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Plenty of summer activities planned for children

Sunday, May 16, 2010 1C

BY DEAN POLING
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — School is about to close for summer. What can kids do with all of that free time during these summer weeks? Luckily, several area organizations have planned a summer filled with camps, fun classes, activities, field trips, etc. Here are some of the summer events planned for area youths.

ANNETTE HOWELL TURNER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The arts center, 527 N. Patterson St., has numerous classes planned for the summer months, for various ages. More information: Call 247-2787; or visit www.turnercenter.org. Classes are scheduled for the weeks of June 7-11; June 14-18; June 21-25; June 28-July 2; July 5-9. Each week offers different classes. Classes include digital photography, comic book illustration, jewelry making, portrait and figure drawing, printmaking, origami, ceramics & pottery, Painting the Art Eras, Let's Dye, screenprinting, wildlife art, cooking, etiquette. Costs vary.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

With locations at Lake Laurie Drive and the corner of Toombs Street and North Street, the Boys & Girls Club of Valdosta's Summer Program 2010 offers youngsters recreational activities as well as programs in the arts, character and leadership, education and career development, physical education, social recreation. Swimming, arts & crafts, outdoor activities, field trips, etc., are also offered during the summer program. Times and dates: Both facilities are open from 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., starting May 24, then Mondays through Fridays, through July 30. Cost: Lake Laurie, \$55 per week; Toombs Street, \$35 per week. More information: Call 242-0676, administrative office; Lake Laurie, 247-5437; Toombs Street, 242-2058; or www.boysandgirlsclubofvaldosta.org (NOTE: Summer programs on the Web site were still being updated at press time last week.)

GINGERBREAD PLAYERS

Theatre Guild Valdosta's children and youth theatre organization is holding a theatre camp with a performance at the end of the week, for ages 6-18. The camp



Brandon Chandler as Rumpelstiltskin and Caitlyn Chastain as Clara rehearse their roles in one of the opening scenes of the production being performed by the Little Actors Theatre of Valdosta with the Missoula Children's Theatre last year at the Performing Arts Center.

PAUL LEAVY/THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

runs July 12-16, with a 6 p.m., July 16 presentation for parents. Workshops include improvisation and theatre games. Cost: \$50 per child, with sibling discounts available. More information: Visit the Web site (www.gingerbreadplayers.com); or e-mail bkbrunston@hotmail.com

LITTLE ACTORS THEATRE

This local organization has headquarters located at 601-B N. Patterson St. LAT's motto is plays by children for children, with adult supervision. LAT has activities throughout the year but for the summer, too. More information: Contact Diane Tovar, 244-8282; or visit

www.littleactorsvaldosta.com. LAT again hosts Missoula Children's Theatre, June 14-19. Ages: 6-19. Theatre workshops culminating in performances "The Princess and the Pea." The Missoula sessions will be at Valdosta High School Performing Arts Center off North Forrest Street. Cost: \$100.

SOUTH GEORGIA REGIONAL LIBRARY

With six branches stretching from Lowndes County to Lanier and Echols counties, South Georgia Regional Library system has numerous programs planned throughout the summer. This year has different activities for young

children and teens. For more information on all of the libraries' summer activities: Call 333-0086; or check out the Web page (www.sgrl.org). Reading programs, story-telling shows, contests, activities, movies, throughout the summer, with things kids can do at home and at the library locations.

VALDOSTA-LOWNDES RECREATION, PARKS & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

This department of the city of Valdosta and Lowndes County offers a variety of camps and activities, with swimming, crafts,

Art program survives

Georgia Senate budget restores money for arts

BY SHANNON MCCAFFREY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

ATLANTA (AP) — Georgia's arts council was granted a reprieve on Tuesday from the state Senate.

The state House had targeted the arts panel for elimination, a move which arts advocates said would imperil hundreds of thousands of dollars in federal grants.

On Tuesday, Senate budget writers restored \$890,000 in state money to keep the Georgia Council for the Arts afloat for the fiscal year that begins July 1. The money was included in the \$17.8 billion budget proposal that passed the Senate Appropriations Committee.

**'I think it made the
difference.'**

Jack Hill
Committee chairman

The council is still taking a hit. Gone are about \$1.7 million in state grants to local arts and cultural organizations. Georgia would have been the only state in the nation without a federally recognized arts council if the panel had been eliminated, making the state ineligible for more than \$800,000 in federal National Endowment for the Arts grants.

Artists rallied at the state Capitol on Monday urging legislators to restore arts money.

State Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Jack Hill said legislators heard an earful on the arts issue.

"I think it made the difference," the Republican from Reidsville said.

The full state Senate is expected to take up the budget on Wednesday. They must then reconcile their spending blueprint with the one that cleared the House.

Also in the budget approved by Senate budget writers on Tuesday was money for the sports and music halls of fame in Macon. That money had been stripped in the House budget. The House had wiped out state funding for the halls of fame; arguing they've never grown to be self supporting. The Senate put back almost \$900,000 for the two.

But the Senate sided

BUDGET | 4A

ON THE WEB

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ARTS

FROM PAGE ONE

Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts may lose the most funds in Valdosta-Lowndes County.

Georgia Council for the Arts funds an annual average of \$8,000 of the center's day-to-day operating expenses, as well as \$20,000 in administrative costs toward the employment of an administrative assistant working with the Grassroots Arts Program, says Cheryl Oliver, the center's executive director.

"The arts is not only a quality-of-life issue," Oliver says, "but an economic issue and a tourism issue."

Oliver notes that the Economic Impact Data Calculator shows that area arts generate an economic impact of more than \$826,000 for Lowndes County.

If the money is not restored to the state budget, the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts will be affected, but the center will continue.

