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Drawproject 2015 seeks artists

BY DEAN POLING
DEAN.POLING@GAFLNEWS.COM

VALDOSTA — If you're an artist who likes to draw and you draw well, the Ninth Annual Drawproject needs you.

Created by former Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts curator Jamie Harmon, the Drawproject has continued since his departure from the region a few years ago.

Organizers seek donation drawings for an auction to help raise money for art scholarships.

Money raised from this event supports two scholarships benefiting Valdosta State University Art students.

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Scholarship is awarded annually to support a VSU junior art, design, or art education major for meritorious production in the classroom and a commitment to service within the community.

The Danielle B. Harmon Student Merit Scholarship recognizes departmental majors for superior classroom performance.

Through the years, several students have received the Turner Center scholarship and students have annually received the Harmon award.

The Drawproject is as simple as its name. It asks artists to share drawings, all drawn on the same size paper; however, the term "drawing" can be used loosely.

As Jamie Harmon said in the past, "There were no rules or definition of what a 'drawing' is ... only their interpretation."

Artists can define their interpretation of a drawing. In the past, drawings have ranged from realism to cartoons, from scribbles to detailed pointillism, from stark black-and-white to gradients of grays to color. One year, an artist even transposed a photograph onto the paper.

However, all drawings must be on the same size paper. This paper is available at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.; Classic Art & Frame, 1601 Baytree Road; or in the VSU Department of Art, first floor, VSU Fine Arts Building on the corner of Oak and Brookwood.

Interested artists may contact Bill Shenton at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, (229) 247-2787 or bshenton@turnercenter.org; or Michael T. Schmidt at the VSU Department of Art, (229) 333-5835 or mschmidt@valdosta.edu.

All drawings must be submitted by 4 p.m., Dec. 23, to either the VSU Art Department or the Turner Center. The works will be auctioned starting with an opening reception from 5-7:30 p.m., Jan. 12, 2015.

On this page: Examples of past Drawproject entries.



ARTIST STEVEN TETTE



ARTIST ELLEN DEWAR



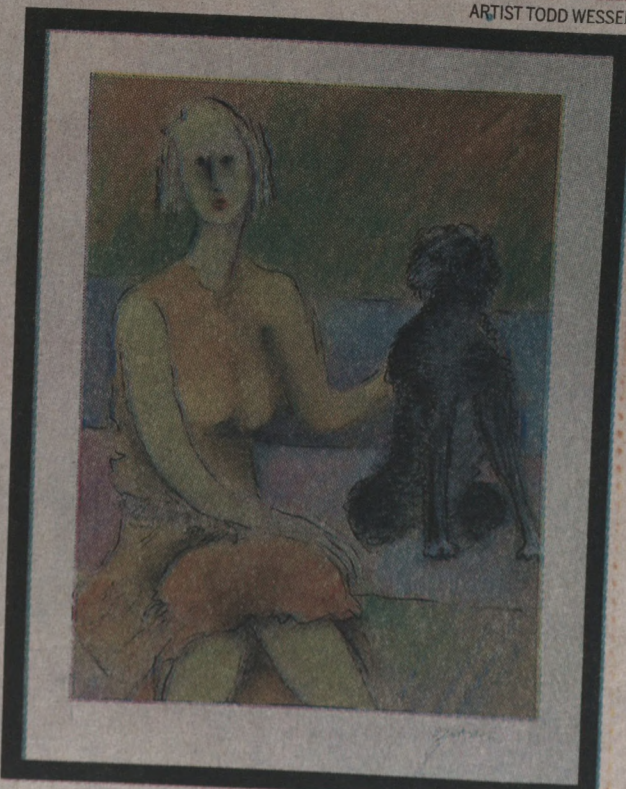
ARTIST TODD WESSER



ARTIST NICOLE ROSSELAND



ARTIST CRAIG HAWKINS



ARTIST RON ZACCARI

Rucker recognized for community service

Valdosta Civic Roundtable presents award

BY DESIREE CARVER

desiree.carver@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — Eva Rucker has been recognized for her volunteerism and service to the community. Carrying on its annual tradition, the Valdosta Civic Roundtable held its holiday luncheon where

Rucker was recognized Thursday afternoon.

Established in 1946, the Roundtable provides an opportunity for organizations to join together on civic projects. The Roundtable has been credited with giving the United Way and the Parks and Recreation

Department their beginnings. A publication of a directory of civic clubs in Lowndes County also came about as the result of the work of the Roundtable. This lunch, held in the Turner Arts Center, also recognizes outstanding community service participants with one winning the Louie Peeples White award.

"Miss Louie" was a true celebrity amongst Valdosta citizens. During her years, she served as president of the Valdosta Civic Roundtable, president of the Lowndes County Historical Society and the president of the Valdosta Heritage Foundation. She helped bring an arts center, cultural arts guild, and a theater guild to the area.

Thanks to her, the Lowndes County Historical Society became renovated and helped with the stabilization of the Roberts House and the addition of Valdosta properties to the National Register of Historic Places. Her trademark was large hats that she always wore, which decorated the center of each table at the event.

After an invocation by



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Terri Jenkins, secretary of the Valdosta Civic Roundtable, presents the Louie Peeples White Award to Eva Rucker.

Jane Osborn, elder at First Christian Church and second Vice President of the Roundtable, guests enjoyed a nice lunch in which they all got a chance to chat.

Joyce Aigen then took to the podium to announce the nominees for this year's award. This year's

nominees included Jennifer Powell, Donna Delaney, Eva Rucker and Mary Helen Watson and Rucker. Two organizations were also nominated this year including Students in Free Enterprise and His Hands Ministry. This year's winner was Rucker. It was her devotion to such

organizations as the Red Cross that earned her the award, dedicating hundreds of hours towards helping those in need.

Along with the award presentation, each organization attending the event brought along a toy and backpack to be sent to foster children.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Joyce Aigen announces all the nominees for the Louie Peeples White Award for Outstanding Community Service at the 2014 Valdosta Civic Roundtable luncheon.

VSU women's soccer breaks through with first GSC title



VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

The Valdosta State women's soccer team celebrates Sunday after winning the Gulf South Conference championship in the league tournament in Pensacola, Fla. It was the Blazers' first soccer championship.

Blazers tabbed as No. 4 seed in South, open nationals against CBU

STAFF REPORTS

The Valdosta State women's soccer team's seniors added one more first to their legacy Sunday.

After helping Melissa Heinz start the program four years ago to making the Gulf South Conference championship game that debut season, the Blazers won their initial conference title with a 3-0 win against North Alabama in Pensacola, Fla.

"One of my own personal goals this year has been to keep things going as long as possible for these 12 seniors," stated first-year head coach Rebecca Nolin.

"These girls have been on-board from the get go, but after that 0-3 start to the season, it was just a matter of reeling it back in and re-

mindng them that it's not how you start, it's how you finish.

"We want to keep it going."

