

## ENTERTAINMENT DIGEST

### Academy Of Dance Recital This Weekend

The public is invited as Yankton's Academy of Dance presents its "Peace" for its annual spring performance May 15-16 at the Summit Activities Center main theatre. Showtimes are 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. May 15 and 2 p.m. May 16.

From patriotic "America is Beautiful" to "Chain of Love and Peace," from production choreographies to senior solos, the 2010 spring performances will entertain and inspire audiences of all ages. The fast moving, energetic performances, with colorful 50-foot backdrops, will showcase boys and girls ranging in age from 3 years through college from Yankton and the surrounding area.

For tickets, call the Academy of Dance at 665-7729. A portion of the ticket proceeds will benefit Haiti relief efforts.

### Contest For Digital Photos Reopened

The Yankton and Dakota Territory Sesquicentennial Committee is reopening the digital photography calendar contest due to the fact that most digitals received did not meet the specification requirements and are therefore, cannot be used.

The 2011 calendar with the theme "Yankton Landmarks" will be printed as a part of our Sesquicentennial celebration. Twelve digitals will be chosen to include in the calendar and photographers will be credited for their work.

This contest opens immediately and will close at 5 p.m. Sunday May 16. Image size for the submissions must be 12 inches wide x 9 inches tall (300 dpi). Digitals must be submitted on a device that will not be returned to you. All entries should be submitted to Kathy Jacobs at the Yankton Community Library, 515 Walnut.

For further information call the library at 668-5275 or e-mail kja-cobs@sdln.net.

### Children's Theatre Co. Auditions Monday

The Yankton Children's Theatre Company will be holding auditions for its production of "Stuart Little" at 6-9 p.m. Monday, May 17, at the YCTC headquarters at 407 Walnut.

Roles are open for actors ages 4-18. Be prepared to sing a song and be taught a dance for the audition. Also, bring a small photo of yourself.

Performance dates for "Stuart Little" are July 8-11 at the Yankton High School Theatre.

### Landscape & Fantasy Art Lessons Offered

Aspiring artists now have an opportunity to explore either Landscape Painting or Fantasy Art through a free art lesson at Studio Art Center, 412 Douglas Ave., Yankton.

You may sign up for your free 2-hour lesson by calling Lita Stacky at 665-4686 or 665-0954, and selecting a morning or afternoon time slot.

The first opportunity for taking a free lesson is Saturday, May 22. However, if you cannot attend on that day, an alternate day for your free lesson can be scheduled when you call.

The two-hour lesson will start with choosing a picture to work from out of the extensive files at the studio, after which you will draw your composition on paper. An instructor will then demonstrate watercolor painting techniques, with which you will color the art work. Methods of acrylic painting will be discussed and demonstrated as well.

■ Get Updates At Yankton Online (www.yankton.net)

## THE BOOK SHELF

### This Book Is Worth The Ride

"Homestretch," by Paul Volponi, Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2009. 160 pages.

BY PAT HANSEN

Sometimes life gives you a rough ride.

Take 16-year-old Gaston Giambanco, for example. Known as Gas, he has just lost his mother. She was killed in a car accident caused by a Mexican person who is in this country illegally. Losing his mom this way, along with his father's anti-Mexican attitude, has instilled a deep hatred for "beaners," as Gas calls Mexican illegals.

His dad had "issues" even before his mom died — anger issues, drinking issues, hitting his wife issues. When Gas's mom dies, his dad really falls apart and begins hitting the bottle hard. He also begins hitting Gas hard. That's when Gas decides to leave home.

He tries to hitch-hike but doesn't have much luck until a truck hauling chickens in crates stops. Gas is surprised to see the driver move a few crates so several Mexicans can make a quick stop. The driver agrees to give Gas a ride. To Gas's surprise though, he's not riding in the cab but in the back with the Mexicans and chickens. Gas just seethes at this insult.

After a chicken ride, he ends up accepting a job out of sheer desperation with a racing stable, along with the Mexicans. To make it worse, he works a job even lower than the Mexicans' jobs and has to room with them in the dorms. The Mexicans even get paid more than he does.

Then he incurs the wrath of El Diablo, another jockey. He also strikes up a friendship with a girl that he would love to get to know better. She actually reminds him a little of his mother.

The stable owner takes note of Gas and gets him a jockey's license. Gas finds himself on a race horse for the first time. This could be his chance to impress Tammie! Too bad falling flat on your face right out of the starting gate isn't very impressive.

