

**Diane Stoddard**

**From:** Heather Reynolds-Nance [heather.dreamlifestudios@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 25, 2009 8:33 AM  
**To:** Diane Stoddard  
**Subject:** Here is the description of the materials and mural\*

The mural I'm proposing to paint located at Evan's imports, 735 E 22nd st. Lawrence ks 66046, will consist of a theme based off of the evolution of vehicles leading us into a green and peaceful future for the children of the world. There will be sunflowers to represent ks state in the lower left corner followed by a beautiful horse to represent the first vehicle, horse powered, leading into a model-T the first car followed by a 57' Chevy Bel-air, to show something in between made in America, and ending with a Toyota Prius to show the updated green energy vehicle leading us into the future of sustainable auto. The back drop of the mural will consist of a portrait of the Kansas flint hills with a band of young adults and children holding hands leading us into a peace symbol. In front of them will be a river of water representing clean water and cleansing of our river systems locally and globally. Just above the river will be a white peace dove flying towards the Earth with a branch of peace to offer. The Earth will be located in the higher left hand corner encompassed by two hands representing the world and the future of the world being in our hands. Out of the center of the Earth will sprout the geometric symbol for the seed of life. From the center of the symbol will sprout a seed sprouting a green plant with a drop of clean water forming above it. This will represent new life and a clean, healthy, sustainable, green, peaceful future for all life on this planet. In the distance, there will be a sun rising over the flint hills with a rainbow over it and three silhouettes of wind turbines. This will be representing a bright new future and the rainbow at the end of the storm. The overall of this mural will be representing that once we've realized the problem the worst is over and we can fix it. This will show the love and faith in all mankind and the adaptability that has gotten us this far and will continue to help us grow as a culture, a world united and a species with the ability to be responsible keepers of the Earth and the living things on it. I would like to use this mural as a way to open up topics with the community on how we can all start to do our part towards a healthier future. I will also be having a booth at the earth day fest this year and will have all re-cycled materials and will be promoting re-usable grocery bags and water drinking containers.

**Materials :**

The materials used on this mural will consist of water based, earth friendly, outdoor mural paints and clear coat, most of which I will try to acquire re-cycled materials as in re-sold products that would else ways go to waste. I will use brushes water and pencil washable rags instead of paper towel and re-usable drop cloths as well I will also be using a ladder for the higher regions of the mural.

many thanks ~Heather Lynn reynolds nance~



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Development Services Division  
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Lawrence, KS 66044  
Phone: (785) 832-7700  
Fax: (785) 832-3110

**SIGN PERMIT APPLICATION\*\*\***

Date: 3-25-09

Type of sign: ☐ Construct new sign

-OR-

☐ Rework or replace existing sign

☐ Temporary from: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

-OR-

☒ Permanent wall mural

Business Name: Evan's imports

Business Address: 735 E 22 terr Zoning of Business \_\_\_\_\_

Sign to be: ☐ Ground Sign

☒ Wall Sign

☐ Single Face

☐ Double Face

☐ Non-Illuminated

☐ Illuminated (method) \_\_\_\_\_

Sign to be constructed of: Art mural painted

Sign Area (square feet): entire wall space as shown in photo

Wall Area (square feet, wall signs only): \_\_\_\_\_

Set Back from Property Line: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Cost: \$1300.00

**\*\*\*Required Attachments:**

1. An overhead site plan
2. A drawing or photograph detail showing sign dimensions
3. An elevation drawing or photo showing sign placement

Please attach these and any other relevant documentation. Fax or email completed application and accompanying plans to the City of Lawrence Development Services Division, (785) 832-3110 or [buildinginspections@ci.lawrence.ks.us](mailto:buildinginspections@ci.lawrence.ks.us).

<b>Applicant Name:</b> <u>Heather Reynolds nanda</u>	<b>Billing information, if other than contractor:</b>
<b>Applicant Address:</b> <u>501 east 22 terr</u>	<b>Name:</b> _____
<b>Phone Number:</b> <u>(785) 830-9688</u>	<b>Address:</b> _____
<b>Signature:</b> <u>[Signature]</u> <u>(Nanda)</u>	<b>City:</b> _____ <b>State:</b> _____
<b>Sign Contractor:</b> <u>Same</u>	<b>Zip Code:</b> _____

**For Staff Use:**

**Approved By:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Permit Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

