

## LOCAL

# Christian Rock Music Fest coming to Tahlequah

Several church youth pastors and representatives met Thursday, March 10, to discuss plans already underway to bring one of the biggest concerts event ever in Tahlequah. The four-day event is slated for Sept. 14-17, at the Cherokee County Rodeo Grounds on U.S. Highway 62 South of the city. Titled "Kingdom RockFest," the event will bring the best of Christian rock, rap, Latino, contemporary and modern worship music to one place.

Sponsored initially by the United Tribes for Christ Fellowship, city-wide sponsorships are sought from businesses, churches, organizations or individuals to defray the cost of this huge event. A meeting followed with the Tahlequah Tourism Council, with an expected endorsement at the April meeting. The local concert promoters, headed by UTFCF Events Coordinator Nancy Goate, and local events coordinators Tonya Bryant and Denise Rooster, are on the March 22 agenda of the Chamber of Commerce, where an additional endorsement is expected. Many

area youth pastors and individuals have expressed great enthusiasm and support, as well as Campus Christian Fellowship, the Wesley Foundation, and Baptist Collegiate Ministries of Northeastern State University.

Christian rock and contemporary Christian artists slated to appear include Nicole C. Mullen, Toby Mac, Pillar, Disciple, Charity Von and Latino sensation Salvador. These artists have garnered both Dove and Grammy Awards and nominations, and Salvador has toured the world with the Franklin Graham Crusades.

The second evening will open with worship music lead by local worship singer/songwriter, Becky Wright. Wright has two recordings of her own and many Nashville-published songs, including two songs recently released by Christian artist, Jeanie Kay Truesdale, who was nominated for Female Vocalist of the Year in 2004 by the Christian Country Music Association. Her CD, "I Know Him," is available nationwide at Wal-Mart and Family Christian Bookstores.

Other local groups will be appearing, including Visionary, Silas, the Cherokee Youth Choir, and I Believe Ministries with Brian Jackson.

Another draw will be the opening day battle of the bands contest. Local bands interested in competing for prizes, such as free studio recording time and more, should contact local Events Coordinator Tonya Bryant at (918) 458-6468, or Denise Rooster at (918) 458-9226 or (918) 931-2532. The two-step application process includes an interview with local youth pastors by each band member/artist, and playing some music. The price for entry is still being determined, but will be reasonable. The top band will open for Pillar. Fox TV is slated to air the event, as well as KLove Christian Radio of Oklahoma City. Frontier Music from Lawton, will supply the stage, lights, sound system, five television cameras, etc., that will be viewable from the highway in front of the rodeo grounds.

Local businesses, churches and organizations are urged to get involved with publicizing the event,

as well as financial support. The top 10 sponsors will be listed in a commercial which will air on Fox TV during prime time. Some ship levels also will include names of the sponsors in all the volunteers' T-shirts, and recognition at the event.

Donations are sought for services needed including several golf carts, walkie-talkies, cell phones, food and drink for members and volunteers. (The five-day) ticket, granules, lights, security, paramedics, ambulance availability, buses for shuttling attendees, grounds from parking area, radio promotion, etc. Tonya Bryant or Denise Rooster, with donations, which are deductible for this non-profit organization. If the entire cost is not written, the cost for the event will be free, which is the UTFCF. Online contact info@unitedtribesforchrist.org. The Web site is www.unitedtribesforchrist.org. A special just for this event is in the

Becky Wright opens for Salvador, Charity Von, and more, as specially invited worship leader to open the "Kingdom Rockfest" in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.