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Lifestyles



Valdosta State University Art students Riley McBride, center left, and Sarah Moore, right, received the 2016-17 Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts scholarships. They are flanked by Board President Bob Goddard and Director Cheryl Oliver of the Turner Center and Hollis Barnett, VSU interim head of the Department of Art, and VSU Art Professor Abigail Heuss, co-chair of the scholarship committee. McBride is a junior seeking a bachelor of fine arts in studio art; Moore is a junior studying to earn her bachelor of arts in art with a minor in philosophy. The scholarships are made possible through the annual DrawProject art auction.

# Drawproject funds scholarships

BY DEAN POLING dean.poling@gaflnews.com

VALDOSTA - Drawproject is a chance to see numerous pieces of art by several area artists, an opportunity to own a piece of art at a relatively low price, and financially help art students' education.

The Drawproject exhibit and auction returns Monday evening, Jan. 9, to the Annette Howell Turn-

er Center for the Arts. Created by former arts center curator Jamie Harmon, the Drawproject has continued since his departure several years ago.

Organizers seek donation drawings for an auction to fund two scholarships benefiting Valdosta State University art

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

community. The arts center recently presented scholarships to two VSU art students. The Danielle B.

Drawproject opens in the Sallie & Harmon Boyette Gallery; artist Rosemary Ferguson's "Art for Every Heart," Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery; artist Thomas Spake's "Glass Scapes: Nature Inspired Blown Glass," Josette's Gallery; Dewar Elementary School works, Roberta George Children's Gallery.

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

Reception: Shows open with a free, public reception,

5-7:30 p.m. Monday, July 9. Run dates: The exhibits run Jan. 9 through Feb. 22.

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 the exception of scheduled

receptions).

More information: Call (229) 247-2787; or visit turnercen-

Harmon Student Merit Scholarship recognizes departmental majors for superior classroom perfor-

mance. Through the year several students have received the Turner Center scholarship and students have annually received the

Harmon award. The Drawproject is as simple as its name.

It asks artists to share drawings, all drawn on the same size paper; however, the term "drawing" can be

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

Artists can define their interpretation of a draw-

In the past, drawings have ranged from realism to cartoons, from scribbles to detailed pointillism, from stark black-andwhite to gradients of grays to color. One year, an artist even transposed a photograph onto the paper.

Drawproject is one of four new exhibits opening Monday at the arts center.

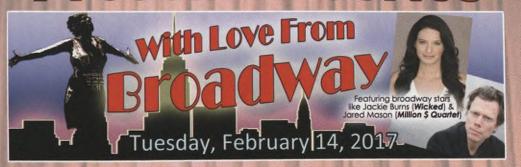


Art by Brad Finson.



'Nip It,' artist Bob Caruthers, Canyon Texas.

## The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series





Preshow Dinners by RSVP at 6pm, Performances start at 7:30pm, Individual show ticket price - \$49 Events held at Mathis City Auditorium, Valdosta For tickets and info, contact the Turner Center: 527 North Patterson Street, Valdosta, Georgia / 229-247-ARTS(2787) / www.turnercenter.org



Gallery Offerings: January 9 - February 22

### Drawproject 2017

exhibition & fundraiser auction

Come bid on original works of art donated by the artists to benefit VSU art student scholarships.

Sallie & Harmon Boyette Gallery

### Rosemary Ferguson Art for Every Heart

Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery

### Thomas Spake

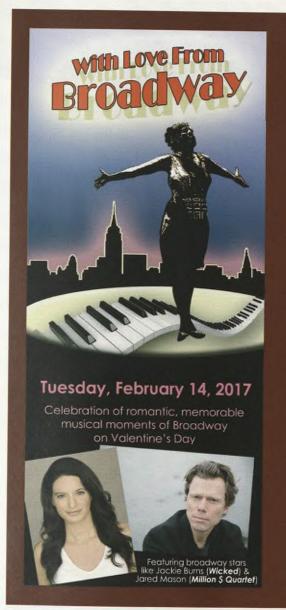
Glass Scapes: Nature Inspired Blown Glass
Josette's Gallery

### **Dewar Elementary School**

Roberta George Children's Gallery

East African Artifacts & Fine European Porcelain Tillman Gallery & Howard Gallery





### Broadway Shows Coming to Valdosta

Tuner Center Presents Final Two Shows of the Season

With Love From Broadway - February 14

Mathis Auditorium is the place to be for Valentine's Day when With Love From Broadway takes the stage. "Created and produced exclusively for our Valdosta area audience, five of Broadway's finest vocalists will recreate their most memorable musical moments and celebrate the heartbeat of every great song—LOVE," explains Stephen DeAngelis, the show's New York producer and host.

Two of the five scheduled performers have been announced: Jackie Burns who not only played Elphaba (the "green witch") in Wicked on Broadway but holds the distinction of having played that role longer than any other actress! And Jared Mason, who performed the role of Jerry Lee Lewis in Million Dollar Quartet on Broadway. "With the Presenter Series' success of MDQ two seasons ago here in Valdosta, Jared is sure to be a crowd-pleaser!" notes Cheryl Oliver, Turner Center Executive Director. Mason has also won awards for his songwriting. Eugene Gwozdz, pianist extraordinaire, will be on hand to tickle the keyboards. Gwozdz traveled from New York to work with VSU students last year and won much acclaim and admiration here.

### IF YOU GO.....

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Pre-Show dinner / cocktails: 6:00 p.m.

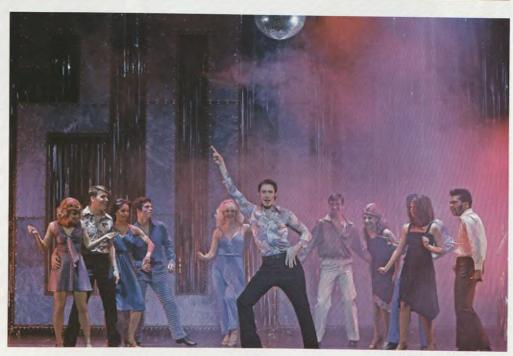
Venue: Mathis Auditorium

Tickets: Show - \$49.00 / Dinner - \$20.00

For More Information: 229-247-ARTS (2787) / turnercenter.org

### Saturday Night Fever – March 20

Saturday Night Fever is definitely "Stayin' Alive" as it opens a brand new tour in 2017 with a stop in Valdosta on March 20. In addition to "Stayin' Alive," the sounds of the Bee Gees include "Night Fever" and other songs from the movie soundtrack, named one of Rolling Stone Magazine's 500 best albums of all time in 2003. The score also boasts hits such as KC & the Sunshine Band's "Boogie Shoes," Rick Dees' "Disco Duck," and Barry Gibb's "What Kind of Fool."

