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GEARILLA

Art exposes the mechanics of exposure



By Dean Poling
The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — Have you ever had something in your life that seemed like magic until someone pointed out just how it worked?

Sometimes that revelation is a good thing. Think Dorothy discovering the all-powerful Wizard of Oz is really a little man working gizmos behind a curtain. Sometimes that revelation is a bad thing. Think of Dr. Frankenstein's experiment gone awry.

Coral Springs, Fla., artist Al Razza's "Gearilla" series, which is scheduled

to be the central theme of his exhibit opening this evening at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, is a fun and fascinating look at how too often we demand to know how things work instead of appreciating things for what they are.

"Gearilla Works is a humorous, but enigmatic reference to a body of work that uses gears as the main design element," Razza says in an artistic statement. "They were inspired by the contemporary notion that 'a machine' is be-

hind all that is, that a device or mechanism is turning our world, be it mythical, magical, or simply implied. They are the unmasking of that suggested device."

Razza's Gearilla work has a sense of Old World excitement behind it. Something akin to seeing a da Vinci drawing with the gears and cogs powering a Renaissance-era helicopter or some other machine. There is a flat-world quality to Razza's "Gearilla" ideas, a premise of the deus ex machine — the theatrical

"god machine."

But Razza also wants to stimulate thought on our modern ambition of discovering what makes everything tick.

"They are part of the abomination as well," Razza says. "Like King Kong or Frankenstein, they remind us that man's spirit is corrupted by an ever curious need to discover something at any expense, to make a monster out of something pure, to exaggerate the common place, to go beyond the surface, dig into the subconscious realm and find the apparatus that lies in the dark recesses of our mind, at the edge of our dreams, and at the edge of night."



'Ironica,' artist Al Razza.

Razza is a 1991 recipient of a South Florida Consortium Fellowship, awarded for artistic excellence by the South Florida Art Consortium and the National Endowment for the Arts; which included a \$15,000 stipend, according to his Web site bio. "His work has been exhibited in museums, and galleries, and is included in many private and public collections. He

has taught in the Broward County, Florida School System, and was an instructor at the Coral Springs Museum of Art for 10 years. He is also the owner of Design Crafters Gallery and School of Art Inc., located in Coral Springs."

Now, Razza joins three other new shows opening tonight in the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.





'Paratus Realm,' artist Al Razza.

GALLERY

Artist Al Razza's exhibit opens in the Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery, along with artist Donald Kollberg, Josette's Gallery; the Best of Spring Into Art, Sallie and Harmon Boyette Gallery; Moody Air Force Base art, Roberta George Children's Gallery.

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

Opening reception: A free, public reception, 5-7 p.m. today.

Show run: The shows run from this evening to Aug. 6.

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

Admission: Free.

More information: Call 247-2787.



'Below Sea Level,' artist Al Razza.

Sundaylife

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Valdostadailytimes.com

The Valdosta Daily Times

Sunday, June 22, 2008



PAT GALLAGHER/THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES
Sculptures by artist Robert Coon.

What's that in front of the arts center?

BY DEAN POLING

The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — If you've driven along North Patterson Street recently, you may be wondering about the structure pointing heavenward in front of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.

It's part of a series of sculptures outside of the center by Vero Beach artist Robert Coon. An exhibit of Coon's work is scheduled inside the center on Jan. 12, 2009. The sculptures are on loan to the center until the end of that exhibit on Feb. 25, says Sharon Lodge, the center's director of operations.

Coon has installed three sculptures on the center's grounds. Each piece is a different color sharing the same theme of pointing heavenward.

The purple piece is called "Merlin's Compass"; the blue one, "Figurescape 3"; the red one, "Interstellar Object 001."

Since being installed earlier this month, the sculptures have prompted numerous reactions and attracted additional visitors, Lodge says.



W • I • R • E • D

Artist creates the human form from wire, light and shadow

BY DEAN POLING

The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — On a dais, in the middle of a gallery, a viewer can appreciate the wire art of Donald Kolberg.

It is apparent that he has manipulated the thin wire into the human form. Torso, hips, the curves and grooves of muscle, sinew and flesh shaped into what was once a flat piece of wire mesh. They are sculpture but, instead of marble, Kolberg's medium is wire. Of course, with mesh, Kolberg deals with either the frontal view or a posterior view of the human form.

His deft handling of the materials can be appreciated, but it can't be fully appreciated until the work is exhibited in a fashion where lighting causes shadows to form on walls behind the sculpture. The play of light on the porous wire makes the shadows appear to be pencil drawings etched behind the sculpture. It is a dynamic effect.

"I actually found wire art by accident more than five years ago," Kolberg says in an artistic statement. "I was working in my studio, or more accurately, waiting for the muse, when I found myself doodling with a piece of picture wire. I was fascinated with the way it lent itself to the kind of gesture painting of human form I was exploring. I quickly jumped to aluminum and steel screening



Art by Donald Kolberg.



to create more forms.
Kolberg works with models and bends the wire sheet by hand to capture the model's pose.

"My technique developed into hand working the forms into human landscapes that reflect the intricacies of muscle and attitude," Kolberg notes. "From here, they are manipulated in light and shadow. This creates the completed sculpture that exists in the physical world of the surface and delineation of form with the shadow that reflects the sculpture and interacts with the form creating a combined new sculpture."



Art by Donald Kolberg.



Art by Donald Kolberg.

GALLERY

Artist Donald Kolberg's art is on exhibit in Josette's Gallery, along with the 'Best of Spring Into Art'; Sallie and Harmon Boyette Gallery; artist Al Razza's paintings, Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery; works by youngsters at Moody Air Force Base, Roberta George Children's Gallery.