Oliver says the center will seek alternative forms of funding to "help keep the doors open without an admission fee."

Charging visitors to en-

ter the center is not an option, she says.

Loss of state funding may mean the swan song for programs receiving Grassroots Art Program grants. GAP is a funding arm of the Georgia Council for the Arts. The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts serves as a hub for helping artists and programs acquire GAP grants in a 10-county South Georgia region.

The administration of this program is why the center receives the annual \$20,000 to serve as partial payment for an administrator; but the GAP generates tens of thousands of additional state dollars for South Georgia artists and programs.

Tracey Timmons serves as the GAP administrative assistant and grant writer at the arts center. Last fiscal year, the GAP awarded \$33,326.18 to programs in Berrien, Brooks, Clinch, Cook, Decatur, Echols, Grady, Lanier, Lowndes and Thomas counties, Timmons says. These funds went to programs at the Allen Statenville Library, Bainbridge-Decatur County Council for the Arts, Boys & Girls Club of Valdosta (Brooks County), Carrie Dorsey Perry Memorial Library, Clinch County Public Library,

Echols County Schools Music Program, Jack Hadley Black History Museum, Marguerite Neel Williams Boys & Girls Clubs, Roddenberry Memorial Library, Berrien County Schools, Boys & Girls Club of Valdosta (Lowndes), Child Resource Center, Cook County Council for the Arts, Friendship House, Lanier County Schools, Off Broadstreet CDA, Thomas County Public Library System, Bainbridge Little Theatre, Beulah Missionary Baptist Church, Brooks County Public Library, Clinch County Cultural Arts Association, Cook County Family Connection, Gospel Tabernacle Church of God in Christ, Little Actors Theatre, Plantation Trace Dance Council.

For fiscal year 2010, the Grassroots Art Program brought \$23,265.25 to the re-

gion, Timmons says. This money goes toward arts programs in Carrie Dorsey Perry Memorial Library, Brooks County Public Library, Boys & Girls Club of Valdosta, Clinch County Cultural Arts Association, Clinch County Public Library, Cook County Council for the Arts, Allen Statenville Library, Roddenberry Memorial Library, Miller Lakeland Library, Child Resource Center, Little Actors Theatre, South Georgia Regional Library Main Branch, Valdosta State University Fine Arts Gallery, Marguerite Neel Williams Boys & Girls Clubs, Jack Hadley Black History Museum, Off Broadstreet CDA, Bainbridge-Decatur County Council for the Arts.

With each grant representing a maximum of no more than \$1,500 this year,

the loss of this funding likely won't shut any of the listed institutions' doors. But it will likely end the specific programs funded by these grants, often programs for the region's children and youths, effectively closing the doors on artistic involvement for hundreds of South Georgia children.

"You can do a lot for \$1,000 in arts programming," Timmons says. Art programs can help youngsters build self-esteem, make correlations with other academic subjects, and provide safe, constructive environments in school and after school.

"Art plays many roles that people don't see," Timmons says.

Loss of funding could also effect adult art and literature. In publishing some of its books and its

literary magazine, the Valdosta-based Snake Nation Press is regularly funded by Georgia Council for the Arts grants, says Roberta George, the Snake's publisher and a former executive director of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

Lack of state funding could derail some of Snake Nation's 2010 publishing plans but, in the long run, should not cause too much harm to the publishing company.

She thinks the lack of state funding embarrasses Georgia and will hurt many parts of the state; however, George believes Valdosta-Lowndes County's art scene will endure.

"Even with the loss, Valdosta and Lowndes County should be fine," she says. "We have wonderful community support."

valdostadailytimes.com

The art of survival

Art groups weigh life without state funds

Artists march on Capitol in Atlanta to defend Georgia Council for the Arts. **Page 2A.**

BY DEAN POLING
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Despite the impending loss of the Georgia Council for the Arts, the show will go on for the Little Actors Theatre.

But many other South Georgia arts programs, along with others across the state, may be facing their final act.

"We would miss it," says Diane Tovar, director of Little Actors Theatre, a theatrical troupe for children. "But it is not such a significant amount that it would keep us from continuing."

'You can do a lot for \$1,000 in arts programming.'

Tracey Timmons
Grassroots Art Program

Last week, the Georgia House of Representatives passed a budget plan that would eliminate the Georgia Council for the Arts. The loss would make Georgia the only state in the nation that does not provide funding for the arts. It would also mean the loss of more than \$1 million in National Endowment of the Arts funding and some nonprofit funding.

On Monday, hundreds of artists marched on the state capitol to preserve Georgia's federally recognized council for the arts. Along with many artists and coordinators for arts programs statewide, they hope the state Senate will allocate the arts funding.

Meanwhile, South Georgia programs prepare for the impact of lost funding.

The Valdosta Daily Times spoke Monday with a handful of people whose programs or agencies may be affected by the loss of the Georgia Council for the Arts.

They emphasized that the Council for the Arts is more than money for artists painting pictures. The council issues grants that fund library reading programs, literature, theatre, music, dance, after-school programs, educational efforts, as well as individual artists.

In the absence of a statewide council, the

Opinion

SIGN STAGE
on Tour

**Charlie and the
Chocolate Factory**
Based on the book
by Roald Dahl

Tour of 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' stops next week

BY DEAN POLING
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts and Crossroads Baptist Church host a live production based on Roald Dahl's beloved children's book, "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory."

This version owes more to Dahl's book than the musical movies it inspired — "Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" in the 1970s and the more recent Tim Burton-Johnny Depp film "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory."

The production is also special in that it combines the English language and sign language presented by hearing and hearing-impaired actors.