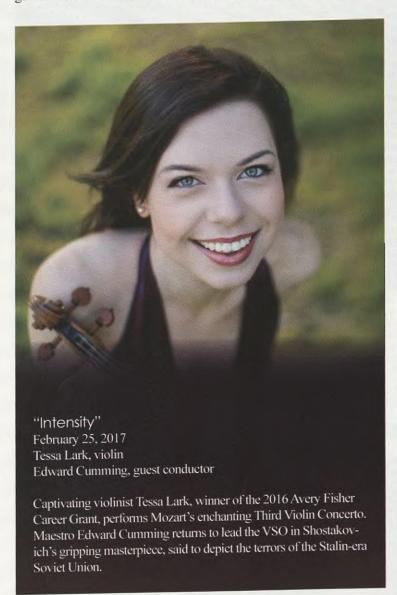


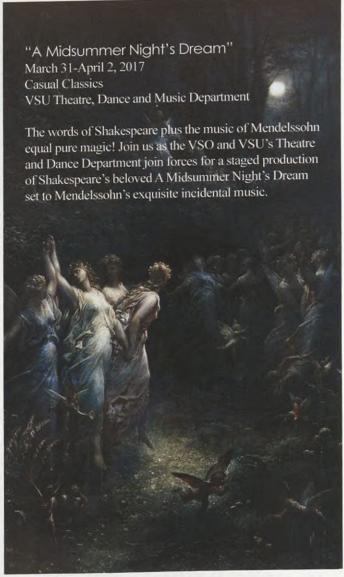


### Valdosta Symphony Orchestra

Season Continues with Two Performances Scheduled for February & March

Winner of The American Prize in Orchestral Performance, the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra has served both the cultural life of Valdosta and the regional academic mission of Valdosta State University since 1990. The high standard of performance of the orchestra enables it to attract guest soloists of national and international renown to the Valdosta community.





#### TIMES:

Friday, Mar. 31 & Saturday, Apr. 1 @ 7:30 p.m. – Sunday, Apr. 2 @ 3:00 p.m.

Venue: Whitehead Auditorium on the VSU Campus

Individual Tickets: \$27 per performance Season Tickets: \$135 per subscription On-line: valdostasymphony.org

#### RESERVATIONS:

"Intensity": Valdosta Symphony Orchestra; 229.333.2150

"A Midsummer Night's Dream": Fri., Mar. 31: Valdosta Symphony Orchestra; 229.333.2150 Sat., Apr. 1: VSU Theatre & Dance; 229.333.5973

Sun., Apr. 2: Valdosta Symphony Orchestra; 229.333.2150

### Center spotlights virtuoso piano concert

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gaflnews.com

VALDOSTA — A virtuoso pianist is ready to SCORE at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

Thomas Pandolfi is scheduled to present "Into the Night with Gershwin" this week at the arts center, said Cheryl Oliver, center executive director.

Lat year, the arts center added the musical SCORE Concert Series to its mission of providing all facets of the arts to the community.

SCORE is "not an acronym, but is so named because that's what a composer writes, and it's something a sports-minded community can relate to," Cheryl Oliver, arts center executive director, said in a past interview. "Don't we all like to score at whatever game we're playing?"

Pandolfi is the latest



THOMASPANDOLFI.COM

Virtuoso pianist Thomas Pandolfi plays 'Into the Night with Gershwin' at the at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

SCORE star.

Living in Washington, D.C., Pandolfi earned bachelor's and master's degrees at Juilliard School. He tours the nation playing solo concerts and as a featured performer with orchestras.

With an ability to play

the classic repertoire and works from the American songbook, Pandolfi is considered a "crossover artist."

"Thomas' virtuoso transcriptions of the music, and of Andrew Lloyd Webber, Marvin Hamlisch, George Gershwin and Leonard

### CONCERT

Planist Thomas Pandolfi presents "Into the Night with Gershwin."

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

Public Concert: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24. Admission: \$30, reserved seating; \$20, general public. Contact the arts center, (229) 247-2787; or www. turnercenter.org.

Student Concert: 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 25. More information: Contact Debi Davis, (229) 247-2787; or email ddavis@turnercenter.org.

Bernstein are in much demand," according to his website.

In Valdosta, he will perform a concert open to the public Tuesday evening then present a concert for youths Wednesday morning.

### RECENT REVIEWS

"Pianist Thomas Pandolfi presented a brilliant program on March 21 at the Illinois Central College Performing Arts Center...Pandolfi, an incredible talent, played hard, fast and loud, on a concert grand with a terrific sound...This was a dynamic evening, from the appeal of Gershwin to the incredible talent of Pandolfi, who played every piece perfectly from memory, with hands moving so fast they were a blur to the eyes...Amazing...It was a virtuoso performance which needed no strobe lights or explosions to carry the evening. Pandolfi need only his Juilliard-honed talent."

"Williamsburg experienced a phenomenon at the Kimball Theatre on Friday evening. An explosion of pianistic virtuosity, not heard here in recent memory, was presented by Thomas Pandolfi, internationally known concert pianist who is a Juilliard graduate and Steinway artist. He delighted his audience with an all-Gershwin program...the packed house responded with great acclaim as he concluded the 'Rhapsody in Blue' and launched into a total change of pace with improvisations on melodies from Andrew Lloyd-Webber's 'Phantom of the Opera.' It was a breathtaking concert!"

"Mr. Pandolfi's style is technically sound throughout, as one would certainly expect of a Juilliard graduate and seasoned touring player. The first half of the concert elegantly demonstrated this, concluding with Chopin's familiar and inspirational "Heroic" Polonaise, but the second half really allowed him to take off. Gershwin, after all, has elements of pop, blues and jazz, which Mr. Pandolfi exploited beautifully, particularly in his take on "Rhapsody in Blue", which contained more pointed syncopation and blues elements than the garden-variety interpretations ... the audience consumed it with relish."

"Pandolfi's technique is brilliant. Every note, however fleeting, was cleanly and clearly stated, and themes rolled out of supporting structures, as clear as could be...the climax of the concert was the famed Rhapsody in Blue (in a solo arrangement created by Gershwin himself), performed with thrilling virtuosity. It was jazzy, it was classical, it was Gershwin, wonderfully done."

Fredonia Post-Journal

"Virtuosity, beautiful touch, sensitivity and broad scope...logical phrasing and expressive percussiveness...a soloist whom we would like to hear again."

Bucharest Cultural Observer

"Liszt's Concerto No. 1 for Piano in E-Flat (with The Lima Symphony Orchestra) allowed Pandolfi to show his capabilities with the keys. Up and down the keyboard he went, both in huge chords and lyric melodies...his hands caressed the instrument ... a standing ovation was nearly immediate ... the skill he showed was indeed impressive."