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

Patterson St.
Run dates: Shows run through Aug. 6.

Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; closed Sundays and Mondays.

Admission: Free.

More information: Call 247-2787.

Mondaylife

Monday, June 30, 2008

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The Wow Factor



PAT GALLAGHER/THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

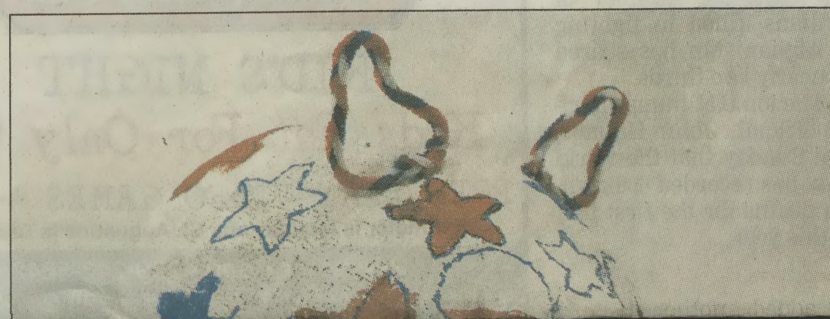
'Patriotic Quilt' was made with the handprints and footprints of the 6-week to 6-month-old children from Moody AFB Child Development Center's Room 10.

Moody children's exhibit brings art to life

BY DEAN POLING

The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — Moody Air Force Base's 23rd Force Support Squadron's Child Development Center, Family Child Care and Youth Center have created one of the most dynamic children's shows in the history of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts'



Roberta George Children's Gallery.
This exhibit is colorful and filled with art from children ages 2 weeks to 18 years old. Paintings, papier mache, sculpture, bird houses, and more create a rhythmic show of wonder which must give these young artists great pleasure and likely dazzles to children visiting the gallery.

Karen White, CDC section chief, said in a Moody Volunteer article that she wanted the "wow factor" for this art show. White, Nikki Bennett, Youth Center programs section chief, Rocanne Wills, FCC coordinator, and Lesley Darley, CDC curriculum specialist, have achieved the desired effect. This is a kids art show that will make a viewer say, Wow!

Art is a way getting to know an



PAT GALLAGHER/THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

'Pigs on Parade' by Moody AFB school-age children 5 to 12 years of age.

artist without having to meet the artist. Art explains the artist.

Through photos of the art being cre-

ated, lists of young names, and the art itself, viewers will come to know the young artists in this show.

GALLERY

The Moody Air Force Base children and youth exhibit is on display in the Roberta George Children's Gallery, along with artist Donald Kolberg's wire sculpture, Josette's Gallery; "Best of Spring Into Art," Sallie and Harmon Boyette Gallery; artist Al Razza's paintings, Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery.

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

Run dates: Shows run through Aug. 6.

Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; closed Sundays and Mondays.

Admission: Free.

More information: Call 247-2787.



Kelly Clark Age 2
"Basket art"
Moody AFB Child Development Center
Room 5

PAT GALLAGHER/THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Kelly Clark, age 2, uses vibrant colors to create 'Basket Art' from Moody Air Force Base Child Development Center's Room 5.



PAT GALLAGHER/THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

'Birdhouse Art' by Moody Child Development Center Room 9.

Thursdaylife

Thursday, July 3, 2008

Valdostadailytimes.com

Page 5A

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 Presentry 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.

Sunday **life**

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Valdostadailytimes.com

The Valdosta Daily Times

Sunday, July 13, 2008

RISES 2008-09



NATIONAL CHAMPS

4-H archers hit the bullseye

BY DEAN POLING

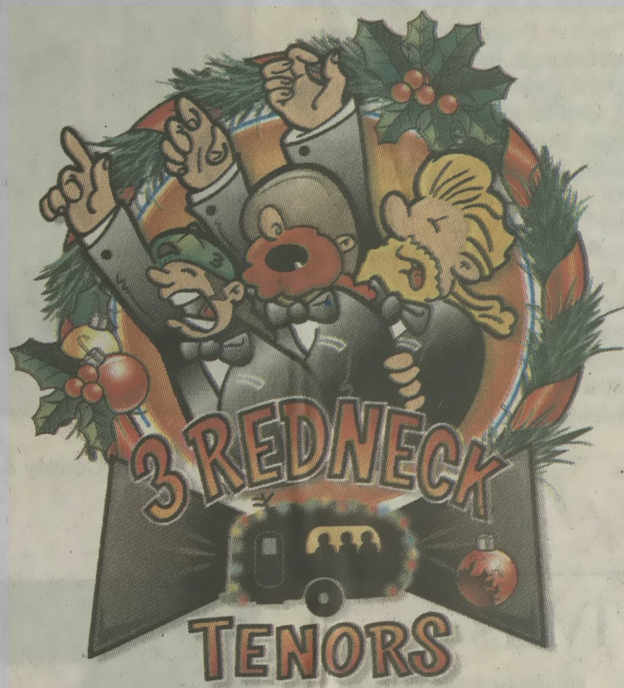
The Valdosta Daily Times

UAHIRA — Some teams spend years building a tradition. They may spend decades seeking a national championship without ever

PRESENTER

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NEW SHANGHAI CIRCUS, 7:30 P.M., MARCH 12. A Chinese acrobatic troupe that promises to dazzle with its performance, which has been seen from Broadway to PBS. This show is also set to celebrate Valdosta's annual Azalea International.