But the owner puts Gas back on the horse. Something about the horses doesn't seem right, though. One day they're lively and the next, sluggish. And why is the owner feeding Gas' horse on race day, when he normally doesn't?

This book is for grades 9 and up. The F-word is used about twice. Otherwise, this is an encouraging story of a boy who takes his prejudices and hurts and shapes himself into a person you'll respect and like. It's worth the ride.

## ART FORMS

# 'The Art Of Healing' Yields Results

BY PAM MEYLOE  
Yankton Area Arts

I've come to realize that, at least when it comes to art, sometimes the creative process should at least be on equal footing as the final piece of art. In fact, after my involvement in a recent project, I would argue that in some cases the process is indeed more important than the outcome.

The project I'm referring to is "The Art of Healing," a pilot program Yankton Area Arts initiated last year. Although the resulting piece is really a fantastic example of collaborative artwork, I couldn't help but be impressed by the impact the program seemed to have on everyone involved. Now, as the project comes full circle, I wanted to take a moment to recognize the folks who offered their support and extend a thank you to everyone who participated.

In the spring of 2009, the Yankton Area Arts Board took on the task of piloting an "Art of Healing" project in the Yankton community. The mission given to the program is to provide education and exposure to the arts in an environment that will assist medical patients during the healing process. As the planning for the program evolved, we were invited to work with the Avera Sacred



Members of the Yankton Area Arts Board have been working on "The Art of Healing" pilot program, aimed to helping those who have been battling cancer.

Heart Cancer Center and their staff, whose support was invaluable.

For six months, volunteers from Yankton Area Arts facilitated art sessions with individuals who have been touched by cancer. The project was designed as a collaboration that brings together unique artistic elements created by

dozens of community members to create a multi-dimensional art piece. The sessions included cancer survivors, current family members, patients and physicians — with each person sharing a common bond: that cancer has touched their lives. The volunteers also took the project to the 2009 Relay for Life in Riverside Park.

The medium used for the project was heavyweight watercolor paper and adhesive. Participants were encouraged to open up their emotions and write on the strips of paper before designing their individual piece. Single pieces were then rolled, glued and eventually joined to the larger layer. The final work is made up of three of these layers, comprises more than 200 individual strips of paper and represents countless feelings, messages to loved ones and words of encouragement.

Throughout the project, we worked to provide an environment in which individuals could enter into a personal transformation through the arts. Some of the practical goals were to help participants get past any beliefs that they were not creative, set them up to work with the medium and encourage them to join in creating this unique piece of art. Through this process patients were able to experience healing and dignity in a creative environment as they connect with the Arts. The program is dedicated to encouraging healing through the arts and committed to empowering patients with expressive outlets.

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### Auditions For 'My Fair Lady' Scheduled

The Lewis and Clark Theatre Company is holding auditions for this summer's production of "My Fair Lady" at 3 p.m. Saturday, May 22, and 7 p.m. Monday, May 24, at the Dakota Theatre in downtown Yankton.

Andy Henriksson will direct this adaptation of the Broadway play, "Pygmalion," about Professor Henry Higgins, who takes a bet from Colonel Pickering that he can transform unrefined, dirty Cockney flower girl Eliza Doolittle into a lady, and fool everyone into thinking she really is one, too. He does, and thus young aristocrat Freddy Eynsford-Hill falls madly in love with her.

But when Higgins takes all the credit and forgets to acknowledge Eliza's efforts, she angrily leaves him for Freddy. Suddenly, Higgins realizes he's "grown accustomed to her face" and can't really live without it.

Multiple male and female singing and speaking roles are available for this production.

Performances of "My Fair Lady" are set for July 29-Aug. 1, Aug. 6-8 and Aug. 13-15. Thursday, Friday and Saturday shows will be at 7:30 p.m., with 2 p.m. Sunday matinees.

"My Fair Lady" is also sponsored by Avera Sacred Heart Hospital.

### Library's Online Survey Still Open

Residents of the City of Yankton and Yankton County are encouraged to take the library's online survey that addresses the future of the Yankton Community Library.

The survey, which will take you less than 10 minutes to complete, asks questions about the current programs and services of the library and what you would like the library to offer in the future. Go to the library's home page, <http://www.cityofyankton.org/yankton/library/index.php>, and click on Library Survey on the left side of the page. The survey will be open until May 22.

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