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Arts & Entertainment

JANUARY 2018

• **DrawProject**

Sallie & Harmon Boyette Gallery, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. Annual art scholarship fundraiser featuring numerous works by artists from South Georgia and other locales. Show opens with a free, public reception, 5-7 p.m., Jan. 8. Show runs 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 exception of scheduled openings. **Admission:** Free. **More information:** Call (229) 247-2787, or visit www.turnercenter.org.

• **Artist Craig Hawkins' "Emmaus Road"**

Price Campbell Foundation Gallery, Margaret Mittiga Gallery, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. Show opens with a free, public reception, 5-7 p.m., Jan. 8. Show runs 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 exception of scheduled openings. **Admission:** Free. **More information:** Call (229) 247-2787, or visit www.turnercenter.org.

• **Andrew Sabori's "Coming to America: The Immigrant Experience"**

Joseette's Gallery, Price Campbell Foundation Gallery, Margaret Mittiga Gallery, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. Show opens with a free, public reception, 5-7 p.m., Jan. 8. Show runs 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 exception of scheduled openings. **Admission:** Free. **More information:** Call (229) 247-2787, or visit www.turnercenter.org.

• **"Amazing Grace"**

Mathis City Auditorium, 2300 N. Ashley St. Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series presents this nationally touring, professional production. **Synopsis:** "Amazing Grace" is an original musical based on the awe-inspiring true story behind the world's most beloved song. A captivating tale of romance, rebellion and redemption, this radiant production follows one man whose incredible journey ignited a historic wave of change. Brimming with emotion and adventure, 'Amazing Grace' is an unforgettable musical saga that captures the

spirit of history's sweetest and most powerful sound: freedom." **Run date:** 7:30 p.m., Jan. 30, with an optional pre-show dinner available at 6 p.m., in Mathis multi-purpose room, reservations required. **More information:** Call (229) 247-2787 or visit www.turnercenter.org.

• **Valdosta National 2018**

Dedo Maranville Fine Arts Gallery, VSU Fine Arts Building, corner of Oak and Brookwood. Valdosta State University Art & Design hosts the all-media juried competition, an annual tradition featuring submitted works from artists across the nation. **Run dates:** Jan. 16 through Feb. 2. **Reception:** 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16. **Gallery hours:** 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Fridays. **Admission:** Free. **More information:** Call (229) 333-5835 or visit www.valdosta.edu/art.

• **"Planets View from the Hubble Space Telescope"**

Sawyer Theatre, Valdosta State University Fine Arts Building, corner of Oak and Brookwood. VSU Theatre & Dance present a show that is an original dance presentation for young audiences, according to VSU. It is also the annual children's show where VSU students and faculty travel to area schools to introduce theatre to children. **Synopsis:** "Our good friend, Hubble, short for the Hubble Space Telescope, will narrate the distinctive aspects of each planet as seen through his lens, along with "The Planets" music composed by Gustav Holst. ... This performance is created with the Georgia Performance Standards for Fine Arts Education as its central focus." **Run dates:** Public shows Feb. 2-3. For tour information or to book a tour date for February or March, contact Jacque Wheeler (229) 333-5820. **More information:** Call (229) 333-5973 or visit www.valdosta.edu/comarts.

• **"Sleeping Beauty Ballet"**

Mathis City Auditorium, 2300 N. Ashley St. Valdosta School of Ballet and Valdosta State University Theatre & Dance present this year's "Princess Ballet." **Synopsis:** "This production will be fun for everyone as this classic tale is told in dance, featuring musical excerpts by Tchaikovsky and other composers, a beautiful ballerina, a charming prince and an evil fairy." **Run dates:** Jan. 20, 21. Tickets will be available at local outlets in early January. **More information:** Call (229) 333-5973 or visit www.valdosta.edu/comarts.

50th
Anniversary

Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts

Presenter Series

2017 - 2018 Season



Tuesday, January 30th at 7:30pm

Mathis City Auditorium, Valdosta

AMAZING GRACE is a new original musical based on the awe-inspiring true story behind the world's most beloved song. A captivating tale of romance, rebellion and redemption, this radiant production follows one man whose incredible journey ignited a historic wave of change.

John Newton, a willful and musically talented young Englishman, faces a future as uncertain as the turning tide. Coming of age as Britain sits atop an international empire of slavery, he finds himself torn between following in the footsteps of his father – a slave trader – or embracing the more compassionate views of his childhood sweetheart. Accompanied by his slave, Thomas, John embarks on a perilous voyage on the high seas. When that journey finds John in his darkest hour, a transformative moment of self-reckoning inspires a blazing anthem of hope that will finally guide him home.

Tickets are \$50. Contact the Turner Center for the Arts for tickets & info.
An optional pre-show dinner will be offered by reservation at 6pm.
527 N. Patterson Street / 229-247-2787 / turnercenter.org

ANNETTE HOWELL
TURNER
CENTER
FOR THE
ARTS



AMANDA M. USHER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES
 The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts features 'Coming to America: The Immigrant Experience,' a painting by muralist Andrew Sabori. 'Coming to America' is an ode to the original Ellis Island mural painted by artist Edward Laning.

Turner displays new shows

BY AMANDA M. USHER
 amanda.usher@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — Biblical stories were told and the lives of immigrants were depicted Monday during the gallery reception at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

The community gathered at the swanky affair to examine the works of painter and illustrator Craig Hawkins and muralist Andrew Sabori.

Both artists were introduced to guests during the reception, and their pieces will hang in the center until Feb. 22 for the public to view.

"Emmaus Road," created by Hawkins, is a series of 44 charcoal drawings the artist paired with the sermons of Pastor Ken Webb of Christ's Fellowship Church.

"On average, they took about 45 minutes to draw," he said.

"At their longest, they took maybe an hour and a half to two hours."

Hawkins said Webb would send the sermons to him ahead of time, and he would spend the week reflecting on the sermon.

Once Sunday approached, Hawkins would work to illustrate the sermon through his drawings during the service and would present it to the congregation following the sermon.

"I don't feel like there's a separation between who I am in Christ, as a Christian, in anything else that I do in life," he said, "and, so, ever since I became a Christian, since then I've wanted to incorporate both my art and my faith together."

Hawkins' pieces hang in the Price-Campbell Gallery and Margaret Mittiga Gallery.

All of the drawings have a QR code next to them for guests to scan with their camera upon viewing. The code leads to a detailed explanation of that particular piece.

Painter Edward Laning's artwork, which displays the detailed migration of immigrants, lives on in Sabori's "Coming to America: The Immigrant Experience" located in Jossette's Gallery.

"When I first found out



AMANDA M. USHER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES
 The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts features artist Craig Hawkins' 'Emmaus Road,' a series of 44 charcoal drawings that illustrate Biblical sermons.

about the mural, I was living in New York, and I wanted to find out about my father, he's from Sicily, and how he came over to America," he said.

Sabori said he and his wife were in New York retrieving records about his father when his wife found the black-and-white photo of Laning's mural hanging in the cafeteria hall at Ellis Island.

After thorough research, Sabori said he discovered the mural had never been seen by others due to Ellis Island being quarantined, so he decided to recreate it.

"The original mural was about 18 feet high and 200 feet long," he said, "but when I started asking about the mural, no one had ever heard of it."

Sabori also has a portrait series titled "Famous Immigrants" featured in the gallery, where original immigration papers complement each subject.