The Blazers will get that chance as the No. 4 seed in the South Region of the NCAA Division II national tournament that was unveiled Monday evening. The Blazers, who were 10th in the region rankings a week ago prior to the conference tournament, will face conference rival Christian Brothers in the opening game Friday at Rollins in Winter Park, Fla., at 7 p.m., with the winner advancing to face the South's top-seeded Tars, who enter the tournament 16-2. That region semifinal will be at 1 p.m.

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts

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Valdosta, Georgia

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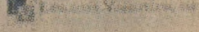
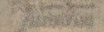
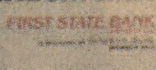
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COASTAL SCENES

Visiting art league makes a splash

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts has been dedicated to showcasing exhibits by Valdosta, Lowndes County and neighboring artists. The arts center has celebrated area artists for more than a decade.

Yet, it also shares what's happening in other communities. The Turner Center exhibits works by artists from other towns and states.

The Georgia Coastal Artists Guild exhibit is such a show.

The Guild's "Coastal Scenes" exhibit is appropriately named. It features works from the Coastal Georgia art scene and plenty of the artists' subject matter depicts scenes from the coast.

This same coast has attracted many artists and served as the catalyst for creating this particular artists guild in 1983 in St. Simons Island. The group's members stretch from Fernandina Beach, Fla., to Darien to Waycross.

"We are all professional two dimensional artists with common goals of educating the public as to the value of local art and local artists and marketing high-quality

GALLERY

Georgia Coastal Artists League's "Coastal Scenes" is on exhibit in the Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery; along with artists Sally Turner Querin and Bryan Garris' photography of the former Strickland Mill, Sallie & Harmon Boyette Gallery; artist Dedo Maranville, Josette's Gallery; Valwood School student exhibition, Roberta George Gallery.

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

Run dates: Runs through Jan. 7.

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 (229) 247-2787; or visit www.turnercenter.org

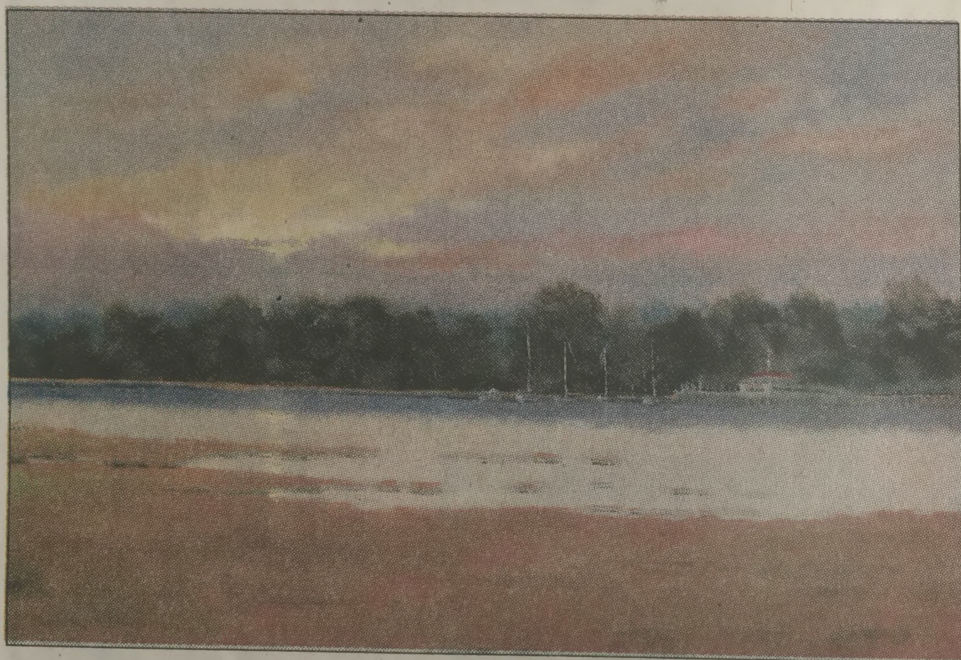
original work," according to Guild information provided by the arts center.

"We exhibit our work in our own shows three times a year. However, our members individually show their work all over the Southeastern United States."

"Coastal Scenes" is a beautiful and powerful look at the coastal art scene.



Art from the exhibition, 'Coastal Scenes.'



Art from the exhibition, 'Coastal Scenes.'



Art from the exhibition, 'Coastal Scenes.'

Thursday, November 20, 2014 **9A**

NIGHT MOVES

Here's what's happening tonight, Thursday, Nov. 20, according to items submitted.

"Jekyll & Hyde:" Mathis City Auditorium, 2300 N. Ashley St., show starts 7:30 p.m. One Night Only! Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series hosts this nationally touring, professional musical based on Robert Louis Stevenson's famed dual-personality creation. More information: Call (229) 247-2787; or visit www.turnercenter.org

2A Thursday, November 20, 2014

Presenter Series
Valdosta, Georgia



**JEKYLL
&
HYDE**

November 20 at 7:30pm
at Mathis City Auditorium

**Contact the Turner Center
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PHOTO: NICK TREMMEL

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series hosts the musical 'Jekyll & Hyde' this week.

HYDE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

star turn in a Minneapolis production of "H.M.S. Pinafore," which was filmed and broadcast on PBS.

He moved to New York. Knezevich met his future wife, Jessica, who is an actress.

Knezevich decided a little more than a year ago to return to medical school. He moved to Iowa and began his medical studies ... until theatre reentered his life.

He discovered the auditions for the national "Jekyll & Hyde" tour. Jessica encouraged him to audition. He did and won the role. The medical school dean gave Knezevich permission and leave to tour with the show which continues until the end of March.

Knezevich is scheduled

to return to medical school immediately the day after the tour ends.

The only thing?

After touring the nation, he's not sure he wants to return to medical school.

He admitted he's also uncertain he wants to continue in theatre.

Knezevich does not know if he wishes to return to the safe possibility of a career in medicine or the uncertain thrill of theatre.

Medicine is the Dr. Jekyll to Knezevich's theatrical Mr. Hyde.

His dilemma connects to the central theme driving this production based on Robert Louis Stevenson's "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde."

Like Knezevich is one man with varied facets with the possibility of being both a doctor and an actor, Jekyll and Hyde are conflicting sides of the same man.

"In the show, we're not

dealing with a guy who changes into a different person ... we're dealing with a guy with a mental illness. Multiple personality disorder."

In this production, Knezevich does not undergo a severe makeup change, or even the hair-up, hair-down transformation of other actors in the musical role. His Jekyll and Hyde changes in the way which Knezevich walks, talks and behaves.

Here, Jekyll and Hyde "know they are the same person but different sides of the same person," Knezevich said.

This duality runs throughout the show. The production weighs the Jekyll and Hyde in each person.

Laura Helm plays the character Lucy. Her character is the prostitute with a heart of gold.

