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By LAURA CLEMONS

AT A GLANCE

Fall FunFest 2011, Friday-Saturday, Sept. 9-10

Multi-Grammy Award winner headlines Fall FunFest musical line-up TACA arts, crafts area features 23 booths plus ‘pickers corner’

(COOKEVILLE, Tenn., Sept. 5, 2011) – It’s going to be a soulful, bluesy Main Stage at Fall FunFest 2011, the biggest street party in Cookeville, both Friday and Saturday, Sept. 9 and 10, on the Putnam County Courthouse Square.

Admission to the family-friendly event is free, and everyone is welcome.

Grammy Award-winning Chris Thomas King of “O Brother, Where Art Thou?” fame is this year’s headliner, and he’ll be joined by seven other blues, rock, R & B and soul bands throughout the two-day event.

The Fall FunFest Main Stage opens at 6 p.m., Friday, with rock and soul from the cover band Direct Hit, a group of musicians from the 129th Army Band out of Nashville. Next up is Inception, a band covering Motown sound and dance, at 8 p.m.

Saturday, six bands go onstage, beginning at 11 a.m. with the jazz and funk group The Leave, at 12:30 p.m. with pop alternative Color the Lifeline, at 2 p.m. with the blues band Spoonful, and at 4 p.m. with the folk, bluegrass and soul duo The Danberrys. All four of the first acts on Saturday are Cookeville-based.

Saturday night’s blues line-up begins at 6 p.m. with the up-and-coming Michael Williams Band, who critics say is bridging the gap between traditional blues lovers and younger fans. Currently on its “Fire Red” CD release tour, the band is opening for Buddy Guy, Eric Johnson and Robert Cray this year.

The headliner of Fall FunFest 2011, Chris Thomas King, takes the stage at 8 p.m., Saturday. The first bluesman to embrace the digital music revolution, King made his major acting debut in the Coen brothers’ Oscar-nominated film “O Brother, Where Art Thou,” which instantly gained him an international mainstream audience. Following the movie’s release, King traveled to 40 American cities with the All Blues Tour and appeared in *Down from the Mountain*, filmed live at Nashville’s Ryman Auditorium. By 2003, King had won three Grammy Awards and a number of country music awards as well.

The Main Stage is located on the corner of Broad and Washington on the square, and there’ll be plenty of room for dancing and a grandstand for seating.

Performing art is joined by visual art at Fall FunFest. For the 11th consecutive year, arts and crafts booths will be open throughout the festival. Juried by the Highland Rim Chapter of the Tennessee Association of Craft Artists, work by more than 20 local and regional artists will be exhibited in booths set up on Jefferson Avenue between Broad and Boyd.

Artists working in all the major media will be onhand this year, including ceramics; jewelry representing a wide range of styles; textiles, including handmade wearables; fused glass and blown glass; woodworkers in furniture, musical instruments and turned vessels; metal sculpture; and hand-drawn prints. Several of the artists will be demonstrating. In addition, the Cookeville Camera Club will be exhibiting work by its members.

Brand new to Fall FunFest this year: A “pickers corner” coordinated by Rhythm Time music store on North Jefferson, where local string players will be performing bluegrass, gospel and country throughout the festival.

To learn more about other major components of Fall FunFest – including this year’s WCTE-TV Stations of Imagination stage schedule -- visit www.fallfunfest.com.

Commemorative Fall FunFest t-shirts are on sale now for just \$10 at Kroger, 445 S. Jefferson Ave., and the CityScape office at 345 S. Jefferson Ave., in Cookeville.

Fall FunFest is one of two major annual events coordinated by Operation CityScape. A National Trust for Historic Preservation-certified program, CityScape is Cookeville’s “Main Street” revitalization and preservation organization. Learn more by visiting www.cookevillecityscape.com.

CUTLINE – Bluesman Chris Thomas King’s "Hard Time Killing Floor Blues" was the only song recorded live during filming of “O Brother, Where Art Thou?” The 10th anniversary CD soundtrack has just been released.

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