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Turner Center for the Arts

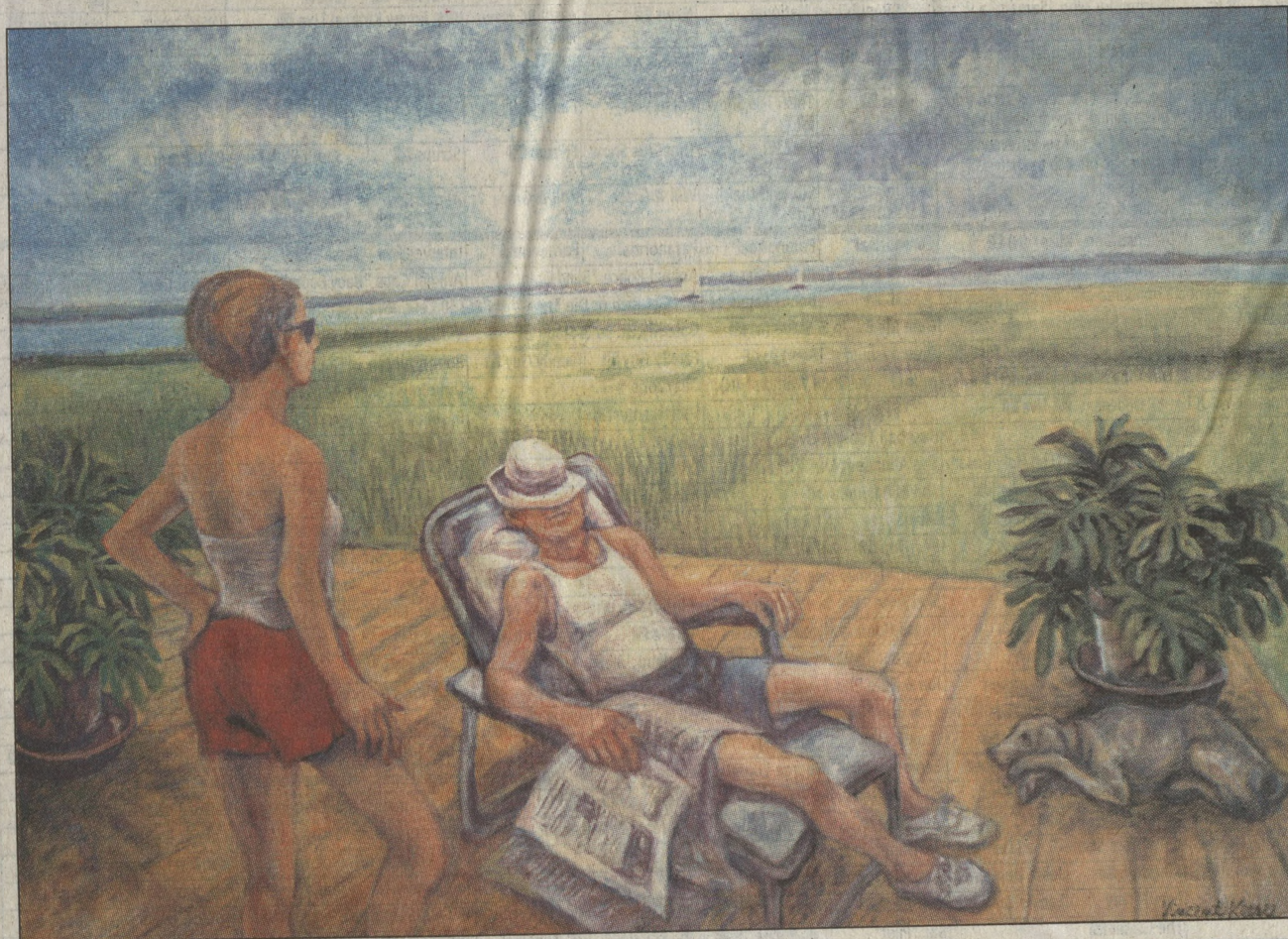
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Above: 'View of the Rivah,' artist Vincent Keesee.

Right: 'The Annunciation at the Blue Note Cafe,' artist Vincent Keesee.

GALLERY

Artist Vincent Keesee's work is on display in the Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery, along with artist Daniel Hanifan, Sallie and Harmon Boyette Gallery; artist Brandon Pilcher, Josette's Gallery; Turner Center Art Camp Students, Roberta George Children's Gallery.

When: Shows run through Sept. 24.

Where: Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts,



Vincent's World

Artist has unique take on the familiar

BY DEAN POLING

The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — Vincent Keesee doesn't need to paint a signature on his canvases. At least he doesn't if you've seen his name on a few of his paintings regionally through the years.

Keesee's style is signature enough. That style has been apparent on paintings which Keesee has exhibited in shows such as Spring Into Art through the years and now in a one-man show on display in the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts' Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery.

Within his swirling paint strokes, Keesee populates his canvases with people eating barbecue, dancing to music, working farms. His are tableaux of Southern life portrayed in the South's towns and in its fields.

His people and his scenes have something of the cartoon to them, but it is a distinguishable style of painted cartoon that makes his people and the scenes so recognizable. There is an indelible style to his portrayals of people, as if Van Gogh developed colorful comic strips.

