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UUID: 9CFC1FF7-7773-4899-81B5-6172221C79F9

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WHAT WE THINK

A great place for the arts

hat other town of Valdosta's size can claim in the coming months to host a professional production of the musical "Hairspray," an Anton Chekov play, music by Mozart and Tchaikovsky as well as Brahms and Stravinsky, artworks from across the nation and from high schools across the region, sophisticated and not-so-sophisticated comedies, dance performances, as well as Lynyrd Skynyrd, REO Speedwagon, the Backstreet Boys, George Thorogood, Billy Ray Cyrus, and top it all off with a summer of professional musicals?

If there are any other takers, they are few and far between.

In Sunday's Life section of The Valdosta Daily Times, we presented a list of arts and entertainment coming to the region during the next six months.

The list included plays, concerts, exhibits and more presented by the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, the Gingerbread Players, Little Actors Theatre, Peach State Summer Theatre, Theatre Guild Valdosta, Valdosta State University Art, VSU Theatre & Dance, the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra, and Wild Adventures. While this was a comprehen-

Folks can expect plays, concerts and exhibits readily admit, it is not from area schools, more bands in area clubs, coming to the area. more recitals and concerts from VSU hibits from area Music and regional area clubs, more churches ..

sive list — one you will want to save if you haven't already - we a complete list of the arts and entertainment Folks can expect plays, concerts and exschools, more bands in recitals and concerts from VSU Music and

regional churches, more concert announcements from Wild Adventures

This list goes on and on.

When it comes to arts and entertainment, Valdosta-Lowndes County is a gathering place for talents, from both near and far.

A Ladies' Afternoon Tea

Event focuses on women's contributions to city

VALDOSTA — The City of Valdosta and Valdosta Sesquicentennial Planning Committee will host "Reflections on the Generations: A Ladies' Afternoon Tea" from 2-4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 13, at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.

This event celebrates the contributions of women to Valdosta's history and community. Robin Fretti will host the event and other community builders, such as Lucy Greene, Dale Crane, Emily Anderson and Dr. Shirley Hardin, will pay tribute to women and the legacies

they leave for all generations. Tickets may be purchased for \$10 per person at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. No tickets will be sold on the day of the event. This event is not suit-

able for small children.

The tea is one of many sesquicentennial events taking place in 2010, during the City of Valdosta's 150th year. For a complete list of events by month, visit www.valdostacity.com and click on the birthday cake icon.

For more information, call (229) 671-3615.

Saturday, January 30, 2010 3A



BY DEAN POLING THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — A few weeks into the New Year and the 2009-10 arts season is back in full swing.

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts and the Valdosta State University Art Gallery have both opened new exhibits. The Valdosta School of Ballet and VSU Theatre & Dance have teamed to present this weekend's "Sleeping Beauty." Theatre Guild Valdosta opens a new show this week, the comedy "Don't Dress for Dinner."

And there's much more in the coming weeks.

ANNETTE HOWELL TURNER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Where: 527 N. Patterson St.

Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; closed Sundays and Mondays. Most opening receptions, however, are 5-7 p.m. Mondays on designated dates.

Admission: Free.

More information: Call (229) 247-2787; or visit www.turnercenter.org

ART EXHIBITS

— Jan. 11 - Feb. 24: Maggie Evans; Drawproject 2010; Ben Shambeck; Pine Grove Elementary School.

- **Feb. 28 - April 1:** High School Competition; elementary-middle school art educators.

— **April 12 - May, 26:** Spring into Art Exhibition

ANNETTE HOWELL TURNER CENTER FOR THE ARTS PRESENTER SERIES

A series of professional, touring shows. **All Shows:** Mathis City Auditorium, 2300 N. Ashley St.

Show 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.

SHOWS

— "Hairspray," 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11. A multiple Tony winner, including best musical, "Hairspray" was originally a quirky non-musical John Waters movie that was transformed into a live musical and then a movie based on the musical. Traditionally, a man dressed in drag plays the plus-sized mom, starting with Divine and onto Harvey Fierstein, and John Travolta. "Set in 1962, the story is pumped up with heartthrobs, unforgettable songs, and a fabulous teen with a (hair)do to die for," says Warren and Hobgood. "'Hairspray' is irresistible musical comedy at its best."

