

DISCOVER



July 2023 - Volume 3 - Issue 8

Travel + Hospitality

**What's new
this summer
in Tennessee**

**Adventures
at Southland
Safari Park**

**Daytrippin'
at Reelfoot Lake**





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ON THE COVER - Baby Tilly is one of Southland Safari Park's newest additions.

DISCOVER



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Adventures at Southland Safari Park

By Shannon Taylor

Deep in the heart of Clarksburg, down a winding country road, sits approximately 130 acres of the breathtaking landscape where 55 different species of animals from Africa, Asia, and Australia reside. The park boasts animals such as giraffes, sloths, kangaroos, buffalo, emus, ostriches, donkeys, flamingos, lemurs, zebras, alpacas, and many more.

It even has a rhino named Benny, and it is the only privately-owned safari park licensed in Tennessee to house rhinos.

The owners of Southland Safari are Chris and Tosha Gurley. Chris is a Clarksburg native and Tosha is a Gleason native. Chris was a boy with a big dream. He had a vivid imagina-

tion and was never exposed to many animals other than trips to the zoo, but Chris was fascinated with all types of animals and had a dream to one day acquire his own collection.

In 2002 Chris bought his first piece of land at age 18, while he was still in high school. That first plot of land was only about 30 acres. Chris and Tosha met while they were in college and got married in 2006 when they moved to that plot of land that Chris purchased in high school. They have three children together and they all help out at the Safari Park. Chris sold some cows and goats to buy his first five buffalo. Throughout the years it became a process of working, saving, and buying land to add to it. “We

didn't build this overnight,” Tosha said. The safari was not passed down to them - they worked hard by saving and buying little by little to make their dream a reality.

After 2008, Chris started meeting people from other zoos and Tosha explained that it was like this whole world opened up for him. For 10 years, he worked hard at becoming a breeding facility and working with other zoos and other safari parks. Then everything kind of exploded around year 12 and Chris started working out of the country — in Canada and Europe — and became known to people in the zoo world as very well-respected.

The park is privately-funded — they

don't receive any grants, donations, or federal/state funding. What visitors see has been built all by the Gurley family. They are also USDA inspected. Most of their staff are either family, friend-related, or live in their community. The Gurleys can work with zoos all over the world.

The park first opened in 2020 and then COVID hit. During the pandemic, the Gurleys decided to build cabins because Chris wanted to "build a campground where people can come and have a camping experience close to the animals," Tosha said. Chris wanted it to be a luxury experience to escape away with animals.

Southland Safari offers guided safari tours so it's not your typical drive-through park. It's an upscale experience, which offers an up-close and personal experience with animals from all over the world.

"The guided tour is both educational and entertaining, which helps separate what we offer from other safari parks and zoos," Tosha said.

All of the cabins are named after animals that can be found in the park. All of the cabins, including the beds inside of them, were handmade by Chris. When guests check into their cabin, they will find a big bucket of feed sitting on their porch instead of mints on their pillows. This allows guests to walk up to the petting zoo located on the campgrounds and follow the trail to feed a variety of animals, just steps away from their cabin.

This provides guests with an up-close and personal encounter with several of the species of animals located at the park. Guests can feed them at any time during their stay. The cabins have a playground area, a pond for guests to fish in, and four charcoal grills for use on the grounds.

The experience can be booked through their website as the park only books by reservation. Guests check in at the gift shop, which is their first landing point.

"Some safari parks serve up to 4,000 people a day, but our goal is very small and personable. We want to meet



Chelsea Morris enjoys feeding Larry the kangaroo.

people and we're going to remember your face," said Tosha.

They have their big truck tours on the weekends, which seat up to 20 people at a time, and they offer private Jeep tours, which seat up to six people.

The VIP tour offers a personable experience that Tosha claims you won't find anywhere else. The tour includes unlimited feed so that you can stop and feed your favorite animals for a little longer. Tosha explained, "On

VIP Jeep tours we allow our tour guides to take you off-roading so that you can get as close to the animals as they will allow."

The VIP Jeep tours are available daily.

During the winter, all of the animal enclosures are heated so that animals have a warm place to go when the weather gets brisk.

"We have so much land that the animals have more than enough space

and we do better with breeding them because they're in a more natural environment," explained Tosha. They even let their customers name some of the baby zebras born on the safari.

"What people love — they love having a tour guide and learning about the various animals and the story behind it — that what it boils down to is a little boy had a dream of working with animals and then he

took that dream and turned it into his reality despite the naysayers," Tosha proudly said.

Reviews online boast a staggering five stars all around, with numerous people writing about their experience at the park being nothing short of spectacular.

Reservations can be made at www.southlandsafari.com or by calling Tosha at 731-415-3812. Encounter

packages can also be purchased, which include up-close and personal interactions with Benny the Rhino, giraffes, sloths, and kangaroos.

They offer several packages and price points which can be viewed on their website. Follow Southland Safari on Facebook and Instagram for the most current news.



Two of the Ringtail Lemurs, inhabitants of Southland Safari Park.



A FAMILY AFFAIR - The Gurley family - (from left) Ridge, Gage, Chris, Tosha and Natalie - of Clarksburg all work together to offer a one-of-a-kind experience for visitors of Southland Safari.





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4th of July Celebrations in Jackson and across West Tennessee

Looking for your Fourth of July plans? You're in luck! Here is a quick look at the calendar displays several events happening over the 4th of July holiday throughout West Tennessee. Here's your itinerary of a list composed as of June 14, 2023:

Saturday, June 30, 2023:
Red, White, and Bolivar
Sand Beach Lake 575 E Market St. Bolivar, TN 38008

Join us at Sand Beach Lake for lots of free food, fun, fireworks, and LIVE music as we celebrate Independence Day and the opening of Sand Beach Lake for public use. Gates open at 6 p.m. Live music will begin at 7:30 pm and is provided by City Mix. The fireworks display produced by High Tech Special Effects begins at 9 p.m. This event is hosted by the Bolivar Downtown Development Corporation and the City of Bolivar. There is no cost to attend this event.

Wine Down
with the Kimberlie Helton Band
The Crown Winery 3638 E. Mitchell St. Humboldt, TN 38343

Join us for live music on the patio! The featured performer is the Kimberlie Helton Band. Enjoy delicious Crown Winery wine, craft beer and pizza! A table and pizza reservations are required. All tables will be ready to go at 6 p.m. Live music is from 7 p.m.-10 p.m.

Visit www.crownwinery.com to book your reservation.

2023 City of Milan Fireworks Show
Milan City Park 7001 Ellington Dr. Milan, TN 38358

This event is free to the public and will feature the Todd Hill Orchestra! The event will be from 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Join us for our 2023 Firework Show with special entertainment from the Todd Hill Orchestra! Fireworks are sponsored by Ceco Door. Food vendors on site: Kickin' It with Keemie, TaColima, Foggy Hollow

BBQ, Small Town Sno, Hub City Grind, Big Daddy's Days, Coastal Connections and Babe's BBQ.

Friday, June 30, 2023
Tuesday, July 4, 2023:
Dyer Station Celebration
Dyer Park
296 Freemont St. Dyer, TN 38300

The 39th Annual Dyer Station Celebration is a week-long celebration of our town and freedoms every 4th of July! Opening ceremonies will take place on Friday, June 30th on Front Street Downtown at 6:30 pm. There will be events held all week long! On July 4th there will be a parade beginning at 9 a.m. Arts and crafts will be at the park following the parade. The pet show will begin at 1 p.m. in Dyer Park. The fireworks show will be held at Dyer Park beginning at 9 p.m.

Saturday, July 1, 2023
Tuesday, July 4, 2023:
Birdsong's Red, White and BOOM!
Birdsong's Resort and Marina
255 Marina Rd.
Camden, TN 38320

This is a 4-day Benton County event-packed celebration that is fun for the whole family! There will be live music, a boat parade, boat races, kids fishing rodeo and food trucks!