During the reception, Turner held an auction to raise funding for scholarships that will benefit art

majors at Valdosta State University.

Known as the Draw-Project, Bill Shenton, center artistic director, said the auction usually raises about \$6,000.

"It's been going on for 11 years," he said, "and originally it funded a \$2,000 scholarship, and that grew to two \$2,000 scholarships, and then starting about two years ago, it grew to the third scholarship."

During the auction, guests wrote their bids down on a sheet of paper provided by the gallery, and then a live auction occurred for any piece with

a bidding of at least \$150, Shenton said.

In 2017, the artwork that entered live auction sold for \$300-\$500 per piece, he said.

Paintings from the Art Explorations program, featuring youth from the Boys and Girls Club, are also displayed in the gallery.

Turner Center is located at 527 N. Patterson St. The gallery is open for viewing from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

To learn more, visit turnercenter.org.

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Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts

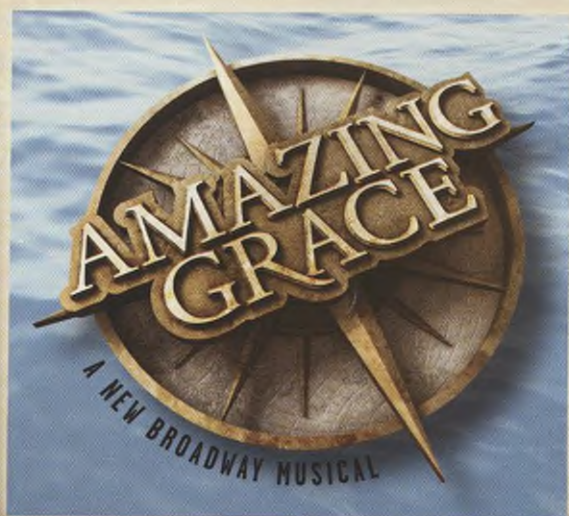
Presenter Series

2017 - 2018 Season



Merry and Bright Special Christmas Offer!

*Two Tickets for \$80 (\$100 value!)*Holiday pricing ends 6pm on Dec. 22*

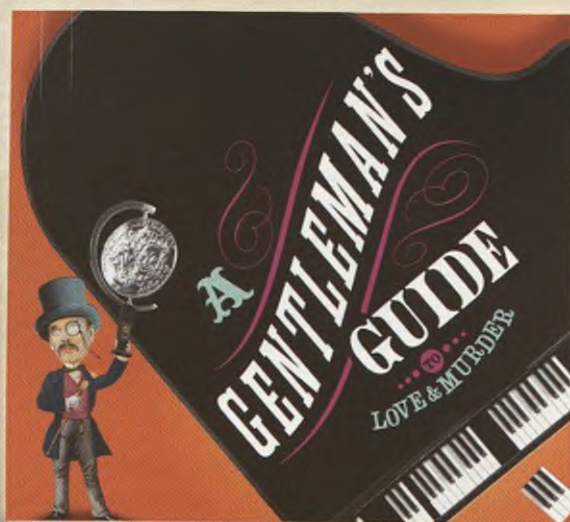


Tuesday, January 30

**A captivating tale of romance,
rebellion & redemption!**

An original stage musical based on the awe-inspiring true story behind the world's most beloved song, *Amazing Grace* is a captivating tale of romance, rebellion and redemption. This radiant production follows one man whose incredible journey ignited a historic wave of change. Brimming with emotion and adventure, *Amazing Grace* is an unforgettable musical saga that captures the spirit of history's sweetest and most powerful sound: freedom.

"The timing of this sweeping and inspirational new Broadway musical couldn't be better. The staging is superb, with moments of genuine astonishment. As spectacular as anything on Broadway, *Amazing Grace* tells the story of how the song came to be, and ELICITS WIDESPREAD GASPS & CHEERING FROM THE AUDIENCE." – *The Washington Post*



Monday, April 23

**2014 Tony Award winner
for BEST MUSICAL!!!**

Laugh your way through the uproarious story of an heir to a family fortune who sets out to jump the line of succession by – you guessed it – eliminating eight pesky relatives who stand in his way. 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.

The Examiner cheers, "ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON! GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE BOASTS TERRIFIC ACTORS WHO ARE DELIGHTING AUDIENCES WITH HILARIOUS HIJINKS."

This is the musical that will have you *dying* with laughter.

Performances are held at Mathis City Auditorium, Valdosta
For tickets and information, contact the Turner Center:

527 North Patterson Street, Valdosta, Georgia
229-247-ARTS(2787) / www.turnercenter.org





Artist Jimmy Maine
at The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts

- **Georgia Artists with Disabilities**

Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.
Run dates: Show runs through December. **Gallery hours:** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturday. **Admission:** Free. **More information:** Call (229) 247-2787; or visit turnercenter.org.

- **“A Christmas Spectacular”**

The Dosta Theatre, 122 N. Ashley St. Theatre Guild Valdosta presents an original holiday show. **Synopsis:** “Your favorite songs of the Christmas season performed by some of the best singers, actors, and instrumentalists in the area, all presented in a magical Winter Wonderland setting. A must-see for the entire family.” **Run dates:** Dec. 7-9, 14-16. **More information:** Call (229) 24-STAGE or visit www.theatreguildvaldosta.com.

- **Christmas Concert**

St. John Catholic Church, 800 Gornto Road. Valdosta Choral Guild presents its annual concert that traditionally mixes holiday favorites with Christmas hymns. **Run dates:** 4:30 p.m., Dec. 3, and 7:30 p.m., Dec. 4.

- **“The Nutcracker”**

Mathis City Auditorium, 2300 N. Ashley St. Dance Arts, Inc. continues its decades-long tradition of presenting a live version of Tchaikovsky’s beloved Christmas ballet. All with live music performed by Valdosta Symphony Orchestra. **Run dates:** Dec. 1-3. **VS**



Artist Deanna Griffin
at The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts



With assistance from a Guardian Bank grant, Debi Davis, arts education administrator with the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, is teaching art education classes at Echols County High School.

Art in Education

Turner Center for the Arts, Guardian Bank Partner to Help Students Learn, Grow

As a teacher and artist, Debi Davis understands the important role art education plays in a child's full development.

Shortly after retiring from the Lowndes County School System, Davis began her second career with the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. In 2016, she was hired as the center's first arts education administrator and was tasked with developing art education programs for children and adults.

Funded by a National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) grant, Davis has developed a series titled "Art Talks," which combines in-class instruction with a visit to the Turner Center

to help fully engage the students in looking at, thinking about, and discussing art.

Starting in the classroom, students review the elements of art—shape, line, color, space, texture, and form—by viewing a reproduction of the artwork they will see on their visit to the Turner Center.

"The teachers are asked to prepare their students for the Art Talks experience beforehand," Davis said. "Each teacher is given a lesson plan and a digital image of a selected painting to introduce to their students."

Students also discuss the difference between viewing an original piece of artwork and the reproduction, as well as interpreting artwork using formal analysis and research.

"The goal of the NEA grant was engagement through capacity building, which spilled over into learning," said Davis, who served as president of the Georgia Art Education Association from 2009 to 2011. "The primary objective was to introduce middle and high school students, including those who had never been or would probably never come to the Turner Center on their own."

During a five-month period, Davis conducted 21 Art Talks with more than 530 students.

