them a wedding cake. She decorated it with little pigs, one dressed in a tux and the other in a gown, both wearing rib hats.

"The BBQ community is just a good group of people," Leslie said.

In 2006, "B.S. Pitmeisters" won Grand Champion. This year they won plaques and money for coming in fourth in chicken and pork ribs categories. Mayor Rick Murphrey recognizes the honeymooners every year.

Florida team named Grand Champ Tarheel Smokers gets Reserve spot

By EMILY WEAVER
Editor

And the winner of the 13th annual Kings Mountain Firehouse BBQ Cook-off is... "GB's BBQ," which traveled from Florida to compete.

Titled 2009's state Grand Champion of the event, Gordon Bryant and crew, received \$4,000 in prize money, a trophy and flag during the awards ceremony Saturday afternoon at the walking track stage.

GB's also won first in pork ribs, second in brisket, and third in pork categories, which added an extra \$1,050 to their prize pot.

"Tarheel Smokers," traveling the longest distance from the east out of Hertford, NC, was crowned Reserve Grand Champion. The team also secured a first place win in the chicken, a fifth place in brisket and an eighth spot in pork ribs categories.

Their prize money totaled \$1,650. They also received a trophy and a plaque.

"Raw Talent" came in third overall. Last year's Grand Champion "Smoky Mountain Smokers" came in fourth overall. "Pigs on the Run" came in fifth, followed by "Iron Pig BBQ" - sixth,



Mayor Rick Murphrey, left, stands with Gordon Bryant of "GB's BBQ" the grand champion of the 13th annual Firehouse Cook-off and KM Fire Chief Frank Burns.

"Wicked Que" - seventh, "Triple J BBQ" - eighth, "Pickin' Porkers" - ninth, and "Two Old Men and a Grill" - 10th.

Kings Cooking was awarded the highest ranking Cleveland County team, earning \$100 in prize money. The team came in 12th overall.

Other top 10 teams in each category are listed below.

Chicken

- 1st - Tarheel Smokers
- 2nd - Iron Pig BBQ
- 3rd - Raw Talent

- 4th - B.S. Pitmeisters
- 5th - Two Old Men and a Grill
- 6th - Them Ohio City Boys
- 7th - Sue E. Pig
- 8th - Kings Cooking
- 9th - Wicked Que
- 10th - Mountain Magic Country BBQ

- 1st - GB's BBQ
- 2nd - Smoky Mountain Smokers
- 3rd - Midnight Smoke
- 4th - B.S. Pitmeisters

- 5th - Butts and Breastts
- 6th - Raw Talent
- 7th - On the Spot BBQ
- 8th - Tarheel Smokers
- 9th - Bub-Ba-Q
- 10th - Pappa Smoke

Pork

- 1st - Triple J BBQ
- 2nd - JT's BBQ
- 3rd - GB's BBQ
- 4th - Mountain Magic Country BBQ
- 5th - Iron Pig BBQ
- 6th - B4BBQ
- 7th - Pigs on the Run
- 8th - Screamin Nite Hog BBQ
- 9th - Sunnyside Bar-B-Q
- 10th - Flame Master G' BBQ

Brisket

- 1st - Pigs on the Run
- 2nd - GB's BBQ
- 3rd - Wicked Que
- 4th - Smoke This
- 5th - Tarheel Smokers
- 6th - Screamin Nite Hog

BBQ

- 7th - Pickin' Porkers
- 8th - Kings Cooking
- 9th - Big Mo and the AHO
- 10th - Them Ohio City Boys



Smokin's Mountain Boys of Kings Mountain fired up tasty barbecue at the Cook-off. Left to right, Bobby Eters and Billy Talbert.



Eric Pardo, "Big E" of "Big E's BBQ" competed at this year's Cook-off. He will be opening a new restaurant in Kings Mountain in June.

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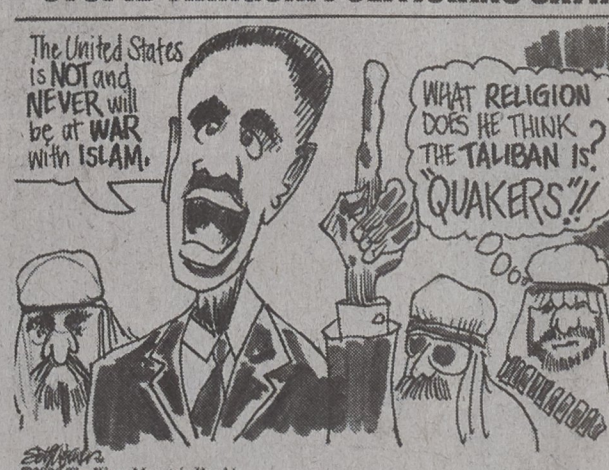
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