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OUR POINT OF VIEW

# The art of plenty to do

Arts abound in South Georgia

In today's and next Sunday's editions, readers will find an extensive list of shows, exhibits, concerts and more for the upcoming arts seasons in Valdosta-Lowndes County.

The 2015-16 arts season has kicked off with new exhibits showing at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts this past week and with Theatre Guild Valdosta's "Broadway on Ashley" musical revue.

And it just keeps rolling non-stop from there.

The list includes plays, musicals, revues, art exhibits, concerts, recitals and more.

If you've already looked at the list, it's hard to believe these are just some of the art events coming through the fall and into next summer.

Some organizations are still preparing their seasons.

Meanwhile, the list doesn't include city and county band programs, art exhibits in some other area galleries, and doesn't even begin to mention the numerous local and regional bands that will play in area clubs.

Looking at the list, it's hard to believe some folks still argue there's nothing to do in Valdosta-Lowndes County.

This list proves these nay-sayers wrong.

There's more than enough to do.

Some of the shows cost money while many others are free and open to the public.

If you haven't looked at the arts list yet, go back and give it a read.

You may be surprised to discover more than one show, concert or exhibit you want to see in the weeks and months to come.

If nothing else look at the size of the list and recall how blessed we are for a town the size of Valdosta to have this much dedication to and from the arts.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Ken Trimmins, a singer and trumpet player, performs with the Ed Barr Orchestra during 'American Soundtrack Volume III,' playing next weekend.**

# Listening to 'American Soundtrack III'

## Popular show returns next weekend

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — Song selection is key to the success of the ongoing "American Soundtrack" series.

While promoting "American Soundtrack Volume III: A Musical Celebration," which opens next weekend, Vegas performer Tom Jones somehow enters the conversation.

"Soundtrack" coordinators Ed Barr, orchestra leader, and Cheryl Oliver, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts executive director, weigh the merits of including Tom Jones songs in a future production. Barr hums a few bars of Jones' "What's New Pussycat." Oliver jots down a few notes.

The moment reveals the strength of the "American Soundtrack" series presented by the Turner Center at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center.

There is no end to songs that resonate with organizers, performers and audiences. If audiences thought organizers would run out of songs they wished to showcase in "American Soundtrack Volumes I & II," "Volume III" suggests they may never run out of songs.

Oliver confirmed the notion. She said she can see producing these shows annually for 10 or more years.

If so, Barr has his work cut out for him.

The leader of the Ed Barr Orchestra, he arranges the music for every song performed in "American Soundtrack." It requires a deft touch and a versatile ear.

"Volume III" includes songs from classic standards to pop to rock to country, from past decades to now.

Songs include "Route 66," "The Way You Look Tonight," "In the Mood," songs by Ben. E. King and B.B. King, patriotic songs, works by Jim Croce, Whitney Houston, Michael Buble, Otis Redding, Marvin Gaye, Rachel Patten, Van Morrison, Wilson Pickett, Chuck Berry, etc.

Barr and his orchestra's instrumentation back area singers. Valdosta is blessed

### SHOWTIME

Annette Howell Turner

**Center for the Arts presents**  
"American Soundtrack  
Volume III."

**When:** 7:30 p.m., Aug. 22.

**Where:** James H. Rainwater  
Conference Center, off  
Norman Drive.

**Tickets:** Reserved seating,  
with heavy hors d'oeuvres  
buffet, starting  
at 6:30 p.m., \$60, per  
person; \$110, couple.  
Non-reserved general  
seating, \$25.

**More information:** www.  
turnercenter.org; or visit  
the arts center, 527 N.  
Patterson St.

with tremendous musical talent from people in all walks of life, Barr said.

"Volume III" singers include Ken Trimmins, 2 River Station, Robert Plummer, Rob Evans, Donna Adams, Tania Myers, St. John Choir, Taurence Phillips, Frank Simons, Bo Griner, Robert and Fran Plummer, Keith Blevins, Mary Peoples, Craig Ward, Wendy Colson.

Jeani Synyard's Valdosta Tappers will perform. Moody Air Force Base Color Guard will present the colors.

The orchestra plays after the show so audience members can dance.

Once this show concludes, Oliver and Barr will begin thinking about "American Soundtrack" for next year and the year after that and the year after that ... It's not unusual for them to pick songs for years into the future, even a little bit of Tom Jones, one day, maybe.

Presenting Partner: Hanover Advisors, Inc. Event Partner: Rainwater Conference Center. Grammy Award Sponsors: Barbara & Brantley Jenkins, Margot Pearlman. Billboard Award Sponsors: Bank of the Ozarks, Jack Oliver Real Estate, Studio 8 Design, Thacker Dermatology, Valotton Construction. Hi-Fi Award Sponsors: Victoria Benavides, Judge & Mrs. Mac McLane, Sally Turner Querin, State Farm — Travis Pate Agency.

# The Valdosta Daily Times

Your News. Your Voice. Your Times.

www.valdostadailytimes.com

Sunday, August 16, 2015

\$1 Daily | \$1.50 Sunday



ANNETTE HOWELL TURNER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The Ed Barr Orchestra will perform at the Annette Howell Turner Center's 'American Soundtrack Volume III' next weekend at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center.

## Rounding out the 2015-16 arts season

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gaffnews.com

VALDOSTA — The Valdosta Daily Times presented arts season schedules for Valdosta State University Music, VSU Theatre & Dance, Valdosta Symphony Orchestra and other area organizations in editions last Sunday.

