

# Local benefactor makes Fantasia show possible

By Heath E. Combs

STAFF WRITER

The status of High Point native and "American Idol III" winner Fantasia Barrino's performance at A.J. Simeon Stadium this Saturday is definite.

Barrino will perform two songs at an AIDS awareness benefit, which begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 2 p.m. The singer will take the stage at 1 p.m.

Event organizer and County Commissioner Bruce Davis is touting the event as Barrino's homecoming to the city. The status of the concert was unknown last week as Davis sought funding.

Davis said last week the event would have to be free or it would not take place. He said local real estate agent and developer Ed Price placed a call to businessman Bill Millis, who then donated \$10,000 to fund the event.

"He wanted to make sure that we had a homecoming for Fantasia," Davis said. "He said we have to support our hometown girl and we have to support High Point."

All seating for the event is free, but

concert goers must pick up a ticket and bring a perishable food donation for entry to the event.

Davis said many acts are scheduled to perform, including a comedian, two gospel choirs, rock and roll and Latin music bands and the Andrews High School Marching Band.

Tickets can be obtained today and Friday after 3 p.m. at Barnes & Noble Booksellers on Eastchester Drive, Cut-N-Up Styling and Barber Shop in the Five Points area, Sickle Cell Disease Association of the Piedmont on Taylor Avenue, Carl Chavis YMCA at Spring Brook Meadows and Triad Health Project offices on Summit Avenue in Greensboro.

Davis is a member of Friends of Fantasia, a group that offered funding for travel to the singer's family during her "Idol" tenure, and the High Point AIDS Coalition, which is organizing the free event.

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Fantasia Barrino