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# Center presents new exhibits

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA – A series of new exhibits open this week at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

The new exhibits open following the massive Spring Into Art exhibit that filled all of the center galleries.

The shows include:

– Works by the late Lamar Dodd. The works are selections on loan from the C.L. Morehead Jr. collection. Dodd was the artist who founded the art department at the University of Georgia. The show will be on exhibit in the Sallie & Harmon Boyette Gallery.

– “Recent Conclusions” presents the recent works of artist Don Penny. Penny, a retired member of the Valdosta State University

art department, is best known for his ceramics works but has more recently been working with two-dimensional media. The show will be on exhibit in Josette’s Gallery.

– “Exploring the Present Through the Past” features the works of artist Lawrence Tobe. The show will be on exhibit in the Price-Campbell & Mittiga galleries.

– The 10th Annual Valdosta People’s Choice Photography Contest features the latest photos of city life by area residents up for votes by viewers. Winners will be announced at a separate reception July 16. The show will be on exhibit in the Tillman Gallery.

– Turner Center Photography Class Student Exhibition will be on exhibit in the Roberta George Gallery.

– Fine European Porcelain Collection is on exhibit in the Howard Gallery.

Capt. Gill Autrey, a former Valdosta mayor, returns to sign his latest book, “No Greater Love And Other Southern Stories Vol. II,” during the reception.

The shows open with a free, public reception, 5-7 p.m. Monday, June 11, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. The shows run June 11 through July 25.

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

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



A work by artist Lawrence Tobe.



Artist Don Penny returns with new works to the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Monday, June 11.

FILE PHOTO: DEAN POLING | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

## ART: Lamar Dodd to show at Turner Art Center

Dodd's first time at the arts center. Following the 2003 Spring Into Art, the arts center featured Dodd's works as its second show and his work was exhibited at the center in 2011.

The latest show shares works from C.L. Morehead's Lamar Dodd collection. Morehead, a philanthropic entrepreneur, was a friend of Lamar Dodd and an avid collector of his works. Morehead's house has been described as a Lamar Dodd museum.

Bill Shenton, arts center's curator, has said Morehead has hundreds of Dodd works. Morehead invited the center to essentially take whatever it wanted to show from his walls.

The exhibit should express Dodd's ability to change styles throughout his long career. But Dodd was not only innovative as a painter. Rather, he had an ingenuity for versatility throughout many aspects of his life.

Dodd "has doffed many a hat in his life, among them the mortar board of the doctor of letters, the top hat of the statesman, and the Stetson of the advocate," William U. Eiland writes in his book, "The Truth in Things: The Life and Career of Lamar Dodd," "but the one he always preferred is the beret of the artist. Were he not able to don the latter, none of the others would have fit so well."

Born in 1909, Lamar Dodd grew up in LaGrange, Ga. At an early age, he became interested in art and studied it with a passion. At his family's insistence, he briefly studied architecture, but Dodd did not care for it. He wanted to be an artist.

In 1928, he traveled to New York City, where Dodd studied art at the Art Students League. Influenced by the robust life of New York and the League's teachers, Dodd learned his craft while exploring the spirit and terms of being an artist.

"Indeed, Dodd's days at the Art Students League were exciting ones in a pivotal moment in American art, when local tradition and insularity were coming closer and closer to international modernism," Eiland writes.

Dodd's associates included Isabel Bishop, George Grosz, Ashile Gorky, etc. — names that "suggest the tension as well as the direction of the confrontation of ideas on the American cultural scene ... In the early 1930s, the art market began to reflect the changes in taste and intellectual outlook of this fertile moment, and Dodd was in the thick of it in New York."

The American art scene was loosening its long, passionate affair with the French and other European schools of art and beginning to seek an American school of art that reflected the scenes and themes of the United States.

Joining numerous other artists across the nation, Dodd's young style reflected regional scenes. Having grown up in Georgia, Dodd's work centered on scenes from the South. And his vision, skills and talents garnered him placements in an increasing number of galleries and local shows.

At a 1932 one-man exhibit at a New York gallery, Dodd received numerous accolades for his Southern-themed paintings. One critic thankfully noted that Dodd had not centered his works in imaginings of European settings but instead focused on American themes, or more specifically, images from the artist's

native state.

"Not one scene of the Scottish moors with their purple heather. But a glorious painting of the washerwoman hanging out clothes. Not one scene of the fountains of Rome! But a magnificent thing showing the cabins of tenant farmers. Nothing of Paris or London or Athens or Pompeii. But Georgia,

### GALLERY

The Lamar Dodd exhibit is one of several shows scheduled to open. Other exhibits include "Recent Conclusions" presents the recent works of artist Don Penny; "Exploring the Present Through the Past" features the works of artist Lawrence Tobe; the 10th Annual Valdosta People's Choice Photography Contest; Turner Center Photography Class Student Exhibition.

