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FAST ASLEEP

First-ever Great Bed Race inspires future competitors in Sandy Lake

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SANDY LAKE — The Mercer County State Bank bed racing team — Brad Doyle, Mark Kaltenbaugh, Eric Montgomery and Jim Price, with Carrie Hogue on the bed — won the Great Sandy Lake Bed Race at Sandy Lake Community Fun Days Friday night. Photos by Marsha Fleeger/R-A

SANDY LAKE —

The crowd lined the race track on Railroad Street Friday Night for the Great Sandy Lake Bed Race. Although only two beds actually took to the track, spectators were excited to watch the new event, and some were even thinking about building and entering their own racing beds in next year's event.

The winning team, from Mercer County State Bank, showed that design may be the key to winning the event. Team members Brad Doyle, Mark Kaltenbaugh, Eric Montgomery and Jim Price pushed the bed — which featured four bicycle wheels — while teammate Carrie Hogue was the winning driver.

"If we would have been in any kinda shape, bed racing would have been great," Doyle said.

Kaltenbaugh said the team's strategy was to push the bed as fast as they could run.

Members of the second place team, Falcon Bartholomew and Josiah Flynn, from the Lakeview Church of God, were already thinking about next year's competition.

Flynn said the bed was heavy, and got even heavier as the race went on.

“We need to work on our design for next year,” Bartholomew said.

Spectators Jasmine Sasse and Fred Sasse, both of Sandy Lake, were also considering bed designs for next year.

“We’re scoping out the topography and planning for next year,” Fred said.



Jasmine added that they were getting ideas and looking to recruit runners.

The racing beds were twin-size beds with a driver on the bed and four runners propelling the beds down the track. The beds each had four tires or wheels and were painted and decorated.

“I came out because it’s a bed race,” Jasmine said. “I’ve never seen one before, and that has to be part of the appeal.”



SANDY LAKE — Carrie Hogue, driver for the Mercer County State Bank bed racing team, holds up the firstplace trophy after winning the Great Sandy Lake Bed Race at Sandy Lake Community Fun Days Friday night.

Connie Jewell, of Jackson Center, attended because her neighbor was on one of the teams.

“I think its a great idea,” Jewell said. “We used to have them in Mercer for Victorian Days. It’s good community fun. It takes effort to get a bed ready and decorate it.”

Rose and Henry Warrington, of Cooperstown, Pa., were excited to see the bed race, although like Jewell they had seen bed races before.

The Great Sandy Lake Bed Race was part of Sandy Lake Community Fun Days, which continue today.

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