In this second part of a two-part series, schedules for the arts center, Little Actors Theatre, Theatre Guild Valdosta, VSU Art, etc., are presented.

### 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

### SECOND OF TWO PARTS

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](http://www.turnercenter.org)

### EXHIBITS & SHOWS

- New exhibits: Withlacoochee Quilters Guild, Southeastern Art Alliance Fiber Art Exhibit, YMCA children's exhibit. The shows continue through Sept. 16.
- "American Soundtrack, Volume III,"

James H. Rainwater Conference Center, off Norman Drive. Synopsis: "It will be a real musical celebration as the Ed Barr Orchestra performs with local song and dance celebrities in a celebration of American music and a salute to the Armed Forces. The audience will be invited to dance following the show." Plays 7:30 p.m., Aug. 22. Tickets: \$60, individual; \$110, couple, includes heavy hors d'oeuvres (reserved); \$25, per person non-reserved general seating.

- New exhibits: Opening with a free, public reception, 5-7 p.m., Sept. 21, photography by Todd Bertolaet & David Wharton, artist JoAnn Williams-Walker's paintings, artists in residence exhibit with Joel Deon and Marty Haythorne, Ceramic exhibit by Turner Center pottery class students. The shows run Sept. 21-Oct. 28.

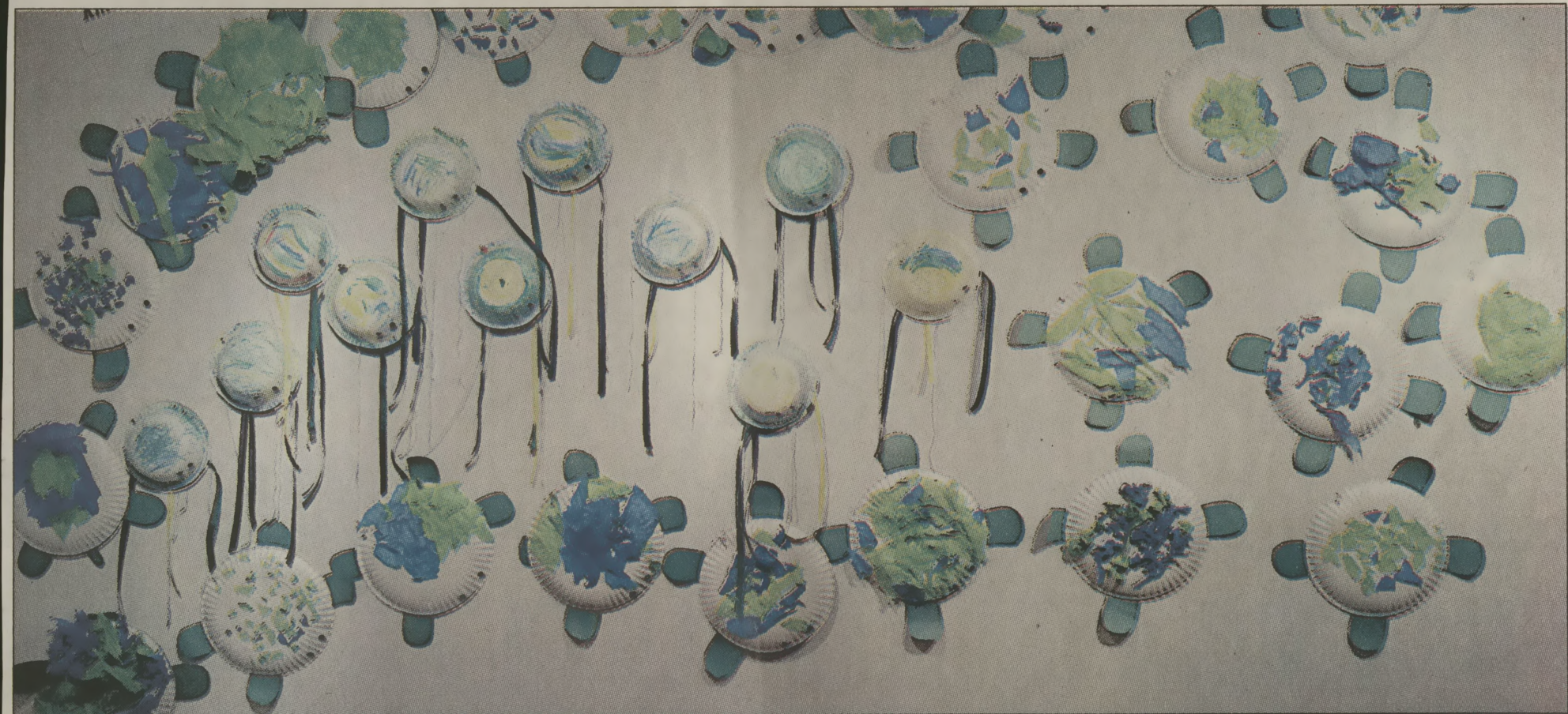
- New exhibits: Paintings by Kelly Williams, Sculpture by Bob Coon, Mixed Media with Derek Schaper. The shows run Nov. 2-Jan. 6.

- Presenter Series show dates: The shows are scheduled to be announced in late August. The show dates or touring performances at Mathis City Auditorium are Nov. 12, Dec. 8, Feb. 16.

- New exhibits: The Drawproject fundraiser, Photography exhibit on loan from the Japan Foundation, more. The shows run Jan. 11-Feb. 24.