"She is good through and through," Helm said of Lucy, "but she has some evil in her past."

Helm has dreamed of playing Lucy for years. A few years ago, Helm sang the "Jekyll & Hyde" song, "Someone Like You," for her college theatrical audition.

This show is both Helm and Knezevich's first extended road tour, taking them to spots across the United States, including Valdosta this week.

Perhaps, by the time the show closes, Aleks Knezevich will know which aspect of his possible futures he'll embrace.

SHOWTIME

Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series hosts "Jekyll & Hyde."

When: 7:30 p.m. Thursday.
Where: Mathis City Auditorium, 2300 N. Ashley St.
Tickets, reservations, more information: Call (229) 247-ARTS; or visit www.turnercenter.org, or the arts center, 527 N. Patterson St.



This left-side photo page of Rick Bragg's Jerry Lee Lewis biography claims these four photographs of the early rock & roll star were taken in 'Valdosta, Georgia, probably early 1958.'

Looking for Jerry Lee

Book reveals several photos of rocker's 1950s Valdosta show

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — Jerry Lee Lewis sits at an upright piano. His blond hair slicked back in glossy black and white. Wooden chair tilted. One hand raised, palm upright, as if posing a question. Mic stand dipped across a thigh. The microphone whisper-shout close to Lewis' lips.

It's one of four small, vertical photos in Rick Bragg's recently released biography, "Jerry Lee Lewis: His Own Story."

All four photos share the simple one-line caption pertaining to this founding father of rock & roll: "Valdosta, Georgia, probably early 1958."

In another photo, the chair has toppled, likely by Lewis' trademark rise and kick from the keyboard. Microphone remains kissing distance from Lewis' mouth. One hand remains on the piano keys. The pompadour of blond hair raging forward in waves from Jerry Lee's forehead. A fellow musician peeks from behind. An audience face stares in the background.

An effort to reach the name accompanying the Valdosta photo caption — "Courtesy of Pierre Pennone" — has provided no answers: where in Valdosta did Jerry Lee Lewis perform? No better estimate on the date other than "probably early 1958."

Pennone is credited with several of the Lewis photos in Bragg's book. An inquiry into the Valdosta photos has gone unanswered.

Another photo shows Lewis still gripping the microphone stand. His hair still a tsunami of curls. His mouth open in some sort of "Whole Lotta Shakin'" banshee wail. He no longer sits at or stands by the piano. He sits atop the upright piano. Ankles a flash of argyle socks, his feet dangle widespread above the keyboard. Two fans stand above Lewis on a possible stairwell or balcony; one smiling face looks at something off camera; the other leans forward, eyes on the performer known as "The Killer."

Other than the photos, the book provides no additional help to Lewis' Valdosta shows. Bragg's text never mentions a Valdosta show.

It does mention a show at an Adel elementary school auditorium at approximately the same time period.

These were days when Lewis rose to arguably wrest the rock & roll crown from Elvis Presley, nearing coronation with hits such as "Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On," "Great Balls of Fire," "Breathless," "High School Confidential."

The days and nights after his fall. The ill-fated tour to England where the press learned of his marriage to 13-year-old cousin Myra Gayle Brown. The hits stopped. The big shows ended, but Lewis continued playing gigs no matter the size of

JERRY LEE LEWIS

HIS OWN STORY

RICK BRAGG



CONTACT

If you have information regarding the reported Jerry Lee Lewis shows in Valdosta or Adel in the late 1950s, email Dean Poling, dean.poling@gafnews.com.

the venue or town: Pittsburgh, Toronto, Coney Island, Memphis, Montgomery, Los Angeles, Adel, Valdosta ...

In the fourth photo, more audience members gather round, people standing behind him. The backs of heads cropping the photo's bottom corners. Crew cuts. What's photographed of the audience seems all male. Likely later in the show than the other photos. Lewis' suit jacket is gone. Top shirt buttons undone. The microphone stand gripped and raised, unused, at his side. The piano nowhere in the photo frame. Lewis dances across the stage.

There's no record of a Valdosta Jerry Lee Lewis show at the Lowndes County Historical Society.

An inquiry to a regional website devoted to area bands has no information of a Lewis show in Valdosta.

Discovering the reported Valdosta photos is more timely than just the release of Bragg's Lewis biography.

On Feb. 3, the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series hosts "Million Dollar Quartet."

This nationally touring show centers on the legendary gathering at Sun Records where Jerry Lee Lewis, Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash and Carl Perkins jammed together.

Maybe by the time the character Jerry Lee Lewis arrives at Mathis City Auditorium for the "Million Dollar Quartet," the area will know about the time when the real Jerry Lee Lewis jammed in Valdosta.

