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Thursdaylife

Thursday, July 3, 2008

Valdostadailytimes.com

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Night Moves

Here's what's happening tonight, according to items submitted.

Antoine's Flavor of New Orleans

Where: 205 N. Ashley St.
Live jazz music.

Giulio's

Where: 105 E. Ann St.
When: 6:30-9 p.m.
Live entertainment.

The Log Cabin

Where: Nashville.
Karaoke with Dale.

Quality Inn Lounge

Where: 1902 W. Hill Ave.
When: Starts 7 p.m.
Karaoke.

Rascal's

Where: 4875 U.S. Highway 41,
Lake Park.
Karaoke. No cover charge.

Rock 'N Rodeo

Where: 3472 Bemiss Road.
Counterpoint, a regional band,
plays.

'Singin' in the Rain'

Where: Sawyer Theatre, VSU
Fine Arts Building, corner of
Oak and Brookwood.

When: Show starts 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$25, adult; \$20, senior citizen (65+), student; \$18, groups of 10 or more.

Reservations: Call 259-7770.
Peach State Summer Theatre
presents this live adaptation of
the Gene Kelly classic.

Walker's Drive-In

Where: Crossroads of Highway 122 and 125.
Karaoke.

Submit Night Moves items

Fax: 244-2560

Email:

dean.poling@gafnews.com
There is no charge. Items should be submitted a few days prior to a scheduled event.

NOTE: If we haven't heard from you in a while, it's time to call with your updated schedules. To be included in Night Moves, we must hear from you, even if your schedule doesn't change, every few weeks.

Nurturing an art center

Oliver named arts center director

BY DEAN POLING

The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — Cheryl Oliver has discovered her artistic medium in the past few months and her canvas is the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

After serving several months as interim director, Cheryl Oliver officially became the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts executive director Tuesday, according to the center's Board Chairman Bob Harrison.

Her term as interim director started almost immediately upon completing eight and a half years working with the non-profit organization Kids Chance. She had planned on taking some time to reflect, but the offer to serve as the center's interim director was one she couldn't refuse, especially since it kept her close to her beloved Downtown Valdosta.

Within the first couple days as interim director, Oliver had an immediate trial by fire, dealing with an opening reception of a new series of shows in the center's galleries and the center's Presenter Series presentation of the Johnny Cash musical "Ring of Fire."

From there, she's found the board an incredible group of creative volunteers; the staff, a diverse group of individuals who make each facet of the center hum; and the area's artists, inspiring in their versatility and creativity, "who do



PAT GALLAGHER/THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Executive director Cheryl G. Oliver of the Annette Howell Turner Center for The Arts in the children's art room.

what I wish I could do," she says.

From Quitman, Oliver grew up in a musical family, with an appreciation for all of the arts. Her interest in the arts publicly surfaced late last year, when she announced an art contest as the chairman of the Lowndes County Board of Elections to decorate the board's offices.

As executive director, Oliver has a vision for the center.

"As fabulous as the center is, my primary goal is to make this a regional arts center, reaching out to other communities as well as portions of our community that may feel excluded from the center," Oliver says. "This is everyone's arts center, and we want the community and the region to know that."

The arts center has also grown from being a five-county hub as a partner with the Georgia Council of the Arts to covering 10 counties: Lowndes, Echols, Lanier, Brooks, Clinch, Berrien, Cook, Thomas, Grady and Decatur.

Cheryl and husband Jack Oliver enjoy their Francis Lake home where she gardens. "Gardening is probably my creative and artistic outlet," she says. "The earth is my canvas and the flowers are my paint."

She recalls a poem she painted on a rock for her father's rose garden: "This old world we're living in is mighty hard to beat. You get a thorn with every rose but aren't the roses sweet."

And now she will see how the arts center grows.

St. John youth choir to perform in D.C.

BY DEAN POLING

The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church Youth Choir is scheduled to leave today to participate in Fourth of July ceremonies in the nation's capital.

Under the direction of Donna Farwell, the choir will perform in the opening ceremony for the National Independence Day parade in front of the White House, Washington, D.C. The group is also scheduled to sing at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, where the Valdosta youngsters will join 500 singers from youth choirs across the United States, Farwell says.

"St. John's Youth Choir also received a special invitation to sing at St. Matthew's Cathedral where (President) John F. Kennedy's funeral was held," Farwell says. "The choir that will

be joining us is actually my brother Lee Gwozd's choir from Corpus Christi."

Farwell led this group to the Vatican two years ago, where the young singers performed and saw Pope Benedict XVI.

A few years ago, Jan Schmidt, executive director of the American Federation Pueri Cantores, heard the St. John youth sing in Savannah. Based on that performance, she invited the group to perform in Rome and now in Washington, D.C. Schmidt says the St. John group "ranks among the top youth choirs in the South."

The Pueri Cantores plans regional, national and international choral festivals and masses for youngsters ages 7-14. The St. John group is a frequent participant in these programs, Schmidt says, because the organization appreciates the "musical leadership" offered by the choir.

