

West County supervisor urges healthy treat alternatives

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EL CERRITO — Contra Costa Supervisor John Gioia is again promoting alternatives to giving sugary treats on Halloween by offering West County parents sample bags of noncandy items.

The bags will include school supplies such as unsharpened pencils, erasers, fun stickers, nontoxic glue sticks and other similar items. They will be available at his district office, 11780 San Pablo Ave., Suite D, from 3 to 5 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday.

"Children today live in a world full of junk food and are heavily targeted by advertisers of unhealthy food," he said. "We should offer healthy alternatives at Halloween."

He said other possible treats could include temporary tattoos, bracelets and rings, coloring books, key rings, notepads, cute magnets, whistles, bubbles and small toys such as spinning tops, plastic animals, jacks, and yo-yos.

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