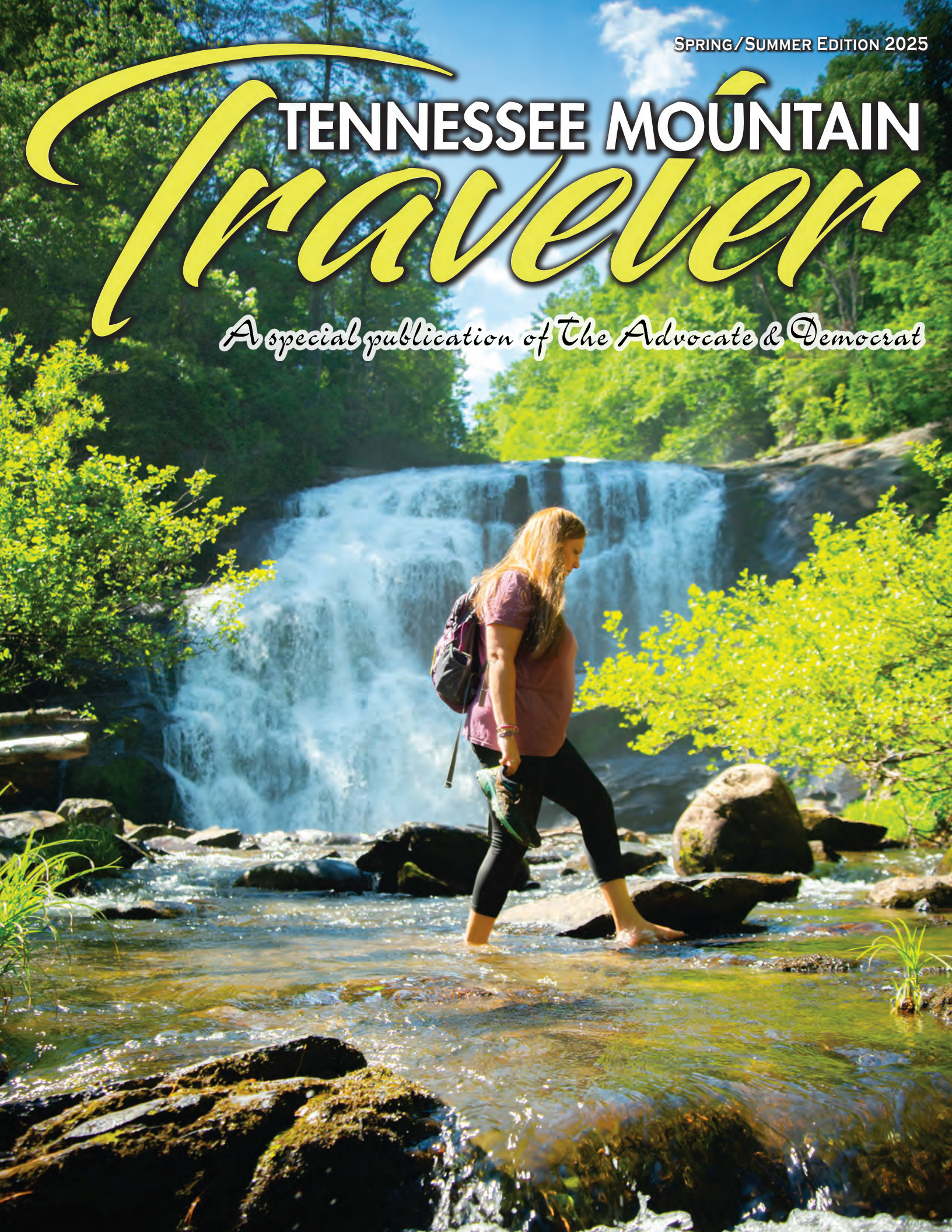


SPRING/SUMMER EDITION 2025

TENNESSEE MOUNTAIN *Traveler*

A special publication of The Advocate & Democrat





SWEETWATER IS CELEBRATING 2025 WITH THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 9, 2025

Candlelight Kickoff Ceremony

APRIL 12, 2025

Founders Day

JULY 4, 2025

Sweetwater Antique Fire Truck

100th Birthday Party

JULY 19, 2025

Sweetwater Derby Box

Car Race

JULY 25, 2025

Fairest of the Fair Pageant

SEPTEMBER 2025

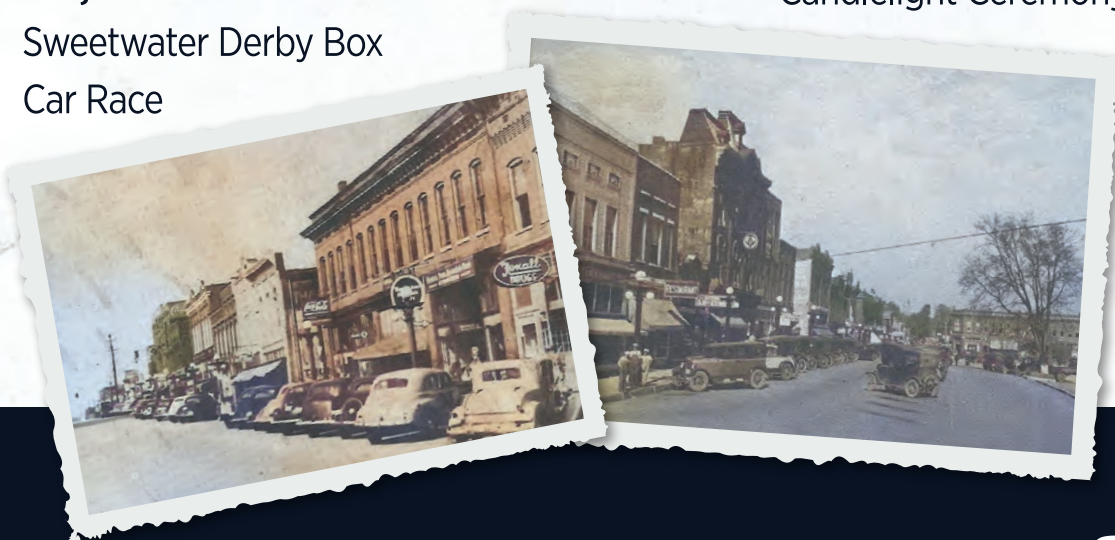
Sweetwater Fair

NOVEMBER 2025

150th Musical

DECEMBER 8, 2025

Candlelight Ceremony



Be sure to check out sweetwatertn150.com
or scan the qr code for videos, photos,
and more information!



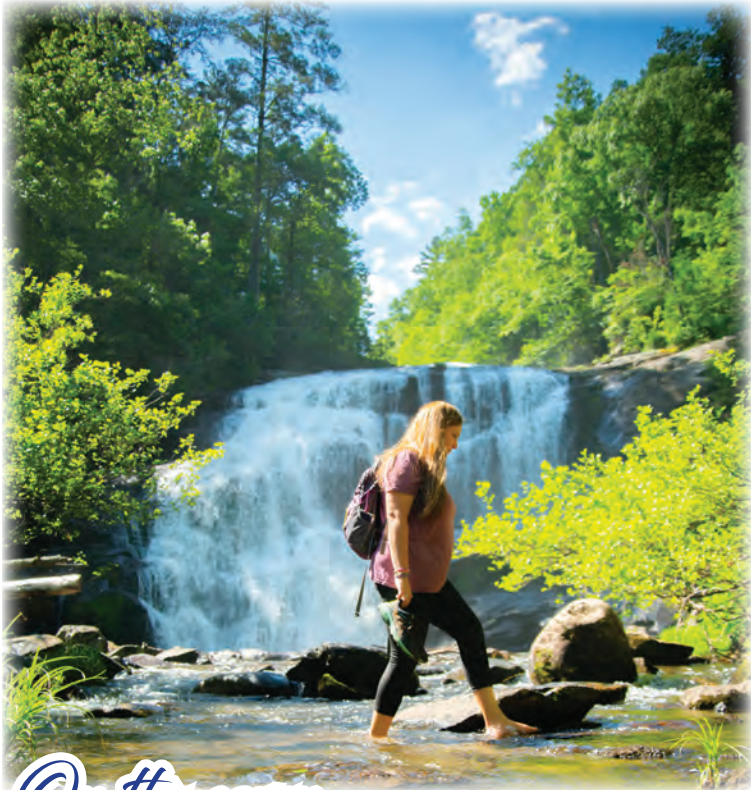
With beautiful mountains, forests, winding streams, roaring rivers and peaceful lakes, spring and summer are popular times to visit Tennessee Mountain Traveler country as East Tennessee's natural resources provide the makings of an outdoor paradise.