**When:** The shows open with a free, public reception, 5-7 p.m. Monday, June 11.

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

**Run dates:** The shows run June 11 through July 25.

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

**Admission:** Free.

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

Georgia, Georgia."

By 1933, Dodd was ready to leave New York and return to the South. He took a position at an art-supply store in Birmingham, Ala., which allowed him a steady job during the day and an opportunity to paint in the evenings.

Though he worked as a clerk in the art-supply store, Dodd continued making a name for himself as an artist and as a proponent for regionalism in art. His works were not only accepted in major shows throughout the United States, but they won acclaim and prizes.

In Birmingham, Dodd continued expressing his thoughts on "the nearness of beauty" in his paintings and through his words. In a Birmingham News-Age Herald interview, Dodd praised the South's beauty, while taking to task the local residents who failed to see the magnificence around them.

"... And they say that travelers write letters home about how 'quaint' the shops are in Jerusalem and Bombay," Dodd said, "but they drive at 50 miles an hour along the side streets of Birmingham where there are hot dog stands and shoe shops and pawn shops and antique shops and book shops that are as colorful as anything that even Port Said has to offer."

While his Southern scenes and advocacy of regional beauty gained him prizes, praise and esteem, Dodd became a magnet for artists throughout Alabama. They visited him at the shop and in his studio, where he critiqued their works, discussed art and worked alongside of them.

His growing reputation soon opened a larger chapter in his life.

In 1937, at the age of 28, the University of Georgia invited Dodd to join the fine arts department as an artist in residence. Dodd and his wife, Mary, returned to Georgia.

At Athens, the Dodds found an art department in chaos, with only one full-time art instructor and the other two art teachers assigned to art and other academic interests. Charged with increasing interest in the arts at the university and throughout Georgia, Dodd faced several cultural problems. In the South of the 1930s, Eiland writes, "ladies painted pictures; men painted houses."

Such was the world Dodd entered, and this is the Georgia art culture he changed.

Dodd stayed with the University of Georgia for four decades. The art department and curriculum came to be considered one of the finest in the Southeast and the United

States. As a teacher, he became admired, while the enrollment of art students increased and the state's thoughts on art shifted to a more progressive stance.

By the late 1940s, Dodd had become instrumental in founding the Georgia Museum of Art. He developed and participated in cultural-arts exchanges with other countries, which took him to Europe, the Soviet Union and Asia, while bringing artists from those nations to Georgia. He served as a government ambassador for the arts.

Dodd expanded the role of art in the state's daily life while moving from the regional/realism of his youth to exploring further frontiers as an artist in his later years. Despite his duties as an administrator, instructor, traveler and public speaker, Dodd continued producing dozens of canvases annually. He continued growing as an artist.

"Changes in perceptions and reactions, (Dodd's) and the rest of the world's, required new means of expression," Eiland writes, "which Dodd found in cubism, abstraction, and, back again to complete the circle, in a new realism."

In his September 1996 obituary, The New York Times mentioned Dodd's NASA commission to paint the inhouse reactions to the space program. It mentioned his numerous shows in New York as well as his finding New York "uninspiring."

It mentioned a New York Times review of Dodd's work: "Lamar Dodd's latest semi-abstractions embody a pictorial report of a Mediterranean sojourn. Dodd is cagey with his subject matter, never going after it head on, but catching its flavor and look in one or more oblique ways."

He was 86 years old.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Work by artist Lamar Dodd.

# Georgia's Artist

## Center readies Lamar Dodd show

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — A giant in Georgia's art scene and art history returns next week to the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

Lamar Dodd: 1909-1996.

Life magazine once described Dodd as being "more responsible than any other man for the renaissance of art that has swept the Southeast."



LAMAR DODD

The University of Georgia's Lamar Dodd School of Art is named in his honor.

He had a versatility of style so that his canvases did not so much bow to new conventions but reflected the changes in society and art throughout his lifetime.

His legacy includes his talented daughter, Irene Dodd, a masterful artist in her own right. She once taught art at Valdosta State University and still paints.

This is not Lamar



SUBMITTED PHOTO

See Art on 6A

Work by Lamar Dodd.

# Spring Into Art

## Hundreds participate in 31st annual exhibit

by Dean Poling | photos by Derrek Vaughn

**H**undreds of artists submitted works in the 2018 Spring Into Art exhibit at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

The 31st annual exhibit opened April 9 in all of the arts center galleries. The exhibit continues through June 6 at the center, 527 N. Patterson St.

Spring Into Art is the largest art exhibit in Valdosta. It is arguably the most inclusive art exhibit in South Georgia, possibly in the entire state.

