

Get your barbecue on

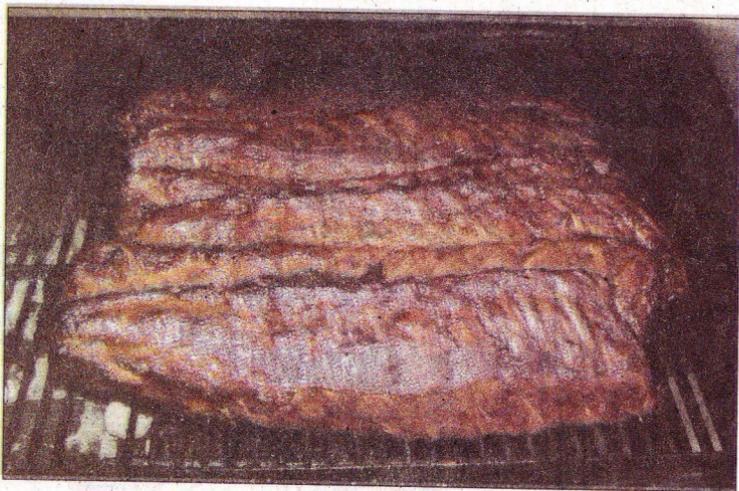


Photo special to The Voyager

"Smokin' in the Square," a barbecue cook-off is sure to bring Pensacola's best to the table. The competition includes pulled pork, spareribs and chicken.

Amanda Nelson Staff Writer

The smell of barbecue sauce and the scent of smoke will linger in the air downtown for the fourth annual "Smokin' in the Square," Seville Square's barbecue cook-off.

"Smokin' in the Square' is a volunteer-run event to raise money for charity," said Jeff Dingle, publicity chairman for the event.

The cook-off contest is a two-day event. It starts on Friday, March 1 at noon until 9 p.m. Then it continues the next day from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m.

There will be 40 professional teams and 15 "backyard" teams competing, according to the "Smokin' in the Square" website. To be a part of the backyard team, all you have to do is sign up — no special classes are required. Regardless of which team prepares the barbecue, people may still come and enjoy it.

"Well, in a competition we do pulled pork, they do ribs, standard spareribs, and they do chicken. That's when they're competing in the professional level," Ivan Delabruere, the event organizer, said. "The backyard teams only get two meats.

They do chicken and ribs."

All the teams may barbecue seafood, Delabruere said.

All teams give a sample of their barbecue to a judge and then the judge rates the meat in various categories. Depending on its appearance, tenderness and taste, the judge gives a score to determine a winner.

"The judges look at three items when they are looking to pick the winner," Delabruere said. "They are looking at the appearance of the meat, the taste and the tenderness and from that they give the team a score from one to 10. One being the worst and 10 being the best. After the judges have looked, tasted and found out how tender the meat is, they give it a score and add it up. The team with the best score is the winner."

Even if you can't cook or judge, this event is for the whole community to enjoy. After the judges have named the winner, the community may fill their empty bellies with the barbecue, and the community gets to have their voices heard. The community gets to pick their favorite and that team wins the People's Choice Award.

So come on out and enjoy the smells and tastes of Gulf Coast barbecue.