Featured Headliner for the July 4th entertainment is Jimmy Church Band and Clayton Q. There will be a huge fireworks show following the performance on July 4. For more information, call 731-584-7880. www.birdsong.com/rwb will have the most up to date event schedule and details.

Saturday, July 1, 2023:
Independence Day Celebration
Discovery Park of America 830 Everett Blvd., Union City, TN 38261

Come spend the day celebrating America's independence at Discovery Park! Interact with living historians, participate in the "Ring of the Bell" ceremony with the reading of the Declaration of Independence and enjoy colonial games and activities throughout the park. Visit the Events tab on discoveryparkofamerica.com for more information.

ReelFoot Lake Fireworks and Entertainment
American Legion 2325 State Route 21 E Tiptonville, TN 38079

Entertainment with Johnathan Len will begin at 7 p.m! Fireworks show begins at 9 p.m. Bring your lawn chairs and

blankets and come out and enjoy the lake breeze, awesome entertainment, food and dazzling fireworks. Visit reelfoottourism.com for more information regarding this event.

Independence Day Fireworks
Hollow Rock-Bruceton
Central High School
29590 Broad St., Bruceton, TN 38317

Bring your lawn chairs! Opening ceremonies start at 6 p.m. with local entertainment, activities and fireworks beginning at dark!

Trimble Independence Day Celebration
Downtown Trimble, Trimble, TN

The annual Independence Day celebration presented by the Trimble Lions Club will have The Hutcheson Brothers Band as the featured entertainment at 5 p.m!



Parade starts at 6 p.m. There will be a cornhole tournament starts at 6:30 p.m. Food trucks will be available as well. The Trimble Area Women's Club will have their famous homemade ice cream. The fireworks presentation will begin around 9 p.m. (or when it is dark). Visit their Facebook event page "Trimble Independence Day Celebration" for all updates regarding the event.

Sunday, July 2, 2023:
Voices in the Vineyard
Century Farm Winery
1548 Lower Brownsville Rd.
Jackson, TN 38301

This concert is a part of a FREE concert series. The concert will begin at 7 p.m. Feel free to bring a picnic basket and. Chairs, reserve a table for your friends and family and enjoy local food trucks. Featured performer: JustUs! Visit www.centurycrownwinery.com for additional information.

Live Music at Crown Winery
The Crown Winery 3638 E Mitchell St.
Humboldt, TN 38343

Music begins at 1 p.m. Visit www.crownwinery.com or their Facebook page www.facebook.com/thecrownwinery for additional information.

Parrothead Party The Breakers Marina
526 Shamrock Rd
Buchanan, TN 38222

It's a Parrothead Party at Breakers Marina at 8 p.m., featuring Peter Mayer, Jimmy Buffet's

lead guitarist! If you are a Peter Mayer and Jimmy Buffet fan, you want to show up in your best Parrothead gear! Tickets can be bought via EventBrite. Visit their Facebook page

"The Breakers Marina" for updates, additional information and the ticket link.

Monday, July 3, 2023
Annual Fireworks Display
The Breakers Marina
526 Shamrock Rd.
Buchanan, TN 38222

Brooke Cooper and 24/Seven in will be in concert with special guest, Kimberlie Helton Hopper! Entertainment will begin at 7:30 p.m.! One of the most en-

tertaining bands in the area and the combination vocals of the fabulous Brooke Cooper with Kimberlie will give you great memories! Advanced tickets are available for purchase. Visit their Facebook page "The Breakers Marina" for updates and additional information.

Tuesday, July 4, 2023
Union City Fireworks Show Obion
County Fairgrounds,
1711 E Church St.
Union City, TN 38261

AC-43 will be in concert before the annual fireworks show! Entertainment will begin at 6 p.m. Make your plans to join us for music, fun and fireworks! The best place to see the fireworks is at the fairgrounds! Make your plans to join us for music, fun and fireworks.

There is a Facebook page for this event that can be found on AC-43 Band's page.

Festival of the Lakes
Henderson County Chamber of Commerce
Beech Lake
210 Bob Henderson Dr.
Lexington, TN 38351

This annual festival includes music entertainment and a 30-minute firework extravaganza! Festival will begin at 5 p.m. and conclude at the end of the fireworks show. More information can be found via the Henderson County Chamber of Commerce website under Tourism and Events.

City of Medina Fireworks
City of Medina Community Park
1400 Middle School Street
Medina, TN 38355

Fireworks will begin at dusk. Estimated 9 p.m. Don't forget your lawn chairs and blankets!

Follow their Facebook page, www.facebook.com/cityofmedinatn, for more information.

Firefighter's Freedom Festival McKellar-Sipes Regional Airport 308 Grady Montgomery Dr., Jackson, TN 38301

This annual fireworks show is sponsored by Madison County Fire Rescue. Please visit their Facebook page for the most updated information. This event is from 3 p.m.-10 p.m.

McKenzie Freedom Festival
Recreational Park 570 Como St.
McKenzie, TN 38201

This Festival will begin at 5 p.m. with a fun children's parade. The fireworks show will begin at dusk (around 9 p.m.). No vehicles inside the park after 5 p.m. There will be transportation from Como into the park. The crowd relaxes in their lawn chairs or on quilts as they visit with friends and enjoy entertainment before the spectacular fireworks show under the stars!

Food and vendors will be available! Visit www.mckenziectn.org for more information on the festival.

2023 White Squirrel Festival
Kenton City Park 411 W. College St. Kenton, TN 38233

The 2023 White Squirrel Festival will be held June 29 through July 4. To see a daily schedule, visit the White Squirrel Winery & Vineyard Facebook page.

July 4th Schedule
8 a.m.: 5K Run at Kenton City Park Gazebo

11 a.m.: 2023 White Squirrel Festival Parade through Downtown Kenton

2 p.m.: Cornhole Tournament at Kenton City Gym

9 p.m.: Fireworks at Kenton City Park

More information regarding the 2023 White Squirrel Festival can be found via their Facebook page, www.facebook.com/WhiteSquirrelFestivalTN.

Celebrate the 4th of July Paris Landing
State Park 16055 Highway 79 N
Buchanan, TN 38222

Celebrate the 4th of July with live entertainment, picnicking and fireworks. For more information, call (731)-641-4465.

4th of July BBQ Meal for our Community
VFW Post 2048 N. Main St.
Milan, TN 38358

Come out and join us from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on July 4th as we celebrate our Nation's freedom! Enjoy delicious BBQ, baked beans, coleslaw, sweet tea, and desserts! \$8 per plate.

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Martin Loves America Martin Recreation Complex 8457 Hwy 45E South Martin, TN 38237

Join the City of Martin as we celebrate the 4th of July with the BIGGEST BANG in Northwest Tennessee at Martin Loves America. There will be a FREE fireworks show and a live DJ. This year, our fireworks show will be bigger than ever. The fireworks display begins around 9 p.m. or sunset (please arrive a few minutes early). Bring a picnic, chairs, and refreshments for the whole family and relax in the grass or watch and listen from your vehicle via 98.5 FM. Use the hashtags #MartinTN and #MartinLovesAmerica throughout the night! The Rec Complex offers a walking trail, pond for fishing, play grounds and a fenced in dog park. The cityofmartin.net website has more information regarding this event.

Jackson Rockabillys Baseball The Ballpark at Jackson 4 Fun Place Jackson, TN 38305

Come out and watch the Rockabillys take on the Cape Catfish from Cape Girardeau! Fireworks will begin immediately after the game! Visit rockabillysbaseball.com to purchase tickets to the game.