"Along with its highly respect-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church Youth Choir will perform as part of the national Independence Day celebration Friday in Washington, D.C.

They leave today. PICTURED: (front row) Liam Bickerstaff, Evan Culligan, Madalyn Wallace, Joyce Ro, Emma Zipperer, Isabelle Mazurkiewicz, Kimsey Aguero, Maggie Welborn, Delaney Welborn, Andrea Ostapski; (second row) Haley Aguero, Ani Mohanty, Katelynn Kenworthy, Patrick Hilgert, Erika Jensen, Josie Mazurkiewicz, Tanner Gordon, Donica Farwell, Owen Riggins, Hannah Harmon; (third row) Jude Uwagerikpe, Sarah Nix, Grace Morgan, Austin Wallace, Stephanie Jensen, Caitlin Williams, Madison Nix, Rymi Ro, Haley McDonald.

ed conductor, Donna Farwell, this choir is a prime example of excellent musicianship, liturgical awareness, and cultural outreach," Schmidt says.

"It is the product of professional leadership, parish and parental support, and a collective enthusiastic spirit. We are honored to have these singers at the shrine."



Monica Gay

Monica Gay named LPN of the Year

Monica Gay was recently named LPN of the Year by the state of Georgia.

Gay serves as a member to various organizations such as the President of the Women of Character Social Club, Operator and Founder of a shop that sells elegant and fashionable women's clothing called Pearls Boutique, Member of the Sista-a-Siata Club at Heritage House, and president of the Birthday Club at Heritage Healthcare.

Gay has chosen to participate in long term care for 26 years. Her award was announced by Heritage Healthcare of Valdosta.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Mark Perry, left, and Zachary Cowart with Cowart & Perry, LLP law.

New law firm formed

The formation of Cowart & Perry, LLP law firm has been announced by attorneys Zachary Cowart and Mark Perry in July of 2008.

Zachary Cowart was raised in Valdosta and graduated from the University of Georgia in 2000 with a degree in political science and in 2003 with a juris doctor.

Mark Perry was born in Nashville and raised in Valdosta. He graduated from the University of Georgia in 2001 with a degree in business and finance and obtained his juris doctor

from Georgia State University in 2005.

Cowart & Perry is a full service law firm with an emphasis on real estate,

criminal law, personal injury, workers' compensation and family law. The firm is located at 109 W. Adair St.

Hendricks named Employee of the Year

Darla Hendricks of Valdosta has been named employee of the year at Five Star Food Service.

Hendricks has been employed in the Valdosta Division for 12 years as an administrative assistant.

She was honored with a plaque and a gift certificate at a recent employee function.



Darla Hendricks

New contractor takes over at Savannah site

AIKEN, S.C. (AP) — A partnership that includes Fluor Corp. and Honeywell International officially becomes manager and operator of the Savannah River Site, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions LLC says it takes over the Cold War-era nuclear weapons complex from Washington Savannah River Co. on Friday.

The \$800 million contract involves environmental cleanup at the site and research at the Savannah River National Laboratory. The partnership also will work on storing and processing plutonium and uranium at the sprawling complex.

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TURNER'S FINE FURNITURE & ALBANY TRAVEL ANNOUNCE WINNER OF NEW YORK TRIP



PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT AUSTIN TURNER, SUSAN ALLISON, FORTSON TURNER, ROBIN FAUCETTE, JERRY CHADWICK

Susan Allison of Valdosta has won a 4 day 3 night trip for two to New York City, airfare, deluxe accommodations in a luxury hotel, limo service to and from the airport, \$1000 dollars spending money and tickets to a Broadway Show.

Fortson and Austin Turner, owners of Turner's Fine Furniture, presented Mrs. Allison with the grand prize. All travel arrangements will be made by Albany Travel of Albany Georgia.

Turner's Fine Furniture has locations in Albany, Tifton and Valdosta.

Where the Possibilities are Endless

Focus On ...

Hungry Howie's

BY DEAN POLING

The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — Brothers Ray and Russ Hedgecock of Hedgecock Investments bought into Valdosta's Hungry Howie's with a partner several years ago. They moved Hungry Howie's to its current location on Northside Drive.

A few years ago, the partner bought Hedgecock Investment's share in the restaurant. Then, earlier this year, Hedgecock Investments purchased the business back with operating owner Megan Spooner, who joined the Hungry Howie's franchise after nearly a decade with Chick-Fil-A.

"I've always liked Hungry Howie's," Ray Hedgecock says. "We're glad to be back with them. We like the business franchise and the food."

While many people know that Hungry Howie's sells pizzas, Hedgecock and Spooner have been getting the word out about those pizzas and other foods. Hungry Howie's offers a variety of flavored crusts for its pizzas, which can be selected at no extra cost.

In addition to pizza, Spooner says, Hungry Howie's has a variety of salads, lasagna, baked spaghetti and other pasta dishes, chicken wings, and oven-baked sub sandwiches.

All foods are hand-made fresh at the Northside Drive location. The dough is

made from scratch. Lasagna and baked spaghetti are made daily. All vegetable toppings are local produce, Spooner says.

