

LOCAL NEWS

Cleveland County Fair continues through Saturday

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The 83rd Cleveland County Fair kicked off last Thursday with all of the rides, food and fun of previous years, attracting folks from nearly every walk of life.

Families flocked to the Reithover carnival rides, game and food stands. Chris Zdunski and his three-year-old son Gavan, matching in their camouflage attire, seemed to enjoy the amusements of the first day. Gavan tooted the horn his father won for him and later, clutched the tail of a large inflatable shark, another precious prize.

Eight-month-old Ava Goforth experienced the sights and sounds of the fair for the first time with her father Trip, both of Kings Mountain. She was all smiles Thursday evening.

Skyler Mellon's eyes were glued on the large swinging pendulum-like motion of the Freak Out ride. She stood in line, a first time rider. When asked if she was nervous, she nervously replied, "no," then smiled. Her mother was there to cheer her on and to wait for her at the ride's exit.

Also waiting near the Freak Out exit was Lisa McCraw, Cameron Hagler, 8, and Corey Hagler, 6. They were waiting for the Hagler's father, who had jumped aboard without the boys.

Amidst the music and whoosh of the rides and the sounds of the various programs throughout the fairgrounds, came a familiar call—the challenge of game masters. "Do you have what it takes?" or "you can win this game" were shouted from the stuffed animal covered booths. Brian Sheurweghs tempted the crowds with his darts. All they had to do was simply pop some balloons and then they would get to choose from his treasure trove of prizes. How could they resist?

Different calls filled the exhibit halls. Church groups, organizations, vendors and service companies stood or sat at their booth stations within Dorton Exhibit Hall. James Saunders and Phil Wheeler called out: "Find out about the three things God cannot do." They asked people to open three little doors, describing what God cannot do. Behind door number 1:

"God cannot lie;" door number 2: "God cannot change;" and door number 3: "God cannot let any of us into heaven unless we are born again."

Saunders and Wheeler, both of Cleveland County, are missionaries with Harvest Time Ministries. They used their time at the fair, to reach out to God's children in an effort to save souls. Saunders said that three people, who had visited their booth, returned to be saved within the first three hours they were open on Thursday. "That's why we're here," he added.

Don Bertsch used his booth to sell custom-made chains. Mae Elmore and Renee Jones promoted Vemma, a liquid nutritional antioxidant program. Patrick Ward, of Lawndale, was working the Bug Busters booth in Dorton Exhibit Hall. Bug Busters, a family-owned business, has had a table at the fair for the past four years. Whether going for the first time or going for the thousandth time, the Cleveland County Fair has something for everyone.

The fair continues through Saturday.



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Eight-year-old Skyler Mellon gets ready to ride Freak Out for the first time. As she watched it swing high into the air, she said she wasn't too nervous.



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Left to right, Cameron Hagler, 8, Corey Hagler, 6, and Lisa McCraw wait for the rest of their group near the Freak Out ride at the fair.

WIN \$250!

There is a new coffee and desert shop, being developed by John O. Harris Interest, coming to downtown Kings Mountain and you could win \$250 by helping name it!

Submit name suggestions to johiii@bellsouth.net.

Deadline for entry is Oct., 15.