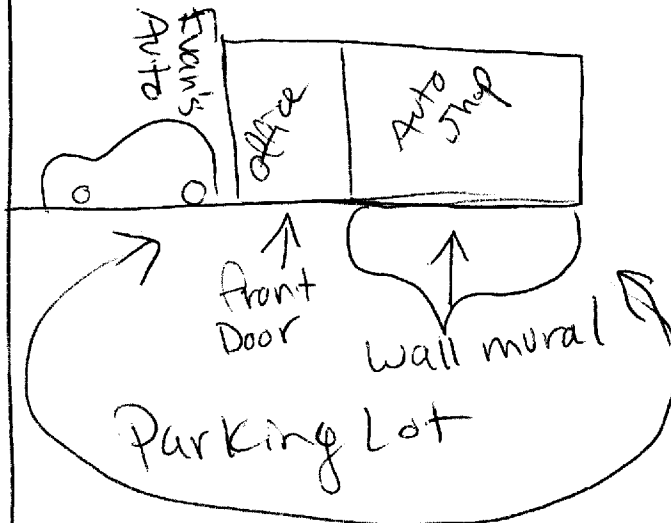
**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Paid:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Payment received by:** \_\_\_\_\_

← Z

Haskell

Wall mural will be painted on the west face's wall of the building.

22nd Terr



23rd Street







Wall mural



Wall mural



*"This is a very emotional piece for me."*

Heather Reynolds | Local muralist



Photos by SAM DEAN | The Roanoke Times

Heather Reynolds, daughter of Roanoke Rescue Mission mural painter Mark Reynolds, finishes painting a mural Tuesday at Ashley Furniture. When a new store is set to open, the company hires a local artist to paint a mural depicting the area.

# Local muralist colors Roanoke skyline

Heather Reynolds painted more than a dozen Roanoke landmarks on the wall of the new Ashley Furniture store.

By Neil Harvey

neil.harvey@roanoke.com  
981-3340

One day when Heather Reynolds was 11 months old, her mother, Karen Bianca, spotted in her one of the signs of true creativity.

"She was sitting in her high chair and I was working on a watercolor," Bianca remembered. "She kept reaching for my pencil."

Bianca dodged her daughter's curious hands for a while, but then suddenly thought, "why not?" and handed over the pencil and paper.

The child immediately tried to create an image on paper, but, added Bianca, "an 11-month-old can barely hold a pencil."

That first, fledgling effort did not yield prodigious results and young Reynolds threw the pencil away and put her head down on the tray of her



As customers place orders at Ashley Furniture on Tuesday, local artist Heather Reynolds, 22, puts the finishing touches on an airplane — just one detail in the 7-by-29-foot Roanoke-themed mural.

chair.

"It was her first 'temperamental artist fit,'" said Bianca, laughing.

Fortunately, on Tuesday, as Reynolds completed a 7-by-29-foot acrylic mural on a wall at Roanoke's new

Ashley Furniture Homestore near Valley View Mall, there were no fits thrown. She's 22 years old now, and

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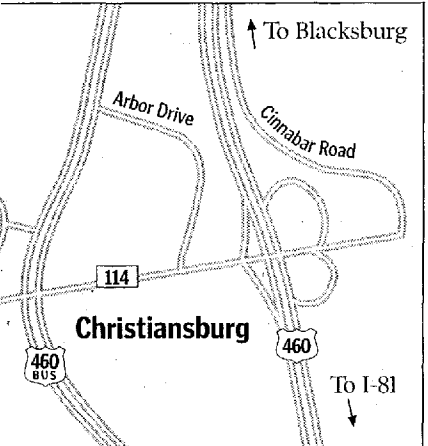




GENE DALTON | The Roanoke Times

helicopter at the Wal-Mart parking lot in good condition Tuesday evening.

# on site shut nvestigation



The Roanoke Times

d be new Dick's Sporting Goods when the accident happened. The Dick's job site is next to the Regal site. Cales said he doesn't know the men personally, though they see one another just about every day. "I hope they're going to be OK," he said. "We're all in the same business."

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dren who knew him enjoyed his company, she said. "He was as short as they was." They'd run to him when they saw him coming, she said.

Crowder's defense counsel, Assistant Roanoke Public Defender Amanda Shaw, said Tuesday that Crowder had a drug problem that led to brushes with the law, but the offenses weren't serious enough to warrant prison time.

