

By Russ Pankonin

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Both rock and country music fans will get to enjoy their genre of music again at this year's Chase County Fair.

Fair organizers announced this week the rock group 38 Special and the country group Little Big Town will headline this year's grandstand shows.

38 Special will appear on Friday, Aug. 14, with Little Big Town taking the stage Saturday, Aug. 15.

Fair board president Dave Schilke and entertainment chair Dan Kunnemann both said they were pleased to get the two groups booked for this year's fair, which runs from Aug. 9-16.

Kunnemann said both groups carry large fan bases and expects great shows from both groups.

This marks the second year that 38 Special has performed at the fair. They headlined the rock show in 2000.

For Little Big Town, this will be their first appearance at the fair.

Schilke said this year's selection of shows will continue a tradition of bringing great performers to the Chase County Fair.



38 Special, Friday, Aug. 14

The music of 38 Special spans more than three decades after being founded in 1975 by neighborhood friends Don Barnes and Donnie Van Zant in Jacksonville, Fla.

Since then, the band has released more than 15 albums and have toured relentlessly.

In its early days, the band built its reputation with its own brand of Southern boogie and blues-rock. From there, they transformed into a more arena-rock-friendly style.

In its second decade, the band scored big with a slew of hits, including such rockers as "Caught Up In You," "Hold on Loosely," "If I'd Been the One" and "Rockin' Into the Night."

Van Zant, the brother of late Lynyrd Skynyrd frontman Ronnie Van Zant, said the magic's still there.

"When I walk up those steps to the stage and hear that audience roar, sometimes I feel like Don and I don't even have to sing, because the crowds are so vocal," Van Zant said.

Barnes said it's all about maintaining the intensity they deliver during their live shows.

