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# Community Archives - Turner Center for the Arts Scrapbook Collection

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2015-2017

## Turner Center Binder 11 2015-2017

Turner Center for the Arts

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For this and additional works see: [Vtext - Scholarly Texts and Research at Valdosta State University](#)

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'Rail Line at Davis Electric,' artist Todd Wessel.

## Valdosta Impressions

Artist impresses in center exhibit

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gatlnews.com

VALDOSTA — Looking at Todd Wessel's paintings is like imagining a French impressionist awakening in South Georgia.

The bright yellow of the old Southern Salvage building sits on the downtown horizon like a setting sun.

Traffic lights bloom like petals in a painting of North Patterson Street running past First United Methodist Church.

A railroad track fades into the rich textures of a Valdosta-area sky.

Walking through Wessel's "Impressionist Landscapes" exhibit in Sallie & Harmon Boyette Gallery of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts is like looking into windows of possibilities. The here and now of a painting school from another century.

Growing up in the Pennsylvania farm country north of Pittsburgh, Wessel graduated from Penn State with a bachelor of fine arts with an emphasis on oil painting, according to a biography provided by the arts center.

"I really enjoy trying to capture scenes showing how color can cause images to look three-dimensional and appear close or far away," Wessel said in an artistic statement. "I've read that Edgar Degas said art is not what you see, but what you make others see."

"It's really quite amazing that in the end you're taking a flat canvas and letting the eye see images and scenes that jump

### GALLERY

**What:** Todd Wessel's "Impressionist Landscapes" is on display in the Sallie & Harmon Boyette Gallery; along with Carol Jo Smidt's "Colors of Life," Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery; Glenn Simmions' "Reborn," Josette's Gallery; City of Valdosta annual People's Choice Photography Contest, Tillman Gallery; Art Explorations Student Exhibition, Roberta George Children's Gallery.

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

**Run dates:** Shows continue through July 27.

**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:** visit [www.turnercenter.org](http://www.turnercenter.org); or call (229) 247-2787.

out at you or fade away off in the distance."

Wessel paints his canvases in broad strokes from a palette of vivid colors.

"Some people say my art looks better from far away, which I usually take as a compliment, although they say that I also look better from far away," Wessel noted. "I think too that each painting tells a story, and in some ways I guess it's my personal diary as well as portraying cultures as landscapes."

Wessel captures often breathtaking impressions into the heart of Valdosta landscapes.



'Planting Carrots,' artist Todd Wessel.



'Old Southern Salvage Building,' artist Todd Wessel.



'Delta Blues Man,' artist Glenn Simmions.

## Artist 'Reborn' in center exhibit

BY DEAN POLING  
dean.poling@gafnews.com

### GALLERY

VALDOSTA — Artist Glenn Simmions is an explorer. He seeks new perspectives through various styles and medium. He tells stories often unseen on canvases or in three-dimensional form. Simmions has described his artistic life as "a journey to enlightenment and self-discovery." His paintings explore rural and urban African-American communities. His sculptures incorporate metal and glass items into a reflection of the people and scenes around him. "The sculptures are created from discarded

and found materials, likening the use as a metaphor for, "how Christ is able to take broken lives and make them whole," Simmions noted in an artist's statement. He brings it all together with his "Reborn" exhibit at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

**What:** Glenn Simmions' "Reborn" is on exhibit in Jo-sette's Gallery; along with Todd Wessel's "Impressionist Landscapes," Sallie & Harmon Boyette Gallery; along with Carol Jo Smidt's "Colors of Life," Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery; City of Valdosta annual People's Choice Photography Contest, Tillman Gallery; Art Explorations Student Exhibition, Roberta George Children's Gallery.

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'New Guitar,' artist Glenn Simmions.



'Cherry Street,' artist Glenn Simmions.

## NEXSTEP:

other sites and having other sites link back to the client's site, headings, title of the page, images, words in the URL bar, key words and if the page is optimized for mobile devices all affect search engine rankings, she said. Ascend writes the blogs and will often link coupons to the client in the blog.

Offers work through discounts and email marketing.

The discounts are often offered to customers who subscribe to the client's email or are offered via social media webpages and blogs, said Shenton.

Email marketing is accomplished through a nurturing campaign or by sending a series of emails, she said.

The nurturing campaign is when a customer visits a client's website and he or she receives emails based on what he or she viewed and clicked on, said Creative Director Steven Carter.

When a customer is entered into a series of emails he or she receives an email every few days from the business to help keep the business in the customer's top of mind, said Shenton.

The top of mind is particularly useful for service industries where customer's are shopping around, she said. It helps keep the client's business on the customer's mind when they are thinking about purchasing a service.

Contests are made up by Ascend and are sent to the client for approval, she said. The client may tweak the idea and send it back to us. It is more of a collaborative effort.

We keep our videos capped at two minutes, said Shenton. Instagram videos can only be 60 seconds.

When a customer is scrolling through Facebook they have one hundred different things vying for his or her attention, said Carter. The videos need to be short enough so that the customer is willing to spend the time to watch it.

The types of videos include recipe videos, instructional videos, videos featuring items of products, quick tips or an interview with some one in the company, said Carter. The type of video is really contingent on the type of business the client has.

For social media Ascend will make whatever social media page the client wants, Shenton said. Ascend also helps provide content for the page and helps maintain it per their contract with the client.

"We publish X amount of posts per week according to what we agreed to do," she said. "But if the client wants to post more on their own that is great too."