HOLIDAY SPEC-TAC-YULE-AR

"THREE REDNECK TENORS: CHRISTMAS SPEC-TAC-YULE-AR,"
7:30 P.M., NOV. 6. Last season kicked off with a surprise hit with a show by this group. Combining incredible singing voices, with backwoods humor and outlandish wardrobes, the Three Redneck Tenors went from being competitors in last summer's "America's Got Talent" to Valdosta favorites. This time, the trio returns with an early Christmas present with its holiday show.

Arts Center announces next season of touring shows

BY DEAN POLING

The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts has scheduled four professionally touring shows for the 2008-09 season.

The season will feature the return of a popular act from last season, two musicals, and something completely different in an

Please see Presenter, Page 2E

Sundaylife

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Valdostadailytimes.com

The Valdosta Daily Times

Sunday, July 20, 2008

A look at the winners of the Best of Spring Into Art show

BY DEAN POLING

The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — If you haven't seen the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts' Best of Spring Into Art, you're missing some examples of the area's best art and artists.

From 440 pieces of art from 239 artists on display earlier this year in the massive Spring Into Art show, a few dozen works were selected for the much smaller Best of Spring Into Art show now on display in the art center's Sallie and Harmon Boyette Gallery.

Eight winners were then selected from this choice number. For the past few years, the center hasn't crowned one work as best in show; instead, there are four works each, selected in two categories: two-dimensional (paintings, drawings, photographs, etc.), and three-dimensional (sculpture, etc.).

While Spring Into Art and the Best of Spring Into Art feature works from both local artists and artists from distant locales, the majority of this year's top winners are artists familiar to area arts patrons.

The Best of Show also provides a peek into what many folks will be looking at throughout next year. The selected works for the 2009 Colson Calendar have also been selected.

If you haven't seen this show yet, you still have a couple weeks to visit what is simply the best.



Three-Dimensional First Place: Barbara Balzer, "Three Graces."

WINNERS

TWO-DIMENSIONAL

First Place: Craig Hawkins, "Lincoln."

Second Place: Joe Morgan, "If Looks Could Kill."

Third Place: Martica Griffin, "Glad Land."

Fourth Place: Helena Meek, "Kinchafonee Creek."

Simply the BEST

THREE-DIMENSIONAL

First Place: Barbara Balzer, "Three Graces."

Second Place: Michael Schmidt, "The Industrial Complex."

Third Place: Thomson Moore, Untitled.

Fourth Place: Don Penny, "Eight Tetras."

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Artists Michele Beaudin, Lucinda Carlstrom, Jonathan Chick, Hank Fleck, Jacquelyn Kent, J. Stephen Lahr, Pam Scruggs, Maegan L. Moore, Blake Pearce, Linda Pence.

GALLERY

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

Show dates: This and three other exhibits run through Aug. 6.

Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; closed Sundays and Mondays (with exception of Monday evening opening receptions).

Admission: Free.

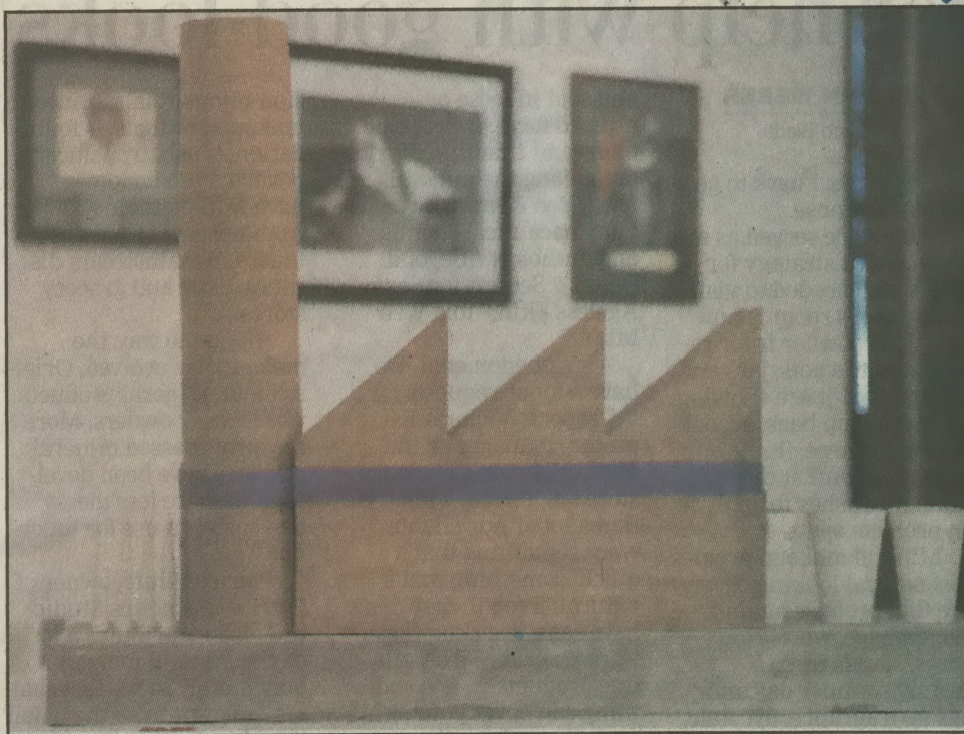
More information: Call 247-2787.



Two-Dimensional First Place: Craig Hawkins, "Lincoln."



Two-Dimensional Second Place: Joe Morgan, "If Looks Could Kill."



Three-Dimensional Second Place: Michael Schmidt, "The Industrial Complex."

The art of disciplined fun

Summer Arts Academy winding down

BY DEAN POLING

The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — Hearing the chords of the violin from the hallway, one can't help but stick a head back into the classroom.

