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Turner Center to add children's art museum

BY DEAN POLING

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VALDOSTA – The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts has expanded its campus from the building facing North Patterson Street to now include property facing North Ashley Street.

By acquiring property formerly owned by Synovus Bank, the art center will build an activi-

ty-based children's art museum scheduled to open by fall 2022 and a glass-blowing studio which could be available by this fall, said Sementha Mathews, Turner Center executive director.

The center acquired the property this month through a donation from Dan and Carolyn Coleman, according to a

See **Art**, page 13A



SUBMITTED PHOTO

North Ashley Street property formerly owned by Synovus Bank will become the Meta Shaw Coleman Children's Art Museum as part of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts campus.

ART: For more information, call (229) 247-2787 or visit turnercenter.org

statement from the arts center. The acquisition includes the former bank building at 512 N. Ashley St., a building at 506 N. Ashley St., and a parking lot adjacent to the current Turner Center main parking lot.

"Plans for the former bank building include enclosing the drive-through lanes to provide more interior space for the Meta Shaw Coleman Children's Art Museum — named after Dan Coleman's late mother," according to the statement. "Meta Shaw Coleman was beloved by many who remember her as an early childhood educator

who founded and operated a nursery school, taught at Valdosta City Schools, Valwood School and Wiregrass Technical College and served many local organizations and boards to advance the quality of education and life in our community."

"Carolyn and I are honored that this new children's art museum will bear the name of my mother," Dan Coleman said in a statement. "Her life mission was caring for her children and the children of this community. This Children's Art Museum will continue the mission of my mother and is certainly an honor of

which she would have been proud to be a part."

The children's art museum will house several science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics projects and activities, Mathews said. The exhibits and activities will be hands-on, tactile, designed to engage the minds, energy, curiosity and imagination of children.

Mathews said the museum will feature art from different school classrooms each month, similar to the children and youth exhibits that used to be regularly displayed in the Roberta George Gallery of the Turn-

er Center. "The facility's rear exit will open into a courtyard with public art, a small staging area, a sitting area and additional activities for youth to enjoy with their families," according to the statement.

The Turner Center, the children's museum, Art Park and other facilities on the campus are part of the Valdosta-Lowndes Art Commission.

Plans for the 506 N. Ashley St. property center on the launch of a glassblowing program. Mathews said the glassblowing program should be available by this fall.

The parking lot acquisition adds 57 parking spaces to the Turner Center campus.

The children's art museum should also improve the look of Ashley Street, creating a more attractive gateway to Downtown Valdosta, Mathews said.

Mathews said the center seeks business and corporate sponsors for the project.

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts opened in the early 2000s. The campus already includes the art annex building and the Art Park.

Mathews envisions a future of school field trips

where buses pull up and students rotate through all of the facilities, with a quarter of the students visiting the main Turner Center, while another quarter visit the children's museum, while another quarter meets in the art annex and the other quarter eats lunch outdoors in the art park.

A gathering of the arts stretching for a block from North Ashley Street to North Patterson Street.

For more information, call Mathews, (229) 247-2787 or visit the main office at 527 N. Patterson St., or visit turnercenter.org.

34TH ANNUAL

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Deadline for Entry
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Artwork Delivery Dates
April 1-3, 2021



turnercenter.org | 527 N. Patterson St. | 229.247.2787

"Oh Happy Day" Rusty Lohrke

474777-1

Turner Center hosts online DrawProject auction

BY DESIREE CARVER

desiree.carver@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA - In early January, the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts began its annual DrawProject fundraiser a bit differently.

Pieces for the fundraiser are typically auctioned off to support art scholarship programs at Valdosta State University. While there was still an in-person opening night, adhering to COVID-19 regulations, the auction was moved online with a different bidding process this year.

The two scholarships supported by this event are the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Scholarship and the Danielle B. Harmon Student Merit Scholarship. The Turner Center Scholarship is awarded to support a Valdosta State University junior, design or art education major for "meritorious production in the classroom and a commitment to service within the community," according to VSU.

The Danielle B. Harmon Student Merit Scholarship

recognizes departmental art majors for superior classroom and studio performance.

