

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CITY OF PALMDALE

### *NEWS RELEASE*

CONTACT: John Mlynar

PHONE: 661/267-5115

DATE: October 1, 2014

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual G-Com Benefit Concert in Support of the Wounded Warrior Project Takes Palmdale Amp Stage on Saturday**

PALMDALE – G-Com Services will present a concert to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project at the Palmdale Amphitheater, (The Amp), located at 2723 Rancho Vista Boulevard, this Saturday, Oct. 4.

“This will be a family friendly event that will include a variety of great live music by local bands,” said G-Com Services President Lemuel Galvao. “We’ll have something for everyone—country/classic rock, blues, progressive rock and Latin rock. We encourage the community to come out to the beautiful Palmdale Amphitheater for an afternoon of music, food, fun and to help raise funds and awareness for our wounded soldiers.”

Musical acts include: Emote, featuring Billy Sherwood, former member of the band Yes, and Felix Pollard, former drummer with Jessica Simpson, Clay Aiken and Chaka Khan; Runaway; Boulevard Knights and The Joel Hatcher Band.

Gates open at 11 am, with opening ceremonies at noon. Tickets are \$10 general admission, children under 12 with accompanying adult are free, vets and active military free with military ID. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. Carry-in food, beverages, coolers alcohol and pets are not permitted. Food will be available on site.

Tickets and info: [www.gcomservices.org/donations](http://www.gcomservices.org/donations). Vendor and sponsorships are available. Contact G-Com at 661/435-8248 or [gcomservices@outlook.com](mailto:gcomservices@outlook.com).

Local sponsors and businesses are encouraged to contact G-Com for more information by calling 661/435-8248 or emailing [gcomservices@outlook.com](mailto:gcomservices@outlook.com).

### **Emote**

Recently formed Emote, this progressive rock group features former Yes lead guitarist and vocalist Billy Sherwood, former Chaka Khan/Jessica Simpson/Clay Aiken drummer Felix Pollard, Matt McBride on bass and Kristy Love on lead vocals and guitar.

### **Runaway**

Runaway formed in 2010 after lead guitarist Jim Hinds, a graduate of the Berklee College of Music and protégé of jazz guitar gurus Linc Chamberland and Ted Greene, and Jay Bonanno, a 26-year musical prodigy and part-time high school soccer coach, decided to break away from the stress of their day jobs as Los Angeles air traffic controllers to collaborate in writing, recording, and playing music during their off time.

Upon deciding to form a band Jim and Jay reached out to Jay's father Doug Bonanno, a retired carpenter and music veteran with over 52 years' experience as a lead and backup vocalist and rhythm guitarist, to join them. Multi-talented Jim Deverian, a general contractor with over 30 years of musical experience playing rhythm guitar, bass and percussion was next to join the group on drums. Ruben Gutierrez put the finishing touches on the group with solid driving bass lines. Inspired

by the British Rock invasion in the mid-1960's, Ruben plays upright, fretted, and fretless five-string electric basses and rounds out the band's three part harmonies.

### **The Boulevard Knights**

The Boulevard Knight's story begins in the town of Palmdale, California where three childhood friends, Abel Garza and Richie and Albert Leon decided to form a band. Their original intentions were to entertain close friends and relatives who shared the same passion and excitement for music as they did. They studied and emulated the sounds of Santana, Chuck Berry, Wilson Pickett and other rock 'n roll greats while perfecting their own style and sound.

Over the next few years other musicians joined the band and each has contributed to the uniqueness of the sound. Each musician comes with training or experience in musical styles that range from classical to jazz, rock, salsa, traditional Latin and big band swing. Some of the band members have played with many well-known performers that include The Spiral Staircase, Poncho Sanchez, Bobby Caldwell, Mary Wells, Richie Valens, King Solomon Burke, Ballin' Jack, Rick James and many others. The band has also been joined on stage by some prestigious performers that include Grammy Award winner Tom Scott. One member of the band, Gil Rocha, was the leader of "The Silhouettes," the band that gave Richie Valens his first break in 1957. After Richie's death in 1959, Gil worked faithfully to keep his memory alive and campaigned vigorously throughout the years to have him inducted into the Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame. His efforts paid off and Richie was inducted in 2001.

### **The Joel Hatcher Band**

While being primarily a Blues band, The Joel Hatcher Band plays a variety of roots American music. The sounds of New Orleans Funk, Soul, and Blues based Rock primarily from the 60's and 70's are all in the mix. From Stevie Ray Vaughan to Stevie Wonder, T-Bone Walker to Marshall Tucker, the band is dedicated to playing the blues and all those soulful sounds that came from the blues

### **About G-Com Services**

G-Com Services G-Com Services (G-Com) is a 501c4, non-profit organization which was established in November of 2011 to support the Antelope Valley. Their vision is to provide support to existing charitable organizations and local events in the community, as well as to establish its own charity events and community services.

### **About Wounded Warrior Project**

The mission of the Wounded Warrior Project is to honor and empower wounded soldiers by raising awareness and enlist the public's aid for the needs of injured service members, helping injured service members aid and assist each other, and providing unique, direct programs and services to meet the needs of injured service members. Information on the Wounded Warrior Project may be found at [www.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org).

### **About The Amp**

The Palmdale Amphitheater, or "The Amp," at Marie Kerr Park is the Antelope Valley's premier outdoor entertainment venue, providing audiences with a blend of high energy concert performances and community-based programming. Its convenient

location, great sight lines and comfortable, grassy seating areas are complemented by Saturday evening concerts and Friday evening Family Movie Nights presented during summer months.

For many years, the City of Palmdale hosted concerts on a baseball field at Marie Kerr Park, and guests would come as early as 3 am to set out their blankets and stake their spots to watch entertainers perform on a portable stage. There were often smaller events held prior to the concerts, like Family Western Days, Taste of the Valley and the Fourth Saturday Cruise. Soon, however, the concerts were bursting at the seams with guests, and it became clear that a larger venue was needed.

In 2005, after Palmdale residents voted for a bond measure to provide funds for the construction, the Palmdale Amphitheater was opened at the newly expanded Marie Kerr Park site, ushering in a new era. The new amphitheater featured amenities that were not available at the old site, such as permanent restrooms, areas for food vendors, and even a "real" green room for the entertainers.

The Palmdale Amphitheater is available for rentals. To learn more about hosting events at The Amp, please visit [www.cityofpalmdale.org/amp](http://www.cityofpalmdale.org/amp), or call at 661/267-5611.