From hiking, camping, boating and fishing, there are so many things to do outdoors this time of year. Our small towns offer relaxed shopping, friendly residents and unique attractions you won't find anywhere else. Where else can you tour the largest underground lake in America and afterwards be on one of the most beautiful Scenic Byways within minutes?

The Advocate & Democrat publishes the Tennessee Mountain Traveler twice a year and distributes thousands of copies throughout East Tennessee and Western North Carolina. The magazine has become a must-have guide for travelers and an important advertising venue for the many tourist attractions and businesses in the region. It is in high demand at state visitors centers and is popular with local residents as well.

We hope this publication will enhance your visit here and introduce you to some new places. We know you will come back again!

If you have questions about this magazine or would like to advertise in the next edition, please email sharon.livingston@advocateanddemocrat.com.



On the cover

The cover photo for this issue was taken for Monroe County Tourism by GypsyDreams Photography. It features a spring day at Bald River Falls, which will have a long-awaited reopening soon after a bridge replacement project. See more on page 4.



Published by: The Advocate & Democrat
P.O. Box 389 • Sweetwater, TN. 37874
(423) 337-7101 • www.advocateanddemocrat.com

Trey Fowler, *Publisher*

Dewey Morgan, *Editor*
news@advocateanddemocrat.com

ADVERTISING TEAM:
Sharon Livingston, *Multi Media Account Representative - The Advocate & Democrat*
sharon.livingston@advocateanddemocrat.com

Angela Alvarez, *Multi Media Account Representative - The Daily Post-Athenian*
angela.alvarez@dailypostathenian.com

Tina Huckabey, *Multi Media Account Representative - The Daily Post-Athenian*
tina.huckabey@dailypostathenian.com

Kelly Gentry, *Multi Media Account Representative - The Daily Post-Athenian and The Advocate & Democrat*
kelly.gentry@dailypostathenian.com

DESIGN TEAM: **Jessica Kent**, *Layout*

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information published in the Tennessee Mountain Traveler. No reproduction may be made without written permission of the publisher.

Contents

- Bald River Falls to reopen soon.....4
- Sweetwater Fair.....6-7
- Red, White & Boom.....8
- Friendly City Festivals.....10
- Off-Road Adventures.....12-13
- Cherohala Skyway Map.....14-15
- Cars and Coffee.....16
- River Adventures.....18
- Waterfalls.....20
- Madisonville.....22
- Fort Loudoun Garrisons.....24
- Cherokee Fall Festival.....26

A long time coming



Bald River Falls expected to reopen this spring

The reopening of Bald River Falls is likely nearing, but a date has yet to be set for the popular tourist attraction.

Monroe County Tourism Director Blaina Best has been in communication with the United States Forest Service in order to stay up to date on the Bald River Falls bridge project.

"As of now, the reopening of Bald River Falls is still expected this spring, but we do not expect it to be open by the end of April. We've been in close communication with the U.S. Forest Service and everything is progressing as fast as possible," Best said. "We'll keep the public posted through our official channels the moment the U.S. Forest Service confirms the reopening date with us."

Best expressed her excitement for the Bald River Falls project to be nearing completion.

"Bald River Falls is one of the most iconic and cherished landmarks in our region. It's been sorely missed while closed and its return is going to be such a meaningful moment for residents and

visitors alike," Best stated. "Bald River Falls is a cornerstone of Monroe County's tourism economy. It's often the first stop for travelers coming up the Cherohala Skyway and a favorite photo opportunity for thousands each year. Its accessibility makes it appealing to everyone from families to photographers to international visitors. The new addition of the pedestrian viewing area on the bridge is going to greatly add to the viewing experience at Bald River Falls."

The Cherohala Skyway may be Tellico Plains' most well-known tourist feature, however Best believes that Bald River Falls is the county's "most iconic natural highlight."

"It's what many people picture when they think of Monroe County's natural beauty," Best expressed. "Its influence ripples far beyond the falls themselves. When it's open, all of our cities inside of Monroe County see a positive boost in tourism traffic. From lodging and local diners to retail shops and outfitters, many businesses rely on the steady stream of

visitors heading to or from the falls."

Best hopes the reopening of the falls will be an event that everyone will be able to enjoy.

"I'd encourage everyone to come back and experience it with fresh eyes once it reopens. Let's all continue to show respect for the natural beauty of the area," she said. "Take only pictures, leave only footprints. And while you're in the area, explore everything else Monroe County has to offer."

Constructed in 1933, Bald River Falls Bridge is deteriorating and doesn't meet the demands of pedestrian safety and modern vehicular traffic, according to the forest service.

The project will improve structural stability, pedestrian safety and create enhanced recreation experiences, according to the forest service.

In addition to two vehicle traffic lanes, the new bridge will offer separation of pedestrian traffic with an observation deck allowing pedestrians to safely use the bridge and view the falls.



Cup Runneth Over
coffeehouse
EST. 2018
111 N. Main Street, Downtown Sweetwater
423-836-9696
cuprunnethovercoffee.com



Download our mobile app



Serving
The Sweetest Street in Tennessee
7 years



Bargain Hunters Welcome!

Gently Used Books • New Books
Local Interest Books
Buy • Sell • Trade

Open Tuesday - Saturday 10am to 5pm
Closed Sunday & Monday
Winter Hours: Thursday - Saturday 10am to 4pm

108 Scott Street
Old Downtown Tellico
423-253-3183

Find us on:  **facebook.**



Green Cove
STORE & LODGE



Located in the Cherokee National Forest
(1 mile from the Benton Mackaye Trail and 7 miles from Bald River Falls, close to the Cherochala Skyway)

Visit www.greencoveangler.com
for our seasonal operating hours
Open Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays

Locally owned and operated

We offer 27-riverfront rooms right in the middle of the Cherokee National Forest alongside the majestic Tellico River. Green Cove Lodge & Store is geared for the outdoor enthusiast. Our comfortable, clean, and simple lodgings are perfect for a night's rest after a day packed with adventure. Each room is spacious, yet affordable. You'll find fire-pits, grills, and gathering areas on property.



NO PETS ALLOWED

- Fishing & Hunting Supplies
- Food & Ice • Ice Cream
- Licenses
- Cold Drinks & Hot Coffee

"The question here is not, "should I fish the Tellico?" The question is, "When should I fish the Tellico?" The answer is, "Right now!" And while you're there, check out, Green Cove Store and Lodge.

- Trout Unlimited



- Fish Camp Style Accommodations
- River Front Lodging
- World Famous Trout Fishing

Please call 423.252.4014 for booking reservations

Happy Anniversary, Sweetwater!



The City of Sweetwater is preparing for another big event this year, specifically designed for the 150th anniversary of the city. The Sweetwater City Fair will return this year as part of the town's 150th celebration.

According to Sweetwater City Administrator Jessica Morgan, the fair will be held from Sept. 18 until Sept. 21 in the downtown area of Sweetwater.

"We are very excited for the fair this year because we haven't had a fair in decades," Morgan expressed. "This will be a very big deal for the City of Sweetwater."

Currently, the city is working to get the applications available for fair exhibitors in addition to working with Sweetwater High School for help with exhibits as well. More vendors are needed for the event as well.

"We have live music every day of the fair with some great bands playing," she noted. "The Monroe County Chamber of Commerce will also host their annual Taste of Monroe on Thursday night of the fair, Sept. 18."

Traditionally, Taste of Monroe is an event held in the City of Madisonville, however it will be held in the City of Sweetwater this year to help the city

celebrate its sesquicentennial.

"We will also have Woofstock, which is a huge event for Main Street every year. It will be held on Friday, Sept. 19 during the fair," she stated. "We will also have the carnival here with a horse show, a chicken show and quite a few really cool things."

Morgan encouraged everyone interested in the fair, as well as other events happening in Sweetwater, to keep an eye on the website at sweetwater150tn.com

"That site is where we will post the fair exhibitors, so if anyone wants to enter a pumpkin, a tomato, a fall wreath or jams, etc then we will have all of those online," Morgan said. "There is no entry fee so it won't cost anything except for the materials that you are using and there will be actual judges overseeing the categories, so I think this will be a great time."