It is the most inclusive art exhibit in South Georgia because all artists who register pieces in the show are guaranteed the art will be displayed.

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



Valdosta State University students Jasmine Jenkins and Darrien Butler view the galleries at Spring Into Art.



Spring Into Art will be on display through June 6.



A custom jewelry piece is on display by artist Regina Roper.



Sarah Beth Warrender took 2nd place for "Downtown Horizon" in the Digital Arts/Photography category.





Turner Art Center curator Bill Shenton prepares the galleries for the Spring Into Art exhibit.



Suzanne Marcil's won 1st place for her colored pencil "Let's Party".



Karsyn Fletcher received an honorable mention for "Ain't She Sweet."



Derek Schaper's "Totem" received honorable mention.



Thomas M. Thomson's "Q" took first place in painting.

# Arts & Entertainment

MAY 2018

## • Spring Into Art

Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. All galleries. The region's largest, most inclusive art exhibit with hundreds of works on display from hundreds of artists representing South Georgia and other states. The show runs through June 6. Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; closed Sundays and Mondays. Most opening receptions, however, are 5-7 p.m. Mondays on designated dates. Admission: Free on dates after opening gala. More information: Call (229) 247-2787 or visit [www.turnercenter.org](http://www.turnercenter.org).

## • "The Real Princess and the Pea,"

The Dosta Playhouse, 122 N. Ashley St. Gingerbread Players of Theatre Guild Valdosta presents this beloved story adapted by Anita Larsen, based on the fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen. Synopsis: "No one knows more about the dreary life of being a servant than orphaned Lizzie, the maid at Madame Bombazine's Royal Academy of Royalty. At the beck and call of the shallow student princesses and the bullying Madame Bombazine, Lizzie's cheery personality defies her dismal life, but makes her a favorite of all the shopkeepers. Then grandmotherly Oldma steps in with a little magic. When shy Prince Robert comes along, Oldma wisely steps aside to allow the magic of love to smooth a course confused by the power of a small green vegetable — the pea. Once a cause of irritation under multiple mattresses, now the pea has become a royal allergen. Around peas, some royals sneeze while others expire. Forget all you ever thought you knew about princesses and peas." Run dates: June 1-3 & 8-10. More information: Call (229) 24-STAGE or visit [www.theatreguildvaldosta.com](http://www.theatreguildvaldosta.com).

## • Peach State Summer Theatre

opens at the end of May with the first of its three productions running through mid-July. The shows are scheduled to play Sawyer Theatre, Valdosta State University Fine Arts Building, corner of Oak and Brookwood. More information: Visit [www.valdosta.edu/psst](http://www.valdosta.edu/psst).

## PSST! 2018 SHOWS

– **"Million Dollar Quartet,"** a musical based on the time Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins jammed together at Sun Records. Opens May 25 and runs in rotating repertory theatre through July 14.

– **"Newsies,"** a musical drama based on the newspaper boy strike of the late 1800s. Opens June 8 and runs in rotating repertory theatre through July 14.

– **"Hello, Dolly!"** the beloved musical about a matchmaker's efforts to find a bride for a miserly businessman. Opens June 22 and runs in rotating repertory through July 15.

## • Frankie Ballard and Canaan Smith in concert

Wild Adventures Theme Park, Old Clyattville Road. Run date: May 5. More information: Visit [wildadventures.com](http://wildadventures.com) or call (229) 219-7080.

## • Three Doors Down in concert

Wild Adventures Theme Park, Old Clyattville Road. Run date: May 12. More information: Visit [wildadventures.com](http://wildadventures.com) or call (229) 219-7080.

## • Alabama in concert

Wild Adventures Theme Park, Old Clyattville Road. Run date: May 19. More information: Visit [wildadventures.com](http://wildadventures.com) or call (229) 219-7080.

## • The World Famous Harlem Globetrotters

Wild Adventures Theme Park, Old Clyattville Road. Run date: May 26-27. More information: Visit [wildadventures.com](http://wildadventures.com) or call (229) 219-7080.

## • Collective Soul in concert

Wild Adventures Theme Park, Old Clyattville Road. Run date: June 5. More information: Visit [wildadventures.com](http://wildadventures.com) or call (229) 219-7080.