- New exhibits: Youth Art Month, featuring area schools, kindergarten through 12th grade. The shows run Feb. 29-March 25.

- New exhibit: 28th Annual Spring Into Art. The show runs April 11-June 8.



YMCA art created by kindergarten-age students.

# The Art of Summer

Arts Center gallery hosts YMCA art works

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gafnews.com

## GALLERY

VALDOSTA — Something colorful this way comes.

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts hosts the YMCA summer camp artworks in its Roberta George Gallery.

The exhibit presents projects which the children shared,

Paper plates, ribbons and scissored construction paper glued into green and aqua color schemes create creatures of the sea. The kindergarten group's work decorates a half of one of the gallery's walls.

The fifth-grade and up

**What:** YMCA children's artwork is on exhibit along with Withlacoochee Quilters Guild and "Intertwined: Contemporary Southeastern Fiber Art," and are on exhibit.

**Run dates:** The shows run through Sept. 16. Where: Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 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.

**Admission:** Free.

**More information:** Call 247-2787; or visit [turnercenter.org](http://turnercenter.org).

girls created a giant bouquet of tie-dye petals under an arch of construction-paper butterflies created by first- and second-grade girls.

The arts center has long supported art by area children and youths. It gives

youngsters the chance to see their creativity celebrated in a professional gallery setting. Children's shows introduce newcomers to the arts center and artists whose works are displayed in other galleries.



Art by YMCA first- and second-graders as well as fifth-graders and up.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Mary Peeples, a Valwood School student, will sing Rachel Platten's 'Fight Song' Saturday as part of 'American Soundtrack Volume III.'

## 'Soundtrack' sings American songbook

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — Singers and musicians have their music cued for "American Soundtrack Volume III" Saturday night.

Presented by the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, the song revue plays at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center.

The arts center has presented two previous "American Soundtrack" shows. Cheryl Oliver, arts center executive director, said

organizers hope to present the show annually.

"Volume III" includes songs from classic standards to pop to rock to country, from past decades to now.

Songs include "Route 66," "The Way You Look Tonight," "In the Mood," songs by Ben. E. King and B.B. King, patriotic songs, works by Jim Croce, Whitney Houston, Michael Buble, Otis Redding, Marvin Gaye, Rachel Patten, Van Morrison, Wilson Pickett, Chuck Berry, etc.

### SHOWTIME

Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts presents "American Soundtrack Volume III."

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

**Where:** James H. Rainwater Conference Center, off Norman Drive.

**Tickets:** Reserved seating, with heavy hors d'oeuvres buffet, starting at 6:30 p.m., \$60, per person; \$110, couple. Non-reserved general seating, \$25.

**More information:** [www.turnercenter.org](http://www.turnercenter.org); or visit the arts center, 527 N. Patterson St.

The Ed Barr Orchestra's instrumentation backs area singers. Valdosta is blessed

with tremendous musical talent from people in all walks of life, Barr said.

"Volume III" singers include Ken Trimmins, 2 River Station, Robert Plummer, Rob Evans, Donna Adams, Tania Myers, St. John Choir, Taurence Phillips, Frank Simons, Bo Griner, Robert and Fran Plummer, Keith Blevins, Mary Peeples, Craig Ward, Wendy Colson.

Jeani Synyard's Valdosta Tappers will perform. Moody Air Force Base Color Guard will present the colors. The orchestra plays after the show so audience members can dance.

Sunday, August 30, 2015

4A

## OUR POINT OF VIEW

# Rolling out the Presenter Series

Starting in the Sunday edition, the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts and The Valdosta Daily Times are introducing 2015-16 Presenter Series one show at a time through the next week.

The Times provides a look at the Nov. 12 show, "Flashdance: The Musical," in Sunday editions, the Dec. 8 show will be introduced in Wednesday's editions, and the Feb. 16 show will be introduced in the following Sunday editions.

The arts center and The Valdosta Daily Times have made the general public announcement of the Presenter Series in a similar fashion for the past two years.

The Valdosta Daily Times is a Presenter Series sponsor.

Also, similar to the past two years, because these shows are on a somewhat larger scale than visiting, professional tours of past seasons, the Presenter Series offers only three shows this season in contrast to four performances as in years past.

For decades, the arts center has scheduled the Presenter Series shows.

The shows have become long-standing traditions for some families. These families keep the same seats year after year through their season tickets.

Others discover a full season they would like to see each year.

Some may love to see one or two shows while having no interest in the other productions.

We commend the arts center board and staff for its continued efforts in bringing the Presenter Series to life each season.

It is only one facet of the many artistic programs initiated by the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

The Presenter Series is one of the numerous parts of the Valdosta-Lowndes County arts and cultural scene.

It's easy to take for granted that few cities the size of Valdosta can boast a premier arts center such as the Turner Center, or an orchestra, or a university providing plays, art exhibits, concerts, readings, etc., or community theatre, two children's theatre organizations ... not to mention the arts programs available in area schools.

Valdosta is blessed to have such a wide variety of artistic presentations and such a large number of talented people.

More information: Visit the arts center at 527 N. Patterson St.; or the website, [www.turnercenter.org](http://www.turnercenter.org); or call (229) 247-2787.

And look for the additional shows in the coming editions of The Valdosta Daily Times.



SALLY TURNER QUERIN

## Choir sings at Rainwater Conference Center

On Aug. 22, St. John's Catholic Youth Choir sang three patriotic songs for the American Soundtrack III at the Rainwater Conference Center on behalf for the Turner Center for the Arts. The Youth Choir director is Donna Farwell.