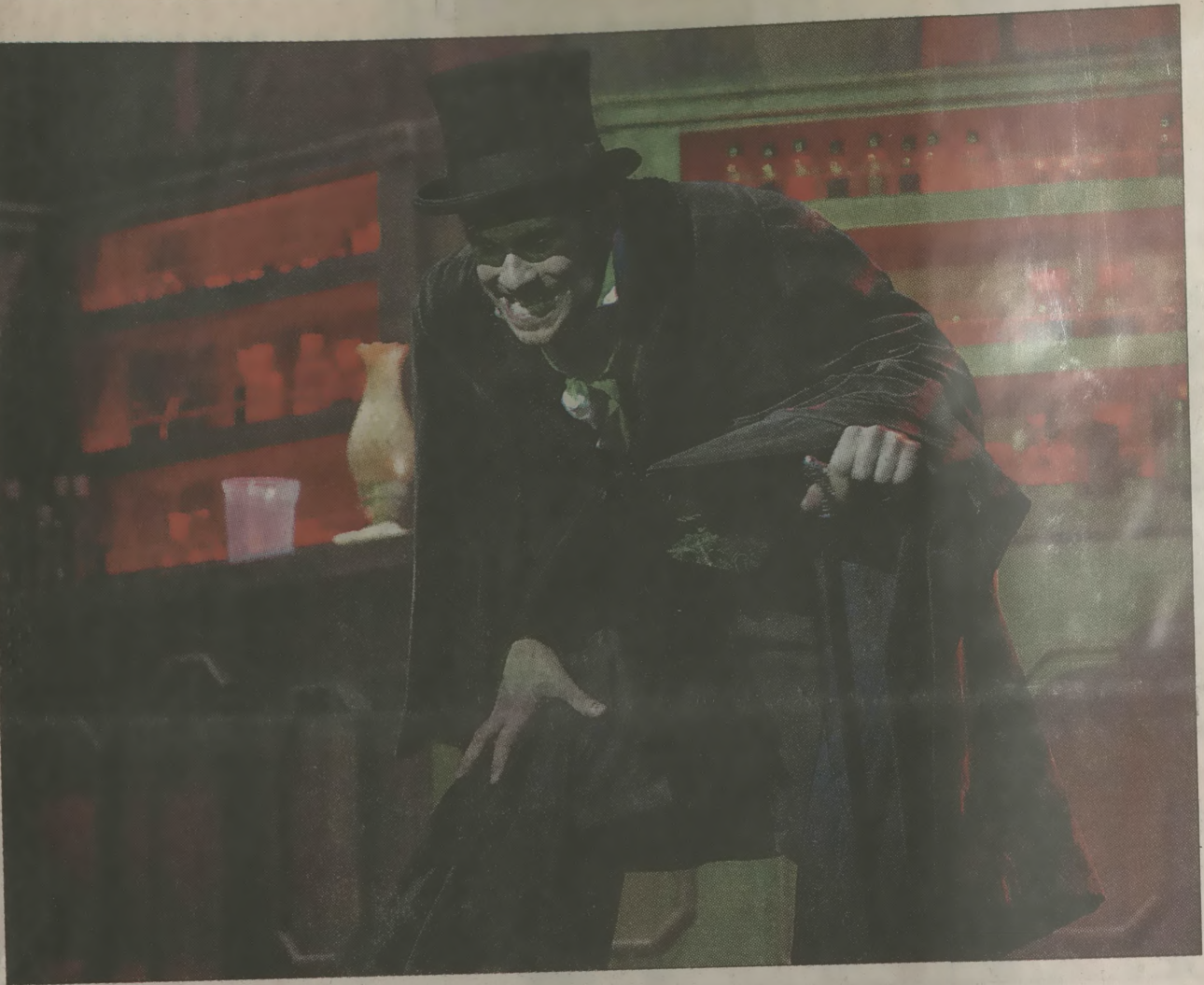


PHOTO: NICK TREMMEL

Aleks Knezevich plays the dual roles of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde in the professional, nationally touring musical production playing this week in Valdosta.

'Hyde' in plain sight

Musical explores a dual life

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — The actor playing the title character in the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series musical "Jekyll & Hyde" this week understands living a dual life.

Aleks Knezevich interrupted his medical school studies to audition and win the starring role in this nationally touring, professional production.

"This is a dream role for me," Knezevich said. "I've dreamed of playing this character since the age of 17. I'm 29 years old

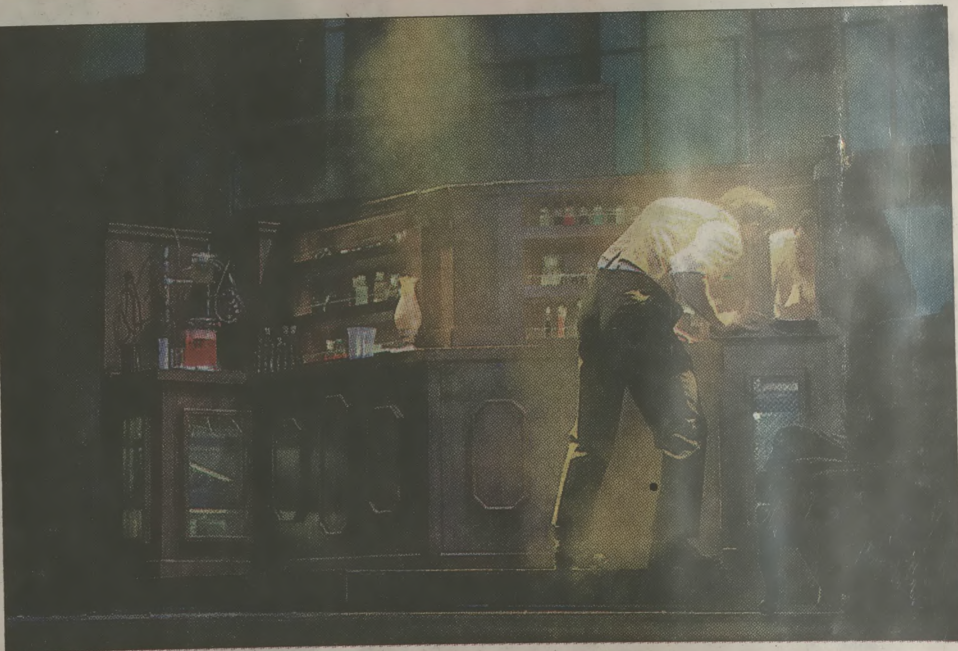


PHOTO: NICK TREMMEL

now. So, it was a chance of a lifetime opportunity."

The dream has posed a dilemma though.

He enjoyed some plays in his youth, but he

planned to become a doctor. In 2008, he graduated the University of Minnesota with a degree in biochemistry.

Knezevich did not im-

mediately enter medical school. He gravitated toward theatre. He played several roles including a

Friday, November 14, 2014

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts

Presenter Series

Valdosta, Georgia

JEKYLL & HYDE

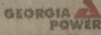
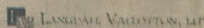
Thursday, November 20, 7:30pm

at Mathis City Auditorium, Valdosta

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An optional pre-show dinner will be offered at 6pm. This show is recommended for mature audiences.

885218

Valdosta Unveiled: Public art project revealed this week

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — The history of Valdosta will be unveiled Friday in a downtown alley.

Since installing “The River of Life in the Azalea City” in September, the roughly 14-and-a-half-foot-wide by three-and-a-half- to four-foot-deep three-dimensional mural has been covered on a wall along Bennie’s Alley.

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts will reveal the work this week as part of Downtown Valdosta’s First Friday events.

The unveiling will be the culmination of numerous hands-on participants during the past several months.

Earlier this year, Boys & Girls Club youths, the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, and the area Public Art Advisory Committee began developing the art project de-

signed to chart the Greater Valdosta region’s history from the beginning of time to now.

Thomasville artist Marty Haythorn conceived the project’s historic theme and artistic design.

Funded by a National Endowment of the Arts’ Arts Engagement in American Communities grant and the Price-Campbell Foundation, the Public Art Advisory Committee and the Turner Center tapped Haythorn as guest artist-in-residence for the project.

Haythorn designed a mosaic time-travel piece that explores the region’s past from creation to the eras of small-celled organisms to dinosaurs to Native Americans to the current age.

For several weeks, volunteer artists created the work.

Some followed the essential design of Haythorn’s concept.

Others added unique touches to it. While many people

participated, organizers mentioned Julie Smith, Sandy Jones, Kristin Stengl and Jim McCambridge for their artistic contributions.

Public arts committee member Bruce Smith said in a past interview this project is one of a series of public art projects underway. Bronze sculptures will also be installed near McKey Park, on the 100 Black Men of Valdosta site, in front of the arts center, etc.

Organizers knew they wanted public participation in the project and an end-result that could be exhibited for the public to see and enjoy, Stephen Lahr with the Public Art Advisory Committee has said.

The public exhibition portion of the project begins with the 5:30 p.m. Friday unveiling on the side of the Colyer building on Ashley Street and Bennie’s Alley.

The public is invited. Refreshments served.