Tallahassee, Fla.,-based violinist Patrice Floyd is working with a handful of youngsters, Dana Brown, Tiara Miller, Kelli Jones, and William Davis.

Three of the students are slowly sawing the bow across the violin strings, but Floyd's immediate attention is on one student who is learning how to pluck out the violin chords



DEAN POLING/THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Patrice Floyd works with Dana Brown on the violin as part of the Summer Arts Academy held at Southeast Elementary School the past several weeks. The academy ends this week with a showcase performance this afternoon.

before moving onto the lier, Floyd and Danita Boyd, head of the Union Cathedral Community School of

Only a few minutes ear-

the Arts Summer Arts Academy at Southeast Elementary School, were explaining how only one of these students had played violin prior to the academy's start a few weeks ago.

You hear what they said, but the meaning of it isn't fully appreciated until you hear the youngsters play.

This afternoon, these handful of youngsters along with about 50 more are scheduled to play a short violin recital as part of a showcase performance for the Summer Arts Academy at Valdosta High School Performing Arts Center. The production will also feature an abbreviated presentation of "The Wiz," which will highlight the youngsters other Academy studies in visual arts,



DEAN POLING/THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Danita Boyd works with several youngsters as part of the Summer Arts Academy at Southeast Elementary School. Boyd has served as the director for the academy which had 55-60 youngsters participating its first year.

Saturday, July 26, 2008

THE VALDOSTA

DAILY TIMES

Academy

Continued from page 1A

dancing, theatre and music.

The showcase is a culmination of what the youngsters, ages 8-14, have learned in the Academy's workshops and classes the past several weeks. And even before the expected applause at this afternoon's presentation, organizers already believe the Summer Arts Academy has been a success.

A few months ago, Danita and husband Jimmy Boyd began plans for the Academy. They wanted it to be the first event for the Union Cathedral Community School of the Arts' new building on Highway 84, across from sponsoring church Greater Union Cathedral. Yet, as a Southeast counselor, Danita Boyd was granted permission to use the school for the academy.

The Boyds initiated several fund-raisers to pay for various performers and artists to teach at the academy. They also wanted to raise enough money so that interested youngsters could attend the academy for free.

The original goal was to raise \$30,000 to fund 100 students, but the number of students was eventually lowered to about 55-60 for this first year. Also, the initial plan was to introduce youngsters to all of the arts and then let them choose a specialty. Instead, the youngsters rotated through all of the offered arts workshops throughout the academy's run through most of July. The arts courses are offered in the afternoon following mornings filled with courses on character development, drug awareness,

SHOWTIME

Summer Arts Academy hosts a talent showcase.

When: 3 p.m. today.

Where: Valdosta High School Performing Arts Center, off North Forrest Street.

Admission: Free and open to the public.

money management, health and nutrition.

"Art takes discipline," Danita Boyd says. "At first, many of the students didn't like violin because it requires discipline." But as they heard the results of that discipline, the students became more interested in the violin. "We hope this discipline will carry over to the classroom."

Patrice Floyd has played violin for 42 years and taught the instrument for 27 years. She says the academy has been one of her most rewarding teaching experiences, well worth the drive to and from Tallahassee, Fla., each day for several weeks.

"To watch the students' confidence grow as they improve on violin, to see the confidence speaking in drama class, dancing, and in art, to see them improve their math skills by learning music theory," Floyd says, "it has been very rewarding."

Boyd would like to see some form of the academy continue after school in the weeks to come. And she is already thinking about a second academy next summer.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Riley Howard, Valdosta, beside his father's name, etched on the Berlin Airlift memorial in Germany. Bill Howard died in a plane crash during airlift operations.

Airlift

Continued from Page 1E

That was 60 years ago. In late June, Eleanor Howard and son Riley Howard returned to Germany, where they were honored along with nearly a dozen veterans for their sacrifice and participation in the Airlift. The German government sponsored the 60th anniversary commemorative event which celebrated the veterans and the Howards in cities throughout Germany. They were wined and dined, honored and praised, saluted and memorialized.

Some younger German generations expressed the sentiment that the Airlift veterans have been honored enough, Eleanor Howard says, but as she and the veterans repeatedly heard throughout their visit, the Germans who remember those days are glad and thankful for what the Americans did, the ones who "saved us from the Russians."

A LOSS REMEMBERED

Eleanor Howard's involvement in the Berlin Airlift commemoration reflects a rare position for the wife of one of its veterans. Of the veterans themselves, which once numbered about 50,000, approximately 3,000 are left, she says. Of that number, less than a dozen were among the honorees of the commemoration. So, there are many widows among the Airlift veterans, but Eleanor Howard is one of the few left widowed by the Airlift itself.

Granted, other men died in the Airlift. Other men left wives behind, but many of those women later remarried or, if they were invited to past commemorations in Germany, they did not wish to return. Eleanor Howard neither married nor refused past invitations honoring



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eleanor Howard with veterans of the Berlin Airlift during a commemorative program in Frankfurt, Germany.

“I came back to the U.S. devastated by my loss. I wasn't certain what to do with my life, but I had to be strong because I had a young son to raise.”

— Eleanor Howard

both Airlift veterans and those who sacrificed to the Airlift's cause. Through the years, Eleanor Howard has visited Germany several times. So, when the German government was planning a 60th anniversary commemoration, Eleanor Howard was invited and she accepted along with other honorees, such as famed "Candy Bomber" Gail Halvorsen, who was hailed as a celebrity throughout Germany, and even re-enacted a candy run during his recent visit.

COMING HOME: The 1940s

Seated in front of a portion of the porcelain collection she started while living in post-war Germany and which she pledged last year to the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, Eleanor Howard shares stories of her recent trip to Germany.

