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THE AMERISERV JOHNSTOWN FOLKFEST— A BRIEF OVERVIEW

(JOHNSTOWN, Pa.) – Produced by the Johnstown Area Heritage Association (JAHA), the AmeriServ Financial Johnstown FolkFest brings nationally-known performers of traditional music to Johnstown, a western Pennsylvania city with a rich history of steelmaking and coal mining. The annual free festival is scheduled for Labor Day weekend, Sept. 1-3, 2006.

The FolkFest, which has developed a national reputation for its quality, includes more than 20 musical acts, many of which perform more than one show, from a broad variety of genres. There are four main stages continually programmed over the course of the three-day event, and more than 60 food vendors offer a wide array of food.

This year, the FolkFest will take place in Johnstown's new festival park for the third time. This park is being developed by JAHA as a permanent home for the FolkFest and other festivals, and will hopefully inspire more such events throughout the warm-weather months. The park will also serve as a trailhead for the Johnstown urban greenway, which will connect with a regional trail network.

The park is located across the street from Point Stadium, beside the Cambria Iron National Historic Landmark. As such, it provides a beautiful view of downtown Johnstown, including the Inclined Plane and the Johnstown Flood Museum. The permanent festival park is bordered by the stone bridge made famous by the 1889 Johnstown flood, and stretches to the Johns Street bridge. The FolkFest will also encompass the area stretching up past the train station, all the way to the Walnut Street bridge. Directional signs will help festivalgoers find the site.

Headliners for this year's festival include Balkan Beat Box, Sleepy LaBeef, The Recipe and Maia Sharp.

Free parking and shuttle service will be available at the Hiram G. Andrews Center in Upper Yoder/Westmont. Shuttles will also be available to provide free rides to festivalgoers who choose to park in one of the city-owned garages downtown. In addition, the Inclined Plane will be free during the festival.

The festival came to Johnstown in 1990 as the National Folk Festival, staying for two additional years before moving on to another American city. At that point, JAHA began to produce the event as the Johnstown FolkFest. This year AmeriServ Financial is celebrating its 10th anniversary as title sponsor for the years JAHA has produced the festival.

Major sponsors for the FolkFest include JWF Industries, Dodge, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, and Conemaugh Health System. Additional sponsors include Johnstown Magazine; CBIZ Insurance Services; Concurrent Technologies Corporation; First Commonwealth; First Summit; Laurel Management; Met Life; Northwest Savings; RE/MAX Team Realtors; Somerset Trust; Slovenian Savings & Loan; Waste Management; Atlantic Broadband; McAneny Brothers Inc.; Spence, Custer, Saylor, Wolfe & Rose; Cool 101.7; Forever Broadcasting; and WJAC Channel 6.

JAHA is a non-profit organization that exists to preserve and showcase Johnstown's nationally significant stories to the nation. In addition to the FolkFest, it operates two museums, the Johnstown Flood Museum and the Heritage Discovery Center, as well as a variety of other cultural programs held throughout the year. In June 2006 JAHA opened a third museum, the Wagner-Ritter House and Garden, and construction will begin on a Children's Discovery Museum in fall 2006.

For complete descriptions of all FolkFest performers, as well as stage schedules, parking information and more, visit the Johnstown Area Heritage Association Web site at www.jaha.org, or www.johnstownfolkfest.org.

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**FOLKFEST PERFORMERS
 AT A GLANCE**

PERFORMER NAME

GENRE

Sleepy LaBeef	Rockabilly
Balkan Beat Box	Dance/world
Terrance Simien & the Zydeco Experience	Zydeco
Those Darn Accordions	“Rock’n’roll accordion band”
Bonerama	Funk/rock/jazz
The Recipe	Jamband
Maia Sharp	Singer/songwriter
Irish Descendants	Traditional Celtic
Billy Price Band	Soul
Lee Boys	Sacred steel
Doll Hospital	Lounge music
Joe Grushecky & the Houserockers	Rock
Eric Tessmer Band	Electric blues
Will Hawkins	Singer/Songwriter
Gamble Brothers Band	Funk/rock/ska
Mark Dignam	Singer/Songwriter
Gospel Lights	Gospel
Rusty Gun Revival	Acoustic honky-tonk

Jazz In Your Face	Big-band jazz
Russell Lauf Band	Country rock
Rachel Allen	Singer/songwriter



