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Thumper Entertainment Hosts Another Successful Roots N Blues N BBQ Festival at Stephens Lake Park

COLUMBIA, MO -- The Roots N Blues N BBQ Festival, presented by U.S. Cellular®, welcomed 27,000 fans to Stephens Lake Park in 2014. Fans traveled from 43 states, Australia, Canada, Japan, and Sweden for the annual event. The festival brings an enormous economic impact to the City of Columbia and the State of Missouri.

“Roots N Blues showcases Columbia perfectly- outstanding musicians representing the best of their respective genres, playing in a beautiful park setting, with every imaginable culinary treat at your fingertips. Roots N Blues has grown into a respected festival that attracts fans from all around Missouri as well as from around the world.” - *Amy Schneider, Director, Columbia Convention & Visitors Bureau*

The festival featured headlining artists The Avett Brothers, John Prine, Rosanne Cash, Amos Lee, Los Lobos, Jason Isbell, and Trampled by Turtles, who played on the Missouri Lottery and Shelter Insurance Stages along with 22 other artists. The park was transformed with art by Lisa Bartlett and The Roots N Blues Art Crew. Bartlett credits her team for the best festival art yet, “constant support and positive energy behind the projects made the creations extra special.”

The Roots N Blues N BBQ ½ Marathon and 10K, presented by Tryathletics, had 1,147 participants on Saturday, September 27. Runners enjoyed a brand new course, which included the newly constructed Hominy Creek Trail through Columbia and concluded at Stephens Lake Park. All finishers received a commemorative medal, a BBQ sandwich, and cold Michelob Ultra.

The Blues in the Schools music education program, which is supported by the Roots N Blues N BBQ Foundation, continues to grow. 2014 saw an increase in participating schools and the largest performance to date, including over 300 children. The performance was held at Stephens Lake Park Amphitheater on Saturday, September 27 and was free to the public.

The final day of the festival included the Sunday Gospel Celebration, presented by Broadway Christian Church. The event showcased the gospel talents of Music Maker Revue, Gospel singers from The 2nd Missionary Baptist Church, and Paul Thorn.

New for 2014, the festival included a beer garden and lounge for fans to enjoy. A number of new and past food vendors provided fans with delicious BBQ and a wide variety of other fare. Craft vendors added to the experience as well. In 2014, 33 total vendors were present at the park.

Thumper Entertainment would like to thank everyone who supported the festival. This year's festival was made possible by The City of Columbia and Parks & Recreation, and all of our sponsors, staff, volunteers, and most of all, our fans.

“As presenting sponsor, U.S. Cellular is thrilled to be a part of this amazing event which brings people together to enjoy great music, exceptional food and a host of other family friendly activities,” said Dorsey Ragland, director of sales for U.S. Cellular in Missouri. “Our continued support of this event is just one more way we demonstrate our commitment to the Columbia community.” - *Angel Grajeda, Sponsorships & Events Manager, U.S. Cellular*

The festival took place at Stephens Lake Park from Friday, September 26 to Sunday, September 28 and featured 30 local, national, and international artists. The 2015 Festival will take place September 25 through September 27. The latest information on the Festival can always be found at rootsnbluesnbbq.com.

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