

SFSC hosts 17th annual Career Expo



Courtesy photo

SFSC art students Ashley Kinkade (left to right), Leighton Skipper, and A Juarez take time to carefully sketch and freehand pencil portraits of guests at South Florida State College's 17th annual Career Expo Feb. 26. The free event featured over 75 guest exhibitors representing a wide array of occupations. Professionals were on hand to discuss educational and employment opportunities, the nature of their work, and opportunities for advancement in their fields. Exhibitors included professionals in the fields of the agriculture industry, construction and building trades, art-audiovisual, business and finance, health and medical science, human services, law and government, computers/information technology, transportation and logistics, marketing, manufacturing, U.S. military, and many other professions.

African art on display

South Florida State College's library presents the African Art Collection exhibition reception, in Building Y, First Floor, Library, SFSC Highlands Campus. The reception will share the work behind the African Art Collection such as research, oral history interviews, and

design. This event is open to the public and light refreshments will be provided.

The exhibition will be on display through March 26 in the SFSC Library, Highlands Campus.

Collected primarily in Somalia just after the end of World War II, the SFSC African Art Collection captures a snapshot in objects of the culture, place, and time. Intricately beaded dolls, exquisite wood carving, and camel bells showcase the art and artistry of Africa.

On public display for the first time, this collection highlights the unexpected connections of our community to the larger world. Students and subject experts combined forces to research, document, and display this collection.

The African Art Collection is co-sponsored by the SFSC Foundation Inc., SFSC Library, and SFSC's Museum of Florida Art and Culture. For more information, call Claire A. Miller, librarian, at 863-784-7305 or email millerc@south-florida.edu.

SFSC Star Parties reveal mysteries of the universe

AVON PARK — South Florida State College will hold two star parties in March in conjunction with physics and astronomy classes. The public is welcome to attend.

Deep sky objects, which are stars and galaxies outside of the solar system, will be viewed Thursday, March 12. Lunar sky observations, which are the moon and its craters, will be viewed Thursday, March 27. Both sessions will be from 9 to 10 p.m.

Star parties are weather dependent and will be cancelled in the event of heavy cloud cover or rainy weather. Check the current status at <http://sfcc-astronomy.wikifoundry.com>. Participants may bring blankets and lawn chairs.

The star parties meet near Ridge Area Arc, located along College Drive, one mile east of SFSC, or just off Memorial Drive. Parking is on Baltimore Street. For more information, contact Erik Christensen, professor of physics and astronomy, at 784-7363, or email christee@online.southflorida.edu.

Archaeologist Melissa Timo to speak at SFSC

AVON PARK — The Kissimmee Valley Archaeological and Historic Conservancy will present "Dispatches from the Deep: The Archaeology of Florida's Spanish Shipwrecks," with archaeologist and historian Melissa Timo on Thursday, March 12 at 7 p.m., Building G, Room 101, at South Florida State College's, Highlands Campus. The public is invited at no cost.

Spanish ships have been navigating Florida's waters for more than 500 years. This program will highlight the evidence underwater archaeologists have uncovered over the years

about failed colonies, far-reaching trade networks, and doomed plate fleets. Participants will explore the evidence and learn how they can visit these unique Florida resources.

Melissa Timo is the public archaeology coordinator for the Florida Public Archaeology Network Southwest Region. She received her master's from the University of West Florida focusing on Historical Archaeology.

For more information, contact Anne Reynolds at 863-840-3995.

LOCAL SPORTS CALENDAR

The sixth annual Panther 5K Run, Walk and 50-Mile Ride to Benefit Athletics will be held today at the SFSC Highlands campus and along College Drive.

Registration forms are available for the annual family event at: <http://www.southflorida.edu/news/panther-5k-run-walk-50-mile-ride-benefit-athletics>

Entry fee is \$25 for adults, \$20 for students with a current ID, and \$15 for children ages 6 to 12. Children under 6 are admitted free with a completed form, but do not receive a shirt. Entry fee remains the same through race day.

