

Bumper cars ready to hit town

By **STEPHANIE DeCAMP**
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There will be a slight change-up in rides for this year's fair: bumper cars are in, and the moonwalk is out.

It's her first year as Decatur County's Amusement Authority President, and Sherri Kyte couldn't be more excited.

"We've been trying every year to come up with something different," she said, "and there's a guy in Cambridge who mentioned he had the cars, so we decided to try and get between eight and ten cars. Eventually the goal is to buy our own."

She said she didn't know how long it would take for that to happen, but that donation buckets had been set out for the first step toward that goal: pouring the concrete floor for the cars to sit on. She said that should be happening in only a few weeks.

The bumper car ride will be for all ages, and the cars themselves are gas-powered. Ms. Kyte said that they are going to try to arrange the ride so that groups within the same age range will be playing together. That way, children will be with children and adults will be with adults.

Ms. Kyte said that the Authority just "kind of fell into" getting the bumper cars because the company they rent the rides from already had them.

"The rides themselves are pretty expensive," she said, "and bumper cars are almost non-existent — they come from China, and they're very hard to find. There are places that sell rides, but they're upwards of \$12,000 for a new one,

and then you have to also look at insurance and if it will be allowed on your policy."

Another thing to consider, she said, is space, which is why the moon walk won't be up this year. The plinko game will be in that space, she said. They're trying to find a buyer for the moon walk, and according to Ms. Kyte, Atwood has been thinking about doing its own home-grown carnival too, so they could end up taking it.

Either way, the moonwalk is one of the things they probably won't have again, she said.

"In future years," she said, "we're thinking we could bring in some different games, too, just to change things up a bit.

"The first ride was the ferris wheel. We're hoping to incorporate newer things as we go along. Everyone's ideas are welcome. Sometimes we tend to over-think things or not think about something that an outsider could think of."

And to Ms. Kyte, everything about the fair is something to be excited about.

"It's so much fun to see the kids' faces when they win toys, for me that's what it's all about. And we have some new toys this year that are really cute! I'm very excited about those and the bumper cars.

"I'm thrilled with the donations we're getting. This is one of my favorite times of year, and I'm really anxious because it's my first year as president, so it's a learning experience. It's a chance to see people that you haven't seen in several years, and people even plan their vacations around it. It's so fun!"

Mud volleyball, truck competition planned at grandstand

Activities for all ages are scheduled in front of the grandstands during the Decatur County Fair.

On Wednesday, Aug. 8 it's time for the Tough Trucks competition, said Keri Bryan, fair board secretary. The competition starts at 8 p.m.

During the competition, she said, drivers take their trucks through an obstacle course that could include mud, jumps and other areas. The driver that gets through the obstacle course the fastest wins.

Anyone can enter, she said. It costs \$25 for a pit pass.

To sit in the grandstands and watch it will cost \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids 6 to 10 and free for those 5 and under.

On Thursday, Aug. 9 the mud volleyball com-

petition starts at 4 p.m. So far, said Mrs. Bryan, they have three teams signed up.

It costs \$30 a team, each consisting of six players with at least two being female.

There are two age groups, she said, 14 and under would fall in the youth category and 15 and older in the adult.

There's no cost to watch the competition, she said. Prizes will be awarded to the top two teams in each age division. Those interested in competing can sign up in the Twin Creeks Extension Office on the main floor of the Decatur County Courthouse.

That same day will be the Trivia Challenge Game Show. It costs \$5 to watch and the audience participates in the game. The show starts at 8 p.m.



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