# The Valdosta Daily Times

Your News. Your Voice. Your Times.

Sunday, August 30, 2015

## 'Flashdance' opens Presenter Series



PHOTO: DENISE TRUSCELLO

**'Musical' plays Nov. 12 at Mathis City**

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts and The Valdosta Daily Times are previewing the 2015-16 Presenter Series of shows one at a time again this season. There are three shows this season. The first show is being announced today. The second show will be announced Wednesday in The*

*Times. The third show will be announced next Sunday in The Times. The Valdosta Daily Times is a Presenter Series sponsor.*

**BY DEAN POLING**

dean.poling@gafnews.com

**VALDOSTA** — The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts hopes audi-

ences will hear about the first show in the Presenter Series 2015-16 season and exclaim, "What a Feeling!"

"Flashdance: The Musical" opens the Presenter Series on Nov. 12, said Joanna Nijem and Nancy Warren, Presenter Series chairmen.

The live show is based on the 1983 movie which

critics described as a dance version of "Rocky" at the time.

The story revolves around Alex Owens. She welds Pittsburgh steel by day and dances in a club by night. She dreams of one day becoming a professional dancer. She finds love

See Series on Page 8A

niac,'Gloria,' 'Manhunt,' 'I Love Rock & Roll' and Oscar-winning title song 'Flashdance' — What a Feeling' included in show

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from the  
"Gloria,"  
ve Rock  
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ashdance  
"

The show includes new songs to tell Alex's story. Audiences should note the show contains mature content and may not be suitable for all audiences, according to the arts center. The Annette Howell

Turner Center for the Arts has organized a Presenter Series of nationally, touring professional shows for decades. All shows are at Mathis City Auditorium.

Season tickets offer subscribers a chance to see

"Flashdance" and the other two Presenter Series shows at a discounted price, Nijem and Warren said.

Early season package is \$100 (ends Oct. 16); regular season package, \$129 (after Oct. 16); individual show

tickets, \$49 each.

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

Dr. James Sinnott families; Stifel; WALB.

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



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Television star Alan Thicke will star in 'The Toy Shoppe' coming in December to Valdosta as part of the Presenter Series.

## TOY: Early season package available until Oct. 16

Rogers co-wrote the show's songs, including the hit "Heroes."

Joanna Nijem and Nancy Warren, Presenter Series co-chairs, said "The Toy Shoppe" presents a Christmas season show for families and audiences of all ages. Though the Presenter Series has offered past shows during the holiday season, Warren said this is the first show with a Christmas

theme for the holidays.

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts has organized a Presenter Series of nationally touring professional shows for decades. All shows are at Mathis City Auditorium.

Season tickets offer subscribers a chance to see "The Toy Shoppe," "Flashdance" and one other Presenter Series show at a

discounted price, Nijem and Warren said.

Early season package is \$100 (ends Oct. 16); regular season package, \$129 (after Oct. 16); individual show, \$49 each.

Presenter Series sponsors: The Valdosta Daily Times, Astro Exterminating, First State Bank & Trust; Georgia Power Company; Langdale Vallotton, LLP; Dr.

VALDOSTA — Through marriage, past Wild Adventures concerts and a photograph exhibit, Kenny Rogers has long had several ties with South Georgia.

Come December, Rogers' family-holiday show, "The Toy Shoppe," will arrive in Valdosta as the second professional production in the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts 2015-16 Presenter Series.

Though Rogers has starred as the toy shoppe owner in past tours of the show, he will not

# Christmas brings 'The Toy Shoppe'

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gafnews.com

## PRESENTER SERIES 2015-16

Here are the scheduled dates for the 2015-16 Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series shows. The Times will preview the third show Sunday.

**Nov. 12:** "Flashdance: The Musical."

**Dec. 8:** "The Toy Shoppe."

**Feb. 16:** To be previewed Sunday.

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

be traveling with it this season. Instead, Alan Thicke stars as the toy store owner. Thicke is best known for starring in the sitcom "Growing Pains." He is also father to pop star Robin Thicke.

While Rogers will not reprise the role he debuted the New York production, the show remains his at heart.

See Toy on 13A

Wednesday, September 2, 2015

Edward Fricker & Dr. James Sinnott families; Stifel; WALB.

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

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts and The Valdosta Daily Times are previewing

the 2015-16 Presenter Series of shows one at a time again this season. There are three shows this season. The first show was announced Sunday in The Valdosta Daily Times. The second show is being announced today. The third show will be announced in The Times this Sunday. The Valdosta Daily Times is a Presenter Series sponsor.

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Summer Weddings

19

# Poet John Griffin returns to read from 'Meltdown'

Thursday, September 10, 2015

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — John Charles Griffin has come a long way since making up the words to songs while riding as a child with his daddy on the family farm's John Deere tractor.

He has published a book of poetry. Saturday evening, Griffin will read from his poetry collection, "After the Meltdown." The book was published by Valdosta-based publisher Snake Nation Press.

The reading is scheduled to include father-and-son musicians Wilby and Justin Coleman and Macon guitarist/fiddler Randy Wesson playing music, Griffin said.

"I will be reading a few of my narrative and lyrical poems, telling a few stories about their origins," Griffin said. "Depending on the mood of the attendees, I might even sing a song or two. I'll go out on a limb and guarantee an entertaining evening."

