



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MADISON RIBBERFEST BBQ & BLUES**  
***BACKYARD BLAST***

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**Madison Courier Returns as Backyard Blast Sponsor!**  
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The Madison Ribberfest Backyard Blast amateur BBQ event is pleased to announce that the Madison Courier has returned as the sponsor for their event! This competition, which is the Indiana State Amateur BBQ Championship, was originally supported by the Courier, and is very responsible for its' success over the years.

“They were at our side from the beginning.” said event co-chairman Steve Thomas. “They were able to help folks know about us, they wrote a lot about the ‘hows and whys’ of BBQ and helped raise the regional awareness of the whole event.”

The Backyard Blast has grown to over 60 teams competing for notoriety and awards. Categories are Chicken, Ribs, Pork, Beef and Game and Other. Awards are also given out for Best Sauce, Best Rub, Best Team and Best “BBQ Contraption.”

“Two things are important here” said Jake Stuart, co-chairman of the Backyard Blast, “every year we graduate at least one amateur team to the professional ranks, and every year the event receives calls from other places asking us how do you put on such an event! And the Madison Courier is a big part of that.”

With the change of available technologies, and how even the home cooks have adapted, there is a new look at the event. Certain forms of electricity may be used. The rules have changed so BBQers may use self-contained electric devices, especially the pellet cookers, to the competition! “No generators or exhaust is allowed, but other forms of power, batteries and solar, for example, are ok.” Thomas said. “More and more people are using them, so it makes a good case to allow them, and maybe see how they rank!”

The Courier is a great addition to the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ribberfest event. Keep watch for 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary plans as well as BBQ tips, insights, recipes and helpful items in the Madison Courier. Those interested may go to [www.MadisonRibberfest.com](http://www.MadisonRibberfest.com) for the rule change info.

The Ribberfest event committee would like to thank our Title Sponsor ‘Koehler Tires’ and Blues Sponsor ‘Craig Toyota’. And would also like to thank Super ATV, Arvin Sango, Auxier Family, Anderson’s Sales, The Madison Courier, German American Bank, Jeff Frazier, Kroger, and all the Friends of Madison Ribberfest BBQ & Blues.