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July 29, 2012

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Anticipation builds for BBQ event



By JOSEPH SITARZ

By this time next week, there will have been a new South Carolina Festival of Discovery Barbecue and Hash Cookoff grand champion crowned. Veteran barbecue judges will have shared their knowledge with some rookie judges during the competition sponsored by Greenwood's own Carolina Pride. Barbecue lovers will have sampled perhaps some of the best 'cue they've every had. The new winner of the hot dog eating contest will be able to stake claim to being the top dog until next year's contest. Skins' Hot Dogs, an Upstate legend with a restaurant in Greenwood, is sponsoring the event. While noted for their dogs piled up with chili, the competition dogs will be naked - just dog and bun. Naked or smothered in chili, Skins' dogs live up to their reputation. I've forced myself to have some at Palmetto Bantam soccer games and they are good. Tons of barbecue will have been eaten. Platefuls of hash, ribs, chicken and other tasty treats will have been devoured. Gallons of tea, lemonade, water - and beer - will have been drunk. Hours and hours of the blues will have been heard during the Blues Cruise, sponsored by the Index-Journal. CDs featuring the official song of the Festival of Discovery, "Living in a BBQ World," by South Carolina music legend Drink Small will have been bought. Friends will have caught up with Small, who is never at a loss for words, or friends.



Blues Cruise regulars Wanda Johnson and Shrimp City Slim will have performed for their Greenwood regulars and will have made some new followers as well. The talents of singers, bands and songwriters from places such as New York, New Jersey, Louisiana, Virginia, Kansas City, and North Carolina will have wooed the crowds who braved the heat or crowded into one of the venues to listen. People won't be surprised when those who couldn't keep their butts in their seats got up and danced. People will have found ways to beat the heat. Many will have wondered whether or not weather would interfere with the fun. (Keep your fingers crossed the weather is great - clear and not so hot.) Everyone will be marveling at how well everything went off thanks to the efforts of City of Greenwood employees, Mayor Welborn Adams, city manager Charlie Barrineau, assistant to the city manager Julie Wilkie, and anyone else who had anything to do with making this year's Festival a safe and successful one. I hope everyone took a moment or two to say thanks and to let organizers know how much their efforts

were appreciated. Everyone will be looking forward to July 2013. And visitors galore will have experienced Greenwood's Southern Hospitality. That's next week. For the next couple of days, Uptown Greenwood will see a lot of activity to get ready for the Festival of Discovery. That goes with all the build up of anticipation and excitement leading up to Thursday's opening night Live After Five Blues Cruise concert and the arrival of the competition barbecue cookoff teams.

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