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## The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presents

# SUMMER ART Classes 2018

### Pottery Drawing | Painting Mixed Media Culinary

<p><b>Pottery: A World Of Clay</b>                      Instructor: Julie Barnes Smith                      Session 1 Dates: June 5, 7, 8, 12, 14                      Session 2 Dates: June 19, 21, 22, 26, 28                      Session 3 Dates: July 10, 12, 13, 17, 19                      Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Ages: 5-12 Cost: \$60 / Per Session</p>	<p><b>String Weavings</b>                      Instructor: Cheryl Jowers                      Dates: June 11-15                      Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Ages: 6-10 Cost: \$60                      Time: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Ages: 11-14 Cost: \$60</p>	<p><b>Mixed Media Mania</b>                      Instructor: Alicia Bergeron                      Dates: July 9-13                      Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Ages: 8-12 Cost: \$60</p>
<p><b>Mixed Media Session 1: Mixed Media Menagerie</b>                      Instructor: Rena Taylor                      Dates: June 4-8                      Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Ages: 7-12 Cost: \$60</p>	<p><b>Traveling Through Mixed Media</b>                      Instructor: Julie Skinner                      Dates: July 18-22                      Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Ages: 8-12 Cost: \$60</p>	<p><b>Culinary Class</b>                      Instructor: CAG Members                      Dates: July 9-13                      Time: 10:00 am - 12:30 pm Ages: 8-12 Cost: \$100</p>
<p><b>Painting Session 1: Perky Paintings</b>                      Instructor: Rena Taylor                      Dates: June 4-8                      Time: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Ages: 7-12 Cost: \$60</p>	<p><b>Hand Weaving/Fabric Collage</b>                      Instructor: Cheryl Jowers                      Dates: June 25-29                      Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Ages: 8-10 Cost: \$60                      Time: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Ages: 11-14 Cost: \$60</p>	<p><b>Exploring Color</b>                      Instructor: Cheryl Jowers                      Dates: July 16-20                      Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Ages: 4-8 Cost: \$60                      Time: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Ages: 9-12 Cost: \$60</p>

Contact the Turner Center for enrollment and info: 229-247-2787 / 527 N. Patterson St. / [turnercenter.org](http://turnercenter.org)  
 Scholarships are available based on need. For scholarship information, contact Sementha Mathews at [smathews@turnercenter.org](mailto:smathews@turnercenter.org)



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 Volume VI: A Musical Celebration



The chair took around  
200 hours to complete.



# *Rockin' Out!*

## **Woodworker nails Spring Into Art**

by **Amanda M. Usher** photos by **Derrek Vaughn**

It was his first art competition ... ever. Hahira resident Tom Davis III managed to conquer the 31st Annual Spring Into Art competition with a Sam Maloof-inspired cherry-wood rocking chair.

The competition was hosted by the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, and winners were announced Monday, April 9.

Davis said he had no clue Spring Into Art was being judged; however, the woodworker was able to secure the \$1,000 award for Best in Show, defeating more than 200 artists for the prize.

"It's just incredible," he said. "I'm just very, very pleasantly surprised."

The carefully structured rocking chair also sold for \$1,300 and will sit in the Turner Center for viewing until June 6.

The winning piece was made completely by hand, with no use of nails or metal hardware, Davis said.



Tom Davis III shows off his Best in Show ribbon awarded at Spring Into Art for his cherry wood rocking chair.



“  
*It is a project that one could build completely by hand. Most don't because it's real hard to get some of the exact fits together.*”

"It is a project that one could build completely by hand," he said. "Most don't because it's real hard to get some of the exact fits together."

He began venturing into woodworking about 20 years ago, and his wife, Sandy, joined him in the artistry a little later.

"It started out just as projects that we wanted to get things done," Davis said. "I'm used to doing stuff myself and not having other people do it, so we started years ago, and just progressed right along."

It took years of practice, he said, as he was finally able to shape a perfect square after 10-15 years of being a woodworker.

It was during a trip to Seattle when Davis saw a rocking chair created by Maloof, a furniture designer and woodworker. He decided to construct his own version.

One of the differences Davis highlighted be-

tween his rocking chair and Maloof's is the use of spindles.

"Malooof spindles, he carves his out of a solid piece of wood, and this is another style that's got more flex to it, something that's more comfortable," he said.

