

Thousands attend Dairyville Orchard Festival



Julie Zeeb – Daily News Lacie Maul and her sister Hope James browse through a booth on Saturday at the Dairyville Orchard Festival.

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RED BLUFF — Music filled the air and the sun was shining Saturday for the 21st annual Dairyville Orchard Festival with thousands expected to peruse the various items available at booths spread throughout the field behind Lassen View School.

Rick Buchner, retired as the Tehama County UC Cooperative Extension director, was one of many volunteers helping at the event. Wearing a name tag with Friend of the Festival listed as his title, he has been involved in it since the beginning.

“I remember in the beginning when we used to make authentic Mexican carnitas,” Buchner said. “We didn’t know it’d be this big the first year, but we did know it was a pretty big hit from the get go. It just keeps growing.”



Julie Zeeb – Daily News
 Nine-month-old Red Bluff resident Charlie Boyes crawls to victory at the Diaper Derby on Saturday at the 21st annual Dairyville Orchard Festival.

Cyndi Gilles heads up the ag marketplace at the center of the festival with Terri Buchner, who also has been involved from the first year. Neither of them imagined the festival being as big as it is today. The first year the ag marketplace brought in about \$2,000 and at Saturday's event there was about \$18,000 worth of product that was expected to sell out.

The event showcases Tehama County agriculture while raising funds for scholarships. So far \$242,250 in scholarships have been given away in the last 21 years.

"It's just a beautiful day and we had people start buying as early as 9 a.m. so we're already almost out of all the nuts," Gilles said about 11 a.m.

There were 82 vendors approved for the event, said committee member Susie Mustaine. A wide variety of booths were present from crafters to food items.

Joni Samay, a community education specialist with UC CalFresh, was at the event to offer information and sunflower seeds as a healthy snack option.

PETS, or Providing Essentials for Tehama Shelter, has had a booth since 2011, President Sharon Russell said.

"We've had lots of animals adopted at the event," Russell said. "It's a good place for people to see them away from the shelter (environment) and see them interact with volunteers. It's also good for the dogs because it gets them out."

The day included a display of scarecrows made by students and the long-standing tradition of the diaper derby, which saw 9-month-old Charlie Boyes of Red Bluff crawl to victory as the lone entrant. She is the daughter of Jimmy and Brittany Boyes.

For more information about the festival or scholarships, visit dairyvillefestival.org.