



**ELLY GRIMM**

• Leader & Times

For those little ones wanting a taste of Halloween before the big night itself, the Parks and Recreation Department will have the perfect opportunity to do just that with its upcoming pumpkin hunt.

“It’s great to see all the different costumes and how people are stepping out and really coming up with some great stuff,” Parks and Recreation Activities Supervisor Ronna Stump said. “It’s a

safe environment and the little ones can come and get a lot of candy and have a lot of fun and also wear their costumes another time before Halloween.”

This year’s pumpkin hunt will be from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday at the National Beef Sports Complex on the baseball fields. This year will again feature the Trunk or Treat. At 7 p.m. that night, the costume contest is going to start and then after the costume contest will be the pumpkin hunt where candy will be thrown onto the field and all the lights will be turned off so the children will only be armed with a flashlight.

“We had about 1,000 people come out last year, but we also served hot dogs last year, which we’re not doing this year, so that could make a difference,” Stump said. “We used to do just the pumpkin hunt and costume contest but then we decided to add the games to make it bigger. We’ll have different games for the children to play out there while they’re waiting on the costume contest. We’ll have judging in different age groups from 3 years old all the way to 6th grade.”

Another feature this year that should appeal to the young candy hunters will be the Trunk-Or-Treat, Stump said.

“It’s a great opportunity especially for non-profit organizations to get their literature out there to the people who come,” Stump said. “They can include a pamphlet or something like that with the candy and all they have to do is let me know they’ll be coming so we can make sure and get them a spot. Right now, I’ve got six organizations doing that and I’m looking for about half a dozen more.”

Overall, Stump said, she and staff are excited for this year’s event and extended the community an invitation to come out and have fun that evening.

“Just come out and join us and have fun,” Stump said. “Everyone should have a great time.”