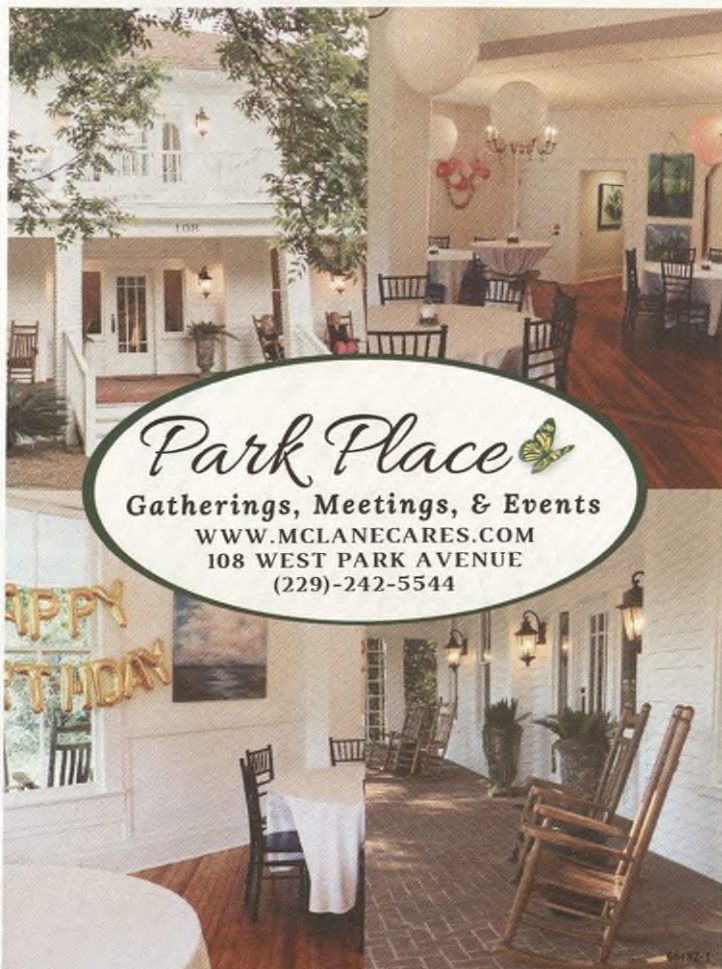
It took about 200 hours of labor to compose the chair, he said. There were countless times when Davis said he would have to restart the construction of a piece again and again.

"You build the legs, and you get them attached to the seat," he said. "When you get them attached to the seat, then you build the rockers."

He said he then began to create transitions from the rocker to the leg before testing to see if the chair would rock correctly.

A woodturner, Sandy said she plans to participate in Spring Into Art next year when the competition returns. **VS**

**> See photos from the Spring Into Art opening reception on pages 54-55!**



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*Congress shall  
free exercise there  
people peaceably*

## OUR POINT OF VIEW

# Round of Applause

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

**Best wishes to Cheryl Oliver**, who is leaving the executive director position after a decade with the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. She has continued great programs, started new programs, all with grace, calm and seamless organization. Congratulations to Sementha Mathews who is leaving her post as the city public information officer to become the new executive director of the arts center.

# Another enchanting evening at Turner

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts' Spring into Art opening gala is always spectacular.

The paintings, the sculptures, the photography and the drawings are the only things better than the food and atmosphere.

The event always draws a crowd but this year seemed more crowded than ever. The turnout was great to see.

Sometimes we take for granted the things we are accustomed to.

Because of the Turner Center, our community is accustomed to great art exhibits, social gatherings and major theatrical productions coming to Valdosta.

Because of the Turner Center, our community is accustomed to fine arts shows, and a gallery that features quality works of art accessible to anyone.

Because of Valdosta State University, along with Valdosta and Lowndes high schools, our community is accustomed to amazing student

productions and concerts that rival professional performances anywhere.

Because of Wild Adventures Theme Park our community is accustomed to major musical concerts featuring headliners that would be expected in major markets at high-profile venues.

Because of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra we have — a symphony orchestra.

Seriously?

A community in the Deep South, the size of Valdosta and Lowndes County with a symphony orchestra is unbelievable.

But, believe it.

Not only do we have an orchestra performing classical music, we have a great orchestra with performances that do not in any way take a back seat to the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.



JIM  
ZACHARY

All these things point to a quality of life that is quite unexpected in a town the size of Valdosta.

Yet, we too often take all these things for granted.

Very few cities the size of our town could boast these kinds of events.

As a community, however, we probably don't appreciate it as much as we could.

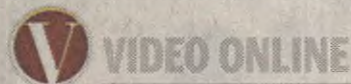
Bring these kinds of art events, theatrical productions or musical events to any other city the size of Valdosta and it is likely they will sell out instantly.

What's not to love about Valdosta?

Our town has a vibrant arts community, quality entertainment, fine restaurants, nice parks, a great public university, great churches, libraries, coffee houses, plenty of places to shop, nice warm weather, wonderful people with a Southern state of mind, and if you get bored with all that I hear there is an occasional high school football game.

# Children create wind chimes out of pottery

Tuesday April 10, 2018



[valdostadailytimes.com](http://valdostadailytimes.com);  
see 'WIND CHIME'

**BY JASON A. SMITH**

[jason.smith@gafnews.com](mailto:jason.smith@gafnews.com)

VALDOSTA — Children and their parents gathered at the Hudson House across the street from the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts to make pottery Saturday.

The classes, hosted by the Turner Center and taught by Julie Smith, are two-hour projects that can be completed in one day, she said.

The classes focus on a particular project that is seasonal or in parity with a timely holiday such as Easter or Mother's Day, she said.