Though the fair has had historical importance to the City of Sweetwater, Morgan noted that the city hasn't hosted it in decades, making this year's fair a special, one-time "throw back" for the community.

"We are still taking vendor applications right now so if anybody would like to set

up a booth and sell things during the fair then we have openings available online," Morgan said. "The website to register will be the same as previously stated - sweetwater150tn.com - but if anyone has any questions they can call Sweetwater City Hall."

The number for Sweetwater City Hall is 423-337-6979.

"Whenever someone asks what is a big memory involving Sweetwater, if you ask anyone who is above 50 years old they are definitely going to say that it was going to the fair," Morgan noted. "People have great, fond memories of the fair and when we set up our 150th Committee several years ago, the fair was one of the things that people said they wanted to see. So this was one of our main missions for our celebration. I am really grateful for our 150th Committee. They did a really great job on Founder's Day and they have been working on this for a couple of years now, so we are excited to see everything come into fruition. This was something that our mayor and board of commission footed the bill on to make sure that everyone had a wonderful 150th celebration."

Get ready for the **SWEETWATER FAIR**



Sept. 18
to
Sept. 21

DOWNTOWN SWEETWATER
LIVE MUSIC, VENDORS, EXHIBITS
10AM - 8PM DAILY • FREE ADMISSION

SWEETWATERTN150.COM



THURS., SEPT. 18TH

1PM-4PM - Exhibit Judging
TBA - Taste of Monroe by Monroe
County Chamber of Commerce
6PM-8PM - Hillbilly Jedi at the
Duck Park Bandstand (Rock & Blues)

FRI., SEPT. 19TH

1PM-4PM - Exhibit Judging
4PM - POW Ceremony at the Gazebo
5PM-8PM - Woofstock & Sweetwater
Dog of the Year
6PM-8PM - Rebel Railroad at the
Duck Park Bandstand (Country)

SAT., SEPT. 20TH

TBA - Monroe County 4-H Chicken Show
at AgCentral Coop at 776 Hwy 68
TBA - Lions Club Horse Show at
920 S. Main Street
6PM-8PM - BIG GUN- AC/DC Tribute
Band at the Duck Park Bandstand
AT DARK - Sweetwater Drone Light Show

SUN., SEPT. 21TH

3PM-5PM - DieDra & the Ruff Pro Band
at the Duck Park Bandstand (Blues)



Red, White & Boom

The Fourth of July is a time to celebrate in Tellico Plains — celebrate not only independence, but a significant birthday.

On July 4, 1911, Tellico Plains was incorporated as a town by the State of Tennessee. Named after the Cherokee capital of Telliqualah, which was once along the shores of the Tellico River, the small town celebrates in style with an annual event (formerly called the Square Dance).

The Tellico Plains Kiwanis Club sponsors the annual festivities, keeping tradition alive. Proceeds from the event help the Kiwanis Club's mission of serving the children of the community.

"Very few organizations use 100% of their proceeds for their projects, but we do," said Kent Mathews, president of the Tellico Plains Kiwanis Club.

The Kiwanis Club has announced that Red, White and Boom is scheduled for Saturday, June 28, in the town's historic Town Square from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Admission is free.

Last year's event saw a crowd of more than 5,600, according to geo tracking from Monroe County Tourism.

This year's headliner, Highway 33, will play from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. on the Town of Tellico Plains/Peoples Bank stage. Highway 33 plays a variety of country (old and new), classic rock, and rock-n-roll.

Returning this year is the Volunteer Federal Savings Bank's Kid Zone with

a water slide and inflatables from BB's Bouncers. Wrist bands will be available for \$5 each.

"It'll be unlimited play for the kids for a low price. There will always be volunteers at the Kid Zone throughout the night so the kids will be safe," said Mathews. "Parents can go enjoy some dancing and know their kids are being taken care of."

Additional activities will include JTEKT's Pendleton's Playground featuring tea cup and Jeep rides (wristbands will be sold), children's activities, and craft vendors. Local merchants are also sponsoring On the Road Axe Throw, so attendees can test their axe throwing skills at no charge.

Food vendors Midlife Fyris, Tellico Mountain Bear & Boar Club, and TK's Grill will be on site, but make sure to save room for elephant ears, cotton candy and snow cones!

Chota Community Health Services' mobile unit will be on site for any medical emergencies.

A fireworks show by Cub Pow, sponsored by the Tellico Plains Police Department and Arrow Recycling, will conclude the night.

The downtown area will close to all traffic for the event, but there are several parking areas available for attendees.

Attendees should bring a lawn chair.

For more information about Red, White and Boom or to sign up to be a vendor at the event, call Joyce McDaniel at 615-347-0086 or e-mail jamcdaniel@tds.net.



Shopping for your home? *So Much!*

Look no further than....

Jim's Mattress & More

- Mattresses
- Adjustable Units
- Area Rugs
- Ashley Furniture
- Home Accents
- Outdoor Furniture



Come See Us!



Mon.-Fri. 9am-6pm
Sat. 9am-5pm | Closed Sunday

4751 New Highway 68, Madisonville, TN | 423-545-9497
jimsmattress.com

Valley Building Supply Inc.

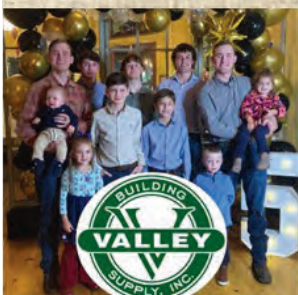
Established by the Dacus Family in May 1994 - More than 31 years Serving our Community

2110 Hwy 11 North Sweetwater - (423)337-3499 - ValleyBuildingSupplyTN.com



Flooring - Cabinets - Paint Center - Vanities - Electrical - Plumbing - Siding Roofing

Lumber - Windows - Doors - Garage Doors - Tools & So Much More...



Summer in the Friendly City



National MooFest, McMinn County's dairy festival, is scheduled for Saturday, June 7. Taking place from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. in historic downtown Athens, Tennessee, the festival features several activities, including the Maggie Strutt; local shopping; live entertainment on three stages plus MooGrass Jam Session; over 300 food, crafts and arts vendors; Mayfield Dairy Farms contests; and AgAvenue.

MooFest is presented by Friendly City Festivals, The City of Athens, McMinn County Tourism Board and Mayfield Dairy Farm.



Live music will once again fill the air in the City of Athens this summer as the 14th Annual Sounds of Summer concert series will be held on Saturday nights at 7 p.m. at Market Pavilion in historic downtown Athens.

This year's lineup features:

- Saturday, June 7 - EmiSunshine
- Saturday, June 28 - Run Katie Run
- Friday, July 4 - Sweet Georgia Sound
- Saturday, July 19 - Authentic Unlimited
- Saturday, Aug. 9 - Kinslee Melhorn & September Song
- Saturday, Aug. 16 - Nate Viele & Mendingwall

Last year's series averaged around 400 attendees for each concert.

All Friendly City Festival events are free to the public. For more information, visit their website at willsonthropic.org/friendlycityfestivals, their Facebook page at facebook.com/friendlycityfestivals or Instagram @friendlycityfestivals. They can also be contacted by phone at 423-887-3544 or through the mail at P.O. Box 1336 Athens, TN 37371





Athens

COME VISIT
THE FRIENDLY
CITY

FRIENDLY
CITY
FESTIVALS



THERES SO MUCH FUN TO BE HAD

Whether you enjoy taking a stroll, splashing in the water, or listening to a great concert, there's something for everyone to experience. From those young in age to those young at heart, come visit the friendliest city in Southeast Tennessee and embark on your next adventure. Remember, you come for the fun — but you leave feeling like family!

Outdoor Recreation



From the beautiful Eureka Trail to the disc golf course or fishing at Athens Regional Park

Make a Splash



From the Ingleside Pool to the incredible Splash Pad at Athens Regional Park

Enjoy the Festivities



Whether it is National MooFest, or the summer long concert series of Sounds of Summer theres always something happening in historic downtown

Off-Road Adventures

Monroe County is offering a new tourism initiative with the intention of showcasing both the beauty and sense of adventure that Monroe County has to offer.

"We're proud to offer a new way to experience the natural beauty of Monroe County while working hand-in-hand with the Cherokee National Forest. It's a win for visitors, local communities and the environment," said Monroe County Tourism Director Blaina Best. "The Off-Road Tourism Initiative is Monroe County's newest outdoor adventure guide, built around a curated map of unmaintained Forest Service roads that were previously mapped by the Cherokee National Forest."