On Dec. 6, Crowder pleaded guilty to possession of cocaine in Roanoke County Circuit Court. Though he received no jail time other than what he'd already served, the Roanoke County Sheriff's Office took a swab of his DNA. Law enforcement agencies in Virginia are required to collect DNA samples from convicted felons.

On Dec. 22, an official with the state forensic lab called Roanoke police to tell them Crowder's DNA matched the evidence in the Sommardahl



JEANNA DUERSCHERL | The Roanoke Times

Gracie Crowder pauses while testifying on behalf of her son Thomas Lee Crowder, who was sentenced for murder Tuesday.

case. Arrested and confronted with the DNA match, Crowder confessed. He told police he'd gotten very drunk after doing a plaster job in the neighborhood. He said he went into the apartment at 2 a.m. and swung blindly with the scissors when someone surprised him, according to an interview transcript. Crowder "has lived with a very dark secret," said Roanoke Commonwealth's Attorney Donald Caldwell. "This is a man who took another human being's life, who took it in a brutal, sadistic fashion."

Shaw underlined Crowder's troubled childhood, noting his father threw him out of the house when he was 14. The reason for the slaying will never be known, she said. What he did was out of character, and he's lived a quiet life since, Shaw said. "My mother was a very wonderful, caring person," said Charles Sommardahl, her son. "She spent her entire life caring for other people. She did not deserve to suffer such a cruel, tortured and brutal death."

Joshua Garner contributed to this report.

# MURAL: Artist says her painting connects town with late father

FROM 1

a painter who seems like the antithesis of the "temperamental artist" in her purple knit cap and paint-spattered overalls.

"When I go out, people know what I do," she said, regarding her multicolored denims. Her new mural also tells people where she lives, as it features more than a dozen Roanoke landmarks including the Mill Mountain Star; the Dr Pepper and H&C Coffee signs; the Hotel Roanoke; St. Andrew's Catholic Church; the Norfolk & Western building; Market Square; and even the yet-to-be completed Art Museum of Western Virginia.

Reynolds based her rendering of the new museum on sketches by architect Randall Stout, but she said she relied on what she called "surreal realism" to depict other aspects of Star City.

"I went all around Roanoke with my digital camera and took pictures," she said. "Then I went home and closed my eyes and asked, 'How do I remember it?' And then I drew that."

Some Ashley stores in other cities have locally painted murals on their walls, too, but Reynolds said the job had deeper ties for her. Her father was Mark Reynolds, the abstract expressionist artist whose murals adorn the walls of the Roanoke Rescue Mission and Roanoke's First Baptist Church. He died of complications related to a stroke in 2004; Heather and Bianca arrived in Roanoke just before his death.

"We came here when he was dying," Reynolds said. "He kind of brought us together here."

Although Reynolds and her mother are originally from different parts of the country, and Reynolds spent years traveling and creating art with a traveling Renaissance fair, both women said they immediately felt a kinship with the Roanoke Valley.

"This is definitely the first town that made me want to settle down," Reynolds said.

Creating the mural, however, was not a sedate experience. Although she had a long time to plan it, the actual painting had to be



SAM DEAN | The Roanoke Times

Heather Reynolds paints the Virginia Tech logo that she included in the mural for Ashley Furniture. Reynolds said she spent about 90 hours on the artwork, which was painted in five days as the store was preparing to open.

completed in just five days, as the store was preparing to open.

"We were all here working together, all the employees," said Cheri Morton, a customer service representative for Ashley.

"We were here one night till 1, and she was right here with us," added Rita Sappington, an inventory control specialist.

By the end, Reynolds estimated, she had spent about 90 hours on the artwork.

"The last day was fun," joked Ezekiel Nance, Reynolds' fiancé. "We were here for 33 hours."

Veteran artist Bianca said she thinks the work was a constructive challenge for her daughter.

"She's always had a lot of creative freedom," she said. "I think this is the first time she's had to do it within the corporate world, and that's a great lesson for an artist."

Reynolds said she appreciates the professional experience she got, but she believes the biggest reward is the way the project connected her with the town and with the memory of her father.

"This is a very emotional piece for me," she said. "Because it's in Roanoke. And it's the first one I've done like this since he died."

