

EGGS AND FUN GALORE GREET CHILDREN IN STATELINE AREA

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Austin Montgomery/Beloit Daily News Nikki Bennett of Dabadooya & Co. spent Saturday afternoon at Downtown Beloit's Easter event painting faces of area residents. Saturday's event marks Dabadooya's spring kick off ahead of the farmers market later this spring.

Hundreds of area families with children in tow celebrated Easter weekend with gusto across the Stateline area.

Multiple events offered residents a chance to hop out and enjoy exceptional weather in Beloit, South Beloit, Janesville and Rockford. On Saturday afternoon kids received a chance to get a jump on a sugar-fueled holiday weekend, while parents took time to enjoy the holiday festivities.

"The community is just tremendous to host events like this," said South Beloit resident Ryan Czyz, in talking about South Beloit High Schools annual Easter egg hunt. "Its great for the kids to come out and be able to enjoy it while friends and family can come together on the rewarding long weekend."

Czyz guided his four-year-old daughter Annabelle on a quest for holiday goodies at the Leos Club fourth annual egg hunt on the high schools athletic fields.

In total, more than 500 eggs and a myriad of candies were spread across the field for kids to gather. The event started just before noon, and the eager candy hunters made quick work of the trove in just over 20 minutes.

“This is such a benefit for these kids even ahead of the actual holiday, its a lot of fun,” Czyz said.

For South Beloiters Alex Salgado Sr. and Adrianna De Dios, Saturdays event was toddler Analia Salgados first Easter egg hunt. Along with her brother Alex, the pair gathered multiple baskets of goodies.

“Were really happy to be celebrating. We know the kids are very excited for the Easter Bunny to visit,” De Dios said.

For other holiday activities, the Downtown Beloit Association hosted its fifth annual Easter Extravaganza in downtown Beloit.

The event featured a bunny hop that brought businesses and community groups together to celebrate the holiday, forgoing the standard Easter egg hunt.

Events spread to around 15 downtown locations, and around 500 residents attended the host of offered events.

At the Gantry on State Street and Grand Avenue, kids were able to play in a bounce house, visit with mascots including the Easter Bunny and enjoy face painting and get unique balloon animals.

The Turtle Creek Bookstore hosted story time and pictures with everyones favorite rabbit.

In Janesville, the Rock County Historical Society hosted an egg hunt through the Knights of Columbus. In downtown Rockford, the Discovery Center Museum and Burpee Museum of Natural History hosted its own Egg Hunt Eggstravaganza Saturday afternoon, seeing over 10,000 eggs being collected. Both museums offered a host of special activities and science-related displays on the holiday.