

## Mankato, two others earn Minnesota Community Pride awards

The Free Press

Mankato received two awards, Madelia one and Amboy an honorable mention in the Minnesota Community Pride competition announced during the State Fair.

The Minnesota Community Pride Awards were created to publicly recognize the energy and ingenuity of Minnesota's communities in both overall community and economic development achievement.

Greater Mankato Growth received the Creative Capital and Lifelong Learning Award, which included a \$500 prize, for its work in forming collaborations with education, government and nonprofits to develop, attract and retain the work force important to the community's continued vitality.

GMG, funded through the business community, has a full-time talent development director, specifically dedicated to creating partnerships and implementing talent development, attraction and retention programs for college students, young professionals and experienced professionals. GMG also partners with Mankato Area Public Schools to fund a fulltime career and technical education coordinator to

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provide career education programs for grades 7-12.

Twin Rivers Center for the Arts was named runnerup for the Arts & Culture Award and received a \$300 prize for its collaboration to create a community- wide online events calendar with other community organizations, including The Free Press, VoyageurWeb, Greater Mankato Growth and Greater MankatoConvention & Visitors Bureau. The online calendar, [greatermankatoevents.com](http://greatermankatoevents.com), which was launched in February, centralizes community events in one easyto- search Web site. The site also links directly to online ticketing sites.

Madelia received a runner- up award for its Madelia Mobile Village project, which established a manufactured home cooperative.

Amboy received an honorable mention in the Bestof Class category for communities of 999 or fewer.

Finalists for the Minnesota Community Pride awards were determined by a panel of judges reviewing the entries received earlier this summer. Top winners among the finalists were selected by a public online vote.

For more information on the Minnesota Community Pride Awards, visit [http:// www. reinventingminnesota.org/mn\\_pride.html](http://www.reinventingminnesota.org/mn_pride.html).

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