FILE PHOTO: THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES
Marty Haythorn and Bruce Smith install one of four segments of art in September in Downtown Valdosta. The art project will be unveiled Friday.

Sunday
11/9/14

valdostadailytimes.com

Poetic Pottery

Artist shapes the mythology of clay

BY DEAN POLING
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Mythology seems to course through artist Dedo Maranville's pottery.

A touch of the ancient, a touch of the contemporary, a touch of the divine.

One could imagine a Nordic viking drinking from the vessel with antlered handles knotted in place on the rim.

Ceramic flowers burst from the lid of a pot. Muted colors blooming, wrestling, in circuitries of symphony.

Pea pods and mushrooms become the handle of another pot's lid, something one could imagine a Tolkien hobbit using to store spices or foodstuffs.

At each turn of her Josette's Gallery exhibit in the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, a viewer encounters the three-dimensional surprise of Maranville's unexpected pottery.

"I am a self-taught potter," Maranville said in an artistic statement. "To be able to take a ball of clay and create, which allows others to see what I see, is exhilarating."

She seeks intricacies, such as the curled stems of the pea pods or the wildflower tangle of the blooms from the lid.

"The more intricate the piece, the more exciting it is to create," she said. "I love detailing pieces, and I always feel like the next time, I can do better. I am never quite satisfied. I hope that will make me grow."

"I also feel that my ability to create pottery is a gift from God. He shows off through my hands."

GALLERY

Artist Dedo Maranville's work is on display in Josette's Gallery.

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

Run dates: Nov. 3, through Jan. 7.

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 (229) 247-2787; or visit www.turnercenter.org



'Flowers,' artist Dedo Maranville.

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Across the system, 18 schools saw enrollment increase compared to declines at 13 campuses.

Valdosta State University's current Fall 2014 enrollment is 11,563, down 2.7 percent from the Fall 2013 enrollment of 11,885, according to a University System report.

It was the only one of Georgia's four public research universities to lose students, according to the report.

wanted, but she had no interest in toys or games.

"I've always dreamed of going on a shopping spree," said White. "I want to get lots of fashion-glittery diamonds and things."

The Kids Wish Network

worked with Claire's, Belk's, Rue 21, American Eagle Outfitters and The Buckle to give White a shopping spree worth several hundreds of dollars.

White began her spree with two bags of free mer-

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DESIREE CARVER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

'The River of Life in the Azalea City' is now displayed in Bennie's Alley downtown.

'River of Life' unveiled in downtown Valdosta

BY DEAN POLING AND DESIREE CARVER
dean.poling@gafnews.com
desiree.carver@gafnews.com

nette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Friday evening.

The unveiling brought a crowd of 100 people to the alley to see what was billed as a magnificent work of art. Since installing "The River of Life in the Azalea City" in Septem-

ber, the roughly 14-and-a-half-foot-wide by three-and-a-half- to four-foot-deep three-dimensional mural has been covered on a wall along Bennie's Alley.

MURAL | 11A

VALDOSTA — A mural running along Bennie's Alley was unveiled as part of First Friday events by the An-

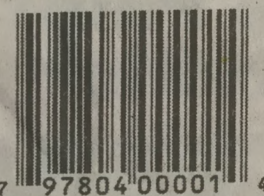
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Stuart Taylor, business & education reporter | Ext. 1255

Items may be submitted for publication to The Valdosta Daily Times by phone, e-mail or fax. Photos, story ideas and calendar items are welcomed.

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Cheryl Oliver, executive director of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, expresses her joy over the new artistic addition to Bennie's Alley.

MURAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Earlier this year, Boys & Girls Club youths, the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, and the area Public Art Advisory Committee began developing the art project designed to chart the Greater Valdosta region's history from the beginning of time to now.

Thomasville artist Marty Haythorn conceived the project's historic theme and artistic design.

Funded by a National Endowment of the Arts' Arts Engagement in American Communities grant and the Price-Campbell Foundation, the Public Art Advisory Committee and the Turner Center tapped Haythorn as guest artist-in-residence for the project.

Haythorn designed a mosaic time-travel piece that explores the region's

past from creation to the eras of small-celled organisms to dinosaurs to Native Americans to the current age.

"I really wanted it to mean something to Valdosta," said Haythorn.

For several weeks, volunteer artists created the work.

Some followed the essential design of Haythorn's concept.

Others added unique touches to it.

While many people participated, organizers mentioned Julie Smith, Sandy Jones, Kristin Stengl and Jim McCambridge for their artistic contributions.

Public arts committee member Bruce Smith said in a past interview this project is one of a series of public art projects underway.

Bronze sculptures will also be installed near McKelvey Park, on the 100 Black Men of Valdosta site, in front of the arts center, etc.

During the unveiling, the art piece was ceremoniously gifted to Bruce Smith by Cheryl Oliver, executive director of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

"We are absolutely thrilled with this opportunity to gift to Valdosta this beautiful piece of art that has been worked on by so many community members," said Oliver. "This is a true community project."

Organizers knew they wanted public participation in the project and an end-result that could be exhibited for the public to see and enjoy, Stephen Lahr with the Public Art Advisory Committee has said.

Upon the unveiling of the art piece, artist Marty Haythorn walked guests through the "The River of Life in the Azalea City," providing specific information about the tiles showing the creation of life through today in the beloved Azalea City.



DESIREE CARVER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

FROM PAGE 5E

While the exterior was a familiar part of the Remerton landscape for decades, most people had not seen the interior in years or ever.

Their interior shots share what many missed and is now no longer available.

The show also includes

photographs of the mill's demise.

Its demolition from a once-vibrant heart of a community to a shambling pile of gutted bricks.

Garris and Querin's exhibit has the promise of recording history of what was, what could have been, and what is no more.

Lifestyles

Sunday, November 2, 2014

www.valdostadailytimes.com

Mill Memories

Photo exhibit chronicles
cotton mill's final days

BY DEAN POLING
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — The photos underscore what would have been a Herculean undertaking contrasted against what might have been.

A sneak peek of artists Sally Turner Querin and Bryan Garris' photographs of the former Strickland Cotton Mill in Remerton du- ally demonstrate how dif- ficult the undertaking would have been to save the massive brick struc- ture but they also open a window on all of the lost possibilities of such a historic building.

GALLERY

Artists Sally Turner Querin and Bryan Garris' photogra- phy of the former Strick- land Mill are on exhibit in the Sallie & Harmon Boyette Gallery; along with shows by Georgia Coastal Artists, Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery; artist Dedo Maranville, Josette's Gallery; Valwood School student exhibition, Roberta George Gallery.

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

Reception: Opens with a free, public reception, 5-7 p.m. Monday.

Run dates: Monday, Nov. 3, through Jan. 7.

Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Thurs- days; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; closed Sun- days and Mondays.

Admission: Free.

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

Last year, with no promise of financial backers, the mill was demolished.

Yet, before the fall, Querin and Garris chronicled the mill's last days.

