

***By Carolyn Lee***

***The Imperial Republican***

Pull out the recipe file and find a favorite dessert recipe. Then enter the Imperial Chamber of Commerce's First Annual Dessert War, scheduled for Feb. 20 at the city gym.

Organizer Courtney Burke hopes for 10-15 contestants this first year. Categories are cakes and tortes; brownies, cookies and bars; pies; miscellaneous, and children under age 14.

Each contestant is asked to bring a dessert that will be served to judges first, and then to the public at a "tasting."

The judges will rate the desserts according to taste, creativity and presentation.

Tables may be decorated for the event, but that isn't necessary. Burke said "it would be nice if they took pride in their table."

She's modeling the Dessert War on the Chamber's annual Chili Cookoff, which will be held in March. At that event, contestants present pots of chili to the judges and public for a tasting. Their tables often reflect the theme of their chili.

The event is free and will begin Feb. 20 with setup at 4:30 p.m., judging at 5 p.m. and the public tasting at 6 p.m.

Contestants are asked to provide a list of ingredients for their entry.

Registration forms will be available soon. Questions may be directed to Burke at (308) 882-4313.

Dessert War this year takes the place of the Chamber's "Roll Out the Red Carpet" Valentine's promotion, held the past two years.