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Barbecue cooked up for a good cause

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Ron Heron cuts meat during the Wild West Barbecue on Saturday at Preisker Park in Santa Maria. //Phil Klein

Things were really smokin' Saturday in Santa Maria, as the Family Care Network hosted its second Wild West Barbecue in Preisker Park.

The free event featured teams of barbecuers cooking up their best dishes to impress the judges, plus music and family activities.

Funds raised from food and beverage sales and an all-new People's Choice barbecue-tasting award will benefit foster and high-needs children and families on the Central Coast.

The Family Care Network is a private, nonprofit children and families services agency that provides 17 distinct programs, ranging from therapeutic foster care, family-support services and transitional housing services to school-based mental-health and delinquency-prevention services and community-linked services.

Saturday's event was sponsored, in part, by the Santa Maria Times.

For more information about the Family Care Network, call 781-3535 or visit www.fcni.org.

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