Garris and Querin entered the mill to capture numer- ous images of the structure's long-unseen interior.

Their works are part of the exhibits opening this week at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

The photos reveal an interior and exterior in various stages of disre- pair, while exposing panoramic views of wide open rooms with lofty ceilings.

Given that Remerton the town was created more than a century ago to serve the mill, the building had historic sig- nificance.

Given that the mill closed decades ago and the building had been abandoned for years, the mill's renovation would have cost potentially hun- dreds of thousands of dollars.

Last year, with no



ABOVE: Photo by Bryan Garris.

BELOW: Photo by Sally Turner Querin.



© Sally Turner Querin



Art by Deanna Wheeler.

A League Of Their Own

Southern Artists League strikes back

BY DEAN POLING
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Was a time when the Southern Artists League was a regional artistic powerhouse.

The organization boasted membership of dozens and dozens of South Georgia and North Florida artists.

The League regularly sponsored monthly and quarterly exhibitions in various regional locations.

The League presented works on a regular basis at the old Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Center then the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. In more recent years, the League has continued but it seems on a quieter, smaller scale. Until recent weeks, The Southern Artists League's Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts displays works by several League artists in the Roberta George Gallery.

The exhibit shares a wide range of styles while serving the League's long-running and ultimate purpose: highlighting the talents of the region's artists.

GALLERY

Southern Artists League is on exhibit in the Roberta George Gallery; along with Al Park's "Spirit Vessels," Josette's Gallery; Suwannee Pencil Pushers' "Drawn Together," Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery; artist Harold Griner's "Southbound," Sallie & Harmon Boyette Gallery.

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

Run dates: Shows run from Sept. 22 through Oct. 29.

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

Admission: Free.

More information: Call 247-ARTS; or visit www.turnercenter.org



Art by Heather Boyd.



Art by Dan Wells.



Art by Brenda Anderson.

Southern Artists League

Southern Artists League is on exhibit in the Roberta George Gallery; along with Al Park's "Spirit Vessels," Josette's Gallery; Suwannee Pencil Pushers' "Drawn Together," Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery; artist Harold Griner's "Southbound," Sallie & Harmon Boyette Gallery.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The internationally touring Voca People is the first visiting performance of the 2014-15 Presenter Series.

Voca creator goes backstage of visiting Valdosta show

BY DEAN POLING
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

SHOWTIME

VALDOSTA — Creating a show based on singing comic aliens from outer space has taken Shai Fishman all over the world.

When the Voca People land this week in Valdosta for the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series, Fishman may well be traveling overseas preparing a new venue in a new country for the popular international show.

She recently took a few minutes to discuss the Voca People.

"I am the creator, arranger and music director of the show," Fishman said. "My good friend, Lior Kalfu, who also directed the show, approached me with the idea to create this show. He is in charge of the story line, the very funny jokes and interaction ideas and also he brilliantly directed the Vocas in a simple, yet very effective and compelling way."

They created a YouTube video that attracted the world's attention and initiated the live shows.

"The musical ideas, the medleys of 27 songs in five minutes and all the rest of the madness that goes on in the show, musically, I am very happy to be able to have done with a free hand and a vision that was uninterrupted by him, as he is very sharp and has a good nose for what's funny and what's effective in a comedy show," she said. "Me, him and the aliens are a perfect match in perfect pitch!"

Though up to five companies of Vocas have traveled in various parts of the

Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series hosts the Voca People.

When: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.

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

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

world simultaneously, Fishman maintains close contact with each group.

"Well, since this is my creation and especially since about 20 percent of the show is improvised, I make it a point to show up to every tour — at least the beginning of it — and to synchronize the Vocas," she said. "We have several companies and we often have different vocas doing a show with a cast they have not performed with — that requires my attention."

Still, the show shifts and shapes with each company, each group of performers, each stop.

"This show, unlike most, has a life of its own, and the performers get better with every performance and every tour. They acquire new capabilities and I always do my best to cater to these abilities," Fishman said.

"I change the show to accommodate someone's unique new sound that we discovered on the road — from being able to imitate the harmonica, a trombone, didgeridoo, pan flute or even being able to generate sound effects — all with just the voice of course. So when I identify that ability I change and

adapt the show to feature it."

Fishman sees herself as creatively evolving.

"I am evolving musically and I keep my eyes and ears open to new ideas, so, in order to keep the show current and cutting edge after six years and more than 3,000 performances, I bring some of these ideas to the existing show and overhaul it, just a little."

The Voca People perform more than 70 popular songs from various eras during the show. Fishman had to expand her musical tastes to create a song list to appeal to a broader audience.

"I was 32 years old when I created the show — so I knew the songs I chose may be too modern for audiences between the ages of 50-70, so to that end, when I went about creating the set list for the show — a very elaborate one, over 100 songs, not including encores and improvised stuff,

I had my mother on the line and every song I wanted to incorporate into the show, I sang to her first," Fishman said. "If she could complete the melody I was singing, the song went in. If she couldn't, it was cut. Doesn't matter how famous or good I thought it was. I think she has a lot of stock in the show's success. So thanks mom!"

Even with this list, the Vocas improvise each night to fit the venue.

"During the 20 minutes in the show, where the Vocas are in the audience, they are improvising and you could definitely see a different show every night," Fishman said. "It's a perfect balance between freestyle and a set program and it has been working amazingly so far."

So, Valdosta can expect to see the world-famous Voca People but in a show different from anywhere else in the world.

Getting strategic with Six Thinking Hats

Faced with the challenge of creating a new five-year strategic plan, the board and staff of Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission (LVAC) tapped a strategic planning specialist on their board, Dr. Ron Zaccari, to lead them. Zaccari's idea was to use a decision-making approach based on the Six Thinking Hats model, in which the strategic plan comes together through six specific modes of thought: analysis, intuition, discernment, optimistic response, creativity, and process control. "Five STH work sessions resulted in an abundance of remarkable ideas, which were then compiled, condensed, and voted on in a joint session of board and staff," said ED Cheryl Oliver.

Shortly after the process began, LVAC was selected to participate in the newest cohort of GCN's Momentum initiative, a happy coincidence: "We discovered that the two processes significantly complement each other," said Oliver. Together, they're guiding LVAC toward a comprehensive and highly practical strategic plan.



Art by Deborah Barnard.

ABSTRACT Friendship

Former teacher and student share art show

BY DEAN POLING
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Deborah Barnard and Chris Shroyer were art teacher and student in 1984 at Lowndes High School.

Thirty years later, they are fellow artists in an exhibit opening this week at Smith-Northview Hospital.

Barnard recalled having Shroyer as a student when she taught art classes at LHS. Through the years, she encountered his parents, Sonny and Paula Shroyer of Valdosta. Sonny Shroyer is famous for playing Enos in "The Dukes of Hazzard" TV show.