Even further, underneath the rhythm and humor, there is something of the sublime, a certain spiritual cadence, a way of life captured in a world set

apart, a world that is distinctly its own, but a world that is tangible and familiar.

There is a religiosity to Keesee's work and not just in the apparent adaptations, such as his "The Prodigal Son," which takes the biblical story and updates it to a battered young man's homecoming to a Southern farm. There is reaffirmation in his paintings, in the familiarity of their going through the paces of their painted lives, lives which reflect the swirling rhythms of our own lives.

Keesee is a Tifton-based artist, who received a doctorate in art history in 1972 from the University of Georgia. He studied painting with Lamar Dodd, Howard Thomas and Joseph Swartz. He describes his favorite artistic themes as gospel music, country church services, and contemporary rock music scenes. "Often they are depictions of several generations done with humor and insight into the Southern family mystique," according to Keesee's bio for the arts center show. "He has also painted canoeing and rafting on Georgia rivers, rabbit hunting in Southern fields and fox hunting in Virginia."

It's Vincent Keesee's world, but it's our world, too.

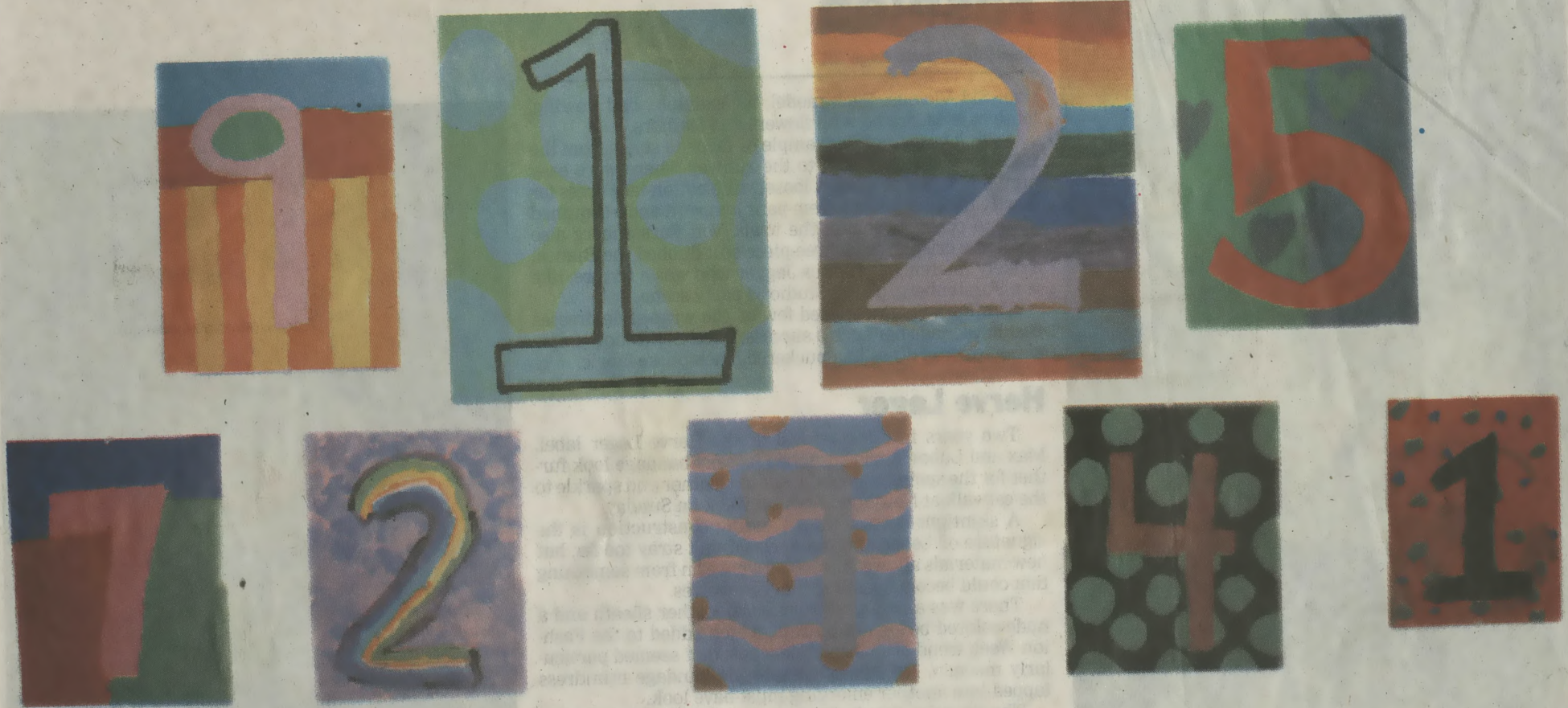
527 N. Patterson St.
Regular gallery hours: 10
a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays
through Thursdays; 10

a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and
Saturdays; closed Sundays
and Mondays.

Admission: Free.
More information: Call
247-2787.



'Go Dawgs,' artist Vincent Keesee.