She shares what she said when asked about her life in Germany. She told them that she lost her husband on Aug. 24, 1948. Her son, Riley, was about 8 months old.

"I came back to the U.S. devastated by my loss," she says. "I wasn't certain what to do with my life, but I had to be strong because I had a young son to raise."

She saw that Riley became a Boy Scout, earning the rank of Eagle, and that he learned how to be a man.

"Throughout my life, I tried being a mother and a father to my son," she says. "To me, my husband, Bill, was one of the finest men I have ever known, and I tried raising a son he would be proud of."

Eleanor Howard was a school teacher who lived by the biblical words, The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. "He hasn't always given me everything I've wanted," she says, "but God has watched after me."

GERMAN HONORS

This June, the Rileys were honored in Berlin, Frankfurt and several other towns. They met mayors, German officials, U.S. military commanders, and NATO leaders. They were cheered by crowds.

They left their signatures in the prestigious golden book, a registry which includes the names of John F. Kennedy, Dwight D. Eisenhower, and other distinguished individuals.

They visited the Airlift memorial which honors those who lost their lives saving the Germans from the Russians. On the base of the memorial is etched the name of Capt. W.R. Howard, who was only 27 years old when his plane crashed during the Airlift.

Though gone 60 years this month, Bill Howard is a man not forgotten for his service and sacrifice in Germany while remembered for the life he led by those who loved him in Valdosta.

Sunday **life**

Valdostadailytimes.com

The Valdosta Daily Times

Sunday, August 3, 2008

AIRLIFT



Sunday, August 3, 2008

Valdosta featured in national publication

Where to Retire magazine, the only magazine in America geared to helping people with retirement relocation decisions, has selected Valdosta to profile as a top retirement town in the September/October issue, which mails to subscribers nationwide on Aug. 1.

According to Where to Retire editor, Mary Lou Abbott, Valdosta has many of the qualities that are important to today's retirees, including state parks with walking trails, campsites, and wildlife; Valdosta State University, and an abundance of activities around town with the Senior Citizens Center, Wild Adventures Theme Park, a regional library, golf courses, the Turner Center for the Arts and more.

Each year, 700,000 Americans move to new towns to retire. Where to Retire magazine was launched in 1992 with the goal of helping its readers find the ideal place to retire.

Now published six times a year, the magazine covers the best retirement regions, towns, and master-planned communities, and has a national circulation of 220,000.

The magazine can be found at various newsstands and www.wheretoretire.com.

Eleanor Howard with memorabilia from the recent program in Germany commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift. Eleanor Howard and her son, Riley Howard, attended the ceremonies in honor of her husband, Bill Howard, who died in a plane crash during the airlift.

REMEMBERED

Valdostans remembered for sacrifices in saving the Germans from the Soviets

BY DEAN POLING

The Valdosta Daily Times

In post-World War II Germany, the Soviets blocked the highways and railroads into Berlin. The Soviet plan: The Russians would block Western powers from entering Berlin, making the Soviets responsible for supplying food and provisions to the city which, in turn, meant the Russians would control Berlin.

This was 1948. This was the Berlin Blockade. The Western powers, led by the United States, would not stand for it. American and British forces flew supplies into Berlin in defiance of Russia's blockade. This was the Berlin Airlift. This was one of the opening salvos of what would become known as the Cold War between the Western world and the Soviet bloc.

Before the Berlin Wall, before East Berlin and West Berlin, East Germany and West Germany, there was the airlift, starting in late June 1948. The idea was to supply the Germans by air, despite the blockade and despite skepticism such an effort could work. But work it did. Tons of food and provisions were supplied to the Germans, even the legendary flights of pilot Gail Halvorsen, the original "Candy Bomber," who eventually became famous but always beloved for dropping candy to the sweet-starved children of Berlin.

Eleanor Howard of Valdosta was there during those impossible days which became a lifeline to the post-war German people. She was a young wife to Capt. William R. Howard and mother to an infant son.

Even though World War II was over, and the Berlin Airlift was a humanitarian mission, sacrifices were made. Lives were still lost. Eleanor Howard knows this well. Bill Howard was killed during an Airlift operation when his plane and another collided. The Airlift left Eleanor Howard a widow at a young age. She returned to the States to raise her and Bill's son, Riley, less than a year old, alone.



Bill and Eleanor Howard in the 1940s.

Please see AIRLIFT, Page 7E



JESSICA POPE / THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES
Eva Rucker listens to Alexia Bruce, 8, McKinnzie Colston, 7, and Erin Adair, 5, talk about their first day of school. Rucker volunteers at the Boys and Girls Club on Lake Laurie Drive.

Super Citizen Award winner helps others

BY JESSICA POPE

The Valdosta Daily Times

When the Lowndes County School System kicked off its 2008-09 academic year Monday Eva T. Rucker, 72, resumed her role as a foster grandparent. She can be found at Dewar Elementary School from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

"I work with a special needs child," she shared. "He's 7 years old. He can't walk. He can't talk. Sometimes I get down about it. It makes me sad that he can't do the things the rest of the children can do. He can't run and play or read books. But then he will do something — like smile at the word monkey — I don't know why he thinks that word is so funny. He just does. He also likes music. It's those small things that make it all worthwhile, that

Active Times

To meet Edith D. Smith Super Citizen Award winner Bert Powell, see our Active Times section in today's paper.

make me smile right along with him. There's just something about him. I really like him."

Being a foster grandparent, however, is not all that Rucker does. Most days of the week, she's up and walking two miles on the Valdosta Middle School track well before sunrise. Her days typically do not end until well after sunset when she climbs into bed for a few hours of sleep.