Monroe County Tourism partnered with Forest Service officials to identify the most scenic and accessible routes to help visitors explore Monroe's back-country responsibly.

"These routes are open only to road-legal vehicles — no ATVs or off-road-only units - ensuring safety, compliance and minimal environmental disruption," Best stated. "This initiative came from the growing interest in outdoor recreation here in Monroe County. With more and more people looking to explore remote areas, we recognized the need to provide a safe, legal and environmentally conscious way to enjoy these rugged backroads."

While this initiative helps facilitate a growing sense of adventure with the public, Best encouraged everyone to be safe, prepare and to follow the rules of the initiative.

"It's critical for readers to understand that only street legal vehicles are allowed on these roads," she expressed. "These are unmaintained Forest Service roads, meaning conditions can vary widely, and visitors should be prepared for primitive, remote travel. We encourage all users to follow Leave No Trace principles, respect



SOMEWHERE OUT THERE

BIGFOOT PEAKS

- Waucheesi Bald 126 | 384
--- 17 MILES ---
- Waucheesi Mountain Overlook 126C
--- 2 MILES ---
- The Whigg 217 | 61 | *61B
--- 13.1 MILES ---

THE ROOTS OF TENNESSEE

- Citico Creek North 35 | 34S | 45S
--- 17 MILES ---
- BUCKHORN CREEK TRAIL 34 | 434 - 3M
- BULLET CREEK ELLIS CREEK 44 - 8.1M
- CONASAUGA CREEK 341 - 7.5M
- DOUBLECAMP CREEK JAKE BEST 2659 - 14.4M
- LOST COVE BRANCH *2033 | *442801 | *5003 - 7.6M
- MILLERS RIDGE 284 | *2033 | *36 | 40251 | *36.1 - 9.6M
- NORTH RIVER SHORTCUT 216 | 217 - 3.8M
- SHULER CREEK 40 | 1326 | 1322 - 10.6M

Best in Winter & Fall

- OLD FURNACE ROAD 76 - 5.2 M
- STARR MOUNTAIN ROAD 220 - 5.8 M
- STARR MOUNTAIN ROAD 297 - 6.5 M

Best in Spring & Summer

- BEAVERDAM BALD 24 - 6 M
- BUCK BALD OLD HWY 311 | 198 - 2.2 M
- FINGERBOARD ROAD 22 - 14.3 M

Mostly Paved Scenic Rides

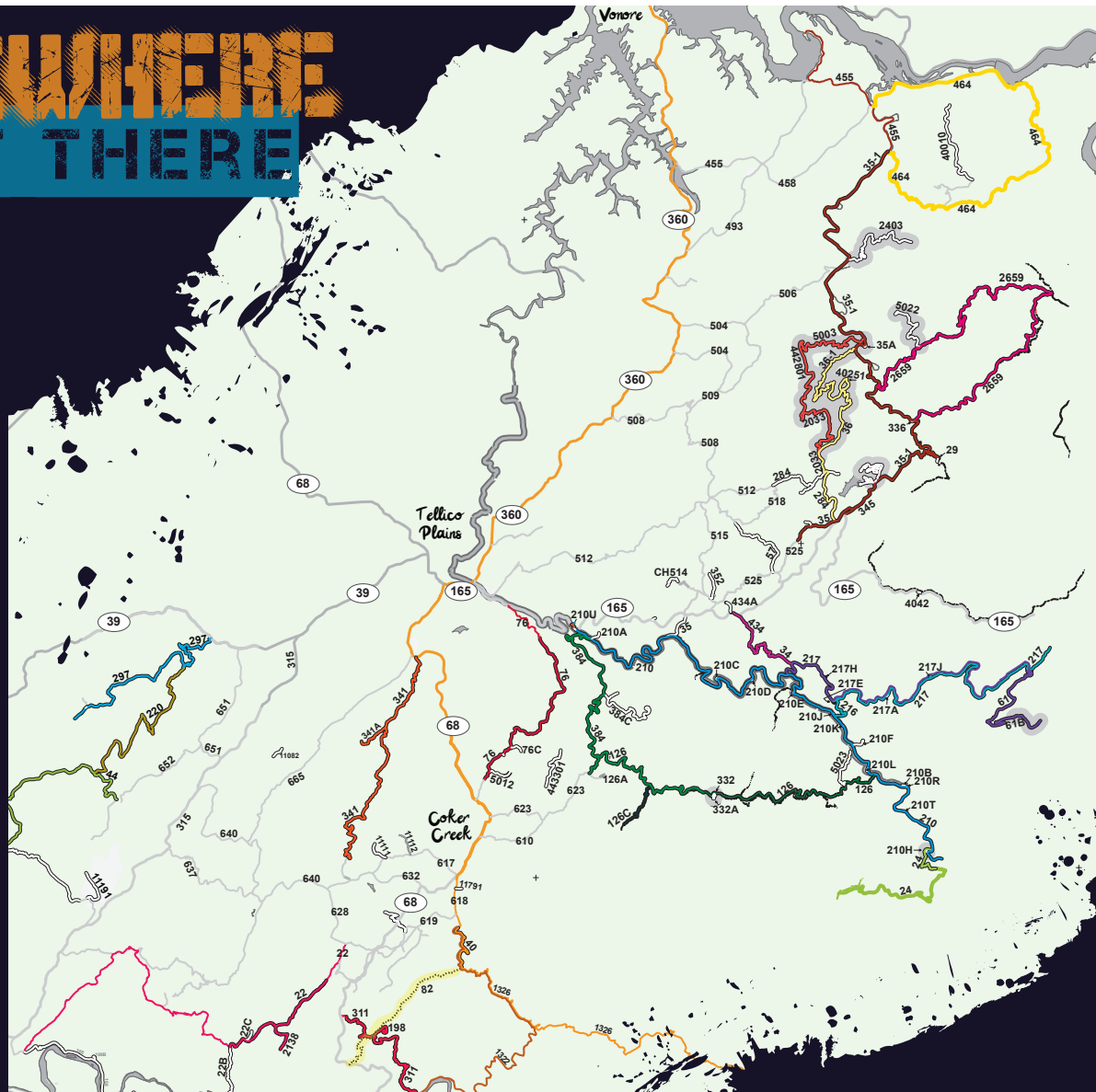
- MT. PLEASANT 464 - 13.2M
- TELlico RIVER ROAD *210 - 17.8M
- UNICOI TURNPIKE 360 | 165 | 68 | 40 | 1326 - 150M

Dual Sport Bike Only

- UNICOI MOUNTAIN TRAIL 82 - 4.5M

* Seasonal Road Closures

Scan QR code on the back for more info.



road signage and use good judgment when navigating these areas.”

Physical copies of the map are available for free at the Cherokee Skyway Visitor Center in Tellico Plains. Digital maps are also available and can be acquired by visiting the website at www.visitmonroetn.com/off-roadadventures

“For questions, our team at the visitor center is happy to help guide folks in the right direction,” Best stated. “We see this as a unique way to introduce visitors to Monroe County’s vast public lands while stimulating rural tourism in areas that typically don’t see as much traffic. It supports local businesses, like gas stations, restaurants, and outfitters, and invites a new wave of travelers who want to explore responsibly and go beyond the beaten path.”



