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Silver Dollar City's Bluegrass & BBQ ~ A Feast from Stages to Grills *Festival Runs May 13-31*

(Branson, Mo. 5/10) **The best of America's bluegrass music is coming to Silver Dollar City's *Bluegrass & BBQ Festival***, continuing the Branson Park's 50th anniversary celebration. From porch pickers to award-winning musicians, more than 50 bands take the stages for hundreds of performances during this annual event, presenting a feast for the senses from the stages to the grills **May 13 – 31**.

"Bluegrass is America's music, covering many generations," said D.A. Callaway, SDC Event Manager. "The harmonies and melodies of bluegrass are in the marrow of our bones, as it is America's folk music, blending influences from all our ancestors." Callaway says the scales and rhythms of bluegrass have African roots, whereas the fiddle pulls from Scotch and Irish. "Actually, few people realize that fiddle music mimics the sounds of the bagpipes," he said.

Callaway, who visits bluegrass festivals all across America, works to bring both traditional and contemporary groups to the festival. The influence of crossover and cutting-edge bluegrass artists like **Rhonda Vincent** and **The Grascals** helps keep the interest of the younger generations, while traditional sounds can still be heard from bands like **Dailey & Vincent** and **Nothin' Fancy**.

The ***House of BBQ*** serves up a feast from St. Louis ribs and smoked chicken to Texas brisket and sweet roasted corn on the cob, direct from large outdoor charcoal grills and a custom-made 9-foot smoker for Silver Dollar City's famous flavor. Guests can sample hundreds of sauces from smoky chipotle and sweet hickory to Carolina vinegar and honey habanero, plus take home the newest flavor: **Silver Dollar City's 50th Anniversary Honey Blackberry Barbecue Sauce**. There's also an all-you-can-eat BBQ dinner served evenings Fridays - Sundays, featuring meats from fall-off-the-bone ribs in four flavors to 18-hour smoked brisket, along with traditional barbecue sides.

The festival highlights two national competitions, with the **3rd Annual National Single Mic Championship May 22 - 23**, and the **Youth In Bluegrass Band Competition May 29 - 30**.

Silver Dollar City, located near Branson, Missouri, is open daily during *Bluegrass & BBQ*, May 13 – 31. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. on Saturdays, and Sunday, May 30). For information and a schedule of performances, call 800-831-4FUN(386), or visit www.silverdollarcity.com.

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