"I do like to stay busy," she shared.

WINNER | 4A

Winner

Continued from page 1A

"It feels good to be out and about doing things. Best of all, I get to do all of it because I want to and because I enjoy it, not because I have to."

After school on Mondays, Rucker cares for the plants at TEACH (Teaching, Educating, and Advancing Christian Health) Outreach Ministry, the Foster Grandparent Program office on Melody Lane, Bethel CME Church and a neighbor's home. By 6 p.m., she's at the Unitarian Universalist Church for 90 minutes of tai chi.

"I like Tai Chi. I like that it's part exercise, part meditation, and part martial arts," she explained. "The movement is graceful and stretches my body. It's been good for keeping arthritis away."

Rucker began doing Tai Chi in 2004 after seeing a flyer on a local bulletin board.

On Tuesdays, Rucker works with the children of the Boys and Girls Club of Valdosta Inc.'s Lake Laurie unit. She helps them with their homework, listens as they share stories about their day and their friends, plays games with them, and gives hugs as needed. She also visits with patients at Lakehaven Nursing Home and Heritage House Nursing Home.

Rucker spends Wednesday afternoons doing a little more gardening at the Foster Grandparent Program as well as at her sister's house. Then, it's off to the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts for 90 minutes of yoga.

"Yoga leaves me feeling so good," she said. "I feel energized, even at the end of a long, hard day."

After school on Thursdays, Rucker works in the office of the American Red Cross answering telephones, stuffing envelopes, and doing whatever else is asked of her. She ends her day with another 90 minutes of tai chi.

On Fridays, Rucker



JESSICA POPE / THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES
Marquise Sirmans, 10, shows Eva Rucker how to play pool at the Boys and Girls Club on Lake Laurie Drive.

watch the games on the television. To be honest, I look forward to any football game on Sundays in the fall. I don't care who's playing. I can sit and watch them all day long."

Born on Dec. 21, 1935, in Douglas, Rucker moved to Valdosta as a toddler. She grew up with one sister and three brothers in a family that had a lot of love but not a lot of money.

"I can remember going out into the yard to gather sticks and things to make Christmas presents for my brothers and sisters," she shared. "Those were some of the best times. I remember going to Sunday school and church with my mother and father and eating fried chicken every Sunday afternoon."

Rucker graduated from Dasher High School in 1956 and welcomed her first son into the world a few months later in November. Dreaming of a better life for herself and her child, she considered joining the United States military. She did not have the money to afford a college education.

"I went to see the Marines recruiter first, and he told me that I was too chubby," she said. "He suggested I start with the Air Force and have them march it off of me. I didn't know before then that the military had such requirements."

With no options available to her, Rucker spent the next couple of years working odd jobs and raising her son. By February of 1959, she had given birth to

eighth floor head nurse, who must have liked me, helped me get a permanent, full-time job there as a nursing aide. It was like a dream come true."

It was while working on the eighth floor of Mount Sinai Hospital that Rucker was introduced by a friend to Inman Rucker, the man who would become her husband. The two dated and took their time getting to know one another before marrying in 1976. (He died in 1989.)

"He was in Alcoholics Anonymous when I met him," she said. "The fact that he was an alcoholic explained some of his weird behavior. I stayed with him and fell in love with the whole 12 steps thing. I really liked the message. I kept thinking it was too bad you had to be an alcoholic to be long."

Rucker focused on her work as a nursing aide and her family. Before long, she was transferred to Mount Sinai Hospital's new dialysis program. She worked there as a technician until she retired in November of 2001 and returned to Valdosta.

Because of her commitment to helping the less fortunate, caring for her neighbors, and beautifying the community, Rucker was selected to receive the 2008 Edith D. Smith Super Citizen Award. She will be recognized Saturday at the sixth annual South Georgia Senior Living Showcase, presented by The Valdosta Daily Times from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the James H. Rain

spends her time picking up clothing, shoes, and other unwanted items from people's homes and delivering them to various clothes closets around Valdosta for the needy. She also collects aluminum cans to recycle for cash, which she uses to support her community gardening work. In the afternoon, she returns to the Boys and Girls Club of Valdosta Inc.'s Lake Laurie unit to work with the children.

"Right now, I am trying to get together enough pots and plants to decorate the porch at My Friend's House. It's an Alzheimer's daycare program," she shared. "That's what I do on Saturdays. I go around to yard sales and look for old pots and stuff. I also visit a lady at Baptist Village in Lake Park."

Rucker reserves Sundays for herself. She attends the early morning service at Christian Love Ministries Church, cleans her house, and telephones family and friends.

"I can't wait for football season," she said. "I am a huge Cleveland Browns fan. I'm going to put on my t-shirt or sweater and

1990, she had given birth to a second son.

"That was when I knew that I needed to change, that I needed a chance to mature. I needed to get away from my family — my life as it was — and force myself to grow up, to stand on my own two feet," she shared.

Rucker stumbled upon such an opportunity a few years later. Having heard that jobs were easier to find in bigger cities, she moved to Cleveland, Ohio, with her youngest son in search of a better life.

"I was prepared to stay for three months," she said, "and to return home if things did not work out."

Rucker found housing and soon secured a job as an aide at a nearby nursing home in the evenings. (A neighbor watched her son while she worked.) She spent her days searching for even better employment opportunities at area hospitals.

"Eventually I got a job as a summer relief nursing aide at Mount Sinai Hospital," she recalled. "I floated from floor to floor — wherever they needed me. When the summer ended, the

paid at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center. She was nominated for the award by Minnie Bridges, her sister.