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AMERISERV JOHNSTOWN FOLKFEST 2006 PERFORMER LINEUP

(JOHNSTOWN, Pa.) – Johnstown is getting ready to kick up its heels this Labor Day weekend at the AmeriServ Johnstown FolkFest! The festival runs from September 1-3 this year, and as always the lineup showcases Americana music – from blues to zydeco, and everything in-between. The complete 2006 lineup is as follows:

Sleepy LaBeef -- Arguably the greatest living roots musician, Sleepy LaBeef has been playing since the early 1950s -- while others emulate the rockabilly tradition, he embodies it. This Arkansas native has shared bills with everyone from Elvis to Roy Orbison to George Jones, and has influenced artists ranging from the Beatles to Bruce Springsteen. LaBeef is known for the raw power of his live performances (last seen at FolkFest in 1999 and 1995), which The New York Times says are "a national treasure." He's been called The Bull, The Road Warrior, and the Human Jukebox -- this 6'7" giant of rockabilly never fails to satisfy. Sponsor: First Energy.

Balkan Beat Box -- New York-based Israelis Ori Kaplan and Tamir Muskat form the heart of the Balkan Beat Box, which blends Balkan brass, turntables, percussion of all sorts (including kitchen implements), Gypsy rhythms, electronic beats, Bulgarian female vocals and sounds from all over the globe into an incredibly compelling, exotic live show. Explained one critic, "This is not your mother's klezmer - in fact, Jewish music never sounded so groundbreaking. . . This is the dance party of the new millennium." Sponsor: First Commonwealth.

Terrance Simien & the Zydeco Experience -- -- Back by popular demand! Terrance Simien played FolkFest in 2002, 1998 and 1992, and is a major reason why zydeco is so popular with our audience -- in fact, he has a live performance that Billboard Magazine has named one of the top 10 performances of the year. Recognized the world over as a zydeco legend, Simien has performed and recorded with artists as diverse as the Dave Matthews Band, Paul Simon and Los Lobos.

*JAHA thanks Terrance for allowing us to use his original song, "Toot Toot," on this Web page and in our television public service announcement . Sponsor: Laurel Management.

Those Darn Accordions -- Back by popular demand! A two-time FolkFest veteran, this group's live performances are legendary for their energy and spunk (in fact, they stomped a hole in a FolkFest stage in 2003). This San Francisco-based group squeezes out quirky, catchy originals chronicling life in the weird lane, and will forever rearrange your understanding of the accordion. Sponsor: Tribune-Democrat.

Bonerama -- Multiple trombones spitting funk, rock and jazz, backed by a sousaphone, drummer and electric guitar! Critics agree that this brass funk rock band is the freshest sound to come out of New Orleans in decades - in fact, Rolling Stone magazine calls them "the ultimate in brass balls." Sponsor: Spence, Custer, Saylor, Wolfe & Rose.

The Recipe -- A veteran of FolkFest 2004, the Recipe is one of the most original and refreshing bands on the roots rock/jamband scene today. Wrote one critic, "with elements of funk, fusion, rock and traditional Southern influences seeping into their sound, the Recipe do what jambands do best: weave several styles into a seamless whole." Sponsor: Concurrent Technologies Corp.

Maia Sharp -- Maia Sharp's songs have been recorded by Bonnie Raitt, Trisha Yearwood and the Dixie Chicks - in fact, she wrote the title track on the Chicks' Grammy Award-winning album "Home," and has been on tour with Bonnie Raitt for much of 2005. "Maia is making some of the most innovative and soulful music around with songs that are head and shoulders above the rest," Raitt says. Wrote Billboard magazine, "Sharp wields her crisp, alluring choruses like a temptress; listeners will surely be ensnared. Her tear-soaked lyrics and high-cresting melody conspire for a finely crafted lesson on invincible pop." Sponsor: MetLife.

Irish Descendants -- This traditional Celtic band from Newfoundland first played FolkFest in 2000. Talented instrumentalists, the band plays guitar, fiddle, banjo, mandolin, accordion, tin whistle and bouzouki. Wrote one critic, "The Irish Descendants are the undisputed 'Kings of Celtic' . . . Strong, hearty vocals, incredible musicianship, and an astonishing ability to make even the most cynical music fan dance." Sponsor: HERE.