4th of July Fireworks at Pickwick Landing State Park Pickwick Landing State Park 116 State Park Rd, Counce, TN 38326

Hardin County will celebrate the Fourth of July with a stunning fireworks display beginning at 9 p.m. Fireworks will be shot from the Pickwick Landing State Park Sandy Beach. In addition to the annual fireworks show, Hardin County Convention and Visitors Bureau will be broadcasting live with WKWX beginning at 7 p.m. with patriotic music and interviews with special guests. There will be all day fun around the Lodge and Circle Beach area. Spectators may enjoy views from the Inn area, Circle Beach, the golf course hillside bank, the playground and shelter one hillside bank areas. The Circle will be closed to inbound traffic beginning at 6 p.m. Sandy Beach and the dog park will be closed ALL DAY to ALL spectators. Food and craft vendors will be set up, as well as ranger-led

activities. For more information about the Pickwick Landing State Fourth of July fireworks, contact Hardin County CVB at 731-925-8181 or www.tourhardincounty.org.

Saturday, July 8, 2023 2nd Annual Danny Day Independence Day Celebration Lakeview Church 877 West Cherry Ave., Selmer, TN 38375

To know Danny Hurst was to love him! He was full of life and loved his family like no other. Danny repeatedly talked for over a year that he wanted to do an Independence Day Family Celebration. Food, family fun day and LOTS of fireworks. The celebration will begin at 5 p.m. There will be food trucks, snow cones and ice cream set up behind the church. Tables and chairs will be provided on the parking lot. There will be bouncy houses, an obstacle course, basketball shooting game, and back by popular demand - DUNKING BOOTH! EPW Wrestling will have multiple wrestlers having big matches! This will be the BIGGEST fireworks show around!

Cost is \$10 for ages 11 and older, \$5 for ages 2 to 10 and under 2 years old are free. The fee includes wrestling, the obstacle course, basketball shooting game, three different bouncy houses and fireworks. Dunking booth will be an additional \$5 for three balls.

All proceeds will be donated to the Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse in Memory and Honor of Danny Hurst, Jr.

Hardin County

Hardin County will celebrate the Fourth of July with a stunning fireworks display, beginning at 9 p.m. on Tuesday, July 4. Fireworks will be shot from the Pickwick Landing State Park Sandy Beach. In addition to the annual fireworks show, Hardin County Convention and Visitors Bureau will be broadcasting live with WKWX-FM 93.5 beginning at 7 p.m. with patriotic music and special guests' interviews.

"We are excited about continuing our rich Fourth of July tradition and invite all locals and visitors to celebrate with us at Pickwick Landing State Park", said

Tourism Director Beth Pippin.

According to organizers, fireworks will be shot from Sandy Beach near the Dam, leaving the lake and surrounding areas as ideal locations for spectators. "We can't thank Pickwick Landing State Park enough for their partnership allowing us to put on this wonderful show," said Pippin. Hardin County CVB again this year has contracted with High-Tech Special Effects, Inc to coordinate the fireworks show. "we try to grow the oohhs and ahhhhs each year" said Pippin, "and this year's show is no different. We are adding more bang and more special effects for a \$15,000 spectacular display."

In addition to the 9 p.m. show, the Friends of Pickwick Landing State Park will be hosting all day fun around the Lodge and circle beach area. Food and craft vendors will be set up as well as ranger-led activities.

"Spectators are encouraged to be safe and act responsible", reminds Pickwick Landing State Park manager Andy Wright. "First and foremost, obey the law. Law enforcement will be present on land and water. Park rangers, TWRA, TVA, THP, and Hardin County Sheriff Dept will be assisting with traffic and enforcing the law."

Some items to remember for spectators, including boaters, are that no one is allowed on or near any the TVA Dam in-water sectioned-off areas. Parking will be allowed on the south side (lake side) of the levee and prohibited on the north.

Inside the park, spectators may enjoy views from around the Inn area, Circle Beach, from the golf course hillside bank, the playground and shelter one hillside bank areas. Traffic in to The Circle will be closed to all but emergency traffic beginning at 6 p.m. Sandy Beach will be closed ALL DAY to ALL spectators. The dog park will be closed all day. Please be patient with outbound traffic after the event and follow directions.

"We want everyone to have a great holiday and enjoy your time in the park", added Ranger Wright, "it's the biggest summer family event celebrating our nation. Enjoy and be safe."

For more information about the Pickwick Landing State Park Fourth of July fireworks, contact Hardin County CVB at 731-925-8181, www.tourhardincounty.org

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What's New this Summer in Tennessee

Sun's out! Fun's Out! Soak in the sun while taking a kayak or outdoor adventure tour, farm-to-table experience, rooftop party, live music, milestone festival or a unique stay. Here's what's new and sizzling this summer in Tennessee.

NEW EXPERIENCES

Memphis – Elvis Presley's Graceland's newly reimagined '68 exhibit with artifacts like tickets to the legendary 1968 NBC television special, a replica stage and ELVIS in red lights, Elvis' made-for-TV outfits and more. Check out 15 reasons to visit Graceland this summer, including Elvis Week.

Nashville – Enjoy an amazing experience of luminary exhibits by a British installation artist during LIGHT: Bruce Munro at Cheekwood, also featuring special events like live music and food trucks on Thursdays.

Clarksville – The newly opened Ford Ice Center, the third location in Tennessee, will offer public skates, figure skating, ice hockey tournaments and more for the community.

Monterey – Summer is perfect for soaking in scenic beauty. Outdoor Experience has a new satellite location at Meadow Creek Park offering kayaking, mountain bike rentals and hiking.

South Cumberland – Plan your farm-to-table adventure with Tennessee's South Cumberland Mountains of Adventure with farm visits, farmer's markets, local farm products and handmade items.

Chattanooga – Enjoy a 3-mile guided kayak tour, soak in scenic views and potentially spot otter, osprey, bald eagles and bats leaving a cave at dusk during the Nickajack Bat Cave Sunset Kayak Tour.

South Pittsburg – Lodge Museum of Cast Iron takes visitors on a journey of how cast iron is made, celebrates food, culture and stories and features the World's Largest Cast Iron Skillet. Don't miss the new Big Bad Breakfast inside, serving up custom-created meals, fresh biscuits and preserves.

Pigeon Forge – Big Bear Mountain is the longest roller coaster at Dollywood, taking guests on an unforgettable family-friendly expedition in search of Big Bear.

Bristol – The Birthplace of Country Music Museum's new exhibit, "I've Endured: Women in Old-Time Music" honors the hidden heroines, activities and success stories of women who've impacted the roots of old-time music, from Mother Maybelle Carter to Rhiannon Giddens.

Kingsport – Kingsport is the home of the Original Long Island Iced Tea. To celebrate the history, there's a new Long Island Iced Tea Trail with a mural, local restaurants and specialty stores offering their own creations.

Johnson City – Enjoy mini golf under the stars. Glow Golf at Paradise Acres in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains features lighted golf balls, glowing holes and colored landscaping lights.

Sevierville – Cool off this summer at Soaky Mountain Waterpark's two new water coasters, new double decker cabanas and regional musicians performing on Mondays and Wednesdays.

NEW BARS, BREWERIES, DISTILLERIES, WINERIES & SPIRITS

Hendersonville – Half Batch Brewing will triple in size as part of an expansion set to open by end of August. Be sure to try The Fulkin, which won a gold medal in the 2023 World Beer Cup.

Shelbyville – Humble Baron at Nearest Green Distillery is the world's longest bar, a 518-long showpiece wrapped around an indoor stage serving elevated fare, creative cocktails and live music.

Clarksville – Opening June 2023, Three Rifles Distilling Co. is an artisanal craft distillery on the bottom floor of Star-Spangled Brewing Co. downtown, marking the third distillery in Clarksville.

Pigeon Forge – Experience Mountain Valley Winery's new Grape Escape Lounge with tastings, behind-the-scenes winery tours and locally sourced charcuterie boards.

