



**By Carolyn Lee**

### ***The Imperial Republican***

The Road. That's the name of Nick and Tyler Talbott's newest album, and also a metaphor for their lives.

As The Talbott Brothers, the Imperial natives are opening for Justin Moore at the Chase County Fair Aug. 17. It will be their largest concert yet.

And after spending part of a year recording their second album, the duo is ready to hit the road performing.

The song "The Road" is the title track for the album. "It's everything we had to go through to get to where we're at," Nick said recently. "We're still climbing. It sums up the album."

Other songs, which the brothers will sing at the fair, include "Little Love," which has been released online on their website and which Nick describes as a "hoedown" song, and "Criminal."

The album sums up "Just about where we're at as far as a band and the season in our lives where we're hitting the road."

"This is what we're supposed to do" with their lives, Nick added. "The road is tough sometimes and has good and bad, but it's what we know we're supposed to do."

The brothers wrote the whole record together, which was one of the challenging parts, Nick observed. "We played with a lot of different sounds. The record is organic, earthy with some imperfections that make it sound raw," he added.

"The Road," priced at \$10, comes out Aug. 13 and will be available on iTunes, at talbott brothers.com and at the fair.

"We're considering the fair show to be our big release," Nick stated. It's a thank you to "everyone who helped us make the album." The production of the album was financed through Kickstarter with donations from friends and fans.

The older of the two brothers said he and Tyler are "really excited" to open for Moore. "It's surreal, to be playing on a big stage. We're really excited to be playing in the town we grew up in."

Nick said he checked out Moore's music when The Talbott Brothers were booked for the fair. "I think it will be a good fit," he said, noting that his music is more rock, folk and blues.

Band members Jake Culey on drums and Brian Gangwish on bass will accompany the brothers at the fair.

Since the brothers have been busy recording their new album this spring, they just got back on the road. They've been playing festivals, opening for a Boston band at the Waiting Room in Omaha and are attending a folk fest in Colorado soon.

Nick and wife Rudi, as well as Tyler, just moved to Omaha from Lincoln. "We have a lot more opportunity to play," Nick observed, as Des Moines and Kansas City are close.

Nick began playing guitar and singing at age 12, with Tyler following a few years later. "We both wanted to hang out and make music happen," Nick remembered.

They were also composing music at the same time they were performing at coffee houses, the Chase County Fair and Imperial United Methodist Church.

Their first album, *Leaving Home*, was released late last year.