"From creating a composition through the lens of a camera to putting a brush to canvas to molding and shaping with clay, it is an almost god-like experience to take art materials and make them into something — something that evokes an emotion or a memory, stirs the imagination or perhaps inspires the viewer to want to create."

Deborah Barnard

a show if she wished.

She thought about Shroyer. Through Facebook, they planned the show scheduled to open this week.

Their styles complement one another. They work in abstracts and with recognizable subject matter. But their work stands individually, too.

Shroyer notes that his art is marked by the cultural imprint of his father's career.

Chris Shroyer "came to admire the primitive intensity of Jean-Michel Basquiat, and appreciated the simple yet imposing commercial aesthetic of Andy Warhol and Keith Haring," according to a short bio on Shroyer.

"Conversely, Jackson Pollock's dysfunctional symmetry and Gerard Richter's profound raw layered canvases were reflective of Shroyer's own deeply private and

But Barnard didn't see Chris for 29 years.

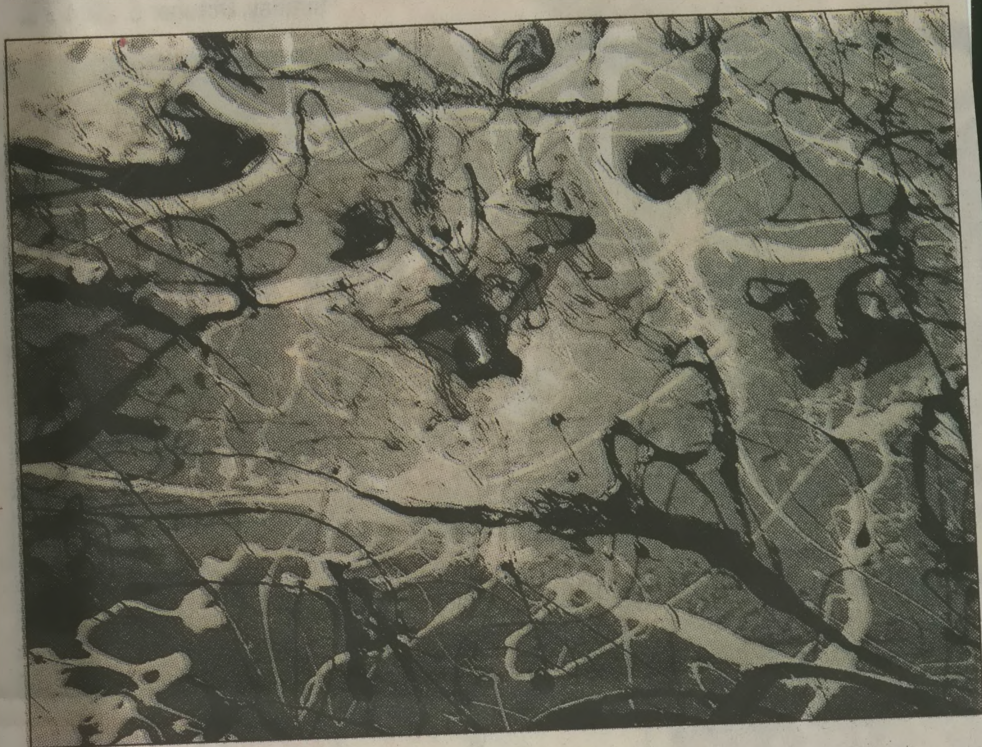
"It was at the annual Spring into Art show at the Turner Center," Barnard said. "I was looking at an entry with the name Chris Shroyer on it."

"When I turned around I was looking at Sonny Shroyer. After saying hello, I asked if Chris was there and he said, 'He's right behind you!' I turned and started to say, 'Hi Chris! I don't know if you remember me, but ...' Before I could finish, he was hugging me and eager to show me his work."

In recent months when Barnard spoke to hospital representative Chuck Roberts about a Smith-Northview show, he said she could share



Art by Chris Shroyer.



Art by Chris Shroyer.

ABSTRACT

FROM PAGE 6E

complex nature.”

“There is a challenge in the notion of showing others what’s going on inside me,” he said in an artistic statement. “I’m always thinking about the next piece.”

Barnard works in various media.

“From creating a composition through the lens of a camera to putting a brush to canvas to molding and shaping with clay, it is an almost god-like experience to take art materials and make them into something — something that evokes an emotion or a memory, stirs the imagination or perhaps inspires the viewer to want to create,” she said in an artistic statement.

“I will tackle most any theme or subject and enjoy combining media. Some of my work is evocative and invites the viewer to take a closer look.

“And holding on firmly to the fact that life is all too short to be taken too seriously, some of my work is injected with a healthy dose of humor.”

Barnard said the show reveals each as an artist but also exhibits the friendship developing between her and Shroyer.



Art by Deborah Barnard.

“Our relationship has since evolved from student and teacher to good friends and fellow artists,” she said.

“We’ve enjoyed getting to know each other and are greatly looking forward to doing this show together.”

GALLERY

Artists Deborah Barnard and Chris Shroyer art exhibit.

Where: Smith-Northview Hospital, off North Valdosta Road.

Reception: Monday evening, 5-7 p.m. Show will be on display for next several weeks.

VOCA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series 2014-15 season.

As for Cindy Sibilsky, the show's American producer, she referred to herself as the group's translator having learned "Vocish" to communicate with the Voca People.

The Voca speak in a series of sounds and beeps except when the group communicates via the

songs of Mozart, Madonna and Queen and approximately 70 other a capella and beat box versions of popular songs during the show.

So, Sibilsky and other production personnel must conduct the interviews to speak for the Voca.

She referred to the group's origins in Israel as the place where the Voca first landed. Now, as many as five Voca groups perform in spots around the world.

Maintaining the space-traveler theme is part of

the Voca People's charm, but the live shows are the real treat.

"It's a pleasure," Sibilsky said of working with the Voca. "I think of my favorite musicals and I can't think of any show that I would like to see again and again as I would the Voca People.

"It's a joy seeing people seeing the Voca for the first time. ... Live performance is the heart of this show. With the Voca, you really don't know what they're going to do next."

YouTube posts created

the foundations for the hairless, white-faced group's early international popularity. The Voca People have been described as "the Blue Man Group meets 'Glee.'"

But the live shows win audiences.

"It's fun to see an audience interact with these funny, little creatures," Sibilsky said. "... It's fun to see people walk in uptight then loosen up with the show."

She said the show is also multi-generational.

"A grandparent can take

a grandchild and they both can hear something they know."

Yet, even after describing the family appeal of the Voca People and all of the pop classics and other familiar music that's reportedly part of the show, Sibilsky continued highlighting the cosmic dimensions.

"The Voca People is an international and intergalactic performance from around the world and across the galaxy."

And in Valdosta for one night in late October.



PHOTO: VOCA-PEOPLE.COM

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series hosts the Voca People next week.

International and intergalactic singing group to visit Valdosta

BY DEAN POLING
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — At no point does her story change: The Voca People are aliens visiting from another planet.