Starting Tuesday, Hungry Howie's has Kids Night, 5-9 p.m., when children can get a free junior pizza with an adult purchasing a large pizza, large salad, or oven-baked sub. Wednesday night is Wacky Wednesdays at Hungry Howie's, offering one large pizza and one topping for \$4.99.

These specials as well as the daily quality of the product and prices, Hedgecock says, keep customers coming back to Hungry Howie's. He credits Spooner for the continued and increasing success of the business: the health score is 100, the staff is strong, service is good, and the food is great. He stresses that Hungry Howie's has a good, disciplined work environment for its young employees.

Hungry Howie's has increased its lunch business during the past few months, with express and catering



DEAN POLING/THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Ray Hedgecock and Megan Spooner have been the owners of Hungry Howie's since May when Hedgecock Investments returned to the franchise located on Northside Drive. Hungry Howie's serves pizzas with flavored crusts available, wings, oven-baked subs, pasta dishes, and salads.



PAUL LEAVY/THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Hungry Howie's Pizza on Northside Drive in Valdosta.

services available. Meanwhile, customers can have their food delivered, prepared for take-out, or eat inside the Hungry Howie's location.

"We enjoy having customers come in and sit down and eat with us," Hedgecock says. "We appreciate all of our customers."

Q: How many items does Hungry Howie's have on the menu?

A: 20 or more.

Q: What are some of the items in addition to pizza?

A: Great wings, Calzone-style subs, lasagna and spaghetti, Alfredo pasta.

Q: What's Hungry Howie's most popular dish (if a pizza, what type)?

A: Flavored Crust Pizza. It's free (the flavored crust selection) and comes in flavors of butter cheese, Ranch, Cajun, Sesame seed, garlic and you can combine any of the flavors.

HUNGRY HOWIE'S

Location:

118A Northside Drive

Owners:

Partnership between the Hedgecock and Spooner families.

Business Hours:

11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays; 11a.m.-midnight Fridays and Saturdays.

Business Phone Number:

(229) 242-6936.

Q: How many people are employed at Hungry Howie's?

A: 17.

Q: Is delivery available?

A: Yes.



PHOTO: JAMIE HARMON

Wade Coleman, center, presents a \$500,000 check for the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts to Bob Harrison, board president, and Cheryl Oliver, executive director, Monday evening.

Arts center receives \$500,000 donation

BY DEAN POLING
The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — A Valdosta woman's legacy keeps giving and giving.

Two weeks after giving the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra a half-million dollars, the estate of Leona Strickland Hudson gave the same amount Monday to the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

Representing the Hudson estate, Valdosta attorney Wade H. Coleman presented a check for \$500,000 to the arts center board Monday evening.

"It sure is fun to give money away," Coleman said in presenting the check, to which one board member was hear-

to respond, "It's fun to receive it."

The donation will go to an endowment which will allow the center to use a percentage in the tens of thousands of dollars annually to fund various programs and projects.

"Endowment funds are designed to ensure future stability of an organization," notes Cheryl Oliver, the center's executive director. "Leona's generosity gives us a huge boost in that direction."

In addition to the \$500,000, Hudson also donated several pieces of silver, porcelain, cut-glass, and china to the center. An auction of these items will be held Oct. 3 with the proceeds going to the arts center.

To honor Hudson, the arts center is naming its pottery workshop/classroom facility for her and her husband, Dugald Hudson. All of the arts center's October events will also be named in Leona Strickland Hudson's honor, said Bob Harrison, the arts center's board president. The arts center presentation came a couple weeks after Wade Coleman made a similar presentation to the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra. In addition to a combined \$1 million going to the arts center and the VSO, Coleman has also been representing Hudson to several other area organizations.

The Hudson estate has given \$130,000 to hospice, \$100,000 to the local Boys & Girls Club, approximately \$100,000 to the local Boys Scouts, and about \$75,000 to the Dr. Zaccari lecture series, with more presentations expected, Coleman said.

Born May 2, 1920, in a house on North Patterson Street, Leona Strickland grew up in Valdosta, the daughter of Will Strickland, a local banker who also owned Strickland Hardware Company, and Rosa Strickland.

In 1945, Leona Strickland married Lt. Dugald Walker Hudson of Greenville, S.C. A valedictorian and World War II veteran, an infantry officer then a judge advocate officer who debriefed Nazi leaders after the war, Hudson took his new bride for three years to live in post-war Germany. They lived in many places around the world, before returning to the States, specifically Atlanta, where he joined the faculty of Georgia State University. In Atlanta, she followed in the tradition of her father, working in a bank.

In 2006, Dugald Hudson died, and Leona Strickland Hudson returned to her hometown of Valdosta.

The Hudsons lived modestly. She was driving an 11-year-old Chevrolet at the time of her death. They had no children and no close relatives. In her will, she bequeathed her entire estate to charitable organizations.



The estate of Dugald and Leona Hudson has left nearly \$1.5 million to area organizations so far.

