Fall for Greenville sets record

Organizers estimate crowd above 150,000

By Amy Clarke Burns
Staff writer
aburns@greenvilleonline.com

If the streets seemed a little more crowded than usual at this year's Fall for Greenville, it's because they were. A record number of people flocked to downtown for the annual festival, held Oct. 11-13, city officials said Thursday.

The festival sold more than 1.6 million taste tickets, the currency of Fall for Greenville used to purchase food, drinks and children's rides. That number is up from 1.3 million last year.

With the introduction of online ticketing, the city was able to determine that visitors from nine states purchased tickets this year, said Tara Eaker, marketing manager for the city.

Though specific crowd numbers aren't available, Eaker said the city estimated that between 150,000 and 200,000 people attended, setting an attendance

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The city was able to determine that visitors from nine states purchased tickets this year. KEN OSBURN/STAFF

FESTIVAL

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record for the festival as well.

The massive numbers meant that many restaurants sold out of their offerings, and a stroll through the festival on Sunday revealed many menu boards with items crossed out or taped over.

Nose Dive had sold out of their smoked turkey leg, which won the US Foods Silver Spoon award, by Saturday afternoon.

"Soby's New South Cuisine experienced record numbers in ticket sales, selling 4,785 crab cakes and 1,300 spiced pumpkin cheesecakes," said Table 301 owner Carl Sobocinski. "Knowing that people are enjoying what we are doing makes it worth the long hours we put into the festival."

In a move meant to help tame some of the congestion on the streets during the height of the festival, the footprint was expanded this year, extending south to Augusta Street for the first time.

"Spreading out some of that a little bit really helped," Eaker said.

Eaker said the weekend's picture perfect weather likely contributed to the record-breaking success of the festival.

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