



**JOSEPH BRYMER / HERALD**  
Mary Davis enjoys the Beach Blast under the comfort of an umbrella.

# BLAST

From 1A

Judges Lorie Mancuso and Cindy Wood selected winners from a field of 50-plus contestants.

After their appearance on stage, kids could get down to business of playing in a mound of sand, climbing through an inflatable dragon, bouncing inside an inflatable room, running through sprinklers and wading in shallow pools.

R.O.s Barbecue, Papa Johns, Fat & Sassy and other carnival food vendors were on hand to satisfy the appetites worked up by all the fun.

Sitting beneath a sign reading "If You Don't Vote, Don't Complain," Joni Smith encouraged adults to register to vote.

Kings Mountain Historical Museum Curator Mickey Crowell talked with passers by about three restoration projects and sold fundraising raffle tickets.

Ocean Boulevard took the stage mid-afternoon as the watermelon eating contest got under way. Michelle Carter, first place in her age category, revealed her winning strategy.

"Don't even worry about the seeds," she said.

Michelle is from Concord and is in town visiting her grandmother Paulette Camp.

As Mayor Rick Murphrey climbed to the top of the Kings Mountain Fire Department's ladder, his young audience chanted "Rick, Rick" awaiting the release of a bag of beach balls.

A bird's eye view of the event was made possible by hot air balloon rides sponsored by Summit Place.

Billy Scott & the Prophets wrapped up the Beach Blast, singing into the night.

State House incumbent Tim Moore used the event for election year campaigning. Mrs. Tom Bridges was also on hand getting out the vote for her husband, a Cleveland County Commission incumbent. He was recovering from a minor illness and could not be there.

Contest winners included boys, ages birth through three-years-old: first place, Harrison Johnson, son of Don and Zena Johnson; second, Quintin Davidson, son



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Mary Latona (top) competes in watermelon eating contest. Haley Patterson plays under a sprinkler (center), and Andy Williams (bottom) enjoys a hot dog at Beach Blast.

of Tony and Shannon Davidson; third, Aydin Roper, son of Eric and Heather Roper; girls, first place, Sophie Smith, daughter of Levacy Smith; Taylor Dawson, daughter of Doug and April Dawson; Gracie Smith, daughter of Levacy Smith;

Girls, four to six-years-old, first, Makayla Bradley, daughter of Jeff and Angela Bradley; Alexis Short, daughter of Vernon and

Regina Short; Debralee Tomberlin, daughter of Randy and Denise Tomberlin; boys, four to six-years-old, first, Nathan Spicer, son of Tracey Spicer; Hunter Cooke, son of Paige Cooke; Daniel Hunter, son of Tracey Spicer.

Sponsors included the City, KM Business and Professional Association, Summit Place, YMCA, Adventures in Advertising and The Herald.

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