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Teddy bears such as these in a file shot will be on display at the Santa Ynez Valley Historical Museum during a special Teddy Bear Tea on Sunday.

Museum hosting Teddy Bear Tea Sunday

Dozens of teddy bears will be on display — and tales will be told — during a special Teddy Bear Tea Sunday at the Santa Ynez Valley Historical Museum.

The tea is planned for 2 to 4 p.m. at the museum, 3596 Sagunto St., as part of the museum's current exhibit, "The History of the Teddy Bear."

The event includes bear-related activities and is geared toward families.

"This event is not kid exclusive, as we know many 'big kids' have wonderful teddy bears that have been their loyal friend for many years," said Chris Bashforth, the museum's executive director. "Everyone is invited to share in the fun and to bring their bear if they have one."

There will be a reading of the "Teddy Bear Picnic" and a "share your bear" time where participants can tell their own bear's story and a teddy bear contest for "guest" bears. Categories include oldest bear, newest bear,

best-dressed bear, most loved bear, best homemade bear, biggest bear and smallest bear.

There will be a teddy bear decorating activity, and each child will receive a special "bear" gift.

The museum's Valley Room includes an exhibit of dozens of bears on loan from people in the community and from Susan Quinlan's Santa Barbara-based Doll and Teddy Bear Museum. Her museum houses one of the largest displays of dolls and teddy bears in the world.

Tickets to the tea are \$5 for one adult and one child. Additional children's tickets are \$1 each. Reservations may be made by calling 688-7889 or e-mail syvm@verizon.net. Walk-in attendees will also be welcome.

Proceeds from the event will be used to help with the upkeep and maintenance of the nonprofit museum.

— Nora K. Wallace



A teddy bear display is shown at the Santa Ynez Valley Historical Museum in this file shot.