CLIPDA. Hot hot hot in the '50s



## Art & Second Chances

### HEATHER REYNOLDS AND THE DETENTION CENTER MURAL PROJECT

Welcome to the Roanoke Valley Juvenile Detention Center, or "Coyner Springs" as it is commonly known. Once you've been buzzed through the heavy iron gate and the door slams behind, you enter a sparse waiting room. The only interruption from the gleaming white walls is a placard entitled "Detainee Rights," a few vinyl chairs, and small tables where various pamphlets are displayed. "How to Tell if Your Child is Using Drugs," reads one. Another lists tips for "Gun Safety and Awareness." Until a staffer arrives to check your bags, you stand alone in the cool silence. It's an artificial calm that masks the fact that, less than 30 feet away, there are young inmates who have committed arson, robbery, rape, and worse.

Is the detention center an unlikely place for art? Twenty-two year old muralist **Heather Reynolds** doesn't think so. "I see God in everything," says the dreadlocked South Florida native, as she dabs her paintbrush into a can and reaches toward her 10' x 22' mural. Reynolds is working beyond the waiting room, in a hallway typically tread by only offenders and staff. Beside her, a seventeen-year-old detainee\* is laboring, stroking his brush back and forth, spreading blue into the painting's night sky. "At first I didn't know what this was about," says the young man. "But this painting has a really deep meaning to it. It's really touched me."

The inmate is one of ten who is assisting Reynolds with her work, a piece commissioned by the detention center. He and the others are participants in **Impact 180**, an innovative rehabilitation program that prepares inmates for their return to society (currently there is not enough funding, nor candidates, to run a parallel program for girls). An Impact 180 participant must be nominated by his parole officer and pass a series of interviews and tests to be accepted. He must not have been convicted of a violent crime; most are here for drug possession, sale, and/or non-felony gun charges. He must not only endure, but excel, in a rigorous, military-styled regimen to be released—180 days later, if he plays his cards right.

Impact 180 "cadets" live separately from the rest of the Coyner Springs kids and receive special privileges such as one-on-one attention and working with Reynolds—but life inside isn't easy. Except for the weekends, they wake up at 5:30 am. Cadets wear

Written by Elizabeth Parsons  
Photography by Doug Miller



uniforms and march military-style from one task to the next. Every waking moment is scheduled with exercise, school, chores, and tests.

But the program presents a second—and final—chance. Nearly all youth accepted enter on a “suspended commitment” to the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice. Those who breach Impact 180’s rules by fighting or even talking insubordinately have their sentences reinstated, and may never again return to the program. This means they leave the relative shelter of Impact 180 and Coyner Springs for a rough-and-tumble correctional facility “up state.” And if a graduate of Impact 180 violates the terms of his parole, he goes straight “up state.” That’s a harsher deal than the other parole violators get—depending on the offense, they may avoid “up state” and return to Coyner Springs instead.

Choices, and second chances, comprise an important theme in Reynolds’ mural. Though she is quick to point out that every viewer will have a unique interpretation, the mural—entitled “In a Misunderstood World, Your Hands Make the Difference”—is a metaphor for the cycle of life and the crossroads that every human being faces throughout. In the center, a pair of hands holds a newborn baby, presenting it to the world. At the bottom left corner, three generations—a child with his father and grandfather on either side, walk on a sun-drenched road, representing the “clear path,” and “how important it is to learn from past generations.” Another pair of hands releases dove-shaped clouds into the sky, symbolizing the end of life.

In the lower right corner, leaning up against a wall with her head lowered, is a young girl with long dreadlocks similar to the artist’s own. Looking distraught and pensive, the girl is at a crossroads, explains Reynolds. She is “everyone who goes through hard times, questions what’s going on, and what the future will hold.”

Hands are a recurrent symbol throughout the work. They represent what Impact 180 hopes to impart to its participants: that change is possible. That salvation is attainable—you just have to reach for it.

The cadets agree. Most of those interviewed say that they want to go on to college after being released. Nearly all want to play professional football. “But if that doesn’t work out,” says one shy teenager, “I want to become a lawyer. Because people helped me out, you know, and I want to give back. Everyone deserves a second chance.”

Reynolds is not surprised. “The kids are so smart,” she says. PDI Lane, who manages the boys from day to day, explains that many of them have simply not had the resources to stay straight. Although each cadet has a unique story, many come from broken and poverty-stricken homes and drug-infested neighborhoods. “Some are raised by their grandparents,” says Lane. “And even though they do their best, how can grandparents control a fifteen- or sixteen-year-old troubled kid?”