Registration will be held 7 to 7:45 a.m. on race day in the Panther gymnasium. Bikers will depart from the SFSC campus at 7:30 a.m., followed by runners and walkers for the race at 8 a.m.

The first 250 registered participants will receive a goody bag and an official Panther dri fit shirt for adults and students

or T-shirt for children. Shirts of specific sizes cannot be guaranteed for those who register after Feb. 20.

To register, visit www.southflorida.edu/panther5k/ and print the registration form located on the left menu. Participants can mail completed registration forms to: SFSC Foundation Inc., 13 E. Main St., Avon Park, FL, 33825, fax to 863-453-8023 or email to foundation@southflorida.edu.

Participants can pay with a check made out to: SFSC Foundation, Inc., and mail to the SFSC Foundation Inc., 13 E. Main St., Avon Park, FL, 33825, or call 863-453-3133 to pay with a credit card.

For more information on SFSC's 50th Anniversary or the Panther 5K, Run, Walk, and 50-Mile Ride, visit www.southflorida.edu/college/50th-anniversary/ or contact the SFSC Foundation, Inc., at 863-453-3133.

A rare beauty



Courtesy photo

The Pygmy Fringe Tree is native to the Lake Wales Ridge and is an endangered species.

Pygmy Fringe Tree to be celebrated

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-SUN

The Pygmy Fringe Tree, a shrub native to Florida's Lake Wales Ridge, has inspired three organizations in Highlands and Polk counties to celebrate it through the Pygmy Fringe Tree Wildflower Festival March 12-14. South Florida State College, Bok Tower Gardens, and Archbold Biological Station will offer guided walks and a student art show honoring the Pygmy Fringe Tree in its natural environment.

In Avon Park, SFSC will host wildflower walks on the Wildflower Wayside Shrine Trail and a student art show at the Museum of Florida Art and Culture on Thursday, March 12, from 1-4 p.m.

Trail walks to see spring wildflowers on the Lake Wales Ridge will be available Friday, March 13, 10 a.m.-noon at Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales; and Saturday, March

14, 10 a.m.-noon at Archbold Biological Station in Venus.

"The Pygmy Fringe Tree Wildflower Festival is a way to bring attention to the unique habitat of the Lake Wales Ridge," said Mollie Doctrow, curator, SFSC MOFAC. "Visit one of the festival sites, take a guided walk, and learn about the flowering spring plants on the ridge. It's a close-up environment with a special kind of beauty."

The Pygmy Fringe Tree is an endangered species, growing primarily in the scrub and Turkey Oak Sandhills on the Lake Wales Ridge. It grows to 6 feet. Its small white flowers are sweet smelling and bloom late February through March.

The Lake Wales Ridge is part of a distinct natural region in Central Florida and is an ancient beach and sand dune system formed 1-3 million years ago. The Lake

Wales Ridge has one of the highest concentrations of threatened and endangered plants and animals in the United States.

For more information, visit fringetree-wildflowerfestival.com or contact these organizations:

- SFSC MOFAC, 863-784-7240 or www.mofac.org
- Bok Tower Gardens, 863-676-1408 or bok-towergardens.org
- Archbold Biological Station, 863-465-2571 or www.archbold-station.org

Thursday, March 12, 2015



COURTESY PHOTO

2015 All-Florida Academic Team members include (from left) Joy Derrick and Katie Leman of Highlands County and Ruben De La Cruz of Hardee County. Not pictured: Jessica Saenz and Emma Cardinal.

Local Student Chosen For All-Florida Academic Team

A Hardee Countian is among several students chosen to represent South Florida State College on the 2015 All-Florida Academic Team, the Florida College System has announced.

Ruben De La Cruz will join Emma Cardinal, Joy Derrick, Katelynne Leman and Jessica Saenz on the team.