The South Georgia Senior Living Showcase will feature nearly three dozen vendors, as well as a noon fashion show sponsored by Fads 'N Fashions. Recognition of the 2008 Edith D. Smith Super Citizen Award winners — Rucker and Bert Powell, a World War II veteran and Honor Flight organizer (his story appears in the Active Times special section in today's edition of The Valdosta Daily Times) — will take place at 11 a.m.

"We are happy to once again bring the Senior Living Showcase to South Georgia," said Julie Killion, director of advertising for The Valdosta Daily Times. "This is one of the most popular events that we do each year and features vendors representing a wide variety of topics of special importance to active seniors. We hope that everyone will make plans to come out and meet our super citizens and see what our participating vendors have to offer."

Friday, August 15, 2008

VDT

THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VIEW

08-09 Arts • 2008-09 Arts



What's cooking this art season?

BY DEAN POLING

VDT View

Next week, the 2008-09 arts season opens with Theatre Guild Valdosta's production of the irreverent comedy, "Sordid Lives" (see the Sunday, Aug. 17, edition of The Valdosta Daily Times' SundayLife section for more on this show).

"Sordid Lives" kicks off a diverse group of performances, art exhibits, concerts and more scheduled so far for fall 2008 and spring 2009. Expect to see more items added to this list.

So here's a taste of what's coming in the 2008-09 arts season. Still, even with the best planning, some shows and/or dates may change.

ANNETTE HOWELL TURNER

County Spelling Bee," 3:30 p.m., Jan. 11. Last season's Sunday matinee production of "Annie" proved a success, so the Presenter Series repeats the Sunday matinee this year. This nationally touring production of the Broadway show's premise: "Six young people in the throes of puberty, overseen by grown-ups who barely managed to escape childhood themselves, learn that winning isn't everything and losing doesn't necessarily make you a loser." Though this is a Sunday matinee, "Putnam" deals with much more mature themes than "Annie." The Presenter Series has booked the abridged "PG" version of this production, but this is not a show for small children.

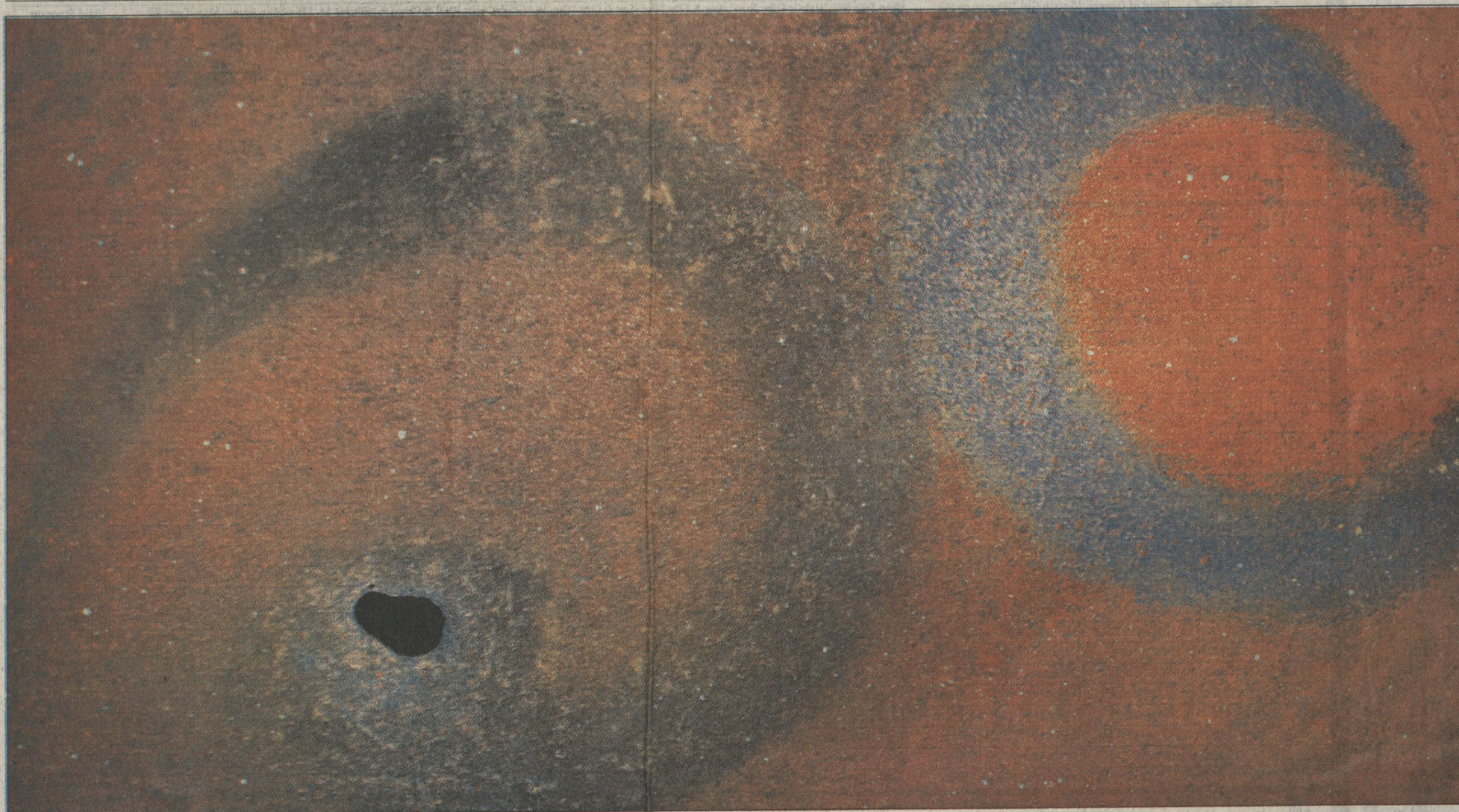
• "Bye Bye Birdie," 7:30 p.m., Feb. 10. This nationally touring re-

Mondaylife

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Valdostadailytimes.com

Monday, August 18, 2008



'A Secret Journey,' artist Daniel Hanifan.

