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Determined not to be beaten by the weather, the owners rebuilt again, only to see the free act platform, lady's restroom, most of the fences and 24 stables washed away by floodwaters in 1929.

After the 1929 flood a retaining wall was constructed to help prevent the overflow from Hickman Creek damaging the grounds again.

The two-story women's building had to be demolished in the early 1960s after a fire in the stables on the first level of the building caused heavy structural damage to the structure.

Tornado-like winds and rain caused heavy damage to the grandstand and other buildings in 1974. In 1979, wind and rain once again tore through the grounds, demolishing the women's building and damaging other structures. In 1994 and 1995 the women's exhibits were displayed in large tents.

The women's building was rebuilt and named in memory of Kenneth Sandlin, a board member at the time of his death in 1996.

Before the development of mechanical attractions, sideshows were the mainstay. Typical shows included menageries of wild animals, freak shows, wax works, boxing/wrestling challenges and theatrical shows including a provocative show by belly dancers referred to as the "hootchie cootchie show."

Since it was organized in 1856, the DeKalb County Fair had been privately owned and operated, but in 1994 it was purchased by the city of Alexandria. A countywide board was appointed to operate the fair. The board leases the property and has complete control over the event. The fair is run completely by volunteers, with the money going back into the fair itself, making it a growing endeavor. Current board members include Judy Sandlin, president; Jack

Underhill, vice president; Matt Boss secretary/youth board adviser; Pat Parkerson, treasurer; Mike Williams; Jeff McMillen; Ron Paschal; Tracy Lawrence; Angie Meadows and Christy Malone-Smith.

"Going to the local fair has been a favorite 'must do' for the young and young at heart for a very long time. It's good, clean, family-fun at its finest. Bringing your children to experience all of the fun things the fair brings to town, gives them the same feeling that you had as a kid," said Angie Meadows, Lions Pavilion coordinator. "It's a special, highly anticipated week of summer where friends and neighbors come to have a great time. Back this year at the T.C. McMillen Arena is Demolition Derby! Grab a seat and watch the excitement as drivers take out the competition for the win!"

The Lip Sync Battle will also be returning this year as well. Made famous by LL Cool J, Monday night's competition, will offer a ton of enter-

tainment as contestants will be performing to their favorite song vying for a place in Friday night's finale where the winner will walk away with the Lip Sync Battle trophy and \$250 cash! First runner-up will receive \$150 cash with second runner up taking home a \$50 cash prize.

On Monday, Snow Bird from Channel 4 will be at the fair from 5 to 7 p.m. The cow show, junior fair princess and Fairest of the Fair, open to girls 17-20, will also be held Monday. Little Mister and Miss will join the demolition derby on Tuesday evening. The kiddie tractor pull, Little Miss Princess, Miss Sweetheart and motorcycle racing will headline Wednesday. The baby show and senior day will be draws on Thursday. Friday will feature a toddler show, antique tractor pull and the lip sync battle. A tractor pull and gospel singing will close down the annual exhibition this year.

For more info go to www.dekalb-countyfairtn.com.

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