

KM Dixie All-Stars in state play-offs, 1B

Kings Mountain Herald

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'They gave their last full measure of devotion'

Guard members, loved ones gather to remember four airmen who lost their lives saving others



National Guard members, loved ones gather to remember the four airmen who lost their lives helping extinguish wildfires threatening homes in South Dakota.

Photo by ALAN HODGE

Airman Cannon was son-in-law to KM couple

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He loved what he did and loved life. That's what his family, including his Kings Mountain in-laws, will remember about Senior M/Sgt. Robert (Robbie) Cannon, 50.

A flight engineer for 29 years, Cannon, along with three other airmen, died when a Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS)-equipped C-130 belonging to the 145th Airlift Wing, North Carolina National Guard, crashed during an aerial fire-fighting mission at 6:30 p.m. (MST) on June 30, 2012 near the Black Hills of South Dakota. Two others, including Boiling Springs resident Josh Marlowe, were seriously injured.

The support or civil authorities during natural disasters is a key and unique mission of the N.C. National Guard which also supports training missions for troops in the U.S.

"I'll see you Friday, I love you," Cannon told his wife and



SR/MSGT. ROBERT CANNON

two children June 29 when he left for what would be his last of many missions.

James Russ described his son-in-law as a friendly, helpful, committed, adventurous and family-oriented man who wanted nothing more than to spend time with his family, wherever they were and whatever they were

See FAMILY, 7A

Wing Grillin', Ice Cream Crank-Off, Bikini contests set for Beach Blast

A Backyard Chicken Wing Grillin' competition, an Ice Cream Crank-Off and a Teenie-Weenie Bikini Contest will highlight the city-sponsored Beach Blast July 21 at Patriots Park.

The Teenie-Weenie Bikini Contest for "beach babes" age 6 and under will kick off at the Gazebo at noon. The contest is sponsored by Reno Chiropractic.

Eric Pardo, Big E's BBQ Catering, and 238 Cherokee Street Tavern will sponsor the grillin' competition which will benefit the American Legion Scholarship Foundation.

Funds raised in the Ice Cream Crank Off, sponsored by The Green Banana Project and Kings Mountain



Herald, will benefit Relay for Life. Crank-Off champions will win a Kindle Fire tablet. Registration will be held from 10 a.m.-noon July 21 at the West entrance (shady side) of Patriot's Park. There is a \$5 entry fee for the Crank-Off.



Contenders must bring

one half-gallon of their ice cream for public tasting and one half-gallon of their ice cream for judging. Categories are vanilla, chocolate, fruit, gourmet, with nuts, and outrageous.

Judging and public tasting (\$5 donation to judge) will begin at 1 p.m. Salt, ice and power will be provided.

Green Banana Ice Cream

will be sold for \$2 a scoop or

\$3 for two scoops at the event.

The grilling competition

will be limited to 20 teams

who will grill chicken wings

on a backyard gas grill.

Teams will be provided five

pounds of chicken wings to

prep and grill (delivered,

picked up) at 10 a.m. Set up

time begins at 8 a.m.-9 a.m.

with grilling started no ear-

lier than 11 a.m. Five wings

will be submitted to the

judges area no earlier than

12 noon and no later than

12:30 p.m. Awards cere-

mony, with prizes for first,

second, and third, and Peo-

ple's Choice award will be

presented at 2 p.m. Entry fee

is \$25 for each team.

Any sauce or combina-

tion of flavors can be used to

season the chicken wings.

During the People's

Choice on Saturday, Ameri-

See CONTESTS, 6A

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ALAN HODGE
Special to The Herald

Hundreds of family, friends, and fellow fliers gathered Tuesday, July 10 at the North Carolina Air National Guard 145th MAW base at Charlotte-Douglas International Airport to pay tribute to the four airmen based there who lost their lives in the crash of their C-130 plane while fighting wildfires in South Dakota.

The event was a heartfelt outpouring of grief and appreciation for Maj. Joe McCormick of Belmont, Maj. Ryan David of Boone, Lt. Col. Paul Mikeal of Mooresville, and Senior Master Sgt. Robert Cannon of Charlotte.

Sgt. Josh Marlowe of Boiling Springs and another crew member were also on board the C-130 and suffered injuries.

The four that lost their lives were eulogized by a number of their comrades, as well as civilian and military officials. Governor Bev Perdue was one of the speakers.

See LOVED ONES, 7A

Volunteers needed to help a family rebuild charred home

EMILY WEAVER, ELIZABETH STEWART
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Kings Mountain citizens are stepping up to help a family rebuild part of its home and reclaim its life at 131 Kristie Lane after an early morning fire June 27 forced them out.

Volunteers and tools from handsaws and sledge hammers to shovels, rakes and wheelbarrows are needed for a clean-up and rebuilding effort July 21 at 9 a.m.

"It won't take long to do this," said one organizer who has offered to feed volunteers at the house Saturday. "There are only like three walls and part of a roof that needs to come down."

A local electrician has offered his services to get the house's power back on once rebuilding efforts are complete. Another citizen, all who wish to remain anonymous, has offered a camper for the family to stay in until they can move back in.

Vivian Smart Williams was sharing her two bedroom home with her caretaker, Deanna Powell, two grandsons, her

See VOLUNTEERS, 7A

WANT TO HELP?
Call Kerry McKenzie
704-905-7908 to find out how you can help.



DAR HE

The Lynching of Emmett Till

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Film fest to feature telling documentaries and gripping dramas

EMILY WEAVER
Editor

Documentaries revealing little-known secrets of runaway health care costs and hiding immigrants, are set to highlight this year's 13th Annual Real to Reel International Film Festival July 18-21.

Twenty-three films, from shorts and animations to features and documentaries, will be showcased during the festival at the newly renovated Joy Performance Center.

Filmmakers from as far away as Austria, Taiwan, the Ukraine, Australia and the United Kingdom and as close to

See FILM FEST, 7A

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