C H Sky



CHEROHALA Skyway

The wilderness areas

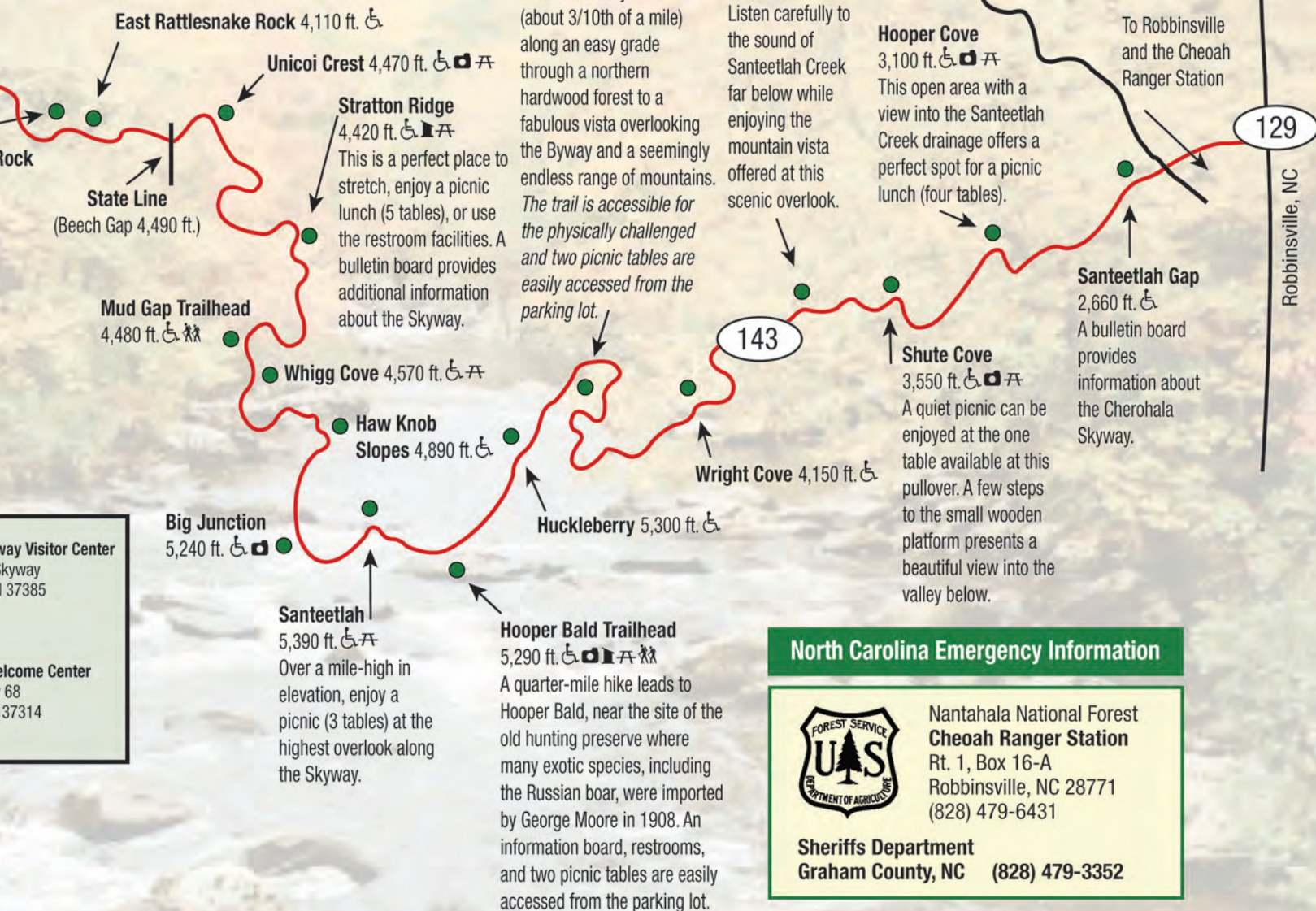
surrounding the Cherokee Skyway are beautiful and alluring, but not necessarily suited for everyone to explore. As a visitor to wilderness, you should be aware that you are entering a primitive environment. You will face the challenge of being entirely self-sufficient—no trail signs, no restrooms, no water spigots. Some people may just rather drive by, enjoy the view, and visit more developed trails and recreation areas.



- Restrooms (no water)
- Photo Site
- Wheel Chair Accessible
- Fishing
- Picnic Tables
- Hiking
- Canoeing
- Camping
- Cell Phone Coverage

Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest

In 1936, an extraordinary 3,800 acres of "one of the few remaining tracts of virgin hardwood in the Appalachians" was set aside as a memorial forest in honor of Joyce Kilmer. Kilmer, a poet, journalist, and World War I soldier killed in action, is best remembered for his poem, "Trees." This impressive forest contains some of the finest timber grown in these mountains with many huge trees over 20 feet around the base and more than a hundred feet high. A 2-mile loop trail winds beneath the towering trees and through a forest carpeted by a rich variety of wildflowers, ferns, and moss-covered logs from the fallen giants. The Memorial Forest, also part of the Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness, can only be seen on foot.



Get outta my dreams ...



Cars & Coffee event brings car enthusiasts, admirers together

The Charles Hall Museum and Heritage Center in Tellico Plains hosts a Cars & Coffee event on the second Saturday of each month from April through October.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Cars & Coffee event days, car enthusiasts and like-minded admirers gather to fellowship and showcase their prized possessions at the museum and its grounds. The event's motto is: "All Wheels are Welcome!"

"The 1950s and 1960s cars bring back the memories of those large, heavy and low cars like the 1960 Chevy Impala or Pontiac Bonneville!" said Pamela Hall Mathews, curator of the Charles Hall Museum and Heritage Center and President of its Board of Directors. "We encourage variety, such as the homemade trike from a T-bucket, to come to this event. Sports cars, classic and modern, are a big hit, and motorcycles, too! We love seeing all the vehicle enthusiasts come together."

Unlimited, free coffee is available during Cars & Coffee for attendees.

"Many months, we have live music and food trucks," said Mathews. "We

invite you to bring a chair, swap stories, share a cup of coffee, shop a while, enjoy the museum and the local scenery!"

The facilities, restrooms and parking at the museum are handicap accessible, so everyone can enjoy the festivities.

During the event, attendees can explore the Charles Hall Museum and Heritage Center, which contains more than 5,000 square feet of regional and Appalachian history with an emphasis on the greater Tellico Plains area. The museum also has a display of antique vehicles that are housed inside the buildings, including a 1922 Model T Telephone Truck and a 1934 Plymouth.

The Charles Hall Museum and Heritage Center is the legacy of Mathews' father, the late Charles Hall, whose lifelong dream was to share his collection with the public. Hall served in elected offices in Monroe County for 45 years, 31 of those as mayor of Tellico Plains. In 1951, at age 27, he was the youngest person to hold the position of mayor in the State of Tennessee.

Showcased in two museum buildings are Hall's magnificent collections of historical memorabilia, artifacts, equipment,

guns, antique telephones, coins and currency, photos and more. The museum has acquired many public donations since its opening in 2003. There are currently more than 8,000 artifacts and thousands of historical photos and documents displayed or archived for reference.

The museum is a National Park Service/ National Trails Trail of Tears certified site and continues to add to its displays about the Native Americans in this area, as well as the Cherokee and some Creek who walked through Tellico Plains during the tragic Forced Removal in 1838.

The gift shops at the museum offer sales, discounts and giveaways on Cars & Coffee Saturdays.

Remaining Cars & Coffee event dates of the season are scheduled for the following Saturdays: June 14, July 12, Aug. 9, Sept. 13 and Oct. 11.

For monthly updates, visit the event page of the Charles Hall Museum & Heritage Center on Facebook.

For more information, visit the website at www.charleshallmuseum.com, email charleshallmuseum@hotmail.com or call 423-253-8000.



ALL AMERICAN FOOD®

*Thank You for a
Great 60+ Years!*

Open 7 Days A Week!

10:30am - 9:00pm

Come join us for an
Old Fashion Cruise-In
2nd Saturday April-October!

Hwy. 411 Madisonville • 423-442-2128



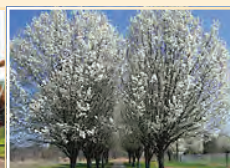
**THE TOWN OF
TELICO PLAINS, TN**

Welcome!

From the Citizens of Tellico Plains

The Small Town with the Big Back Yard

*"Getaway to the Cherokee National Forest
& The Cherokee Skyway"*



Recreation, hunting, fishing, swimming, camping, kayaking,
canoeing, picnicking or just a leisure drive across the Skyway.

Enjoy street dancing at our 4th of July Celebration.

If you can't find it in Tellico Plains, it can't be found!!!

Come & See!



SEQUOYAH

**BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM
VONORE, TN**

Sequoyah gave his people an enduring gift: a writing system so the
"Cherokee Nation would live forever." Experience the Cherokee
through our videos, and gift shop. Hike our Shoreline Trail and visit
the Cherokee Memorial mound, Blacksmith shop, and
Dog Trot Cabin. We are Tennessee's only tribally-owned
museum.

Open Mon.-Sat.: 9am-5pm & Sun.: 12-5pm.

Adults are \$5 - 12 and under are free

We do have group rates, and other discounts.