During the Saturday class, children made wind chimes.

The chimes are made of two cones that fit inside one another. The top cone has an intricate design on it, and the bottom cone fits inside the top cone. There is a small weighted piece used to catch the wind, making the cones hit each other to chime in the wind.

Because creating the wind chimes requires the use of a kiln, the children don't actually create the chimes from start to finish, Smith said.

However, the children do create the cones using clay wrapped around another cone that is used for support, she said. The support cone helps the children with the glazing process and is later removed.



JASON A. SMITH | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

**Sydney Atkins, 6, applies glaze to her wind chime.**

Once the clay has been properly applied to the support cone and sealed, the children take a small palette and add glaze, the chemicals used to paint the clay, and decorate the wind chime, Smith said.

There was also clay available for

the children to cut out butterflies, flowers and other decorations to add onto the wind chime to give it a three-dimensional look.

Once the glaze is applied, Smith

**See Pottery on 10A**



AMANDA M. USHER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Alice Johnson, district director for Congressman Austin Scott, and Sunni Pike, ticket sales coordinator and office administrator for Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, prepare for the Eighth Annual Congressional Art Show. The show will be held 3 p.m., April 22, in the Valdosta Mall.

## Congressman to host youth art show

BY AMANDA M. USHER

amanda.usher@gaffnews.com



VIDEO ONLINE

valdostadailytimes.com; see "YOUTH ART SHOW"

VALDOSTA — Artistic expressions by high school students are currently displayed on the walls of a Valdosta Mall store space located across from Rue 21.

Sixty paintings, photographs and drawings from the youthful artists will be featured at the Eighth Annual Congressional Art Show set to be hosted by Congressman Austin Scott, 3 p.m., April 22.

Alice Johnson, Scott's district director, said none of the artwork is for sale and the art show is an effort to highlight regional talent in high school students. She confirmed Scott will be present at the art show.

All artwork is inclusive of Georgia's congress-

sional Eighth District, which consists of Valdosta, Thomasville, Tifton, Warner Robins, Macon, Forsyth, Johnson said.

About 20 of the 60 pieces of artwork come from Lowndes County students, said Sunni Pike, ticket sales coordinator and office administrator for Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

Pike has been assisting Johnson with organizing and curating the reception.

"I think it's going to be a really good opportunity for a lot of young artists to showcase their work in the community," Pike said, "so I'm very excited

to see the turnout for the reception."

Ninth through twelfth graders submitted their artwork earlier in the year, and will have it evaluated during the art show by local judges.

The first-place winner will have his or her artwork exhibited in the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. from June until the following May, Johnson said.

The winning piece will join 434 others in the Capitol's gallery, and Johnson said the winner of the art show will receive two flight tickets for the reveal in Washington, D.C.

Second- and third-

place winners will have their artwork displayed in the district offices located in Tifton and Warner Robins, Johnson said.

Photos of all of the artwork will be on Scott's Facebook page for followers to view. The piece with the most likes will be selected to receive the People's Choice award and will be on display in Scott's Washington, D.C., office, Johnson said.

She said the feedback received from the yearly show is positive.

"It's always great," Johnson said. "In all the high schools, we have great art teachers that help put this together."

Light refreshments will be served during the reception.

Visit [austinscott.house.gov/services/art-competition](http://austinscott.house.gov/services/art-competition) for more information.



# Turner Center art blooms

BY AMANDA M. USHER

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VALDOSTA — The opening gala for the 31st Annual Spring into Art Exhibition is nearing.

Held at Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts beginning at 6 p.m., April 9, the exhibition will showcase 450 pieces of diverse artwork from 216 community artists.

"It started 31 years ago to provide an opportunity for local artists to show their work, so it's open for artists to show one or two works of their recent creation," said Bill Shenton, artistic director.

Artwork from painters, pho-

tographers, sculptors, mixed-media artists and others will be sold during the gala. Shenton said the pieces will remain for sale and on display until June 6.

"There's a lot to choose from, and a lot of these artists are not professional artists, so they don't ask exorbitant art prices," he said. "It's sometimes very affordable art."

Artists will compete for \$5,000 in awards, and 12 selections will be chosen to be featured in Colson Printing's annual print calendar.

Painter Kay Cromartie won best in show last year for one of her entry pieces and had a second painting spotlighted in Colson's

calendar.

Shenton said Spring into Art brings artists from throughout South Georgia and North Florida areas, and many traveling artists commend Turner for its facilities and for the type of show it hosts.

"From their remarks, they say that our show is one of the best run," he said. "It's definitely one of the biggest arts shows in South Georgia annually."

Tickets are \$45, and can be purchased via online for the 6-9 p.m. Monday, April 9, gala, at the arts center, 527 N. Patterson St., or at the door the day of the event. He said interested guests can also call the arts center at (229) 247-2787 to buy tickets.



