

COSTUMED KIDS CHARM DOWNTOWN BELOIT

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Clint Wolf/Beloit Daily News Tristan Van Acker, 3, wasn't "dragon" behind the other trick or treaters Saturday, as he collected treats from vendors at the Downtown Beloit Association Farmers Market. Children in costume were able to get an early start on Halloween treat collecting during the annual Halloween Parade and the final Farmers Market of the season.

BELOIT - Dinosaurs, unicorns and even a few child-size insects roamed the streets of downtown Beloit during the annual Halloween Parade and the final Farmers Market of the season.

Treats were handed out to costumed children at downtown businesses and by Farmers Market vendors. There also were other attractions such as face painting, music and other fun attractions for the entire family.

Chase and Amber Baumgartner brought their children, Brylee and Brantley, to the Farmers Market to collect treats, and for Chase to get some of his favorite salsa.

"This is the first year for the kids," Amber said of her costumed children visiting the downtown area. They soon were off to other Halloween activities.

Even though Jace Butler is only 2 years old, he was making his second visit to the downtown Halloween parade, dressed as a firefighter dalmatian.

It also was the last chance for vendors at the Beloit Farmers Market to sell their produce, food and crafts.

Paula Aitken of Casting Whimsy was selling her loose leaf tea, as she has been each Saturday at the Farmers Market.

"This is always a very good market," she said of her experience in downtown Beloit.

Brad Paulson was selling his pumpkins and squash at Beloit markets for 45 years. He said his father had to drive him to Beloit to sell his pumpkins because he was only 15 and didn't have his driver's license. He must like the market because he has been back every year.

"It's a bad habit," he said with a smile. "We like doing it."

It turned out to be a cool, but pleasant day for costumed kids and family members in downtown Beloit.