

HAMILTON

Hamilton city, schools battle in cook-off

By Michael D. Clark
Staff Writer

HAMILTON — Sure they can run a city or school system, but the big question at Garden Fest in Hamilton was can they cook?

That was the culinary throw down Sunday for Hamilton Mayor Pat Moeller, Hamilton Schools Superintendent Tony Orr and City Council Member Kathleen Klink as the three fired up grills in a good-natured competition to benefit local food banks.

The first Miami Univer-

sity Hamilton Garden Fest at the school's Campus Conservatory raised money for the Shared Harvest network of dozens of food pantries in Butler, Warren, Preble, Darke and Miami counties.

The three officials cooked up dishes chosen by Butler Tech culinary arts students.

Mayor Moeller knew who was the boss in the kitchen, pointing to Butler Tech senior Connor Brewer.

"He's the man in charge and I'm excited to work with him," said Moeller as both men and their grill warmed

up for competitive cooking.

"I'm going to be a footnote one day in his great career," he said.

The event's theme focused on "Foodscaping: Interspersing Edibles in the Ornamental Garden" and other activities included "educational sessions on container vegetable gardening and foodscaping; conservatory tours; and kids' activities, potting a plant to take home, a Conservatory scavenger hunt, prairie seed collecting, and lawn games," said school officials.

Jerome Nelson, resource

development coordinator for Shared Harvest Foodbank, watched the people moving from the healthy food exhibits, gardening expert booths and food vendors and smiled.

"We really do appreciate this. All the donations that come to us we use them. Of the donations 96 percent go straight to helping people," said Nelson.

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