



TV36 weatherman John Wendal, left, welcomes meteorologist Tony Sturey of the National Weather Service to Kings Mountain.

Weathermen 'storm' into library

by ELIZABETH STEWART
Staff writer

Ron Owens' goal is to be a meteorologist. So the next best thing, he said, was to invite Charlotte 36 TV "weatherman" John Wendel and Tony Sturey of the National Weather Service based in Greenville-Spartanburg, SC to Kings Mountain for an awareness program at Mauney Memorial Library.

Wendel and Sturey brought weather maps and statistics last Tuesday and talked about family safety during inclement weather.

"The atmosphere needs a recipe to develop thunderstorms," said Sturey in response to question about storms from Owens' grandmother, Mildred Miller. He said that "recipe" was in place for a recent Monday night thunderstorm in the area and said he didn't expect a recurrence, with many dry hours predicted for the next few days.

He added, "today (Tuesday) it isn't quite as humid and not as much moisture in the atmosphere."

Sturey said that wind speeds of 90 m.p.h. can produce as much damage as a tornado. "Straight line winds," he said, are very damaging. They rip homes and fell trees. He said Cleveland County has had strong winds but thankfully no tornadoes.

Wendel formerly worked as a meteorologist in Wisconsin and Michigan. He joined Charlotte's Channel 36 in 1996.

Sturey grew up in southwestern Pennsylvania and got his first taste of very bad weather in 1977. A senior in



From the left: Tony Sturey of the National Weather Service, amateur weatherman Ron Owens, and TV 36 weatherman John Wendel.

high school, he saw heavy destruction by the Johnstown flood, which took the lives of 90 people in the summer of 1977. "I decided then that I wanted to be a meteorologist. I've been in the business 27 years," he said. Sturey worked in a number of states before moving to South Carolina a

year ago.

Both men said their job is challenging and humbling.

Owens, son of Rachel Friday of Kings Mountain, works with rain gauges and maps, watches all the weather reports on television, and wants to return to school to earn his GED.

When a tornado hits...

How to stay safe in a storm

Although tornadoes can happen at any time of the year, they are especially common during the spring and early summer. May and June are the peak months in terms of numbers of tornadoes, but April appears to be the deadliest month, according to the National Weather Service.

What to do?

+ In a house with a basement: Avoid windows. Get in the basement and under some kind of sturdy protection (heavy table or work bench), or cover yourself with a mattress or sleeping bag. Know where very heavy objects rest on the floor above (pianos, refrigerators, waterbeds, etc and do not go under them. They may fall down through a weakened floor and crush you.

+ In a house with no basement, a dorm or apartment: Avoid windows, go to the lowest floor, small center room like a bathroom) under a stairwell, or in an interior hallway with no windows. Crouch as low as possible to the floor, facing down and cover your head with your hands. A bath tub may offer a shell of partial protection. Even in an interior room, you should cover yourself with some sort of thick padding, mattress, blankets, etc., to protect against falling debris in case the roof and ceiling fall.

+ In a mobile home: Get out. Even if your home is tied down, you are probably safer outside, even if the only alternative is to seek shelter out in the open. Most tornadoes can destroy even tied down mobile homes and it is best not to play the low odds that yours will make it. If your community has a tornado shelter, go there fast. If there is a sturdy permanent building within running distance, seek shelter there. Otherwise, lie flat on the ground away from your home, protecting your head. Use open ground, if possible, away from trees and cars which can be blown into you. (The emergency shelter in Kings Mountain is the Kings Mountain Fire Department beside City Hall. Emergency sirens go off in three central areas of the city.)

+In a car or truck: Vehicles are extremely dangerous in a tornado. If a tornado is visible, far away, and the traffic is light, you may be able to drive out of its path by moving at right angles to the tornado. Otherwise, park the car

as quickly and safely as possible. Get out and seek shelter in a sturdy building. If in the open country, run to low ground away from any cars which may roll over on you. Lie flat and face down, protecting the back of your head with your arms. Avoid seeking shelter under bridges which can create deadly traffic hazards while offering little protection against flying debris.

In open outdoors: If possible, seek shelter in a sturdy building. If not, lie flat and face-down on low ground, protecting the back of your head with your arms. Get as far away from trees and cars as you can.

Four KM seniors win \$7K scholarships

Four Kings Mountain High seniors were honored with \$7,000 scholarships last week at the Dover Foundation's 2010 Scholarship Awards Luncheon.

Anastasia Alpeter, a scholar athlete and captain of KMHS' varsity swim team, was given a \$7,000 scholarship to attend Gardner-Webb University. A member of the Mountaineer band for the last four years, and described as outgoing, energetic and kind, she gave credit to her mother for being the most influential person in her life.

Megan Loftin, a member of the Mountaineer soccer team, also received a \$7,000 scholarship to attend Gardner-Webb University, where she will continue playing. Loftin plans to study chemistry at GWU.

Bryan Moffitt, a math scholar at KMHS, was honored with a \$7,000 scholarship to attend North Carolina State University.

Casey Stafford, active in the Future Teachers of America, received a \$7,000 scholarship to attend Gardner-Webb University. He plans to pursue a career in education.

Dover Foundation scholarships were started over 40 years ago by Charles Dover. Since 1970, half of the annual scholarship recipients attend Gardner-Webb University and the other half attend colleges and universities of their choice. A total of \$100,000 in scholarships were given to seniors in Cleveland County at the banquet last week.



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Thanks to Bayada Nurses, Dora and Clayton Singleton, 92, are able to remain in the comfort of their own home. They are pictured here with their Bayada Nurses home health aide Linda Gail Hamrick

Diane Singleton feels so blessed to still have her parents in her life, however, making sure they have the care they need can be quite a challenge.

"Mom and dad are both 92," said Singleton. "Even with mom's Alzheimer's disease and dad's poor vision, they insist they don't want to go in a nursing

home. They want to stay in their home, where they are comfortable and everything is familiar."

Singleton knew she couldn't care for her parents alone. She researched home care companies and chose Bayada Nurses because of their flexibility.

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