Only 124 students statewide were selected for the team, which is comprised of high-achieving college students from the 28 state and community colleges in the Florida College System. These students will be recognized at an awards ceremony on Thursday, April 9, in Tallahassee.

The All-Florida Academic Team recognizes outstanding

students for academic achievement, leadership, and service to the community.

These students were nominated by their respective colleges to the All-USA Academic Team competition sponsored by USA Today and the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society. In addition, PTK also distinguishes the top 30 students of each class by selecting them to the All-Florida First Team based on ratings in competition throughout the state.

"I'm pleased to recognize this group of outstanding scholars for excelling in their studies while providing leadership and service to their schools and communities," said Pam Stewart, commissioner of education.

"Our colleges have done an excellent job preparing these students for success now and in the future. I'm confident these are among the next generation of leaders in the Sunshine State."

In nominating students for the All-Florida Academic Team, colleges consider participation in honors programs; membership in, and awards received from, academic or honors organizations; awards and honors received for academic and leadership accomplishments; academic enrichment achieved through study, internships and cultural experiences; and sharing of academic attainments, knowledge and skills through community service.

SFSC closed for Spring Break March 16-22

AVON PARK — South Florida State College will be closed for spring break, Monday, March 16 through Sunday, March 22. The college will reopen Monday, March 23, at 8 a.m.

In hiatus will be all of

the SFSC campuses — Avon Park, Lake Placid, Arcadia and Wauchula.

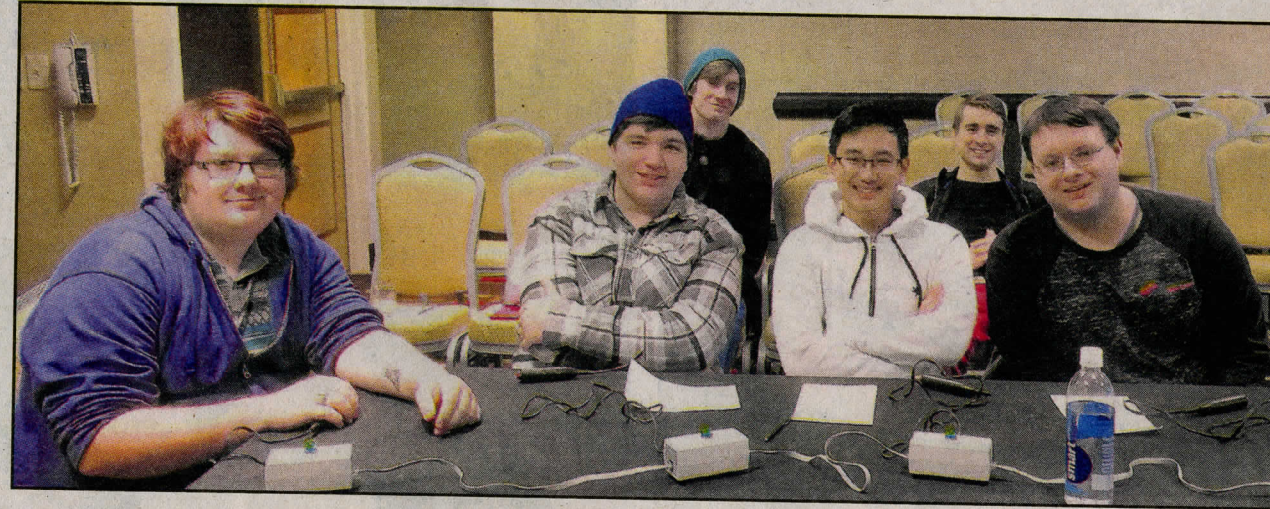
The SFSC Box Office will also be closed for spring break. However, tickets for upcoming performances may be ordered online at <http://performances.southflorida.edu>.

SFSC's Brain Bowl team in Top 10 at national tourney

ATLANTA — Members of the South Florida State College Brain Bowl Team recently placed ninth nationally in a field of 24 teams at the 2015 National Academic Quiz Tournament Community College Championship Tournament, held Feb. 27-28 in Atlanta.