The Lima News

"International prize winning pianist Thomas Pandolfi, received shouts of 'BRAVO's' and enthusiastic applause from audience members. An unusual pianist because of the youth and intensity, technical brilliance and clarity of his playing. Don't miss him. Mr. Pandolfi's gestures and grandiloquence brought to mind Van Cliburn in Moscow, and his growing reputation as one of the finest young pianists of this generation make us wonder how age will improve this fine musician. A treasure for all, Thomas Pandolfi will for sure be back!"

The Winchester Star

### THOMAS PANDOLFI

American pianist **THOMAS PANDOLFI** is an exciting virtuoso who, with each passing season, is becoming more and more sought after by audiences worldwide, and showered with superlatives by critics for his passionate artistry and amazing technique. His orchestral appearances often feature not only the beloved masterpiece concerti by Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov and Liszt, but also the equally brilliant ones by Paderewski, Rubinstein and Moszkowski. Additionally in the "Pops" genre, Thomas' critically acclaimed performances of Rhapsody in Blue (Gershwin), Concerto in F (Gershwin), Warsaw Concerto (Addinsell) and the James Bond Concerto (Proctor) are immensely popular.

Among his engagements during the 2015-16 season, were as guest soloist with The National Philharmonic, Ohio Valley Symphony, North Charleston Pops, Cheyenne Symphony, Maryland Symphony, Alexandria Symphony, Symphonicity, Amadeus Orchestra, McLean Orchestra and Frederick Symphony. During 2016-17, he will also be guest soloist with The Paducah Symphony, The Charlotte Symphony (FL), The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic, The Amadeus Orchestra, The Tiraspol Philharmonic, The Alexandria Symphony, and The Maryland Symphony at The Garrett Lakes Arts Festival. Thomas will also be the Artist in Residence at The Black Rock Center for the Arts in Maryland during this season, and his recital touring schedule will take him to 20 states. Thomas' international concerts have carried him across the globe to China and Europe; last season, he also made his Canadian debut in British Columbia.

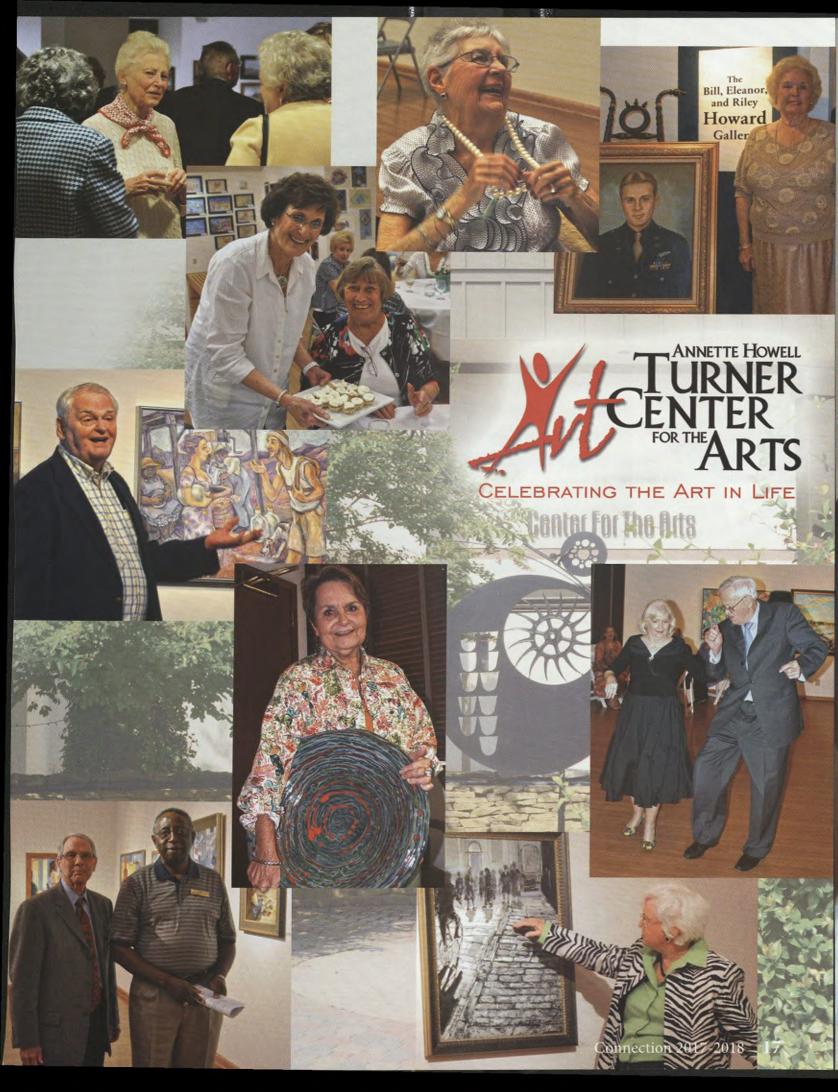
He has collaborated with conductors such as Piotr Gajewski, Dimitru Goia, Sabin Pautza, Emil Seigbert Maxim, Peter Schmelzer, Mihail Agafita, Grigori Moseico, David Russell Hulme, Andreas Delfs, Elizabeth Schulze, Miriam Burns, Sebrina Alfonso, Nicholas Palmer, William Intrilligator, Kim Allen Kluge, Robert Hart Baker, Crafton Beck, Ray Fowler, Glenn Quader, Scott Wood, Lawrence Rapchak, Gordon Johnson and Raffaele Ponti. An outstanding cross-over artist, Thomas Pandolfi's virtuoso transcriptions of the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Marvin Hamlisch are in much demand.

For the 2016-17 season, he is offering further such transcriptions in unique programs entitled "Burt, Barry and Beyond" (the music of Burt Bacharach and Barry Manilow) and "Somewhere Tonight in America: A 20th Century Celebration", including a magnificent transcription of Leonard Bernstein's "West Side Story." British composer Simon Proctor has also written a "Sinatra Piano Concerto" for Thomas, which coincided with the 100th birthday celebration of Mr. Sinatra during last season, and a brand new "Andrew Lloyd Webber Concerto", also for Thomas.

Following a violin concerto for Midori, and a saxophone concerto for Brandford Marsalis, film and concert composers Kim Allen Kluge and Kathryn Vassar Kluge composed The American Piano Concerto for Thomas, which was an absolutely smashing success at its world premiere in May, 2016 with Thomas as soloist, co-composer Kim Kluge on the podium and The Alexandria Symphony.

A graduate of The Juilliard School, Pandolfi earned both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees as a scholarship student. He is the proud father of a wonderful son and daughter, and resides in Washington, DC.