"You try to keep [the page] fun and engaging," she said. Most of the posts should be interactive with customers base and non-promotional.

"If you aren't careful [social media] can have adverse affects," Carter said. Posting offensive or poorly thought out content can alienate customers.

Ascend also offers a report for clients so he or she can see how effective the inbound marketing techniques are.

Ascend partners with Hubspot, a marketing tool that helps collect data, to make the reports, Shenton said. The reports include how many of the emails



Agency Director Anne Shenton at her stand up desk at Ascend Inbound Marketing and Nexstep's offices.

JASON A. SMITH | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES



Creative Director Steven Carter in his office at Ascend Inbound Marketing and Nexstep's offices.

JASON A. SMITH | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

are opened, the number of purchases made by customers and which services are bringing in traffic.

The reports also include attribution reporting, Carter said. Attribution reports show demographics on who is buying or is interested in the client's product. This report can help clients know if it best to publish new content at 6 p.m. or at 11 p.m. to reach the target demographic most effectively.

"We like to think we are the marketing team for businesses

that do not have one," said Carter

Along with inbound marketing Ascend also builds websites and helps maintain them similarly to how it builds and maintains social media pages, but website creation is where the business started.

"It's something that has quietly grown," Shenton said. "Customers started asking Nexstep if it would build them websites."

"We either had to outsource or tell them no," said Chief Technology Officer Stuart Avera.

Shenton felt like more could

be done when Nexstep did build the requested websites.

"I felt like clients were not getting the most out of their websites," Shenton said. "I felt like we could really put their websites to work."

"All of the websites we build are mobile friendly," said Carter. With Ascend and Nexstep having so much involvement in their client's business

Avera made it clear they keep all of their client's data private.

"We work for companies that are competitive by nature," Avera

said. "At our core we don't share information between businesses, so that each can maintain its competitive edge."

Ascend Inbound Marketing is located at 3256 N. Valdosta Road. Its offices are located in the same building as Nexstep. Its office hours are 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

It can be reached at 855-399-2288, [www.ascendinbound.com](http://www.ascendinbound.com), by email at [climb@ascendinbound.com](mailto:climb@ascendinbound.com) or at [www.facebook.com/ascendinbound](http://www.facebook.com/ascendinbound).

# Nexxtep climbs forward with new division

BY JASON A. SMITH

jason.smith@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — Nexxtep has officially made Ascend Inbound Marketing a separate division of its company.

While the mother company Nexxtep provides technical support for small to medium sized businesses, Ascend focuses on inbound marketing as opposed to traditional marketing techniques.

Traditional marketing techniques would be push marketing, said Agency Director Anne Shenton. Push marketing is when a company pushes a product onto the consumer, like cold calling.

"Inbound marketing's idea is to attract people who would naturally be your customer," said Shenton.

Ascend achieves the goal through blog posts, offers, contest, videos and social media, she explained.

Blog posts are made to have content that affects how highly rated the blog post is on search engine ranking.

"A lot of it things dictate search engine ranking," said Shenton.

How credible the client's website is via linking to



JASON A. SMITH | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Front End Developer John Fuller, Agency Director Anne Shenton, Creative Director Steven Carter and Chief Technology Officer Stuart Avera at Ascend Inbound Marketing and Nexxtep's offices.

See Nexxtep on 3C

# PSST! cast finds 'Nice Work'

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gaffnews.com

VALDOSTA — Chance Wall hasn't performed on the stage of Sawyer Theatre for a while.

At least not until this summer when he returned to perform in Peach State Summer Theatre productions of "Ring of Fire," where he serves as something akin to a Johnny Cash-strumming ringmaster of an ensemble cast, and "Nice Work If You Can Get It" as wealthy playboy

Jimmy Winter.

Longtime PSST! and Valdosta State University Theatre & Dance patrons will likely recall Wall's familiar face.

Prior to his 2013 graduation, he performed in VSU Theatre & Dance productions of "Pippin!" in the title role, "The Would-Be Gentleman," "State Fair," "The Oresteia" playing Orestes; he was Romeo in "Romeo and Juliet."

He was featured as a dance pro in a production of the theatre/dance/mu-

sic scholarship fundraiser "Dancing with the Valdosta Stars."

He was in a past PSST! season of shows that included "Hairspray," "The Jungle Book" and "Carousel."

Since, Wall has worked across the country in musical theatre, from shows in the Texas Shakespeare Theatre to children's theatre in Missouri to the Cumberland County Playhouse where he performed in

See PSST! on 8A



DEAN POLING | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Jeani Synyard, Jacque Wheeler, Megan Wheeler and Chance Wall star in the Peach State Summer Theatre production of 'Nice Work If You Can Get It.'

eight musicals during nine months.

And Wall already knows what he will be doing for several months following the current PSST! season.

He will perform in the Great Plains Theatre and following that run he plays rocker Carl Perkins in a production of "The Million Dollar Quartet."

"You learn to be constantly in search of employment," Wall said of working as a professional actor. He tries booking his employment schedule four to six months in advance.

For now, Wall's mind is on PSST!

At the time of this interview, his mind was specifically on "Nice Work If You Can Get It," which has since opened.

Wall and "Nice Work" co-stars Megan Wheeler, Jacque Wheeler and Jeani Synyard gathered to talk about the third musical in the PSST! 2016 season.