423-884-6246 • www.sequoyahmuseum.org or follow on Facebook



YAMAHA

Revs Your Heart

***Our team members are the best,
that's why they build the best boats!***

www.Yamaha-Vonore.com



Just around the riverbend



Exploring the waterways in Monroe County

While boating has become a popular activity on the waterways in Monroe County, there are so many other ways to enjoy the water here.

Visitors and locals alike can be found dipping in Tellico Lake, North River, Citico River, Tellico River, Indian Boundary, and their other favorite “watering holes” as soon as the temps rise.

Some of the top things to do in the water in Monroe County are fishing, wakeboarding, water skiing, riding tow-toys, tubing down the river, snorkeling Tellico River, stand-up paddleboarding, kayaking, canoeing and swimming.

Fort Loudoun State Historic Area in Vonore offers kayak and stand-up paddleboard rentals. You can also bring your own. A launch is attached to the boat dock.

Pontoon boat rentals are also available at a few Vonore businesses.

Big Bear Tubing Company in Tellico

Plains, located at 1317 Cherohala Skyway, has tube rentals and a convenient shuttle to a river entrance area. From the launch area, the float is 1-mile long. With the price of tube rental, you can float once or as many times as you would like.

The 96-acre lake at Indian Boundary provides plenty of outdoor recreation. In addition to the campground, there is a swim beach, a boat launch, an accessible fishing pier, and a 3.6-mile hike/bike trail around the lake. Indian Boundary General Store has kayak, hyrdo-bikes and paddleboards available to rent.

Tellico Blueway

Located along the Tellico River arm of Tellico Lake, the Tellico Blueway is a dream come true for flatwater canoeists and kayakers. Much of the designated route follows stump-filled waters that are too treacherous for large motorboats, but ideal for human-

powered watercraft.

The entire 11-mile route is in Monroe County, in the foothills of the Cherokee National Forest. Just past the Big Creek Ramp put-in, the Tellico Blueway maintains a narrow channel as it feeds into the backwaters of Tellico Lake.

A map of the Tellico Blueway can be found at www.visitmonroetn.com.

Tellico Lake is part of a waterway that can take you anywhere in the world. The Tellico Dam was completed in 1979, creating a 15,560 acre lake.

Swimming, boating, fishing, skiing, day use, and camping are allowed.

Along the banks you will find the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum and the reconstruction of the original Fort Loudoun.

Tellico Lake and Fort Loudoun lake are connected by a canal making it possible to enter the Little Tennessee River and boat to 21 states, the Gulf of Mexico or the Great Lakes.



From Roam to Home Sweet Home.

Brandon M. Johnson
PHOTOGRAPHY

VF Volunteer
Federal

www.volfed.com

With in-house lending decisions and underwriting, in addition to personalized support, we are here to be your compass on the journey. Plus, your mortgage or construction loan stays with us from start to finish!*

**All loans are subject to approval.*



Look for the *Fall/Winter Edition* of the

TENNESSEE MOUNTAIN

Traveler

September 2025!

To Advertise Contact Sharon Livingston
sharon.livingston@advocateanddemocrat.com

Chasing Waterfalls



Bald River Falls

PHOTO COURTESY OF GYPSYDREAMS PHOTOGRAPHY & MONROE COUNTY TOURISM

People are often drawn to Southeast Tennessee to explore the beautiful natural landscapes of the Tennessee Overhill region, a three-county area that includes the southern half of the Cherokee National Forest.

Some of the biggest great outdoor attractions in this area are the many natural waterfalls located throughout the forest. There are more than 60 waterfalls ranging from five feet to 130 feet high. A few of the most popular waterfalls are as follows:

BENTON FALLS

Located in the Chilhowee Recreation Area, Benton Falls is a 65-foot waterfall cascading down step-like rocks.

The 3-mile round-trip hike is rated easy/moderate. From Ocoee Scenic Byway (Highway 64), take Forest Service Road 77 to Chilhowee Recreation Area (day use fee).



COKER CREEK FALLS

Forty-five foot Coker Creek Falls with a series of waterfalls/cascades ranging from eight feet to 20 feet high is a kayaker's and photographer's favorite. Stop at Coker Creek

Welcome Center/Post Office on Highway 68 to get directions. The hike is around 3 miles but you don't need to make the entire trip to see a waterfall. The hike is rated easy/moderate.



TURTLETOWN FALLS

Turtletown Falls is 40 feet high and flows over a large ledge then separates into two falls. A bonus waterfall, Lower Turtletown Falls, may be seen if you hike a little further downstream from the main falls. On Highway 68, turn at

Farner Post Office, cross the railroad and turn left on Duggan Road, bear left on Farner Road entrance to the falls, Forest Service



Road 1166, is the first road on the right. Follow the dirt road for 1.5 miles down to the fall's parking lot. The trail is three miles roundtrip and rated easy/moderate.

BALD RIVER FALLS

The spectacular 90-foot Bald River Falls can be seen from the bridge on Forest Service Road 210 (a paved road just a few miles from Tellico Plains). Have your camera handy; a photo from the bridge with the falls behind you will be one of your trip's favorites.

FALL BRANCH FALLS

Fall Branch Falls is an 80-foot waterfall located off of the Cherohala Skyway (Highway 165). At the Rattlesnake Rock parking area, hike about 100 feet (take the left fork) to the Fall Branch Trail 87. Once at the falls, follow the creek downstream to see cascades. The roundtrip is about a 3-mile moderate hike.



For more information, visit www.alltrails.com/parks/us/tennessee/cherokee-national-forest/waterfall

RURAL FREEDOM STARTS WITH YOUR LAND LOAN

When you find a piece of land that speaks to you, you want to start enjoying it as soon as possible. Financing for a bare land loan isn't easy to find but as the leader in rural lending, we've got you covered. We'll work to find a term and down payment that are right for you. Regardless of if it's open land, timbered land, or a combination of both, we'll help you secure a loan so you can start enjoying your dream.

Speak to one of our rural lending experts today.
Visit Rural1st.com or call 1-844-GO-RURAL to get started.



RURAL 1st
Closer to What Matters

Construction Loan • Land Loan • Lot Loan • Home Loan

Loans subject to credit approval. Rural 1st® is a tradename and Rural 1st, the Rolling Hills Window icon, and Closer to What Matters are exclusive trademarks of Farm Credit Mid America, NMLS 407249. Rural 1st products are available to consumers within the territories of participating Farm Credit System Associations. Equal Housing Lender.



Come Sit in the County Seat



Tucked away in the scenic hills of Monroe County, Tennessee, Downtown Madisonville is a small town that is quickly becoming a must-visit destination for those seeking authentic Appalachian charm, vibrant community events, and southern hospitality at its best.

The Madisonville Main Street program, a partnership between the Downtown Madisonville Alliance and the City of Madisonville, is leading the charge to revitalize the heart of the city, using funds from local events and grants to restore historic buildings, attract unique businesses, and create public spaces the community can be proud of. Recent successes include the opening of 10-80 Roasters coffee shop and Story Hollow Bookstore, which join local favorites like Honeycombs Boutique, Sweet & Sassy Shoppe, Klem-in-Time's Emporium, Donna's Old Town Cafe, and The Patio Italian Grill—all just steps from the historic, picturesque, Courthouse square.

The city's Farmers & Makers Market is a weekly celebration of all things local, held every Thursday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. from mid-May through October. Expect fresh produce, artisan goods, delicious food vendors, family fun, and live music—thanks to generous grant support from MACA and SafePath. It's more than a market; it's a community gathering that captures the spirit of the city's history.

Throughout the year, downtown events bring people together for memorable moments and meaningful impact. From July 4th festivities to Madisonville Christmas

on the Square events, these celebrations not only offer fun for the whole family—they help fund important projects that enhance downtown life, like an upcoming historic walking trail, and inviting streetscape upgrades, including new rocking chairs and a giant photo op chair that says, "Come Sit With Us in the County Seat."

The excitement around town has already sparked community engagement from other organizations to host their own events and projects.

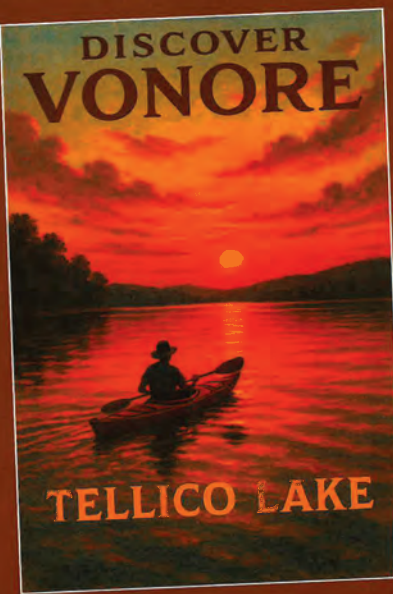
Most recently, renovations include work on four historic properties that will provide a new Visitor's Center, County Museum, Air Bnb and mixed-use hotel in downtown.

