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It's chow time

BBQ fun and sun fill Riverview

By TAMMY R. LAWSON, TIMES-REPUBLICAN

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Not even a five-minute rain shower could keep Saturday's muggy temps and charcoaled grills from being one thing - smokin' hot.

Nearly 20,000 spectators attended the Eleventh Annual Iowa State BBQ Championship in Marshalltown over the weekend to enjoy the best in fun and food the state has to offer.

The two-day event may have concluded Saturday, but it began with a sloppy vengeance as the Rib Eating Contest gave Hannah Gardea a win for the Kids division. After a saucy standoff in the Adult category, Loren Peters and Fritz Polt shared honors, and from radio station KRTI, Jamie Trout prevailed among Celebrity competitors.

The Iron Skillet Contest featured four local teams, creating the best dish from three secret ingredients which were unveiled before cook-off time: Asparagus, pineapple and shrimp.

On behalf of the Assistance League, team Bahama Mamas conquered and won a \$100 Wal-Mart gift card toward the city's Youth & Shelter Services.

Along with Marshalltown Community College, Chamber of Commerce/MEDIC and the Community Y, \$216 dollars was collected from visitors toward their favorite charities.

The sauciness continued while 66 teams battled it out during the BBQ Contest with Big T'z Q Cru, from Des Moines, taking the overall ranking.

Other winners from individual categories included 4 Mile Smokin' Crew for chicken; Smokin' Big Dawgs for ribs; Smoke House 72 for pork; Captain Ron's Brew-N-Cue for brisket; and Buffalo BBQ for desserts.

As well, the 'Anything But' category featured various entrees such as turkey or fish with the top spot being captured by BareFoot'n Billy's BBQ.

Friday evening's Kids' Q Contest also provided two winning grillers, Riley Kirton in the 10 & Under category and Kailey Smider in the 11 & Up.

In addition, scholarship awards were given to Kohl Schrader in the amount of \$1,500 and Mark Anderson, \$750 - both of whom are attending Iowa State University to receive a PHD in Meat Science.

Though he will continue as an event advisor, Chairman Lew Miller is stepping down after 11 years and could not have been happier with the turnout of those coming from miles away to partake of the weekend event.

"It was outstanding and unbelievable," Miller said. "Did you see how packed it was? You can't beat that!"

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T-R PHOTO BY TAMMY R. LAWSON
From radio station KRTI, Jamie Trout chomps his way to victory, winning the Celebrity Rib-Eating Contest at Riverview Park.