

By Carolyn Lee

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Do people politely call you a “healthy eater?” Are you usually the first one done eating? JJ’s of Imperial may have the contest for you.

JJ’s is sponsoring a hamburger eating contest Oct. 18 at the store on Broadway beginning at 4 p.m. Cash prizes will be awarded in three age groups.

The idea was born, according to co-owner Jennifer Bell, when she overheard some construction workers boasting about how who could eat the most hamburgers.

“Imperial hadn’t had a contest like that, at least what I could see in the archives,” she said, “so, let’s have a contest.”

There are a number of rules involved. The hamburgers will be eaten with a bun only—no condiments, and may only be washed down with water. The burgers may be dunked in the water, crushed or smashed.

Anyone vomiting will be eliminated. Any food left over in the mouth when the timer goes off doesn’t count.

Age groups are 8-11 years eating eighth pound hamburgers and given five minutes, and ages 12-15 in seven minutes and 16 years and up in 10 minutes eating quarter pound burgers.

If there are enough contestants, Bell said, there will also be boys and girls divisions within the age groups.

Registration is due by 9 p.m. on Oct. 13. The fee is \$5 for ages 8-11; \$10 for ages 12-15 and \$15 for ages 16 and up.

Cash prizes are \$15 for ages 8-11; \$25 for ages 12-15 and \$50 for ages 16 and up. Framed awards and ribbons will also be awarded.

“Anybody is welcome,” Bell said, “to cheer, yell, scream and holler” to support the burger bashers.

She estimated that the contest would take about an hour.