

Cookeville Announces Dates for 11th Annual Fall FunFest

Cookeville, TN (5-18-06) –Cookeville's **11th Annual Fall FunFest** is slated for **Friday and Saturday, September 8-9, 2006** on Cookeville's historic downtown square. One of the premier fall events on the Upper Cumberland Plateau, Fall FunFest offers a variety of events for the entire family, including a championship barbeque cook-off, a Family Fun Zone, Teen World, a 5k/10k Eloqui Fun Run, WCTE Stations of Imagination and TACA arts and crafts area. A variety of musical entertainment will perform on three stages, and local and regional vendors will offer food and concessions. Past performers have included Delbert McClinton, Marcia Ball, Jonell Mosser and the Fabulous Thunderbirds. Admission to the event is free.

Kicking off the two-day event on Friday, September 8th is the **17th Annual Cookeville Cookoff**, the Tennessee State Barbeque Championship, sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbeque Society and presented by Corona. At least three dozen of the finest cooking teams from across the country will battle it out in the pits for \$10,000 in prize money and top honors as Reserve Grand Champion. The winner receives an invitation to represent the state of Tennessee in the prestigious Kansas City Invitational. Hours for the Cookoff are 5:30-10:00 p.m. with crowning of the Reserve Grand Champion on Saturday.

For the second year, teenagers are the focus of **Teen World**, featuring contests, demonstrations and free skate time on custom-built ramps at Full Throttle Skate Park. Gaming competitions, featuring the latest x-box games on big screen TVs, and live music on the Teen Stage are highlights of the popular attraction. **Family Fun Zone** attracts kids of all ages for the moonwalk, giant slide, rock climbing wall, mechanical bull ride, jousting, an obstacle course, a castle maze and more. Tickets are \$1 each and ride prices range from \$1 to \$5.

Festival attendees can work off the barbeque at the **6th Annual Eloqui Fun Run** on Saturday. The 5k/10k event, which winds through downtown Cookeville and beyond, begins at 7:00 a.m., with packet pick-up and late registration at 6:30 a.m. Awards will be presented for first, second and third place male and female winners in a number of age divisions. All participants will receive an official Eloqui Fun Run t-shirt.

WCTE-TV's popular **Stations of Imagination** kicks off at 10:00 a.m. with numerous activity booths, family-oriented entertainment and an opportunity for kids to meet their favorite PBS characters, and will continue until 5:00 p.m. The PBS member station is sponsoring the event for the 10th year. Also on Saturday, the Highland Rim Chapter of the Tennessee Arts and Crafts Association will sponsor the **arts and crafts area** for the seventh year. This is a juried selection of local and regional artists, including wood workers, glass blowers, stained glass artists, jewelry makers, potters, painters and more, presenting a high quality array of their various art forms. The Friends of the Appalachian Center for Craft of Tennessee will be sponsoring the **Kids Craft Booth** on Saturday as well.

Fall Fun Fest is presented by CityScape, Cookeville's local "Main Street" organization that works to preserve, protect and promote the heart and soul of Cookeville – its downtown. CityScape is a group of concerned citizens working hand in hand with partners such as the City of Cookeville, local merchants and property owners to develop downtown as a destination for business and pleasure.

Event sponsors include Coca-Cola, Eloqui Wireless, Corona, Premier Diagnostic Imaging, N2TheNet, Streamliner Creative, Putnam County Clean Commission, JWC Broadcasting, Stone Brothers Welding, Cookeville Regional Medical Center, Comcast Spotlight, Baymont Inn & Suites, BB&T/Legge Insurance, Herald-Citizen, Lamar Outdoor Advertising and Cookeville Chamber of Commerce.

Cookeville is located approximately 1.5 miles off I-40, at exit #287 (Cookeville/Sparta).

For more information, visit the Fun Fest website, www.fallfunfest.com.

Contact Information: Publicity, Judi Turner/ turnerco@bellsouth.net / 615-356-9115; Event Manager, Dennis Freeman, dennis@freemanenterprises.com / 615-445-5077. For the Cookeville CookOff, Tony Stone, 931-526-1063; for Eloqui Fun Run, Cara Rubright, 931-520-5279; Stations of Imagination, Joyce Hunter, 931-528-2222; Food and Retail Vendors, Mike Dyce, 615-456-3889; and Arts and Crafts, Mike Whiteman, 931-432-6313.