

Pet Parade a joy for children, organizers

By Darcy Wallace
IVN Staff Writer

Dogs, cats, snakes, goats, hamsters, guinea pigs and even turtles could be found Saturday, May 7, at Jubilee Park.

It's all business as usual for the annual Child's Fair and Pet Parade, where many local organizations, nonprofits and other groups feature plenty of activities for those of all ages.

Sponsored by 21 organizations, the busy event included a car seat safety demonstration and fire safety house from IV Fire, a visit from the Oregon Caves, face painting, free hot dogs provided by the local Masons and many other booths and activities.

According to Jacque Doney, Siskiyou Community Health Center Outreach program director, several agencies come together each year to give kids and families something free to do on weekends.

"We had 130 kids come along through the parade," Doney said. "You don't even have to have a pet: it can be a snake painted on your face. A pet rock or a stuffed animal will do as well. Every child gets a ribbon and a place."

Dale Hopper, a frequent performer in various local venues, announced during the pet parade. The Cave Junction Lions train was another popular attraction at Jubilee Park.

Doney also mentioned the Child ID stations, creating photo IDs to help locate missing children and return them to their families if they are separated.

"It's a community coming together for the kids," Doney said. "As resources change, some agency goes and another comes in...we are continually changing and growing with the community as it changes and grows."

Nalita Baumbach, a Siskiyou Outreach member who helped arrange the activities, said that even though she's only worked there the past three years, she's pleased the community can come together for a positive, free event for families.

"I'm really glad to have the opportunity to network and get that awareness about early childhood into the greater community," Baumbach said. "It's really fun to plan with the group. There are some consistent people [and organizations] who come out as word spreads."

Baumbach said some of the major organizers included Siskiyou Outreach, Early Head Start, the Illinois Valley Family Coalition and Southern Oregon Goodwill.

But she credited everyone who had a role in the event, including the I.V. Little League, the Boys and Girls Club, Friends of Jubilee Park, I.V. Lions, U.S. Forest Service, the CJ Kiwanis Club, and many others.

"[The best part is] watching the children and their families having a good time," Baumbach said. "They were actively involved all day with smiles on their faces."

Baumbach said the Dome School in Takilma was well-received by visitors. Goodwill arranged a "fishing booth" where children could fish for some type of prize. The Josephine County Health Department also brought along goats that were a hit with

visitors.

According to Doney, as much as the children loved seeing the wide variety of animals, they were also excited to have their name called for the Pet Parade, something few five-year-olds may have experienced.

"I think it's the way they can participate," Doney said. "They get a number, have their name called, and receive their award or prize. When you're five or six, that's the best it gets. You saw some kids who were very shy, but another might have a [harmless!] snake wrapped around his neck going, 'look what I have!'"



(Photo by Darcy Wallace, Illinois Valley News)

Siskiyou Community Health Center Outreach program director Jacque Doney talks about the successes of the Child's Fair and Pet Parade.



(Photo's by Dan Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

Chickens and frogs were two of the less traditional pets at the pet parade Saturday May 7 at Jubilee Park in C.J.

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			1				3
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7			9		1	5	
		6			9		7
		7	4		9		2
			5				
							5
		7		6	3	1	
	4			3			9

Solution on page B-2

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU

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