Art work from Paul Brown's summer art classes now on display at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

POP ART

Arts center exhibits and inspires young artists

BY DEAN POLING
The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts has long given gallery space to young artists throughout South Georgia. Art from almost every school in the region has been exhibited in the center's Roberta George Children's Gallery. Now, the gallery exhibits works from one of the center's youth art programs.

Several area children participated in the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts' summer art classes taught by Paul Brown, who teaches art at S.L. Mason Elementary School.

Following the theme of pop art, students presented their interpretations of the American flag, as well as their own versions of soup cans, a la Andy Warhol's famed images of Campbell Soup cans.

This is a fun exhibit, bold and colorful, with projects, from the flags to the cans, etc., exhibited in groups. It is a show that reminds visitors that the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts not only shows art work but inspires art, too.



GALLERY

Turner Center Art Camp student works on display in the Roberta George Children's Gallery, along with artist Vincent Keese's work in the Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery; artist Daniel Hanifan, Sallie and Harmon Boyette Gallery; artist Brandon Pilcher, Josette's Gallery.

When: Shows run through Sept. 24.

Where: Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. Regular gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; closed Sundays and Mondays.

Admission: Free.

More information: Call 247-2787.



Several students created these soup cans and flags while learning about pop art in Paul Brown's summer art classes at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, where they are now part of the children's exhibit.

From Dirt to Duty

Retired Brigadier General Troy Tolbert shares his story, tales in book

BY DEAN POLING

The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — Troy Tolbert (Brig. Gen., USAF, retired) saved Moody Air Force Base.

He doesn't say so in his autobiography, "From Dirt to Duty," but having covered his tenure leading the Moody Support Committee, this reporter saw his efforts in action.

In the early 1990s, Moody was placed on the Base Realignment and Closure list. In the book, Tolbert mentions how he knew this detail before it was made public. He approached then-Valdosta Mayor James H. Rainwater. On a paper bag, Tolbert and Rainwater outlined a chart to garner community support and refute the reasons Moody had been placed on BRAC.

Getting Moody's name off that list was a community effort — one supervised daily by Tolbert, Joe Prater and Bob Ator from a second-floor office of what was then C&S Bank in Downtown Valdosta.

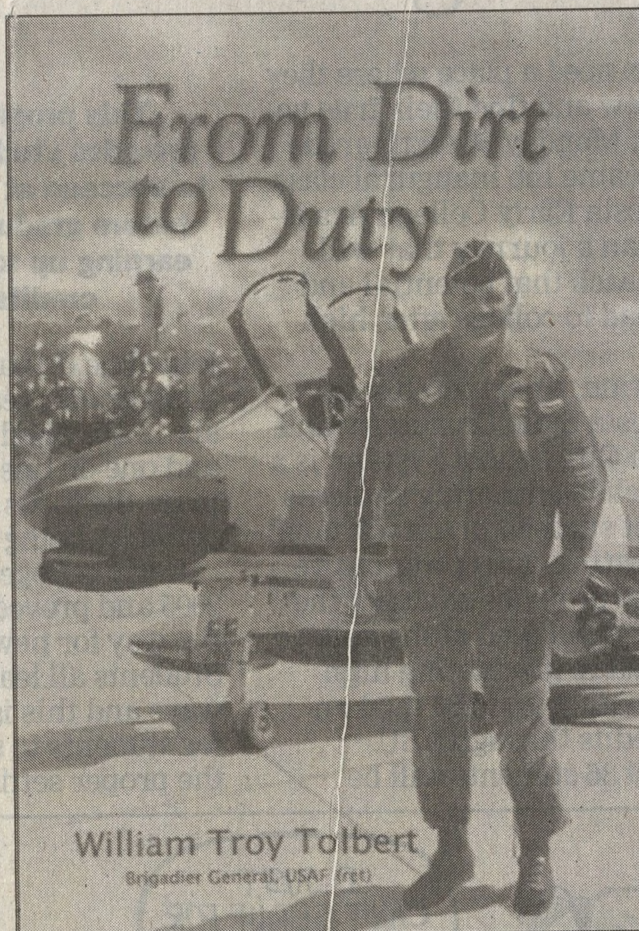
Tolbert's efforts are a key reason why Valdosta-Lowndes County still has

Moody Air Force Base today.

He doesn't say so in his book, though. Tolbert doesn't take credit for saving Moody. In fact, he only gives this event about a page in "From Dirt to Duty." Most of the book details how a young farm boy rose to become a fighter pilot, a base commander, a family man, and a brigadier general.

"From Dirt to Duty" tells the story of Tolbert's life on a Mississippi farm, the son of Troy and Louise Tolbert. He describes churning butter, hours of farm chores, big breakfasts, being one of 14 students in his graduating class, playing football and dealing with a football injury.

It was football that took him to Mississippi State, and the football injury that led to his deep involvement in the ROTC and, after graduation, a career in the Air Force. Tolbert tells fascinating stories about learning to fly, serving as a general's aide, his harrowing arrival in Vietnam at the time of the Tet Offensive. There was the rise in rank, the assignments to various bases, including his command at Moody Air Force Base.