Billy Price Band -- Billy Price, east coast blue-eyed soul man, has been entertaining audiences across the nation for the past three decades - and he's an institution in his hometown of Pittsburgh. According to the Washington Post, "Unlike so many blues revivalists, Price is not an imitation of older, better singers--he's the real thing." Raves another critic, "Price doesn't sound like any particular soul singer, but he possesses the vocal characteristics of the best--liquid smoke wrapped in barbed wire." Price is backed by a tight, horn-heavy band that brings out the best in soul classics and Price originals. Sponsor: Slovenian Savings & Loan.

Lee Boys -- "Sacred steel artists" is how this Miami-based band describes itself. As one critic put it, "their tradition melds the almost-human moan and wail of pedal steel guitar with the foot stomping, fan-waving evangelical fervor of an African-American Holiness-Pentecostal tent revival meeting." Rooted in gospel, their music borrows freely from R&B, jazz, rock, hip-hop and country. Audiences at their live performances take part by dancing and singing -- you won't be able to keep your seat! Sponsor: 1st Summit Bank.

Doll Hospital -- Doll Hospital is the vaguely malformed brainchild of downtown New York music-scene mainstay Heather Eatman. Featuring Eatman on arch-top guitar and vocals, backed by a band consisting of vibraphone, string bass and drums, this tiny wayward orchestra specializes in whimsical noir ditties that us back to a time that never was, but perhaps should have been. Eatman, who spent her teenage years in Johnstown, played the FolkFest as a solo act in 1999 and 1995. Sponsor: CBIZ Insurance Services.

Joe Grushecky and the Houserockers -- They have been described as the best bar band in America. "One of rock's true original indie bands, Joe Grushecky and the Houserockers don't get the respect that they deserve. . . If I had to pick one record to explain to future generations what rock & roll was about, this would be it," wrote one critic about the live album "Down the Road Apiece." Grushecky counts Bruce Springsteen among his fans, and often plays with the Boss when he comes to the area. Sponsor: JWF Industries.

Eric Tessmer Band -- Hot out of Austin, Texas, the Eric Tessmer Band plays sizzling electric blues with a talent some critics have compared to the young Stevie Ray Vaughan. Raves one critic, "Eric Tessmer holds a nightly clinic, a sermon if you will, in Strat manipulation ... to call his licks fast would be an insult to Mr. Graham Bell and to light itself." Sponsor: Northwest Savings Bank.

Will Hawkins -- "An honest and sincere presence on stage... terrific stories and wonderful pop hooks," writes one critic of Will Hawkins. Another critic raves, "From the first note he had my undivided attention ... an amazing storyteller with a fantastic voice." Hawkins is currently working on a new album, "Johnstown," whose title track is a tribute to Johnstown soldiers, reservists and national guardsmen returning from Iraq. Sponsor: The Sargent's Group.

Gamble Brothers Band -- Steeped in the rich musical traditions of the South, this Memphis-based band beat out more than 1,200 artists in the Independent Musicians World Series in 2003 -- and has only gotten better since. Combining soul, Crescent City funk, rock, reggae and ska, the Gamble Brothers Band lights up the stage. Sponsor: Waste Management.

Mark Dignam -- A native of Dublin, Ireland, Mark Dignam now calls Pittsburgh home, where he's been voted one of WYEP's top artists for 2005. According to one

critic, his music "isn't rock in the spiky haired punk or earnest grunge sense, but the classic school of thinking, imbued with a sense of America's music history." Sponsor: Cool 101.7.

The Gospel Lights -- The members of this group are from the Pittsburgh area. A perennial FolkFest favorite, they last appeared with us in 2005. The group, which originally formed in 1952, has traveled throughout the country performing with some of the great gospel artists of our time. Sponsor: Slovenian Savings & Loan.

Tim Dabbs -- Born in Johnstown, Tim Dabbs moved back to the city after first playing the Johnstown FolkFest in 2000. His music is in the storytelling tradition of folk, and includes many songs about this region. Dabbs has been featured on National Public Radio and Good Morning America. According to one critic, "Tim is a very talented songwriter writing in the tradition of Stan Rogers and Gordon Lightfoot, and people who write about real events and real places." Sponsor: Cambria Hardware & Equipment Company.

Rusty Gun Revival -- Go back to the time of honky tonk and juke joint music with Rusty Gun Revival, formerly known as Blind Jonny Death! Based in Clearfield, Pennsylvania, they've been delighting multigenerational audiences with energetic, lively shows across the state and beyond since June 2004. The group's shows are from the heart -- no planned act, no set list, just good, live Americana music as they feel it. If you're not a roots music fan, this act will make you one - and if you are, this is the group for you. Sponsor: Atlantic Broadband.

