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PRESS RELEASE

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ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIR'S COOKING ACADEMY GETTING HOT Celebrity Chefs, Summer Food Recipes And More Than \$6,000 In Contest Cash And Prizes On The Line

PLEASANTON, CA – It's not as intense as Fox Television's *Hell's Kitchen* but it's no light appetizer either. Yep, the Cooking Academy is back and Director of the Cooking Academy Chef Courtney Townsend does what great chefs do – strive to make bigger and better creations. The 2007 Cooking Academy, located in the Court of Four Seasons at the Alameda County Fair, boosts up the stage entertainment, increases the contest prizes and adds a pinch & a dash of celebrity chef appearances to make it taste “just right”.

Celebrity Chef Martin Yan of *Yan Can Cook* fame kicks off opening weekend with a tour of a few famous light summer Chinese fare ideas. Tony Gemignani, local World Pizza Tossing Champion and co-owner of Pyzanno's Pizzeria in Castro Valley, will be tossing the pies as only a World Champion can do as well as explore some amazing summer pizza ideas you can do yourself. Chef Courtney will be sharing culinary ideas on such topics from quick and healthy meals for your teens to cook to better tips to manage your diabetes.

If the Chef demonstrations and entertainment show are the main course of the Cooking Academy then the contests are the complimenting side dishes that bring the whole meal together. 2006's BBQ Rib Cook-Off finale was an intense event that brought out some of the best rib recipes (and presentations) in the County. With a new Grand Prize BBQ valued at \$2,500 going to the winner of this year's contest, this event is truly going to produce some fine ribs.

In fact, there is more than \$6,000 in cash and prizes on the line for all of the 2007 Cooking Academy Contests. New contests this year; Sundae Making contest, Grandparent/Grandchild Rice Kripy contest, and the “Summer of Love” contest. Some of the crowd favorites back for 2007; BBQ Rib Cook-Off, Jerk'd Chicken contest, and the Homemade Apple Pie Recipe contest.

”The Cooking Academy is a great blend of the Fair's goal to provide new and entertaining ways to have fun as well as cater to America's love of food. The live performances by well know chefs and excitement surrounding the contests add a fun and valuable element to the Fair,” notes April Mitchell, Marketing and Partnership Development Manager.

Whether your putting your best recipe to the test or just looking for some great healthy summer food ideas visit the 2007 Cooking Academy, one of the Fair's fastest growing events all 17 days of Fair, and be prepared to take your own cooking a up a star rating! Check out the Cooking Academy page on the Fair website for all contest entry forms, specific show times and the full line-up of entertainment.

For more information about the Alameda County Fairgrounds, the Cooking Academy, please visit www.AlamedaCountyFair.com or call 925-426-7600.

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