GiveSmart, an online auction platform, is used for the bidding process, which will end 6 p.m., Feb. 22.

Once an account has been created, bidders can login to view each piece of art, see the current bid price, how many people have placed a bid and how many people have the item on their "watch list," according to Turner Center staff. The names of the bidders cannot be seen.

"I am extremely pleased with how this annual exhibition and fundraiser has come to fruition once again. Forty-one artists have selflessly donated 57 artworks that combine to make one of the best DrawProject exhibitions yet.

The adjustment made this year to an online auction format has been widely embraced by both our virtual and in-person visitors, and we are on track to raise the funds needed to support multiple VSU art scholarships," Bill Shenton, artistic administrator and



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Turner Center for the Arts' DrawProject auction is underway.

curator, said.

All artwork can be found online at drawproject2021.

givesmart.com and on the DrawProject's Facebook page.

Arts center launches youth writing contest

VALDOSTA – The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts and the Young Writers League are seeking fiction, non-fiction and poetry entries for The Art of Writing contest, open to middle and high school students in Valdosta, Lowndes County and students throughout South Georgia and north Florida.

The contest will be hosted annually with a different theme each year that inspires young people to express themselves concerning important topics, center representatives said in a statement.

The inaugural theme is “Living United” and is sponsored in part by the Valdosta United Way.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three winners in each category for both middle and high school levels, resulting in a total of \$2,000 in awards to youth. The entry deadline

is Friday, April 16.

Winning submissions and all honorable mentions will be announced on May 3 and published in an anthology that will be available at the Turner Center in June, center representatives said.

The Turner Center launched YoWL in 2020 through grants received by the Georgia Council for the Arts and Guardian Bank. During its startup days, classes met at the Turner Center on Saturday mornings.

The program, led by Dr. Cheryl Carvajal, now takes place in an online, convenient platform and introduces the skill of writing as a means of healthy expression, center representatives said.

“Our online platform allows students to access the activities and prompts, and even share their work online, without needing

MORE INFO

Call (229) 247-2787 for more information.

to attend meetings face-to-face,” Carvajal said. “They can access everything from their cell phones, personal computers or tablets, all for free.”

Carvajal draws on her success as an author to help youth express themselves through the written word, perfect their writing skills and pursue authorship. Participants receive weekly writing prompts, constructive feedback from both the instructor and YoWL peers, and assistance with the development of writing style, voice, plot, dialogue, etc.

“This contest stems from a collaboration of Turner Center and partner resources that are helping young people cope with

COVID conditions and a multitude of life circumstances,” said Sementha Mathews, Turner Center executive director. “Nothing is more rewarding than helping young people develop their abilities to express themselves within a safe and supportive environment, while also helping them develop a respectable skill that supports countless career pathways.”

For contest details, download the free Discord app from any mobile App store or from the link provided at www.turnercenter.org/education. No fees are required to participate in YoWL or to submit entries for “The Art of Writing” contest. Call (229) 247-2787 for more information.



The Turner Center for the Arts is committed to cultural enrichment, art education, and entertainment across our community and region. Please complete this 5-minute survey to help us set our priorities and shape the future of the arts and culture in our community. For your efforts, your name will be placed into a monthly drawing for a Turner Center gift certificate! Visit www.turnercenter.org to complete the survey - we appreciate your feedback!



229.247.2787 | turnercenter.org
527 N. Patterson Street, Valdosta

ARTIST: Dr. Stephen Lahr, an abstract mixed-media artist, to show art pieces he made during quarantine last year at the Turner Center of the Arts

University of Nebraska-Lincoln and started teaching art in Omaha for half a year.

Teaching art to Lincoln East High School juniors and seniors came next. Simultaneously, he completed a master's program in art and secondary education.

He became the first state art education consultant in the Nebraska State Department of Education's curriculum section, gaining him statewide and nationwide contacts, he said.

Lahr has been an instructor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Missouri-Columbia and – in 1985 – Valdosta State College, where he retired as a professor emeritus.

While at VSC, he taught drawing, painting, design and art education courses. Lahr said he also developed a master of art education program.

