

# Aromas celebrates small-town life



Jon Chown/Register-Pajaronian

John Wrobel, assistant scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 436 in Hollister, takes aim in the dunking booth as his friend Gary McLeary, Boy Scout commissioner for the Aromas area, prepares to get wet.

## Aromas Day features pancake breakfast, parade, arts and crafts

By JON CHOWN  
OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

AROMAS — Yard sales, petting zoos, barbecues, dunk booths and desserts were just some of the attractions in Aromas on Sunday for the town's annual Aromas Day.

The event celebrates the small-town life that Aromas offers and begins with a pancake breakfast at the Aromas Grange Hall and ends with a parade

through the several blocks of the town. Residents hold yard sales or sell food and drinks from their porch while the center of town is filled with crafts booths, food and various other fun.

But it's not just residents of Aromas who celebrate the day — visitors from throughout the Central Coast come to appreciate the atmosphere of the community — a throwback to a time past.

Local Boys Scout troop leaders John

Wrobel of Hollister and Gary McLeary of Prunedale both started their day at the pancake breakfast, leading the efforts of their Cub Scouts in feeding the hungry masses who had come to enjoy the day.

"My favorite part of the whole day is the pancake breakfast," said McLeary. "For \$5 you get pancakes, sausage and fruit. You just can't beat it."

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Dr. Mary Anne Mays, PVUSD interim superintendent of schools (center), stands to take photos while members of the Agricultural History Project get in line for the parade Sunday at Aromas Day.

## AROMAS

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Jim Dunn and Taryn Cowley set up a little impromptu petting zoo, with a bunny and a pygmy horse. Dunn's little horse was extremely popular with the young children.

"We're just here mainly because Jim wanted to play with his horse," said Cowley.

Brother Tom Mass of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Watsonville was one of more than a dozen Watsonville resi-

dents that rode one of the Ag History Project's antique tractors up to the event and took part in the parade.

"It was great riding up here," he said. "I was just a little nervous crossing the major highways. It's beautiful here."

It was the second year that AHP participated. John Kegebein, volunteer CEO of the AHP, said Aromas Day reminded him of how life used to be.

"Most youth in Santa Cruz County used to be involved in 4-H, but that's not so anymore. But here, there is still a lot of involvement."



Girls from the Aromas Soccer Club take part in the parade at Aromas Day on Sunday.

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