Nearby, visitors can enjoy the new splashpad and playground at Houston Park or venture just beyond downtown for unforgettable outdoor adventures. Madisonville is surrounded by natural treasures like Tellico Lake, Bald River Falls, the Cherokee National Forest, The Lost Sea, and world-famous Benton's Bacon. Whether you're boating, tubing, kayaking, hiking, fishing, camping—or simply soaking up the serenity—Monroe County offers something for every traveler.

To stay in the know, sign up for the newsletter at www.visitmadisonvilletn.com or follow the city on Facebook at facebook.com/madisonvillemainstreettn.

Walk. Shop. Eat. Explore. Come discover what makes Downtown Madisonville the vibrant heart of Monroe County—and why now is the perfect time to experience it for yourself.



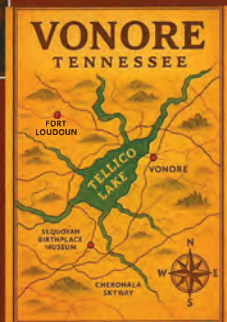


Discover Vonore, Tennessee
Where History Meets the Water's Edge

Tucked in the rolling foothills of East Tennessee, Vonore invites you to slow down and stay a while. Nestled between Tellico Lake and the Little Tennessee River, this hidden gem is rich in heritage and wrapped in natural beauty.

Why You'll Love It:
Whether you're passing through or planning your next weekend getaway, Vonore is a place to breathe deep, reconnect with nature, and feel the warmth of Tennessee hospitality.

Come See Why Vonore is a
Place to Remember.



Directions: Located just off Hwy 411, Vonore is an easy drive from Knoxville, Chattanooga, and the Smoky Mountains

WWW.TOWN-OF-VONORE.COM

Things to Do:

- Paddle Tellico Lake — Glide across still waters and take in panoramic mountain views
- Explore Fort Loudoun State Park — A restored 18th-century British fort with living history events
- Visit the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum — Learn about the Cherokee scholar who created a written language
- Watch geese glide across peaceful coves
- Shop local artisans and enjoy small-town charm
- Picnic under the pines or camp beneath the stars

*Let us help you find a place that
makes you feel right at home!*



**Norman Lee Real Estate
BROKERS & AUCTIONEER**

4263 Highway 411 N. #2 Madisonville, TN 37354

Office: 423-442-3945 or 423-442-3944



Email: norman@nlre.net



Website: www.normanleerealestate.com

Established in 1964, Norman Lee Real Estate Brokers & Auctioneer is a real estate agency and auctioneer in Madisonville, Tennessee.

We offer property management, brokerage services, land sales, residential sales, commercial sales, farm sales, and rental properties. With over 60 years of service, we value dependability and integrity.

Contact us for more information, or come visit us today.

James Lee 423-519-0600

Katie Givens 423-295-4684

Dan Watson 423-253-4700

Josh Watson 423-519-7934

Sheila Martin 423-367-2388

Jessica Cordell 423-337-1378

Tim Krantz 423-742-0034

Burt Lee 423-519-0700

Ben Lee 423-519-5309

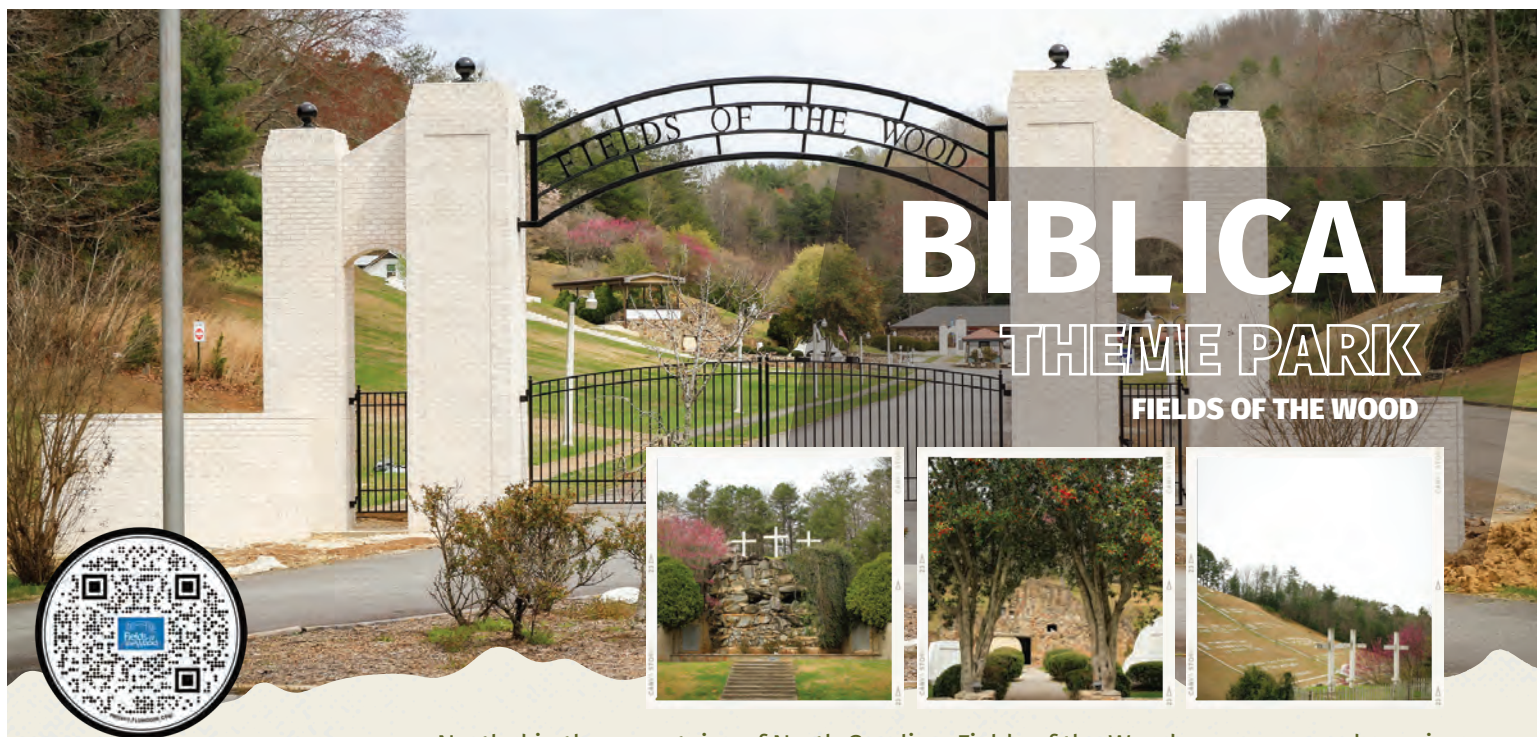
Bob Mundle 715-222-4366

Shane Watson 423-519-5381

Cali Graham 423-453-7183

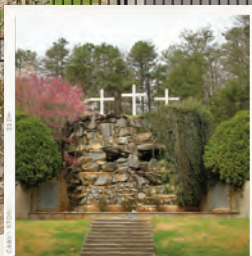
Rhonda Coleman 423-507-3597

Brennan Boone 423-519-9019



BIBLICAL THEME PARK

FIELDS OF THE WOOD



**THE WORLD'S
LARGEST TEN
COMMANDMENTS!**

Nestled in the mountains of North Carolina, Fields of the Wood emerges as a dynamic display of biblical text and scenery. As you walk through the park, an overwhelming sense of peace and tranquility engulfs you. An altar emerges at the top of Prayer Mountain for a place of meditation and prayer. For park information, visit our website.



fieldsofthewood.org



10000 HWY 294, Murphy, NC 28906



fotw@cogop.org

Take a Step Back in Time



Fort Loudoun State Historic Area in Vonore provides visitors with an opportunity to step back in time and explore area history. The state park features a reconstruction of Fort Loudoun, located right on the banks of Tellico Lake.

Fort Loudoun was originally built by the British in 1756, when this area was known as the Overhill—a designation given to Cherokee communities that rested on the western slopes of the Appalachian Mountains.

