



AWARD WINNING — A few members of the committee behind the Soybean Magic are, standing left to right, Lynn Harper, Debbie Yeager, Tim Barrington, Kelly Wilson, Brian Moore, Kim Kirby and Lynette Wagster. Seated, left to right, David Belote, Martin Mayor Randy Brundige, and Brad Thompson.

Best Community Festival: TN Soybean Festival

The Tennessee Soybean Festival captured the title of Best Community Festival for the 11th year in a row. The Soybean Festival is a weeklong celebration that takes place yearly in Martin the first week of September and consists of numerous concerts, street vendors, free food, promotion of the arts, children's events and many other activities. "Thank you to all of the good people in Weakley County who come out each year and enjoy the Tennessee Soybean Festival," said David Belote, the festival's executive director. "Also, thank you to all of the folks who were kind enough to vote the Tennessee Soybean Festival as the best Community Festival in our county. There are so many dedicated community servants who provide of their time, expertise and resources in order to make the festival a success. Our main objective in providing the festival is to enhance the spirit of community not only locally, but regionally. We work very hard to provide activities and events that are diverse, entertaining, engaging and just plain fun! Thanks to

all for helping us accomplish our mission for these many years, especially the northwest Tennessee farmers who produce soybeans. Where would we be without them?"

"Also, a word of praise to all of the good people throughout the county who work diligently to produce their fairs and festivals in their home communities. Their work is highly valued because their work ultimately brings joy to others and enhances the community spirit. When this kind of atmosphere is present in each of our communities, we all win!"

"Due to the commitment of so many," states Belote, "The Tennessee Soybean Festival was the recipient of the following regional awards presented through the Southeast Fairs, Festival and Events Association:

Best Children's Program: Gold Award

Best Creative Program: Gold Award

Best Vendor: Gold Award (Tyson Foods)

Best Volunteer: Silver Award (Suzanne Harper)

Best Sponsor: Bronze Award (The Tennessee Soy-

bean Promotion Board)

Best T Shirt Design: Bronze Award.

Our festival has truly become a "winner" for the entire region."

Brad Thompson, Martin's community development director, said the festival brings out a sense of community pride. "Working with the Soybean Festival is one of the best parts of my job,"

Thompson said. "It is rewarding to be part of a community that works together to make great things happen." The Tennessee Soybean Festival will be celebrating its 25th year in September 2018. It is sure to be the best soybean yet.

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Best City Worker: Phillip Johnson City of Martin

Phillip Johnson has been with the City of Martin for the past 17 1/2. He currently serves as the MIS director. Previously, he worked for the Martin Police Department for 10 years as both an officer and IT director.

Johnson's philosophy is to try to help everyone that he can, and like all other city employees, his goal is to better the city for the citizens.



Thank You

2017 TN SOYBEAN FESTIVAL

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11 YEARS IN A ROW!

VOTED WEAKLEY COUNTY'S BEST FESTIVAL

DAVID BELOTE,
SOYBEAN FESTIVAL
DIRECTOR

RANDY BRUNDIGE,
MAYOR, CITY OF MARTIN