Through the Art Talks, students were asked to document their thoughts regarding the artwork and research the artists by visiting their website and reading artist statements.

"The major point was to make students aware that viewing an

original piece of art shows much more than viewing the digital image," Davis said, "and they could connect to the artwork even if they never knew what the artist had in mind when he or she created the piece."

Davis was recently contacted by the administration at Echols County High School and asked to teach art education classes.

"The counselor at Echols County High School contacted the Turner Center regarding several very talented high school students that would benefit from some art instruction, since the Echols County School System has no art classes at any level," Davis said. "I was able to set up after-school drawing classes twice a week for any student interested in taking art classes."

The classes are focused on the traditional elements of art, the study of color, realism, and painting.

With the expense of art supplies, Davis said most of the students had not experienced anything more than paper and pencil drawing.

"When a person is interested in art, he or she will usually begin with paper and pencil since those materials are readily available and inexpensive," Davis said. "Paint, on the other hand, is more expensive and harder to teach yourself. I will continue with painting and add three-dimensional in the spring."

Davis plans to continue the Art Talks and classes at Echols County High School, with the goal to expand art education programs in surrounding communities in the near future.

"We learned that if you build it, they will come," Davis said. "With incentives, strong programs, and solid groundwork, the Turner Center can become a legitimate educational resource for students and teachers in the region."

Though the NEA grant has expired, Davis said the education programs will continue and new initiatives developed through a grant from Guardian Bank.

"Guardian Bank is proud to fund a new partnership with the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts," said Guardian Bank Chief Executive Officer Parrish Clark. "Our team was eager to be involved with the opportunity to develop and enhance educational opportunities in the arts for children, young adults, and adults in Valdosta and the surrounding area.

"We read with great interest how this partnership will provide unique opportunities and instruction in a variety of artistic offerings. This is the type of program that fits well with Guardian Bank's own strategic plan and its focus on opportunities to enhance education, support economic growth, and improve quality of life in our area. We are pleased to be an integral part of how the newly developed concept will open creative pathways for people of all ages."

Davis said new initiatives include developing career pathway classes to help students learn marketable skills including photography, photo editing, web design, and video editing.

"It would be very difficult to add these programs without the support of Guardian Bank," Davis said. "Their support is allowing the Turner Center to offer computer-based art and to expand our traditional art classes in such a way that expands our reach tremendously to the region's population."



With a dream to one day become a book illustrator, Maricela Mendoza is benefiting from art education classes sponsored by the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts at Echols County High School.

Outdoor Canvas

Downtown art contest draws competitors

BY AMANDA USHER

amanda.usher@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — Oil painter Steven Walker was the victor Saturday during the Plein Air Art Competition on the 100 block of East Valley Street.

The studio artist painted downtown restaurant King's Grill and won \$100 grand prize.

He said he chose to paint King's Grill because he enjoys the outside scenery of the building.

"To me, still being a newcomer here, I feel like this is kind of an iconic restaurant," he said. "I like the look of it. It has a lot of character to it."

Plein Air judges Martha Sparks and Dewayne Johnson mutually agreed that Walker's work directly mirrors the North Patterson restaurant.

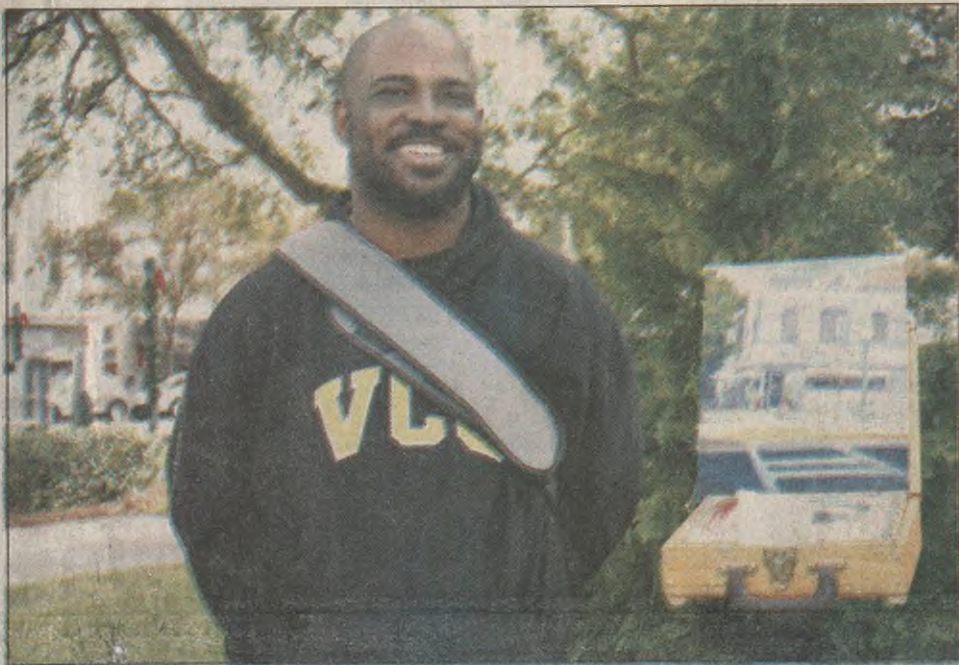
"We both loved the detail," Sparks said. "... Just the detail of how the road leads into the way the building is situated, the colors themselves, the brush strokes are just terrific."

Sparks said Walker's image gives her a feeling of nostalgia.

"It just makes me feel like I'm in a hometown kind of atmosphere," she said. "He really grabbed that and capitalized on it really well."

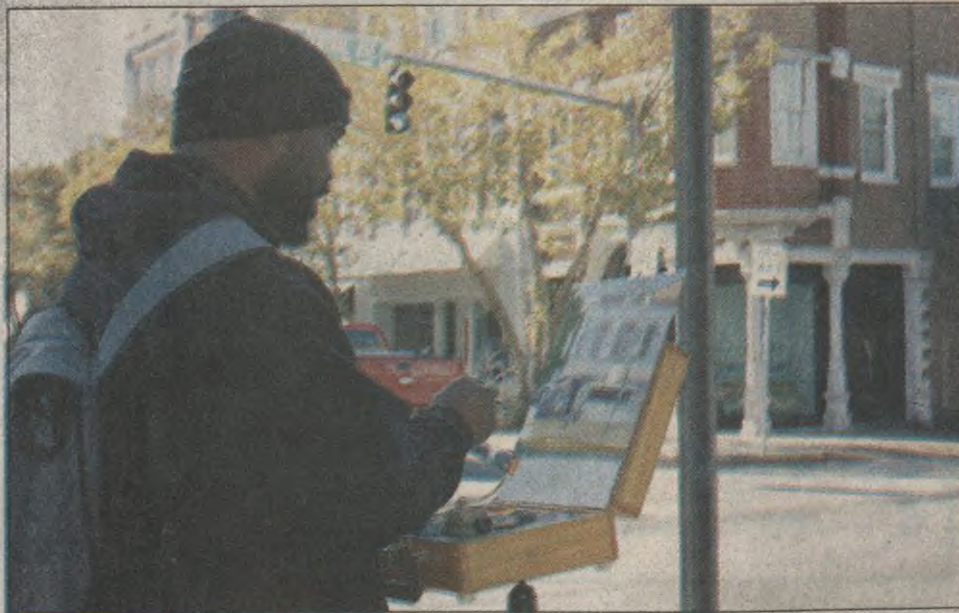
Conquering plein air art is a big feat for Walker

See Contest on 10A



AMANDA USHER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Oil painter Steven Walker is the grand-prize winner of the Plein Air Art Competition, held Saturday downtown.



