

County Health Officials Host Wellness Event for Families

BY ELENA MARSH

Staff Writer

For the first time since the pandemic, Moore County's Health Department had something to celebrate and, on Thursday, hosted its Child and Family Wellness Day in Carthage.

"We have a lot of health and safety information from vendors and folks in the community that have an influence on family health," said Matt Garner, the interim health director. "This is the first fair we have done in quite a while. During COVID, we had not been able to have these types of events."

The fair, located between the county's Health Department and Agriculture buildings, drew residents for a series of activities and information booths set up.

The event was born out of the Local Child Fatality Prevention Teams (CFPTs) established in 1993 to review all "additional" child fatalities and make recommendations to state policy makers.

Those recommendations are shared regularly with county commissioners, local boards of health and the North Carolina Child Fatality Prevention Team, which incorporates local information into recommendations made to the North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force.

"One of the initiatives was the safe sleep initiative," says Garner. "In other words, making sure that babies and parents aren't co-sleeping."

One of the ideas was to give away a Pack 'N Play at the end of the event.



Clockwise from above: Sheriff's deputy Tori Price gives a gift to Lindy Marlin, 7; Angela Zumwalt with Cindy Hall and Charlene Faust at a booth for the Moore County Pet Responsibility Committee; Doug Reagan, owner of Happy Goat Farm, sets up a produce stand with Keating Brown



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Visitors received a passport and, after visiting a certain number of stations, they turned the passport in to be entered into the giveaway.

About 15 booths were set up inside from different branches of the Health Department and other non-profit and

government organizations offering information and giveaways.

Outside, there was fresh produce for sale from the Happy Goat Farm. The Big Dipper Ice Cream Truck gave away ice cream to children under 12 to help beat the heat of the day. The Lion's Club

Mobile Vision Unit provided free vision screenings for kids and adults, and the Sandhills Safe Kids Coalition offered free car seat safety checks and booster seat information.

Outside in the shade, Partners for Children and Families had its Play Mobile on-site to promote imaginative play among children and family members.

The display is a portable storage unit filled with scrap, loose parts, traditional playground equipment and more.

Inside the Agriculture Center, there was free children's dental screening and oral health information from the Public Health dental hygienist as well as fire safety information from the Carthage Fire Department, along with a fire truck for kids to check out.

The Sheriff's Office was represented and gave out fliers on gun safety, especially around children. They gave out free gun locks and had a raffle to give away a handgun safe.

"We are hoping that the success of the fair means it will be something the Health Department can put on annually," said Garner.

"Especially this time of year, families are getting into back to school mode. All of what we offer here is to make sure that kids and families are healthy and equipped to learn."

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