LARGER THAN LIFE

Daniel Hanifan's art goes big time at arts center

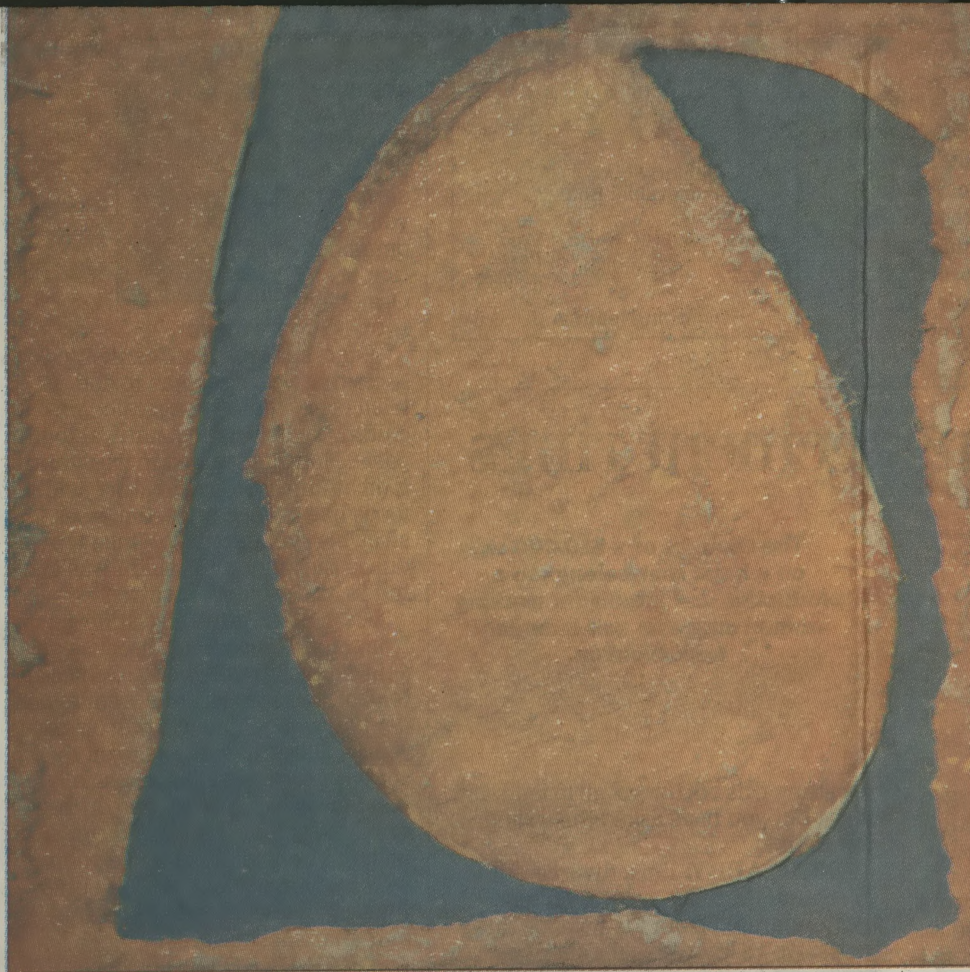
BY DEAN POLING

The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — Think of it as the three Bs of Daniel Hanifan's art. Big. Bold. Beautiful.

While many artists display dozens of works in one of the big gallery shows at





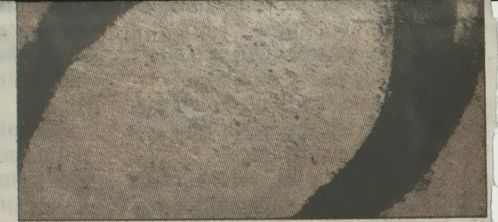
'Life,' artist Daniel Hanifan.

the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, Hanifan displays less than a dozen canvases. Big canvases.

2008 has also represented a big year, locally, for Hanifan's art. He's exhibited work during Downtown Valdosta events. He had a one-man show in the Smith Northview Hospital Southern Artists League series. Now, there's his one-artist show at the arts center.

He has also had a one-man show in Albany, was selected as featured artist for the Art Space International Show in Atlanta, which led to some paintings finding homes in Italy and England.

Hanifan explores the relationships of colors, how they interact side by side, in complementary relief or dynamic contrast. These strokes and compositions can be striking as these relationships play across vast canvases, but these canvases are not always large enough for Hanifan's tastes.



'Contour,' artist Daniel Hanifan.

He said earlier this year, "While painting I have to discipline myself as the canvas never seems to be large enough. I find that I am tempted to add one more brushstroke to the hundreds that I have already painted. I have learned to walk away and come back later to hear what the painting has to say."

Given that Hanifan often works designing theatrical stages, it is no surprise that he finds even large canvases limiting.

Daniel Hanifan, after all, works larger than life.

GALLERY

Artist Daniel Hanifan's work is on display at the Sallie and Harmon Boyette Gallery, along with artist Brandon Pilcher, Josette's Gallery; artist Vincent Keese, Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery; Turner Center Art Camp Students, Roberta George Children's Gallery.

When: Shows run through Sept. 24.

Where: Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.
Regular gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; closed Sundays and Mondays.

Admission: Free.

More information: Call 247-2787.