NEW HOTELS & PLACES TO STAY

Memphis – Marriott's Aloft Hotel downtown uses tech-savvy robotic bellhops and mobile room keys, to provide guests with a seamless stay. Sip & spin at the WXYZ bar with specialty cocktails, snack-attack menu and tunes ranging from acoustic sets to DJ mashups.

Nashville – Fueled by technology, social spaces, curious culture and positive vibes, Aloft Nashville Airport is steps away from downtown, the Grand Ole Opry and more.

Pelham – Experience a live show underground and stay in unique style at The Caverns' new yurt village in an enchanting glade inside the campground.

NEW RESTAURANTS & SHOPS

Nashville – St. Vito Focacceria is now open in the Gulch, celebrating Sicilian cuisine, culture and community with delicious pizza and rotating dishes.

Monterey – Find the perfect gift at The French Market featuring home décor, gifts and gourmet pantry.

Clarksville – Amsterdam Local Café offers coffee, fresh baked goods, healthy options made with locally sourced ingredients and marketplace with locally produced milk, eggs, cheese and breads.

Chattanooga – EROS Hat Company is a boutique located on Main Street offering the unique experiences of custom hats, custom permanent jewelry and vintage denim.

Johnson City – Downtown Johnson City's newest late-night Mexican eatery, Diablo's Mexican Bar & Grill, features extravagant brunches and nightlife with exotic cocktails and delectable bites.

Sevierville – The world's largest Buc-ee's opened June 26 on Interstate 40 at exit 407 with 120 gas pumps, EV charging stations, 250-foot-long car wash and snacks like world-famous Texas BBQ, kolache pastries and Beaver Nuggets.

MILESTONE FESTIVALS

Memphis (June 16)– Guests can boogie down to 70s music, sip creative cocktails and create a beaded hanging planter or pet rock at Memphis Botanic Garden's Groovy Garden Party, in honor of its 70th anniversary. Dress to impress in your best 70s threads.

Knoxville (Aug. 26) – Celebrating its 10th year, the exciting outdoor Knox Asian Festival involves exhibits of culture, food, performances and more from China, Japan, Korea, India, Thailand and other countries. Enjoy authentic Asian cuisine from vendors throughout the day. Admission is free.



*You can enjoy a sunset kayak tour brought to you by Chattanooga Guided Adventures.
Photo courtesy of Tennessee Department of Tourism.*

SUMMER FESTIVALS & EVENTS

McMinnville (Now-July) – Bring a lawn chair, blanket and friend, try some local food truck fair and listen to live music all summer long at Main Street LIVE downtown.

Rugby (Now-July 29) – Join Historic Rugby for the quirky sport of Irish Road Bowling, as teams roll an iron ball down Rugby Parkway. The event is free. Check the full schedule.

Hendersonville (Now-August)- The Summer Concert Series is each Thursday night with a variety of live music at The Streets of Indian Lake. Bring lawn chairs or blankets and enjoy snacks from food vendors.

Nashville (Now-Sept. 4) – Gaylord Opryland Resort’s “Summer of More” features a variety of seasonal activities, including fantasy-filled Pirates and Princesses themed experiences, enchanting indoor gardens, water adventures and culinary cuisine through Sept. 4.

Leiper’s Fork (Now-Oct. 7) – Farmstead Roots Creek Dinner Series at Wines in the Fork are multi-course meals prepared by local chefs paired with wine under the stars, live music, cocktails and cigar-rolling.

Manchester (June 15-18) – Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival is a magical weekend of music, fun and friendship on the farm featuring performances by Kendrick Lamar, Odesza, Tyler Childers and more.

Bell Buckle (June 17) – Visitors from all over the world stream into the historic downtown to find music, cloggers, MoonPie games and a parade during the RC Cola-MoonPie Festival.

Smithville (June 30-July 1) – The Smithville Fiddler’s Jamboree and Crafts Festival features live music, dance competitions, streets full of handmade crafts and food booths.

Knoxville (July 1-31) – Put on your striped shirt and black-rimmed specs for a good old-fashioned Waldo Scavenger Hunt in dozens of locations downtown with photo ops and chances for prizes.

Nashville (July 4) – Brad Paisley, Langhorne Slim and Tiera Kennedy are among performances at Let Freedom Sing! Music City July 4th, with one of the largest July 4th fireworks shows in the country synchronized to a live performance by the GRAMMY-winning Nashville Symphony.

Clinton (July 4) – The Independence Day Anvil Shoot at Museum of Appalachia includes the anvil shoot, national bell-ringing ceremony, flag procession, live music, southern food, demonstrations from blacksmiths, beekeepers, dulcimer makers, spinners, weavers, rail splitters and more.

Clarksville (July 22) – Immerse yourself in stories at the Storytelling Festival at Historic Collinsville with story activities and stations, book sale featuring books written by local authors

LaFollette (July 29) – Little Italy comes to Tennessee. The Tally Town Festival celebrates Italian heritage from over 100 years in Campbell County.

Nashville (Aug. 3) – Raise a glass to the past. History Uncorked at Andrew Jackson’s Hermitage is a night of whiskey, wisdom and words featuring Nelson’s Green Brier Distillery’s head distiller Andy Nelson.

Johnson City (Aug. 18-19) - Meet the Mountains is a free, family-friendly festival to experience all of the region’s outdoor activities including live music, zipline, bike course, demo pool, air dog shows, yoga, rock wall and more!



*Big Bear Mountain in Dollywood.
Photo courtesy of Dollywood*

Memphis – How about a rooftop dance party to jumpstart your weekend. Peabody Rooftop Parties each Thursday at the iconic hotel hosts a live DJ, bars, dance floor and scenic views of downtown.

Chattanooga – Rock City’s Summer Music Weekends features live country, folk and bluegrass music every weekend, delicious southern cuisine, Rock City raptors’ shows and beautiful views.

Jonesborough – Enjoy local music, craft beer, cider and good eats during Brews & Tunes on the plaza in front of the International Storytelling Center every Sunday 4-7 p.m. June through September.

For a full list of events happening this summer in Tennessee, visit tnvacation.com/calendar.



*You can stay in a yurt at The Caverns in Grundy County.
Photo courtesy of Tennessee Department of Tourism.*



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Kids and volunteers who were involved in C.A.S.T. for Kids event at Indian Lake on June 3.

A Fun Day had at C.A.S.T. For Kids Event

By Shirley Nanney

It was a day of fun, food, and fishing for 15 children who showed up for the C.A.S.T. for Kids event at the private Indian Lake on June 3. The event raised \$16,000.

C.A.S.T. stands for Catch A Special Thrill. And that they did. For some, it was a first time to catch a fish.

At the conclusion of the event each child was called up to the front to tell about their fishing experience and how many fish they caught. Each child was met with loud applause and yells as they made their way to the front of the pavilion at the Indian Lake clubhouse. There they were met by Jackson attorney Bob Redding, organizer of the event, and Jeff Barnes, Eastern Regional Director for C.A.S.T. for Kids, where special plaques with the kids' photos were handed out.

Ellie Brown, 7, of Jackson was one of

the kids who told a story of her catching her first fish. She is confined to a wheelchair due to being born with cancer on her spine.

She is doing well now," said her dad.

Autumn Dyer, 6, daughter of Jason and Bethany Dyer of Spring Creek caught seven fish that included blue gill, crappie and bass.

"She had a time today," said the volunteer who accompanied her.

The event got underway around 9 a.m. after registering took place and kids were matched with volunteers. For the next hour and a half to two hours the kids thrilled to the sight of hooks bobbing up and down that resulted in a catch.

Following bountiful meal of barbecue and chicken by Cajun Cookers of Jackson, the awards ceremony got underway. Each child received a plaque with their picture.