"Nice Work" is a madcap comedy framed around the songs of George and Ira Gershwin. A rich playboy and the female leader of a bumbling crew of bootleggers fall for one another in this contemporary show set in the Prohibition days of the 1920s.

Megan Wheeler plays Billie Bendix, the bootlegger leader and love interest of Wall's Jimmy Winter.

Jacque Wheeler plays Duchess Estonia Dulworth, an anti-drinking crusader.

Synyard plays the tough-talking mother of Jimmy Winter.

For Megan Wheeler, the role of Billie caps a busy PSST! season. She also stars as Belle in "Beauty and the Beast" and is a member of the "Ring of Fire" ensemble.

It's been two years since she has performed with PSST! She has had many memorable roles with Peach State and during her time as a stu-

dent with VSU Theatre & Dance.

Megan Wheeler has worked in professional theatre in New York for several years. She recently moved to Atlanta to be closer to her Valdosta roots and to work in the growing Georgia and Florida theatre markets.

Throughout her current PSST! performances, Megan Wheeler belts out song after pitch-perfect song. Long-time PSST! and VSU Theatre audiences who recall her past performances may wonder if she keeps getting better.

"I feel like I'm just coming into my prime," she said. "I continue to grow and appreciate that feedback."

"I don't know if she just keeps getting better or if we forget having not heard her for a couple of years that she's always been that good," Synyard said.

Performing in a musical is new for the Valdosta resident. She operated two dance studios in Arkansas before her move to Valdosta a dozen years ago.

She is a leading supporter of the arts in the area. Her involvement includes the Valdosta Symphony Guild, Music Scholarship Alliance, and president of the PSST! board.

She is a regular organizer of the annual Dancing with the Valdosta Stars and she is a regular audience member for PSST! shows and other area theatrical performances.

With her late entrance in "Nice Work," Synyard spent the majority of the first act of a full dress rehearsal watching the action from the audience seats.

Being on the other side is daunting, Synyard said.

"I feel like a fish out of water," she said prior to opening night last week. "The cast is so professional and they take good care of me."

She said Jacque Wheeler and Duke Guthrie, PSST! managing director, talked her into taking the role.

Jacque Wheeler is Megan's mother and wife of "Nice Work" director Randy Wheeler. She is the PSST! artistic director and directed "Beauty and the Beast."

She is a VSU Theatre professor, a playwright and is the recipient of the Leighton Ballew Award for Distinguished Service to Theatre in Georgia and an inaugural recipient of the Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Award.

Playing the Duchess marks her first performance in four years, possibly one of the longest stretches of not performing in Wheeler's professional life in theatre.

She has performed in past PSST! productions of "Gypsy," "Thoroughly Modern Millie," "White Christmas," "The Light in the Piazza."

Given her career, audiences may think Jacque Wheeler is ready to perform on the first day of rehearsal. She is but she is ready because of advanced preparation.

For the Duchess, Wheeler began training months prior to first rehearsals with Carol Mikkelsen, a retired VSU voice professor.

Yet, as Jacque Wheeler said, every performer in PSST! works with vocal coaches. And though she is the Peach State artistic director, she is a member of the cast in "Nice Work."

Peach State Summer Theatre's "Nice Work If You Can Get It" continues 2 p.m. Saturday and in rotating repertory through mid-July, Sawyer Theatre, VSU Fine Arts Building, corner of Oak and Brookwood. Reservations, more information: Visit [www.valdosta.edu/psst](http://www.valdosta.edu/psst); or call (229) 259-7770.

# Celebrations & Lifestyles

www.valdostadailytimes.com

Sunday, July 17, 2016

5C

## Will of the People

### People's Choice winners named Monday

BY DEAN POLING

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VALDOSTA — The Valdosta People's Choice Photo Contest has become an annual treasure at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

Monday, the winners of the eighth annual contest are scheduled to be announced.

Mostly non-traditional artists and amateur photographers share images that delve into the personality of the city.

They find different views of familiar landmarks.

The discover unknown or under-appreciated scenes from the city.

They highlight new faces of the people populating the city.

For a month, visitors to the Annette Howell Turner Center of the Arts could vote on favorite images in five categories.

**The 2016 categories are:**

• Planes & Trains (and other transportation in the city). Sponsored by the

South Georgia Regional Commission & MPO.

• Paws & Claws (for animal lovers). Sponsored by the Lowndes County Animal Shelter.

• Trees & Bees (and other nature wonders). Sponsored by Georgia Power.

• Faces & Places (photographers' favorites). Sponsored by Valdosta Main Street.

• Sites & Lights (potential film & movie locations in the city). Sponsored by the Valdosta-Lowndes County Tourism Authority.

The contest also awards a \$200 cash prize for Best of Show.

All photos must be taken within the Valdosta city limits. Participating photographers do not have to live in Valdosta but the photos must be within Valdosta.

After the winners are announced, the show remains on exhibit for a few more days in the arts center's Tillman Gallery.

It will travel to various other city locations in the coming weeks.

### GALLERY

City of Valdosta annual People's Choice Photography Contest is on exhibit in the Tillman Gallery; along with Glenn Simmions' "Reborn," Josette's Gallery; Todd Wessel's "Impressionist Landscapes," Sallie & Harmon Boyette Gallery; Carol Jo Smidt's "Colors of Life," Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery; Art Explorations Student Exhibition, Roberta George Children's Gallery.