‘Chicago’ comes to Valdosta Monday

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts staff continues to sell tickets for ‘Chicago,’ the final show of the Presenter Series 2007-08 season. The show plays at 7:30 p.m. Monday at Mathis City Auditorium. For tickets, call 247-2787, or visit the arts center, 527 N. Patterson St. Shown are Linda Facile, Sunny Stuckey, Jamie Harmon, Cheryl Oliver, Cortni Joseph and Sharon Lodge.

SUBMITTED PHOTO





Nancy Warren receives recognition for a job well done

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY JAMIE HARMON

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts' Bob Harrison and Cheryl Oliver honored Nancy Warren, left, earlier this week during the center's Presenter Series performance of the musical 'Chicago.' Warren has been booking the Presenter Series shows for the past several years, which includes this season's 'Chicago' and 'Annie,' as well as past season hits such as 'Fiddler on the Roof' and 'Cats.'

ART AS A MISSION

VSU's Lahr named Southeast's top art educator

BY DEAN POLING

The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — Dr. J. Stephen Lahr is literally an art teacher's art teacher.

As a former department head, gallery director, and always an art professor with Valdosta State University Art for many years, Lahr has taught many art teachers in schools throughout our area, the state, and the nation's Southeast.

And, whether it is by coordinating the Boys & Girls Club art program at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, working with Smith Northview Hospital in its on-going series of art shows, teaching his VSU art-appreciation classes, or showing his art during his recent Southern Artists League exhibit at the Holiday Inn, Lahr seems to always be demonstrating or teaching some aspect of art.

Lahr's work has been recognized by the state and the nation.

Last fall, the Georgia Art Education Association named Lahr the Art Educator of the Year in Georgia, which is the association's highest annual honor. On two past occasions, the GAEA named him the Higher Art Educator of the Year in Georgia, for 2001 and 1991.

Then, more recently, the National Art Education Association named Lahr the 2008 Southeastern Region Art Educator of the Year. The award means Dr. J. Stephen Lahr is the top art educator selected from approximately a dozen states.

"This award is given to recognize excellence in professional accomplishment and service by a dedicated art educator," notes Bonnie Rushlow, NAEA president. "Dr. Lahr exemplifies the highly qualified individuals who are active in the field of art education today: leaders, teachers, students, scholars, and advocates who give their best to the profession. We are proud to recognize Dr. J. Stephen Lahr."

The NAEA represents members from elementary, secondary, mid-level and high schools from all 50 states, as well as members from the nation's art museums, departments of education, colleges, universities and art councils throughout the U.S. and 66 other countries.

For Lahr, the Southeastern Region Art Educator of the Year award serves as a prestigious bookend to having received the NAEA's Western Region Art Educator of the Year award earlier in his career in 1976.

His passion for art began during his childhood in his native Nebraska.

He earned degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, did post-graduate work at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and the University of Missouri-Columbia in educational administration and leadership.

He recalls his first job as a junior and high school art teacher when the position was often part-time with low



PAUL LEAVY/THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Dr. Stephen Lahr, left, with Valdosta State University Art was recently named the National Art Education Association's 2008 Southeastern Region Art Educator of the Year. Here, he is with students Cortni Joseph, from left, Kim Clapham, and Corrie Chick and a group of young students from the Boys and Girls Club in Valdosta visiting the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts for an art class.

“Dr. Lahr exemplifies the highly qualified individuals who are active in the field of art education today: leaders, teachers, students, scholars, and advocates who give their best to the profession. We are proud to recognize Dr. J. Stephen Lahr.”

wages. He persevered and was appointed to serve as the Nebraska Department of Education's first state art consultant and taught art at Nebraska universities before taking a position at Valdosta State.

Lahr has been listed in "Who's Who in American Art," "Who's Who in American Education," "Who's Who in the Southeast" and "Men of Achievement in the World." A signature member of the Georgia Watercolor Society, Lahr is a working artist as well as an educator. He has taught art in England and traveled to Greece as part of the University System of Georgia's Study Abroad and Teaching Seminar program.

To keep arts in education, to constantly demonstrate the importance of art in education and in our society, Lahr says, "an art educator must take on the role of a missionary for art."

And art has long been Stephen Lahr's mission.



Valdostadailytimes.com

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Spring Art

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY JAMIE HARMON

Hayley Thomas, a Pine Grove Elementary School fifth-grader, won the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts 2008 Spring Into Art poster contest. Hayley's art was used for promotional materials from posters to invitations for the art exhibit which runs through May at the center.

Annual Rotary auction set for Saturday

BY KAY HARRIS

The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — The Valdosta North Rotary Club is sponsoring its Charity Auction Saturday evening at Mathis Auditorium, annually raising more than \$30,000 to donate to local organizations.

The evening includes both silent and live auctions, with more than a hundred items donated from area businesses. Everything from small items such as golf shirts, restaurant gift certificates and more are available on the silent auction tables, and the live auction items in-

clude trips, dinners for large parties, and a cruise.

