

FOX CITIES **Hub**

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Ongoing coverage of the Fox Valley entertainment scene

Video, blog: Your guide to week

What's up this weekend? Check out Fox City Up All Night blog and video every week at fo things rolling on Thursdays with insights on the coming days. Mike comes back on Friday fun to the weekend lineup. Pay a visit and so

Darboy's Chickenfest has youth appeal once again



Mike Thiel

Post Crescent staff writer

foxcitieshub.com

Chickenfest sure knows how to keep the 15 and under crowd happy

The Oprah-endorsed Charice entertained a youthful audience at the Darboy summer festival last year, while Hulk Hogan's daughter, Brooke, made an appearance in 2009. Even former Ashlee Simpson boy toy Ryan Cabrera hit the Darboy stage in 2008

— a performance he's still living down from TMZ Google it

Though Cabrera and Hogan have become

rather forgettable over the last few years (OK, completely forgettable), Charice is actually excelling. She made her most recent mark in Hollywood by landing a spot as Sunshine Corazon on Fox's hit TV show "Glee." The reason for her popularity became obvious to me last year when I interviewed her at the Copperleaf Hotel in downtown Appleton. My video interview with Charice ended up going viral, getting well over 100,000 combined views on a variety of digital platforms including foxcitieshub.com, YouTube and chancemania.com, much to my surprise.

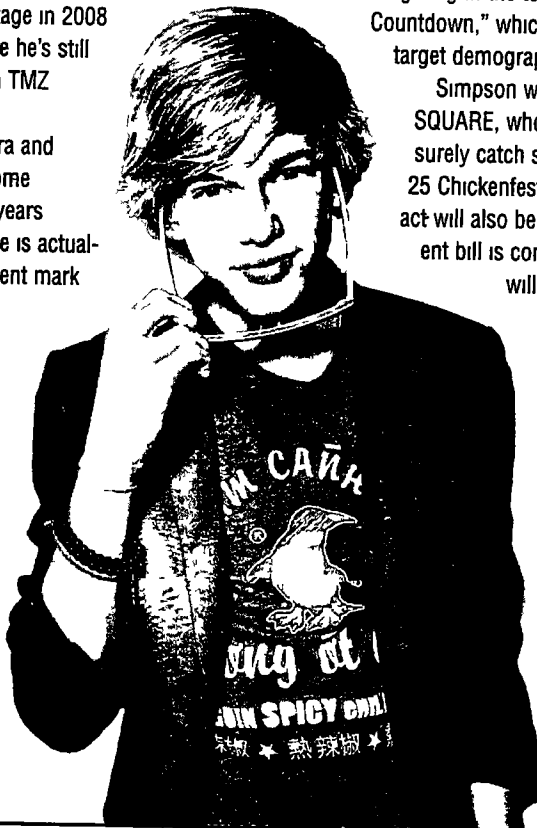
Earlier this week, officials with 95.9 KISS-FM's Summer Slam at

Chickenfest announced that 14-year-old Cody Simpson will be the 2011 headliner, another young gun who's career path, at least for the time being, looks to be heading closer toward Charice status than Ryan what's-his-name.

Simpson is sort of like the Australian Justin Bieber, with flipping blonde hair, a tenor voice and a bunch of grade-schoolers who want to be his girlfriend. His song "All Day" is still lingering in the top 10 of Disney Radio's "Top 30 Countdown," which means he must be pleasing his target demographic.

Simpson will have company from R&B group **SQUARE**, who's song "Hey Sexy Lady," will surely catch some radio play before their June 25 Chickenfest performance. One more outside act will also be announced before the national talent bill is complete. Maybe the next musician will even be old enough to drive.

MIKE THIEL 920-993-1000 ext 526 or mthiel@postcrescent.com
Follow him on Twitter @foxcitieshub



Cody Simpson is 14 and situated nicely in Disney's star-making machine. He'll play Darboy's Chickenfest June 25. Simpson, who hails from Australia, is fast becoming a tween favorite.



BE SEEN Mike Thiel, your favorite snapping photos at Fox City nights each week. He snaps downtown Appleton. If you then check out all of the ph

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