SFSC's Brain Bowl team of Logan Boyd, Mike Cao, Christian Reitnauer, Garrett Edenfield, Mattew Estiana, and Jordan Thorton finished with eight wins and three losses.

Out of the 121 players present, SFSC team member Christian Reitnauer was the ninth highest individual scorer, coming ahead of many veteran Brain Bowlers from colleges like Chipola College and Seminole State College.



Courtesy photo

Pictured, left to right, (front): are Jordan Thorton, Logan Boyd, Mike Cao, and Christian Reitnauer; **and (back row):** Garrett Edenfield and Mattew Estiana.

Cao placed 24th, Boyd placed 61st, Thorton placed 80th, Edenfield placed 86th, and Estiana placed 100th in the individual standings.

"I am proud that our team was able to make

it to nationals and even more proud of how well we did there," said Cheryl John, Brain Bowl co-advisor. "In addition to the weekly practices held by Dr. Deery, we had a scrimmage to prepare for

the tournament."

The team secured a spot in this year's National Community College Championship Tournament after placing fourth in the NAQT's Sectional Tournament at

State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota, in Jan.

In addition to SFSC's team, nine other colleges from the Florida College System competed at the NAQT's Community College Championship

Tournament including Broward College, College of Central Florida, Seminole State College, State College of Florida Manatee-Sarasota, Tallahassee Community College, Chipola College, Northwest Florida State College, Florida Gateway College, and Valencia College.

The season isn't quite over for SFSC's Brain Bowl team, as they will be competing in the Florida College System Activities Association state tournament March 12-14 at Pasco-Hernando State College at Wesley Chapel.

For more information on NAQT, visit <https://www.naqt.com/>. For more information on SFSC's Brain Bowl team, contact John at 863-784-7234 or Cheryl.John@southflorida.edu.

SFSC Briefs

Community education classes offered

AVON PARK — South Florida State College's Community Education Department is offering a variety of spring classes.

In Yoga, learn how to reduce stress, improve circulation, calm emotions, stimulate weight loss and realign posture. It will take place 5:30-7 p.m. Thursdays March 26 through April 16. Cost is \$35 and the course number is 21647.

In Ballroom Dance I, learn the basic steps of the waltz, cha-cha, foxtrot and swing. Beginners will have fun and gain confidence on the dance floor while enjoying the health benefits dancing offers. No partner is required. This class is offered 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesdays April 7 through May 12. Cost is \$30 and the course number is 20803.

In Ballroom Dance II, this

class builds on the foundation of Ballroom Dance I and introduces other popular rhythm style dances. It will be held 6:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesdays April 7 through May 12. Cost is \$30 and the course number is 20803.

In Basic Home Computer II, learn how to keep your files organized, use email, attach files/pictures, how to retrieve files/pictures, manage your computer and backup and restore. This class is offered 5:30-6:30 p.m. Mondays March 23 through May 4. Cost is \$72 and the course number is 20727.

You can register for classes at any SFSC campus or center. Registration can also be paid over the phone by calling 784-7405.

The Broadway Boys to perform at Artist Series

AVON PARK — The Broadway

Boys is a collection of six male performers who have appeared on Broadway. They will perform during South Florida State College's Artist Series at 7:30 p.m. March 28 in the Theatre for the Performing Arts.

The group performs favorites like "Aquarius," "Seasons of Love," "Oh What A Night," "Tomorrow," "Lullaby of Broadway," "Uptown Girl" and many more Broadway classics.

Come to the Backstage Scoop starting at 6:30 p.m. in the SFSC University Center Auditorium, and discover what it's like to audition and perform on Broadway from the performers. This pre-show event lasts 30 minutes and admission is free.

Tickets start at \$28 and are available online at www.sfscarts.org, or by calling the Box Office at 784-7178. Groups of 15 or more get 15 percent off plus a free ticket.