Follow Thomas: Facebook: @ThomasPandolfiPianist Twitter: @TPandolfiPiano



# The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts

We know that active retirees never lose their zest for staying involved with people! You've decided to spend your retirement in a wonderful place ... a place where culture thrives. For these reasons and many more, we invite YOU to become an integral part of our local arts scene!

As the area's premier regional community arts center, the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts is the hub of cultural activity in a multi-county area. Our six light-filled galleries offer a diverse selection of works by regional and national artists in approximately thirty exhibits annually. Two of the galleries house permanent collections, including a 600-piece East African art collection and over 60 pieces of antique Fine European Porcelain. Parking is plentiful, access is easy and our beautiful galleries offer you a respite, a refuge, from the chaos of a busy world. We're just north of beautiful downtown Valdosta, but a visit to the Center makes you feel like you're in a different realm.

We'd offer you a senior discount on admission, but you don't need one ... we're open to the public, there's never an admission fee and our welcome mat is out! The exhibits change every 6-8 weeks, so there's always something new to see. We hope that you'll visit soon and often, and then exit through our unique gift shop where Center members get a discount! Our gift shop has one-of-a-kind items by local artists, including pottery, jewelry, prints, original works of art, note cards, books and cd's, walking sticks, stained glass, wood carvings and much more.

Our educational and entertainment offerings include pottery, painting, culinary and palette classes for adults and children, concerts, gallery talks, free writers' workshops, free Yoga classes, professionally-produced, national touring shows through our Presenter Series, free Gallery Opening Receptions and much more. We value our volunteers and would love to welcome you to our Team. The Center is an exquisite gathering place where you're sure to make new friends, learn new things and experience life in a new and delightful way.

Check our website often (www.turnercenter.org). Please come visit us soon and let us show you around. The Turner Center is YOUR art center ... CLAIM IT!

527 North Patterson Street, Valdosta

Hours: Tuesday - Thursday: 10am - 6pm Friday and Saturday: 10am - 4pm

From a portrait of Annette Howell Turner 229-247-ARTS (2787) www.turnercenter.org





MAYAH CANTAVE I SUBMITTED PHOTO

Hunter Pope, a Valdosta State University student, prepares clay pieces. Pope is majoring in art and psychology.

# Finding Balance

BY KIMBERLY CANNON

EDITOR'S NOTE: Valdosta State University English Professor Pat Miller assigned her students to write a long-form feature story on fellow VSU students. The best four articles were selected to be published in The Valdosta Daily Times. This is the first story to be published. It is by Kimberly Cannon. The four stories will be published during the next few weeks.

VALDOSTA - The mind is like a bowl spinning on a pottery wheel. A gentle influence smooths out the kinks, while carelessness may shatter. it. Good memories fill it with comfort while bad ones stain it, requiring it to be cleaned and restored

Hunter Pope, a senior double majoring in art and psychology at Valdosta State University, aims to work both figuratively and literally forming such bowls.

Hunter has volunteered since she

was 12 years old, shelving books at the library or babysitting kids at a battered women shelter.

While in college, she was one of eight VSU ceramic students who helped create 59 bowls to donate to Empty Bowls, an exhibition and fundraiser held at Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts in Valdosta, to benefit Second Harvest of South

Georgia, an anti-hunger organization. ings of torsos to express her experi-"I think everyone should aspire to

give back," Hunter said.

Hunter's past allows her to empathize with those she helps.

An absent father, financial struggle and Cyclic Vomiting Syndrome have all nicked Hunter's bowl. She hopes to help others who have struggled as well, which a career in art therapy would allow for

Art therapy is a mental-health profession in which clients create art to harness their emotions and then use that art to reconcile emotional turmoil or addictions, raise self-awareness and improve overall well-being,

according to the American Art Therapy Association.

Art therapy is more than just a career goal for Hunter but something she can attest to. She has felt the cathartic power of art.

'My art helped me work through issues in high school ... emotional things with my friends," Hunter said.

She also created a series of paintence with Cyclic Vomiting Syndrome: a sickness characterized by severe episodes of vomiting with no apparent cause and no cure, according to

Mayo Clinic. "Maybe (I) share something I'm going through, and it's able to help other people, which is what all art therapy is about: people creating art to share their emotions," Hunter

In order to be an art therapist, Hunter must hone a variety of skills. She spends the majority of her

See Pope on 9A

### POPE: 'The more I've done with art the more I realize it's very psychological.'

days at VSU either in the Fine Arts Building or in Converse Hall, the psychology building. She constantly transitions between the mindset of an artist and that of a scientist.

The manifestation of the mind's vision in the form of art is not practiced in Converse Hall as it is practiced in the Fine Arts

Converse Hall focuses on a different way of understanding the mind, which is based on science, facts and research. The tables in the rooms of Converse Hall are not covered with splotches of paint, and the students there typically don't have clay stuck underneath their fingernails, except for Hunter, of course

But art and psychology are not so different in the

Hunter sees the similarity; she refers to historical paintings that are based off of psychological effects and paintings that express the artist's emotions.

"The more I've done with art the more I've realized that it's very psychological," Hunter

Both psychology and art allow her to take advantage of her hands-on skills. In her ceramics course, she used the pottery wheel to give permanent structure

to a once amorphous twopound blob of clay; in her physiological psychology course, she used her hands to analyze the anatomy of animal specimens, such as a cow's eye and a sheep's brain.

Both psychology and art require discipline.

As Hunter throws on the pottery wheel, she must remain diligent so as not to rip the clay. When she adds water to the clay to reduce friction, she must be careful not to add too much or the clay will collapse. Before she removes the clay, she must use a sharp metal tool to test the thickness because a thin bowl rips when removed from the pottery wheel.

Hunter used the same disciplined maneuvering in her physiological psychology course during dissec-

She used the scalpel to carefully cut into the surface of the muscular orb of the cow's eye and then used the forceps to separate the structures. She observed the cones, the part of the eye that perceives color, and so the concept of color revealed itself in the anatomy, and her two majors interacted in the undercurrents of her studies

The convergence of majors is not only something that Hunter experiences

while in her classes, but something she encourages in her clubs, specifically in the Arts Guild.

The Arts Guild is a group that brings together all art disciplines, from theater to graphic design, and hosts events that incorporate the arts. Art Outdoors, a water-coloring event held by the Arts Guild on campus, provided a light-hearted environment for students to destress, which is a theme behind many of the Arts Guild's events.

During a past event on Sept. 17, Hunter met with the Arts Guild to paint her winning sketch on the dumpster at Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts in Valdosta. The loose impressionistic vibe of the painting contrasted the strict and methodical basis of Hunter's psychology studies. The club painted the dumpster until 5 p.m.