Jazz In Your Face -- A FolkFest perennial, Jazz in Your Face is a Johnstown-based group specializing in big-band music. This 17-member band has been entertaining audiences since 1988. Sponsor: JWF Industries.

Russell Lauf Band -- One critic wrote, "What's country? With a hundred vested interests and a musical spectrum as wide as America, who knows for sure. All Johnstown's Russell Lauf knows is that they're the same personal story songs whether they're backed by twangy pedal steel, delicate six string, wailing urban sax or electric guitar." The Russell Lauf Band specializes in bringing personal songs to life. A Johnstown native and gifted songwriter, Lauf is backed by a 7-piece band with a country rock twist that reminds many of the Eagles and Jackson Browne. Sponsor: McAneny Brothers, Inc.

Rachel Allen -- Rachel Allen is a singer/songwriter who performs traditional, multicultural and contemporary folk music and original material. She has been featured at a broad variety of concerts and events across southwestern Pennsylvania. A native of Johnstown, Allen released her first solo CD, "Almost There," in 2005. Sponsor: Flower Barn.

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JOHNSTOWN FOLKFEST SHUTTLE SYSTEM AND FESTIVAL PARKING

Free shuttles

Festivalgoers are encouraged to take an official FolkFest shuttle to the festival grounds. Each bus will be clearly marked as a FolkFest shuttle and will display the location it serves, and all shuttles are handicapped accessible. **Free parking is available at shuttle stops.**

Shuttle pick-up locations, along with free parking, will be available at the following areas. Signage will direct you.

- **Upper Yoder/Westmont:** The Hiram G. Andrews Center (on Goucher Street, just off Route 271). Note: this is the shuttle that provides transportation from the festival to the Log Cabin Arts Festival. **The Inclined Plane will be free during FolkFest, and riders of this shuttle will be dropped off at the Inclined Plane.** From the bottom of the Inclined Plane, festivalgoers can board another shuttle at the corner of Vine and Union, or simply walk three blocks to the festival park. The free Inclined Plane rides are made possible by Somerset Trust.

The Woodvale shuttle stop has been eliminated due to lack of use.

In addition, the downtown shuttles will provide free rides to festivalgoers who choose to park downtown. Look for signs that read "FolkFest Shuttle Stop" at downtown intersections, particularly along Main and Washington Streets.

Dropoff and pickup points:

All riders will be dropped off and picked up at the main entrance to the new festival park, at the corner of Washington and Johns Streets.

Shuttle schedule

Shuttles will be available on an ongoing basis beginning one hour before the first performance of the day begins. Shuttle service will end one hour after the scheduled closing of the festival, as follows:

- **Friday, September 1: 4:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m.**
- **Saturday, September 2: 11:00 a.m.-1:30 a.m.**
- **Sunday, September 3: 11:00 a.m.-12:30 a.m.**

Parking at the 2006 FolkFest

Festivalgoers are encouraged to take advantage of **free** parking at the Hiram G. Andrews Center.

Downtown Parking

A limited amount of free street parking is available downtown. Parking is available downtown in city-owned garages, and the city may charge \$5 to park in these garages. To locate these garages from the downtown area, look for special FolkFest signage or the permanent blue wayfinding signs posted throughout downtown.

The open city-owned garages are as follows:

Lincoln Street garage

Transit Center garage, also called the "Main Street garage"

Intermodal Transportation Center on Vine & Walnut

Shuttles will provide a free ride to anyone who parks downtown and prefers not to walk to the park—look for “FolkFest Shuttle Stop” signs at downtown intersections, particularly along Main and Washington Streets.

Note that there will be no vehicular access through Minersville via Iron Street.

Handicap parking

Handicap parking spaces are available in city-owned garages downtown, and all shuttles are handicapped accessible.

The AmeriServ Johnstown FolkFest is a 3-day music festival held annually over Labor Day weekend in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Four mainstages are continually programmed over the course of the festival, and admission is free. The FolkFest is produced by the Johnstown Area Heritage Association. In 2006, the festival will be held on September 1, 2 & 3. Major sponsors include JWF Industries, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, Dodge, and Conemaugh Health System. For more information, visit www.jaha.org.



