



PHOTO: LAURIE LACROIX

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Heartland of America Band Vortex performs a free concert at the YHS/Summit Activities Center theatre June 10. The *Press & Dakotan* is one of the sponsors of this concert. (Courtesy photo)

Into The Vortex

Military Band Set To Perform Free Concert In Yankton

BY REILLY BIEL
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Military bands have been around about as long as the military itself, and next week, one of them will come to Yankton. The Heartland of America Band Vortex will perform in Yankton on Wednesday, June 10, at 7 p.m. at the YHS/Summit Activities Center theatre.

Vortex first performed in Yankton 12 years ago at the Dakota Theatre. The increased interest has prompted the change to a larger venue.

"We had an open invitation for them to return," Gary Wood, publisher of the *Press & Dakotan*, said. "They reached out and said they were going to start moving more outside the state of Nebraska and would like to come to Yankton."

With support from the sponsors of the *P&D*, the Yankton Hy-Vee and the Yankton School District, the band is ready to perform.

"We have done a wide variety of performances, for school assemblies, military ceremonies and clinics and so on," said SSgt. Anthony Schmaus, the band's tour director/bass guitar player.

The band's home base is Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska.

Vortex currently consists of 13 members, with instruments ranging from guitars to a french horn to a piano. They play blues, country, pop, rock and, of course, patriotic music.

"We are excited to play for the wonderful citizens of Yankton," Schmaus said.

With the upcoming Youth Archery Tournament occurring the same week as the concert, a good turnout is expected.

"We are hoping to get a couple hundred kids from

the archery tournament for the performance," said Wood. "It's going to be a unique experience for them."

For Schmaus, it's another day of doing what he loves.

"I love serving my country and playing music to serve my country. There's a lot of people in the air force who do great things that no one sees," he said proudly.

Tickets to the concert can be picked up at the *P&D* on 319 Walnut, Yankton, or online at www.yankton.net. There is no charge, and plenty of seat are available.

For more information on the band, call the band's media staff at 402-294-0482 or visit www.heartlandofamericaband.af.mil.

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PHOTO: CHAD COPPES

The 1980s will be alive and well at Yankton's Rockin' Ribfest Saturday night as Hairball returns as the headline band. The band's family-friendly performance pays homage to such rock and roll acts as KISS, Aerosmith, AC/DC, Van Halen, Twisted Sister and Alice Cooper. Musical performances Saturday begin at noon, with Hairball set to take the stage at 8:30 p.m.

Ribfest Return

Hairball Is Back To Rock 'n Roll All Night At Saturday's Event

BY ALYSSA SOBOTKA
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Yankton, prepare to rock 'n' roll all night, as Hairball will be plugging in and turning up Memorial Park's stage for the second year in a row at Yankton's ninth annual Rockin' Ribfest.

Hairball will bring alive '70s and '80s rock 'n' roll legends like Van Halen, Motley Crue, KISS, AC/DC, Aerosmith and Alice Cooper, among many others, beginning at 8:30 p.m. during Saturday's free, two-hour performance.

"The Founding Fathers of Rock 'n Roll wrote the book of what we do, we just get together and read it to you," said Happy, Hairball's lead guitarist, during an interview this week with the *Press & Dakotan*. "The

cool thing about Hairball is it moves so fast ...I feel like we're the gateway drug to a lot of this rock 'n' roll."

Happy joined Hairball two years after the group's inception in 2000. He admitted that he was not thrilled at first about the idea to be playing in yet another cover band that imitates the sound, style and production that rock legends created nearly three decades ago.

"I decided to lose my attitude about it," he said. "When it gets down to it, I'm having fun and the people out there are having fun. I feel like we're the preservation society for cool rock 'n' roll."

But Hairball isn't like other tribute bands

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