

THE SIDEBAR

Mankato Marathon seeking commemorative print

MANKATO — The Mankato Marathon is seeking an artist to create its 2014 commemorative print.

Organizers are offering \$500 as a commission for the completion of the poster design that will be used for the marathon on Oct. 19. The Marathon Merchandise Committee is looking specifically for a visual concept that represents the fifth anniversary of the event.

To be considered for the commission, the artist must first submit an application which can be obtained online at www.mankatomarathon.com or at Visit Mankato's office. The deadline is July 1.

"The commemorative poster is an integral piece of any marathon's merchandising because runners enjoy collecting the prints at each of their races," the press release said. "Much like the bibs or running chips, the poster is often kept as a reminder of the runner's accomplishment."

Previous print artists include: Ginny Bergerson (2013), Chris Sell (2012), Liz Madsen (2011) and Barbara Bjelland (2010).

The Mankato Marathon is a qualifying event for the prestigious Boston Marathon and organizers said the fifth-year attendance projection is 5,000.

For more information on the 2014 event, go to www.mankatomarathon.com or call 507-385-6660.

Author Webb speaking at Waseca library

WASECA — Author Wendy Webb will be speaking at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Waseca Public Library.

Webb will be talking about her Gothic suspense books, such as her latest book "The Vanishing." Webb's 2011 release, "The Tale of Halcyon Crane," was the winner of the Minnesota Book Award for genre fiction.

The event is free and open to the public. Books will be available for purchase for the event.

For more information, contact Waseca Public Library at 507-835-2910.

Historic Hubbard House opens

MANKATO — The Historic R.D. Hubbard House will be open for the season beginning Saturday.

The Hubbard House is located at 606 Broad St. and will be open from 1-4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays during May.

Admission is \$5 for adults, \$2 for children ages 5-17 and free for children under 5 and Blue Earth County Historical Society members.

For more information, contact the Heritage Center at 507-345-5566.

STAMP OF SUCCESS



A detail of Dick Plasschaert's "As the Crow Flies," a painting that he considers among the best of a career that spans 50 years. Plasschaert rose to prominence in the early 1980s after winning the Federal Duck Stamp in 1980-81.

Image via Waseca Art Center

WAG hosting retrospective for renowned Waseca wildlife artist

By Tanner Kent
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Nearly 30 years before he rose to national prominence by winning the Federal Duck Stamp in 1980-81, Dick Plasschaert was just a 10-year-old boy with a pencil and a scrap of paper.

In a retrospective of the Waseca artist's 50-year career — which has included national accolades and countless paintings sold across the United States — the Waseca Art Center is exhibiting one piece that Plasschaert himself calls his "pride and joy": a pencil drawing of a grim-faced Native American he sketched as a young boy (not without talent) on the back of a theater advertisement.

Among the dozens of wildlife paintings, landscapes and portraits included in the exhibit — Plasschaert's first in Waseca in decades — that yellowed paper has the distinction of marking the very beginning of what would become a long and successful

If You Go
What Dick Plasschaert retrospective exhibit
Where Waseca Art Center, 200 State St. N.
When On display through June 7.
Opening reception 7-9 p.m. Friday at the gallery

career. "We dug through the whole house to find that little drawing," Plasschaert said.

Since that drawing, Plasschaert has amassed an impressive list of awards and commissions. In addition to the 1980-81 Federal Duck Stamp, he was chosen as the artist for the first North Dakota Duck Stamp, the first North Carolina Duck Stamp, the First New Hampshire Duck Stamp, the First Minnesota Conservation Federation Stamp and Print, the Louisiana Turkey Stamp and the National Turkey Stamp. In addition to designing several other stamps, he was Ducks Unlimited's 2001 International Artist of the Year.

That kind of name recognition has led to a robust market for Plasschaert's paintings and prints. Online searching yields dozens of sites that carry his work, and both public and commercial galleries across the country display his paintings.

But even though Plasschaert said his interest in art goes back as far as he can remember, his widespread recognition has a definite starting point.

He began painting in earnest in 1964, working primarily in portraits, still lifes and landscapes (a few examples of which are on display in the retrospective and likely never seen by local audiences). He sold a few paintings and even quit his day job a few times to try making a living as a professional artist; but he ran out of money each time.

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Image courtesy of David Rogers
Pictured is an example of David Rogers' "Deciphering Imperfections" series in which he alters the code of a digital image to intentionally produce an error within the image.

Artist giving talk on link between his art, dyslexia

Rogers, MSU art instructor, speaking today at 410 Project

By Tanner Kent
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MANKATO — Years ago, David Rogers dreaded reading in front of his classmates.

Diagnosed in second grade with dyslexia — described by The International Dyslexia Association as a condition "characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities" — Rogers took longer than his peers to build and retain vocabulary. He would occasionally mistake one word for another and required extra time to read and process text. As such, reading aloud in class became a source of deep anxiety in his formative years.

"I would count the

If You Go

What "Dyslexia as a Catalyst," artist talk by David Rogers
When 7-8 p.m. today
Where 410 Project art gallery, 523 S. Front St.
Cost Free and open to the public

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Traveling Troupe presents next installment of Lincoln plays

By Tanner Kent
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In 2009, Lucas Youngberg got his first chance to portray Abraham Lincoln on stage.

As part of Lincoln's Traveling Troupe — a collection of area students organized by Bryce Stenzel for the purpose of portraying the 16th president's life and legacy through dramatic productions — Youngberg was cast as a 12-year-old to play a teenage version of the president.

The play was called "Young Abe Lincoln" and

If You Go

What "... This Mighty Scourge of War ..."
Performances 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday
Where Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 720 S. Second St.
Tickets \$10 (adults), \$5 (ages 5-16) and \$30 (family rate)

was only the first of several manuscripts written by Stenzel that present a chronological retelling of Lincoln's life and presidency. He's cast members of the Troupe in his productions every year since with recent years delving into the Civil

War era. Youngberg enjoyed the experience so much, he used it as a springboard into other theatre opportunities. In addition to appearing in five more Traveling Troupe productions (including this year),

he went on to appear in several productions for Merely Players Community Theatre, most recently as Mr. Tumnus in "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe."

But in this year's production — which is titled "... This Mighty Scourge of War ...": Abraham Lincoln and the Campaigns of 1864" — Youngberg will get a chance to reprise the role that started it all. Or, at least an older, bearded version of that role.

"This is the group that got me into theatre," he

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Tanner Kent

Bryce Stenzel (right) directs members of Lincoln's Traveling Troupe during a rehearsal last week. Their production of "... This Mighty Scourge of War ..." will be shown in a pair of performances on Sunday.

LIVE MUSIC

Friday, May 2
5:30-8:30 p.m.

Mary Guentzel Quintet

Saturday, May 3
6:00-8:30 p.m.

Tim Fast
(Acoustic, Americana, Folk)

Janesville
507-234-6222

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Directions From Mankato: Hwy. 14E to Smith's Mill, right on Cty. Rd. 37 for 5 miles on blacktop