Redding said he became interested in C.A.S.T. for Kids through his daughter, who is a behavioral therapist for autistic children. Barnes travels all over the Eastern U.S.A. spearheading these events.

The C.A.S.T. for Kids Foundation enriches the lives of children with special needs, supports their families, and strengthens communities through the sport of fishing.

"We empower families and communities to celebrate children with special needs, making these children feel valued and loved so they can overcome limitations and be successful," said Barnes.

Through a joyful day of fishing, kids, their families and community volunteers come together for an explosion of fun and inspiration. C.A.S.T. for Kids Foundation hosts annual fishing and boating events across America to provide children with



This happy fisherman is proud of his catch that is held up by the C.A.S.T. for Kids volunteer.

special needs a quality outdoor recreational experience.

Participants are hosted at a local lake, or body of water, supplied with a fish-

ing rod & reel, t-shirt, hat, and tackle box, partnered with an experienced volunteer angler and escorted onto a boat or onshore where, with the supervision of a

parent or guardian, they are shown proper fishing techniques and receive natural resources education.

WORKFORCE READINESS SCHOLARSHIPS

Leaders Education Foundation, a non-profit 501C-3, is pleased to award its second cohort with workforce readiness scholarships to meet their educational needs as they prepare to enter the workforce.

The program awards up to \$1,000 to students enrolled in workforce readiness programs or pursuing industry certifications through community colleges or the Tennessee College of Applied Technology. Application periods will open annually on December 1, May 1, and August 1 for spring, fall and summer sessions.

"Enabling our community's workforce development is a fundamental principle at Leaders Education Foundation," said Leigh Anne Bentley, President of the Foundation. "Given the growing demand for skilled professionals in our region, we aspire for these scholarships to empower a greater number of students to embark on their careers equipped with the right preparation."

There were 87 students who applied for the summer scholarship cycle from West Tennessee community colleges and the Tennessee College of Applied Tech-

nology. The scholarship funds can be used for tuition, purchasing associated supplies, books or materials, testing fees or other costs associated with the program or certification. This term's recipients spanned from Chester, Dyer, Obion and Madison County, and included two Jackson State Community College students and three Tennessee College of Applied Technology students. Their fields of study range in diversity from Medical Lab Technician to Collision Repair to Respiratory Care.

"These workforce scholarships serve as a vital link, alleviating some of the financial burden by covering not only tuition but also various ancillary expenses tied to each program," emphasized Bentley. "No matter a student's path to the workforce, we want to be a part of leading the way for them to get there."

Community members can become a member of Leaders Education Foundation through a one-time membership donation of \$10 and stay updated when new grants and scholarships are announced. Any donation over the membership fee can be given

in honor or in memory of a loved one. Through memberships, sponsorship and donations, the Leaders Education Foundation provides teacher grants, collegiate and workforce readiness scholarships, and lifelong learning resources throughout West Tennessee.

To become a member or join as a sponsor of the Foundation, visit leadersgives.org.

About Leaders Education Foundation

Leaders Education Foundation is a non-profit 501c3 organization serving West Tennessee.

Established in 2019, the Foundation allows community-minded citizens, members, and organizations to unite to make lives better, together. The Foundation invests in the local community through scholarships, grants, and financial literacy resources to provide educational opportunities promoting workforce development, job enhancement, lifelong learning, and training for students, teachers, and our community. For more information about the Leaders Education Foundation, please visit www.leadersgives.org.



2023 Northwest Tennessee Native American Educational POW WOW

Discovery Park of America

OCT. 27 - 29, 2023

HEADSTAFF

- Host Drum Ottertail, South Side
- Emcee Rob Daugherty
- Head Lady Picked each session
- Head Man Picked each session
- Arena Director Jimmy Reedy
- Tabulator Meredith Printup Higgins
- Eagle Staff Carrier Dean Swimmer
- Head Judge Gabe Bullock



Dean Swimmer



Gabe Bullock



Jimmy Reedy

VENDORS

Niles and Jean Aseret of the Navajo Nation
Handmade Jewelry

Lola Swimmer of the Cherokee Nation
Original Paintings and Framed Feathers

Cubert and Lacey Bell of Choctaw Nation
Native American Cuisine

Emilio & Marguerite Chavez of Santo Domingo Pueblo
Stone and Shell Jewelry

Shelly Bell of the Choctaw Nation
Beaded Jewelry

Paul Rene' Tamburro from the Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk Abenaki Nation
Silver and Copper jewelry

Jon Tiger of the Muskogee Creek Nation
Native Paintings

Duane and Joyce Prescott of the Ho Chunk Nation
Paintings and other collectable items

Lauri Lake of the Navajo Nation
Native American Cuisine

Michael & Ramona Frerichs of the Northern Arapaho Nation
Beadwork and Flutes

David Farnham of the Onondaga Nation
Antler Carvings and Leather Work

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, OCT. 27

10 a.m. to 4p.m.

Friday has been planned with students in mind. "Birds of Prey" demonstrations from representatives from Reelfoot Lake State Park. Choctaw storytelling and dancing, exhibition of powwow drum songs and demonstrations of hoop dancing and shopping indigenous items and food. Interested in registering your student group? Schedule your group at DiscoveryParkofAmerica.com/education.

SATURDAY, OCT. 28

Vendors will be selling handmade, indigenous items and food all day.

(10 a.m. to 9 p.m.)

All powwow activities take place on Discovery Park's great lawn.



Arvil Bird

11 a.m. Opening Ceremony

12 p.m. Grand entry, round dance, intertribal dancing, contest dancing and hoop dance demonstration

5 p.m. Performance from Arvel Bird

6 p.m. Closing Ceremony includes grand entry, round dance, intertribal dancing, contest dancing and hoop dance demonstration

SUNDAY, OCT. 29

Vendors will be selling handmade, indigenous items and food all day. (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

1 p.m. Opening Ceremony

Grand entry, round dance, intertribal dancing, contest dancing and hoop dance demonstration

Announcement of dance contest winners with prizes

Closing Ceremony



Centennial Fountain in Kiwanis Park Overflows with Memories

The Centennial Fountain (also known as the Leda Fountain) in Kiwanis Park has a fresh coat of blue paint, running water and is in working condition

thanks to the team members of the City of Union City's Parks and Recreation department. If you haven't explored our downtown park yet, be sure to do so.

Bring a picnic or grab a tasty sandwich from The Market or Vantage Coffee and enjoy the shade, fountain and our beautiful city park.



MAIN STREET AMERICA®

On Main Street Union City's Facebook page, followers have shared memories and stories from their childhoods and special life moments centered around the fountain. Be sure to check those out!

Fun Fountain Facts: The fountain was originally made in 1876 by J.L. Matt Iron Works, located on the Harlem River in the Bronx, New York. It was bought for \$350 in 1897 by a group of women led by

Mrs. A.L. Brevard and Mrs. Seid Waddell for the Tennessee Centennial. The fountain was in Nashville for the Centennial and was returned to Obion County in 1899.





The team at Blue Bank Lodge and Restaurant maintains a brief nature trail lined with native flowers that are enjoyed by butterflies during the warmer seasons.

Daytrippin' to Reelfoot Lake

By Sabrina Bates

Reelfoot Lake, located in Northwest Tennessee, offers 18,000 acres of adventures for nature enthusiasts. The lake features bald cypress trees and their stumps, which make for a perfect canopy for more than 50 species of freshwater fish.

The lake was formed in 1811-1812 after a series of earthquakes along the New Madrid faultline split the ground open near Tiptonville, in Samburg and Hornbeak. The massive earthquakes caused the mighty Mississippi River to flow backwards for three days and spill over its banks into the fissure that opened between the river and cypress bottoms.

Reelfoot is home to more than 240 species of birds, including the American bald eagle. Eagles are abundant in the winter season. As a result of their migration, the state park offers daily guided bus tours for eagle enthusiasts, with an annual Eagle Festival held each February. Tour maps also provide common nesting and viewing areas.