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

**Contest winners reception:** 5-7 p.m. Monday, July 18.

**Run dates:** Shows continue through July 27.

**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:** visit [www.turnercenter.org](http://www.turnercenter.org); or call (229) 247-2787.



'Southern Silhouette' by H. Aaron Strickland. A past honorable mention in the Valdosta People's Choice Photo Contest.



Untitled image by Joshua C. Lynch. A past first-place winner in the Valdosta People's Choice Photo Contest.



## Turning trash into treasure

BY DESIREE CARVER  
desiree.carver@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — The City of Valdosta and the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts are teaming up to give artists in Valdosta a chance to leave their mark on the city through a public Dumpster Art project.

Artists can submit designs for the dumpster which will then be reviewed. Chosen artists will then have the opportunity to paint one of three dumpsters in town with their designs. The three dumpsters to be painted are located on the north side of Valdosta City Hall, at the Turner Center for the Arts and on

McKey Street.

According to a press release from the City of Valdosta, the team that will select the winning designs will be seeking artwork that "reflects the community spirit of downtown based on the artist's application, description and design."

The project selection team will include at least one member of the City of Valdosta, Turner Center for the Arts, Valdosta Main Street, Public Art Advisory Committee and the Central Valdosta Development Authority.

There will be no fee for artists to enter and some paints and supplies will be

provided. The dumpsters will be steam cleaned and have a fresh coat of primer and blue base paint prior to the start of the artist's work.

Entries must be mailed or hand-delivered to the Valdosta Main Street Office, located at 300 N. Lee Street by 5 p.m. August 31.

Final designs will be chosen Sept. 12 and selected artists will be able to pick up a preparation packet Sept. 13-16. The winning artists will be onsite Sept. 17 completing their works.

For more information or for an entry form, visit [valdosta.com/dumpster-art](http://valdosta.com/dumpster-art) or contact Valdosta Main Street at (229) 259-3577.

## Service negotiations strike a stand-still

BY JENNIFER DANDRON  
jennifer.dandron@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — With a looming deadline to submit a service delivery agreement to the state of Georgia, county and city officials from Lowndes County and the five incorporated cities met Wednesday morning for a negotiation or lack thereof.

The meeting, called by the City of Valdosta, ended with Lowndes County Commission Chairman Bill Slaughter saying only one of the items introduced by the municipalities is a matter for discussion but the rest should remain as the status quo.

"Lowndes County was comfortable and satisfied with where the service delivery strategy is currently," Slaughter said. "There are things we could've brought to the table and probably should've brought to the table ... but I encouraged staff to make this as simple and easy as possible. We haven't changed in this community a lot in 10 years. There is only one item ready for discussion and that's the intergovernmental water and sew-

age service areas. That's the only item we see as discussable."

The service delivery strategy must be re-negotiated and submitted to the state every 10 years. The purpose of the negotiations is to eliminate double taxation for taxpayers.

Other talking points included a county-wide litter control program, the expansion of Keep Lowndes/Valdosta Beautiful, joint funding for the James H. Rainwater Conference Center and the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, listing the Valdosta Regional Crime Lab as a county-wide service and requiring the county pay a fee based on its usage of the crime lab.

Litter control was established as a priority for the county and cities at the community planning meeting held at the beginning of the year. Slaughter said establishing a litter program would require cooperative effort but no major discussions are taking place.

"Litter control is important to this community, whether it's in an incorporated or unincor-

See Service on 8A

### SERVICE: Crime lab use questioned during meeting

porated area," Slaughter said. "We want the best program we can develop within Lowndes County. I don't feel like KLVB is able to handle all the maintenance. I don't think they have the resources now, and they wouldn't have it with the budget presented."

As it stands, Valdosta subsidizes the conference center for a cost of \$300,000 a year. The county subsidizes \$50,000.

"You're choosing to spend your taxpayer's money," Slaughter said. "Lowndes County chooses to fund the authorities based on the statutes."

Slaughter said joint funding of an entity does not require equal funding.

Valdosta officials have requested Lowndes County pay a larger sum for using the Valdosta-Lowndes Regional Crime Lab.

"The crime lab is being used by the county to the extent almost as much as the city is using it," Valdosta Mayor John

Gayle said.

Slaughter said the choice to use the crime lab is solely the sheriff's decision, including the choice not to use the Valdosta lab. He said the sheriff is an elected official unlike a police chief, meaning the sheriff answers to the electorate and not the commissioners.

"He (the sheriff) can take his business anywhere he wants," he said. "We can try to encourage a constitutional officer to go into a direction but those decisions are the sheriff's."

Officials said they hope to reach an agreement by Aug. 31 to give the state enough time to review it and offer comments. The official deadline is Oct. 1.

Another negotiation meeting has not been scheduled yet.

"This is a benefit to the taxpayers to make sure they're not double taxed, but it drives a wedge between the communities," Slaughter said.



DESIREE CARVER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Megan Ford won Youth Best in Show at the Eighth Annual Valdosta People's Choice Photo Contest.

# Picturesque Valdosta

## Winners named in photo contest

BY DESIREE CARVER  
desiree.carver@gaffnews.com

VALDOSTA — The Eighth Annual Valdosta People's Choice Photo Contest honored its winners with a reception Monday at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

The contest, born of a partnership between the City of Valdosta and the Turner Center, features different photo categories each year with a hope of "opening eyes to what Valdosta is and what makes us Valdosta," Valdosta Public Information Officer Semantha Mathews said.

