

McMinn,
Central
compete in
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Sports. **B1**



Keeping kids
engaged this
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THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2022

Etowah to celebrate independence all day on July 2

BY SHANE DUNCAN
Staff Writer

The City of Etowah's Independence Day celebration will be an all-day event two days before the Fourth of July. According to Etowah Area Chamber of Commerce President Frank Clark, the event will kick off at 7:30 a.m. on July 2.

"This is going to be our typical old fashioned 4th of July and we are going to have bands and we are going to have a second stage as well,"

Clark expressed. "The second stage will be for smaller stuff like different activities and games. We will also have various food and craft vendors on our depot lot this year."

The city, along with the help of the county, is currently installing a "Food Truck Alley" at the L&N Depot with hopes of having it completed by the event.

"We are hoping to provide a good space this year for our food truck vendors, not just our food vendors," he noted. "We will end the

event with a band like we do most years and with a big fireworks celebration." Clark believes this will be one of Etowah's biggest 4th of July celebrations.

"They wanted to come back with a bang after our COVID years," he stated. "For us as a city, any time that we can come together as a community is really exciting. I think everybody in every small community across the nation is excited to feel some ease and less worry after these last two

years and this allows them to celebrate the weekend together and be with their friends and family as we celebrate our nation's independence, freedom and the soldiers who served to give us that freedom."

The event was brought together this year due to the efforts of the Etowah Rotary Club, the City of Etowah, the Etowah Arts Commission and the chamber of commerce.



Vendors are a big part of Etowah's Fourth of July celebration each year. FILE PHOTO

SEE DAY, A7



SPECIAL TO THE DPA

Scott Cass stands with his wife Amy after receiving the TNIADA Quality Dealer of the Year award recently.

Receiving recognition

Cass receives statewide award from industry peers

BY DEWEY MORGAN
Editor

Scott Cass received a statewide award recently, nominated and voted on by his peers in the auto industry. Cass is the owner of East Tennessee Auto Outlet, which has three locations — Etowah, Englewood and Madisonville. He owned his first dealership in 1991 when he bought a space in Englewood. Seven years later, in 1998, he opened his first East Tennessee Auto Outlet and it now stretches over three towns in the local area.

On Friday, June 3 Cass was awarded with the Tennessee Independent Auto Dealers Association's (TNIADA) 2022 Quality Dealer of the Year award during a ceremony in Knoxville. Dealers in all 95 Tennessee counties were eligible for the award. "It's very humbling," Cass said. "Tennessee is a big state and typi-

cally this would be more something for the Nashville area. For me to be in the middle between Etowah and Athens ... it's just a total shock to me."

Cass is a regular winner of The DPA's Best of the Best award each year, which is voted on by local residents. He said in both cases it's an honor he takes very seriously.

"It's something I never, ever expected," he said of the TNIADA award. "I also never take Best of the Best for granted. It amazes me that we were chosen."

In the nomination letter written for Cass by last year's winner Greg Ingram, it was noted that Cass "doesn't know the meaning of slow down. He works 60-80 hour weeks and always is just a phone call away if needed."

Cass was 9 years old when he sold his first car and he grew up working with his father, Charlie.

"Scott started in the automotive business when he was a young boy, along with his father, Charlie Cass, who operated Charlie's Used Cars," the nomination letter continued. "Scott also has always been very fair in his business with customers and other dealers."

Cass said receiving this recognition is a sign that his efforts in the community are noticed.

"It means a lot to us," he said. "It makes you realize what you do every day is not in vain."

Now that he has earned the award, Cass will make his way to Las Vegas in June of 2023 to represent independent auto dealers across Tennessee.

"I'm sure it'll be a wealth of knowledge," he said. "There will be 49 other people and they were awarded in their state, so for me that'll be a big thing."

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Opportunity available for residents to honor peers

BY DEWEY MORGAN
Editor

The Daily Post-Athenian's annual 20 Under 40 special section is in the works, providing a chance for local residents to honor their peers.

The section is printed each year to celebrate the accomplishments of 20 local residents under the age of 40 years old. This is the 11th iteration of this section and the deadline for nominations is Thursday, June 30 at 4 p.m.

The form can be found on The Daily Post-Athenian's

Facebook page and entries may be submitted to tina.huckabey@dailypostathenian.com or dropped off at The DPA office at 206 W. Washington Avenue in Athens. Entries submitted by mail can be sent to The Daily Post-Athenian, Attn: 20 Under 40, P.O. Box 340, Athens, TN 37371-0340

"The McMinn County area is filled with citizens under the age of 40 who do great things for this community," DPA Special Projects/Events Director Tina Huckabey said. "The DPA

SEE HONOR, A7

Decatur to combine concert, independence celebration events

BY DEWEY MORGAN
Editor

Two popular events will be combined on July 4 as Decatur residents celebrate Independence Day.

The Town of Decatur is set to hold an all-day celebration on July 4 of the country's independence while also capping off its Downtown Summer Nights concert series. All the festivities will be held around the courthouse in downtown Decatur on Monday, July 4.

According to Town Recorder Laura Smith, vendors will be in place all day on the Fourth of July and the festivities will come to a close with the annual fireworks display

at 9:30 p.m. The finale of the Downtown Summer Nights concert series will also be held on July 4, as Skelton Key and Aunt Betty are set to perform beginning at 7 p.m. The concert series began this year on June 11 and there's one more concert remaining before the July 4 finale.

On Saturday, Run Katie Run and the Jay Eric Band are set to perform in downtown Decatur with food and craft vendors set to appear. Music begins this week as usual at 7 p.m. Anyone interested in taking part is encouraged to bring their own lawn chair.

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COURTESY OF DON BINDRIM JR.

Fireworks light up the night sky after Decatur's Downtown Summer Nights concert each Independence Day.

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