Reynolds believes the mural project is a “very progressive” move for the center. Psychology now recognizes art therapy as a legitimate treatment, but its use is not yet widespread in institutions like these. Pamela Alexander, who is the center’s licensed professional counselor, says, “The experience of creating any kind of art...can be therapeutic. The freedom of expressing oneself creatively brings peace and relaxation, while the finished project produces a sense of accomplishment and completion.” Art therapy “allows us to access hidden material in our subconscious minds and to express feelings that may be unspeakable...”

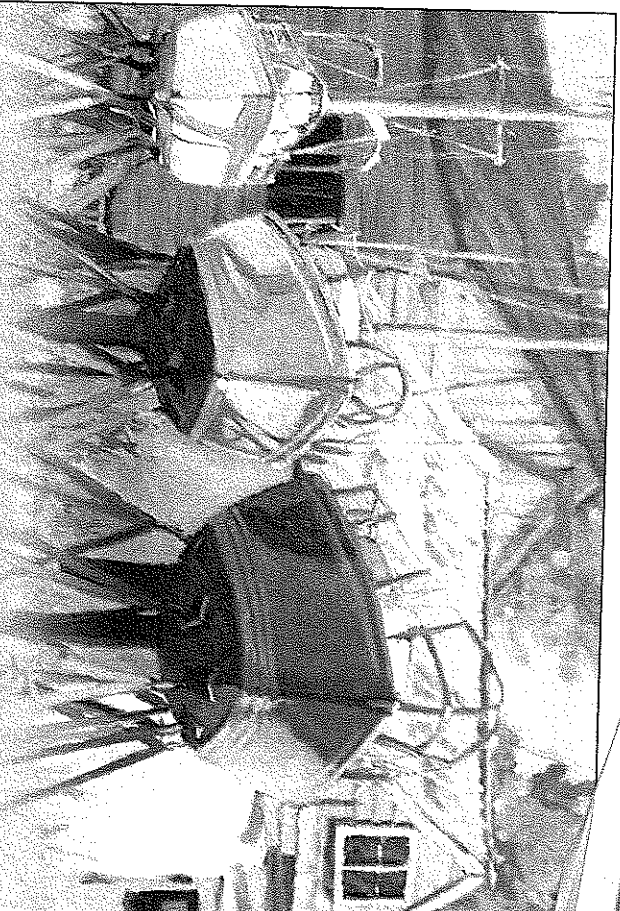
Alexander admits that many of the “youth in crisis” who end up in detention are guarded and reluctant to trust. “Projects [like the mural] that allow collaboration and artistic expression help break the ice and create a more open environment, which is especially important for a facility that regards safety and wellness as priorities.”

Reynolds is thrilled to be involved in such an enterprising project, and recently committed to teaching weekly dance and art classes at the center. Her helpers are also pleased, speaking excitedly about the mural and the roads ahead of them. “I was like that girl when I first got here,” one inmate remarks, pointing at the mural. “Now, I’m like the baby,” he adds hopefully, eyes bright. “I’m ready to start a new life.”

*This article is dedicated to the hard-working participants of IMPACT 180—and to all young people trying to turn their lives around. For more about the Roanoke Valley Juvenile Detention Center, visit [www.rydc.org](http://www.rydc.org). You can reach artist Heather Reynolds by emailing [dreamlifestudios@excite.com](mailto:dreamlifestudios@excite.com), and see another example of her work at Ashley Furniture in Roanoke. For more information on the benefits of art therapy, visit the American Art Therapy Association, Inc. at [www.arttherapy.org](http://www.arttherapy.org).*

*\*In order to protect the identity of detainees, City has refrained from printing their names or showing their faces in the article and the accompanying photo.*

*~Elizabeth Parsons’ passion for culture and the arts has earned her a degree in Anthropology and stamps on her passport from places as diverse as Ecuador, Turkey and the European Union. Recently working as a Writer and Event Planner for the Grammy Music Awards in San Francisco, CA, she returns to her hometown of Roanoke to pursue her M.F.A./Creative Writing at Hollins University. Elizabeth can be contacted at 540.345.6300 or [elizabeth@citymagazineonline.com](mailto:elizabeth@citymagazineonline.com).*



“Three Up” by Diane Johnson

Now that all the Holiday activities are over, and you have a minute to relax and look around the house, maybe we can help with your next decorating project. Come in for a cup of coffee or tea and spend time looking for your inspiration piece to start you on the way.

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