

Celebrating a resurrection

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Jhett Ross, 6, had his face painted like a rabbit Saturday during the Easter celebration on the downtown square.



Nick Weaver, 13, checks his answers during the scavenger hunt.

MARTINSVILLE

Nine-year-old Adrianna Wakelem couldn't wait to try her luck at the Easter egg hunt Saturday on the Martinsville square. She, along with more than 250 children, crowded the courthouse in Martinsville to find the 2,800 eggs hidden in the grass.

Adrianna was able to find 10 eggs and was thrilled with the day.

"I found so many eggs, and it's good candy too," she said. "I wish I could do it again."

The Easter bunny helped kick off the celebration that also included breakfast, a coloring contest, reading of the Easter story from the Bible and a scavenger hunt.

The event was the first of many for the newly formed group, Rediscover Historic Martinsville. Tina Chafey, a member of RHM's promotional committee said, "This was our kickoff event, announcing to the community our arrival."

Organizers were thrilled with the turnout. Chafey said they were expecting 200 people, but exceeded that number at the breakfast alone.

"The turnout was an answer to a prayer," she said.

The day started with breakfast provided by Water to Wine Catering, face painting and pictures with the Easter Bunny. The event brought in people from all walks of life, including many homeless people who were able to enjoy a warm Easter breakfast.

Every child at the event was looking forward to the Easter egg hunt. Organizers broke the hunt up into different age groups.

Seven-year-old Emily Burns was excited to see what was inside the three eggs she was able to find. As she rummaged through the bag given out at the hunt she said, "I got lots of candy, but I haven't got to eat it yet."

Amy O'Neal of Martinsville hunted for eggs with her son Joel. She said, "The Easter egg hunt was well organized and the kids had a great time. It made Easter special this year."

Older children were not excluded from the festivities. There were 40 middle school students who took part in an "Amazing Race" style scavenger hunt around the courthouse.

Tina Chafey said it was important to the group to get the older youth involved. The teams were sent to historic landmarks and architecture in an effort to encourage the youth to learn about the town's heritage.

Chafey said, "I feel like if our youth don't know their heritage, they will have no reason to return to it."

Three teams won the scavenger hunt and won prizes from Arties Family Fun Center, Krypton Comics, JC Ferguson Custom T-shirts and Printing, Martinsville Candy Kitchen, and Peace Frog.

Rediscover Historic Martinsville was not the only group that benefited from the Easter celebration. Businesses along the square were busier than usual because of the event.

John Badger of the Martinsville Candy Kitchen said, "It probably helped business, the warm weather did too."

Organizers said the event served its purpose.

"Our goal today was to encourage a healthy community spirit and that's exactly what we did," Chafey said.

Rediscover Historic Martinsville is planning similar family oriented events in the future. June 6th they will sponsor "Summer Fest" on the square with a fish fry, crafts and vendors on the square.

Coloring contest winners

The Easter celebration on the Morgan County Courthouse Square Saturday concluded with the announcement of the coloring contest winners. The coloring pages were available at several places downtown before the event. Prizes were provided by Peace Frog, Martinsville Candy Kitchen, and Harris Bank.

Winners were as follows:

Preschool: 1st Elijah Sanders, 2nd Arianna Broomfield, 3rd Emmy Bough.

First and Second Grade: 1st Meghan Carpenter, 2nd Henry Harris, and 3rd Lauren Whitaker.

Kindergarten: 1st Kennedi Casey, 2nd Emily Bowling, 3rd Brock Bodell.

Third grade and up: 1st Alexandria Wilt, 2nd Hadley Drake, and 3rd Raven Hornaday.

Overall for creativity: 1st Zachary Lynn, 2nd Alexandria Lauck.