As for artistic influences, he said there have been plenty.

"One of my first influences was Hans Hoffman, an abstract expressionist who painted with vibrant pure color with thick oil paints," Lahr said.

"Others included watercolorist John Marin and painter Richard Diebenkorn. All of these painters use geometric shapes in their works, which you can also see in many of my works, as well."

One day in Lincoln, Neb., Lahr observed 50 painted cigar box lids that were completed by Diebenkorn. After, he was inspired to paint and collage these lids himself in the 1990s.

One of his paintings of the cigar box lids recently hung in the Turner Center's Spring Into Art show.

His involvement in art galleries is long-lived, having been featured in more than 250 shows. Lahr estimated he's possibly been featured in close to 300 shows.

"I've always had a passion for art," he said.

His wife keeps him connected to his love for art.

"She challenges me to help her understand why I do what I do," he said. "And how could I not be connected to art when I taught art in one way or another for

over 40 years."

Though Lahr said he teaches students to craft plans before starting a project, artists often work with "mistakes," changing their minds as they go.

He focuses on composition when creating his masterpieces.

"Application and technique are important, as well, but after all these years, I don't think too much about those things," he said. "I often paint about five paintings in one, which means I keep making changes until it feels right."

According to his artist's statement, Lahr has been listed in "Who's Who in American Art" since 1983 and is on the Morris Museum's list of Contemporary Southern Artists.

His artwork has been displayed locally, regionally and nationally, the statement read. He has one large watercolor and two assemblages in the Valdosta State University archives.

Lahr said he has been exhibited in the Turpentine Building, previously owned by Lowndes-Valdosta Arts Commission.

He's been in all of the Spring Into Art exhibitions and all of the Turner Center's DrawProject exhibitions.

"I was part of the Georgia Watercolor exhibit that was at the Turner Center a number of years ago and have shown work in other exhibits there, as well," Lahr said.

His upcoming show at the arts center is a first

regarding the size of the show. He'll have 65 pieces in the Price-Campbell and Mittiga galleries.

Lahr is available for commission work.

He asks that people wanting to contact him for commission work go through the arts center.



BILL SHENTON | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Detail on an abstract mixed-media piece by artist Stephen Lahr will be featured in his upcoming show at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.



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Painting Unity



DESIREE CARVER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Bari and Thom Hallman paint alongside children Braxton and Levi Snipes at the community painting event Saturday.

Residents create art park murals

BY DESIREE CARVER

desiree.carver@gaffnews.com

VALDOSTA — Families came together Saturday to participate in a community mural paint-out at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Art Park.

Groups came through and did a bit of painting by numbers on murals.

The murals each reflect a positive value that is needed to build a community: acceptance, compassion, humanity, love and respect.

Steven and Evelyn Walker, who are both artists, had the idea about a month ago.

"It was hard to do stuff because of the current climate with the pandemic and social injustices," Evelyn said. "We wanted to give people the choice to



DESIREE CARVER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Kristin and Laurel Yu participate in the community mural painting Saturday.

come out and be part of the community. We also wanted to make sure the imagery was something kids of all

ages could do."

The couple outlined the images on each of the panels, allowing participants to color in the artwork with provided paints.

The five panels for the mural were spread across the park to accommodate for social distancing and every participant wore a mask and gloves.

Households were able to paint together and, if someone showed up alone to paint, they were placed into groups of three for safety.

"There is an overwhelming need for harmony now more than ever," Evelyn said. "What better way to express the community's desire to unite than by rallying together in a safe and

MURALS: The completed four-by-eight panels will hang on the fence in the Art Park

meaningful way to reconnect with our neighbors and paint.”

Painting was slated to last until 5 p.m. and, based on time slot signups.