"We do it because it's a great opportunity for citizens of all ages to participate in the community," Mathews said. "These photos are used to decorate facilities, in brochures and for lots of different things."

Winners were selected based on votes from the community. Mayor John Gayle presented the awards to winners in each category.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

'Butterfly Kisses' by Pricilla Sumner took the 2016 Best in Show place at the Eighth Annual Valdosta People's Choice Photo Contest.

"These photos are a reflection and show off our community which we are so proud of," Gayle said.

Best In Show went to Pricilla Sumner for "But-

terfly Kisses" and Youth Best In Show was given to "Cloudy with a Chance of Trains" by Megan Ford.

The youth win marked Ford's second best in show.

She, along with her parents, Beth and Jeff, and sister Mackenzie, have been entering photos into the

See Contest on 12A

**CONTEST: Artwork on display until July 23**

show since 2009.

Family members said they go out to take photos together, critique each other's work and help come up with titles for the photos.

In the "Planes and Trains" category, sponsored by Metropolitan Planning Organization, honorable mention went to "At a Standstill" by Leo Soileau and first place went to "Forgotten" by Nicholai Courtenay.

The Lowndes County Animal Shelter sponsored the "Paws and Claws" category with honorable mention going to "Just Chillin'" by Sarah Wells and first place to "Lazy Dayz" by Elizabeth M. Roy.

The "Trees and Bees" category was sponsored by Georgia Power. Honorable mention was given to "Reflection" by Martin T. Smith and first place to "Southern Beauty" by Sherri Gregory.

In "Faces and Places," sponsored by Valdosta Main Street, honorable mention was given to Isabel Fernald for "Carwash" and first place went to "Flexing in Nature" by Christopher Capers.

The Valdosta-Lowndes County Tourism Authority sponsored the "Sites and Lights" category with honorable mention going to T.J. Taylor for "Chase Your Dreams" and first place to "City Nights" by Nicholai Courtenay.

All the photographs featured in the contest will remain on display through July 23 and will then become part of a traveling display.

# NOT JUST NEWS

• A Public Art Project •



## Call to Artists:

The Valdosta Daily Times invites artists to participate in a public art project by painting a newspaper rack with a design of their own creation!

**\$500**  
in cash prizes

*will be divided between the top three racks chosen as the best of the project!*

## Applications available at:

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

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

Turner Center for the Arts  
527 N. Patterson Street

The Valdosta Daily Times  
201 N. Troup Street

Completed applications, including a sketched mockup, are due by **August 10, 2016.**

Presented by

The Valdosta Daily Times



# Celebrations & Lifestyles



'Flexing in Nature,' artist Christopher Capers.



'Southern Beauty,' artist Sherri Gregory.

## And the Winners are

A look at the top images in photo contest

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — A butterfly, a dog's face, a dancer, an old auto, a close-up of a tree trunk and a new look at an iconic downtown scene took top honors last week during the winner announcements for the Eighth Annual Valdosta People's Choice Photo Contest.

Sponsored by the City of Valdosta with photographs showcased at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, the contest highlights the talents of Valdosta-area photographers through images emphasizing the assets of the Valdosta area.

All photographs are required to be taken within the Valdosta city limits, according to city officials.

Prior to announcing the winners, the public had approximately a month to vote on favorite photographs at the arts center.

Best In Show went to Pricilla Sumner for "Butterfly Kisses" and Youth Best In Show was given to "Cloudy with a Chance of Trains" by Megan Ford.

In the "Planes and Trains" category, sponsored by Metropolitan Planning Organization, honorable mention went to "At a Standstill" by Leo

Soileau and first place went to "Forgotten" by Nicholai Courtenay.

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The Valdosta-Lowndes County Tourism Authority sponsored the "Sites and Lights" category with honorable mention going to T.J. Taylor for "Chase Your Dreams" and first place to "City Nights" by Nicholai Courtenay.

The winning photographs and all of the entries remain on exhibit through Wednesday at the arts center. In coming weeks, the winners' photos will begin a tour of various locations throughout the city.



'Lazy Dayz,' artist Elizabeth M. Roy.

### GALLERY

City of Valdosta annual People's Choice Photography

Contest is on exhibit in the Tillman Gallery; along with Glenn

Simmions' "Reborn," Josette's Gallery; Todd Wessel's "Impressionist Landscapes," Sallie & Harmon Boyette Gallery; Carol Jo Smidt's "Colors of Life,"

Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery; Art Explorations Student Exhibition, Roberta George Children's

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**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:** visit [www.turnercenter.org](http://www.turnercenter.org); or call (229) 247-2787.

# The Times offers racks for public art

**BY DEAN POLING**

dean.poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — The newspaper hopes to rack up more public art for the area.

The Valdosta Daily Times and the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts are partnering to present "Not Just News: A Public Art Project."

The Times is offering 14 newspaper racks to serve as public canvases for area artists, said Andrew Wardle,

the newspaper circulation director.

The Times asks artists to submit designs and applications by Aug. 10. Fourteen designs will be selected and materials provided so the chosen artists can place their artworks onto the newspaper racks.

Once completed, three of the racks will be selected as the best of the project, Wardle said, and \$500 in cash prizes will be divided among the top three artists.

Wardle said the racks will be distributed to sell newspapers at sites

primarily within the Valdosta city limits.

The project answers the public arts commission call for more businesses to participate in creating public works of art, Wardle said.