— **"Yesterday & Today: An Interactive Beatles Experience,"** 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 4. For starters, this show does not sell itself as a "Beatlemania"-type show. So, don't expect a cast pretending to be John, Paul, George and



Artwork by Virginia Spencer is part of Valdosta State University Art's Valdosta National 2010 exhibit.

Ringo. Don't expect a cast juggling mop-top and longer-haired wigs, Sgt. Pepper epaulets, or round Granny glasses.

Do expect rocking performances of Beatles music which the audience gets to choose. The "interactive" part of this show's title means audience members write song requests along with comments on what this Beatle song means to the requester. These comments are shared as the band plays. Each show is different from town to town.

GINGERBREAD PLAYERS

- Where: The Dosta Playhouse, 122 N. Ashley St.
- Tickets: \$6, general admission.
- **More information:** Call (229) 24-STAGE; or visit www.theatreguildvaldosta.com
- **Note:** Gingerbread Players is the children's organization of Theatre Guild Valdosta.
 - "The Princess and the Pea," March 19,

69

The inside look into Maggie Evans' artwork

BY DEAN POLING

THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Don't adjust this page.

Artist Maggie Evans seems to perceive in-between spaces of coming and going, capturing dimensions between space and time.

Her art captures rooms that seem empty but could well be a long look at one spot as blurred people sit and rise and leave

then more people coming and doing the same, over and over, stillness in constant motion.

The furnishings frame the past, the present and future as the occupants become shifting benchmarks of elastic

Center for the Arts. becomes empty of peoartistic statement. "With- Admission: Free.

out the assertive pres-

I GALLERY

Artist Maggie Evans' work is on display along with the drawproject 2010, artist Ben Shamback, and Pine Grove Elementary School art students.

Where: Annette Howell Turner Center time in her exhibit at the for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. Annette Howell Turner Run dates: These shows run through Feb. 24.

"When a public room Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 ple, it becomes a different p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; space," Evans says in an closed Sundays and Mondays.

Information: Call (229) 247-2787. ence of humans, the pur-

pose of the room becomes undefined and its emptiness vaguely unsettling."

Yet, the emptiness appears haunted by the ghosts of occupants or a pensive waiting for occupants to come.

Evans is a Texas native. She studied art at Utah State University and Savannah College of Art and Design.

Her "psychological interiors" begin immediately with drawings. No sketches. No photo references. As the image develops, she works through the composition, lighting, perspective while discovering deeper meanings.

"Drawing allows me to explore and release emotions that transcend words," Evans says. "The vague familiarity of these interiors allows the viewer to enter this search in terms of their own emotions and experiences. ... These vacant rooms become the setting for an undefined exploration that is both personal and universal."

Uncertain Departure,' artist Maggie Evans.

WHAT WE THINK

The arts strike back

egional arts have returned this week in a big way. The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Karts opened four new art exhibits, including Jamie Harmon's annual drawproject which has raised thousands of dollars for Valdosta State University Art scholarships.

This weekend, VSU Opera presents its annual opera production. This season's performances mark a decade of local opera. Having some fun with the genre, VSU Opera has reprised its first production but with a new twist. VSU Opera has taken Mozart's "The Magic Flute" and given it a flair of George Lu-

cas' "Star Wars" to create "Tim Eno and the Magic Space-Flute."

Lowndes High School Off-Broadway also returns to the stage this weekend with the annual studentconceived, student-directed "5, 6, 7, 8" revue show. VSU Theatre & Dance's Jacque Wheeler has writ-

ten an original play "From Troupville to Valdosta,"

which will be performed by VSU Theatre students, as part of Friday evening's city sesquicentennial DostaFest.

Next Tuesday evening, VSU Art opens the annual Valdosta National art exhibit, which attracts works from artists across the nation.

Meanwhile, area children's theatres have been hosting auditions for their next shows. Theatre Guild Valdosta and VSU are rehearsing for their next shows.

The arts center is promoting its next Presenter Series show, the musical "Hairspray."

The arts are back!

At times, folks may take them for granted, but their absence during the recent holiday season has been noticeable. The return of the arts is a welcome one. It reminds us of how many talented people live in South Georgia, and how much enjoyment and enlightenment they provide.



8C Sunday, January 10, 2010

drawproject 2010

Fourth VSU Art scholarship benefit opens Monday

BY DEAN POLING THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — The

fourth drawproject features several area artists but will also exhibit works from artists as far away as the Czech Republic.