Bob Harrison, president of the club, said, "Valdosta is such a community supportive town... as President of Valdosta North Rotary Club, I've been amazed how local business has supported our Auction again this year with such enthusiasm. It is indeed a pleasure to serve the Rotary Club with such wonderful support from its citizens."

According to Harrison, the auction was started more than 25 years ago and was the first event of its kind in Valdosta.

"We've raised tens of thousands

"We've raised tens of thousands of dollars for local organizations over the years and we know Valdosta will again come through with amazing support."

— Bob Harrison

of dollars for local organizations over the years and we know Valdosta will again come through with amazing support."

The proceeds from the 2008

event will be distributed to the Greater Valdosta United Way, Cystic Fibrosis, Alapaha Area Council of the Boy Scouts, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and the Turner Center for the Arts.

Auction Chairman Marty Rodgers said, "I am also very excited about our Valdosta North Rotary Charity Auction and look forward to a very fun evening. Our community has generously donated to this event again this year and we will have many wonderful auction items including fishing trips, quail hunts, 52-inch TV from Stereo Connection, five grills from Lowes, a Royal Caribbean cruise from Exec-

utive Travel, vacation homes, alarm installation from Alert-Tech, estate planning from Bennett Trust & Estate, shopping sprees at Girardins, dinners and a wine tasting given by Taylor Insurance Services. We also have a raffle for a \$3,500 gift certificate to Steel's Jewelry and many, many great silent auction items. Most importantly, I hope our auction is a success and we can help our local organizations that do so much for this community."

The event is from 7 to 11 p.m. and includes heavy hors d'oeuvres and an open bar.

Tickets are \$25 per couple and are available at the door.



DEAN POLING/THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

April Carter and Ethan Parker, as Sandy and Danny, center, with the cast of Lowndes High School's Off-Broadway's 'Grease,' playing next week.

Grease

Continued from page 1A

with great singing and harmonies.

Also, like last year's "High School Musical," "Grease" has attracted high audience interest. Tickets are selling fast and Childree expects "Grease" will sell out early like last year's performances of "High School Musical."

THE CAST: Lindsay Bailey, Lauren

Rentz, Isaiah Williams, Jessika Campbell, Hannah Hitchcock, Jennifer Robinson, Joseph Hardeman, Copey Rice, Martavius Parrish, Chance Glover, Chelsea Beals, April Carter, Ethan Parker, Tyler Roberts, Nick McConnell, Demetria Stallworth, Zach Hall, Kelsey Russo, Kayla Mixon, Anna-Marie Boyer, Caitlyn Chastain, Amanda Shirey, Jennica Hurley, Schuyler Boggs, Latisha Jicha, Amanda Tudor, Heather Cohen, Layne Broadwater, Sara Delgado, Erika Khalil, Chelsea Hyers, Breanna

Adams, Taylor Pearson, Stephanie Vazquez, Laine Knight, Kelsey Carter, Mary Leonard, Brittany McCrae, Rebecca Sweatt, Lauren Lott, Erica Carter, Kyle Gage, Austin Rivers.

MUSICIANS: Renee Smith, G.B. Hardigree, Laine Bellinger.

DIRECTION, PRODUCTION: Phyllis Childree, director; Jill McConnell, choreographer; Kristen Carlson, Taylor King, Amber Hamilton, Joey Culligan.

Authorities probe armed robberies

BY MALYNDA FULTON

The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — Authorities are investigating two armed robberies that occurred Monday night.

When a Valdosta man arrived at Forest Park Apartments, located in the 1500 block of East Park Avenue, to visit some friends, he was approached by four males wearing dark clothing with their faces covered, according to his report to Valdosta police. The individuals demanded money from the man while he was held at gunpoint.

After an undisclosed amount of money was taken from the victim, the offenders fled the scene on foot. No one was injured during the robbery, police said.

In an unrelated incident just miles away at Ashley Oaks Motel, located in the 1600 block of North Ashley Street, a motel occupant reported that three males entered his room while displaying a gun and demanding money.

"According to his statements to police, the men beat him up after they discovered he did not have any money," Valdosta Lt. Bobbi McGraw said. "There were visible injuries on the victim, but he was not taken to the hospital."

McGraw affirmed that detectives are investigating both robberies and following up on various leads.

Anyone with information on either incident is urged to contact the Valdosta Police Department Bureau of Investigation at (229) 293-3145 or the Crime Tip Line at (229) 293-3091.

Schools

Continued from page 1A

state education dollars should be spent. "This bill is the greatest no-brainer since the creation of Earth," said state Rep. Ed Lindsey, R-At-

private firm.

Critics warned the measure could end up hurting the very school systems it was designed to help.

"Why are you punishing a high performing school that is trying to do even better?" asked state Rep. Brian Thomas, D-Lilburn. Added Porter: "If you're not for pub-

House

Continued from page 1A

search the "burning" house for occupants.