Evelyn estimated 25-30

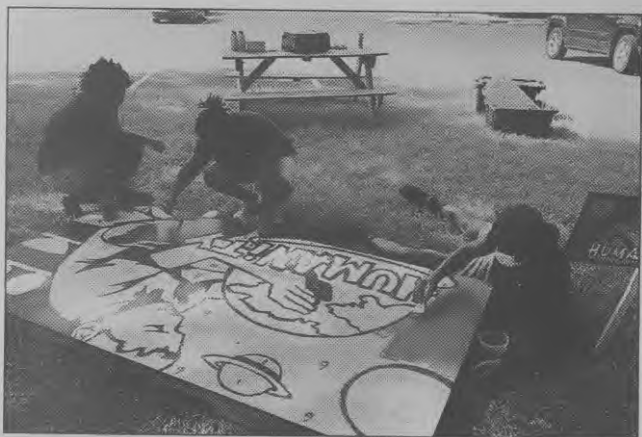
people participated in the event.

The completed four-by-eight panels will hang on the fence in the Art Park, 605 N. Patterson St., for public viewing.



DESIREE CARVER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Jarius Curry spent part of his Saturday painting the 'humanity' panel at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Art Park.



DESIREE CARVER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Khadija Curry, Ashley Patterson and Jarius Curry work together to paint a panel at the painting event Saturday.

Community & Life

www.valdostadailytimes.com

Sunday, July 26, 2020

9A

Winners named in city photo contest

VALDOSTA — Valdosta Mayor Scott James Matheson and Russ Henry, a Coleman Talley representative, have announced the winners of the 12th Annual Valdosta People's Choice Photo Contest.

Winners were named at an awards reception at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Monday, July 20.

For the past month, visitors have voted for their favorite contest photos, which are currently on display in the Art Center's Tillman Gallery, city officials said in a statement.

The 2020 winners are:

First Place: Nicholai Courtenay, "Heavenly View."

Second Place: Rena Taylor, "Where Did He Go?"

Third Place: Kalyn Wilkerson, "Facing Our Future Together."

Honorable Mentions

Tawanna Southall, "The Face."

Marvin Smith, "Red."

Michael Chapman, "A Dash of Color."

Sara Halbert, "Sunset

Through the Pines."

• Nicholai Courtenay, "Nature's Beauty."

Youth Winner: Brooke Felkel, "Observant Owl."

Youth Honorable Mention: Stella Cofield, "South Georgia Snow."

A \$300 cash prize was awarded for first place, \$200 cash prize for second place and a \$100 cash prize for third place from among the adult-submitted entries, city officials said.

The public also voted on the first-place youth photo (ages 16 and under) and one honorable mention. The youth first-place winner received a \$100 cash award.

The photographs will remain on display in the Tillman Gallery through Wednesday, July 29, when they will become part of a traveling display that can be viewed from August until December in various communities.

Photo contest participants may pick up their works from the Turner Center, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, July 30, or the city public information office at City Hall, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday, July 31.

The partnership between the City of Valdosta and the Annette Howell



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sementha Mathews, executive director of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, Russ Henry, partner at Coleman Talley LLP, Nicholai Courtenay, first-place winner, and Valdosta Mayor Scott James Matheson at the photo contest reception.

Turner Center for the Arts, co-organizers of the photo

contest, "recognizes the importance of the arts as a

quality of life, civic engagement and economic devel-

opment tool in the community," city officials said.

Turner Center event gathers art community

BY AMANDA M. USHER

amanda.usher@gafnews.com

MORE INFO

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

VALDOSTA — The art community will come together for the 2020 ARToberfest hosted next month.

The event observes National Arts and Humanities Month.

It's scheduled for 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Art Park, 605 N. Patterson St.

The festival will have fine arts sales, art demonstrations, kids art activities and pumpkin painting.

Jen Anders will play live music and artist Devon Cole of Americus will give glassblowing demonstrations, said Rebecca Gallagher, center public relations and marketing administrator.

Gallagher said Cole is a featured artist in the September gallery exhibit at the Turner Center.

Artist Steven Walker

will lead a plein air contest.

Prizes will be awarded to the first-, second- and third-place winners in the amounts of \$300, \$200 and \$100.

Food such as burgers and hot dogs will be available. Participating food vendors are Jessie's Restaurant and Catering, Mo's Falafel and GUD Coffee.

Though the COVID-19 pandemic persists, the art center did not want to cancel its annual event.

"We have been adhering to all mask and social distancing guidelines for the past five months," Gallagher said.

