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## Chili cooks, and cake and pie bakers help fund cancer fight



Standing with Gilchrist County Sheriff Robert D. 'Bobby' Schultz III are 2016 Most Unique Chili winner Brandi Hilliard (left) and 2016 Best Tasting Chili winner Lindsey Lander.

**Story, Photos and Video By Jeff M. Hardison © March 10, 2016 @ 4:27 p.m.**

**TRENTON** -- The 7th Annual Gilchrist County Sheriff's Office Chili Cook-Off and Luncheon on Thursday (March 10) heralded another event where cooks helped fund the fight against cancer. Conducted at the Gilchrist County Woman's Club, 819 S.W. Gilchrist County Road 339, this year's contest attracted 27 chili cooks who were willing to vie for two titles. There were 16 people who donated cakes or pies for a silent auction, and another form of fundraising was the 50-50 drawing – as the Sheriff's Office sought to raise money for the Tri-County Area Relay For Life.

Lindsey Lander's chili, which was named "The Little Burro (Sweet, With A Little Kick!)" won as the 2016 Best Tasting Chili.

Brandi Hilliard's chili, which was named " Buffalo Chicken Chili With Blue Cheese / Sour Cream " was as the 2016 Most Unique Chili.

Lander and Hilliard were each presented with an apron and a handmade trophy.

### **Gilchrist County Sheriff Robert D. 'Bobby' Schultz III places the first bid on Peggy Taylor's Famous Strawberry Cake.**



Hilliard was among the cake contributors, too, donating a beautiful coconut cake for the silent auction.

Other cake, pie and brittle donors were Peggy Taylor (Peggy's Famous Strawberry Cake); Alice Cannon (Sour Cream Pound Cake); Christie McElroy (Cream Cheese Pound Cake); Audrey Thomas (Peanut and Pecan Brittle); Rebecca White

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(Carmel Cake); Susie Caulk (Chocolate, Chocolate Chip Cake); Wanda Jones (Strawberry Parfait Cake); Amy Freeman (Peeps Cake – including Easter Bunny Peeps); Michelle Walker Crawford (Lemon Chiffon Cake); Janet Bradley (Red Velvet Cake); Rhonda Thomas (Coconut Cake); Kay Rolling (two Derby Pies); Courtney Strickland (Pumpkin Roll Cake); and Alice Kinsey (Pound Cake).

Gilchrist County Sheriff Robert D. “Bobby” Schultz III welcomed everyone as the event began. He noted his appreciation for Krystal Holley, Stephanie Simpson, Kieran Bryan, Jeannine Pfannschmidt and Brenda Thomas. Also assisting was Carin Knighton of the American Cancer Society’s Relay For Life, of which this event is a part for the fundraising by the Gilchrist County Sheriff’s Office.



**7th Annual Gilchrist County Sheriff’s Office Chili Cook-Off judges are (from left) Branford High School Head Basketball Coach Richie Frye, Gina Geiger of the Institute for Small Rural School Districts and Fire Chief Mitch Harrell of Gilchrist County Fire Rescue. Here they are just as they begin their tour of duty on Thursday.**

The brave judges who went right to work tasting all 27 types of chili within a relatively short time were Branford High School Head Basketball Coach Richie Frye, Gina Geiger of the Institute for Small Rural School Districts and Fire Chief Mitch Harrell of Gilchrist County Fire Rescue.

That is correct. There were three people willing to sample 27 types of homemade chili. And the word of all the judges is that every one of the entrees was yummy to extraordinarily delicious.

Judges were overheard mentioning they had been hesitant to think chicken or something from the sea would make a good chili, only to be very happily surprised after conducting the taste test.

The chili entrees were judged on four criteria, on a scale of one to 10 with 10 being the highest. They were judged on smell, color, thickness and flavor.

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**Part of the many baked goods await people to silent bid upon them.**

Some chili cooks had fun naming their entrees as well: Here is the whole list of names: Just Chili; Gator Chili; Tailgator Chili; Flavor Chili; Mean Mama Chili; Red Hot Chili Peppers; We're From Texas; Sweet Heat; Jailhouse Chili; Chili Chili Bang Bang; Country Chili; Jalapeño Black Bean and Corn Chicken Chili; Resident Chili; Feel The Bern; Nacho Chili; Spicy Fiesta; Kicken Chicken Chili; Bring It On; Chili Blanco de Pollo; The Rock Chili; Buffalo Chicken Chili With Blue Cheese / Sour Cream; Texas Cowboy Chili; The Little Burro (Sweet, With A Little Kick!); Charming Cowboy Chili; White Chicken Chili; Chili Of The Sea; and Sweet Heat.



The sheriff put the event into perspective as he opened the event.

"Everybody in this room has been touched in some way by someone who had cancer," Sheriff Schultz said.

He said the chili cook-off offers one way to fight back against this terrible disease, and to enjoy an opportunity to come together and have some good fellowship.

The sheriff asked diners to thank the cooks for the delicious chili. He urged everyone to bid on cakes and pies for one of the best causes in Gilchrist County – the fight against cancer.

**Shannon Smith puts White Chicken Chili into a cup.**

The general public entered starting at 11:30 a.m. Two tables of resident from Ayers

Rehabilitation came in first, some in wheel chairs, to enjoy the food and fellowship. Among their escorts was Linda Knuckles, whose husband GCSO Sgt. Leonard Knuckles is known for his expertise in training bloodhounds.



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The chili lunch costs \$5. Each lunch consisted of a cup of chili with all of the fixings, a dessert and a drink.

Many people enjoyed chili for lunch on Thursday. As lunchtime came and went, the Gilchrist County Woman's Club had a good ebb and flow of chili diners and cake bidders who helped fund the war on cancer.

The first cook-off was during the administration of former Gilchrist County Sheriff Daniel Slaughter, and the cause always has been to fight cancer.



**Joseph Blich and Janice Rogers wear shirts to show they endorse Gilchrist County Sheriff Robert D. 'Bobby' Schultz III for reelection. Blich mentioned that he is a Levy County voter, but he enjoys campaigning for Sheriff Schultz, even though no person has announced an intent to also seek election as sheriff.**

## Chili Time



**Gilchrist County Sheriff Robert D. 'Bobby' Schultz III starts the 7th Annual Gilchrist County Sheriff's Office Chili Cook-Off and Luncheon on Thursday (March 10). Photo by Jeff M. Hardison March 10, 2016 @ 4:37 p.m.**