AMANDA USHER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Oil painter Steven Walker paints downtown restaurant King's Grill Saturday during the Plein Air Art Competition.



AMANDA USHER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Downtown restaurant King's Grill is the star of oil painter Steven Walker's entry in the Plein Air Art Competition Saturday.

CONTEST: Plein Air Art Competition was finale to the 2017 Downtown Valdosta Farm Days

since it is out of his norm, according to the artist.

Plein air is painting a scene live outdoors.

"That's a lot of pressure," he said.

"It feels good. I'm just glad that they even have this kind of event."

Walker said he plans to participate in the third installment of the compe-

tition at the top of spring 2018.

Until then, his oil paintings can be viewed in the Sallie and Harmon Boyette Gallery at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.

Other plein air competitors included Valdosta State University art major Hunter Pope, retiree

Nancy Crombie, pastel artist Shani Voyer, artist Ann Shutt, watercolor painter Loretta Stephenson and watercolor painter Deanna Wagoner.

The First United Methodist Church was the spotlight of three paintings while the remaining three artists honed in on nature itself, stroking sidewalk benches and tall

trees onto their canvases.

Occasional spectators stopped by to admire the art pieces, some of them aspiring artists themselves.

The Plein Air Art Competition was the finale to the 2017 Downtown Valdosta Farm Days, a summer market that features locally produced food items.

Breath of Life

Exhibit takes readers beyond canvas

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA – Steven S. Walker paints landscapes that breathe and inspire viewers to breathe.

Standing in front of his works hanging in the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, a viewer wants to breathe deep. Inhale the green sap of pines, the salt tang of the sea, the lush scents of the fields.

Despite the gallery surroundings, a viewer entranced may feel the rising of grass and weed and grain, waist-high, against an outstretched palm.

Walker's paintings are alive.

Walker is an artist who lives in Hahira, via a Myrtle Beach birth, a childhood in Richmond, Va., and training and growing acclaim from work in Virginia before moving to South Georgia.

In speaking of his art, Walker is frank.

"I didn't come from a family of artists, I wasn't top of my class or win a lot of awards but I've always had a strong work ethic and the passion to work on my craft," he said in an artistic statement.

His works, however, speak for themselves.

Walker's art is represented in Kentucky, Ohio, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, Oklahoma and Washington, D.C., according to his website, stevewalkerstudios.com.

For the arts center show in the Sallie & Harmon Boyette and Margaret Mittiga galleries, Walker is joined by his intern, artist Mary VanLandingham.

GALLERY

Artists Steven S. Walker and Mary VanLandingham are on exhibit in the Sallie & Harmon Boyette and Margaret Mittiga galleries; along with Thomas Dodd's "The Painterly Photo," Josette's Gallery; Georgia Artists with Disabilities 33rd Annual Members' Exhibition, Price Campbell Foundation and Margaret Mittiga galleries; annual Snow Village display, Roberta George Children's Gallery East African Artifacts and Fine European Porcelain permanent exhibits, Tillman Gallery and the Howard Gallery respectively.

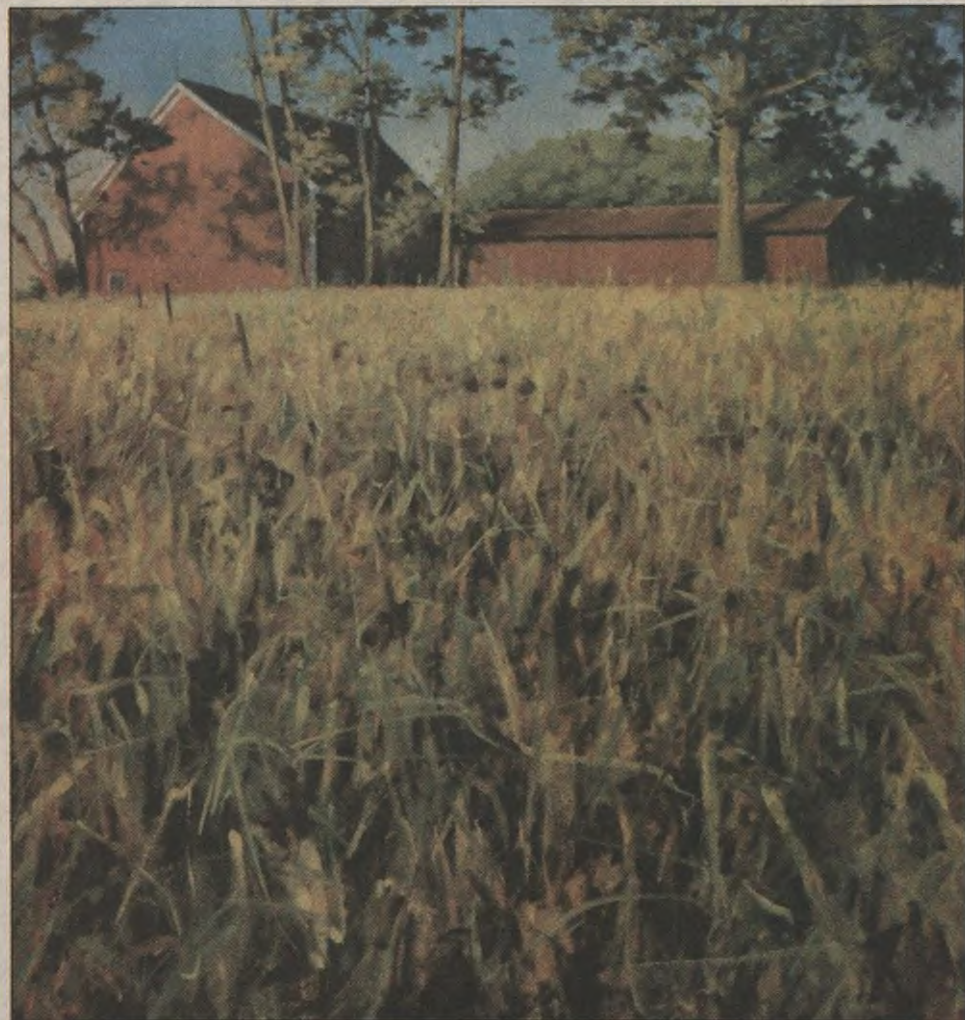
Where: Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.

Run dates: Shows run through Jan. 3.

Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; closed Sundays and Mondays, except for opening receptions, etc.

Admission: Free.

More information: Visit turnercenter.org, or call (229) 247-2787.



'Broadside Red,' artist Steven Walker.

Sunday, November 19, 2017

'Painterly Photo'

Photographer 'paints' evocative canvases

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA – Thomas Dodd creates other worlds through photography.

His photographs have the intricate texture and frenetic dynamism of Rembrandt with the fantastic, often erotic, imagination of Boris Vallejo.

His photos appear as images predating photography.

Dodd's powerful photographs are on exhibit at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

The Atlanta-based artist calls his style "painterly photo montage" – "a method he employs in editing software in which he crafts elaborately textured pieces that have a very organic and decidedly non-digital look to them," according to an artistic statement.

