

Felton parade kicks off Memorial Day weekend

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FELTON — Felton got the Memorial Day weekend rolling Saturday with a parade that drew hundreds of people to the side of Highway 9 for a front-row view of the horses, fire trucks, Boy Scout troops and dancers making their way up the road.

Children clamored for the handfuls of candy thrown by parade participants as they passed by.

The 25th Annual Felton Remembers Parade was a festive occasion with many people waving flags to mark

Memorial Day and to honor those who've served our country in the military service.

Attending Saturday's parade was the start of a new Memorial Day tradition for Lompico resident Laura Keil, 36, and her three sons.

The high energy of the parade is exactly what the small mountain town needs once in a while to rally neighbors to come together, she said.

"It's a good family event; everyone's got their kids," Keil said. "It's great to see the whole community out here."

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A group of boys reaches for candy thrown from parade vehicles during the 25th Annual Felton Remembers parade in Felton on Saturday.

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Ian Buckholdt, a lifelong resident of the San Lorenzo Valley, assisted his son's Cub Scout troop in selling small American flags for \$1 each as they walked Highway 9 in the parade.

Buckholdt said he can't help but feel a sense of community pride and patriotism while joining in the event.

"It just brings the community together," he said. "We all celebrate each other and it's cool to see the kids out having fun."

After the parade concluded, festivities moved to Covered Bridge Park, where the place became packed with adults and children.

A live band played while the kids had their pick of a bounce house, inflatable slides, face painting or playing in the playground.

Many people grabbed a bite to eat from one of the food vendors and made a picnic on the lawn.



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A row of spectators waits for the 25th Annual Felton Remembers Parade, a Memorial Day celebration, in Felton on Saturday.

"The community is awesome," said Felton resident Malissa Kaping, who sipped wine while her son played. "The kids are entertained all afternoon. It's like a day off. I wouldn't miss it."

Sunnyvale resident Thelma Pruitt said she missed the parade when she lived in Felton seven years ago.

As a visitor, she said she had a blast.

"I love the band, the atmo-

sphere here," Pruitt said. "It's just a welcoming experience all together."

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