BOOK

Retired Air Force Brig. Gen. William Troy Tolbert's "From Dirt to Duty" may be purchased for \$19.95 (plus shipping and handling) from amazon.com; or for \$17.50 by contacting Tolbert at 247-5411.

Throughout his adult life, there has been wife Louie, with whom he raised three children, Terri, Tracie and Michael, and when it came time to retire from the Air Force, of all the places they had been assigned through the years,

the Tolberts chose Valdosta as the place to return to and call home.

"From Dirt to Duty" chronicles one man's life but Tolbert also provides vivid insights into aspects of the Air Force's past as well as historical events of the latter 20th century. A fascinating read, "From Dirt to Duty" is his first attempt at serious writing and his first book.

Tolbert became hooked and is already working on a second book, which he says will include more "From Dirt to Duty" tales from his time in the Air Force, while the majority of it will focus on his conservative views regarding our country.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Meet Congo and Ruby

This summer the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts held a naming contest for a gorilla and parrot donated by generous supporters. The winning entry was submitted by Raven Pratt, an eighth-grader at Open Bible Christian School. Raven's choices, selected by the Youth Art Board, were Congo for the gorilla ('because that's where gorillas live') and Ruby for the parrot ('because parrots are always looking for treasure').



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Youth on Board for Art

The newly appointed members of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Youth Board attended an orientation meeting recently at the center. The students were briefed by Chair Dale Crane on the functions of the Turner Center and were introduced to the many life-enriching programs offered to the community. The purpose of the youth board is to acquaint young people with the Turner Center and its programs, foster a love for the arts, and encourage volunteerism in the area both now and later in their lives. Students are nominated by art department instructors in their various schools. In addition to getting acquainted with each other and their roles as board members in the year ahead, the group was charged with the task of selecting names for two new permanent Turner Center residents from contest entries. PICTURED: (front row, left to right) Morgan Coleman (Valwood), Bianca Cooper (Valwood), Nick McConnell (LHS), Jennifer Robinson (LHS), Christopher Dowse (Southland Christian); (back row, left to right) Carmen Marable (VHS), Katie Querin (Valwood), Jessie Glassmire (Valwood), Alyssa Knea (VHS), Rachael Lustfeldt (Southland), Cameron Jellison (Southland Christian). Not Pictured: Mary Booker (LHS), Jacquelyn Mangels (VHS), Aimee Norris (Southland Christian).

THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008



PHOTO: JAMIE HARMON

Wade Coleman, center, presents a \$500,000 check for the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts to Bob Harrison, board president, and Cheryl Oliver, executive director, Monday evening.

Arts center receives \$500,000 donation

BY DEAN POLING

The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — A Valdosta woman's legacy keeps giving and giving.

Two weeks after giving the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra a half-million dollars, the estate of Leona Strickland Hudson gave the same amount Monday to the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

Representing the Hudson estate, Valdosta attorney Wade H. Coleman presented a check for \$500,000 to the arts center board Monday evening.

"It sure is fun to give money away," Coleman said in presenting the check, to which one board member was heard

to respond, "It's fun to receive it."

The donation will go to an endowment which will allow the center to use a percentage in the tens of thousands of dollars annually to fund various programs and projects.

"Endowment funds are designed to ensure future stability of an organization," notes Cheryl Oliver, the center's executive director. "Leona's generosity gives us a huge boost in that direction."

In addition to the \$500,000, Hudson also donated several pieces of silver, porcelain, cut-glass, and china to the center. An auction of these items will be held Oct. 3 with the proceeds going to the arts center.

DONATION | 4A

Continued on back

Donation

Continued from page 1A

To honor Hudson, the arts center is naming its pottery workshop/classroom facility for her and her husband, Dugald Hudson. All of the arts center's October events will also be named in Leona Strickland Hudson's honor, said Bob Harrison, the arts center's board president. The arts center presentation came a couple weeks after Wade Coleman made a similar presentation to the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra. In addition to a combined \$1 million going to the arts center and the VSO, Coleman has also been representing Hudson to several other area organizations.

The Hudson estate has given \$130,000 to hospice, \$100,000 to the local Boys & Girls Club, approximately \$100,000 to the local Boys Scouts, and about \$75,000 to the Dr. Zaccari lecture series, with more presentations expected, Coleman said.

Born May 2, 1920, in a house on North Patterson Street, Leona Strickland grew up in Valdosta, the daughter of Will Strickland, a local banker who also owned Strickland Hardware Company, and Rosa Strickland.

In 1945, Leona Strickland married Lt. Dugald Walker Hudson of Greenville, S.C. A valedictorian and World War II veteran, an infantry officer then a judge advocate officer who debriefed Nazi leaders after the war, Hudson took his new bride for three years to live in post-war Germany. They lived in many places around the world, before returning to the States, specifically Atlanta, where he joined the faculty of Georgia State University. In Atlanta, she followed in the tradition of her father, working in a bank.

In 2006, Dugald Hudson died, and Leona Strickland Hudson returned to her hometown of Valdosta.

The Hudsons lived modestly. She was driving an 11-year-old Chevrolet at the time of her death. They had no children and no close relatives. In her will, she bequeathed her entire estate to charitable organizations.