Still, the audience for this one-night-only show can expect the familiar story of five youngsters winning the golden ticket granting them access to the eccentric and reclusive Willie Wonka's candy

factory. The show is presented by the professional touring Windwood Theatricals' Sign Stage on Tour.

Reservations are recommended, said Cheryl Oliver, arts center executive director. The show will be held at Crossroads Baptist Church which has a seating limit for about 700 people.

SHOWTIME

Windwood Theatricals' 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.'

When: 7 p.m. Monday,
April 19.

Where: Crossroads Baptist Church, 3001 Country Club Drive.

Tickets: \$3, student; \$5, adult.

Reservations, more information: Call the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, (229) 247-2787.

WHAT WE THINK

Thumbs up, Thumbs down

THUMBS UP: To the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts for another fine year for Spring Into Art. The arts center enjoyed a large crowd earlier this week for the opening of the area's largest and most inclusive art show. While out-of-town art judges awarded juried ribbons to some of the artists, we think everyone wins in this show.

THUMBS UP: To the Valdosta State University "Red Hots" athletic dance squad for winning its third consecutive Division II Open Dance national championship recently at the National Dance Association competition in Daytona Beach, Fla. Also, VSU's coed competitive cheerleading squad won its second consecutive national title in the National Cheer Association (NCA) Small Coed Division. And VSU's all-girl competitive squad came in second place, losing to Fairmont State from West Virginia.

THUMBS UP: To Talon Outdoors, Lowndes Longspurs and the National Wildlife Turkey Federation for sponsoring this weekend's Second Annual Spring Turkey Hunt. The event pairs 15 disabled/handicapped hunters with 15 guides, landowners and assistants, allowing some participants to hunt for the first time and allowing some to return to hunting for the first time in a long while.

THUMBS DOWN: To the folks who didn't fill out and return their Census forms by the mail-in deadline this week. Being counted is vital to the representation and prosperity of our region. People who did not mail back the census forms can now expect a visit from a census worker at their homes. So, what would have cost mere cents for postage with a mailed-in form will now cost taxpayers an average of \$50-\$60 per census visit.

Art Between the Lines



Jeanne Rountree looks through the lenses of one of the art displays during the opening night of the 23rd Annual Spring into Art at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Monday.

PAUL LEAVY | THE VALDOSTA DA

The artistic whirlwind of Spring Into Art

Meet the youthful winner of Spring Into Art's invitation design competition. **Page 3A.**

BY DEAN POLING
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Art had already been hanged and mounted Monday afternoon. Jurists Nancy Bookhart, curator of art, Paine College, Augusta, and Carissa DiCindio, associate curator of education, Georgia Museum of Art, Athens, had already placed their purple "juried" ribbons beside the selected works on Sunday.

Cheryl Oliver and her

staff have spent most of the weekend at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, readying its many galleries for Monday night's reception for the annual Spring Into Art exhibit. They continue tweaking numerous small details in the hours before the crowds arrive.

Caterers placed tables throughout the galleries. A trash can stood by the entrance, filled, with debris, the only evidence left of the hard work that goes into preparing a show as massive as the annual Spring Into Art.



J.C. Riley and his wife, Ivnease, look over art during the reception for the opening of the 23rd Annual Spring Into Art at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Monday.

PAUL LEAVY | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Brandon Herring, a Moulton-Branch Elementary School student, won the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Spring Into Art Invitation Design Competition.

Student wins Spring Into Art design contest

Herring, mother special guests at reception

VALDOSTA — The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts recently announced the winner of the 2010 Spring Into Art Invitation Design Competition.

Brandon Herring, fifth grader at Moulton Branch Elementary School, was thrilled to learn that his artwork had been selected for this year's invitation and ticket design.

He, along with his mother, Rhonda Herring, and his art teacher, Lee Brown, were special guests at the center's Spring Into Art reception Monday evening.

