

Winds prevent Balloon Glow, but Fall Fest continues strong

BY TYSON COLE

SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — While the weather may have been perfect for the attendees of Fall Fest, the wind was a little too much for the balloons.

Fall Fest opened last evening, but unfortunately the balloon glow was not able to take place because of the strong winds.

Many of the balloon pilots were looking forward to taking part in the crowd-pleasing event.

Kevin Heinzman is a local balloon pilot based out of Sandoval flying "Drifting Dolphins" and was looking forward to his first Fall Fest Glow.

"This is our first time out at Fall Fest . . . We have a lot of fun [at balloon glows] it is usually a real crowd pleaser because they can get up close and it is great for pictures. We like it when the crowds come up and talk to us," said Heinzman.

That is exactly what crowds were asked to do by MC Perry Hartman, of Painters Dream, when it would appear the balloons would not be able to go up.

Even though the balloons were unable to fit in a glow, they still plan on flying today for Balloons Over Mt. Vernon.

"We are looking forward to tomorrow. I haven't gotten to fly in October yet, but the weather is turning around so I'm excited," said Heinzman.

All was definitely not lost out at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport since United Way still put on many events for attendees.

There were concessions, games, crafts and much more.

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Sentinel Photo/TYSON COLE

RACES A CLOWN — Holdyn Piper, 6, races a clown at the Balloon Glow event of Fall Fest. The festivities took place at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport.

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Even without the Balloon Glow, crowds still lined up and enjoyed themselves throughout the night.

"All of the net proceeds go back to United Way," said

United Way Executive Director Rhonda Edmondson.

This is United Way's second year helping to put on the Balloon Glow with the Fall Fest. United Way organizes all of the stands and vendors out featured at the airport for the event.

"We expected a few hundred people last year and there were a few thousand. So we tried to expand this

year and brought United Way agencies who are provided for through United Way funds," said Edmondson.

In addition, United Way also is sponsoring today's pancake breakfast. Both of these events are free, but donations are much appreciated.

Fall Fest continues today and Sunday. 10-18-14
tcole@morningsentinel.com



BOOT TOSS — Maxx Piper, 3, tosses a boot for prizes at the Fall Fest Balloon Glow on Friday. The activities at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport were organized by United Way for Fall Fest.