Applications are available at The Times, 201 N. Troup St., [valdostadailytimes.com](http://valdostadailytimes.com); and the arts center, 527 N. Patterson St., [www.turnercenter.org](http://www.turnercenter.org).

See ad in the Sunday edition of The Valdosta Daily Times for more information.

# Celebrations & Lifestyles

www.valdostadailytimes.com

Sunday, July 31, 2016

7C



'Hedgerow Covey,' artist David Lanier.

## New exhibits opening at Turner Arts Center

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — Glass works, paintings and a revue of works by a beloved art teacher are the new exhibits opening Monday at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

Artist David Lanier's "Paintings" will be on exhibit in the Sallie & Harmon Boyette Gallery.

Grace Halter's collection of blown glass by artist Bill Slade will be on exhibit in the Price-Campbell Gallery.

Patsy Smith: A Retrospective will be on exhibit in Josette's Gallery.

Turner Center Summer Art Camp Student Exhibition will be on exhibit in the Roberta George Children's Gallery.

The exhibits open with a free, public reception, 5-7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 1, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.

The exhibits will be on exhibit Aug. 1 through Sept. 14.

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



A painting by artist Patsy Smith.

days (with exception of scheduled receptions). Admission: Free.

**More information:** Call (229) 247-2787; or visit [www.turnercenter.org](http://www.turnercenter.org).



Artist Josh Taylor displays his artwork, 'The Lion of Judah,' with Cheryl Oliver, arts center executive director, and Bill Shenton, gallery director. The center recently acquired 'The Lion of Judah' as part of its permanent collection.

## Arts center sculpture roars

BY DEAN POLING  
dean.poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — The Lion of Judah runs throughout the Bible, from the symbol of the Hebrew tribe of Judah in Genesis to representing Jesus in the Book of Revelation.

"The Lion of Judah" now stands poised outside of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

The arts center acquired the metal sculpture "The Lion of Judah" by area artist Josh Taylor last week, said Cheryl Oliver, center executive director.

The sculpture had been on loan at the center since April 2015.

"The lion has attracted the attention of and has provided impressive photo ops for countless visitors," Oliver said.

But this April, the lion left so

Taylor could enter the sculpture in "Auxilium," the Valdosta State University spring senior art exhibition. Taylor was among the graduating VSU art seniors participating in the exhibit.

"The lion was missed so much at the Turner Center that we mounted a campaign to acquire it as a permanent fixture," Oliver said.

Taylor said he used a variety of scrap steel, rebar, engine parts and old tools to make the sculpture.

The Bible was his inspiration.

"My inspiration came from the biblical description of Jesus Christ's character, in being called the Lion of Judah," Taylor said. "Christianity is a huge part of what I do as an artist. Many of my pieces comprise of concepts and ideas stemming from the Bible." Revelation 5:5 reads, "And one

of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof."

Taylor, 23, is a Valdosta native. Since graduating in the spring, he's been working with a production company called Event Point. He and a coworker, a videographer, are planning to launch a creative media company that will work in conjunction with Event Point, he said.

Taylor will continue his studio work and plans to branch out into logo and stage design. Oliver said several donors, many of whom serve on the Lowndes-Valdosta Arts Commission Board of Directors, made the acquisition possible. The public is invited to see the sculpture at the center, 527 N. Patterson St., she said.



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# The Art of Mrs. Smith

Center features art teacher retrospective

- By Dean Poling dean.poling@gafnews.com
- Aug 28, 2016

Art by Patsy

0



Smith.

VALDOSTA — She had a way with kids and art.

She had a way with generations of young artists.



Patricia Carroll Smith spoke with enthusiasm of her students and their art.

Known better as Patsy Smith, or probably even better as Mrs. Smith to her thousands of students, she taught art for decades to Valdosta High School students.

Upon retirement, she continued teaching art for several more years at Valwood School.

Each spring, she would invite The Valdosta Daily Times to her Valwood art classes to take photos of the students who won the top prizes in the school art show. Each year, she would extol the virtues and talents of her students. And each year, she would say she might retire, maybe, possibly, come the end of next year.

Each year, she was still there, right up until her passing a few years ago.

Totaled, she taught art for more than 55 years in a career that stretched back to her start in the 1950s with the city school system.

But she was also an artist.

Smith often painted alongside her students. She painted and drew and created because she felt it instructed her students. She felt it did them good to see her create and overcome challenges in the creative process.

She did it because, like teaching, she had to do it.

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts is presenting a retrospective of her art work. The show is infused with the spirit, the energy, the caring, the creative spark and the smile from the woman known by so many as Mrs. Smith.

## The Art of Mrs. Smith

### Center features art teacher retrospective'

BY DEAN POLING  
dean.poling@gafnews.com

#### GALLERY

**What:** Patsy Smith: A Retrospective is on exhibit in Josette's Gallery; along with artist David Lanier's "Paintings," Sallie & Harmon Boyette Gallery; Grace Halter's collection of blown glass by artist Bill Slade, Price-Campbell Gallery; Turner Center Summer Art Camp Student Exhibition, Roberta George Children's Gallery.