When asked about his

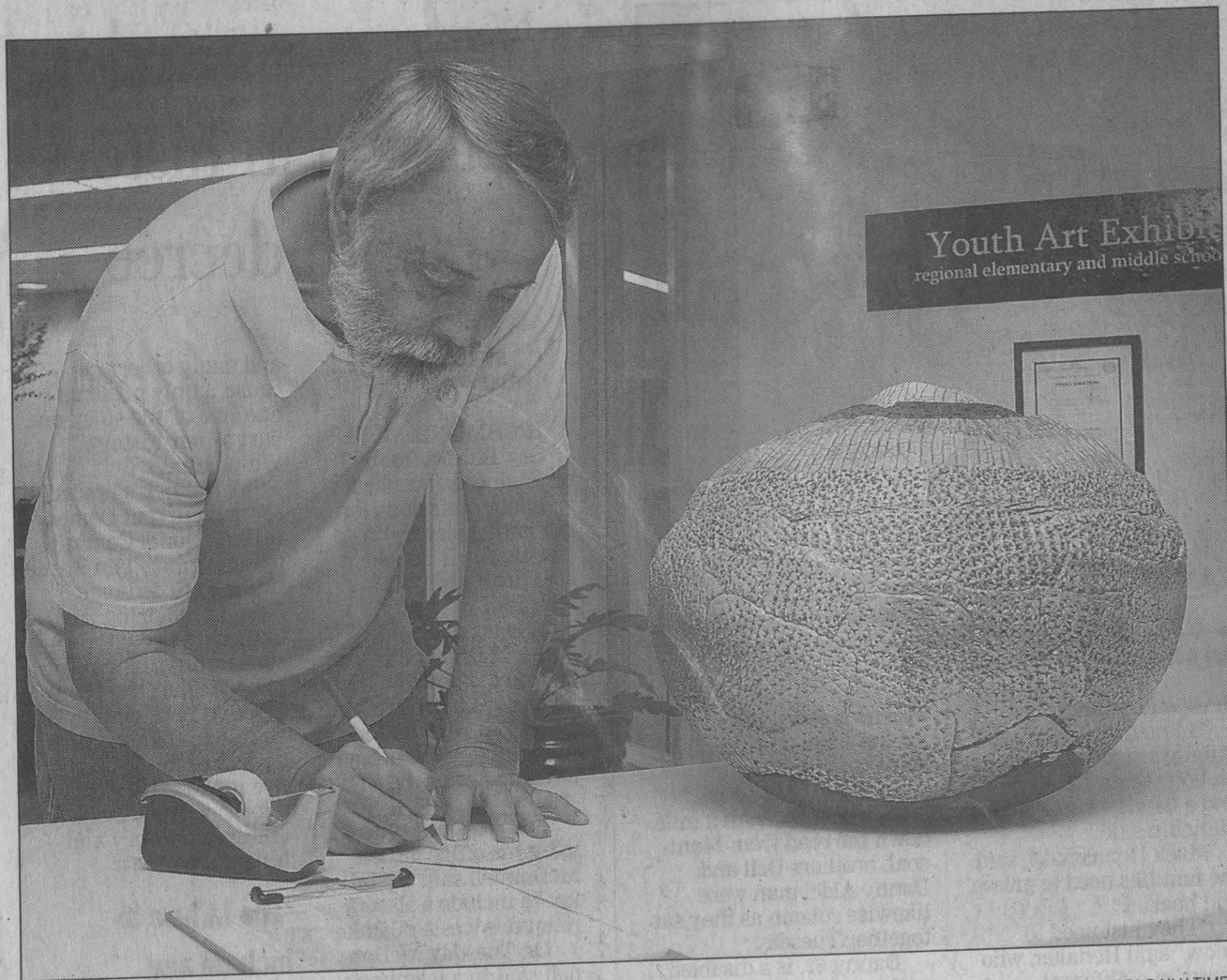
inspiration for the drawing, Brandon responded, "I saw a picture of Mt. Everest and in my mind, I thought I should draw it like all the ice had melted."

He added that his mother had shown him how to draw the birds in the air.

In addition to being an emerging artist, Brandon is an athlete, who enjoys playing basketball and soccer.

He says that on the Chinese calendar (which he has memorized), he was born in the Year of the Rabbit.

"That means I'm multi-talented," Brandon said. He remarked that he is especially thankful to his art teacher, "Mr. Crews," his math/science teacher, and "my mama."



PAUL LEAVY | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Spring Into Art

Local artist Walter Hobbs fills out the paperwork for ceramic art that he is entering into the Spring Into Art Show at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts on Wednesday. Hobbs is one of more than 400 show entrants. The annual show opens on Monday, April 12.



Danielle Spencer, Lowndes High School, 'One With Nature.' First Place

Invitation to Art's Future

Arts Center hosts regional
high school exhibit

BY DEAN POLING
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Each year, it seems impossible for students to top the prior year's Invitational Regional High School Art Competition. Each year, young, regional artists seem to prove that notion wrong.

Numerous pieces from South Georgia and North Florida high school art classes are on display at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

These works demonstrate that the arts remain strong in the region. They stand as both a testament to the talents of our regional youth and the vigor which regional art educators place into teaching their classes.

For some of these high school artists, the annual Invitational Regional High School Art Competition may prove their first exhibit in a lifetime of presenting art in gallery shows.

If you're curious about the future of art in our area, go see this show.

GALLERY

Invitational Regional High School Competition, Youth Art Month, and Art Educators Exhibit.

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

Run dates: These shows continue through April 1.

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

Admission: Free.

More information: Call 247-2787.



Fania Raaf, Lowndes High School, Eve, 2nd Place



Katalina Spicer, Suwannee High School, Junior, 'I Lost My Marbles,' Best In Show



Connor Billups, Suwannee High School, 12th Grade, 'No Punch Back,' 3rd Place

WHATEVER HAPPENED ...

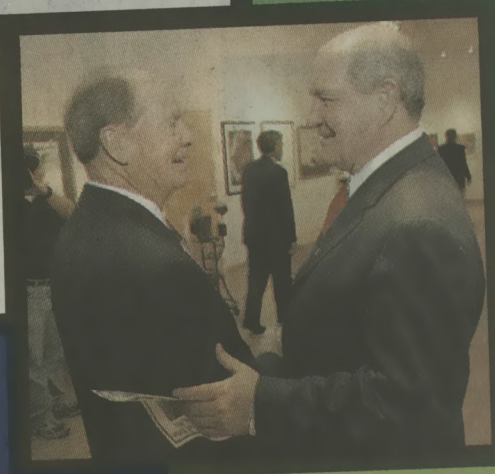
10A Sunday, March 28, 2010

aldostadailytimes.com

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts is shown.



Gov. Sonny Perdue congratulates Loyce Turner at the opening.



The Arts Center has many activities to delight adults and children alike.

"We don't have an admission fee. You can come in during the public hours and you're welcomed here."

ARTS

FROM PAGE 10A

properties, including a building across from the center that they are transforming into a new pottery workshop.

"Pottery is so popular and we really feel that it will pay for itself so that will be our major classroom space," Oliver said. "We are probably a month away from opening those doors."

Although the center needs money to run and is always a concern, their main focus is still presenting the opportunity for the community to view visual art.

"Every six weeks we change out four of our galleries," Oliver said. "One of them is dedicated to children's art, the Roberta George Gallery. We give schools in the area, not just Lowndes County, but the entire South Georgia area, a chance to display their students' work."