While exploring the barracks, shops and structures, you will step back in time to the 1700s. Some artifacts in the reconstructed fort were recovered from the original fort.

Combining the past and nature, much of the park's 1,200 acres lie on the island on Tellico Lake, offering opportunities for swimming, boating and fishing. Fort Loudoun now also offers kayak rentals on site.

Living history reenactments, demonstrations and other activities take place throughout the year at Fort Loudoun.

One of the most popular events at the fort is Garrison Weekends.

Garrison Weekend is a free, family-friendly, living history event that features the daily lives of the men, women and

children of Fort Loudoun. See soldiers and Cherokee going about their day, training, firing cannons, working about the fort and demonstrating the folkways of the time. There will be blacksmiths working the forge, the surgeon giving talks in the infirmary and soldiers living in the barracks. Scheduled programs occur every hour.

The remaining Garrison Weekend schedule for the 2025 season includes Aug. 9-10, Sept. 20-21, and Nov. 15-16.

The fort will also hold a special Christmas Garrison on Saturday, Dec. 6.

Garrison Weekend is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday of the event and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday. There is no admission fee for Garrison Weekend events.

Fort Loudoun State Historic Area is located at 338 Fort Loudoun Road, Vonore.

For more information, visit the fort's website at www.fortloudoun.com, or the Tennessee State Parks' website at tnstateparks.com/parks/events/fort-loudoun or call 423-420-2331.



THE LOST SEA ADVENTURE!

**Commercial Tours,
Including Boat Rides
Available Daily!**

***Main Gift Shop open year round &
additional stores can be seasonal.***



www.thelostsea.com
Highway 68 • Sweetwater

A collage of images showing JTEKT employees, vehicles, and facilities. It includes portraits of several staff members, photos of pickup trucks in a field, and exterior views of JTEKT buildings. A central text overlay reads "A Special Thanks to JATV Associates + Non-JATV Volunteers" and "Make It Right Here". A QR code is located in the bottom left corner of the collage.

JTEKT
VONORE, TN
APPLY TODAY AT WWW.JTEKT-NA.COM/CAREERS/
PROUD TO BE PART OF THE COMMUNITY FOR 35 YEARS!



Living History

Cherokee Fall Festival at Sequoyah Birthplace Museum • Sept. 6-7

Sequoyah Birthplace Museum in Vonore is set to host its 34th annual Cherokee Fall Festival on Sept. 6-7. The event is scheduled to start at 10 a.m. on both days and will go until 4 p.m.

Visitors will have the opportunity to step back in time to experience Native American food, Cherokee arts and crafts demonstrations, music and dance.

In the museum, there will be demonstrations of the 1800s Acorn Printing Press. A blacksmith will be doing on-site demonstrations in the shop both days. Other demonstrations and displays will include Cherokee life in 1700s and a Civil War reenactment.

Visitors will be able to meet and talk with Cherokees from the Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in North Carolina.

Special entertainment will be provided by the Warrior Dancers of Ani-Kituhwa, who are the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians' official ambassadors.

Guests can check out the reconstructed 1800s dog-trot log cabin, meet and chat with Miss Cherokee, and have your name written in Cherokee. There will also be posters from Cherokee Elementary School, and a children's blowgun competition and an adult blowgun competition on both days.

Traditional Indian fry bread, Indian tacos,

and other food and drinks will be sold.

The event is funded in part by the Tennessee Arts Commission Rural Arts Program Grant and the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians.

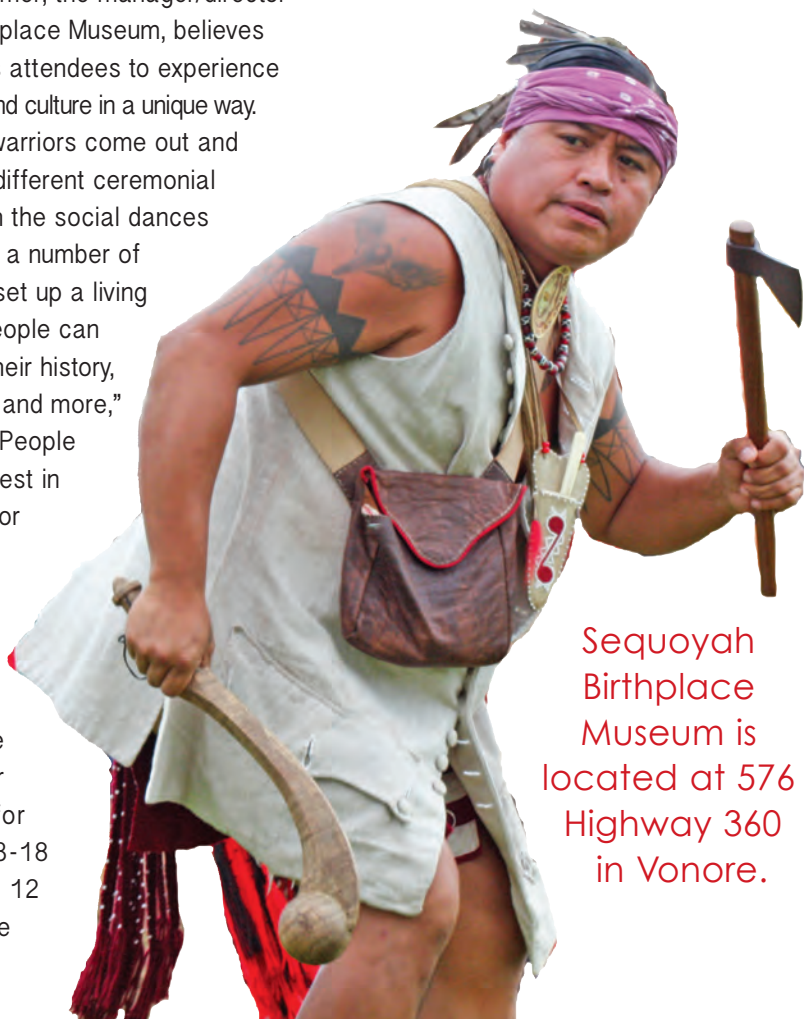
Charlie Rhodarmer, the manager/director of Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, believes the festival allows attendees to experience Cherokee history and culture in a unique way.

"We have the warriors come out and demonstrate the different ceremonial dances along with the social dances and then we have a number of the warriors who set up a living history area so people can ask them about their history, clothing, customs and more," Rhodarmer said. "People who have an interest in Cherokee history or culture can come out and actually speak to living Cherokee historians."

Tickets for the event are \$10 for adults. Tickets for children ages 13-18 are \$5. Children 12 and under will be

admitted for free. A family rate of \$25 will also be available.

For more information, contact the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum at 423-884-6246 or visit www.sequoyahmuseum.org/



Sequoyah Birthplace Museum is located at 576 Highway 360 in Vonore.

FRIENDLY
CITY
FESTIVALS

2025 FESTIVAL SEASON

June 7, 2025 10AM-5PM



Saturdays at 7pm

Saturday, June 7th - Emi Sunshine

Saturday, June 28th - Run Katie Run

FRIDAY, July 4th - Sweet Georgia Sound

7:00 PM Before the Fireworks at Regional Park!

Saturday, July 19th - Authentic Unlimited

Saturday, August 9th - Kinslee Melhorn & September Song

Saturday, August 16th - Nate Viele & Mendingwall

Oct 11, 2025 10AM-5PM



PUMPKINTOWN

@FRIENDLYCITYFESTIVALS ON FACEBOOK &
INSTAGRAM

FRIENDLYCITYFESTIVALS.COM

SKYWAY

Title Services, LLC

Locally owned and proudly serving our clients for over 20 years!

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

- * Closing / Escrow Services
- * Mobile Home Detitle
- * Title Insurance
- * Lien / Judgment Search
- * Document Preparation
- * Mobile Closings
- * 1031 Exchange
- * For Sale by Owner
- * Builder / Developer Services

COUNTIES SERVED:

- * Monroe
- * McMinn
- * Blount
- * Meigs
- * Roane
- * Polk
- * Sevier
- * Loudon
- * Rhea
- * Knox

Our team is well equipped to
guide you smoothly through
every step of your transaction!



Specialized in Monroe and McMinn County
with an extensive property database!



5069 New Highway 68
Madisonville, TN 37354

423-442-8638
skywaytitle.com