

Entertainment announced for Chase Co. Fair

Written by Russ Pankonin, The Imperial Republican

This year's Chase County Fair in Imperial, Neb. will feature another exceptional lineup of entertainment for the 2013 event.

Fair board president Dave Schilke and entertainment chair Alex McNair said the fair board's excited about this year's variety of entertainment.

As always, the weekend shows will feature one rock 'n roll show and one country show.

In addition, the fair has stepped up their game with a Dove award winner performing on the Christian night.

Styx Friday, Aug. 16

This year's rock show will feature the rock legend band Styx on Friday, Aug. 16.

Band members Tommy Shaw, James "JY" Young, Lawrence Gowan, Todd Sucherman and Ricky Phillips have performed more live since '99 than all of the previous years of their career combined.

Spawned from a suburban Chicago basement in the early '70s, Styx would eventually transform into the virtual arena rock prototype by the late '70s and early '80s, due to a fondness for big rockers and soaring power ballads.

Entertainment announced for Chase Co. Fair

Written by Russ Pankonin, The Imperial Republican

From Styx's second album, "Lady" started to get substantial airplay in late '74 and quickly shot to number six on the singles chart, as "Styx II" was certified gold.

Most of their subsequent releases throughout the late '70s

earned at least platinum certification (1976's "Crystal Ball," 1977's "The Grand Illusion," 1978's "Pieces of Eight" and 1979's "Cornerstone"). These albums spawned such hit singles and classic rock radio standards as "Come Sail Away," "Renegade," "Blue Collar Man" and "Fooling Yourself."

Their 1981 album "Paradise Theater" became Styx's biggest hit of their career (selling over three million copies in a three-year period), as they became one of the U.S. top rock acts due to such big hit singles as "Too Much Time on My Hands."

A whole new generation of rock fans was introduced to the grandiose sounds of Styx via a humorous car ad which used the track "Mr. Roboto," as well as songs used in such TV shows as "South Park" and "Freaks & Geeks."

Justin Moore Saturday, Aug. 17

This year's country show will be headlined with country star Justin Moore Saturday, Aug. 17.

Moore sings about growing up in a small town in his No. 1 hit, "Small Town USA."

He sings about a "rifle in a gun rack hanging in the back glass" from his top five hit

Entertainment announced for Chase Co. Fair

Written by Russ Pankonin, The Imperial Republican

“Backwoods.” That’s because that’s the way it is in his hometown, where he learned how to hunt, fish, tend to the cattle and work the fields!

Moore released his first album, “Justin Moore,” in 2009. It was an exciting time for Moore as he spent all of ’09 and ’10 touring with the biggest names in country music.

These included Trace Adkins, Hank Williams Jr., Lynyrd Skynyrd, Brad Paisley, Brooks and Dunn, Miranda Lambert and Darius Rucker.

He signed on for the 2011 summer “Flatts Fest Tour” with Rascal Flatts and started 2012 touring with Blake Shelton and ended the year on Eric Church’s tour.

Moore’s sophomore album, “Outlaws Like Me,” debuted at No. 1 upon its release nationwide on June 21, 2011, and quickly landed him his second No. 1 along with a top 15.

Then, his first ever love song, “Til My Last Day” became his third No. 1 in December 2012. He finished 2012 on a high note with both of his albums reaching gold status within a month of each other.

Talbott Brothers special guests

Special guests performing with Moore will be Imperial’s own Americana-rock band, The Talbott Brothers.

The singer-songwriters independently wrote and recorded their debut album, “Leaving Home,”

Entertainment announced for Chase Co. Fair

Written by Russ Pankonin, The Imperial Republican

in 2012 and have since been touring nationally.

Their sophomore album will be recorded with Tone Tree Audio, LLC in May 2013. It will be available this summer, just in time for the Chase County Fair.

Dove winner Laura Story to headline Christian Show

The popularity of the Wednesday night Christian show at the Chase County Fair has continued to draw interest and increased support.

As a result, McNair said they decided to take the show to the next level with the booking of Dove Award winner Laura Story.

There's no denying some of the blessings in Story's life. She wrote the No. 1 worship hit "Indescribable" recorded in 2004 by Chris Tomlin.

She married her high school sweetheart, athlete named Martin Elvington, the next year and began working in music and women's ministry at the 4,000-member Perimeter Church in Atlanta, Ga.

After signing an artist deal with the INO Records, her 2008 national debut won a Dove Award for Inspirational Album and earned Story two consecutive nominations for Female Vocalist of the Year.

But amidst that success a brain tumor hospitalized her husband in 2006.

The faith Story sings about was put through the unexpected fires of fear and loneliness; most young newlyweds don't imagine being kept alive at one point by breathing machines or having to find their way through significant post-operative vision and memory loss.

Could grace notes resound from such a life-altering struggle? Story's incisive new album, "Blessings," suggests they do.

"Life is filled with things you don't expect, but the Bible tells us to respond by trusting God and continuing to worship him," Story said.

"Martin hasn't received complete healing—and that can be hard at times when we view God as all-powerful and all-loving. But here we are now saying, 'Yes, this is how faith works.'

"God has proven to be faithful. We have been truly blessed out of a circumstance that at first didn't seem like much of a blessing at all," she said.

Holyoke Enterprise April 18, 2013