Growing up on a Hahira farm, Griffin said he remembers the bookmobile traveling along Coppage Road where grandparents Howard and Carrie Mae Griffin lived.

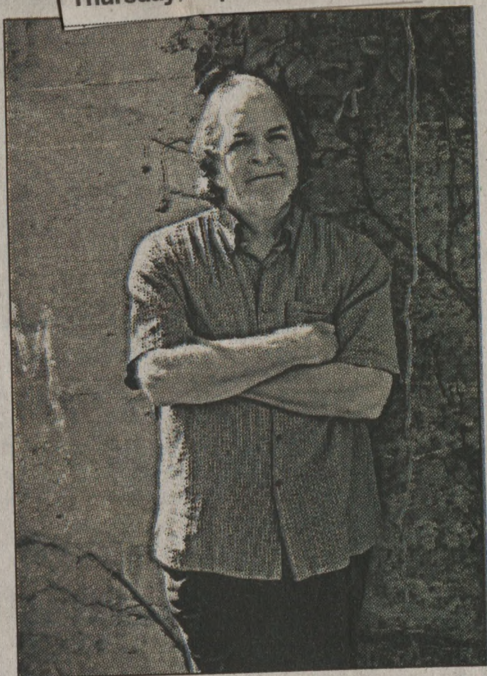
"I was inspired by 'Robinson Crusoe' and 'Frog Went a Courtin.' Later in junior high school, I became a hippie wanna-be rock star and began listening to Bob Dylan, Jim Morrison, and Joni Mitchell who were poets, too," Griffin said. "Their lyrics left a mark and I caught the writing bug and it's been that way ever since, being around high achievers in the music industry has further evolved my drive to become an author."

A 1972 Lowndes High School graduate, Griffin left Valdosta with the military. He attended Valdosta State, graduating in 1984. He took a sales job in Atlanta and traveled throughout the Southeast.

He now lives in Macon, where he is on the board of trustees at the Allman Brothers Band Museum at The Big House.

"I've had the privilege of traveling to many of their concerts and have personally known them for more than 10 years," Griffin said of the Allman Brothers. "I serve on the fundraising committee and help promote the museum both locally and places afar."

In his poetry, Griffin said he has been encouraged by singer-songwriter Steve



John Charles Griffin

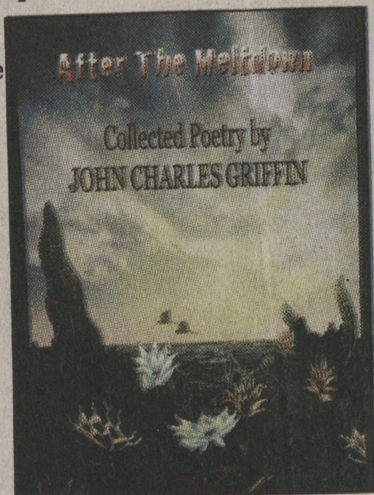
Earle and actor-musician Billy Bob Thornton.

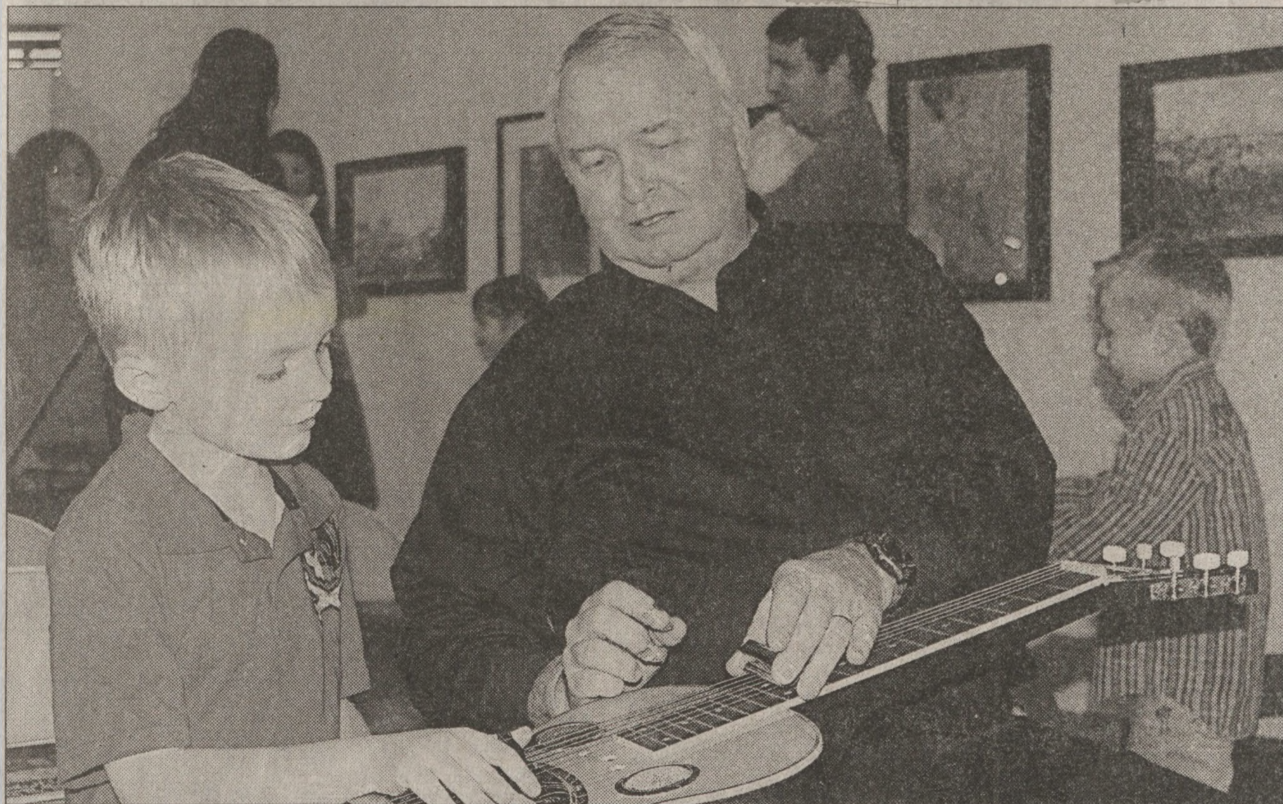
"Meltdown" is his first book.