It took five to ten minutes for Firefighter Paul Folsom to help me suit up in firefighting gear, a task I would





SUBMITTED PHOTO

Members of Lowndes High Livestock Team at State Livestock Show in Perry: (front row) — Brittany Garrison, Taylor Hand, Kayla Farmer, Brittany Rigg, (back row) — Spence Taylor - Advisor, Justin Cain, Garrod Sandlin, Chris Stevick, C.R. Miley, Jeffrie Leet, Nick Worley, Austin Fiveash and Andy Harrison — Advisor.

Lowndes FFA Livestock Team brings home honors

Fourteen members of the Lowndes FFA Livestock Team traveled to Perry for the State Livestock Show and brought home numerous individual and team awards, including being named Grand Champion Beef Herdsman for their efforts of maintaining their barn area, working in a cooperative manner, and displaying information on the program and the educational value of beef projects.

"This was a true and well-deserved team effort in winning this recognition," according to Andy Harrison, FFA Advisor. Taylor Hand placed 1st in the Beef Heifer Record book competition and Brittany Rigg placed 2nd in the steer record book competition. The record book competition is important since it stresses the importance of keeping good and accurate records on the project.

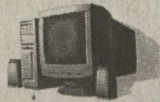
In the Showmanship events where the students are judged on their ability to present their animal to the judge in a manner to exhibit the animal's features, several students made the final drives and placed in their respective grade divisions. In Breeding Ewes, Ben Bennett, Lowndes High 9th grade, placed 10th in his division. In steer showmanship, Chris Stevick placed 6th and Brittany Garrison placed 8th against over 100 12th-grade students from across Georgia. According to Harrison, "this was a tough



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Ben Bennett with his Reserve Champion Dorset Breeding Ewe at the 2008 State Livestock Show in Perry.

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Opinions

THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

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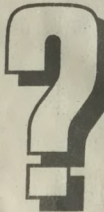
Sanders and Harris are joined by Assistant Managing Editor Dean Poling and Chief Photographer Paul Leavy and News Editor Kelli Hernandez of The Valdosta Daily Times on the newspaper's editorial board. "Our Opinion" is formed by that board.

Editorial Objectives for 2008

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Larger library | 4. Televised meetings |
| 2. New performing arts/civic center | 5. Use transportation plan |
| 3. Tax assessors | 6. Recycling program |
| | 7. School consolidation |

Online Question Of The Week

Recently, Valdosta and Lowndes leaders have held out-of-town retreats, and area leaders traveled to Atlanta for the bird supper. What do you think?



- 1. These trips help the region. — 5.96%
 - 2. These trips allow leaders time and space to plan. — 15.23%
 - 3. Stay home. These trips are a waste of tax money. — 78.81%
- 151 votes

To vote, log on to
www.valdostadailytimes.com.

Results will be published in Saturday's paper.

Other Opinion

A defensive end or a large pianist

I find it interesting how we first describe newborn babies — tendencies that apparently have gone on for many years.

"Rosemary had her baby this morning. It was a girl. She

Our Opinion

Night the lights went out at Mathis

Following "Ring of Fire: The Johnny Cash Story" earlier this week, audience members could have discussed the fine singing and choreography, the solid selection of Cash's many songs, or the interesting way the production interspersed words from Cash's life with his songs. All of these comments would have been true. "Ring of Fire" was a great show.

Yet, what most people were discussing the next day was something else entirely.

They were talking about the night that the lights went out in Georgia. Or at least, the night the stage lights went out at Mathis City Auditorium.

Near the end of the show's first act, the stage lights went out. A stage manager stopped the show and instructed the performers to leave the stage with help from a spotlight. A generator powering the stage lights had failed, interrupting the show. Now, this blow-out was not the fault of the "Ring of Fire" show, nor the fault of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presen-

ter Series that brought the production to town, nor is the staff of Mathis to blame.

No, if there is blame, it should be placed at the feet of Valdosta leaders for either failing to realize the area's need for a new performing-arts auditorium, or failing to act upon this need.

"Ring of Fire" was the latest problem for Mathis. During the recent production of "Annie," the touring company could not use all of its sets because Mathis couldn't accommodate them. A couple years ago, a portion of the stage collapsed — thankfully, after several local youths had finished performing. If you are seated in seats to the far left or right of the auditorium, your view is often partially obstructed by amplifiers placed on stage.

Yes, the loss of lights was on the lips of many Valdostans following "Ring of Fire." What we need to remember is that Mathis and Valdosta's inadequacies will be the talk of visiting performers as they travel onto other venues throughout the region and the nation.

Plenty to do this weekend

All right, here's the run-down. This weekend, Valdosta-Lowndes

ready proven itself an area that can successfully host more than one major

Rant & Ra

This column is your chance to complain or praise, but you need to do it in 30 seconds or less. Call 244-3400, ext. 418, or e-mail valdostadailytimes.com. Submissions are subject to editing and publication is not guaranteed.

Where in Lakeland can you make an illegal turn? Honestly, I didn't think there were any laws here. Dogs can run free. Cats use our yard for their bathroom. Farm animals are right here in town. The smell is terrible because of this. Yard trash is raked into the street to block the drains. Sometimes the trash is just burned in the road. Maybe the powers that be will do something about this.