The Josette's Gallery, The Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery and Sallie and Harmon Boyette Gallery are the other three main galleries for rotating art exhibits.

"We use regional and national artists," Oliver said. "We've even had some international artist exhibitions here. It's a really great opportunity for people to see art they wouldn't be able to see otherwise."

The new art center has also brought a lot of new visitors over the last seven years that wouldn't have come to a regional art center otherwise.

"(The Turner Center) is their regional art center," Oliver said. "It's not a private club or gallery. We are here for the community. I'm still disturbed by the fact that there's still many people in the community that don't know about the Turner Center for the Arts. They don't know it's available to the public. We don't have an admission fee. You can come in during the public hours and you're welcomed here."

Keeping the arts alive

BY KARAH-LEIGH HANCOCK
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — In 2001, Georgia Governor Roy Barnes promised the members of the Lowndes / Valdosta Arts Commission funds to help move the art center from their location near Valdosta State University to a new location, the old First State Bank & Trust.

Today that dream is now a reality in the shape of The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

"The transformation from First State Bank to what you see today was made possible by Dr. Loyce Turner and his family," Cheryl Oliver, executive director of the center, said. "Because of that and (how) he helped us get funding from the state, that's why it's named (after his wife)."

Turner and his family donated \$500,000 to the project in honor of his wife, houses five galleries in the 17,000 square feet of space.

While it took \$2.6 million dollars to renovate the bank into an art gallery, the transition from a bank to an arts center was a natural progression according to Oliver.

"When the First State Bank was here, it's president, Eddie Norris, was an artist," Oliver said. "So every year they would put on this Spring into Art thing. So you pay your money and come in and view all the art work. Back then, they didn't have gallery space so it was all up on the walls. I think it makes a much better gallery than a bank."

While the center is an art gallery, they have much more to offer the community than just showcasing art.

The Turner Center offers various

"The transformation from First State Bank to what you see today was made possible by Dr. Loyce Turner and his family."

Cheryl Oliver

classes in such things as painting, pottery and culinary arts.

"We had a cupcake and cookie baking class in November," Oliver said.

"It was so much fun. We had a maximum capacity. We had a lot of little girls in there that wanted to do that. The culinary and art classes really help us generate revenue."

The center also hosts other activities such as artist receptions, writing, dance and yoga classes.

"In January we had a 'Girls Night Out' that turned out to be widely successful," Oliver said. "We showed a movie and had refreshments. The ladies had just a wonderful time."

"Our operating funds come from contributions and memberships from companies and individuals," Oliver said.

"We do have individual people joining the center and supporting us."



Bill Sineath makes a presentation at the Arts Center's opening.

According to Oliver, the Spring into Art exhibition helps generate revenue from sales of art pieces.

"We split the proceeds when we sell a piece of art," Oliver said. "We have classes. The teachers and center have an agreement to split the proceeds from the classes."

The center also gets a small portion of the local accommodation tax through the city and county.

They also apply for grants and get help from the Georgia Council for the Arts in Atlanta.

"It's a hard economy for all non-profits," Oliver said. "Because costs haven't gone down but donations have. You have to find creative ways to continue to operate and control your costs and continue your programming because we need to offer things to the community so that they will want to give more money to the center for our future."

There are also expansion plans in the future for the Turner Center.

The center owns several different

Opinion

WHAT WE THINK

There will be a show tonight ...

Beatles fans should find much to enjoy about this evening's "Yesterday & Today: An Interactive Beatles Experience."

The show asks audience members to request songs and share personal stories related to the song request. The "Yesterday & Today" band claims to know the entire Beatles catalog and is ready to take any Beatles request.

"Yesterday & Today" is the final show for the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series for the 2009-10 season.

And what a fine season it has been.

The season opened with the magic of the "Illusionaire" show, continued with a powerful stage performance of John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men," rocked the house with the colorful musical "Hair-spray" and now brings an Americanized British Invasion to Mathis City Auditorium with the Beatles show.

All of the Presenter Series shows are professional, touring productions bringing a bit of Broadway and more to Valdosta for an evening.

These are the types of shows which both entertain the area and make the region an attractive spot for newcomers to make a home or new industry.

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts and the center's Presenter Series committee deserve an ovation for all of the hard work they put into presenting these shows.

The Valdosta Daily Times has long been a proud sponsor of the Presenter Series and we are joined by sponsors Ambling, Dr. James Sinnott/Dr. Ed Fricker & Families, First State Bank, Georgia Power, South Georgia Pecan, WALB.

Tickets are still available. Proceeds will not be for the benefit of Mr. Kite, but there will be a show tonight.

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JONATHAN M. CHICK | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

In the shadow

The shadow of artist Wilby Coleman's sculpture "Dawat" allows the proper exposure of the colorful brick in the courtyard of The Annette Turner Howell Center for the Arts.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

I wanna hold your hand

Sharon Lodge and Jenny Howard, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts team members, flank Presenter Series Committee members Nancy Warren and Rhonda Hamman as they ready for the Presenter Series performance of 'Yesterday & Today: An Interactive Beatles Experience,' 7:30 p.m. today, Mathis City Auditorium, 2300 N. Ashley St. Ticket: \$45. More information: Call (229) 247-2787; or visit the arts center at 527 N. Patterson St.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A little help from their friends

Bill Shenton, Cheryl Oliver and Bob Harrison of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts are poised and ready for 'Yesterday & Today: An Interactive Beatles Experience.'

BEATLES

FROM PAGE ONE

died and at the funeral we played 'In My Life.' It becomes a very powerful moment.

You can see people in the audience closing their eyes and seeing what these songs mean to them." McGuigan and his bandmates don't attempt to impersonate the Beatles.

