



By Jan Schultz The Imperial Republican

There were a lot of licking of lips and contented sighs at the inaugural Dessert Wars introduced last Thursday by the Imperial Chamber of Commerce.

While there were just eight desserts entered this first year, contest coordinator Courtney Burke says it's something they can build on for next year.

"I think it went over well for the first year. The judges gave us some good suggestions for next year," she said.

There were five divisions of competition, and they received entries in three of them.

Here are the winners, who received various cooking utensils as prizes:

Pies—Lori Beard and Norma Dannatt, key lime pie.

Cake/tortes—Carolyn Lee, turtle cake.

Under 14—Kendra Burke, zombie eyes.



Judges were Bea Bauerle, Brenda Cahow, Peggy Fitzke and Dena Taylor.

The public also was invited to vote a People's Choice winner. The key lime pie made by Beard and Dannatt was their selection. Twenty-two votes were cast. The pair received a specially designed apron for that recognition.

There was also a contest division for brownies/bars/cookies and another for miscellaneous, with no entries received.

Other participants in Dessert Wars, all who competed in the under 14 division, and their entries were:

Zach Herbert—Dino eggs.

Carissa Hill and Valerie Herbert—mini cheesecakes.

Isla Jenkins—Springform sugar cookies.

Maddie Elliott—Oreo chocolate truffles.

Kendra Burke (second entry)—Lady Bug cupcakes.

Chili cook-off March 13

Next on the cooking contest schedule is the Chamber's 3rd annual Chili Cook-Off Contest set for Thursday, March 13.

Set-up starts at 5 p.m., judging at 5:30 p.m. and will be open to the public for sampling at 6 p.m. in the city gym.

This contest has been drawing some great chili recipes the past two years and organizers anticipate the same competitive spirit this year.

Judging will consider color, aroma, texture, flavor and "heat." All will compete in one division for first, second and third place prizes of \$50, \$25 and \$15 in Chamber Bucks.

A People's Choice winner will again be chosen by the public, as well.

Pre-registration is not required, but would be appreciated. Contact Jack Schneider at 308-882-4363 to register or with questions.