

# Lollapalooza may pick Pec

## Promoters consider booking rock concert at fairgrounds

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The Register Star

**PECATONICA** — One of the hottest rock 'n' roll concert tours in the country, Lollapalooza, might be coming to the Winnebago County Fairgrounds this summer.

Fair officials said the all-day festival's promoters have shown strong interest in doing a Pecatonica show around the Fourth of July.

Proponents say the festival of music, culture and politics would give area hotels, restaurants and other businesses a big boost. Crowd estimates range from 30,000 to 50,000 people.

Students at Pecatonica High School are circulating petitions in favor of the concert event.

"There isn't much here in Pecatonica to do," said 18-year-old Salena Wagner. "This would bring

a lot of people to town — and a lot of excitement."

But the idea of turning the streets of Pecatonica over to hordes of young rock fans is drawing opposition in the community of 1,800.

Promoters in Chicago declined to comment Monday, saying details of Lollapalooza '96 aren't decided.

"Nothing is carved in stone,"

said Mark Miller of JAM Productions, which is booking Lollapalooza dates throughout the Midwest. Details are expected to be announced within a few weeks.

Early reports on the popular concert tour — entering its fifth year — say organizers are steering clear of large, conventional arenas this year.

In addition to music, the event emphasizes other aspects of "alter-

native" rock, such as exotic fashion and political activism. The festival usually starts about noon and runs 10 to 12 hours.

Brad Walsh, MetroCentre general manager in Rockford, said organizers first inquired about local venues several months ago. The MetroCentre was ruled out because it's indoors; the Rockford Speedway was regarded as too

Please see **Lollapalooza**, 4A▷

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### Lollapa-what?

The Lollapalooza concert tour, started in 1991, is an all-day outdoor festival that features several "alternative" rock bands, as well as display booths emphasizing fashion, culture, activism and fun.

Estimated crowds range from 30,000 to 50,000 people.

The 1996 lineup so far includes the bands Metallica, Soundgarden and The Ramones. At least three other artists are expected to be added.