"Most of the poems were written during the past four or five years," Griffin

said. "A traveling corporate job of nearly 30 years with Sears, now retired, kept me distracted from staying focused on literary pursuits."

Now, his focus is on. He's already planning a second book. John Charles Griffin reads from "After the Meltdown," 7 p.m. Saturday, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.





FILE PHOTO: ADAM FLOYD | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

**Ethan Martelle gets a few tips on the dobro from bluegrass musician Reid Yeargan last year during the first Bluegrass Expo for Kids. The event returns this weekend at the arts center.**

more diverse than most casual listeners, and even some long-time listeners, realize.

“The banjo is an instrument with African origins and is an integral part of any bluegrass band,” Eason said. “Bill Monroe, the ‘Father of Bluegrass,’ loved blues music and used it in many of his recordings. There is a strong Scotch-Irish influence due to those immigrating to the Appalachians in the early 1800s. Through this event, I believe everyone will walk away learning something new about this truly American musical genre.”

Bluegrass music changed Eason’s life.

A few years ago, Eason joined the North Florida Bluegrass Association.

There, she learned members were presenting instructional and entertaining bluegrass programs to public school students.

The Florida experience gave her the idea for the Bluegrass Expo for Kids in Valdosta. Eason contacted Cheryl Oliver, Turner Center executive director, and the expo was born.

Yet, Eason’s commitment to music and teaching music runs deeper than an annual event.

She left a full-time job to teach music part-time at Remerton music store Ben Owens Music.

“That has given me a greater desire to influence children to learn an instrument, whether it be joining the school band or taking private lessons,” Eason said. “It does take

practice and dedication, but the rewards are a lifetime of joy through music.”

For the expo, participants may arrive any time during the program but Eason encourages people to arrive early for the full program.

“We will have presentations by the musicians explaining each instrument as well as playing some traditional songs as a group,” she said, “and best of all, we’ll have children performing during the program.”

In addition to Eason, the program features South Georgia and North Florida musicians Martin Feagle, Andy Patterson, Karen Goines, Brandon Taylor, Spencer Jones and Rod Casey.



FILE PHOTO: ADAM FLOYD

**Mary Ann Eason, one of the organizers of the Bluegrass Expo for Kids, plays the mandolin and sings ‘You Are My Sunshine’ during the event last year. Eason returns with the expo this weekend.**



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Hit Men features former stars of Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons. The Hit Men plays Valdosta in February.

## Hit Men ends Presenter Series with a punch

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts plans to end the 2015-16 Presenter Series with a hit.

The Hit Men.

The concert group features the “former stars of Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons,” according to promotional notes.

Audiences can expect to hear songs by Tommy James & the Shondells, Carly Simon, Cat Stevens, Elton John, Carole King, Jim Croce, etc., said Joanna Nijem and Nancy Warren, Presenter Series co-chairs.

The Hit Men features former members of these acts, according to promotional materials.

The group performs songs such as “Oh What a

See Hit Men on 12A

# From Page One

12A

Sunday, September 6, 2015

www.valdostadailytimes.com

## HIT MEN: Concert group features ‘former stars of Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons’

Night,” “Who Loves You,” “Sherry,” “Peace Train,” “Crocodile Rock,” “The Loco Motion,” “Leroy Brown,” “Mony Mony,” etc.

The Hit Men includes Gerry Polci, who was the lead vocal on the Four Season’s hit, “Oh What a Night.”

With a scheduled February date, The Hit Men will conclude the Presenter Series season.

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts has organized a Presenter Series of nationally touring professional shows for decades.

All shows are at Mathis City Auditorium.

Season tickets offer subscribers a chance to see “Flashdance,” “The Toy Shoppe,” and The Hit Men at a discounted price, Nijem and Warren said.

Early season package is \$100 (ends Oct. 16); regular season package, \$129 (after Oct. 16); individual show, \$49 each.

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

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

Presenter Series 2015-16 Here are the scheduled shows and dates for the 2015-16 Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series shows.

Nov. 12: “Flashdance: The Musical.”

Dec. 8: “The Toy Shoppe.”

Feb. 16: The Hit Men.

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

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts and The Valdosta Daily Times

are previewing the 2015-16 Presenter Series of shows one at a time again this season. There are three shows this season. The first show was announced last Sunday in The Valdosta Daily Times. The second show was announced Wednesday. The Valdosta Daily Times announces the third show today. The Valdosta Daily Times is a Presenter Series sponsor.

