

The Carling Veterans of America took part in the 30th Annual Raymond Parade Saturday, April 16, handing out miniature American flags to children and adults alike.

Kathy Scott hands out candy to parade attendees at the Raymond General store during the 30th annual Raymond Parade.

Superheroes

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There were red, elongated tubes to crawl through, inner tubes to jump in, cones to navigate, photos with Batman (sh-h-h, his real name is Bruce Wayne), developing the inner-artist through colorful spin art (courtesy of Children's Museum of the Sierra), and tiny Supermen, Spidermen, Wonder Women - to name just a few - jumping about to emphasize their superhero powers.

Magician Winston entertained the eager, enthusiastic crowd with magic tricks, complete with a special appearance by the companion to any self-respecting magic act - a rabbit (Gizmo).

To celebrate the Week of the Young Child, First Five Madera County held its annual carnival last Friday in the parking lot of the Sierra Star/Camarena Health. It was, once again, a huge success.

"About 200 showed up... it was a great turn-out," Family Resource Center Manager Erika Wright said. "And the kids enjoyed themselves, which was our goal."

Informational booths included Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central California, Madera County Department of Child Development Services, Behavioral Health Services, and Public Health, Camarena Health, and CalViva Health.

According to First Five, research shows that a

child's brain develops most dramatically in the first five years, and what parents and caregivers do during those years will have a meaningful impact on their child throughout life.

First Five in Oakhurst offers weekly activities, such as Messy Mondays and Alphabet Soup, taught by Family Advocacy Facilitator Karen Weaver. Parents can just drop in, no registration required.

Details: (559) 664-4198. For additional photos, see sierrastar.com.



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Five-year-olds Kourtney Smith and Allie Blair Brokaw can't stop giggling. They're just having too much fun petting Gizmo, the rabbit, following the magic show.

Mackenzie Gauthier-Kelly, 5, dressed as Super Woman, crawls through the tube at the First Five Carnival last Friday.



Children aged 0 - 5 were invited to dress as their favorite superhero during the First Five carnival held in Oakhurst.

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