

REVIEW



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Duane Sherrill photos

Former fiddling grand champion Ivy Phillips was not allowed to enter the fiddling championship this year because she had won it the past two years in a row. Instead she competed in numerous divisions including guitar.



Thousands descended on downtown Smithville Saturday for the Jamboree. Much of Friday was washed by a pair of rain storms which delayed competition by more than four hours. However, Saturday proved ideal for the outdoor event.

Jam-packed Jamboree draws huge crowd

DUANE SHERRILL
Editor Smithville Review
Smithville, Tennessee

Rain didn't put a dent in the 47th annual Fiddlers' Jamboree and Crafts Festival as a wet Friday gave way to a near perfect Saturday and a huge crowd that packed town square.

"It's one of the biggest crowds I can recall in recent years of the Jamboree," said County Mayor Tim Stribling as he looked out on the sea of people, thousands of whom filled Smithville Saturday.

The place was anything but packed Friday as a severe thunderstorm swept through town, pelting Jamboree goers with tor-

rential rain and even hail. Mother Nature forced two delays in Friday's competitions, one just after noon and the next in the late afternoon. Once competition did resume, it was done from underneath a large tent that was placed on the stage as precipitation continued to drizzle down for most of the evening. Dancing competitions were delayed until Saturday because of safety concerns.

Saturday not only saw the rain leave but also saw humid conditions, which had existed Friday, disappear as cloud cover and a gentle breeze drew festival goers to town.

Along with the competitions,

Jamboree organizers welcomed an old friend back to Smithville. Award-winning fiddle player Michael Cleveland was presented the 2018 Blue Blaze Award from the Smithville Fiddlers' Jamboree & Crafts Festival Saturday evening.

Jamboree Marketing Director Shan Burklow made the introduction and Coordinator Sam Stout presented the award. Cleveland said he was pleased to have been chosen to receive the honor. Cleveland and his band Flamekeeper entertained the audience with a mini-concert after the presentation.

Continued on **7A**

Fair begins Monday

DUANE SHERRILL
Editor Smithville Review
Smithville, Tennessee

It's fair time in DeKalb County as the "The Grandpa Fair of the South" returns for its 162nd year at the fairgrounds in Alexandria, this exposition running July 16-21.

"Going to the local fair has been a favorite 'must do' for the young and young at heart for a very long time. It's good, clean, family fun at its finest. Bringing your children to experience all of the fun things the fair brings to town gives them the same feeling that you had as a kid," said Angie Meadows, Lions Pavilion coordinator. "It's a special, highly anticipated week of summer where friends and neighbors come

to have a great time."

Back this year at the T.C. McMillen Arena is Demolition Derby. Fans are urged to take a seat and watch the excitement as drivers take out the competition for the win. The derby will highlight Tuesday night at 7 p.m. earlier that evening will be Little Mister and Miss Pageants. Junior Fairest and Fairest of the Fair will be Monday night. The cattle show will also be held that night at 6 p.m. at the grandstand.

Wednesday will feature a kiddie tractor pull at the grandstands and ATV and motorcycle racing at T.C. McMillen Arena at 7 p.m. The Little Miss and Miss Sweetheart pageants will also be held Wednesday evening.

Continued on **2A**

Early voting starts Friday

DUANE SHERRILL
Editor Smithville Review
Smithville, Tennessee

Early voting begins Friday at the DeKalb County Courthouse with advance balloting to continue through July 28.

At stake are numerous contested local offices including sheriff, county mayor, city mayor, road supervisor, circuit court clerk, one school board spot, Alexandria mayor (write-ins) and several county commission spots.



Early voting will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. downstairs at the courthouse on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Fridays; 1 to 5 p.m. on Mondays; 2 to 6 p.m. on Thursdays; and from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays.

For those who do not use their early voting option, the precincts across the county will open for Election Day on Aug. 2.

Along with contested local races, the August election will serve as a primary for both Democrats and Republicans.

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Trio of titles

Denton wins third grand championship

DUANE SHERRILL
Editor Smithville Review
Smithville, Tennessee



Maddie Denton fiddles her way to a third grand championship in the closing moments of the Smithville Fiddlers' Jamboree. Video highlights from the festival are at www.smithvillereview.com in the multimedia section.

In hockey terms, Murfreesboro fiddler Maddie Denton got a hat trick Saturday night, winning the grand championship of the Smithville Fiddlers' Jamboree for the third time since she defeated her mother in the finals in 2012.

Denton made it to the finals Saturday night from the Junior Fiddlers' division, moving forward to face fellow Rutherford countian and Senior Champion Gail Johnson of LaVergne in the fiddle-off for the Berry C. Williams Memorial Award. Each competitor, in the finals, was directed to play three songs including a break-down, waltz and a song of their choice.

Johnson had made it to the senior finals (fiddlers 40 and over) by emerging from a field of three finalists, one of which was Denton's mother, Marcia Denton. Maddie had claimed both of her prior titles by beating her mother in the fiddle-off finals in 2012 and 2014 but was denied a third family feud for all the marbles when Johnson was able to edge out Marcia Denton in the semi-finals. Meanwhile, Maddie's path to the finals came over a couple of up-and-coming fiddlers including Giri Peters of Nashville and Hillary Klug of Shelbyville.

Continued on **7A**



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