The estate of Dugald and Leona Hudson has left nearly \$1.5 million to area organizations so far.

THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

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Established 1867, Valdosta, Ga.

Sanders and Harris are joined by Assistant Managing Editor Dean Poling and Chief Photographer Paul Leavy and News Editor Jessica Pope of The Valdosta Daily Times on the newspaper's editorial board. "Our Opinion" is formed by that board.

Editorial Objectives for 2008

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Larger library | 4. Televised meetings |
| 2. New performing arts/civic center | 5. Use transportation plan |
| 3. Tax assessors | 6. Recycling program |
| | 7. School consolidation |

Online Question Of The Week

With early voting starting this week, who will receive your presidential vote?

John McCain — 62.43%

Barack Obama — 37.57%
346 votes

To vote, log on to
www.valdostadailytimes.com.
Results will be published in Saturday's paper.

Other Opinion

Some thoughts on lies, more lies

All of my life I have heard the expression, "lies, more lies and damn lies."

I've often wondered who first used this expression and where the line is drawn between their definitions.

I haven't been able to determine who might have said this first. There's simply no way to nail that one down. Chances

are, it wasn't even spoken in English, and it could have happened before politics were invented.

After reading much about "lies, more lies and damn lies," I have drawn my own conclusions on the definitions.

A lie is a simple statement of untruth. More lies is just plural of the first one where other lies are used to prop up the first. I think



The Moultrie
Observer

Dwain
Walden

Our Opinion

The gift that lives on

During the past couple of weeks, two local arts organizations have received extraordinary gifts from one extraordinary lady.

Both the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra and the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts have each received \$500,000.

That's a total of \$1 million for these organizations' endowment funds from the estate of Dugald and Leona Strickland Hudson.

Representing the estate, Valdosta attorney Wade H. Coleman has been the bearer of this good news, but not just for the arts center and the orchestra, but other local organizations, too. The Hudson estate has given \$130,000 to hospice, \$100,000 to the local Boys & Girls Club, approximately \$100,000 to the local Boys Scouts, and about \$75,000 to the Dr. Ronald Zaccari lecture series, with more presentations expected, Coleman said.

Born May 2, 1920 in a house on North Patterson Street, Leona Strickland grew up in Valdosta, the daughter of Will Strickland, a local banker who also owned Strickland Hardware Company, and Rosa Strickland.

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Through their generosity, the Hudsons have created a living legacy for Valdosta-Lowndes County organizations. With their donations, their names will always be remembered through the continued activities of the endowments as well as the arts center naming the coming pottery area for the Hudsons, and the orchestra naming its concertmaster chair in their honor.

Leona Strickland Hudson returned to her hometown of Valdosta.

The Hudsons had lived modestly. She was driving an 11-year-old Chevrolet at the time of her death. They had no children. No close relatives. In her will, she bequeathed her entire estate to charitable organizations.

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The Hudsons' contribution doesn't mean an end of fund-raising by either the arts center or the orchestra. While the donation is a substantial amount of money, by being placed in an endowment, each organization will receive a percentage of accrued interest each year, likely to the tune of up to \$30,000.

That will make this money a gift that keeps giving for many years to come.

Deadline nears to apply for grants for the Arts

VALDOSTA — Applications are available for up to \$2,000 for Art Project Grants through the Grassroots Art Program.

The GAP is funded by the Georgia Council for the Arts through appropriations from the Georgia General Assembly and is designed to ensure all Georgians have access to the arts activities which enrich lives.

Every Georgia county receives an equal per-capita allocation.

Lowndes-Valdosta Arts Commission, d.b.a. Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, as the appointed re-granting agency, is responsible for collecting applications and distributing the funds in Berrien, Brooks, Clinch, Cook, Decatur, Echols, Grady, Lanier, Lowndes and Thomas counties in accordance with state regulations.

This statewide arts program is designed to encourage local collaborations between artists, arts organizations, and non-arts organizations, in or-

On the Web

Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts

www.turnercenter.org

der to serve a broad range of Georgia's residents.

Funding is open to any non-profit organization, which has been granted 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, or unit of local government. Civic clubs, churches, theater groups, arts festivals, Boys & Girls clubs, libraries, senior citizens' centers, parks and recreation departments also may be eligible to apply.

Examples of projects eligible for funding include, but are not limited to, visual arts exhibits and public art programs, concerts, readings, theater and dance performances, film programs, folk art projects, murals, storytelling, workshops, and art festivals. Projects combining arts and education are encouraged.

Tracey Timmons, GAP grant coordinator for the Turner Center, strongly

encourages all applicants, especially new ones, to attend one of two grant workshops.

For those wishing to take advantage of the opportunity, workshops are offered free of charge for applicants of the Grassroots Arts Program, 1-3 p.m., Oct. 1, Thomasville Cultural Center and 1-3 p.m., Oct. 2, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. Pre-registration is required. Please e-mail timmonsturnerart@bellsouth.net or call Tracey Timmons at (229) 247-ARTS (2787) with your confirmation.

Applicants should obtain application forms and funding guidelines, available at the Turner Center Web site www.turnercenter.org, prior to attending and should bring their rough draft applications with them.

