

For Immediate Release

**Barbeque is the Food of Choice at 12th Annual Cookeville Fall FunFest
Presented by U.S. Cellular September 7-8th**

Cookeville, TN (9-5-07) – More than 30 barbeque teams from eleven states will compete for the title of Tennessee State Champion in the annual **Cookeville Cookoff** and sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbeque Society, a highlight of the two-day **Cookeville Fall FunFest presented by U.S. Cellular September 7-8** in downtown Cookeville.

According to Tony Stone, coordinator of the barbeque cookoff, in addition to the chance to win the coveted title of Reserve Grand Champion title, prize money amounting to \$10,000 is at stake. “The competition that happens here does not just stay here,” Stone explained. “Our Grand Champion is automatically entered in the Kansas City Barbeque Society National Invitational and eligible for the Jack Daniels Invitational drawing.”

Teams will compete in four main categories: chicken, pork ribs, pork shoulder and beef brisket. First place in each meat category wins \$500, and the Reserve Grand Champion walks away with \$750. Teams may also enter a dessert category. Although not part of the official juried categories, it carries a sweet \$150 prize. Patrons will be able to purchase some of the entries, as many of the teams will offer their barbeque and desserts for sale at concession booths. The Kansas City Barbeque Society trailer on-site offers festival goers an opportunity to stock up on grilling supplies and sauces.

The Reserve Grand Champion will be crowned on Saturday afternoon at 3:00 pm on the Coca-Cola/KrogerStage.

One of the premier fall events on the Upper Cumberland Plateau, *Fall FunFest presented by U.S. Cellular* offers a variety of events for the entire family, including a championship barbeque cook-off, the Region’s Bank Family Fun Zone, Teen World, a 5k/10k Averitt 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. Admission to the event is free.

Fall Fun Fest presented by U.S. Cellular is a presentation of 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.

Fall FunFest presented by U.S. Cellular is a Litter Free event.

Other event sponsors include Coca-Cola, Kroger, Averitt, Regions Bank, AUI LLC, Premier Diagnostic Imaging, N2TheNet, Streamliner Creative, Cookeville Regional Medical Center, Miller Lite, JWC Broadcasting, Stone Steel, Rockstar, Baymont Inn &

Suites, Holiday Inn Express, Putnam County Clean Commission, BB&T/Legge Insurance, Herald-Citizen, Lamar Outdoor Advertising, Comcast Spotlight 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 Averitt Fun Run, Jen Boswell, jen@cookeville-tn.org, Stations of Imagination, Cindy Putman and Reggie Brown , 931-528-2222, ext. 227; cputman@wcte.com and rbrown@wcte.com; Food and Retail Vendors, Mike Dyce, 615-456-3889; and Arts and Crafts, Mike Whiteman, 931-432-6313.