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Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Creative Administrator Bill Shenton prepares the gallery for the annual Spring into Art exhibit. The exhibit opens Monday, April 9.

## Presenter Series hosts touring musical comedy

BY DEAN POLING

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VALDOSTA — Blake Price is having the time of his life as Monty Navarro.

City by city, Price, a 23-year-old actor, travels the United States by day, while each night, Navarro whittles his way from being eight heirs removed from becoming the next earl.

Price and the Tony Award-winning "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder" are scheduled to arrive later this month in Valdosta as part of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts' Presenter Series.

The musical comedy takes a fun stab at "the uproarious story of an heir to a family fortune who sets out to jump the line of succession by eliminating eight pesky relatives who stand in his way," according to a show synopsis provided by the arts center. "All the while, he has to juggle his mistress (she's after more than just love), his fiancée (she's his cousin but who's keeping track) and the constant threat of landing behind bars. Of course, it'll all be worth it if he can slay his way to his inheritance ... and be done in time for tea."

Price has been traveling by bus, criss-crossing the United States since Octo-

### SHOWTIME

Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series hosts the national tour of "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder."

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 23.

**Where:** Mathis City Auditorium, 2300 N. Ashley St. Optional, pre-show dinner: Starts 6 p.m., April 23, Mathis multi-purpose room for additional price and advanced reservations.

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

ber, living in motel rooms, but he said it's all been worth it. He's living his dream.

He grew up in Michigan. He studied theatre at West Michigan University in Kalamazoo. He graduated in 2015, worked various acting jobs, then landed the lead role in the national tour of "A Gentleman's Guide."

"You go forth into the world and hope to make your own way and you don't know exactly what you're going to do next," he said. "Then to get lucky enough to land a dream role. It's really been a blessing."

Though the show won the 2014 Tony Award for best musical, Price admits the show does not have instant name recognition. He said he is used to explaining what it's about.

"It is a dark musical comedy about love and murder ... set in early 1900s England," Price said. "Monty learns he is in the

royal line to being an earl but there are eight people between him and the earl."

So, Monty makes his way, one by one, a step closer to being the earl.

Adding to the comedy, one actor portrays all of the other heirs. In this case, it is actor James Taylor Odom.

For Price, traveling to Georgia for shows brings him closer to his roots. His father grew up in Americus before moving to Michigan. Price still has relatives in Americus who plan to attend his Macon performance, he said.

After Valdosta, the show continues on the road through May. Then, Price will move onto his next job. He couldn't say what it might be during a recent phone interview but as an actor he's always looking for the next dream role.

Though he hopes the next one will keep him off the road for a while in New York.



NATIONAL TOURING COMPANY  
Blake Price as Monty Navarro and James Taylor Odom as the Rev. Lord Ezekiel D'Ysquith in a scene from 'A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder.' The national tour plays Valdosta later this month.

## ART: All of the art pieces will be available for viewing, purchase until June 6 in the arts center

printmaking/mixed media category for the colored-pencil composition "Let's Party."

First place for the digital arts/photography category was obtained by Valdosta resident Lauren Jenkins for her photograph, "Delusion."

Jenkins said the inspiration behind her submitted photography came from her desire to release feelings of anxiety and how she overcomes fear. She has participated in the exhibit for two years.

"I like seeing all of the art," she said. "It's just an amazing variety of art, and I like to be a part of it."

In the sculpture/ceramics/jewelry/crafts category, Valdosta resident Dave Richards was the highest victor with his wooden piece, "Emerging Desert Sun."

Other recognition included honorable mentions and merit awards, and Colson Printing representative Wendy Colson selected 12 artists to be featured in the company's 2019 calendar.

First-grader Grayson Garcia from Scintilla Charter Academy was acknowledged for his cover art of the event invitations.

This year marked the second time guest Nikki McRae attended Spring Into Art, and she said she does so in an effort to support the community's artwork. "This is the type



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**Lauren Jenkins talks about her photography submission, 'Delusion,' and its meaning. The piece won first place in the photography category at Spring Into Art.**

of event that's bringing local artists together, and I just want to show them that people actually care about the stuff that they're putting out, and hopefully encourage them to continue to put out artwork," she said.

McRae was also present at the gala to support her roommate, Sarah Beth Warrender, who won second place for her photograph "Downtown Horizon." This same photograph sold for \$120.

Painter Deanna Wheeler said she has entered artwork into the competition for the past 10 years and has been chosen for Colson's calendar four of

the last six years. "It's a very wonderful thing, inspiration to do better each year," she said.

Bruce Smith, chairman of the public art advisory committee, said Spring Into Art is essential for the art community because it connects art consumers to both local and regional artists.