"People can bring their lawn chairs and enjoy the live music and activities at the required distance from each other. What a great way to enjoy the outdoors

and celebrate the arts."


At the festival, booths will be more than six feet apart while food will be individually wrapped, Gallagher said.

Hand sanitizer stations will be present.

Turner Center requests visitors wear masks during the event, she said.

She said the center plans to enforce other precautions for both vendors and patrons, based on suggested guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Booth registration is available to local and regional artists. The deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14.

Registration is based on two levels: \$75 for artist-level membership to Turner and \$50 to art vendors who only want to participate in ARToberfest.



In the Galleries:
August 3 - September 16, 2020

Jill Bright
"Bright"

Lucrezia Bieler
"Cutting Nature"

Thomas Phillips
"Lux et umbra: Monochrome Musings of a Middle-Aged Medic"

Javon Longeliere
"Hometown Heroes: A Valdosta, Georgia Story"

Please join us for an **Opening Reception**
Monday, August 3, 5-7 p.m.

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527 N. PATTERSON STREET, VALDOSTA | 229.247.2787

Turner Center expands the Hal and Jill Project

**BY ABIGAIL MURPHY
AND LENA H ALLEN**

Turner Center Interns

VALDOSTA – The Hal & Jill Project, an outreach program at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, allows youth ages 12 through 18 to positively express themselves through music.

The project, originally offering guitar lessons, 5-6 p.m. Thursdays, has been expanded to include ukulele lessons, 5-6 p.m. Tuesdays, beginning Oct. 6, arts center representatives said in a statement.

Lessons cost \$40 per month, although full and partial scholarships are also available. Through donor support, guitars have been provided for students in the program to take home and practice. However, the Turner Center is in need of ukulele instruments.

Ken Hase, one of two guitar instructors at the Turner Center, said students receive a handbook

to get them started and to serve as a reference, which covers guitar basics such as chords, tuning, and the parts of a guitar.

“We first, learn D, A, E chords. When students learn those first three chords, they can play 150 songs or more,” he said.

David Rodock, an avid musician with the ability to play a diversity of instruments, has become the program’s first ukulele instructor. Rodock said he is excited to become a part of the expanded program at the center.

Cheryl Oliver, former executive director of the Turner Center, founded the Hal and Jill Project in memory of her two children: Hal and Jill. Hal passed away from cancer in 2016.

“One of Hal’s passions was playing the guitar and other stringed instruments, and he seemed determined to get everyone in his world strumming,” she said.

Jill was his younger sister who died due to a car

accident in 1974. Oliver said she has always felt, from heaven, Jill was cheering on Hal in his pursuit of music.

Oliver created the music education program in their memory to provide others the opportunity to pursue music for themselves.

Sementa Mathews, current executive director of the Turner Center, said the project has been expanded to add a diversity of instruments.

“We have been extremely fortunate to witness young people find joy through this program for so many years,” she said. “We hope adding the ukulele, and possibly hand drums in the near future, to our music program will attract and help additional young people discover the many benefits that learning to play a musical instrument provides.”

For more information about guitar or ukulele lessons or any other programs at the Turner Center, visit www.turnercenter.org or call (229) 247-2787.



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Artists needed for downtown banners

BY AMANDA M. USHER

amanda.usher@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — Downtown Valdosta is seeking artists for its latest project, the installation of new light pole banners.

Organizers are asking for a fresh design that is colorful, unique and representative of the downtown area and the Valdosta Main Street district.

Ideas include art, food, shopping, drinks, people, history and architecture.

"We thought doing something like this would not only engage the public and give the community an opportunity to be creative, but (it) also gives us a new perspective," said Rachel Thrasher, Main Street program coordinator.

"Sometimes we need inspiration or help making our vision a reality. Our community is so diverse and creative we knew this would be the perfect opportunity for everyone to get involved and have something to look forward to."

Accepted art forms are paint, graphic, photography and digital.

The selected artist(s) will have their work printed and displayed on more than 300 banners throughout the downtown area.

They will also be awarded Downtown Valdosta merchandise, downtown dollars, gift certificates and community recognition, according to organizers.