The purpose of the workshops is to demystify the grant-writing process for potential applicants. The deadline for submitting completed applications is 6 p.m., Oct. 15.

THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Two book signings feature area authors

VALDOSTA — Two book signings are planned by local authors in the next few days.

— Jeff Vasseur and Dean Poling have a joint book signing, 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Books-A-Million, Promenade Plaza, off Norman Drive.

Vasseur, a Valdosta State University professor, is the author of a brilliant set of short stories called "Discovering the World: 13 Stories" and the novella "Touch the Earth: An Aftermath of the Vietnam War."

Poling, The Valdosta Daily Times' assistant managing editor, is the author of "Cowboy Boots and Pony Tales," a collection of his Ramblin' newspaper columns.

— The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts hosts a book signing and reception for retired Brig. Gen. Troy Tolbert, author of "From Dirt to Duty," a memoir of his life of growing up on a farm, becoming a fighter pilot as well as an Air Force commander, whose commands included Moody Air Force Base.

This event is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Monday, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.



'Tattooed Ballerina,' artist Marie Matthews.

Water of Prestige

Arts center hosts Georgia Watercolor Society exhibit

BY DEAN POLING

The Valdosta Daily Times



VALDOSTA — Area art patrons are in for a real treat next weekend when the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts hosts the Georgia Watercolor Society's 29th Annual Members' Exhibition.

More than 60 paintings by members of the prestigious statewide organization will be on display in the arts center's Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery.

"We are honored to be hosting an art show of such wonderful diversity and creativity, and to give our community another fabulous exhibit to experience," says Jamie Harmon, the arts center's curator. "Additionally, visitors will be able to purchase many of these original works of art."

Valdosta artist and Georgia Watercolor Society member Claire Hall is the co-chair of this year's juried exhibit. The pieces selected for the show were juried by watercolor artist and instructor Jean Pederson, Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Pederson will teach a three-day workshop this week, prior to the show's special opening reception Saturday at the arts center. The workshop will run Wednesday through Friday.

To earn GWS signature membership, an artist must earn three points. It may sound easy, but these are three difficult points to earn. Being juried into a membership show earns an artist a half-point. One point is granted for being accepted into at least one national show, an even more difficult type exhibit.

Yet, this show should prove to be a wonder to view: Pleasing palettes that are easy on the eyes, yet offering new perspectives from a variety of artists showing for the first time in the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

This show should continue putting the center and Valdosta-Lowndes County on the map as South Georgia's mecca for the arts.



'Dukes Creek,' artist Claire Hall.

GALLERY

The Georgia Watercolor Society's 29th Annual Members' Exhibition opens in the Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery, along with artist Barbara Balzer's sculptures, Josette's Gallery; artist Jack Deloney, Sallie and Harmon Boyette Gallery; student art from Brookwood Academy, Roberta George Children's Gallery.

Where: Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.

When: NOTE: Show opens with a special 4-6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 4. This is a free, public reception. Show runs through Nov. 13.

Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, with exception of reception dates; closed Sundays and Mondays.

More information: Call 247-2787.



'Merigold,' artist Julie Pope.

Azalea City, best arts department in the world

BY ELIZABETH BUTLER

The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — Azalea City Woman's Club has the best arts department in the world among states with a total women's club membership of 2,000-4,000 members.

"I threw up my hands and said, 'Lord, we asked for the moon and you gave us the stars,'" said Azalea City President Jeanette Coody upon hearing the news.

"My philosophy of life is 'Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart' — a small club going from the bottom to the top in the arts. It was our first international award; our club is almost 40 years old."

Azalea City Woman's Club members volunteer at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, nursing homes, South Georgia Regional Library, local schools, Hospice and the Senior Citizens Center.

At the arts center, club members have done everything from writing and presenting a grant to the center for \$3,600 to collating, folding, sorting by zip code and placing labels on a 750-piece mail-out for the center.

Club members participate in five choral groups and three dance groups which bring a smile of joy to those whose health prevents them from getting out by singing or dancing at a nursing home or

"I threw up my hands and said, 'Lord, we asked for the moon and you gave us the stars.'"

— Azalea City Woman's Club President Jeanette Coody upon hearing the news the club's art department was named best in the world.

assisted living facility once a month. A nursing home in need of new local musical CDs was given three Christmas performance CDs from local churches.

Dressed as Dr. Seuss, they dramatized two books for children at South Georgia Regional Library. One member donated 75 pieces of her clown collection to the library to be used as a check-out item for children. Upon return on the first check-out, the child received the clown as a gift. A child can only receive one clown as a gift, making it possible for 75 children to enjoy a clown. They may check out more but only receive one as a gift. The club also donated three musical Easter rabbits to the library for display during Easter season, and made 12 Easter baskets for needy

Please see AZALEA, Page 3E



JESSICA POPE/THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Avernell Rogers of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, left, and Jeanette Coody of Azalea City Woman's Club hold a Certificate of Recognition presented to Azalea City for 'distinguished service' in the Arts in the Community Program.

Continued on back

Azalea

Continued from Page 1E

children in the community. At W.G. Nunn Elementary School, the club conducted an art contest with third-grade students.