# 'Voice' benefits Partnership Cancer Fund

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gaffnews.com

## SHOWTIME

VALDOSTA — Area singers will raise their voices and raise money for a good cause this weekend.

"The Valdosta Voice" benefits the Partnership Cancer Fund with a dinner and show Saturday night.

Six finalists will perform for the audience and face a panel of judges who will select a winner. The winner receives a \$500 cash prize, according to information sent from the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

Finalists are Sarah Mootz, Miranda Moore, Kelsie Davis, Paige Pickett, Justin Pope and Shana Moreman, according to a YouTube recording of finalists.

Guests will have a dinner of pan-roasted filet

**What:** The Valdosta Voice benefits Partnership Cancer Fund.

**When:** Saturday, dinner 6 p.m., show 7 p.m.

**Where:** James H. Rainwater Conference Center, off Norman Drive.

**Tickets:** \$40 per person; \$70 per couple; \$10 for children 13 and under. Tickets may be purchased at the conference center and First Federal Savings and Loan, 2728 N. Oak St.

**More information:** Call (229) 245-0513.

mignon topped with brandy peach chutney, saffron mashed potatoes, herb roasted asparagus. The kid menu: chicken fingers.

While the event promises fun and games, it benefits a good cause.

Partnership Cancer Fund works to relieve some of the financial complications which cancer brings.

Partnership Cancer Fund does not go to pay doctors or hospital bills. What the Partnership Cancer Fund does is help pay for some of the other expenses which cancer pa-

tients or their families face during the period of treatment, according to past articles in The Valdosta Daily Times.

Expenses may include the co-payment of medication that is outside of the regular cancer treatment; supplement income lost through unemployment caused by cancer treatment; or pay for the costs of trips necessary for treatment in other towns.

The fund was created in

2004 by Dr. John W. Devine, a board-certified oncologist who has served the Pearlman Comprehensive Cancer Center, South Georgia Medical Center, and the local American Cancer Society. He is a member of many related boards and is a cancer survivor.

Partnership Cancer Fund has raised tens of thousands of dollars given to approximately 4,000 people in the past decade, according to the organization.

# Arts center finds classical music's pulse

BY DEAN POLING

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VALDOSTA — Classical music has survived centuries, but can Beethoven, Brahms and Mozart survive the 21st century?

Seeing the audience at the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra, Dan Coleman, Valdosta Symphony board chairman, wanted to bring classical music to a broader audience, said Cheryl Oliver, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts executive director.

Through funding from Coleman, the arts center



JENNIFER HUANG

## SHOWTIME

**What:** "What Key(board) is That?" features pianist Lyle Indergaard and harpsichordist Jennifer Huang.

**When:** Friday with a 7:30 p.m. social and 8 p.m. concert.

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

**Ticket:** \$10.

**More information:** Call 247-2787; or visit [www.turnercenter.org](http://www.turnercenter.org).

will host occasional events focusing on classical music, Oliver said.

In recent months, the arts center hosted a classical guitarist.

The center hosts "What Key(board) is That?"

See Arts on 10A

## ARTS: Show this Friday

featuring Valdosta State University Music's Lyle Indergaard on piano and Jennifer Huang on harpsichord this week.

Indergaard said the event will include pieces for piano and harpsichord by composers Jean Philippe Rameau, J.S. Bach, Eric Satie and Antonin Dvorak.

Oliver said the event is a "concert/demonstration since Lyle will be educating us on the evolution of the piano and harpsichord, and he and Jennifer will demonstrate how they work."

Think of it as storyteller classical music.

Future events could look like Beethoven & Bratwurst or Chopin & Champagne, Oliver said.

The events will introduce classical music in a relaxed and fun atmosphere, she said.

Huang has a busy weekend. She will also be performing a harpsichord recital, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Whitehead Auditorium, VSU Fine Arts Building, Indergaard said.

Huang teaches at Darton College in Albany. Degrees include a bachelor of music in piano performance from Oberlin Conservatory, a master of music in piano performance from the Mannes School of Music, and a doctor of musical arts in harpsichord performance from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, Indergaard said.

At her VSU recital, Huang will perform works by Rameau and Bach. VSU recital admission is free and open to the public.



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## Expo introduces bluegrass to kids

BY DEAN POLING

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### SHOWTIME

VALDOSTA — Possibly with a little help from “Foggy Mountain Breakdown,” several musicians will break down the essentials of bluegrass music this weekend for children.

The second Bluegrass Expo for Kids touts itself as an “Introduction to Bluegrass Instruments” at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. featuring “demonstrations, performance, and special instrument ‘petting zoo’ for kids 5 to 105.”

The “instrument petting zoo” means musicians allow participants to hold and try the sounds from bluegrass instruments such as the bass, dobro, guitar, banjo, mandolin and fiddle, said Mary Ann Eason, a musician and event organizer.

“Children will have an oppor-

**What:** Bluegrass Expo for Kids: Introduction to Bluegrass Instruments  
**When:** 2-4:30 p.m. Saturday.  
**Where:** Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.  
**Admission:** Free, children should be accompanied by an adult.  
**More information:** Call (229) 247-2787; or visit [www.turnercenter.org](http://www.turnercenter.org).

tunity to hold and/or strum an instrument with the assistance of the musicians,” Eason said. “The upright bass will be the exception due to its size, but they can stand in front of it and pluck it. This is a very important part of the event because it gives the children a hands-on experience with various instruments, some of which they’ve probably never seen before.”

For many of the children, the expo is not only an introduction to the instruments but to bluegrass music.