Next week, these friendly, singing aliens land in Valdosta for an evening of songs and humor for all ages as the kick-off show for the

SHOWTIME

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series hosts the Voca People.

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

When: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 28.

To order tickets, contact the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St., (229) 247-2787, or visit www.turnercenter.org.

Presenter Series sponsors: The Valdosta Daily Times, Astro Exterminating; First State Bank & Trust; Georgia Power Company; Langdale Vallotton, LLP; Dr. James Sinnott & Dr. Edward Fricker families; Stifel; WALB.

Community Partners: Cowart Electric and Industrial Contractors; Fairway Outdoor Advertising; Holiday Inn and Conference Center; Wild Adventures.

VOCA | 4A

AT RANDOM: RANDI EYDE

Saba pipeline protests today

BY JOE AL...
THE VALDOSTA D...

VALDOSTA — The Valdosta Grass Activist Energy will be holding the proposed Trail Pipeline protest today.

The protest is scheduled for the Park Avenue intersection on South Street.

"We will have events on a regular basis," wrote David Noll, president of WACE. "In addition, we have a little store for Sabal Trail which we plan to open to the public in early November."

The protests were held every second day of the month. The protests will be accompanied by regular meetings at the Lowndes County Commission.

The Sabal Trail Pipeline is a natural gas pipeline that would run through the state of South Georgia, including Lowndes County and possibly other counties.

The proposed pipeline has been opposed by many residents who express concern about the pipeline's impact on the area. Protests have stretched across the state of Georgia since the pipeline was first proposed.

Search is under way
for missing Lowndes teen

Page 3A

Vikings look to bounce back
from first loss of season

Page 1B

The Valdosta Daily Times

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Tuesday, October 7, 2014

One dollar

Protecting Nichols House

HPC recommends historic status for home

BY JOE ADGIE
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — By a 5-1 vote, the Historic Preservation Commission will recommend to the Valdosta City Council that the Nichols House be granted historical protection.

That recommendation will be heard at the Oct. 23 City Council meeting.

The vote is a victory for the Alden Park Neighborhood Association, whose consultant, Dr. Alfred Willis, spoke of the historical significance of the Nichols House during the Monday meeting. The association hopes to keep a proposed apartment complex from changing the character of its neighborhood.

Willis spoke about the owner of the house, George Nichols, who was an early plywood manufacturer in Valdosta back in the 1940s and 1950s, when the Nichols house was complete, and of how the house, the final project of the celebrated Valdosta architect Lloyd Greer, was a building that made people stop and think.

Speaking in opposition was James Tunison, a Southern Circuit judge and an officer with the Georgia Sigma Housing Corporation, the organization that owns the Nichols House at this time. Tunison explained that the house had been

HOUSE | 4A



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Gogh Green

Members of the Gogh Green event committee admire a few of the many pieces of upscale art that have been donated for this year's sale. The Gogh Green Upscale Art Resale is hosted by the Center for the Arts Guild and benefits the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts' education programs. The sale kicks off with the Gogh Green Preview Party, 7-9 p.m. Thursday. Tickets are only \$10 per person. Refreshments will be served. The sale continues 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday and Saturday. More information: Call (229) 247-ARTS (2787) or visit www.turnercenter.org. Pictured: Guild members, left to right, Carreen Shapiro, Jennifer Carter, Jane Burgsteiner, Margaret Mittiga and Suzanne Taylor.

MEET | 4A

Fighting sexual assault

Valdosta State committee issues recommendations

BY ADAM FLOYD
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — The President's Special Committee on Sexual Assault Prevention at Valdosta State University has delivered its recommendations on how the school should evaluate and change its sexual assault policies.

The recommendations include evaluating existing programs, creating a Sexual Assault Center and mandating training for Greek and athletic organizations.

VSU President Dr. William McKinney formed the committee in May, and the group met during the summer to assess the university's strengths and weaknesses. The recommendations, delivered late last week, will be reviewed by VSU's governing groups before being considered for adoption, said Chief of Staff Kimberly Luse.

The committee identified several programs already in place at VSU, including the Jeans for Justice awareness program, Self Defense Awareness Familiarization Exchange and Rape Aggression Defense classes, sexual assault prevention education materials, the school's Sexual Violence Prevention web page, participation in the national "NO MORE" campaign and sexual assault training for faculty, staff and students.

The committee recommended that each of the programs be evaluated for effectiveness and that

VSU | 4A

Lowndes County: Trick or treating on Oct. 31

BY JOE ADGIE
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Trick-or-treating will be on Friday, Oct. 31, in the unincorporated areas of Lowndes County.

Lowndes County sheriff's deputies will be patrolling the streets that day, as well as the next day, for the benefit of those trick-or-treating on both days, according to county officials Monday.

This announcement comes on the heels of the City of Valdosta announcing that trick-or-treating within the city limits would be held on Saturday, Nov. 1, in order to ensure the safety of children participating in trick-or-treating.

LOWNDES | 4A

Valdosta set to meet the candidates

BY JOE ADGIE
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Valdosta will meet candidates for several races today.

The event, called Meet the Candidates, is today from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Rainwater Conference Center, and will feature candidates from four

area races.

Republican Buddy Carter and Democrat Brian Corwin Reese, who are candidates for the District 1 seat of the United States House of Representatives, are expected to be present, according to organizers.

This seat will be vacated by Congressman Jack Kingston, who has

held the seat since 1993.

Kingston left the seat to run for Saxby Chambliss' seat in the U.S. Senate, but lost in the Republican primary to David Perdue.

The two candidates for the state Senate's 8th District seat will also

AT RANDOM: ASHLEY JONES

Mother raises autism awareness

BY ADAM FLOYD
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

RAY CITY — Meet Ashley Jones. She's a Moody Air Force wife, prolific volunteer and mother of two young children coping with the challenge of autism.

Jones and her husband, Staff Sgt. Keith Jones, moved to the Ray City area four and a half years ago after being stationed for several years in Germany.

"It was my husband's first base, so kind of, not thrown to the wolves,"

problems in school, and her daughter, Lakyn, had not started talking by the age of 3.

Jones had always had a heart for special-needs children but said it was a completely different experience when a diagnosis was given to her children. Both of her children were diagnosed with autism, and the challenge forced Jones and her family into a very structured lifestyle.

"One of the biggest challenges is behavior, and I've got it times two," said Jones. "A child who doesn't have a disability may throw a temper

ule," said Jones.

The visual schedule includes every activity from sun up to sun down, including the siblings' daily therapy appointments. The strict schedule helps Jones manage her children's anxiety levels and reduces the likelihood of temper tantrums and outbursts, but as any military spouse well knows, some things, like deployment, are difficult to plan for.

"My husband works as a mechanic on C-130s. He's been home for the past year, but he deploys a lot and works long hours," said Jones.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

... Jones recognized Ashley Jones in April