Believing that arts in the school is an important subject to be taught, Azalea City members wrote e-mails and letters to congressmen to encourage them to vote for music to be continued in the schools on all levels, Coody said.

The club also participates in community celebrations. Five members sang in the 125-member Community Choir for the July 4th Freedom Celebration in Valdosta. They made flyers on computers with additional hand art work promoting The International Folk Dance Festival which is held here.

These are just some of the 56 arts projects the 22-member club, led by 86-year-old Coody, did during its year's work.

"I don't understand why more people don't enjoy woman's club work because it's so diversified," Coody said.

"If you're not interested in the arts, there are five other departments of work — conservation, education, home life, international affairs and public affairs — that should claim our interest.

"Education is of special interest because Georgia is the only state that has a woman's club federation that owns and operates a boarding school for grades 6-12, Tallulah Falls School. The graduates go to elite colleges."

Coody said there are also special projects to work on such as domestic violence.

The international honor proves the importance of setting goals, she said, as the club set its sights on winning that honor six years ago. Azalea City Woman's Club has also won the state arts award for four out of the last six years, as well as the state federation cup for the best woman's club in the state.

"This was the icing on the cake of hard work by the members," Coody said. "It was a challenge, but we met the challenge. I just praise the Lord."



Art by Barbara Balzer.

Watching You Watch Them



The Art of Barbara Balzer

BY DEAN POLING

The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — Barbara Balzer is a North Florida artist whose work has become instantly recognizable in South Georgia.

Though many arts patrons may not recognize Balzer if they met her on the street, the faces, or rather face, of her work will be recognizable to anyone who has spent much time in the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts in the past few years.

Balzer creates ceramic busts which touch upon an ancient imagery of the human race and human face, with touches of the harlequin and the Elizabethan.

In many ways, Barbara Balzer's work seems an almost three-dimensional expression of the pinched classicism of Pablo Picasso's canvases of his Blue Period.

All with an almost eerie sensation that her figures' eyes are following you and that any one of them might blink, wink, sniff, or speak. There is something uncomfortably familiar about Balzer's ceramic figures and something terribly fascinating.

This combination of technique, attitude and exuded atmosphere have attracted the attention of many arts patrons and jurists throughout the South Florida and North Georgia region in the past few years. Balzer has placed or won several juried shows, including the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts' Spring Into Art more than a few times.

Now, her work is exhibited in a one-woman show in the arts center's Josette's Gallery. Her works await to watch you watching them.

GALLERY

Artist Barbara Balzer's sculptures are on exhibit in Josette's Gallery; Georgia Watercolor Society's 29th Annual Members' Exhibition, Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery; artist Jack Deloney, Sallie and Harmon Boyette Gallery; student art from Brookwood Academy, Roberta George Children's Gallery.

Where: Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.

When: Show runs through Nov. 13.

More information: Call 247-2787.



A detail of an artwork by Barbara Balzer.



STANTON LANIER

Arts center hosts pianist

BY DEAN POLING

The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — As a former chemist and financial planner, Stanton Lanier has perhaps discovered the chemistry of a well-balanced life: Music.

The pianist brings his music Thursday evening for a concert at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

In 2004, he turned his energies full-time to making what has been described as “a positive difference in today’s music culture.” His music is synonymous with the words “calming, soothing, and uplifting.” His Web site even follows the mood of his music and the tone of his mission: “Music to light the world bringing peace to the soul.”

At first, Lanier released self-produced CDs, until landing a label as his following grew. Earlier this year, Lanier released “Unveiled,” his fifth album. His music has also been used for soundtracks in Lifetime TV’s popular “Army Wives,” as well as on The Weather Channel, NPR, and more.

This week, Stanton Lanier’s music becomes part of the Valdosta scene with his arts center concert.

CONCERT

Pianist Stanton Lanier plays.

■ **When:** 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

■ **Where:** The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.

■ **Tickets:** \$20.

■ **More information:** Call 247-2787 or visit www.turnercenter.org

VSU's Writers Series

Event opens at 8 p.m. today at the arts center

BY DEAN POLING

The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — Valdosta State University's Department of English kicks off its 2008-09 Contemporary Writers Series today with two authors, according to Dr. Mark Smith, department head. Several other authors are scheduled for the series in the months to come.

Authors will be reading from their works, and books should be available during readings.

THE SCHEDULE

● **Rick Campbell & Kevin Cantwell, 8 p.m. today, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.** Campbell's latest book is "Dixmont," a collection of poems. Other books include "A Day's Work," "The Traveler's Companion," "Setting the World in Order." His poems and essays have appeared in many publications. He has won numerous awards for his writing, including a National Endowment of the Arts fellowship. Cantwell's poetry has been published in many publications, and he has won numerous awards.

● **Sudye Cauthen, 7 p.m., Oct. 21, Powell Hall Auditorium, VSU campus.** Author of the award-winning "Southern Comforts: Rooted in a Florida Place."

● **Michael Waters, 7:30 p.m., Nov. 13, VSU University Center Theatre.** "Darling Vulgarity" is his most recent book, and he is the winner of numerous prizes. This reading is part of the Georgia Poetry Circuit, cosponsored by the local Snake Nation Press.