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

**Run dates:** The exhibits will be on exhibit Aug. 1 through Sept. 14.

**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 scheduled receptions).

**Admission:** Free.

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

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Patricia Carroll Smith was a lifelong native of Val-

dosta, Georgia where she raised her family and taught art for over 55 years. Patsy received an art education degree from the University of Georgia and began her teaching career with the Valdosta City School System in the mid 1950's. Patsy's talents were soon recognized and capitalized on as she quickly earned the title of the Wildcat Lady. Patsy's distinct wildcat icon was seen on items that ranged from billboards to drinking glasses. Patsy shared her talents and the love of art with hundreds of Valdosta City School students for forty years. After retiring from the Valdosta City School System, Patsy continued to provide art instruction at Valwood School. Patsy's longevity in the classroom was evidence that she loved school and truly loved young people. Patsy touched lives exponentially through her service and witty personality. At her passing in June 2013, hundreds of Patsy's former students, her cherubs as she called them, were deeply saddened.

Over the span of Patsy's career as an artist, she went through many phases of medium, styles and subject choices; however, Patsy's paintings are distinctly colorful, bold, and often

times whimsical, primarily using acrylics, watercolors, colored pencils, or perhaps a combination of mediums. The subjects of her paintings were usually from nature, although she focused much of her time and talents towards designing team logos and mascots for her beloved Georgia Bulldogs, Valdosta Wildcats, and Valwood Valiants. Patsy's still lifes were often family members' items such as a grandchild's toys, her husband's hunting equipment, or simply her son's jeans hanging from a coat rack. Patsy was a master calligraphist and generously shared this skill by dedicating hours preparing wedding invitations and poetry for others.

Like most artists, Patsy's talents became more refined in her later years. She rarely went a day without using her gifts as she served others though her artwork. Patsy shared happiness though her art, but she also had a gift of making anyone she came in contact with smile and laugh. She passionately served her family and this community with her love of life and her artistic ability. Her legacy lives on within the thousands of artworks that remain and the passion for art that she instilled in so many.



Art by Patsy Smith.

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Wednesday, August 17, 2016

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## TV anchor joins 'American Soundtrack'

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — The latest "American Soundtrack" has signed a special guest performer.

WALB-TV "Today in Georgia" anchor Karla Heath-Sands will join area residents to sing during the fourth annual music production, said Cheryl Oliver, executive director of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

The arts center sponsors the event this weekend at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center.

Ed Barr, leader of the orchestra for the event, booked Heath-Sands as part of the entertainment for "American Soundtrack IV," Oliver said.

Though best known for delivering the news during the WALB morning broadcast, Heath-Sands has been performing throughout her life.

A 1984 graduate of Mercer University, she performed with the Mercer Singers. She also lent her voice to the talent portion of her pageant days when she participated in the Miss America Pageant system as Miss Macon and placed fourth runner-up to Miss Georgia 1982 and as Miss Brunswick-Golden Isles 1985, placing second runner-up, according to her biography information.

She has also performed on stage at Six Flags Over

Georgia in the "Crystal Pistol" (1989), was a semi-finalist for "Star Search" and was selected as a quarterfinalist for the 1997 Savannah on Stage International Vocal Competition, according to her biography.

"She has also performed as a guest soloist with the Macon Symphony Orchestra, the Atlanta Pops Orchestra, the Albany Symphony and Opera Albany and was invited to sing the National Anthem in Kurobe, Japan as part of the Cherry Blossom Festival (April 13-23) in 1998," according to information provided by the arts center. "Karla has appeared on BET's "Bobby Jones Gospel Hour" and has been a featured singer with the Bob Cummings Band for almost 30 years."

In addition to Heath-Sands, "American Soundtrack" is scheduled to feature area singers and musicians include Rob Evans, Donna Adams, Wendy Colson, 2River Station, Taurence Phillips, Jerry Newman, Mary Peeples, Michael Bo Griner, Craig Ward, Robert Plummer, the Valdosta Tappers and many more.

The Ed Barr Orchestra will perform.

Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts presents "American Soundtrack Volume IV," 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 20, James H. Rainwater Conference Center, off Norman Drive. Tickets:



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Karla Heath-Sands is scheduled to sing.

\$60, per person; \$110, couple. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served; cash bar. More information; www.

turnercenter.org; or visit the arts center, 527 N. Patterson St.; or call (229) 247-2787.

# A Round Of Applause

Here is another round of applause for individuals and organizations doing great things in the community.

**Minister John Iverson** took the South Georgia job of ministering at Southside Church of Christ to be closer to his ailing mother in Jacksonville, Fla. That was 37 years ago. "I never thought I would be in Valdosta for 37 years," Iverson said. "It's amazing how the Lord works in your life." Southside Church of Christ observes Iverson's anniversary Saturday with a special service hosted by Central Church of Christ. He is a "hard worker for the community and the church," according to information provided by Southside. "He has a hard job, but because he is a noble and wise man, he stays and works harder for the Lord and the Lord's people."

**The Valdosta Kiwanis Club** recently hosted its second annual membership night at Steel Magnolias. The event was attended by more than 80 people. "This was our opportunity to open up our doors to potential new members," said Nearing Adams, Kiwanis Club immediate past president. "We would like the public to hear about what we do for the children of our community and our world. We have several annual fundraisers each year that allow us to support local youth."

**Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Section of the National Council of Negro Women** held its annual new member orientation last month. The organization hosts the event for new and current members to revisit the mission, goals, structure and initiatives of both the national and local section. Section President Tiffany Vinson shared her vision of the section and Historian Kelisa Brown provided the history of the national and local section. Second Vice President Victoria Copeland provided information on membership responsibilities while First Vice President Gloria Butler introduced the various committees the section currently has.

