

SCHOOLPOWER'S 2nd ANNUAL LUMBERYARD CHEF CHALLENGE CROWNS WINNER by Samantha Washer

What do you get when you take two dedicated principals, give them each a gourmet menu, have it prepared by master chef, Armando Ortega, and then ask appreciative school supporters to cast votes on their favorite meal? SchoolPower's 2nd annual Lumberyard Chef Challenge!

For the second consecutive year, Thurston principal, Dr. Joanne Culverhouse's "surf" inspired menu, defeated LBHS principal, Dr. Don Austin's "turf" inspired menu, but only by eight votes. Dr. Austin accepted his defeat gracefully stating, "I believe the ballot counters failed to examine each form to determine the 'intent' of the voter. Next year I intend to hire a PR firm. I also plan to spend the year slandering Dr. Culverhouse." Modest in her victory, Dr. Culverhouse thanked the Lumberyard restaurant for their support and declared her intention to win next year's event where she will be "...going for the triple crown!"

Raising \$8300 for Laguna's schools, this fundraiser has become a much-anticipated social event due, in no small part, to the charisma of the two challengers, Dr. Culverhouse and Dr. Austin. However, it simply would not exist without the exceptional generosity of Lumberyard owners, Suzanne and Cary Redfearn, who not only host the event at their restaurant, but are also the creative minds behind the event's premise. SchoolPower vice-president, Marcus Skenderian, applauded the Redfearns and the synergy between a local business and the schools, saying, "This event is a great example of a local business embracing our schools and, as a result, having a very strong impact on the community as a whole."