Instead, they try creating a collective, community experience centered on the music of John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr.

The Times contest prompted several entries from readers hoping to win a pair of show tickets — a \$90 value. Five winners were selected and received two tickets each.

A few respondents included fascinating stories about the song "Imagine," but were not included in the final selection. John Lennon's "Imagine" may have been written and recorded by a one-time Beatle, but it is not a Beatles song. Here's a look at the contest winners and their winning entries.

Anthony McCullough, Quitman: "'Taxman.' When my brother went to Vietnam (on) his first tour. Oh yeah, he left the (Beatles) albums. I remember jumping around the living room thinking this is what rock 'n roll is really all about. He passed away in '92 on duty in Italy. Every time I hear any Beatles song, I think of him. He was my hero."

Sherry Stranahan, Valdosta: "In 1968-69, I taught in a secondary school in Kenya,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

'Yesterday & Today' doesn't attempt to impersonate George Harrison, Ringo Starr, Paul McCartney or John Lennon. What it does is create a community Beatles experience which allows the audience to select the play list.

East Africa. Since I did not have access to television and radio, I could not listen to the Beatles. What a treat to listen to 'All You Need Is Love': (via a Nairobi jukebox), my favorite Beatles song."

Eddie Collins, Valdosta: "'I Saw Her Standing There!' This song reminds me of my early childhood. It reminds me of my grandfather dancing to a new style of music. It reminds me of the new haircut, the new beat — Hey, it's the Beatles!!!"

Allison Crenshaw, Valdosta: "'Blackbird.' When we were expecting our son, Carson, my husband would sing to him. Of all the songs he would sing, 'Blackbird' would make

him kick and dance inside of my belly the most! To this day, Carson still loves that song!"

Eric Ansley, Valdosta: "'She Loves You.' In 1964, after their appearance on Ed Sullivan, I pleaded with

my parents to buy me a guitar and their first album. I wore that vinyl out lip-synching in front of a mirror strumming that guitar. I learned to play because of them. Yeah! Yeah! Yeah!"

SHOWTIME

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenters Series hosts "Yesterday & Today: An Interactive Beatles Experience."

When: 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

Where: Mathis City Auditorium, 2300 N. Ashley St.

Ticket: \$45.

More information: Call (229) 247-2787; or visit the arts center at 527 N. Patterson St.

Sponsors: Presenter Series sponsors are The Valdosta Daily Times, Ambling, Dr. James Sinnott/Dr. Ed Fricker & Families, First State Bank, Georgia Power, South Georgia Pecan, WALB.

The Valdosta Daily Times

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Wednesday March 3, 2010

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Ticket to Ride

Five folks win Times contest to the Beatles show, yeah, yeah, yeah

BY DEAN POLING
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — The Valdosta Daily Times received several great responses for the newspaper's and the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series' contest to win tickets to "Yesterday & Today: An Interactive Beatles Experience." The Times asked readers to

share their favorite Beatles stories or recollections for a chance to win a pair of tickets to Thursday night's show. The contest is similar to the "interactive" portion of "Yesterday & Today."

As the audience arrives Thursday evening at Mathis City Auditorium, ticketholders will have the opportunity to request a Beatles song from the show's seven-piece

band. Audience members are also asked to share a memory or story in writing to accompany that request.

"We paint the picture for the audience," "Yesterday & Today" member Billy McGuigan told The Times in a recent phone interview. "A woman might write, my husband

BEATLES | 4A

ILLUSTRATION: DEAN POLING | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

The Valdosta Daily Times readers shared stories of their Beatles memories and favorite songs for a chance to win tickets to the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts' presentation of 'Yesterday and Today: An Interactive Beatles Experience,' playing this week.



"Close Up"

Diana Harman
Eighth Grade

'Close Up,' artist Diana Harman, eighth grade.

YOUTH ART MONTH

Arts center hosts a salute to student artists, art educators

BY DEAN POLING
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — In the past few days, regional art teachers have poured into the galleries of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. They have brought carloads of paintings, drawings and other art items created by their students.

Arts center staff has worked diligently to replace the last set of artworks with these new works representing the creative minds, visions and talents of dozens of young artists. All purposefully committed within a crucible of a few days, with one day less to accomplish mounting these exhibits than normal.

For instead of the traditional Monday evening opening reception for a new art exhibit, these exhibits and these young artists will be honored with a reception this afternoon.

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts opens the annual Youth Art exhibition, the annual Invitational Regional High School Competition, and the Art Educators Exhibit.

Youth Art Month invites area elementary and middle school art teachers to participate in the exhibit with works by their students. Each area art teacher could select 25 pieces for this exhibit.

If holding true to tradition, the Invitational Regional High School Competition features high schools from South Georgia and North Florida. As the show's title suggests, this is a juried exhibition where student artists have the opportunity to win cash prizes.

While the show opens today, art was scheduled to arrive as late as Saturday, after the deadline for this section of your Sunday newspaper. To give you a taste of the show's spirit, we present art from the Pine Grove Middle School student exhibit that just closed in the arts center's Roberta George Children's Gallery.



'Symmetric Card,' artist Gagan Hankins, seventh grade.



'You Are What You Eat,' artist Zachary Johnson, sixth grade.

GALLERY

Invitational Regional High School Competition, Youth Art Month, and Art Educators Exhibit.

RECEPTION: These shows open with a free, public reception, 2-4 p.m. today.

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

RUN DATES: These shows continue through April 1.

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

ADMISSION: Free.

MORE INFORMATION: Call 247-2787.

Band, audience brings the Beatles songs, stories to life

BY DEAN POLING
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Billy McGuigan remains amazed at the many ways the Beatles music connects with people's lives.