She even arrived early on Sept. 18 to give the dumpster the final flourishes of detail. The result of the Arts Guild's labor was a dumpster covered by two reddish-brown oak trees, one on the front and one on the back, and branches overflowing with leaves that were reminiscent of lilac and yellow-colored cotton balls

The Arts Guild had successfully "killed the white

of the canvas," Hunter said, quoting one of her art professors. After hours spent in the Georgia heat, bent over or scraping their

knees on the ground to get the best coverage on the metal canvas, the Arts Guild's painting was complete. The two oak trees they created would be on display in Valdosta for a The artwork on the

dumpster was symbolic for Hunter. Her artwork had a message, which motivated each of her brushstrokes. Her roots are in Valdosta. and she went to Valdosta High School, and so she remembered the football rivalry with Lowndes High School. Therefore, one of the goals of the dumpster art project was to generate a sense of harmony among Valdosta.

"I wanted to do something that showed the community as unified, as a whole," Hunter said, regarding the Arts Guild's dumpster art.

With two majors and numerous club activities, Hunter's bowl is full.

It is the feeling of fulfillment that drives her to pursue all of these activities.

"Any sort of failure in my life is devastating. ... When I made a B in draw ing, I thought that I had failed at my dreams," Hunt-

But, she has grown from her upcoming graduation such experiences. at VSU in 2017.

benevolence

chology major.

laboratory in Converse

Although Hunter and

her peers are aware of her

statistics are against her.

single mother and I am fe-

male," Hunter said. "Based

on the society that I live in,

tically speaking, expected

a bachelor's degree, she is

also striving to be accepted

into a graduate program.

She needs to earn at least

a master's degree to be a li-

censed art therapist, so her

abilities, she recognizes the

"I am an only child of a

Following graduate "I have to be able to school, she wants to open adapt to new situations ... her own practice that (which) has helped me get where I am today, in terms incorporates art therapy physical therapy, and a galof having good grades, being President of Alpha Chi lery for clients' artwork. (Honor Society) and the Hunter's research in

Talor's lab and her thesis National Society of Leaderproject, which is a study on ship and Success, while also balancing two degrees.' how color affects mood, are vital steps for Hunter, so Hunter's peers take notice of her hard work and she can build an applicable and impressive curriculum 'She's definitely a vitae for graduate school.

workaholic ... and she's a Graduate students must excel in research, sweetheart," said Jacob and so gaining experience Highsmith, a senior psywhile an undergraduate is crucial, said Phil Agre, Highsmith worked a former professor at the alongside Hunter in Dr. Charles Talor's identity University of California, and career development Los Angeles

"Having lofty aspirations can be exciting but can also lend itself to a long fall if I fail," Hunter said. "This idea of failing causes me to work that much harder in order to overcome any expected failure that others might have

this means that I am, statis-Perseverance, art and Not only is Hunter fightstrives to understand more ing against the odds to earn of how art influences the

Her two majors function as stepping stones in her path to becoming an art therapist who will shape bowls with hands trained by science and art. education will not end after

psychology all coincide in Hunter's college career. She mind as she studies

## Creating a Valdosta/Broadway show 'With Love'

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gaflnews.com

VALDOSTA - Stephen DeAngelis describes creating a revue of Broadway stars as similar to creating a fine buffet.

"You want something for everybody," he said, "served up throughout the evening."

DeAngelis is setting up the buffet for Valdosta as the show "With Love from Broadway" plays as part of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series.

The show is scheduled for Feb. 14, Valentine's Day. and features an optional pre-show dinner. Nancy Warren, a Presenter Series committee chair, said the show allows couple's a well-rounded date night of a dinner and a show for Valentine's Day.

The Presenter Series production features five stars performing songs they performed in shows playing Broadway.

The stars include:

- Craig Schulman who has played Jean Valiean in "Les Miserables" and the

Phantom in "The Phantom of the Opera" on Broadway.

- Weulicauay, I column of

- Rick Faugno who has played Frankie Valli in "Jersey Boys" on Broadway.

- Kissy Simmons, the longest running Nala in

gest running Elphaba in "Wicked" on Broadway.

- Jared Mason, who played both Carl Perkins and Jerry Lee Lewis respectively in "Million Dollar Quartet" on Broadway.

"The Lion King" on Broad-

- Jackie Burns, the lon-

ing their most memorable musical moments from their Broadway careers." DeAngelis said.

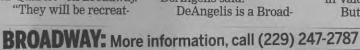
way casting agent. He has created the show specifically for the Presenter Series in Valdosta, he said.

But he does occasional-

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

ly arrange similar shows for venues throughout the United States.

See Broadway on 10A



He often partners with Eugene Gwozdz for the shows.

"I consider him to be the finest pianist in New York," DeAngelis said of Gwozdz. "A brilliant musician and accompanist. He is called the one man virtual orchestra. He plays with the power and dynamics of an orchestra."

Gwozdz is also the brother of Donna Farwell, the chorus director of St. John Catholic School. She lives in Valdosta with husband Doug, who is head of the Valdosta State University music department and executive director of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra.

The connection led to the Presenter Series show. DeAngelis said the

evening will give the audience a glimpse at the lives of Broadway stars both on stage and behind the scenes.

The performers will not be dressed in their character costumes. They will rotate their performances throughout the evening, with the song list composed so one song will complement the previous one and the next, he said.

They will share stories of their Broadway careers. Audiences members may ask questions.

"If there are questions you want to ask a Broadway star, here's your chance," DeAngelis said. "It's fun. The audience always thinks of things to ask we'd never think of asking."

### SHOWTIME

'With Love from Broadway' plays at Mathis City Auditorium.

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series hosts "With Love from Broadway."

with Love From

When: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14.

Where: Mathis City Auditorium, 2300 N. Ashley St. Pre-Show Dinner (optional): 6 p.m. Feb. 14, Mathis City Auditorium.

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

Given the dynamic of different performers, audience participation, etc., the show is unique.

"It's for only one show so we're harnessing the energy of an opening night while we're harnessing the energy of a closing night," DeAngelis said.

They will determine the song lineup shortly before the show.

DeAngelis will also de-

cide if there will be an ensemble piece. He does not guarantee it.

For an ensemble, a song must allow each performer an opportunity to shine, he said, but given the stars' versatile gifts that song is not easy to pinpoint.

But such a song may well be out there. DeAngelis said people will need to come to "With Love from Broadway" to find out.

# City plans for Arbor Week

BY JOHN STEPHEN

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VALDOSTA — Arbor Day was first observed in Nebraska in the late 1800s, but quickly spread to the rest of the country as a day that celebrates trees and urges people to plant and care for trees locally.

Trees offer many benefits to communities, and planting one on Arbor Day is an action that expresses hope for the future, according to the National Arbor Day Foundation.

