

# Living/Health

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## Hospital fair provides families fun safety lessons



Kurt Ellison

Frank Magana, left, had daughter Cinthia, 1, fingerprinted for her identification packet by Bill Thompson, Watsonville Hospital director of security.

**T**HE EMERGENCY center parking lot at Watsonville Community Hospital served a more enjoyable purpose last Saturday when the hospital and local businesses sponsored an afternoon safety fair for families. One of the goals of the program was to prevent emergency trips to the hospital for injuries and illnesses that can be avoided through common sense and precautions.

On hand for the carnival-like event was the popular talking sheriff's car, plus Officer Bob and McGruff, the crime-fighting dog.

Children especially enjoyed firsthand looks inside the medical transport helicopter on exhibit and other emergency vehicles and equipment.

A fingerprint and photo identification packet was

available for each child at no charge, and many of the demonstrations and printed materials were bilingual English-Spanish.

A significant number of hospital emergency visits are for injuries caused by mishaps in the home. Fairgoers were provided extensive information on simple, but effective ways of keeping all ages safer from accidental ingestion of household chemicals, and from falls and other accidents.

Also on hand were representatives from the Watsonville Police Department, the Freedom Fire Department, the California Highway Patrol, the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Department, the Pajaro Valley Unified School district and a local ambulance service. A number of local businesses were also represented.



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Jim Daily, a nurse for Stanford Life Flight helicopter, helped Kelty Lanham, 51/2, try on a helmet inside the air ambulance.