

## Perris News

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### Winter BBQ is a Hit!

The City of Perris threw a barbecue at Liberty Park Saturday, inviting residents to come out eat hotdogs, chips and soda, jump rope, hula hoop, ask questions of City staff and learn more about upcoming community events.

About 75 adults and children took part in the annual winter barbecue.

The event was geared to families interested in pitching horseshoes, tossing footballs, taking part in sack races and soaking up the sun during a break from several consecutive rainy and cloudy days. There were raffles for the children, prizes to be won like sunglasses, puzzles and Play-Doh.

City staff uses such community events to solicit input from residents about how Perris can improve community service and recreation programs.

Jeff Ketcham came to Liberty park with his sons, Jack, 4, and James, 1, to play pee-wee T-ball. Before they left the trio helped themselves to food and drinks.

"This is a nice park," Jeff Ketcham said. "It's a nice event for families."

Tomas Silva brought his two children and their friend in from Lakeview. He said his community doesn't have anything like Liberty Park, which has numerous ball fields and lots of playground equipment.

"It's good for the kids to have someplace to come play and enjoy some fun stuff," Silva said. "I think it's great that Perris does this sort of event. Not every city does. Cities need events like this to occupy kids' time and keep them from getting into trouble."

Like other visitors, Silva said he appreciated Perris' efforts to reach out to the community. City workers handed fliers about upcoming events, like the Feb. 28th Black History Monty Parade that begins near Perris High School and the March 21 "Strutt Your Mutt," a gathering for doggies and doggy lovers at Monument Ranch Park.

Claudia Boessler brought six children to the winter barbecue. The event gave the children, ages 4 to 12, something to do on a Saturday morning, an outing that she found enjoyable and entertaining.

"I always look for something to do for the kids to get them out of the house," she said.

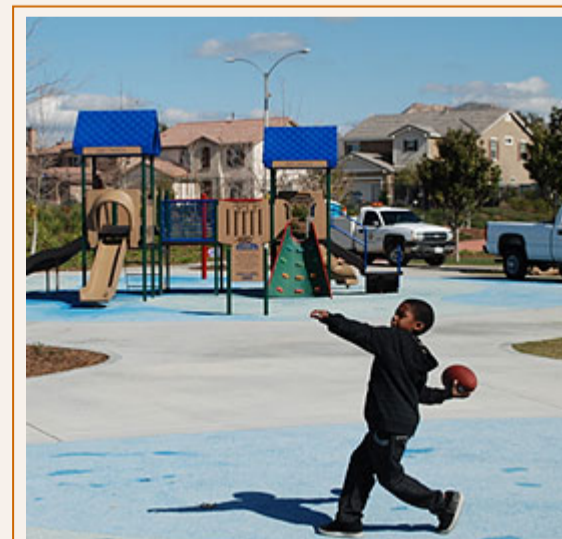
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City Staff conduct a raffle for prizes like puzzles and Play-Doh.



Olivia Blanche, 12, makes twirling three hula hoops look simple.



Chevallie Mitchell, 6, fires a long bomb with the football.