He has had shows throughout the United States and internationally – Germany, Romania, Argentina, New York City, Mexico City, Orlando, Miami, New Orleans, Tokyo, San Antonio, Seattle, Paris and in his hometown of Atlanta, according to his website. His work has appeared in numerous magazines.

"Although his artwork resembles paintings, his pieces are entirely photographic in nature, fusing many images into a cohesive whole," according to an artistic statement. "His larger works are often presented in a mixed media form that adds a depth and texture that complements the photography beautifully."

GALLERY

Artist Thomas Dodd's "The Painterly Photo" is on exhibit in Josette's Gallery; along with Georgia Artists with Disabilities 33rd Annual Members' Exhibition, Price Campbell Foundation and Margaret Mittiga galleries; annual Snow Village display, Roberta George Children's Gallery, East African Artifacts and Fine European Porcelain permanent exhibits, Tillman Gallery and the Howard Gallery respectively.

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

Run dates: Shows run through Jan. 3.

Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; closed Sundays and Mondays, except for opening receptions, etc.

Admission: Free.

More information: Visit turner-center.org, or call (229) 247-2787.



'Dream Into Memory,' artist Todd Dodd.

Congress shall m
free exercise thereo
people peaceably t

OUR POINT OF VIEW

Fifty years of Broadway

Presenter Series marks five decades of shows

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts observes a half century of bringing Broadway and Vegas-style shows to Valdosta this week.

The Presenter Series is 50 years old this season and the 2017-18 season opens with "Neil Berg's 50 Years of Rock & Roll" Friday evening.

The show celebrates iconic rock stars such as Chuck Berry, Little Richard, Elvis Presley, Ray Charles, Buddy Holly, Bob Dylan, Frankie Valli, The Beatles, Aretha Franklin, The Who, Janis Joplin, Carole King, Led Zeppelin, Stevie Wonder, Billy Joel, Aerosmith, Linda Ronstadt, Bruce Springsteen, The Eagles, Fleetwood Mac, Journey and many others.

It also looks at the music that formed the roots of rock and roll. The show focuses on the era from 1931-81, ending with the death of John Lennon and the arrival of MTV.

The show cast blends Berg's Broadway and rock pedigrees by starring performers who have had roles in Broadway rock musicals such as "Jesus Christ Superstar," "Rent," "Hair," "Rock of Ages," etc.

To start the new season, organizers host a pre-show event, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17, in the multi-purpose room of Mathis City Auditorium, prior to the "50 Years of Rock & Roll" show. The show starts at 8 p.m. at the 2300 N. Ashley St. facility.

It marks a rare Friday Presenter Series show. The show will be followed by an "Encore" gathering at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

But there's nothing rare about the Presenter Series which was bringing nationally touring, professional shows to Valdosta decades before there even was an Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. It started with the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission, which is the umbrella organization for the arts center.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

More information: Visit the arts center at 527 N. Patterson St.; or the website, www.turnercenter.org; or call (229) 247-2787. The Valdosta Daily Times is a Presenter Series sponsor.



AMANDA M. USHER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Art education teacher A'Necia Defour poses with her students, Aaliyah King, Nevaeh Newsome and Shaharmony Foster.

Young artists get artsy

BY AMANDA USHER

amanda.usher@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — For the last eight weeks, the children of the Boys and Girls Club of Valdosta have been venturing into the world of creativity through the Art Explorations program.

The all-girl group presented paintings and aluminum sculptures a reception Thursday at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

"Any time you can expose any children to art, it's a benefit for them," said Debbie Davis, art education administrator for Turner. "It gives them the chance to evaluate where they fit."

Davis said most children feel they are alone and art classes expose them to others who are

just like them.

"You realize that everybody in the art class is in the same situation that you're in," she said. "They're very creative people (and) they look at the world differently. Visual people are very unique people."

Students who participated in the program were taught by two art education majors at Valdosta State University and were assisted by high school students.

One of the instructors, A'Necia Defour, has been teaching Art Explorations since spring and said she is proud of her group of second-graders.

"I like seeing them get excited about their work," she said. "It's kind of surprising to see that they understand what I'm telling them to do. To even be

able to tell second-graders what to do, and they follow through, and they understand your instructions, is a really big deal."

The 18 young artists posed beside their pieces for photo opportunities, and BGC director Rashun Brown uplifted and encouraged each one.

"I'm very proud of them," he said. "They're from a lot of low-income neighborhoods, so they get a chance to do stuff they've never done before. They would've never come to an Art Explorations program if this program wasn't ever available."

The program is funded through a grant that BGC receives and Brown said the club will continue moving forward with it.

To learn more about BGC, visit bgcvaldosta.org.



Young Artist Spotlight: A Perfect Setting for the Young Artist

STORY BY RAQUEL GODDARD

Darby Boruff, an accomplished young artist, explains that art has always been a part of her life. When a child, she was creating nonstop, always looking for her next project: “Whether it was doodling, coloring, painting, decorating cakes, repurposing old junk or creating my own board games,” she said, “my friends and I were always into something messy.” She spent most of her high school years in the Lowndes High art room, where she said art was absolutely the best part of her daily schedule. In fact, Boruff added that art gave her a purpose.

During her first semester at Valdosta State University, Boruff felt convinced that she would become a doctor or a scientist, but soon determined that art would be her calling—her “raison d’etre.” Her sister, Devan Martin, who owns retail shops Perfect Settings and Only Options, has been very supportive, featuring Boruff’s artwork. In addition to the customized invitations, announcements and stationery that Boruff creates for her sister’s boutiques, the pair have most recently collaborated on the “Darby Boruff” invitation line.

Boruff enjoys working in various mediums. Painting is her first love, including oil, acrylic and tempera, but watercolors have always been her favorite. “It’s fascinating to see the colors react to each other and have no idea what might come of it,” she said. The surfaces she paints on range from canvas to paper and even wood and drywall. She also loves ceramics.

She wants to move to a big city in the future—at least for a few years—so that she can learn how to create in a larger, urban environment. Boruff values her two years at the Turner Art Center where Ms. Cheryl Oliver, and her wonderful team, have brought about wonderful enhancements.



Christmas Spectacular! at The Dosta

HOLIDAY PERFORMANCES COMING
YOUR WAY THIS DECEMBER

A Christmas Spectacular!

– December 7-9 & December 14-16

Your favorite songs of the Christmas season performed by some of the best singers, actors, and instrumentalists in the area, all presented in a magical Winter Wonderland setting. A must see for the entire family!

Showtimes: Dec. 7-9 & 14-16 (7:30 pm);
Matinee show Dec. 9 (2 pm)

Venue: The Dosta

For more information, call (229) 24-STAGE or
go by 122 N. Ashley St. in Valdosta

Presenter Series rocks in 50 years

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA – Neil Berg made a name for himself producing Broadway shows.

His shows include the years-long national tour of “100 Years of Broadway.” The show reflects his love for all things Broadway.

But his first love is rock & roll.

“Neil Berg’s 50 Years of Rock & Roll” reflects that love.

The show also serves as the perfect opening production for the 2017-18 Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series, said Nancy Warren, Presenter Series co-chair. It kicks off the 50th anniversary of the Presenter Series bringing nationally touring shows to Valdosta.

To start the new season, organizers host a pre-show event, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17, in the multi-purpose room of Mathis City Auditorium, prior to the “50 Years of Rock & Roll” show.

It marks a rare Friday Presenter Series show. The show will be followed by an “Encore” gathering at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, Warren said.