This year, Jamie Harmon issued his annual invitation to participate in the not-for-profit drawproject to local artists as well as posted it on the Internet social networking site Facebook.

Through Facebook, the Valdosta-based drawproject caught the attention of several artists from across the country and the one from the Czech Republic. However, getting the artist's work to fit the drawproject's criteria took special consideration.

For four shows, Harmon has had each volunteer artist work with a piece of 22-by-15 paper. To send the Czech artist a couple pieces of the properly sized drawing paper would have been too expensive; same for the artist sending the work to the U.S. So, the artist e-mailed images to Harmon who then had the images printed onto the properly sized paper.

The art of technology at work.

While this one artist's work took a complex series of steps, the idea behind the drawproject is simple: Artists donate a piece of art, all the same size, all framed the same. These donated pieces of work are auctioned as part of Monday evening's opening reception of new exhibits at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

Auction proceeds go toward Valdosta State University art student scholarships.

The past three drawproject shows, two at the arts center, one at VSU, have raised thousands of dollars for VSU Art scholarships.

Initially, the drawproject invited only drawings, with a loose interpretation of drawing. "There were no rules or definition of

GALLERY

The drawproject 2010 opens in the Sallie and Harmon Boyette Gallery, along with exhibits by artist Maggie Evans. Price-Campbell Gallery; Ben Shamback, Josette's Gallery; Pine Grove Elementary School art students, Roberta George Children's Gallery. Where: Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. Reception: The shows open with a free, public reception, 5-7 p.m. Monday, at the arts center. The drawproject auction results will be announced at approximately 6:30-6:45 p.m.

Run dates: These shows run Monday evening through Feb. 24.

what a 'Drawing' is ... only the (individual artists') interpretation," Harmon has said in the past.

As time has passed, an even looser interpretation of drawing has prevailed. Entries now include paintings, watercolors and more. With the Czech's drawings actually prints, Harmon may open the drawproject to photography next year.

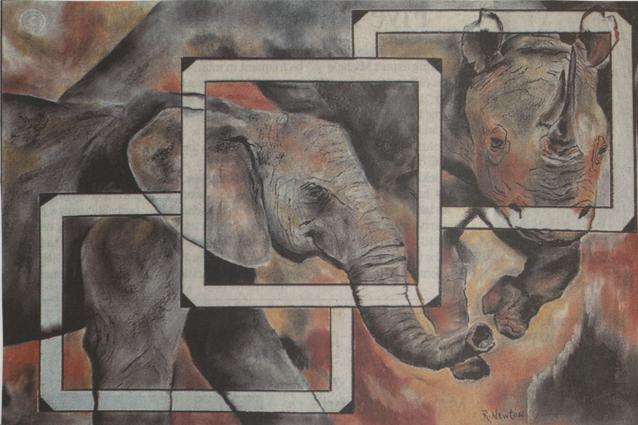
Of course, those photos will have to be on the show's standard 22-by-15inch piece of paper.

Untitled, artist Annette Crosby, Valdosta





'Polaroid Safari,' artist Roxanne Newton, Hahira.











"Have We Been Here Before?" artist Teresa Middleton, Valdosta (June)





'Dancer with Earring,' artist Ron Zaccari, Valdosta (February)



A Year in Art

Colson Calendar 2010 features fine art from local, regional artists

BY DEAN POLING THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Colson Printing Calendar 2010 is available. It features works from 13 local and regional artists selected from entries in the 2009 Spring Into Art show several months ago at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

Colson has been making selections for its calendars during the annual Spring Into Art exhibits since 1992. In addition to the show awarding prizes, being chosen for the calendar has become a prestigious honor for partici- Cost: The calendar is free. pating artists.

CALENDAR

The 2010 Colson Calendar

Where: Available at Colson Printing Company, the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.

Calendar judges selected 13 works this year, one for the cover and one for each month. Some of the artists' names and styles should be familiar to area art patrons because the artists are either from here or have participated in numerous local shows.