I was so disappointed to open The Times Friday morning to see a huge picture and article about football and a small picture and article about our youth expanding their horizons by participating in a play. Enough already, you guys did good — congratulations but let's move on.

People want to rant about the dirt roads. If you would please remember that you had your homes built on the dirt road. If you don't want to drive on a dirt road then live in town and let the country people live where we like. We like the dirt roads. Our parents and grandparents lived on these roads and

Deerfest

The 4th Annual Deer Fest was filled with activities, food, performers, ticket sales and auctions. Deer Fest was organized to raise money to move, restore and maintain The Jim and Mary Threatte

Art and Civic Center. This was a very exciting year since it was the first year the event has been held at the Civic Center. This year a portion of the money raised was donated to T.A.P.S. (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors). This is a military organization founded to provide comfort, peer support, information and resources to survivors who have lost loved ones in the military. Taylor, pictured below, is a survivor who lost her father. She attends Good Grief Camp with other children and spoke to everyone at Deer Fest about what T.A.P.S. has meant to her and her family. Thank you to everyone that has donated, volunteered, attended and supported Deer Fest.



Former Atlanta Brave Ryan Klesko takes the stage with Mrs. Mary Threatte



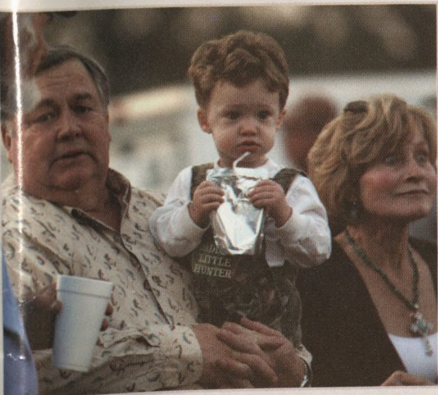
A fun day for all ages



Songwriters Logan Mize and Joanne Smith from Nashville, TN, perform for the crowd.



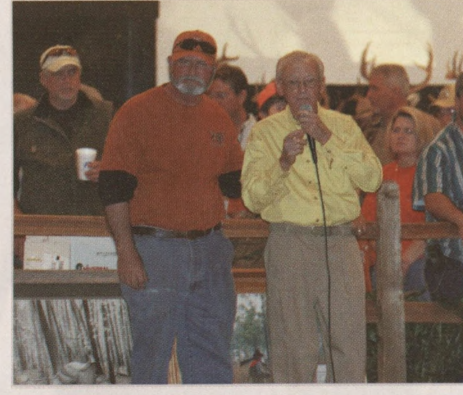
Radio personality Jay Clark catches up with Larry Lee and Alex Lee.



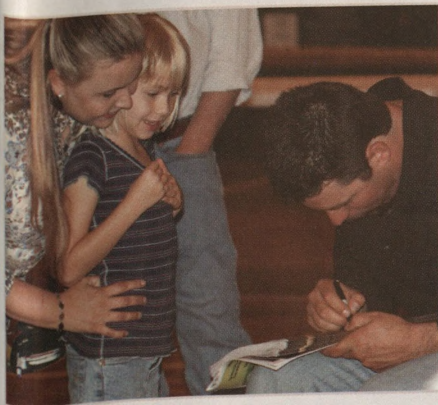
Jay Shaw, his grandson Brady, and Quay Allen.



Franklin Patten, Jeff Parrish, and Larry Lee present T.A.P.S. knife to Taylor Mae Heldt.



Jimmy Benefield and Donald Patten present items for the live auction.



Belinda Branch and daughter Elle wait for Ryan Klesko's autograph



Jason Shaw and Sam Shaw are among the many to prepare the wild game supper.



Marcell Brockington, Hilda Hendley, Debbie Simpson, Amanda Ferguson, Doralene Williams

Rotary Auction

The annual auction sponsored by the North Valdosta Rotary Club was March 8th at Mathis City Auditorium. Hundreds

of items filled the tables for the silent auction thanks to the generosity of local businesses and individuals. Greg Moore conducted the live auction portion of the evening. It was a very special moment when Melanie Barr Schwallenberg's name was drawn for the Steel's Shopping Spree. Her husband, Tommy Barr, was a charter member of this Rotary Club and was instrumental in establishing the annual benefit for Cystic Fibrosis. They lost his son, Erik, to the illness at age 8 1/2. Tommy was also the owner of Barr Jewelers until his death in 1991. This benefit has become the club's major fund raiser each year with proceeds continuing to go to Cystic Fibrosis along with the Boys Scout of America and other worthy causes.