White pelicans make the lake their home in the spring and fall and the park pays tribute to the bird with an annual Pelican Festival held each October.

The state park offers a variety of stops along the banks with

wide boardwalks situated on the water's edge for those wanting to take in the sights and sounds. The waters of Reelfoot Lake are mostly shallow and littered with cypress stumps. Anglers take advantage of the common hiding places for bass, crappie and catfish. There are a handful of piers that are great spots for casting a line or two into the water.

Visitors will find a tribute to the rich Native American history surrounding Reelfoot Lake, with a collection of arrowheads inside the visitor centers and preserved mounds throughout the natural area. Guests will also enjoy dis-

plays of native species, including snakes that make Reelfoot Lake their home, inside the visitor centers.

The region was hit with another natural disaster when tornadoes ripped through tourist spots around Reelfoot Lake the evening of Dec. 10, 2021. Campgrounds are being rebuilt, while locals are repairing damaged homes. With the devastation to the area, park rangers are still working to clean up the impacted areas, but some lodging and restaurants are still in place for visitors.

From fishing and hunting guide services to outdoor classes and pontoon cruises, Reelfoot Lake offers a variety of activities for guests. The state park is free to visit and guests can expect to spend at least a day exploring all that the lake has to offer. Nature trails abound and a motor tour takes visitors deep into the lesser-traveled regions of the park. The motor trail

ends with a boardwalk that offers an elevated view of the American lotus-covered water.

The Boat House and Blue Bank restaurants offer dining on the shore of the lake. Blue Bank has cleared a section of its front yard specifically for a butterfly garden, with lantana, impatiens, coleus and elephant ears, to name a few. Visitors can wander along the trail in between the planted flowers. The restaurant also offers outdoor dining overlooking the waters of Reelfoot Lake, along with boat parking. The Boat House offers floating boardwalks outside of its restaurant, perfect for capturing the setting sun in the evenings.

Families can find plenty to explore around and on Reelfoot Lake. During the summer, a narrow beach area makes up Sunkist Beach, with a roped-off swimming area, adjacent dog park and children's playground equipment. Picnic tables are readily available

throughout Reelfoot Lake State Park. In late September/early October, Reelfoot is home to one of the largest arts and crafts festivals in the West Tennessee region. Surrounding communities join in by cleaning out their homes and setting up yard sales along the 20-plus mile stretch of Old Lake Road.

Those wanting to spend a weekend at Reelfoot Lake have a variety of cabins, lodges, RV campgrounds and places dedicated to camping beside the lake. Canoeing and kayaking are also welcome activities.

A family can spend time exploring Reelfoot Lake and spend very little money. Local restaurants and lodging aren't expensive and there are a handful to choose from in Samburg, Hornbeak, or Union City.

Find Reelfoot Lake State Park on the Tennessee State Parks website at tnstateparks.com or on Facebook. Travel to 2595 State Route 21E, Tiptonville, TN 38079, to start your lake experience.

Visitors to Reelfoot Lake can witness the Bald Eagles, who are numerous in the area. Photo Courtesy of: U.S. Fish & Wildlife.





Beau Monde Vineyards is Weakley County's first 'Farm to Bottle' winery

By Renee Phelps

Weakley County natives Larry and Paula Snider started their vineyard in Martin after deciding to return “home” and retire after 40 years in Kingsport, Tenn. Their home and family, and a natural curiosity have turned their extra acreage on Pleasant Valley Road into a hard working, successful hobby of sorts.

With no real plans in the beginning for their extra five acres, Snider said it was his son-in-law who suggested he plant grapes. It sounded strange in an area where soybeans and corn had long flourished in the fields. “But I thought about it and decided why not try it? I needed a hobby anyway,” he laughed. Grapes were already being planted in the state. But early attempts by others at growing grapes here weren’t that successful. “When you think of grapes, you usually think of California and

Napa Valley,” he said. But California grapes didn’t like the weather here. “It was way too humid and they just didn’t do well.”

Good fortune prevailed when an Illinois farmer created a hybrid grapevine that yielded a wine much like Chardonnay, a favorite around the world. Since then, Tennessee has become a great place for vineyards and wine.

It takes a lot of people to tend a vineyard. For some, it’s a real family affair. Armed with shovels and pruning shears, Snider and his family started with just three varieties and 1,300 vines. In three years, they sold their entire first harvest to Arrington Vineyards outside of Nashville.

Since that first harvest almost a decade ago, their vineyard has doubled in size with five varieties and seven

different bottled wines proudly sold under the family’s own label. The wines include three sweet, three dry and one semi-sweet “so we’ve got something for everyone’s taste,” he said.

One of their selections “Stan’s Harmony” is named in memory of Stan Johnson, a talented singer and a member of the Beau Monde extended family who faithfully harvested grapes and enjoyed a sweet red wine. This wine is made from the 2021 Chambourcin grape harvest and was a crowd favorite their first weekend open.

On April 28, they officially opened a small “Farm to Bottle” Vineyard to the public. Visitors can enjoy a glass of wine in a beautiful natural setting and even take part in wine tastings. They can also purchase the family’s vineyard products sold onsite. Hours are 1-7 p.m. Friday, and 1-5 p.m. Saturday and

Sunday.

“We’re trying to see what hours work best for those interested in sampling our product so we’re trying to be flexible with our schedule,” he said. They’ve already extended their hours on Friday.

Tennessee’s wine and grape industry has grown tremendously. The State currently houses 85 licensed wineries and 31 tasting rooms – up from 24 in 2001. East Tennessee is home to 56 of these ventures and are highlighted as stops on the Tennessee Wine Trail, which launched late last year and is already driving increased interest in

Tennessee wines.

“Many Tennesseans have no idea that vineyards in our own backyards grow 50 different varieties of grapes, ranging from delicious dry reds to crisp muscadines and everything in between,” said Laura Swanson, executive director of the Tennessee Farm Winegrowers Alliance and Tennessee Wine Trail. “No matter what type of wine you enjoy, there is a Tennessee-grown option for you. We’re proud to say more tourists and locals than ever before are embracing Tennessee wines.”

For the Sniders, the vineyards have become a symbol of hard work, accomplishment and hometown pride. They still sell grapes to other nearby wineries like White Squirrel in Kenton and Beechhaven in Clarksville where Beau Monde’s grapes are actually bottled, although they consider Beau Monde still very much a Weakley County venture. And while there’s still room for growth, there remains a strong desire to stay “local.” Sharing the fruits of their labor where their own roots began will always be part of the legacy of the “beautiful earth” of Beau Monde.



Larry and grandson Brooks Bondurant during harvest



Granddaughters Rylan Ali Bondurant and Blakely Snider during 2022 harvest



Ripe Chardonnay Grapes



Ripe Noiret grapes

The temperatures are on the rise, and another gorgeous—and hot—Tennessee summer is on the way. While it's natural to want to hit the water to cool down, make sure you're practicing water safety when you do. Not sure why that's so important? Well, each day in the United States, 10 people die of unintentional drowning. When boating-related drownings are added in, that number increases. Most of those drownings could have been prevented.

That's why it is important to know the basics of water safety and ensure you're following best practices to keep yourself and others safe.

There are two basic categories of water safety—swimming-related best practices and best practices for boating.

Joshua Whitley, DO, with West Tennessee Medical Group, wants to share some insight about each. Read on as he takes a dive into the topic.

Water Safety Tips for Swimming

Most drownings while swimming occur in children, so it's especially important to ensure your entire family knows how to protect itself in the water. The biggest thing you can do is to raise your awareness—always be aware of your abilities in the water (and your kids' abilities) and be aware of what's happening around you.