The anniversary is a combination of music, culture and history.

Just like “50 Years of Rock & Roll,” Berg said in a phone interview.

“I approach this show as an artist, a singer, an entertainer and a historian,” he said.

“The show tells the story of rock & roll, from the Delta blues of Robert Johnson to the gospel blues of Sister Rosetta Tharpe to Hank Williams country to Louis Jordan and how we get to rock & roll.”

Berg said many Americans don’t appreciate the many influences that contributed to rock & roll prior to Bill Haley and the Comets rocking around the clock. Often, the 1960s British rock stars understood the African-American music traditions that shaped the music better than the

SHOWTIME

Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series presents “Neil Berg’s 50 Years of Rock & Roll.”

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

When: 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17, with a 6:30-7:30 p.m., prelude party in Mathis multi-purpose room, and an encore gathering after the show at the arts center.

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



The cast of 'Neil Berg's 50 Years of Rock & Roll' features performers who have appeared in Broadway rock musicals. The show comes to Valdosta Friday, Nov. 17.

American kids.

Early Beatles and Rolling Stones recordings were covers of black musicians. The Beatles and the Rolling Stones knew they were covers and revered the original African-American artists but many of their white American listeners thought

the British bands wrote the songs, Berg said.

Once the show hits its 1950s era and onward, it explodes with more traditional rock fare, “with tributes to such iconic stars as Chuck Berry, Little Richard, Elvis Presley, Ray Charles, Buddy Holly, Bob

Dylan, Frankie Valli, The Beatles, Aretha Franklin, The Who, Janis Joplin, Carole King, Led Zeppelin, Stevie Wonder, Billy Joel, Aerosmith, Linda Ronstadt, Bruce Springsteen, The Eagles, Fleetwood Mac, Journey and many others,” according to the show’s press materials.

The show cast blends Berg’s Broadway and rock pedigrees by starring performers who have had roles in Broadway rock musicals such as “Jesus Christ Superstar,” “Rent,” “Hair,” “Rock of Ages,” etc.

The show’s “50 Years of Rock & Roll” stretches from 1931-1981, ending with the death of John Lennon and the arrival of MTV.

“Once MTV arrived, rock became more about appearance and less about the music,” Berg said.

Additional Presenter Series 2017-18 season shows are the musicals “Amazing Grace” and “A Gentleman’s Guide to Love & Murder.”

(first row) Sarah Soshnik, Archie Waldron, Jeanie Synyard, Mala Vallotton, (middle row) Darby Boruff, Cheryl Oliver, Tina Folsom, (top row) Gail Hobgood, Nancy Warren



Turner Center's 50th Anniversary Season —A Tough Act to Follow

STORY BY NANCY DERUYTER WARREN | PHOTOGRAPHY BY WES SEWELL PHOTOGRAPHY

Whether the production is hot, historical or hilarious ... the Turner Center Presenter Series 50th Anniversary Season was selected especially to showcase the breadth of entertainment the series has delivered over the past five decades. Audiences will be dazzled by an ever-popular rock and roll show, a poignant musical with a message and a Tony-Award winning comedy about love and murder. In addition, a night of celebration will enhance one of the best seasons ever presented!

In addition to three fabulous shows, patrons and sponsors will be honored with a star-studded evening Nov. 17. The festivities will kick off at 6:30 p.m. with a prelude event, featuring food, beverages and music at Mathis Auditorium, followed by Fifty Years of Rock & Roll. The celebration will continue at the Turner Center after the show with an Encore event—a champagne toast, gourmet coffee, dessert ... and the opportunity to mingle with the show's stars! Invitations to the prelude and encore events will be sent to season ticket purchasers, Broadway Stars and Sponsors.

The season will begin with a cast of stars from Broadway's

best rock musicals, as well as other incredible rock & roll singers. Neil Berg's Fifty Years of Rock & Roll will thrill audiences of all ages and dancing in the aisles is encouraged! Berg shares the often-unknown stories from the fifty-year history of the music that changed the world forever.

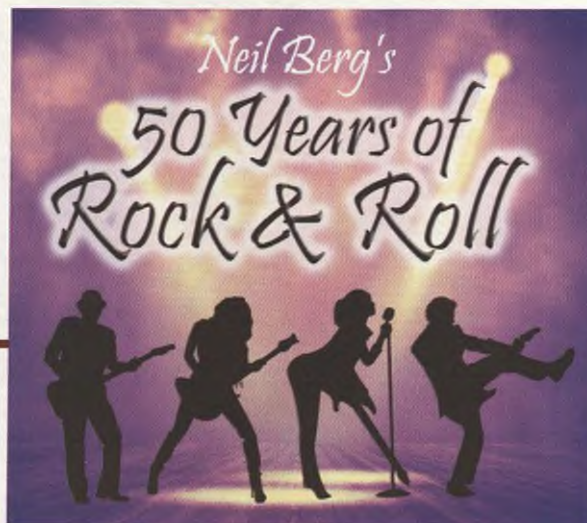
From the progenitors of Rock & Roll in the 1940s, through the glory years of the '50s, '60s and '70s, up until MTV in the early '80s, Neil Berg's 50 Years of Rock & Roll uses fascinating stories and groundbreaking music, with tributes to such important and iconic rock stars/groups/genres as Chuck Berry, Little Richard, Elvis Presley, Ray Charles, Buddy Holly, Bob Dylan, Frankie Valli, The Beatles, Beach Boys, Motown, Aretha Franklin, The Who, Janis Joplin, Woodstock, Simon & Garfunkel, Carole King, Led Zeppelin, Elton John, Stevie Wonder, Billy Joel, Aerosmith, Linda Ronstadt, Bruce Springsteen, Eagles, Fleetwood Mac, Disco, New Wave, Journey and others!

Following Berg's 50 Years of Rock & Roll, Amazing Grace will take center stage on January 30, followed by A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder on April 23.

"In addition to offering savings over individual show prices," said Cheryl Oliver, executive director of the Turner Center, "—a bargain at \$50 each (considering a ticket on Broadway would run more than \$100)—we get a chance to see recent Broadway offerings in the comfort of our own community. This 50th Anniversary Season is impressive because of the sheer variety of the shows."

Each year the Presenter Series Committee, comprised of volunteer Turner Center Board members, researches the offerings of top quality professional touring shows, then negotiates and matches those shows with the budget and date availability at Mathis Auditorium, where the performances occur. "This is a challenging task and requires more than a little juggling for the chairs," explains Tina Folsom, vice-chair of the committee. "This season we worked with 15 New York agents, and we're proud to bring three super shows to Valdosta."

Also critical to the shows' success are local theatre crew chiefs and crew from faculty and students at Valdosta State University. "Our larger shows require local theatre-trained crews of up to 50 people, and we are extremely grateful for the support from the local community and university," said Folsom. For more information about the Turner Center and the Presenter Series, call (229) 247-2787 or visit turnercenter.org.



UPCOMING EVENT: Neil Berg's 50 Years of Rock & Roll 50th Anniversary Celebration

Date: November 17

Tickets: \$50

Venue: Mathis Auditorium and at the Turner Center for the Encore Event

To purchase tickets, call 229-247-2787, visit 527 N. Patterson St., or buy online at turnercenter.org/calendar-of-events/presenter-series. Season tickets are available for \$140 per seat.