The 2010 Colson Calendar artists are "Night Cottages," artist Rosemary S. Ferguson, Tallahassee, Fla. (cover); "Violins," artist Kim Ae Ran, Tallahassee, Fla. (January); "Dancer with Earring," artist Ron Zaccari, Valdosta (February); "Around the Bend," artist Laurie Hancock, Valdosta (March); "Callaway Gardens," artist Jim Carpenter, Gainesville, Fla. (April); "After the Catch," artist Huey Theus, Oglethorpe, Fla. (May); "Have We Been Here Before?" artist Teresa Middleton, Valdosta (June); "Heritage," artist Jo Farris, Columbus (July); "Gates of Dawn," artist Ouida Lampert, Valdosta (August); "Dunbar Creek," artist Don Pettigrew, Valdosta (September); "Blue Ridge Catch," artist Jeanne Cowart, Valdosta (October); "Chain of Command," Margaret Hamilton, Tallahassee, Fla. (November); "Isabel's Mix VII," artist Mandy Macias, Gainesville, Fla. (December).

This year's calendar is an exquisite collection and a fine representation of the two-dimensional art that appeared in the 2009 Spring Into Art show at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

A Year in Art Contern Calendar 2010 features fine art from local, regional artists

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The 2010 Colore Calendar

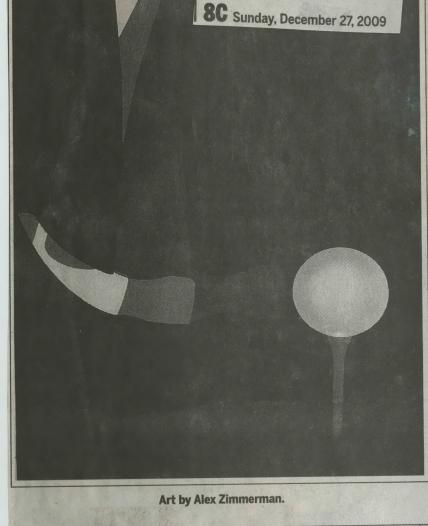
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GALLERY

"Overload," the VSU Senior Fall Exhibition, Roberta George Children's Gallery; along with artist Mary Jane Volkmann's paintings, Josette's Gallery; artist Pat Regan, Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery; artist Rene Guerin, Sallie and Harmon Boyette Gallery; Where: Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. Run dates: These shows run through Jan. 6.

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

dmission: Free. More Information: Call 247-2787.

Overload Overflow

A two-gallery exhibit

BY DEAN POLING THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — The artists participating in the twice-annual Valdosta State University graduating seniors exhibit had a unique problem: Too many artists with too many pieces in too small of a space.

Traditionally, the graduating senior exhibits are held in the VSU Fine Arts Gallery in the VSU Fine Arts Building. With 23 graduating art seniors this fall, the gallery was not enough. So, the appropriately titled exhibit called "Overload" split its pieces into the VSU gallery and into the Roberta George Children's Gallery in the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

"Throughout the semester, the seniors have been meeting once or more a week getting ready to display their work for the school and communities," according to the seniors, who are also responsible for promoting the exhibit. This year's graduating seniors are Cathy Herring, Lauren Jones, Kate Patrick, Leann Barry, Brittney Baxter, Teri Carrington, Joshua Flores, John Gay, Jason Hall, Laura Kissinger, Angela Marafino, Brandon McMillan, Hayley Milleman, Maegan Moore, Abbie Preston, Janice Rago, Amanda Sawver, Cynthia Shalls, Chuck Touchton, Julie Umberger, Jay Warren, Page Yorkey, Alex Zimmerman.



'Two People,' artist Hayley Milleman.

Traditionally, the graduating senior exhibits are held in the VSU Fine Arts Gallery in the VSU Fine Arts Building. With 23 graduating art seniors this fall, the gallery was not enough.

valdostadailytimes.com

Life

Decade periodic states and the second states are secon

Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts

nnette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. Hard to believe, but 10 years ago, the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission was housed in a small building near Valdosta State University. It typically exhibited two art shows at a time. It crammed a region's worth of fine arts, music, poetry, theatre, dance and more into its small structure but change was coming. Early in the 2000s, LVAC was ready to grow. Two events made this growth possible. Loyce Turner and his family donated a large sum of money for the creation of a new arts center in the name of the late Annette Howell Turner. First State Bank moved from its downtown location to Perimeter Road. First State had long hosted LVAC's Spring Into Art show, the region's largest art exhibit. The story was back then that First State's lobby more closely resembled an art museum than a bank. With the creation of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts that old joke became a reality. The center has four galleries for rotating exhibits, two permanent galleries, a state-of-the-art kitchen, classrooms, and space to rent other organizations. The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts changed the face of art in Valdosta-Lowndes County.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rotary assists arts center

The Valdosta North Rotary Club has awarded the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts a check for \$5,300 from its annual charity auction event. Bob Harrison, past president of Valdosta North Rotary and current board chairman of the arts center, presented the check to Sharon Lodge, the center's director of operations.