**Jimmy Ray McGraw** recently retired from the Valdosta Police Department, according to the VPD. McGraw spent 25 years with the VPD where he worked as a patrol officer, sergeant, detective, and criminalist. He ended his career as a nationally certified latent print examiner and crime scene technician, according to a release from the police department. "He also was one of the key developers in helping us build a crime lab from scratch to get it where it is today, a nationally accredited laboratory serving several cities and counties," said Valdosta Police Chief Brian Childress. "Jimmy Ray also dedicated countless hours over his career cooking food for special events at the police department and for the community. He is what a police officer should be, a dedicated professional and a good, caring man."

"**The Lion of Judah**" now stands poised outside of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. The arts center acquired the metal sculpture "The Lion of Judah" by area artist Josh Taylor last week, said Cheryl Oliver, center executive director. The sculpture had been on loan at the center since April 2015. "The lion has attracted the attention of and has provided impressive photo ops for countless visitors," Oliver said. But this April, the lion left so Taylor could enter the sculpture in "Auxilium," the Valdosta State University spring senior art exhibition. Taylor was among the graduating VSU art seniors participating in the exhibit. "The lion was missed so much at the Turner Center that we mounted a campaign to acquire it as a permanent fixture," Oliver said.



FILE PHOTO | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Michelle Sheets looks at ceramic bowls for an Empty Bowls event in the early 2000s.

## BOWLS: Delivery deadline is set for Sept. 14 to the Center for the Arts

Bowls should be delivered by Sept. 14 to the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.

Michael Schmidt, a ceramics artist and the new associate dean of Valdosta State University College of the Arts, worked closely with the original Empty Bowls events several years ago.

He said he is working again for the latest event to ensure bowls are available.

## MORE INFO

For more information: Contact Bill Shenton at the Turner Center for the Arts: bshenton@turnercenter.org, or call (229) 247-2787; or contact Eliza McCall at Second Harvest of South Georgia: EMcCall@feedingsga.org, or call (229) 469-6925.

Wednesday, August 17, 2016



FILE PHOTO

Michael Schmidt is seen in this file photo from the early 2000s creating ceramic bowls for the Empty Bowls event to benefit the food bank Second Harvest of South Georgia. Schmidt, now Valdosta State University College of the Arts associate dean, will create bowls again as the arts center revives the event and asks for participation from other artists.

# Empty Bowls returns, needs artists

BY DEAN POLING  
dean.poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — Empty Bowls are back, with the aim of filling hungry bellies throughout the region.

The Empty Bowls event was a staple for several years. An auction of ceramic bowls to raise funds for the regional food bank, Second Harvest of South Georgia.

The event was discontinued several years ago after bringing Paula Deen's sons and other celebrity chefs to the area.

Now, the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts is partnering with Second Harvest to bring Empty Bowls back.

But the fundraiser needs help.

Organizers ask area potters and ceramicists

to "consider creating a food safe bowl or bowls to donate to this fight against hunger fundraiser event," according to information from the arts center.

"The bowls will be part of a special exhibition of artwork on display at the Turner Center Gallery opening on Sept. 19."

The bowls will also be for sell.

Purchasers will be

served soup and bread Oct. 24 at the arts center.

Participants "will keep the bowls as a reminder that one in four people in our community struggles with hunger," according to the center.

All proceeds raised from the event will be donated to Second Harvest of South Georgia.

See Bowls on 12A

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# American Soundtrack IV

Valdosta salutes nation's music

BY DEAN POLING

VALDOSTA — Singers and musicians have their music cued for "American Soundtrack Volume IV" this month.

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 three previous "American Soundtrack" shows. Cheryl Oliver, arts center executive director, said organizers hope to present the show annually.

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

The Ed Barr Orchestra's instrumentation backs area singers. Valdosta is blessed with tremendous musical talent from people in all walks of life, Barr has said.

"Volume IV" singers and musicians include Rob Evans, Donna Adams, Wendy Colson, 2River Station, Taurence Phillips, Jerry Newman, Mary Peeples, Michael Bo Griner, Craig Ward, Robert Plummer, the Valdosta Tappers and many more.

"In a salute to the Armed Forces, the Moody Air Force Base Color Guard will present our nation's colors, veterans will be recognized, and WCTV news anchor Karla Heath-Sands will warm our hearts with the 'Star Spangled Banner,'" according to information provided by the arts center.

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

## SHOWTIME

Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts presents

**What:** "American Soundtrack Volume IV."

**When:** 7:30 p.m., Aug. 20.

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

**Tickets:** \$60, per person; \$110, couple. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served; cash bar.

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

Friday, August 12, 2016

## Dates set for Presenter Series

BY DEAN POLING  
[dean.poling@gafnews.com](mailto:dean.poling@gafnews.com)

VALDOSTA — The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts has announced the dates for its three Presenter Series shows of the 2016-17 season.

However, what shows will play those dates will not be announced until a later date, according to the center.

The arts center has scheduled Nov. 3, Feb. 14,

and March 20 as dates for the shows.

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts has organized a Presenter Series of nationally touring professional shows for decades. The Presenter Series has booked singing acts, Broadway-style musicals, plays, magic acts, and other nationally touring entertainment in the past.

All three shows will be performed at Mathis City

Auditorium, 2300 N. Ashley St.

The arts center is expected to announce the three productions for the 2016-17 season in the coming weeks.

Early-bird season tickets are available for \$100 through Oct. 7, according to the center.

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