Entries must be digitally submitted to rthrasher@valdostacity.com by June 19. The printed size will be 18" by 48."

More than one design can be submitted. With



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Artists are needed for new banners that will be installed on Downtown Valdosta light poles. Entries will be accepted at Valdosta Main Street until June 19.

light poles having a left and right side, text is encouraged with the design.

Low-resolution entries can be submitted for review, but if selected, a high-resolution file must be provided by the print

MORE INFO

More information: Downtown Valdosta Main Street on Facebook; valdostamainstreet.com; and (229) 259-3577.

deadline, according to organizers. More information: Downtown Valdosta Main

Street on Facebook; valdostamainstreet.com; and (229) 259-3577.

Reviewing the life of Gen. Grant

For years, I've wanted to read the memoirs of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, especially since I'd heard that Mark Twain was the moving force behind Grant's writing. I imagined that there would be a lot of humor in the retelling of the Civil War. How dumb can you be?

Later, I found out that all of the memoir was written exclusively by Grant, and Twain's role was mainly to encourage and promote the book for his own company and for profit. One only has to start reading to see that Grant's style is strictly his own; "just the facts, ma'am" is the way he writes.

Also, I knew that Grant was known to have a drinking problem, and since addiction runs in my family, I was curious to how see how Grant was able to be a winning general and still be an alcoholic.

But at first, the size of the book I ordered, 784 pages, put me off. On opening it, I found that half of every page was comprised of footnotes, detailed listings of every man's name Grant mentioned, the birth, death, schooling and all other pertinent information, such as what each man did after the war.

Numbers of casualties and those missing were also corrected if they did not agree with Grant's numbers. I soon found the footnote facts almost as interesting as what Grant was writing about. Every one, whether they know it or not, has had a fasci-

nating life and worthy of being written about.

As most people are aware, after the war and after his presidency, Grant had serious financial problems. He was often taken advantage of, not realizing how duplicitous some people can be. A Ponzi scheme was the final blow to his and his extended family's fortunes.

All the while writing the memoir, Grant had serious physical maladies, a fall on ice that left him partly crippled and mouth cancer that eventually killed him. In spite of these problems, Grant wrote five to seven hours each day until, on July 20, 1885, he laid down his pencil for the last time.

What makes Grant's Memoirs so appealing to readers is his humility about himself and his infrequent criticism of others. Henry James found the Memoirs to be "as hard and dry as sandpaper, but great is the name, when so great a bareness practically blooms."

Later readers, such as Gore Vidal, said, "It is simply not possible to read Grant's Memoirs without realizing that the author is a man of first-rate intelligence. His book is a classic."

Robert Johnson, a Century Magazine editor, gave Grant the best writing advice. Johnson told Grant to write as though he were speaking to a group of friends after dinner.

In the beginning, Grant quickly deals with his education and family, and that at the age of 7 or 8,

he began hauling all the wood used in the house and shops. At 11, he was finally strong enough to hold a plough.

And from that age until he was 17, he did all the work with horses, which gave him a life-long consideration of animals and forage.

Two other telling incidents gave Grant a life-long disdain for fancy uniforms.

When he was accepted to West Point, the tailored uniform came, and wearing it, Grant rode out, thinking how grand he looked. A little dirty ragamuffin, his own clothes in tatters, called out: "Soldier! Will you work? No sir—ee; I'll sell my shirt first." The other circumstance was closer to home, when a barefooted stable-man, "dissipated but possessed of some humor" paraded the streets wearing a pair of sky-blue trousers, just like Grant's, with a strip of white cotton sewn down the outside seams.

The Mexican War was where Grant actually cut his teeth and learned what war was all about. He saw how little interest the actual soldiers had in the results of the war and how little knowledge they had of "what it was all about."

The main thing for them was being fed and feeding the horses and mules that the army ran on. General



ROBERTA GEORGE

Taylor in the Mexican War made a great impression on Grant, going about dressed entirely for comfort, sitting sideways on his horse the better to see the battle, and not often having staff following him. Taylor was not a conversationalist but wrote out orders so plainly there was no mistaking their meaning.

