

## Central Texas BBQ Roundup rides through Belton

By **Michelle Rodriguez**  
The Belton Journal

BBQ enthusiasts gathered at the Cadence Bank Center on Saturday for a BBQ competition with activities for children, food trucks, vendors, a car show, a corn hole tournament, and a pet adoption event.

“The event couldn’t have happened without the businesses, cooks, volunteers, and artisan vendors. They made it happen. I feel like the team that stepped into the arena with me took it on headfirst. It was a monster! We received 90 percent of praise and 10 percent of criticism. I think about Roosevelt’s Man in the Arena speech that says, ‘the credit belongs to the man that is actually in the arena.’ They are the folks that showed up and carried more than I could have carried myself,” said George Bunker, Founder and CEO of Central Texas BBQ Roundup,

The event raised funds for Healing Heart Rehab, Belton Education Foundation, Temple CERT, Belton CERT, Belton Lions Club, and Civil Air Patrol – Bell County Composite Squad-



Courtesy photo Austin Embleton and Dylan Maxwell with Bony Legs BBQ with Mad Dog Military won Best in Show at the Central Texas BBQ Roundup.

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“The two biggest sanctioning BBQ bodies, IBCA and CBA, split 10 years ago and took with them the best BBQ competitors. They all showed up. It was the first time they were all together in 10 years,” said Bunker.

“Something impossible happened at this event because they believed in the mission. The mission was to build industries around the community and give back to the most vulnerable,”

Bony Legs BBQ with Mad Dog Military won Best

in Show. Mad Dog Military raises money to take veterans hunting and fishing. Bony Legs BBQ team is Dylan Maxwell’s family’s BBQ team.

“The name Bony Legs See **CTBR**, Page A3



# CTBR - From Page A1

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came from Dylan's grandma saying, 'Bony Legs will get you' instead of 'the boogeyman is gonna get you' when he was a kid, so they use that phrase to honor her," said Austin Embleton, owner of Mad Dog Military. "Mad Dog was my call sign when I was in the Marines, in Iraq."

The Grand Champion was Michelle Martinez with team AMP Cookers.

"The win qualifies her for the BBQ World Cup in Las Vegas in 2027 where the pot is a million dollars," said Bunker.

The Reserve Grand Champion was Eric Arnold with team BIGG E BBQ.

The first-place brisket went to Matt Kasper with Rapsak BBQ.

The first-place chicken went to Derrick Bermea with We Stay Smokin.

The first-place pork spareribs was Edward Oakes with Dirt Track Cookers.

There were many activities for children including a fishing pond with over 200 fish in the tank, a petting zoo, Chencho the Clown made balloon animals, face painting, and bounce hous-

es.

Animal enthusiasts were invited to bring their pets and there was an animal adoption event where 23 dogs and a cat were adopted to new homes along with 70 microchips and vaccines given out.

For results of the competition visit the website at <https://ibcabbq.org/contest-details/?contestid=11587>.

To participate in next year's event, reach out to George Bunker at 970-632-4917 or email at [george@ctbr.net](mailto:george@ctbr.net).