- If you have a pool, install a fence around it that's at least four feet high. It's important that the fence has no gaps that a child could get over, under or through. The gate of the fence should open out from the pool and be at a height that kids can't reach.
- For an added layer of protection, particularly if one side of the fence is against the house, consider installing an alarm that sounds when the gate is opened.
- Keep rescue equipment and a phone in easy reach of the pool at all times.
- Never leave children alone in a pool, spa or other body of water.

Are You in the Know About Water Safety Basics?



- Someone should always be designated as the “watcher” and not be distracted by anything.
- An adult swimmer should provide what's called “touch supervision” for any inexperienced swimmer, staying within arm's length at all times.
- Teach kids to swim at an early age to lower the risk of drowning.
- It's a good idea for everyone to know the basics of CPR and how to perform it in the case of an accident.
- If you're swimming in a body of

water other than a pool, keep an eye out for potential hazards that could cause injury, such as items on the bottom of the lake or river.

Water Safety Tips for Boating

Swimming presents one set of challenges, but boating presents another. If you're headed out on the water, you'll want to take precautions to stay safe:

- Take a boating safety course before spending time out on the river or lake.
- Perform a vessel check before hitting the water to ensure your boat is in working order and safe to operate.
- Check the weather report before boating, and make sure you're checking the forecast for where you're leaving from, any places you will stop and at your destination. Frequently check while boating to ensure inclement weather hasn't popped up.
- Operate the boat at safe speeds at all times, taking special care in areas that are congested.
- Make someone who's not boating with you aware of your plans, especially when you're departing, your route and when you expect to return.
- Do not consume alcohol before or while driving a boat. Driving while intoxicated is a crime and extremely dangerous.
- Make sure there's a properly fitting life jacket on board for every person on the boat & know the rules for when they should be worn.
- Ensure everyone knows to steer clear of the engine & the propellers.



Joshua Whitley, DO

“Regardless of how experienced of a boater you are, it's important to make sure you're practicing boating safety,” Whitley says. “Your best defense against accidents and injuries is to stay focused at all times, avoiding distraction when you're operating a boat. Most accidents can be prevented in that way.”



SEPTEMBER 7TH - 9TH



MARTIN, TN | TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT [TNSOYBEANFESTIVAL.ORG](https://tnsoybeanfestival.org)

30th Annual Soybean Festival to Welcome Famous Musicians and Commemorate Agri-Cultural Heritage

The 30th annual Soybean Festival in Martin is all set to entertain locals and tourists with a rocking country music line-up from Sept. 7-9 at the WK&T Amphitheater. The much-anticipated three-day music event will feature performances by Cheap Trick, Brothers Osborne, and Russell Dickerson, all hosted in the heart of downtown Martin.

Known for their chart-topping hits such as “Surrender,” “I Want You to Want Me,” and “The Flame,” Cheap Trick, a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame band from the 70s, will inaugurate the musical festivities at 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 7. The band will bring nostalgia and their enduring energy to the stage, ensuring the festival starts with a memorable bang.

The Brothers Osborne will take the reins on Friday, September 8th. The dynamic sibling duo has seen much acclaim, amassing several ACM, CMA awards, and a Grammy since their first studio album was released in 2016.

Finally, Union City’s own Russell

Dickerson will conclude the festival on Saturday, September 9th. Dickerson’s hit, “Yours” reached No. 1 in 2018 and was followed by three more chart-topping singles. His performance will add a local flavor to the impressive array of music.

Tickets are available now at tnsoybeanfestival.org, offering fans the opportunity to experience this exclusive musical line-up. However, concert-goers should be aware of the WK&T Amphitheater’s rules. Alcohol can be purchased inside the venue and must not be taken out. Attendees should also ensure they avoid bringing prohibited items such as coolers, large backpacks, professional cameras, or non-service animals.

The festival’s origins trace back to 1994 when the first Tennessee Soybean Festival was held through the collaborative efforts of city leaders and University of Tennessee at Martin (UTM) officials. The event, which included more than 25 activities such as a tractor rodeo and a toy pedal tractor pull, has grown significantly over the years. The festival

was first headlined by Tim McGraw and Suzy Bogguss, and this year’s musical line-up continues the tradition of drawing high-profile performers.

This year’s festival will be a nod to its roots, acknowledging the hard work and determination of early leaders such as Taylor, Gresham, Wells, Perry, Kelly, Hopkins, Speight, Johnson, Dunagan, and Wade. Attendees will also have an opportunity to experience a UTM campus tour, an element dating back to the first festival, and a wide variety of events to celebrate the region’s agricultural heritage. The festival remains committed to honoring the soybean, an influential crop in the region’s economy and way of life.

Since 1994, the Soybean Festival has continued to offer locals and visitors an engaging and authentic platform to celebrate Martin’s agricultural roots. As it rings in its 30th year, the festival looks to capture the essence of its tagline, the “crossroads of good living”, while offering a spectacular musical experience.

Martin Gears Up to Celebrate 150 Years with Sesquicentennial Fourth of July Weekend

The City of Martin is excited to announce a grand celebration to honor its sesquicentennial year over the Fourth of July weekend. Mayor Brundige, who was part of the Centennial Celebrations, expressed his anticipation for the upcoming festivities. The celebrations will culminate in the "Martin Loves America, 150 Years Celebration Fireworks Show" on July 4th.

The city has planned a series of events leading up to the grand finale. The festivities will kick off on June 29 with a performance by the Martin Community Band, directed by Dr. John Oelrich. The Star-Spangled Celebration will feature a barbershop style quartet, accompanied by food trucks and park activities, providing a wholesome family experience.

July 1 will bring forth additional celebrations, with the Martin Farmers Market highlighting Red, White, and Blue products from 8 a.m. The official launch of the sesquicentennial celebrations will commence later that evening, with a concert by the Roy Band at The Stage - Downtown Martin, featuring local talent, Brady Weldon. The park will open at 4 p.m., offering food, inflatables, and family activities, with the concert beginning at 7:30 p.m.

On July 4th, the city has planned two special celebrations. The first will be the opening of the Centennial Time Capsule, buried on July 4, 1973, at the CE Weldon Building at 10 a.m. The day will conclude with a spectacular fireworks display

at the Martin Recreation Complex starting at 9 p.m.

The City of Martin, founded in 1873 and named after landowner Captain William Martin, has a rich history. With industries like Martin Roller Mills Company and the Martin Planing Mill established in the 1880s, the city quickly developed a solid economic base. Its dedication to higher education, beginning with Hall Moody Institute in 1900 and later evolving into The University of Tennessee at Martin, has been pivotal in the city's growth and development.

The Sesquicentennial Celebrations will continue throughout the year with a variety of events, including the Tennessee Soybean Festival, Martober Fest, Historical Seminar/Walking Tours, and a series of music events. All the details regarding events and activities related to the sesquicentennial will be updated on the website (www.cityofmartin.net/150th) and City of Martin social media platforms.

Mayor Brundige invites everyone to be part of this sesquicentennial celebration year, which will honor Martin's past, present, and future. Those interested in volunteering to serve on various committees associated with the celebratory events and activities can reach out via email at info@cityofmartin.net or call Martin City Hall at 731-587-3126.

Mark your calendars to join in the city's grand celebration of its 150-year legacy, commencing this Fourth of July weekend.

Celebration Schedule

July 1, 2023 - Official Sesquicentennial Kickoff Concert, The Stage, Historic Downtown Martin (4 p.m. Food and Fun, 7:30 p.m. Roy Band Concert begins)

July 4, 2023 - Opening of Centennial Time Capsule at CE Weldon Building (10 a.m.)

July 4, 2023 - Sesquicentennial Fireworks Celebration (9 p.m.)

