



**BILL AND CONNIE Riedel** presented Roger Cochran with the grand prize of a plaque, a 2012 "Up In Smoke" chef's hat and a meat hook for his team, the Smokin' Rebels, after they tallied up the most points at Saturday's barbecue contest.

## Up in Smoke draws crowd with good food

The fifth annual "Up in Smoke on the Black Water BBQ Cook-off" was a succulent success, bringing in thousands of dollars for the Decatur County Rural Fire Department and filling an estimated 300 bellies with some of the best barbecue in Kansas.

Cindy Lincoln, a member of the Up in Smoke Committee, said they group hadn't yet calculated how much money the contest raised, but it's expected to be in the thousands.

The overall winner, the team with the most points from all the judges, was the Smokin' Rebels, and the open-class winner was Gettin' Jiggy with the Piggy. Division other winners were Blackwater BBQ for brisket, Ribzilla for ribs, M&K BBQ for pork butt, Butts Down, Racks Up for beans and Whiskey River for dessert. All had their skills appraised by 18 anonymous judges.

Opening for the warm afternoon, along with free sampling of the contestants' meats, was the band Kansas Gypsies from Hays, whose swinging country-folk and gypsy feel rocked right up until supper time. The three-member Highway 385 Band from Colorado sang the audience into dusk with their distinct brand of bluegrass-country picking, featuring two guitars and a banjo.

Following them was singer/songwriter Lucas Maddy of Norton, whose soulful country-folk repertoire ranged from ballads of love to more rock-heavy songs of sorrow

and life on the farm.

The nine other teams that participated were Jerry Stein and Aaron Ploussard BBQ, the Pork Choppers, the Buffaloafers, Pitt Poor Smokers, State Line Smokers, All Nighters... Happy! Happy! Happy!, U-Can't Beat Meat, Grillin' and Chillin' and Nuttin' Butt Good BBQ.

This year, the committee put another camper hookup in the park as a donation to the city for the event. The cost of the materials was \$400, and the labor was donated by Circuitech of Oberlin, owned by Mrs. Lincoln and her husband Griff.

While the event was a success, said organizer Connie Riedel, what the committee really needs is volunteers for next year, lest the eight women who put it on get burned out.

"It's just so much work for these girls," Mrs. Riedel said, "and it all started because there were three or four friends that wanted to have a barbecue in the park. They had no idea that it was going to escalate into an event. And we toy with it every year: 'Do we want to do this again?'"

"When they get down there, they're part of the teams, so they have no time to actually run it. So we need a whole ton of people that are going to step up and guarantee to be with us every year, because otherwise, we can't guarantee that this event can continue."



**FOOD AND MUSIC** brought all ages and tastes together at Sappa Park, where Sage Lohofener (left) dug into the cole slaw, and singer/songwriter Lucas Maddy of Norton performed his bluesy folk music for a crowd of over 300.



– Story and photos by Stephanie DeCamp



**EATING WITH GRANDPA** and Grandma can make a barbecue a little less messy, as Gemma Louderback (front left) and Gus Diederich (front right) discovered on Saturday. Grandpa Gary Richards held his little redhead close while Grandma Marsha Richards cut some meat into smaller bites.