Tuesday, February 22, 7:30pm Mathis City Auditorium

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Book

REDITH WILLS

FRANKLIN

For ticket info, contact The Turner Center for the Arts 229-247-ARTS (2787) 527 N. Patterson St. Valdosta www.turnercenter.org

MUSIC: Adkinson loves 'The Music Man"

FROM PAGE ONE

school, look, folks! Right here in River City. Trouble with a capital "T"

And that rhymes with "P" and that stands for pool! ...

"I came off the stage and the others trying for Harold Hill looked at me. Their faces fallen: How did you memorize that in a day?" Adkison says. "I told them, Well, I had you at a disadvantage. You had a ' day to learn the song. I've known it since third grade."

Through the years, friends urged him to perform the song at college parties. His love for "The Music Man" led him to choose theatre as a career. He has performed in numerous regional shows, including two past productions of "The Music Man," once in a summer-stock ensemble, again playing supporting characters.

So, when he was offered the part of Harold Hill for this professional, nationally touring production of "The Music Man," Adkison was thrilled, but he wanted to ask one person's permission. He had just married a few months earlier. He asked his newlywed wife if she minded him touring the United States for the next six months.

"My wife agreed because of the show and she knows what it means to me," he says. "Any other show, maybe not."

Often when playing a role made famous by someone else, a new actor will avoid that more famed per-

SHOWTIME

Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series presents the professional, nationally touring production of "The Music Man."

- When: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22.
- Where: Mathis City Auditorium, 2300 N. Ashley St. Ticket: \$45.

More information: Visit the arts center, 527 N. Patterson St.; or call (229) 247-2787.

formance by refusing to even watch a show's film version. In playing Harold Hill, Adkison takes inspiration from Robert Preston's performance. Given his long-standing love of the movie, he couldn't avoid it.

"You almost have to (channel) Robert Preston," he says. "I try not to do an impression of him, but he had an intense, intense focus on the other actors as Harold Hill. I try studying what he does with that intensity."

Harold Hill, after all, is selling people a fantasy, Adkison says. Selling a fantasy means focusing on what someone else wants or needs.

Harold Hill may be a conman, but "he's selling a fantasy to these people which is why, in the end, he is vindicated. He did sell them that fantasy." And John Adkison is a man who knows the power of fantasy. He's living his fantasy every night, on stage, right here in River City.

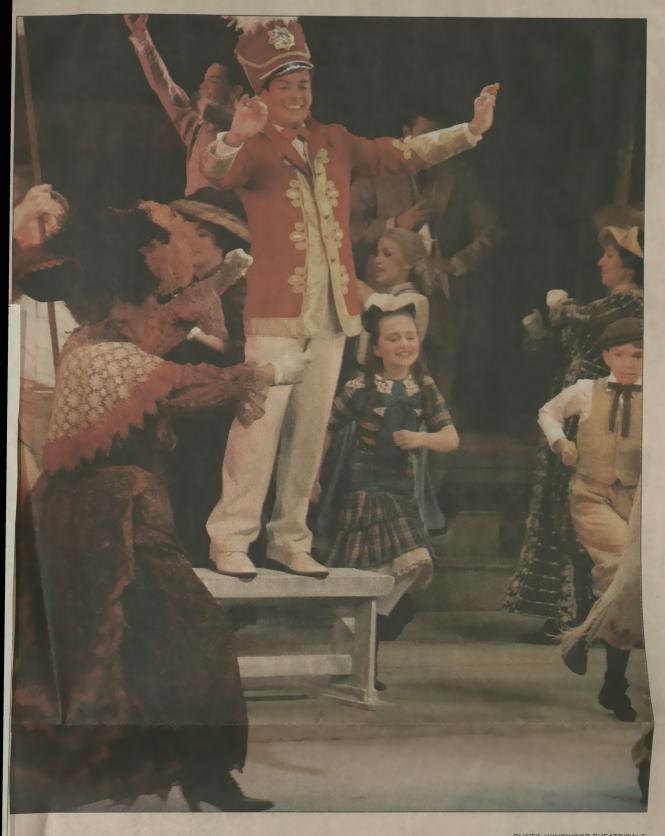


PHOTO: WINDWOOD THEATRICALS John Adkison as Harold Hill in Windwood Theatricals' 'The Music Man.' The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series hosts the nationally touring production later this month in Valdosta.