"The simple act of planting a tree represents a belief that the tree will grow and, some day, provide wood products, wild-life habitat, erosion control, shelter from the wind and sun, beauty, and inspiration for ourselves and our children," the foundation's website says.

National Arbor Day is the last Friday in April, but states have varying dates for Arbor Day based on the best tree planting times in the area. In Georgia, it's the third Friday in February.

The City of Valdosta and the Valdosta Tree Commission are holding a full week of events leading up to the Arbor Day Ceremony Friday, Feb. 17.

Here's what residents

local Arbor Week festivities Feb. 13-17:

### Get a free seedling, or buy a discounted tree

Residents can pick up a free tree seedling Wednesday, Feb. 15, at the city's engineering department, second floor of City Hall Annex, 300 N. Lee St. Seedlings will be available while supplies last.

All week long, residents can buy a tree and get a second tree half off at Season's Garden Center, 3137 N. Oak St. Ext. The discount is only for select trees.

Southern Gardens & Landscape Center, 4609 Bemiss Road, is also offering half off on selected 15- and 30-gallon crepe myrtles during Arbor Week.

### Take a free class on trees

Residents will have access to two free one-hour classes during Arbor Week.

Noon Tuesday, Feb.

14, Jim Wagner and Scott
Dawson — both certified
arborists and registered
foresters with Georgia
Power — will give a presentation on planting trees in
the right place. The class
will highlight the importance of plant location,
species, utility conflicts,
and safety Lunch will be

provided. The class will take place in the City Hall Annex multi-purpose room, 300 N. Lee St.

At 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17, Arborist Charlie Marcus will teach a class on trees and infrastructure. The class will include information on how to protect trees during construction, minimizing conflicts with trees and infrastructure, and locating tree planting. It will take place at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.

Space for both classes is limited, so interested people should sign up by calling Emily Davenport, (229) 259-3530.

### Attend an Arbor Week ceremony

Valdosta Mayor John
Gayle will kick off the
weeklong celebration with
an Arbor Week Proclamation, 10 a.m. Monday, Feb.
13, at City Hall. Representatives from the city, Moody
Air Force Base, Georgia
Power and Valdosta State
University will be present.

At 11 a.m. the same day, a ceremonial tree will be planted at McKey Park, on the corner of North Toombs Street and Roosevelt Drive, to honor local first responders.

At 10:30 a.m. Tuesday,



DERREK VAUGHN | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Pictured are the mature trees found downtown on the historic Lowndes County Courthouse square.

Feb. 14, a Trident Maple tree will be planted Freedom Park, 3795 Guest Road, in honor of Moody Air Force Base.

At 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, Valdosta State University will host an Arbor Day Ceremony at Whitehead Camellia Trail, main campus. Parking will be available on Georgia Avenue. VSU will be celebrating five years as a Tree Campus USA, a designation earned for meeting certain standards for tree care.

The Valdosta Tree Commission's annual Arbor
Day Ceremony will take
place 10 a.m. Friday, Feb.
17, at the Annette Howell
Turner Center for the Arts.

The event will honor the City of Valdosta for 31 consecutive years of being a Tree City USA community and for being one of only nine Georgia cities with

this honor of 31 years or

Marcus will speak and a
Drake Elm will be planted
in honor of Molly Huckaby
Hardy, an undercover CIA
operative from Valdosta
who was killed in Nairobi, Kenya, in 1998 when
Al-Qaeda bombed the U.S.
Embassy there.

More information: Call Emily Davenport, (229) 259-3530.

## Your Voices:

## A look at what readers have been talking about and commenting on this week



### Historic resource or money pit?

When The Valdosta Daily Times published a report

headlined, "Historic resource or rundown money pit?," regarding ongoing controversy between The Roger Budd Company in a battle with the City of Valdosta over the company's request to demolish part of a building on Ashley Street in order to create a parking lot. Readers on Facebook commented:

Daniel Livingston - "Historic" and "downtown" Valdosta are not two words I would use to describe that section of Ashley Street. They own the property, let them tear it down.

Tara Lee Williams - I agree. So tired of seeing so many rundown, empty buildings in this town!

Ron Cross - That building is run down and in bad shape. Tear it down.

Ron Cross - I could understand if we were discussing a building in the actual downtown area below the courthouse annex and above the overpass.. between Oak and Lee Street .. but we aren't.

Brian Banks - Valdosta a city with so many limits!!

Thomas Sutton - Government over stepping its boundaries. If building is that important to the city pay the owner fair market value or let the owner do with as he sees fit.

Robbie Vaughnn - The city is nothing but a bunch of money-hungry bullies. Just like the 5 Points land they just HAD TO HAVE ... and have did nothing ... At least the city is out of the bush trimming business.

Patricia A Finch Bush - Budd is used to having his way.

Peggy Sikes Millar - Rundown money pit.

Kelly Nelson Jenkins - Rundown. Most of these "historic" buildings are dilapidated and make the city look even more run down. We can preserve Valdosta's history without collecting outdated /unused buildings.

### **Rutland's Music closing down**

When we published a report regarding Rutland's Music closing after 53 years of business, and owner Pat Rutland retiring at the end of February, readers on Facebook commented.

Sponge Nashville - Thanks Pat. Always enjoyed your instrument expertise. Fun to listen to an expert.

Shanta Carroll Jackson - So deserving Mr Pat! Enjoy retirement and do all the things you and Triena love to do!!!

Michelle Oliver-White - What an intriguing story! Congratulations Mr. Pat!

Karmen Browning - Congratulations to your Dad and grateful for him serving our community all these years!

Antonio-Gabriela YJunior Douglas - Where will I get my stuff from

Wendy Colson - I never knew
"Slim" but I have grown up with
Mrs Rutland, Pat, Riley, Bert and
Bob. I hated it when they moved
from downtown because I could take
a lunch break and hang out at MY
music store. I learn lot about equipment and sound from the Rutland's

Vertyce Key - You and your store has had memories with my family. My sisters were in the Marching Cats, brother played multiple instruments and my daughters used to be in the band at Lowndes High. Thank You

Carlito Watts - This was my music store when I lived in Valdosta. Very friendly staff, sure going to miss this place.

Robbie Vaughnn - Never had an issue. They knew what they was talking about.

Cortney Griner McCall - I loved going in and seeing how musical these guys were.

## B

### On sewage

Valdosta's WATER NEEDS TO BE TESTED !!! @vsuspectator @valdostastate @TheVDT @Vstatenews @valdostaSGA @TheVDT

### **On Malcom Mitchell**

@BrianPaone VALDOSTA'S OWN. #Titletown #Winnersville #Valdosta

@kcsmitty24 Smitty Retweeted Valdosta Daily Times Hometown hero

### On the circus

@victoriaross87 @oneprotestinc @TheVDT no let all circus elephants go to sanctuaries

### On Uber coming to Valdosta

@TheJayBurns HotBoy!



