



Perris News

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Chili Cookoff Raises Money for a Variety of Good Causes

Representatives from American Legion posts throughout Riverside County came to Perris Saturday to showcase their chili-cooking skills while raising money for a variety of good causes.

The cook-off featured teams from American Legion District 21, including Perris, Idyllwild, Hemet and Riverside. Proceeds from the event will help pay to fund youth sports teams, like Little League and football and soccer teams and to purchase Christmas presents for delivery to veterans who are confined to hospitals and nursing homes.

"This is what we are all about," said Perris City Councilwoman Joanne Evans, a former Marine and longtime member of Perris American Legion Post 595. "It's a lot of work but also a lot of fun. We believe in giving back to our community. This is a great event, and you could not ask for a better cause."

Post member Jennifer Bieger said the American Legion understands that many residents in Perris and Riverside County are struggling because of the economic slowdown.

"What better way to support our community efforts than to come out and enjoy a great day of camaraderie and eat some great chili as well?" she said.

Jeanine Schweppe and Traci Philippi of Post 800 in Idyllwild prepared their red-sauce chili mixture, which consisted of 80 percent ground beef, 20 percent sausage and a variety of spices. They use cinnamon to enhance the flavor of their chili.

"It gives the chili a complimentary and different taste," Philippi said. "We like being out here because it's for a good cause and you meet a lot of really good people."

Tim Moore, a member of Post 595, said his chili consists of ground sirloin, pork, onions and "a number of seasonings," which, like most chili cooks, remain secret.

Moore said he was glad to participate in a cause that raises money for worthwhile projects.

"You've got to help people who are in need," he said.



Perris City Councilwoman and American Legion Post member Joanne Evans says the chili cook off in Perris raised money for youth and veterans programs.



Tim Moore of Post 595 in Perris prepares his chili: "You've got to help people in need."