



PC's Rotunda exhibits local, regional artists for spring show

By Judith Brown
Staff Writer

David Rhodes has enjoyed art since his childhood and even spent a decade honing his skills as a tattoo artist, and now, due to the quality of his realism in primarily natural scenes, the Laurens artist is among eight South Carolina painters featured in a spring exhibition in the Mary Bailey Vance Suitt Rotunda Gallery within Presbyterian College's Neville Hall.

The art from eight different artists, several from Laurens County and others from the Midlands and the Upstate, varies in subject, style and training, but all exhibit high quality, said Jamie Stewart, the curator of the Bailey Galleries in Neville.

"I was looking for the quality of their work and as I researched artists at galleries in the area, I learned that there is no shortage of very good art in this state and in this region," Stewart said.

Some of the artists selected for the show come from an art background with years of training and others, such as Rhodes, are self taught.

"I used to watch a little bit of Bob Ross and he kind of gave me the courage to try it," Rhodes said a little sheepishly, referring to the long-time PBS artist, last week at the Bailey Galleries Art Exhibition's opening reception.

Rhodes was standing by his painting, Best Friend, an almost photo-quality painting of a shaggy dog inspired by a pet owned by his veterinarian, Mike



Photo by Judith Brown

ART TALK — Laurens artist David Rhodes, right, describes his realism style to visitors in front of his shaggy dog painting, "Best Friend," at last week's opening of the spring art exhibition in the Mary Bailey Vance Suitt Rotunda Gallery in Neville Hall at Presbyterian College. The show features eight South Carolina artists, each showing multiple works, and is open to the public until it closes April 30.

Patterson. "I'm a supervisor at ZF (Transmissions) so I just do this in my spare time as a hobby," Rhodes said. "I love the outdoors and I get most of my inspiration from

places I see."

The exhibition, which fills the walls of all three floors of the Neville Hall Rotunda, includes two Clinton artists, (Continued on page 2)

Missing Mauldin teen's body found in Laurens County

By John Clayton
Editor

The body of a missing Mauldin teenager was found in a rural area of Laurens County early Thursday morning. The Greenville County Sheriff's Office arrested Sosa Mandiez Croft, 18, and charged him with murder, possession of a weapon during a violent crime and grand larceny. The case began as a missing person's investigation Wednesday.

The victim was identified as Joshua Meeks, 16, a junior at Mauldin High School who was reportedly an honor student and member of the football team. He was reported missing Wednesday afternoon.



Sosa M. Croft

The Greenville County Sheriff's Office said the killing was the result of a drug deal gone bad.

"During the course of investigation, investigators learned that Croft and the victim had engaged in some sort of drug deal prior to Croft stealing the victim's car and ultimately shooting him," Lt. Ryan Flood said via a press release.

Greenville County Sheriff's deputies found the victim's missing car on Woodruff Road early Wednesday afternoon. Blood was also found in the vehicle. According to reports, Croft allegedly shot and killed the victim and then stole his car and other valuables.

The body was found near Deer Creek Circle located off of Highway 49 in Laurens County near I-26.

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