A large advertisement for the Moonlight Sonata Symphony Ball. The background features a large, glowing full moon in a dark blue sky with wispy clouds. The text is arranged on the right side of the image.

Moonlight Sonata

SYMPHONY BALL
presented by the
Valdosta Symphony Guild

NOVEMBER 11, 2017
VALDOSTA COUNTRY CLUB

Dinner at 6:30 pm – Dancing at 7:30 pm

To purchase tickets (\$100 per person) contact Guild President, Jean Johnson, jeanjohnson39@gmail.com.

Black-Tie

time being involved with the community and it is just very special,” Lott said.

Katherine Melcher, a landscape architect from Alapaha in Berrien County, painted Dumpster No. 3 which features a sunrise peeking through a forest of longleaf pines.

“I love being outside in nature and I go for a lot of bike rides on country roads around here,” Melcher said. “A lot of times I’m riding through just looking at the patterns of the trees and the sun rising. I just find it very beautiful.”

The longleaf pine is one

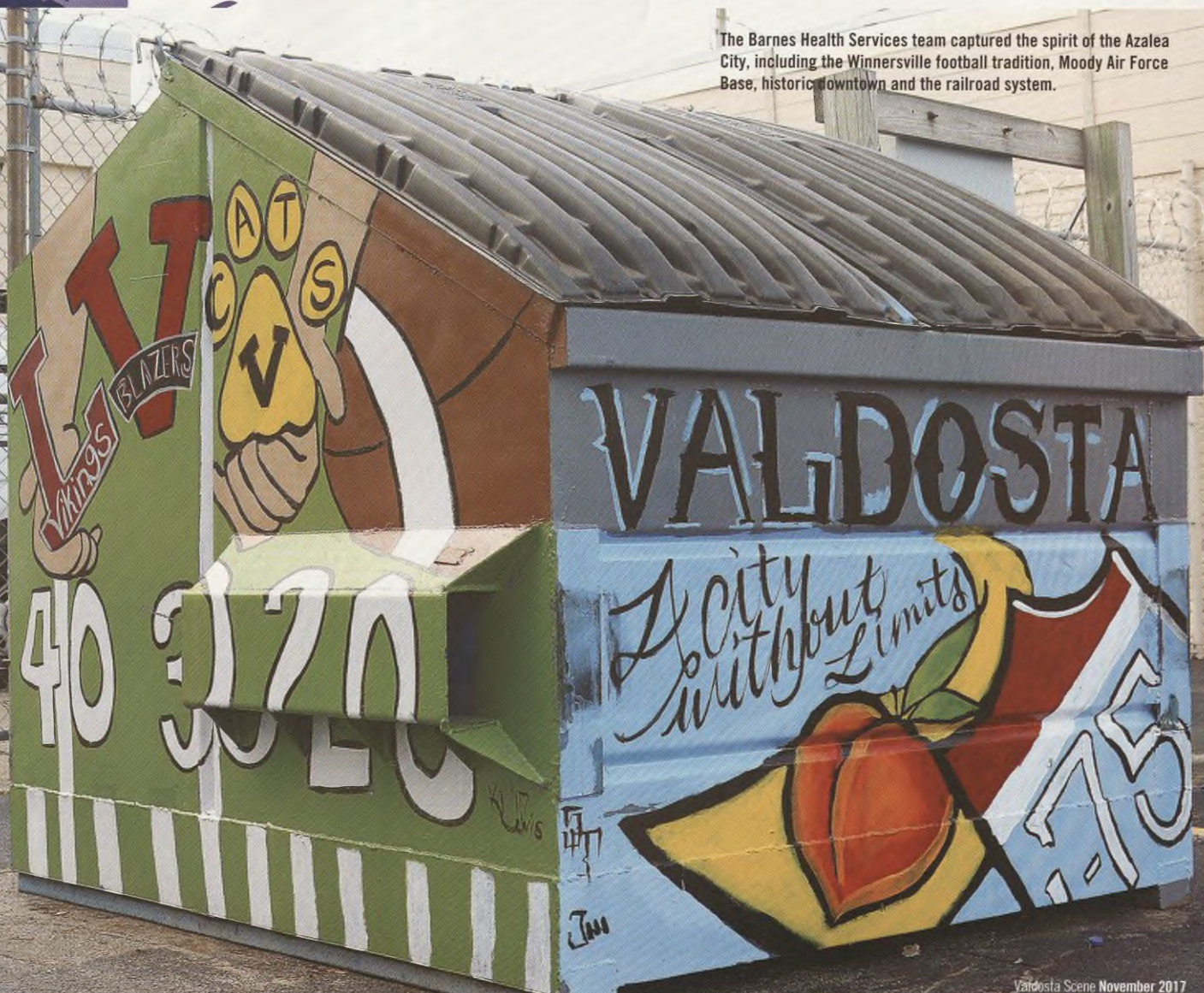
of Valdosta’s only truly native trees, seen in certain places around the city such as Valdosta State University. They are slow growing, tall and strong crop trees that were replaced through the years with faster-growing trees that could produce and provide more shade and lumber.

Lowndes Middle School’s art program painted the fourth dumpster. The project was led by art educator Maysha Pate. Pate and her student artists created a visual of Valdosta history that features agriculture and other local images.

“We are so fortunate because this project requires a lot of paint and it needed to be high quality so that it would last years and not flake off,” said Cheryl Oliver, executive director of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

Paints and supplies were provided by Whitehead Industrial Company, also located in Downtown Valdosta. Water for the volunteers was donated by the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts; all dumpsters were steam cleaned by the Valdosta Public Works Department. **VS**

The Barnes Health Services team captured the spirit of the Azalea City, including the Wingersville football tradition, Moody Air Force Base, historic downtown and the railroad system.

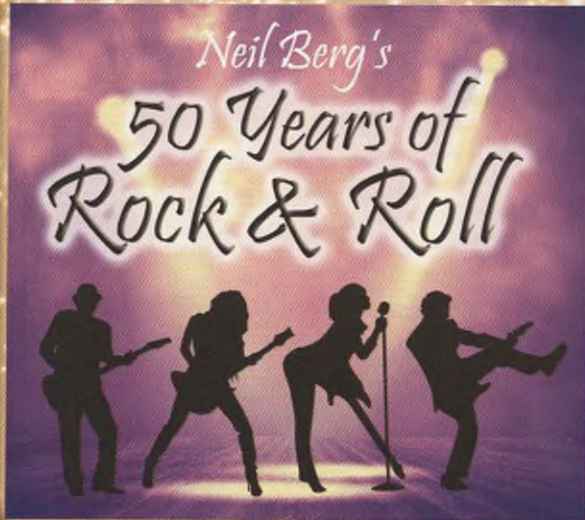




Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts

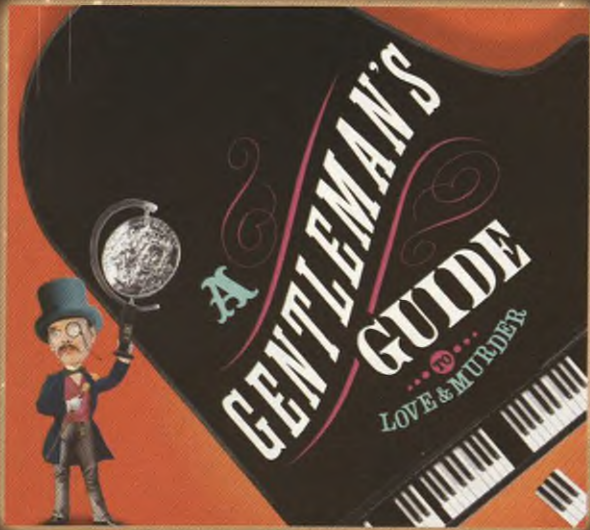
Presenter Series

2017 - 2018 Season



Friday, November 17
Incredible performances of the music that changed the world!

