

Summer fun at Kings Mountain Fourth of July celebration



Stephen Mills, five-year-old son of Carl and Barbara Mills, gets high in the air on playground swings at Deal Street Park.

Thousands of Kings Mountain area citizens dazzled by the city's July 4 fireworks turned out in record numbers at Kings Mountain Community Center Thursday at 9:30 p.m.

"That was the biggest crowd yet," said Fire Chief Frank Burns, who commended veteran fireman Bill Ware for the biggest patriotic blast ever as he simulated Patriot missile intercept of a Scud missile over Kings Mountain to pay a star-spangled salute to the men and women who served in Desert Storm and celebrate the nation's birthday.

Earlier in the day, a small crowd of people gathered inside the Community Center to hear Senator Jim Forrester pay tribute to the brave men and women who answered the call in all wars and to recognize the 17,000 prisoners of war and the 2300 POW's missing in Southeast Asia. "The war isn't over until all our POW's are accounted for," he told a cheering

crowd who waved flags as Mayor Pro Tem Scott Neisler read the names of area people who served during Desert Storm.

"There is no freedom without responsibility," said Forrester, retired Brigidere General and Stanley medical doctor, who said President Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, made great personal sacrifices for his country but instilled a value system still important today. "We need to rededicate our goal to living in a land of peace and freedom. Love country and support its flag," he said.

Country music singer Jerry Scruggs played guitar and sang a song he wrote about Desert Storm called "Welcome Home." Jayda Brown opened the program with "Star Spangled Banner" and John Heath Jr. closed the musical salute with "I'm Proud To Be An American." Taps was played by Kim Roper.



Who's the clown here? Emma or KM Reserve policeman Bud Ballard?



Marcus Bell, left, and Sammy Gunter don't care if they win first prize or not. That watermelon's good!



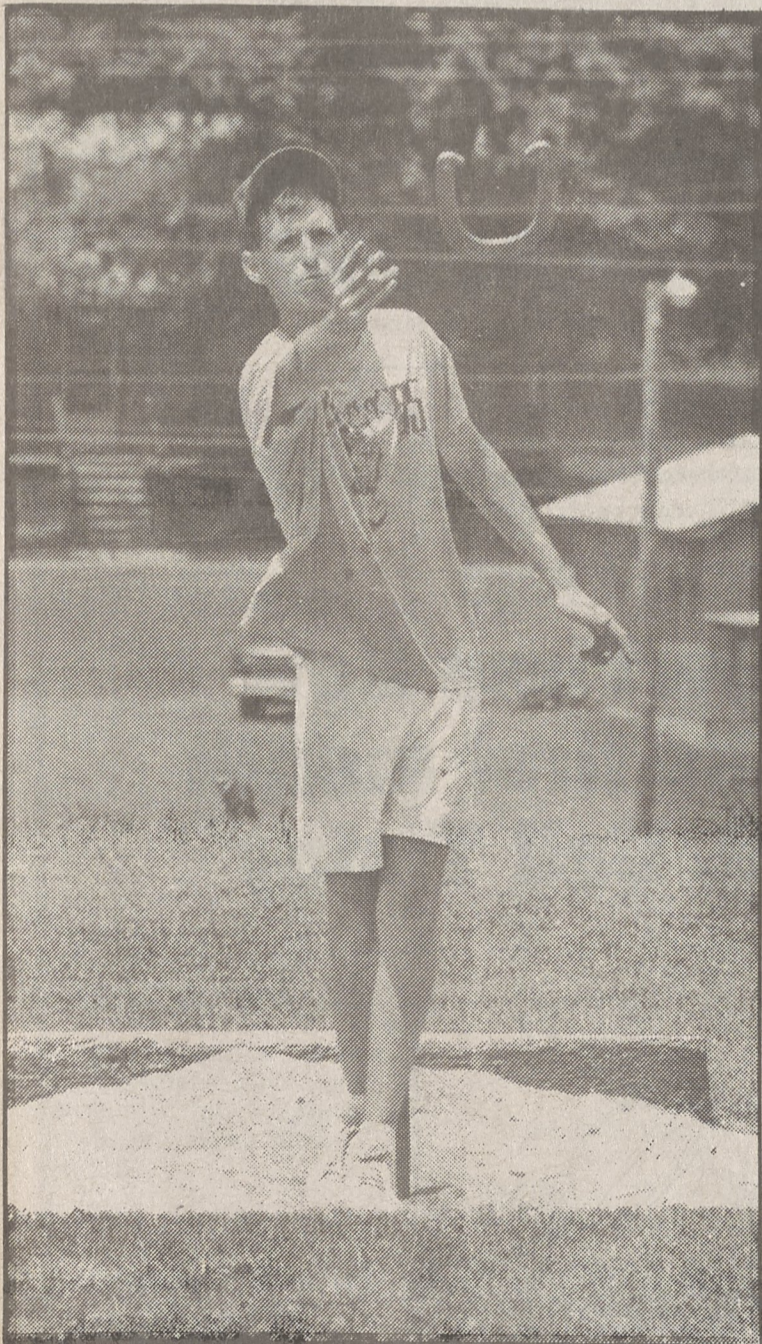
"Buy me a balloon, Uncle Bob." And, Uncle Bob, who is KMPD Captain Bob Hayes, buys it for Andrea Brown.



Scott Neisler, left, KM Mayor Pro Tem, welcomes Senator Jim Forrester, guest speaker, to the patriotic salute at the Community Center.



Emma the Clown gets some help unloading her goodie bag from Jessica and Kelly Perrigo.



Larry Morrow has the good form in horseshoe pitching contest.



Crystal Childers and Jennifer Styers cool off with snow cones

