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Silver Dollar City Soars with an All-New Southern Gospel Picnic Festival

***A Glorious Gathering of Food, Friends and Great Harmonies
August 31 – September 10***

(Branson, Mo. 08/25/06) Southern Gospel, known for its strong American roots, is said to be music that moves the soul. In recognition of a resurgence of the music's popularity, **Silver Dollar City** is celebrating two great traditions in an all-new festival: **Southern Gospel Picnic** brings together the rich harmonies of America's heartfelt music with the home-cooked spread of an old-fashioned gathering. More than **500 performances** will resound throughout the park with Southern Gospel Picnic running **August 31-September 10**.

Presenting gospel music 7 days a week for 11 straight days, performers range from the traditional to the contemporary including *Grammy* nominees and *Dove Award* winners **The Crabb Family, Jeff & Sheri Easter, The McKameys, The Kingsmen** and **The Perrys**.

Southern Gospel Nights literally envelop a star-studded stage with an outdoor presentation each evening in Echo Hollow Amphitheater. Performers include **The Florida Boys** of the *Southern Gospel Music Hall of Fame*, *Grammy* nominees **Dixie Melody Boys** and *Dove Award* winners **Gold City**.

In honor of another southern tradition, the festival presents **The House of Chicken & Fixin's** featuring Applewood Smoked Chicken with all the picnic-style fixings such as fried green tomatoes, fried apples and au gratin potatoes. An array of desserts will complete the picnic with a variety of pies and cakes that are long-time favorites at church socials and family reunions.

"With this new festival Silver Dollar City is promising a glorious gathering of food, friends and great harmonies," said SDC entertainment coordinator, D.A. Callaway. "We'll host the top names in gospel music in a setting promising to be the largest 'picnic on the grounds' in our history."

Silver Dollar City, an 1880s-style theme park located near Branson, Missouri, presents six world-class festivals from April through December. The park also features over 20 rides and attractions including the all-new Grand Exposition with 10 new family rides in an all-new area of the park.

Throughout the *Southern Gospel Picnic* festival, the park is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (9:30 a.m. – 7 p.m. Saturdays and Sunday, Sept. 3). For festival and ticket information, call 1-800-831-4FUN. Information/schedules can be found at www.silverdollarcity.com. ###