Selling fantasy

'Music Man' makes actor's dream come true

BY DEAN POLING THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — The South Georgia audience attending "The Music Man" later this month will see a man living his childhood dream.

In third grade, John Aukison saw the movie version of the famed musical starring Robert Preston as Harold Hill, a con man trying to sell the idea of creating a band to the Iowa town of River City. In a phone interview, Adkison said he fell in love with the movie immediately. "This character and show are the reason I got into show business," Adkison says. "I saw the movie in third grade and told my parents, I want to do that." Now, many years later, Adkison plays Harold Hill. He will be the one taking the stage for the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series show.



It seems a role he was

PHOTO: WINDWOOD THEATRICALS

Harold Hill is 'The Music Man' and a con man selling the fabled town of River City, lowa, a fantasy. But is it a crime when people really buy the fantasy? Find out when the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts presents 'The Music Man' later this month.

destined to play. In auditions, Adkison competed with a handful of other Harold Hill hopefuls.

While the rest had only a day to work on presenting the complex, rat-a-tat-tat of the song "Ya Got Trouble," Adkison took the stage with no need to

look at the lyrics. He already knew them by heart.

... Never mind pumpin'

any water 'Til your parents are caught with the Cistern empty

On a Saturday night

and that's trouble, Oh, yes we got lots and lots a' trouble.

I'm thinkin' of the kids in the knickerbockers, Shirt-tail young ones, peekin' in the pool Hall window after

MUSIC | 4A

Sunday, April 3, 2011







High School Art

A look at the recent Youth Art Month exhibits

BY DEAN POLING THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts recently concluded its Youth Art Month exhibits.

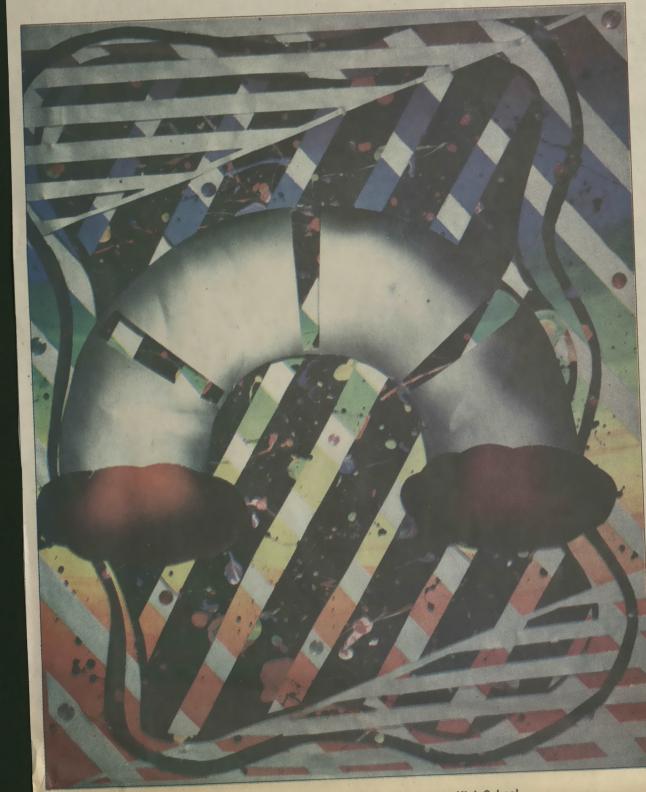
These exhibits included the Youth Art Exhibit featuring hundreds of works by area children in their school art classes; the Art Educators Exhibit featuring works by area art educa-tors; and the Regional High School Competition featuring student works from South Geor-gia and North Florida high schools.

Dozens of student works from paintings and drawings to sculpture and multi-media adorned the walls and podiums in the center.

Today, we look at two of the show's top winners.

show's top winners. The arts center spends this week preparing for the 24th An-nual Spring Into Art show open-ing April 11. See next week's Sunday edi-tion of The Valdesta Daily

tion of The Valdosta Daily Times for more on Spring Into Art, South Georgia's largest art show.



BEST IN SHOW: 'Rainbow Without Color,' artist Becky Evans, 11th grade, Berrien High School.