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FOOD AT FOLKFEST 2006

As always, the AmeriServ Johnstown FolkFest features great food from a variety of vendors serving everything from festival favorites like funnel cakes to ethnic treats like pierogies and halushki. Asian food, crabcakes, gyros, roasted almonds, kettle korn, and chocolate-covered strawberries are just a few of the choices! At FolkFest information booths festivalgoers can pick up a sheet detailing each vendor's menu and location. All food and beverages must be paid for using festival scrip, which can be purchased at a variety of locations throughout the festival grounds.

Community Kitchen

As in 2004 and 2005, the festival has made free booth space available to any area church or non-profit to come and vend food and drinks during the festival. JAHA encourages festivalgoers to support these fine organizations. The list of Community Kitchen participants is still being finalized, but as of early August included:

- **Beulah United Methodist Church** – pigs in a blanket, halushki, pierogies
- **Crossroads Community Church** – cookies, gourmet coffee
- **Moxham United Methodist Ministries** -- apple dumplings, ice cream
- **Memorial Baptist Church** – chicken wraps
- **Pennsylvania Highlands Community College** -- gobs
- **St. John Gualbert Cathedral** – pulled pork sandwiches
- **VFW Post 10240** -- porkettes

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ABOUT JAHA— PRODUCERS OF THE FOLKFEST

Who is JAHA?

The Johnstown Area Heritage Association (JAHA) has produced the FolkFest for 16 or 13 years—depending on how you count it. JAHA was involved in the production of the festival in 1990, when it came to Johnstown as the National Folk Festival, staying for two additional years before moving on to another American city. At that point, JAHA picked up the reigns and renamed the event, and the Johnstown FolkFest came into being.

Continuing to produce the Johnstown FolkFest makes sense for JAHA, a non-profit that exists to preserve and showcase Johnstown's nationally significant stories to the nation. To do that, JAHA provides high-quality educational, cultural and recreational experiences in the area's unique historic settings. We operate three museums, the Johnstown Flood Museum, Heritage Discovery Center, and Wagner-Ritter House & Garden (which opened in May 2006). Construction on a Children's Discovery Museum will begin in early fall. We also offer a broad variety of other programs, including 1889 flood commemoration activities, a Spring Lecture Series and more, held throughout the year. In this way, we support the local economy by bringing positive national attention and visitors to our area. The FolkFest is a wonderful program that helps JAHA provide a great experience for local residents, focus national attention here and bring people to visit. Along the way, everyone has a terrific time.

Past performers

Past performers at the Johnstown FolkFest read like a "who's who" in traditional music. The festival brings a broad variety of musical genres to the area, allowing festivalgoers to see artists who might never play here otherwise. The festival has developed a national reputation for its high-quality programming, and best of all, it's still free.

Support the FolkFest

Producing the FolkFest costs about \$300,000 – but through the support of our sponsors and commission from festival scrip, JAHA is able to keep the festival free. However, there are a number of ways festivalgoers can support the FolkFest:

- **Become a FolkFest sponsor.** Businesses or individuals can sponsor performers, stages or areas of the FolkFest site -- a number of sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information, contact Patti Genovese, development director for JAHA, at 814-539-1889 ext. 309. Planning will begin for FolkFest 2007 immediately!
- **Become an individual sponsor.** Individuals who want to help support the FolkFest can do so for just \$75, and receive some great benefits as well! For a \$75 contribution, individual sponsors receive: a parking pass to a special lot (located along Washington Street, between Johns and Walnut Streets); and two laminated passes to the sponsor lounge, located in the train station. This lounge will feature comfortable seating, a cash bar, and flush toilets. Additional passes to the lounge may be purchased for \$20.
- **Become a member of JAHA.** Depending on the level of membership you choose, you'll get a wide range of membership benefits -- including FREE admission to all our museums year-round. Information on JAHA membership and benefits, including a downloadable membership form, is available on JAHA's Web site at www.jaha.org.
- **Make a donation to the FolkFest Endowment Fund.** This fund is administered by the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies and is designed to help fund the festival forever; call the foundation at 888-280-7741 for details, or stop by the Homecoming Station (located near the main entrance to the festival grounds, just over the Johns Street bridge) during FolkFest.
- **Become a FolkFest volunteer.** Hundreds of volunteers are needed before, during and after the festival -- it simply couldn't happen without them. More information on volunteering is available on the FolkFest Web site at www.johnstownfolkfest.org, or call us at 888-222-1889 to sign up.

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