He understands. As he describes himself on the phone, McGuigan's "an insane Beatles fan," the son of "a monstrous Beatles fan."

He's such a fan that McGuigan, two of his brothers and four additional musicians star in "Yesterday & Today: An Interactive Beatles Experience," which plays later this week as the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts' final Presenter Series show for the 2009-10 season.

"I always wanted to do a Beatles show," McGuigan says.

"I always wanted to be Paul (McCartney), but I can't play bass."

The McGuigans wanted to create a Beatles show but wanted to avoid the trap of trying to impersonate McCartney, John Lennon, George Harrison and Ringo Starr.

"So, we don't try to look like them, but we were looking for a hook for a Beatles show," Billy McGuigan says. "We looked at the possibility of a request show, but learned that, when it comes to the Beatles, people didn't just make a request. They had a story about why they made the request. People are very passionate about it."

That's the interactive part of this show. McGuigan and company handle the music. The audience chooses the play list. Audience members will get to make a request and share a personal story behind the reason for the request. The band usually shares the audience stories during the performance.

These requests and stories are collected as the audience arrives.

About 10 minutes prior to showtime, McGuigan and some other band members go through the requests. Songs with the most requests typically go first. Requests with great personal stories are also selected.

Billy McGuigan and some of the band quickly chart out a play list for the first half of the show then hit the stage. The other two McGuigan brothers prefer not knowing which song is next until hearing the request read.

To make this work, the "Yesterday & Today" band must know every Beatles song. Someone may request "Honey Pie," for example, along with the expected "Please Please Me."

SHOWTIME

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Sunday, February 28, 2010 1C



The band knows the songs but, McGuigan admits, certain song requests are few and far between. The band tells the audience beforehand if they haven't played a certain tune in a while.

"Part of the magic of this show is the audience sometimes tries stumping the band," McGuigan says. "That's part of the fun."

The band will even take the occasional stab at "Revolution No. 9" off the "White Album," though McGuigan adds they only do about 10 seconds of Lennon's off-the-wall song. "If we did the whole thing, most of the audience would leave," he says.

The band also has seven members to handle live performances of songs which the Beatles recorded but never performed live: Songs such as "Strawberry Fields" or "A Day in the Life."

The concert also becomes a communal

event. People discover insights about people in their towns during the show. They connect through the music of the Beatles.

"We paint the picture for the audience," McGuigan says. "A woman might write, my husband died and at the funeral we played 'In My Life.' It becomes a very powerful moment. You can see people in the audience closing their eyes and seeing what these songs mean to them."

This connection is multi-generational. It doesn't just come from the baby boomers who

were kids when the Beatles first took the stage.

Passion for the Beatles has continued through younger generations.

McGuigan also tours in a Buddy Holly show, which attracts audiences in their 50s, 60s, and 70s, but the Beatles show attracts as many kids as adults who remember the Beatles firsthand.

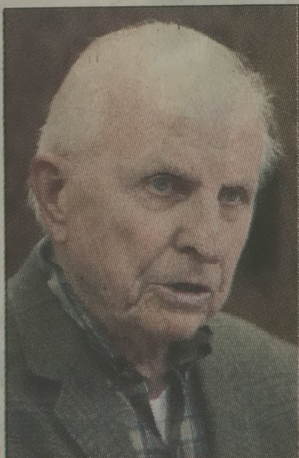
"With the Beatles, Grandma can play Beatles Rock Band with the grandkids," McGuigan says, "and everyone gets it."



The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts presents 'Yesterday and Today: An Interactive Experience' this week.

Fighting words

Author's novel fueled by his World War II years



PAUL LEAVY | VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES
Dr. Ron Hamby talks about his experiences as a pilot in World War II.



Ron Hamby flew more than 90 missions in World War II.

BY DEAN POLING
 THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Dr. Ron Hamby uses skeet shooting to explain how his plane repeatedly escaped German guns during World War II.

In skeet, shooters take aim at the expected flight line of the clay pigeons. Calling pull, the shooter's shotgun is ready for the disc's trajectory. The shooter makes a sweeping movement along this path before firing.

Hamby says Allied bombers were like the clay pigeons. They would fly down at a degree, drop their payloads, then climb up and out along a steady line of angled elevation.

Like skeet, the planes would move fast, but the flight line of entry and de-

BOOK INFO

Dr. Ron Hamby's 'C'est La Guerre (That's War)' is available at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.; or by e-mailing ronmihamby@localnet.com

parture were as predictable as clay pigeons released from a spring. The German anti-aircraft gunners would pummel sky, airplane metal and pilot flesh along that line, like the skeet shooter keeping within the lines, all with a smooth, coordinated sweep of gunfire.

Hamby believed the Germans wouldn't deviate from the expected path. In-

stead of following the predictable arc of departure, Hamby would drop his payload, pull back on the stick of his P-47, and reach straight and fast for the heavens.

"With all of the guns moving sideways with the rest of the planes, I would finish my dive-bombing run then shoot straight up," Hamby says. "I figured the gunners wouldn't want to go from sideways to shooting one guy flying straight up and then have to adjust back to sideways. My plane was only hit twice."

Doing this may have saved his life, but it got him in trouble at first.

"In my first six missions, I came home by myself," Hamby says,

HAMBY | 4A



Ron Hamby flew the P-47 during World War II. It is the same plane flown by the fictional Capt. Jeffrey Hampton in Hamby's novel, 'C'est La Guerre.'

HAMBY

FROM PAGE ONE

"because after flying straight up, I couldn't find my squadron again."

Hamby of Valdosta flew 96 missions in the European Theatre during World War II. He uses these experiences to bring to life his newly released novel, "C'est La Guerre (That's War): A World War II Love and War Novel."