Tuesday, January 30
A captivating tale of romance, rebellion & redemption!



Monday, April 23
2014 Tony Award winner for BEST MUSICAL!!!

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Season Package - one ticket to each show - \$140
Individual show ticket - \$50 each

All performances held at Mathis City Auditorium
For tickets & information, contact the Turner Center:
527 North Patterson Street, Valdosta, Georgia
229-247-2787 / www.turnercenter.org



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Katherine Melcher of Alapaha in Berrien County, a landscape architect painted Dumpster No. 3 which features a sunrise peeking through a forest of Longleaf Pines.

School, said she has been on the youth council for three years. She is youth council president this year.

“When you look at these dumpsters, you don’t think much about them, but when these artists add work to them, it brings a whole new meaning,” Kelly said. “It’s really exciting to watch them go through the process of painting and then the final product.”

The youth council participates in transforming the dumpsters into pieces of public art for the downtown area as a part of its term.

“I really enjoy this group and I’ve made lots of new friends. We have worked together very well. It is a great group. We have a lot of potential this year. I’m excited,” Kelly said.

Kelly said the Painting the Town event is special to her.

Sementa Mathews, City of Valdosta public information officer, was there to guide the council every step of the way.

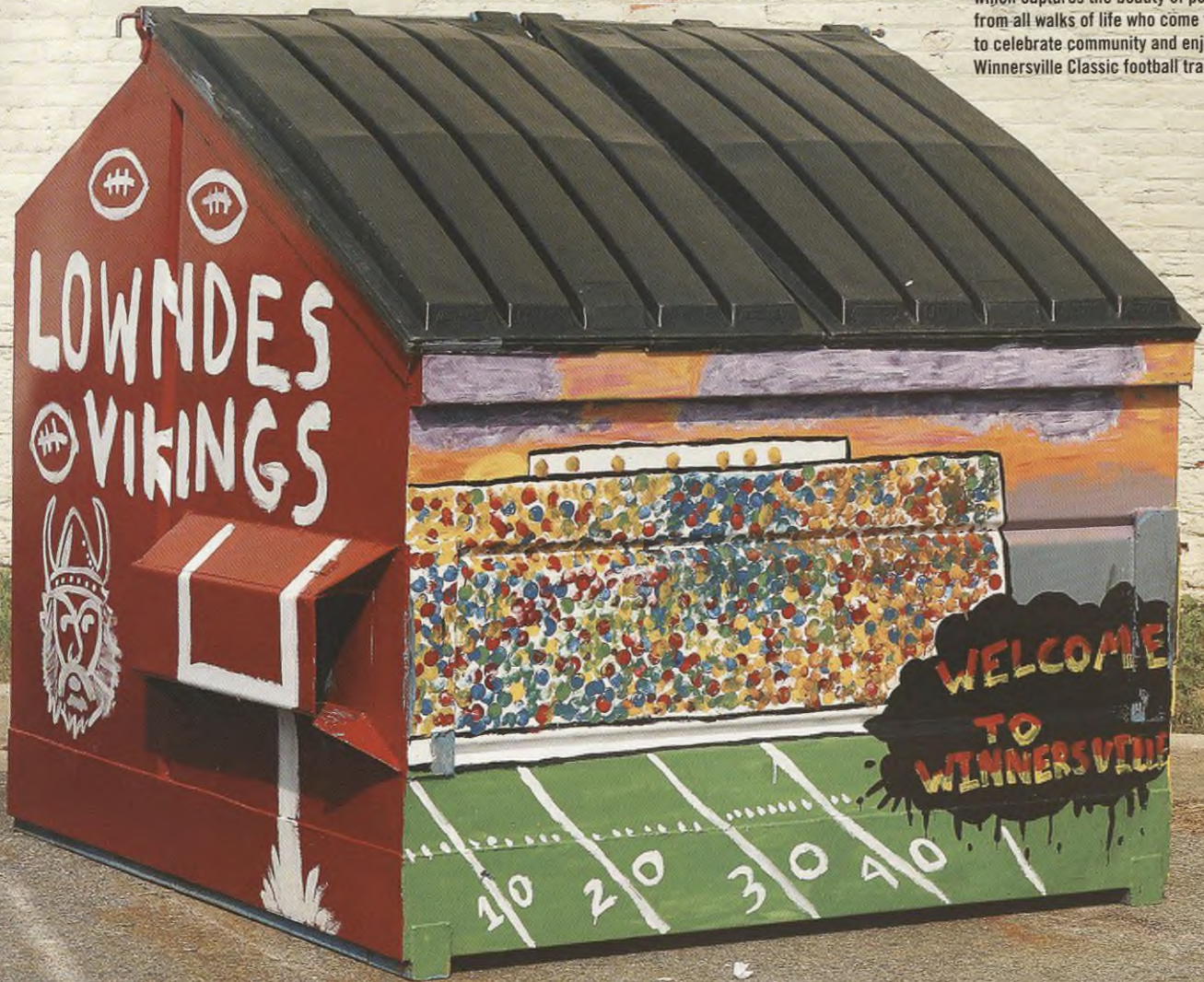
“The council teaches these young people to learn more about their local government and how they can serve their community and it’s really great

seeing them grow as leaders,” she said.

“Charlie’s Angels” was named after Charlie Barnes III, owner of Barnes Healthcare Services. The team painted Dumpster No. 1. The team consists of employees from Barnes Healthcare Services; the team was led by Karen Lewis, a fine arts graduate of Valdosta State University.

“It’s a visual of our history. A visual of what makes Valdosta. Most people know Valdosta as being Winnersville football town and that tradition is what most people

Logan Lott painted Dumpster No. 2 which captures the beauty of people from all walks of life who come together to celebrate community and enjoy the Winnersville Classic football tradition.



associate it with. We wanted to bring something to life that celebrated everything, you can really look at this and tell what Valdosta is all about,” Lewis said.

The Barnes Healthcare Services team captured the spirit of the Azalea City, including the Winnersville football tradition, Moody Air Force Base, historic downtown and the railroad system.

“One side celebrates Valdosta a city without limits and the last stop on I-75, and we’ve incorporated some azaleas in there,” Lewis said. “Valdosta is here because of the railroad industry so we have a side that represents the railroad. Basically our theme is a celebration of the city.”

Logan Lott, a Valdosta native, is a sophomore at Valdosta State University studying fine

arts and is a Lowndes High School graduate. Lott painted Dumpster No. 2 which captures the beauty of people from all walks of life who come together to celebrate community and enjoy the Winnersville Classic football tradition.

“The Winnersville Classic game is something very special to me. I have lived in Valdosta all my life; it’s where community can come together and enjoy a Friday night,” she said.

Lott said the game has become quite a spectacle the last few years but it is one of the biggest events for Valdosta. The sunset during the game is what she said inspired her and what was her driving force for the project.

“It’s an honor to have my artwork showcased because I am a native. I’ve lived here all my life and I’ve always loved art. This is my first