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Yankton's Rockin' Ribfest Taking Shape

Yankton's ninth annual Rockin' Ribfest will be held Saturday, June 6, at Memorial Park. Admission to the park is free and the all-day event offers something for everyone including live music, drinks and great BBQ food sold throughout the day by professional vendors.

Four local bands perform from noon to 8 p.m., with the grand finale beginning at 8:30 p.m. The Mitigators kick off the event at noon followed by Mrs. Begley and The Boys at 2 p.m., The Austin Buescher Band at 4 p.m., and Go Figure (The Reunion Gig) at 6:30 p.m. Hairball takes the stage at 8:30 p.m.

Hairball vocalists Bobby, Steve and Joe Dandy lead the band through a 2-plus hour, mind-blowing and drop-dead accurate homage to some of the biggest arena acts in the world. Van Halen, KISS, Motley Crue, Queen, Journey and Aerosmith are but a few of the acts fans will see brought to life. The Hairball stage becomes an entirely new rock concert before your very eyes countless times throughout the night.

For a great experience, purchase "With the Band" passes for just \$20 each and enjoy front-of-stage viewing during the Hairball concert. Passes can be purchased online at www.yanktonribfest.com/. You can also purchase your passes at 308 Douglas (cash or check only). A limited number are available.

Food vendors open for business at 11 a.m. offering many delicious choices. More rib vendors have been added and there are many other tasty options as well. You can "pig-out" on BBQ ribs, pulled pork sandwiches, brisket, chops, turkey legs, kettle-korn, funnel cakes and so much more.

Rockin' Ribfest will once again feature the Amateur Rib Contest where amateur ribbers can compete for trophies and bragging rights. Cash prizes totaling \$900 will be awarded. Deadline for sign up is May 27. Official rules, judging criteria, and entry forms can be found at www.yanktonribfest.com/. Registration must be made on the website.

If you want an experience away from the large crowd, the reserved VIP area is for you! You will be wine and dine with food and beer as you relax in the shade at tables and chairs while enjoying the entertainment on stage. More importantly, the area will have its own restroom facilities. Reserve your spot in the VIP area for \$100/person online at www.yanktonribfest.com/. Or stop at 308 Douglas to reserve your spot (check or cash only).

The Coed Sand Volleyball Tournament will be a 16-team double elimination tournament. For more information and to enter your team, go to www.yanktonribfest.com/. Sign up by May 15 to receive a special Rockin' Ribfest Coed Sand Volleyball T-shirt. Prizes will be awarded.

Along with the amenities offered in the park (swimming pool, play equipment, horseshoe pits, tennis courts, etc.), there will be inflatables and other fun activities for kids.

New to the event this year ... a huge 12 x 20-foot LED screen will assure a great view for everyone in the park. Not only will you be able to see the bands, you may catch a glimpse of yourself as the camera pans the crowd.

Also, 50/50 raffle tickets (one for \$10 or three for \$25) are available online, and at Boller Printing, Royal Sport Shop, Lisa's Fashion/Holiday Gift, and the Road Runner. Or from committee members Kristy Wyland, Sarah Heine, Todd Larson, Brad Woerner, Jonna Supurgesi, Chuck Rezak, Matt Hanson, Jesse Bailey and Beth Rye.

You can also help make the 2015 Rockin' Ribfest a successful event with your sponsorships that help fund the bands, stage, and production equipment. The remaining proceeds stay in Yankton to benefit not only future Rockin' Ribfests, but also the growth and prosperity of local businesses. For sponsorship opportunities please contact Sarah Heine at 605-661-4591 or email queensh75@gmail.com.

Organizers are also looking for volunteers to assist with the event. There are many opportunities available. Call Kathy at 605-665-2263 to sign up.

If you are unable to volunteer your time but would like to support Ribfest, donations are greatly appreciated. Donations can be sent to Historic Downtown Yankton, PO Box 9124, Yankton, S.D. 57078.

Questions can be emailed to info@yanktonribfest.com or by calling 605-665-2263. Visit www.yanktonribfest.com and follow Rockin' Ribfest on Facebook and Twitter.



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

The Rev. Michael Carlson has been selected as the new director of the Yankton Children's Choir. He hopes to expand the boundaries of his young singers. "I hope to see more ways that we can provide opportunities for area students in terms of exposing them to all the opportunities that music brings," he said.

A New Voice For The Choir

Michael Carlson Is Set To Take The Reins As New Children's Choir Director

BY JORDYNNE HART

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iring the Rev. Michael Carlson as the new director for the Yankton Children's Choir (YCC) was a "no brainer," according to YCC's executive director, Dot Stoll.

"We had hired Michael for the last three months just to help as a co-director with Angela Larson," Stoll said. "He is a trained tenor and he has been awesome with the kids. It will be an easy transition for the kids because they know him, so they are familiar with how he does things."

According to Carlson, Larson stepped down to get her master's degree.

"She is an amazingly busy person and very gifted," he said. "I really enjoyed working with her."

Carlson moved to Yankton with his wife, the Rev. Molly Carlson, and their two sons from California.

"Since we moved here, I have been looking for opportunities in music," Carlson said.

Even though he just moved to Yankton last February, Carlson has already performed as a singer-songwriter, an a cappella vocal looping artist and an actor in productions such as "The King and I" for Lewis and Clark Theatre Company and "Little Shop of Horrors" at Mount Marty College (MMC). He recently toured as keyboardist with the MMC Jazz Band.

"I have also been teaching voice lessons to kids for about six years, and have been directing choir at my kids' elementary school's voluntarily in California," he said.

Carlson also produces a private concert series: "Pine Street House Concerts," featuring world-class musicians from all over the country.

"My experience here has been wonderful," he said. "I really enjoy being involved in different organizations and getting creative."

Carlson isn't the only new addition to the YCC. Larson and Carlson have also been mentoring two Yankton High School students who are interested in pursuing musical careers in college.

Sam Carda and Cody Geary, who are both very involved in YHS theatre and music, have each directed a piece of music this past year to further explore their interests.

"It's awesome," Carlson said. "We are helping them get some help with their directing and getting some experience."

Carlson said as YCC director, he would like to continue helping kids grow in their musical education — no matter what their age is.

"I hope to see more ways that we can provide opportunities for area students in terms of exposing them to all the opportunities that music brings," Carlson said. "I want the kids to learn in different ways. Arts education in general has been something that is very important to me. There are certain ways kids can learn with the arts that they don't learn any other way. Being (in an) ensemble is all about listening to one another and working together."

Carlson would also like to include a multicultural emphasis to YCC's music.

"You can almost say that music is plural," he said. "I could say 'musics' because it's all different. It's very cultural."

Along with a new director and interns, the choir is also looking for new faces.

The choir will have open auditions May 12 at 6-7:30

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