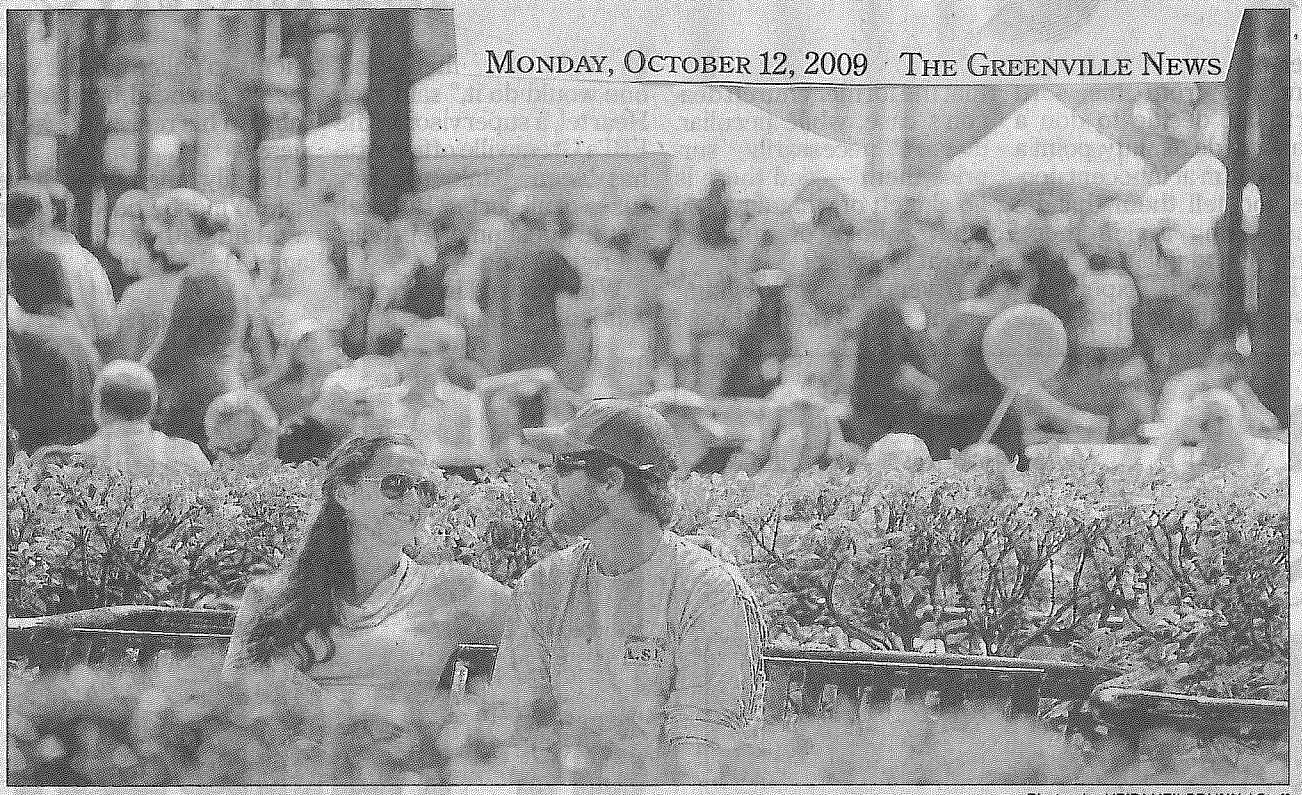
Festival to return next year



Photos by HEIDI HEILBRUNN / Staff

Becky Green, left, and Sam Dobson attend the final day of the food festival, Fall for Greenville, in downtown Greenville on Sunday.

Another success for Fall for Greenville

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Restaurant workers packed up their steam tables and carted away their coolers on Sunday as festival organizers began trying to figure out just how many people packed Main Street for the 28th annual St. Francis Fall for Greenville.

While a crowd estimate won't be available for several days, electrical contractor Charlie Holden said he's worked every festival and couldn't help but notice that people this year were "elbow to elbow."

"To say a definite number, I couldn't tell you that," Holden said. "But I can tell you that there were more people on the streets at this festival than ever before."

In years past, more than 200,000 have attended over three days.

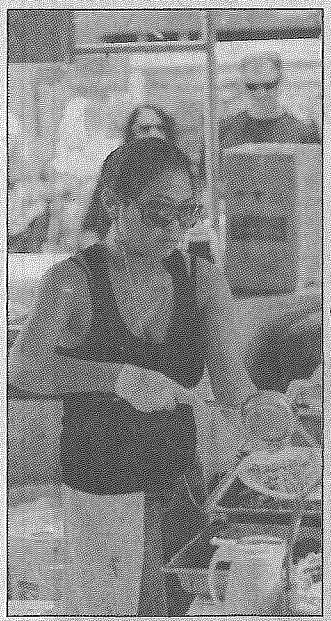
The festival will certainly be back for a 29th year in 2010, said Kevin Myer, director of operations for Main Street Events, the group that organizes the festival.

About 120 of the Greenville Police Department's 191 officers worked this year's event, said Sgt. Jason Rampey.

Their biggest problem came Saturday night when some of the 1,500 to 2,000 youths gathered around Falls Park got into fights, Rampey said. Police began breaking up the crowd about 9:45 p.m. and had it dispersed about an hour later, he said.

Police made no arrests and reported no injuries, Rampey said.

Myer said operations ran smoothly and that some changes ushered in this year could be back in 2010.



People attend the final day of the food festival, Fall for Greenville.

Popular competitions, such as the jalapeno-eating contest, and culinary demonstrations will probably return to the amphitheatre stage behind the Peace Center, Myer said. In the past, many of those events were on side streets.

Forty restaurants lining about six blocks of Main Street dished up a wide variety of food, including shrimp torpedo rolls, spinach artichoke dip and red velvet cupcakes.

As the festival entered its final hour, people were still waiting in line outside India Palace's tent. The Pleasantburg Drive-based restaurant offered chicken tandoori and paratha, but nothing was more popular than chicken korma, said Parbesh Kumar.

"Everybody – little kids – they love the chicken korma," he said.

Kumar, who works at the restaurant and is the owner's brother, said the weekend went well and that India Palace could be back next year.