July 29, 2023 - Martin Farmers Market Sesquicentennial Celebration of Local Farmers

Sept. 2-9, 2023 - Tennessee Soybean Festival 30th Anniversary and 150 Years of Martin MusicFest

Oct. 7, 2023 - Martober Fest Sesquicentennial Edition

December 2023 - Sesquicentennial Christmas: Historical Holiday Season

January 2024 - MLK/Martin Training School Celebration

Feb. 29, 2024 - Town and Gown Celebration, Martin Event Center

April 2024 - Historical Seminar/Walking Tours

May-June 2024 - Martin Community Band and Sesquicentennial Summer Music Series (Thursday Nights)

June 27, 2024 - Concert Finale at The Stage in Historic Downtown Martin

SAVANNAH, TN

19TH ANNUAL

BUCKIN'
on the
RIVER

RODEO



JULY

14TH & 15TH

8:00PM



PRE-SHOW
WAYNE
JERROLD'S'
BAND

TICKETS

Ages 10+

Advanced: \$10.00 Gate: \$15.00

Ages 9 and under free

Purchase Advanced Tickets at these Locations:

Jones Ram - Savannah
AG & N Ag Supply Wayne Co. Bank
H Adamsville Wayneboro
Subway - Savannah (2 locations)
Adamsville • Pickwick

PRESENTED BY
JONES
CHRYSLER
DODGE JEEP
RAM

Friday Performance

HARDIN
COUNTY
TOURISM

Saturday Performance
PACKAGING
CORP. OF
AMERICA

HARDIN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

GATES OPEN AT 6:00 PM



Sparkle and Twang: Celebrate Fourth of July with Fireworks and Bluegrass!

The 45th annual Savannah Bluegrass Festival will be held Friday, June 30 and Saturday, July 1, 2023 in Savannah, Tennessee. Performances on Friday night will be on the Tennessee River bank at Wayne Jerrolds Park and then ramping back up on Saturday in downtown Savannah at Savannah Market across from the Courthouse.

Friday's lineup beginning at 5 p.m. with open mic then: Southern Sounds, Mallards of Mayhem, Holt Family, Hilltop Band, Scottie Baugus and Boone

Creek, Blake Hooper and TN Tradition followed by festival creator Wayne Jerrolds & Savannah Grass finishing off the evening.

Saturday's lineup begins at 11:45 a.m. at Savannah Market with: the Fiddlers Roll Call/Open Mic, Becky Rowland and Double Stops, Jeff Long and Last of Old Time Sting Bands, Rudy Moore and Bluegrass Pals, Joe Garrett and Hatchie Bottom Boys, Cecil Yancey and the History of Bluegrass with John Albertson, Good Time Grass, Cross

Winds, Courthouse Pickers, Scottie Baugus and Boone Creek Bluegrass, The Lisa Lambert Band, Wayne Jerrolds and Savannah Grass, followed by the popular Dance Contest for all ages is at 6 p.m., then continuing with the 7 Mile Creek with Maris Richardson, and closing out the evening is headliner The Grasscals performing at 7:30 p.m.

This down-home pickin' and singin' extravaganza on the Tennessee River, created by world champion fiddler Wayne Jerrolds, has been packing in audiences

since the 1970's. Teaming with the city of Savannah, Jerrolds promises this region's biggest and best bluegrass show ever.

"We are excited to host our very own hometown Fiddle Champion Wayne Jerrolds and his guests in making this a great Bluegrass Festival," said Hardin County Tourism Director Beth Pippin. "Our local economy thrives on special events and tourism. We welcome this free event each summer and are happy to

celebrate the 45th year".

Fans come from all over the area to enjoy the bluegrass sounds echoing through downtown and the historic district. Bring your lawn chairs to relax and enjoy music, food, downtown shopping, and dining. Clap along or kick up your heels at the Dancing Contest as Wayne dishes out big prize money!

Friday night fiddles around from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Wayne Jerrolds Park located

at 156 Riverfront Drive , Savannah, and Saturday kicks it up from 11:45 a.m. until 9 p.m. at the Savannah Market located at 470 Main Street in downtown Savannah for this two-day music jubilee.

Admission is free and concessions are available. For the latest information about the 45th annual Savannah Bluegrass Festival contact Hardin County Convention and Visitors Bureau at 731-925-8181.

DISCOVER



MUSIC

THE SOUNDTRACK OF HARDIN COUNTY: LET THE MUSIC MOVE YOU



SEPTEMBER 2 SUNSET SYMPHONY

The Germantown Symphony Orchestra on the lawn of the historic Cherry Mansion



SEPTEMBER 9 CATFISH DERBY & RIVERFEST

Headliner Jo Dee Messina, Chase Wright and more on Savannah Main Street.



SEPTEMBER 30 COME TO THE RIVER CONCERT

Gospel Concert at Pickwick Lake State Park. Free Admission, Outdoor Event

Hardin County
TENNESSEE
Catfish to Cannonballs

TOURHARDINCOUNTY.ORG
731-925-8181

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 TOUR HARDIN COUNTY





Shiloh National Military Park, Shiloh, Tennessee



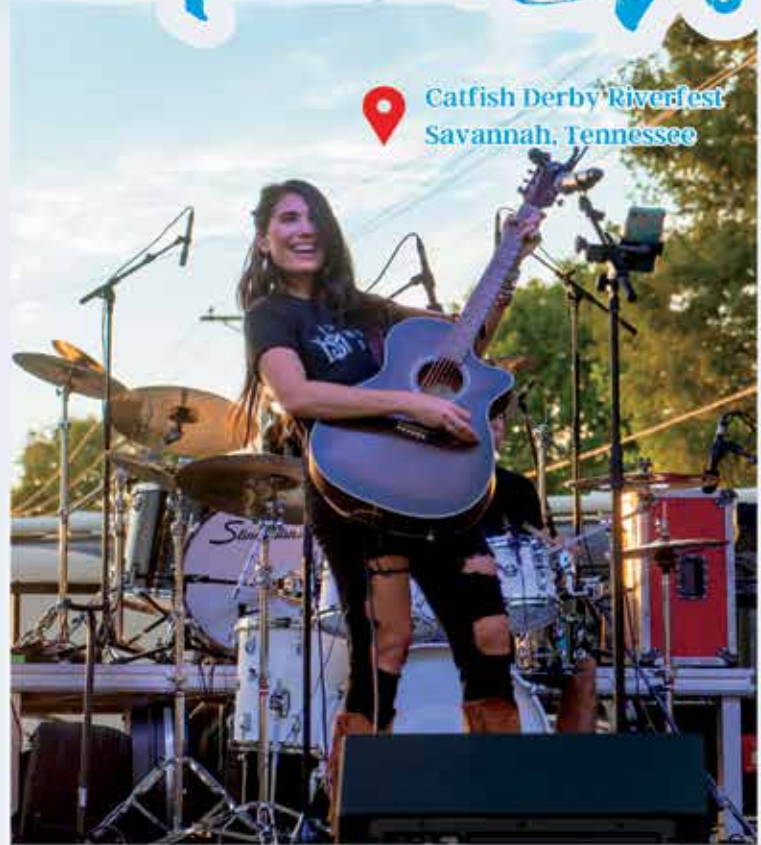
Make a Splash



Pickwick Lake
Counce, Tennessee



Catfish Derby Riverfest
Savannah, Tennessee



Hardin County
TENNESSEE
Catfish to Cannonballs 



TOUR HARDIN COUNTY



HARDINCOUNTYTN

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731-925-8181



2023 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

AUGUST 10-12
PICKWICK LAKE
 Counce, Tennessee

TAKEOFFS 6 A.M.
WEIGH-INS 2 P.M.
PICKWICK LANDING STATE PARK
 116 State Park Lane
 Counce, TN 38326

CHECK BASSMASTER.COM/COLLEGE FOR MORE DETAILS

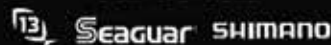
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