“We had an excellent turn-out for

last year’s event, and the positive feedback from the parents was tremendous,” Eason said. “Many children have never heard of bluegrass music, in part because it is not played on many radio stations currently, but children have access to Internet radio now. My hope is that they would want to give bluegrass a try once they’ve learned about it and had an opportunity to hear it.”

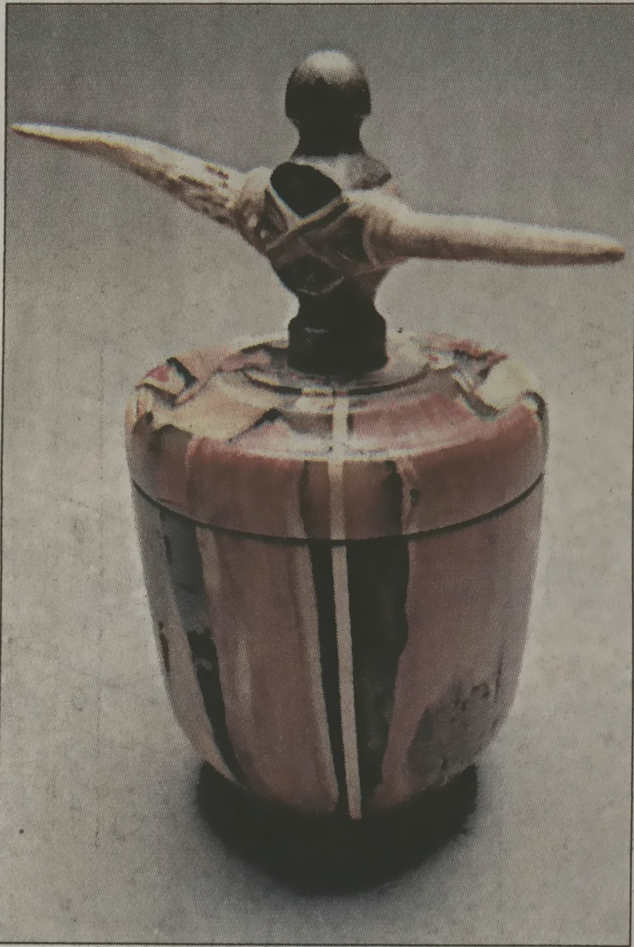
Bluegrass is a music form far

See Expo on 11A



FILE PHOTO: ADAM FLOYD | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Bo Shenton plucks a few strings of Gail O’Steen’s bass last year during the Bluegrass Expo for Kids. The event returns this weekend at the arts center.



Art by Joel Dion.



Art by Jo Ann Williams Walker.

## Watercolors, photos debut in new art exhibits

BY DEAN POLING

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VALDOSTA —The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts opens four new exhibits this week.

The shows feature paintings, photographs, works by artists in residence and ceramics.

Artist Jo Ann Williams' "Impressions of Color" will be on exhibit in the Sallie & Harmon Boyette Gallery. The exhibit features colorful paintings of flowers, etc.

Artists Todd Bertolaet and David Wharton present "Photographs from the American South" in the Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery.

Joel Dion and Marty Haythorn are the center's artists in residence. They have

been working on two public art projects. They exhibit their works in Josette's Gallery.

Instructor Julie Smith presents works from the Turner Center's ceramics program in the Roberta George Children's Gallery.

The exhibits open with a free, public reception, 5-7 p.m. Monday, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.

The exhibits run from Sept. 21 through Oct. 28.

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 gallery opening Mondays). Admission: Free.

More information: Visit [www.turner-center.org](http://www.turner-center.org); or call (229) 247-2787.

# Lifestyles

12C

Sunday, September 27, 2015

[www.valdostadailytimes.com](http://www.valdostadailytimes.com)



Art by Jo Ann Williams Walker.

# Impressions of Color

## Artist 'sings' vibrant canvases

BY DEAN POLING

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VALDOSTA — There's nothing passe about the flower paintings of Jo Ann Williams Walker.

Walker's "Impressions of Color" exhibit has turned the arts center's Boyette Gallery into a garden.

The Florida artist's work has caught the eyes of numerous patrons throughout the Sunshine State.

As Walker's friend, Catherine Appleton Peay, long-time friend and owner of the Brier Patch, said in an article in the *The Laurel Magazine* of the Highlands, "Jo Ann constantly works to expand her abilities.

Whether she is painting a red barn on Buck Creek Road, a quiet lake near Cashiers or the sunrise in Cortana, Italy, Jo Ann tries her darnedest to inspire each of us."

As for Walker, she views her work as poetry captured in paints.

"Painting can seem like music? Since I can't sing a note myself, I hope my paintings can sing for me," she said in a statement. "This is a case of, 'The pictures don't do it justice.' I wish you could see this painting to see what I mean; if this one isn't singing, it surely is humming loudly."

The Sallie & Harmon Boyette sing the songs of Walker.



Art by Jo Ann Williams Walker.



Art by Jo Ann Williams Walker.

## GALLERY

**What:** Artist Jo Ann Williams' "Impressions of Color" is exhibited in Sallie & Harmon Boyette Gallery; along with artists Todd Bertolaet and David Wharton's "Photographs from the American South," Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery; Joel Dion and Marty Haythorn, the center's artists in residence, Josette's Gallery; instructor Julie Smith, Roberta George Children's Gallery.

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

**Run dates:** Exhibits run through Oct. 28.

**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.