"I think that the fact that people are here buying some of the works puts some money into the artist community, which is always a good thing," he said. "So I think there's a synergy that's created from it that helps and benefits the local artists and regional artists."

Coleman Talley Law Firm was one of the sponsors for Monday's gala, and attorney Janelle Alleyne said the firm sponsors many Valdosta events and Spring into Art is an essential one. "It not only brings focus into the city, but it provides an outlet for those who're already here to showcase the things that they are able to do and their artistic capabilities to everyone in the city," she said.

All of the art pieces will be available for viewing and purchase until June 6 in the arts center, 527 N. Patterson St. Call (229) 247-2787 for more information.

## Gloria Townsend: A Young Artist

STORY BY RAQUEL GODDARD

Only a year and a half after picking up a guitar for the first time, Gloria Townsend, an 18 year old senior at Valdosta High School, was selected to perform for Governor Nathan Deal and his wife Sandra Deal last October at the Georgia State Capitol in Atlanta.

Townsend's path to success began the summer of 2016 when she enrolled in the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Hal and Jill Project. The Hal and Jill Project, which was founded by former director, Cheryl Oliver, allows for young people all over Valdosta to distinguish themselves as gifted artists at no cost. When the school year resumed, Gloria continued taking the course, under the direction of Ken Hase. Gloria performed a song that she wrote and sang at a recital, an opportunity made possible by the program.

Realizing her dream to become a musician, Townsend considers music her second passion, after art. In particular, she wanted to learn how to play guitar, coming from a family of people who could. Townsend would become one of the only girls in her family to learn how to play. For her, it was not a difficult instrument to learn. In about a month, she was already playing songs, and she believes that as long as you practice regularly, it's not hard to master the guitar.

She writes her own songs about anything that comes to mind, especially if it's more on the melancholy side. Her music has a cathartic effect. Her favorite genres of music are alternative and indie, which feature a mellow vibe.

In the future, Townsend intends to continue pursuing music on the side while attending college for a fine arts degree. Townsend is truly a Hal and Jill success story.

For more information regarding the educational programs at The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, contact them via email at [turnercenter.org](http://turnercenter.org) or call 229-247-ARTS (2787).

# Turner Center names Spring Into Art winners

BY AMANDA M. USHER

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VALDOSTA — The winners of the 31st Annual Spring Into Art competition were announced Monday, April 9, at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

Hahira resident Tom C. Davis III secured the Best in Show award for his cherry wood rocking chair labeled "Inspired Sam Maloof."

In the painting category, Thomas Thomson of Havana, Fla., won first place, Craig Hawkins of Valdosta won second place and Steven Walker of Hahira won third place.

In the drawing/print-making/mixed media category, Suzanne Marcil of McAlpin, Fla., won first place, Caroline Corbitt of Valdosta won second place and Brandon Blane McMullan of Hahira won third place.

The digital arts/photography category went to three Valdosta residents. Lauren Jenkins won first place, Sarah Beth Warrender won second place and Sally Turner Querin won third place.

In the sculpture/ceramics/jewelry/crafts category, Dave Richards of Valdosta won first place, Michael Schmidt of Hahira won second place and Parker Atkinson of Tallahassee,

Fla., won third place.

Honorable mentions went to Andrea Thomas of Valdosta, Evelyn Davis-Walker of Hahira, Derek Schaper of Valdosta, Walter Altman of Valdosta, Brandon Blane McMullan of Hahira, Christine Flanagan of Live Oak, Fla., Paul Consolini of Valdosta, Lucille Sineath of Valdosta, Kristy Hughes of Valdosta and Glinda Pennock of McAlpin, Fla.

Merit Awards included recipients Brenda Anderson of Valdosta, Parker Atkinson of Tallahassee, Fla., Philip Bagrow of Norfolk, Va., Hollis Barnett of Valdosta, Cynthia Council of Valdosta, Harvie Ann Cox of Moultrie, Nancy Crombie of Valdosta, Lee Davis of Valdosta, Ellen Dewar of Valdosta, Billy Dykes of Valdosta, Kate Evans of Valdosta, Nancy Fazio of Ocala, Fla., Karsyn Fletcher of Tallahassee, Fla., Cathy Herring of Lake Park, Abigail Heuss of Valdosta, Walter Hobbs of Valdosta, Robert Johnston of Waycross, J. Stephen Lahr of Valdosta, Earle McKey of Valdosta, Karin Murray of Valdosta, Gloria Paulsen of Greenville, Fla., Regina Roper of Gainesville, Fla., Michael Schmidt of Hahira, Ron Thomson of Thomasville, Justin Usher of Valdosta and Todd Wessel of Valdosta.



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Sally Querin won third place in the digital arts/photography category for her photo 'See Me.'