



The tie-breaker was eating two chili peppers.



Brittany Kokko slams down a cup of kimchee, a pickled cabbage in hot sauce with an odor reminiscent of kerosene.

PHOTOS BY BILL BREASLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FEAR FACTOR

FROM PAGE A1

and liver pate. The menu went downhill from there. Among the food items consumed were Indian hot peppers, Japanese fer-

mented beans, Mexican Jalapeno peppers, dried up shrimp, octopus, cow brain, pickled hen eggs, jellyfish and escargot.

Students selected their own teammates. 1st and 2nd place winners received \$75 and \$50 gift certificates, respectively, to the restaurants of their choice.

In first place were: Ross Hanna, Dan Fisher, Corey Hague and Vance Smith. They wore bibs that read, "Spit happens."

In second place were: Ramiz Habibi, Mike Murphy, Brittani Kokko and Jessie Wendling. Winners noted which food each thought was the worst:

- Hanna — fermented beans
- Hague — pickled hen eggs
- Kokko — cow intestines and lamb brain
- Wendling — the octopus with its suction cups
- Murphy — cured pork rind and vinegar
- Habibi — eggplant and

beans Smith couldn't choose. "I liked it all," he said. School administrators watched, but wisely didn't participate. "Hey, they're kids. It's food," said Assistant Principal Bob Crawford.

'Hey, they're kids. It's food.'

Bob Crawford assistant principal

DCX helps Neighborhood House

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Neighborhood House got a special gift to start the new year from a new neighbor in town, DaimlerChrysler Services, located off Inkster Road in Farmington Hills.

DaimlerChrysler Services representatives Kathy Wright and Bill Crabtree dropped by the Neighborhood House recently with a generous check of \$7,844, a result of the company's recent Art Auction.

When DaimlerChrysler Services moved its offices from Southfield to a former bank building in Farmington Hills last year, the old artwork from the Southfield office didn't match up with

the new decor of the remodeled building. Crabtree and Wright suggested auctioning the artwork to employees with the proceeds benefiting a local help organization. They chose the Farmington/Farmington Hills Neighborhood House as the benefactor.

The local nonprofit agency assists with referrals to other help agencies as well as provides shelter, clothing, food, rent or utility assistance in times of need for residents.

The Neighborhood House staff is always looking for volunteers, gently used clothing, cash contributions and can goods. Call them at (248) 474-7580.

CHALLENGES

FROM PAGE A1

its own best interest and not that of its neighbors.

He quoted slain civil rights leader Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. as saying all people, regardless of race or social status, are "part of a network of mutuality and are tied in a single garment of destiny."

"We cannot separate ourselves and be tied to a community," Ohren told the group, which included council members from the two cities and school board members. Ohren said businesses look-

ing to start operations in a city look at the whole picture, including whether the schools are good.

The professor noted the problems he's seen include lack of communication among neighboring communities and schools.

He said the Farmington area seems to be among the best in cooperative efforts.

"The fact that you hold these meetings once a year is a positive step," he said.

Officials were asked to write down their names on paper with five different numbers. Ohren had them sit at numbered tables in order to associate with people they normally would not seek out.

He then told the groups to write down what they believed to be the most pressing issues facing the community.

Topping the lists was shortfalls in state shared revenues and funding for schools. Officials said it will be difficult to deal with lower revenues and at the same time meet citizens' high expectations.

Ohren then asked the groups to reconvene and come up with strategies to resolve the issues. Many said sharing resources and buildings could help save costs, as could seeking more grant funds for projects.

Members agreed that educating the public about upcoming

shortfalls, consolidating services, seeking out more volunteers and calling upon state legislators to push for change were positives steps.

Others said involving the community in making decisions about shortfalls in services would be a good idea.

School board member Jack Inch said citizens tend to feel more comfortable dealing with a local official rather than someone on the state or national level.

"People know you and can see you," he said.

Ohren told the group, "As elected officials you need to be educators, too, to the people. They have to understand the reasons you make your decisions."

The professor said he would put together a summary of the session and make follow-up recommendations to Hills City Manager Steve Brock.

Farmington Mayor Jim Mitchell said the three governing bodies work well together and know their decisions tie their communities together.

Farmington Hills Mayor Nancy Bates said when she talks with other community officials, the Farmington area is held up as a model. "I think it was a good evening," she said.

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Local Dealer To Hold Huge Inventory Reduction Sale

ROCHESTER, MI - WITHOUT A doubt, the biggest used car sale in the Metro Detroit area will be held this Monday, February 24th through Friday, February 28th at Meadowbrook Dodge located at 3050 S. Rochester Rd. in Rochester Hills.

Over 118 quality used cars, trucks, vans, and SUV's will be offered at rock bottom prices. According to sales manager Randy Forsyth, Meadowbrook Dodge offers all high quality vehicles and this sale will be no exception. "We are overstocked right now with lease returns & trade-ins and will be selling them for thousands below normal prices," Forsyth said.

"Management has decided to eliminate this inventory immediately regardless of loss of profit."

Almost every type of vehicle and price range will be available from luxury 4x4's to basic transportation. Many are still under warranty including

19 that are covered under Chrysler's certified program where each vehicle comes with the remainder of an 8 yr. or 80,000 mile power train warranty at no charge. "With 118 used vehicles right here in Rochester chances are we have what you're looking for in stock and ready to drive home," Forsyth said. Extra sales and finance staff will be on hand to assure customers prompt service and the lowest interest rates soon in years. Trade-ins will be accepted and customers are encouraged to bring their titles to speed up delivery.

So if you are in the market for a quality used car, truck, van or SUV, make sure you stop by Meadowbrook Dodge this week and receive the most pleasant shopping and buying experience of your life. Sale hours Mon. & Thurs. 8:30-9, Tues., Wed., Friday 9-6. Please direct all phone inquiries to 248-853-9090.

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