The novel is the story of Capt. Jeffrey Hampton, a war-weary P-47 pilot who is shot down after taking out two German Messerschmitt ME 109s in a daring aerial dogfight. Several beautiful women help Hampton in his journey to safety in Spain. But the last girl does what the enemy could not — she captures Hampton's heart. He falls for her. Hampton joins the resistance until the Allied invasion returns him to his squadron. Though no longer on the run, Hampton must find the girl he loves though the world burns at war.

"C'est La Guerre" has melodrama, sure. But Hamby creates a page-turner with this war novel. A natural storyteller, he sets a tone and pace that gets a reader's attention then places the reader in the forefront of the action.

Hamby's novel also smacks of a compelling authenticity in both military and cultural details. He captures the spirit of an era in a flowing narrative.

He credits this authenticity to one simple fact. Though he published "C'est La Guerre" in recent months, Hamby wrote it while still a young man, fresh from his days overseas as a pilot, written in the months after World War II.

"I had this recording as documentation of the world view of the youth and the global wartime culture which nourished that world view to keep them from fading over 60 years," Hamby notes in the novel's acknowledgments.

Sitting for an interview, Hamby adds, "Had I not written this 60, 65 years ago, I would have never remembered the cultural details of the time, or how it was to



Ron Hamby has lived a full life: World War II pilot, psychologist, horse breeder and racer, and now a published novelist.

see the world through those young eyes."

Picking up the manuscript decades later, Hamby brought the experiences of the intervening years to polish the story into a finished novel.

It is important to note that Dr. Ron Hamby is not the character Capt. Jeffrey Hampton. The young Hamby used his experiences to make the fictional Hampton come alive on the page, but Hamby was never shot down like Hampton, nor led a spell-binding escape across war-torn Europe.

That doesn't mean Hamby doesn't have a wealth of stories from his own experiences. Real anecdotes that are just as edge-of-the-seat fascinating as the fiction they inspired.

Hamby had one dogfight, one duel, with a German aviator during the war. He remembers firing 16 rounds, 16 rounds exactly, into that plane.

Hamby recalls early dive-bombing runs, being behind several planes that had already dropped their payloads so the anti-aircraft fire had already started before his turn came.

"You had to roll over and fly into all that stuff," Hamby says. "I

remember thinking, 'Man, I wish I was first so I didn't have to fly into this mess.'"

Be careful what you wish for. Flying lead on bombing runs, he would roll over and lower into quiet and silence from the ground. No anti-aircraft guns ... yet. No flak ... yet. But knowing it will come. Knowing it will start any moment. Just not knowing if it would start while he's diving, or flying straight up, or after his payload is dropped and he's on his way.

"I would think about when's it going to start? When's it going to hit?"

Hamby has numerous stories. He talks about playing football. How excited he was in the post-war years, going to school, and playing football again. He and his roommate were both war veterans. Both played football. They were both disappointed in the gridiron.

"After the war, I wasn't cut out for football," Hamby says. "It wasn't fun. It was just plain work."

Playing defensive tackle, he recalls a 250-pound player knocking him down then stepping on Hamby's knee — cleats digging into Hamby's skin, muscle and bone.

"I looked at my roommate and said, 'I don't want to do this. I

want to tie one on.' He said, 'Me, too. Let's turn in these uniforms and go.' We didn't see the coach. We didn't tell anybody anything. We just turned the uniforms in and went on our way."

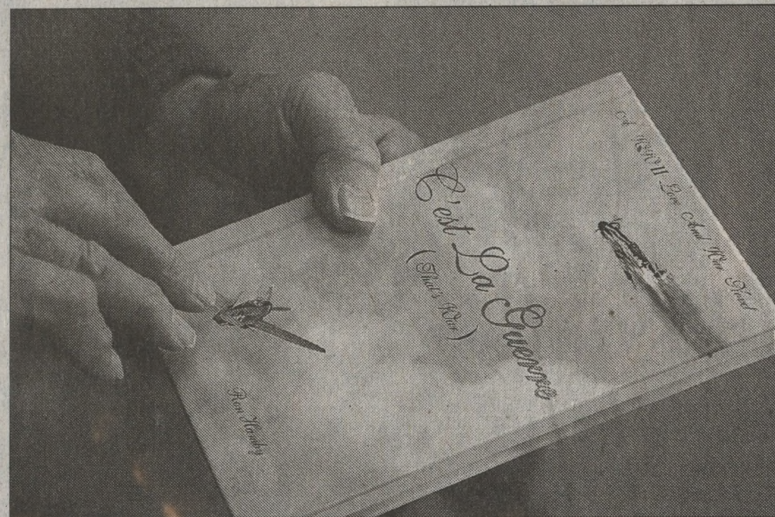
Hamby returned to the military. He served many years. In school, he received his degree and became a psychologist. He loved horses and raised them.

Land for 66 horses brought Hamby to Valdosta in January 1988. As time has passed, he's left raising and racing horses behind. He retired from the military many years ago. Loss of hearing led him to retire as a psychologist. "Not much call for a psychologist who can't hear what people are saying," he says.

But now he can add a new title to his resume: author. In addition to "C'est La Guerre," he's been writing a book based on a legal case.

And he gives thanks for his latest career to his younger self, the 20-something of 60-plus years ago, who dared the skies then dared to write a book.

"I owe that youth a debt of gratitude," Hamby notes, "for staying with me as that seed developed and matured to be birthed as this novel about the young man he was portraying."



PAUL LEAVY | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Though published in recent months, Dr. Ron Hamby wrote the original manuscript for his World War II novel, 'C'est La Guerre,' shortly after his piloting days in the war.