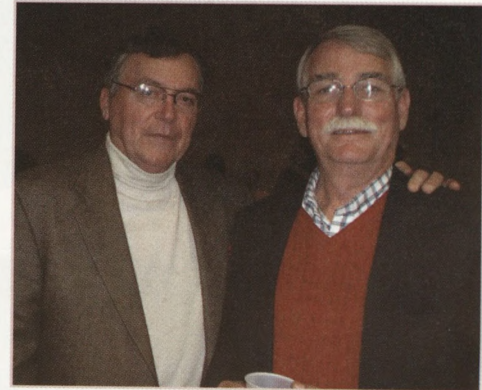
Melanie Barr Schwallenberg



Kristin Ganas and Greg Moore



Marty Rodgers and Bob Harrison



Jack Oliver and Drew Smith



Deane and Mike Williams



Lena Bosch with Trey and Sheya Taylor



Amy and Sean Draper with Jenny and Riley Howard



Dickey and Janis Lee with Ginger and Freddie Taylor



Karen Faucette, Cheryl Oliver, Sharon Lodge, Jan Rowland and Susan Steel



Chicago Dreams

PHOTOS: TROIKA



As show heads toward Valdosta, actor shares how 'Chicago' made his dreams come true

BY DEAN POLING
The Valdosta Daily Times

Local audiences can see a young man living his dream next week when the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series sponsors the nationally touring production of "Chicago."

Brent Heuser plays Billy Flynn, the attorney who believes in giving the ol' "Razzle Dazzle" to 1920s juries and to modern audiences. During a recent phone interview, Heuser says he dreamed of playing the role of Billy Flynn, ever since studying at New York City's American Musical & Dramatics Academy.

Of course, his desire to play Flynn didn't come from his old alma mater but rather from his job selling programs and T-shirts on Broadway for, you guessed it, "Chicago."

Asked if he was influenced by past performances of the character or by Richard Gere's performance as Billy Flynn in the movie version of "Chicago," Heuser says, "seeing different people play Billy gives you an insight into the part but I think I do my own thing with the role. ... Who wants to watch someone impersonate Richard Gere as Billy Flynn?"

With his experience selling programs for "Chicago," Heuser has seen numerous performers as Billy, giving him plenty of insight. And as he watched them in the role, Heuser dreamed of one day playing Billy himself. The opportunity came quicker than he could have imagined.

Graduating from the academy last May, Heuser's first professional role was in "Naughty Marietta." His role as Billy Flynn in the touring Troika production of "Chicago" is only his second professional job.

This production began touring in January, starting from New York. More recently, Heuser and the "Chicago" cast and crew have played stages in Kansas, Arizona and Arkansas within a matter of days. There are plenty more stops before "Chicago" arrives for its one Valdosta performance April 7.

One of the interesting things has been gauging the audience reaction as "Chicago" has stopped in smaller towns, though Heuser believes the movie has prepared audiences for the sexy and sensual themes of the show.

"This is kind of a risqué show," he says. "Sometimes, you can tell that some things catch the audience by surprise. But the movie helps because the audiences are more familiar with the show."

SHOWTIME

Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts presents "Chicago."

When: 7:30 p.m., April 7.

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

Show ticket: \$45.

Dinner theatre: An optional, pre-show dinner is available for an additional \$15 per ticket. It starts at 6 p.m. and is held in Mathis' multi-purpose room.

Reservations: Visit the arts center, 527 N. Patterson St., or call 247-2787.

Uganda Reality

Valdosta woman creating show of native land

BY DEAN POLING
The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — While most reality TV shows promote people working against each other, a Valdosta woman is preparing a reality show which will hopefully promote cultural understanding in her native Uganda.

Hanny Hernandez is a Uganda native, who, in her early teens, moved to Switzerland with her family. After high school, she moved to the United States, Florida specifically, to further her education. She met Learie Hernandez; they married, and moved to Valdosta a couple years ago. They have two children, Learie Jr., 4, and Destiny, 2. Hernandez heads Cultural Educa-

tion Organization, which is developing its first project, "Muvabulaya," which essentially means "from beyond."

"Muvabulaya is a term applied to indigenous persons who have taken to adopt other countries as their homes but who at times return to visit their ancestral country or even return to settle," Herrandez explains.

Many people who left Uganda depicted the country in a negative light as they settled in other parts of the world. As a reality show, "Muvabulaya" will bring some of these re-settled Ugandans back home and place them in a house with Ugandans who have never left their country.

The show will be similar to the American reality television show "Big Brother," where contestants will live in the same house, with contestants being removed from the house one by one. But "Muvabulaya" plans to focus on the cast's similarities rather than differences.

With its culture as a British colony, all Uganda residents speak English, which they will have to use on the

show instead of tribal tongues, such as Swahili or Luganda. From politics to religion, contestants' backgrounds will not be revealed during their introductions.

Hernandez hopes the show will promote understanding within Uganda while promoting Uganda in markets in other parts of the world.

"The main aim of Cultural Education Organization's promoting and encouraging social enterprise is to help improve the world in which we live and work to the advantage of others around us," Hernandez notes. "... The northern part of the country has been suffering from tribal conflicts for the last 20 years and has, in fact, been considered as the 'most neglected humanitarian crisis' by the United Nations. 'Muvabulaya' is going to find out why and hopefully get a remedy for these conflicts."

More information: Visit the Web site www.CulturalEducationOrganization.com; or www.Muvabulaya.com



PAT GALLAGHER/THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES
Hanny Hernandez