1-800-548-4337 www.guidedog.org a CFC participant

### RANTS & RAVES: To submit a Rant or Rave, call 244-3400 ext. 418.

### Valdosta Lowndes

www.valdostadailytimes.com

Sunday, February 12, 2017

### **3A**

## **Broadway star ready for Valdosta**

#### BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gaflnews.com

VALDOSTA — Jared Mason is used to singing as Jerry Lee Lewis with Elvis and Johnny Cash.

But Tuesday night, he will sing as Jerry Lee Lewis with the Phantom of the Opera, Jean Valjean, the "Wicked" Elphaba, Frankie Valli and Nala the lioness.

Mason is part of "With Love from Broadway," a show designed by Broadway casting director Stephen DeAngelis and accompanist Eugene Gwozdz. The show has been created specifically for the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series.

Mason played Jerry Lee Lewis and at times Carl Perkins in the Broadway run of "Million Dollar Quartet." He also performed in "Stomp" on Broadway. He is scheduled to be accompanied by four other stars who have also performed on Broadway.

- Craig Schulman who played Jean Valjean in "Les Miserables" and the Phantom in "The Phantom of the Opera" on Broadway

 Rick Faugno who played
 Frankie Valli in "Jersey Boys" on Broadway.

- Kissy Simmons played the longest running Nala in "The Lion King" on Broadway.

Jackie Burns played the longest running Elphaba in "Wicked" on Broadway

For Mason, the Valdosta show is a perfect getaway for his recently acquired new life. He, his wife and their three young sons settled into a home in Nashville. Tenn., last fall. The move means he can spend more time with his family as he writes a planned musical while still touring on a more limited schedule, he said during a phone interview.

The Valdosta show is the third or fourth time he has participated in a revue-style production with DeAngelis and other Broadway stars, he said.

Still, Mason admits to feeling like "the odd man out. I never had my sights set on a Broadway dream. I had a rock and roll dream."

He grew up around shows, His mother worked in musicals before performing in operas. He often accompanied her to rehearsals. But he concentrated on electric guitar and piano.

While Jerry Lee Lewis is the more dominant role in "Million Dollar Quartet,"
Mason said he preferred playing
Carl Perkins because of the
guitar work necessary for the
role.

As for his Broadway career, he also has the rare distinction of being two for two.

"I've only auditioned for two shows, 'Million Dollar Quartet' and 'Stomp' and I was in both of them," Mason said. "The only reason I did it was because I knew I was perfect for both of them."

Now, he's perfect to share songs from the two shows, even a turn at a Johnny Cash tune, for the Presenter Series show.

The show plays 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, Mathis City Auditorium. More information: Visit www.turnercenter.org



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jared Mason played Jerry Lee Lewis on Broadway in 'Million Dollar Quartet.' He also performed during the Broadway run of 'Stomp.' He and four other Broadway stars are scheduled to play Tuesday, Feb. 14, in Valdosta.

# Showing 'Our Soldier'

Film focuses on family caring for WWII graves



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jotja Bessems directed the awardwinning film 'Our Soldier.' She is scheduled to be in town for the Valdosta screening.

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gaflnews.com

VALDOSTA — South Georgia audiences will have a chance to see the film about a Dutch family that cares for the grave site of an American soldier who died in World War II.

The soldier was from Valdosta. The creator of the movie "Our Soldier" is scheduled to visit Val-

dosta again.

"Filmmaker Jotja Bessems" family adopted the grave of a fallen American soldier which connected them with the family of Army Staff Sgt. Sidney Beck here in Valdosta," according to orga-nizers of the screening. "Tracing generations, 'Our Soldier' looks at this generous gift from both sides of the adoption.'

Bessems traveled to Valdosta a few years ago to film portions of the documentary. Last year, her parents visited Valdosta as part of a memorial ceremony held for Beck at Sunset Hill Cemetery.

The film aired on national television in the Netherlands and has won several awards.

She said she looks forward to her return to Valdosta.

'Having the opportunity to show the film in Valdosta is like we say in Dutch: the cherry on the pie," Bessems said. "This makes the circle round and complete.



Hub and Nel Bessems of the Netherlands stand with the nieces of Army Staff Sgt. Sidney Beck who was killed overseas during World War II in this 2016 file photo. The Bessems' daughter produced a documentary about her family's care of Beck's grave overseas. The film screens this week in Valdosta.

See Soldier on 9A

# **Encouraging** creative minds

If anyone has any doubts about the creative minds of today's young people, we steer such skeptics to the Youth Art Month exhibits on display at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

The Youth Art Exhibit features art work from students

from kindergarten through eighth grade.

The Regional High School Competition features juried art from high school students from South Georgia and North Florida.

Annually, the arts center and Valdosta State University Art, in association with the National Art Education Association, present Georgia Art Education Association's Youth Art Month.

It is an opportunity to celebrate the arts as well as ex-

press the importance of arts in schools.

The show allows dozens of area elementary and middle-school students to participate in an exhibit shown in

the professional setting of a gallery.

It is a great opportunity and a learning experience for the students who may continue pursuing art in the future. And will inspire many students to continue a lifelong appreciation of the arts.

In this age of education cuts, when the arts often face the steepest cuts in school budgets, we would do well to remember it may be the most creative minds that save us.

The exhibit continues through most of March, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. More information: Call (229) 247-2787.

### In Praise of Trees: City celebrates Arbor Day, recognizes value of trees



JOHN STEPHEN | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Valdosta Mayor John Gayle is joined by city leaders for the planting of a commemorative tree for the city's Arbor Day celebrations.

#### BY JOHN STEPHEN

john.stephen@gaflnews.com

VALDOSTA — Arborist Charlie Marcus asked a simple question to the city leaders and residents gathered at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Friday morning: Do the benefits of trees justify the costs of maintaining them?

As the keynote speaker for the city's Arbor Day ceremony, Marcus explained why the answer should always be a resounding yes.

Trees offer a vast array of invaluable benefits, he said — clean air and water, visual and audio buffers, reduced energy costs and increased property values. Marcus even referenced studies showing that trees attract shoppers to a city and reduce crime, car accidents and workplace stress.

In light of the favors trees pay to humans, Marcus argued a city's tree infrastructure is just as important as the infrastructure of roads, bridges and water and sewer lines.

The City of Valdosta has a long history of valuing local trees and championing their preservation and growth. At the event, the city was recognized for being a Tree City USA for 31 consecutive years.

The designation — which Valdosta shares with only eight other cities in Georgia — shows that a city has met certain standards in caring for its trees.