In the first part of the Memoir, Grant writes much on the Mexican War, seeing it as an unjust war, a stronger country against a weaker one in order to acquire territory, an instance of a republic following the bad actions of the European monarchies.

One should never forget that a large portion of the West was taken from Mexico by force.

Grant also states several times that the Civil War was one fought solely to have slavery abolished. He hopes that as time passes and a true history is written that there will be no celebrations for either side, that people will realize that slavery was unjustified, no matter how it was framed, equating it to the practice of polygamy.

As a major-general in the Civil War, Grant carries the lessons of food for the soldiers and forage for animals into his directions down to the smallest details. At the end of a long plan of attack, he writes: "Require your men to keep three days' rations in their haversacks, not to be touched until a movement commences."

He also pays close attention to terrain, how hills

and water play a big part in winning a battle. Often alone in the early morning hours, he would go out and survey the battle lines. That the scouts on the other side never fired on him was a mystery, although he was sure they recognized him.

But I think it reflects the honorable conduct of the men of that era, true gentlemen.

There are very few moments of levity in Grant's writing. He writes of those who traveled over the Isthmus of Panama, and says: "the natives were not inconveniently burdened with clothing."

In one long passage, a reader has to ferret out Grant's meaning, that he had a superstition that he should never apply for a position, but if it is given to him than he should do the job to the best of his ability. Early on, he's told he should ask for a position as a cavalry officer, and he says, he'd rather cut off his right arm. Also, Grant relates, without comment, of how Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy, often, before and after the war, calls himself "a superior military genius."

Grant does show his own genius in using Sherman's army to cut off all of Georgia's food and forage supplies to the Confederacy. Sherman, himself, relates how the sweet potatoes seemed to pop up out of the Georgia soil.

But to me, the most telling story is that after Lee surrendered at Appomattox, he remarked to Grant

that his troops were in "bad condition for want of food, and had been living for some days on parched corn and that he would have to ask for rations." Grant answered, "Certainly" and asked for how many. Lee said, "Twenty-five thousand."

In the October 2017 issue of *The New Yorker*, (given to me by Norman LaHood) an article by Adam Gopnik, "Shot of Courage" reviews Ron Chernow's book, "Grant," and Grant's conduct during the Civil War and his presidency. He admits to Grant's addiction, but like Lincoln, who when told that Grant was drinking whiskey, said, "Please send a keg of whatever he's drinking to my other generals." I would advise anyone even slightly interested in the Civil War to read that book and that article.

Times are a bit hard now with this virus that seems to pop up every hundred years or so, but when one thinks of all the U.S. has been through: the American Revolution, (5,000 dead), the Civil War, (700,000 dead), World War I, (68,000 dead), the influenza of 1918, (200 million dead), World War II, (417,000), it's a wonder we still exist.

Keep praying that we are a nation that stands for truth and justice, even if it's sometimes obscured, and therefore will not be like other empires, doomed to fail.

Roberta George is a resident of Valdosta and the founding publisher of the Snake Nation Press.



Music in the Art Park

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2020

7-9 p.m.

Turner Center Art Park

Musical Guest:

Blues Factor Trio

Bring your lawn chair and a picnic or carry out from a Downtown restaurant!

229.247.2787 | turnercenter.org
605 N. Patterson Street, Valdosta 31601

Art & Home



Artist Kristy Hughes shows a proposal of the finished product for a mural she is creating in the Art Park at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. JESSICA GANAS | TURNER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Painter first Turner Center artist-in-residence

BY AMANDA M. USHER

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valdostadailytimes.com;
see 'TURNER CENTER'

VALDOSTA — Driving past the Art Park, a new attraction may catch the eye.

The fence behind the park's pavilion, owned and operated by the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, is donning bright colors and strokes of paint that resemble piano keys.

The warm colors and use of orange in the mural is reminiscent of the hot days in almost-always sunny Valdosta.

For the painter, Kristy

Hughes, the work represents her love for false dichotomy. The 33-year-old artist said her work is about communication.

"Nothing is one way," she said. "You can say one thing, and in one context, it



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Some pieces that artist Kristy Hughes completes while at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts will be displayed in an upcoming show.

See Art, page 12A