

Today's News

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BBQ Championship off to a sunny start

By KEN BLACK, TIMES-REPUBLICAN

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It can be amazing what great food, great music, and - most importantly of all - great weather can do to lift people's spirits.

The Iowa BBQ Championships kicked off Friday, with blue skies, comfortable temperatures, and thousands of individuals. In each of the past two years, heavy rain was the story.

"Everybody involved in this really needed it in the worst way," said Lew Miller, who serves as an organizer for the event.

Miller said while the weather helps, there are others that also work to make the event very special.

"The Parks and Recreation Department, without a doubt, gave 150 percent," Miller said. "Whatever we needed, they were there to provide."

The event brought out both new attendees and regulars. One of those who never attended the event before was Marshalltown resident Nancy Check.

"My brother-in-law helps set up the beer tent and said we should come down and check it out," she said. "So that's why we're here."

She said the one thing she didn't expect was the amount of people, vendors and activities provided.

Al Hoop, a city councilman, said he enjoys making it down to the BBQ championships to catch up with old friends and get some good food.

"I come down to eat and I see a whole lot of people I haven't seen in a while," he said. "It's a great mix of people."

Saturday's events included the kid's contest and the Lincoln Highway Band and Blooze Brothers from Chicago on stage.

Tomorrow's activities conclude the event, with the overall winners and state barbecue champion announced at approximately 4 p.m.

Always a spectator favorite, the rib eating contest takes place at 11 a.m.

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T-R PHOTO BY KEN BLACK
Moe Cason, with the Ponderosa Barbecue team, dishes out an order during the Iowa BBQ State Championships in Marshalltown Friday. A total of 69 teams were vying for the title of the state's best.