In an Arbor Day proclamation, Valdosta Mayor Gayle continued the praise and urged residents to plant new trees to "promote the well-being"

See Trees on 8A

### TREES: City gave away seedlings to residents

of present and future and present generations."

"Trees are a valuable, renewable resource which gives us paper products, lumber for our homes and other wood products," Gayle said.

"Trees enhance our environment, protect our topsoil, provide a habitat for wildlife and beautify our residences, cities and our communities."

With golden shovels in hand, city leaders topped off the ceremony by planting a Drake Elm in memory of Molly Huckaby Hardy, an undercover CIA operative from Valdosta who was killed in Nairobi, Kenya, in 1998 when Al-Qaeda bombed the U.S. Embassy there.

Gayle said it was fitting for Huckaby — who loved the arts — to be honored with a tree at the Turner Center.

Friday's ceremony was the culmination of the city's weeklong celebration of trees, that included several tree plantings, educational tree classes and the give-away of hundreds of free tree seedlings to local residents.

### **SOLDIERS**

Screening the film in Sidney's hometown brings his remembrance alive and that of so many other soldiers who fought and lost their life for freedom.

"Especially in these turbulent times, it's so important to not forget the cost and pain of peace. To me, Valdosta is where this whole journey began and returning the film to Sidney's family and soil means everything to me. I want to thank all those who made possible this very special event."

The screening is sponsored by the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts and the Valdosta-Lowndes Film Initiative. Valdosta State University will also host a screening.

Beck is buried in Margraten, the Dutch cemetery dedicated to thousands of American soldiers who died in Europe during World War II.

Beck grew up in Valdosta. He survived landing at Normandy on June 10, 1944, a few days after D-Day. He survived a wound at Cherbourg. He helped in the liberation of the Netherlands. He crossed the bridge at Remagen. There, in Germany, shortly before the war ended, Sidney Beck was killed April 5, 1945, likely by a single bullet from a German sniper, according to his military records.

For the past several years, the Bessems have cared for the grave where Beck is buried in the Netherlands.

"We are the Dutch adopters of Sidney Beck and visit his grave in the Netherlands several times a year," said Hub Bessems during his and wife Nel's visit last year to Valdosta. "We do that to show our

### SHOWTIME

Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts and the Valdosta-Lowndes Film Initiative screens the award-winning film "Our Soldier."

### **SCREEING No. 1**

When: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 2.

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

**More information:** Call (229) 247-2787. Center requests people call for reservations.

#### **SCREENING No. 2**

When: 1 p.m. Friday, March 3.

Where: Valdosta State University Student Union Theatre. Both screenings are free and open to the public.

gratitude for our liberation and to thank Sidney for his courage and for his sacrifice.

"The adoption program in the Netherlands, in Margraten to be precise, started in 1945 and has existed for 71 years. Last November (2015), all 10,023 American soldiers (buried at the cemetery) were adopted. ... The adoption program links adopters in Holland and next of kin in the United States of America. It unites two countries in remembering. It unites two countries in celebrating freedom and peace. It unites two countries in telling the stories of the great offer made by all the American soldiers during the Second World

"These stories are supposed to inspire us and motivate us in our daily life. We must not forget them."

The Bessems adopted

Beck's grave in Margraten in 2007.

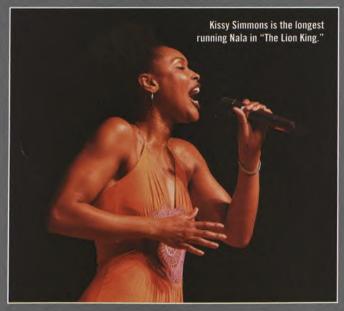
Beck's brother was the late James Beck, a former mayor and state representative. Sydney Beck has several nieces, women born after his death overseas. The nieces include Betty Gene Birdwell, Jenny Howard, Mary Jane Rekel and Anne White.

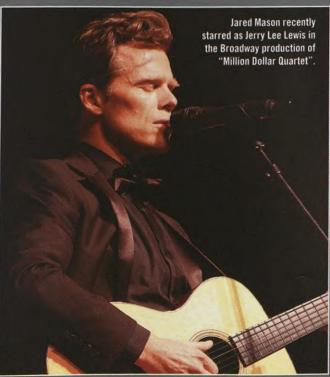
"We're excited that (Bessems) is returning to Valdosta and there will be a showing at the arts center as well as Valdosta State University," Birdwell said. "We feel blessed that our families have formed such a strong friendship, all because of the adoption program at the cemetery in Margraten. The bond of the Netherlands people with our fallen soldiers is truly a story that should be told, and (Bessems') film is a wonderful tribute."

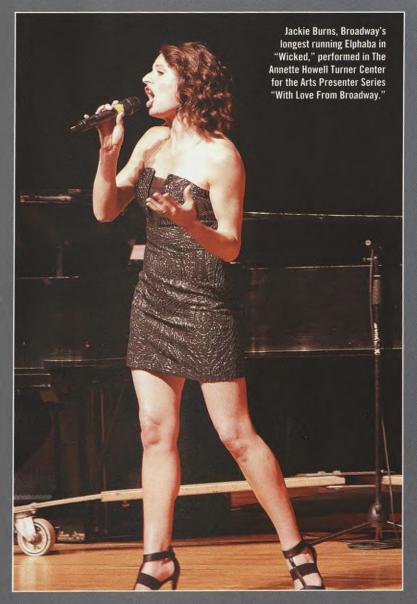
# With Love from **Broadway**

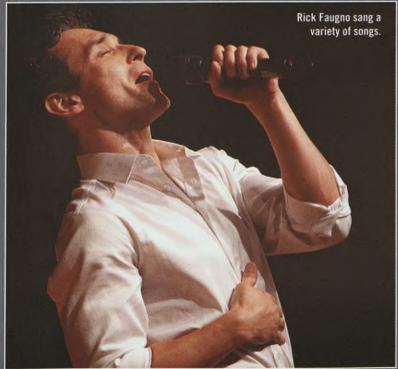
photos by Derrek Vaughn

Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series welcomed "With Love from Broadway" to Valdosta in February. The show featured five performers presenting songs they had performed in Broadway shows such as "Wicked," "Les Miserables," "Lion King," etc.









THE ICONIC MUSICAL RETURNS!

"How Deep Is YOUR LOVE" "if I Can't Have You"

"Stayın' Alive"

"Disco Inferno"

OU SHOULD BE DANCING RIDIA

March 20 at Mathis City Auditorium

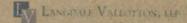
Performance at 7:30pm - ticket price - \$49 Preshow Dinner by RSVP at 6pm - \$17 Contact the Turner Center for the Arts for tickets & information: 527 N. Patterson St. / 229-247-ARTS(2787) / www.turnercenter.org

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