● **David St. John, 7:30 p.m., Jan. 30, VSU University Center Theatre.** He has been awarded some of the most prestigious prizes available to poets, including fellowships from the NEA and the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation. He is the author of nine poetry collections, including "The Face: A Novella in Verse." This reading is part of the Georgia Poetry Circuit, cosponsored by the local Snake Nation Press.

● **Tom Hazuka, 7:30 p.m., March 26, VSU University Center Theatre.** The author of three published novels: "The Road to the Island," "In the City of the Disappeared," and "Last Chance for First," and a book of non-fiction.

● **Kelly Cherry, 7:30 p.m., March 31, VSU University Center Theatre.** Author of 17 books of poetry, fiction and non-fiction, including "God's Loud Hand," "Death and Transfiguration," and "Rising Venus." This reading is part of the Georgia Poetry Circuit, cosponsored by the local Snake Nation Press.

Admission: Free. More information: Call 333-5946.

Wednesday, October 8, 2008

Season tickets available for Presenter Series

BY DEAN POLING

The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — Season tickets remain on sale for the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts 2008-09 Presenter Series season.

On Wednesday, the arts center begins individual ticket sales for the season's first show, the return of The Three Redneck Tenors, who will perform their "Christmas Spec-Tac-Yule-Ar" on Nov. 6, says Nancy Warren, who co-chairs the Presenter Series committee with Gail Hobgood and Bruce Sumner. Individual tickets for other shows will go on sale at a later date.

As for the season tickets, the Presenter Series has kept them at the same price as last year: \$145 for all four shows.

Individual ticket prices for each show also remain unchanged at \$45 per show,

Warren says.

The season features the return of The Three Redneck Tenors this fall, along with two musicals, and something completely different in an internationally touring acrobatic show in 2009.

All shows are at Mathis City Auditorium.

● "Three Redneck Tenors: Christmas Spec-Tac-Yule-Ar," 7:30 p.m., Nov. 6. Last season kicked off with a surprise hit in the show by this group.

Combining incredible singing voices, with backwoods humor and outlandish wardrobes, the Three Redneck Tenors went from being competitors in 2007's "America's Got Talent" to Valdosta favorites. This time, the trio returns with an early Christmas present with its holiday show.

● "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," 3:30 p.m., Jan. 11. Last sea-

son's Sunday matinee production of "Annie" proved a success, so the Presenter Series repeats the Sunday matinee this year. This nationally touring production of the Broadway show's premise: "Six young people in the throes of puberty, overseen by grown-ups who barely managed to escape childhood themselves, learn that winning isn't everything and losing doesn't necessarily make you a loser."

Though this is a Sunday matinee, "Putnam" deals with much more mature themes than "Annie." The Presenter Series has reportedly booked the abridged "PG" version of this production, but this is not a show for small children.

● "Bye Bye Birdie," 7:30 p.m., Feb. 10. This nationally touring revival brings back the beloved musical satire of late '50s America, focusing on music star Conrad Birdie's farewell concert before being drafted in the Army.

The fictional character's name is a play on Conway Twitty, but he's based purely on Elvis Presley.

● New Shanghai Circus, 7:30 p.m., March 12. A Chinese acrobatic troupe that promises to dazzle with its performance, which has been seen from Broadway to PBS. This show is also set to celebrate Valdosta's annual Azalea International.

The Valdosta Daily Times is a longtime sponsor of the Presenter Series and is joined by fellow sponsors Ambling Companies, First State Bank & Trust, Georgia Power, Mr. & Mrs. John A. Lastinger, Dr. James Sinnott/Dr. Ed Fricker & Families, South Georgia Pecan, WALB NBC 10.

More information, reserve season tickets: Contact the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St., or call 247-2787.

Friday, October 17, 2008

The Presenter Series



THREE REDNECK TENORS
CHRISTMAS SPEC-TAC-YULE-ARI!

Thursday November 6, 2008 - 7:30pm

THE 3 REDNECK TENORS
Christmas Spec-Tac-Yule-Ari

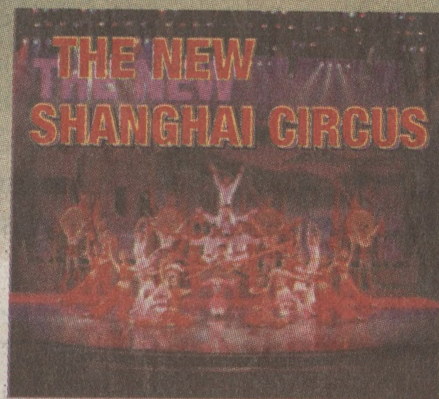


Sunday January 11, 2009 - 3:00pm
THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE!



Tuesday February 10, 2009 - 7:30pm

BYE BYE BIRDIE
A Musical Comedy



Thursday March 12, 2009 - 7:30pm
THE NEW SHANGHAI CIRCUS
A Real Circus Live on Stage!

Presented By

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First State Bank & Trust Co.
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Mr. & Mrs. John A. Lastinger
Dr. James Sinnott and
Dr. Ed Fricker & Families
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