TAG hosts adult student art show at Hotel Jacaranda

By SHARON WEATHERHEAD

CORRESPONDENT

AVON PARK — The Artists Group (TAG) held its adult student art show Sunday afternoon, March 22, at the historic Hotel Jacaranda.

A variety of art was displayed in the TAG studio in the hotel's arcade. TAG at South Florida State College consists of a community of artists who are committed to developing their individual talents, teaching art students and promoting appreciation for art in our community.

The six TAG artists are Betty Heim, Betty McCarthy, Kathy Morgan, Nancy Adams, Louise Weis and Bob Fishel. This group meets to work on their own artistic creations, offer workshops and sell their art at the TAG Studio at 19 East Main Street in Avon Park.

If you come in the studio and browse, you will see paintings in oil, acrylic and watercolors, ceramics, painted china, jewelry and unique gift items.

Each artist has their own area of "focus"; Heim (watercolors), Adams (oil), Morgan (jewelry),

Weis (acrylics), Fishel (acrylics) and McCarthy (mixed media).

All teach at the TAG studio.

"We teach for the community education department of SFSC. This is a great partnership with the college. We have a place to work and teach classes and the support of the college. We've been here since 2008 under the auspices of the college," explained Heim.

The works of their students were on display in the studio, some of them with coveted ribbons of blue, red and white awarding and recognizing their efforts. But they're all winners, as the artistic talents were impressive. The judges were Mollie Doctrow and Cathy Futral from SFSC.

"It's great for them all to show their work and gratifying for them to participate in a gallery art show," continued Heim. "This show was the result of weeks of work and effort from the students. We're so proud of all of them."

Heim's student, Hilma Shehan, won first place in watercolors with "Water

Ballerinas." "I never tried working in watercolors before," Shehan said. "I heard how difficult and unpredictable it was. So I took on the challenge and I love it!"

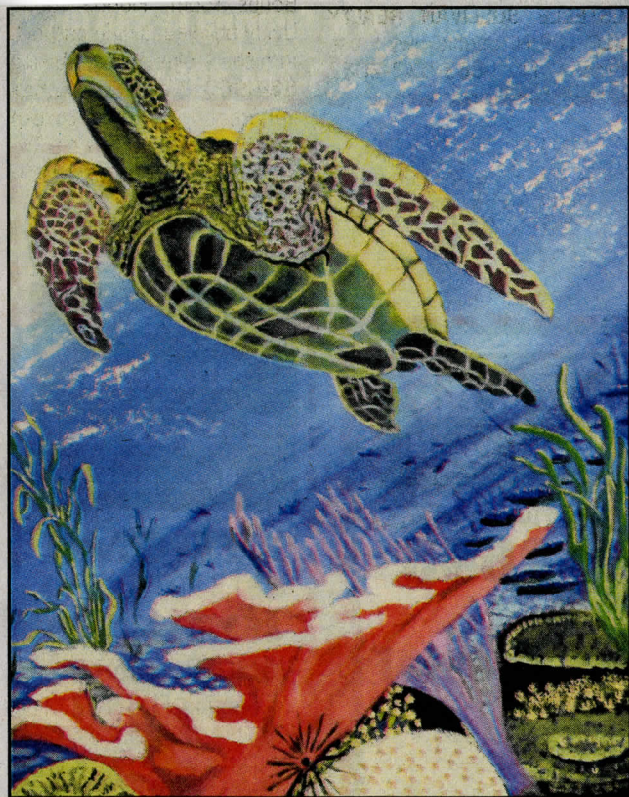
The red second place winner in watercolors was Joanne Cunningham with "Peaceful Nap." "It's a gardener who worked hard, fell asleep and took a nap," Cunningham said. "I love the classes with Betty. She inspires everyone."

TAG also offers informal art classes year round that are geared towards artists of all skill levels. Classes generally run from four to six weeks. For more information call 863-784-7346 or email tagstudio@yahoo.com.

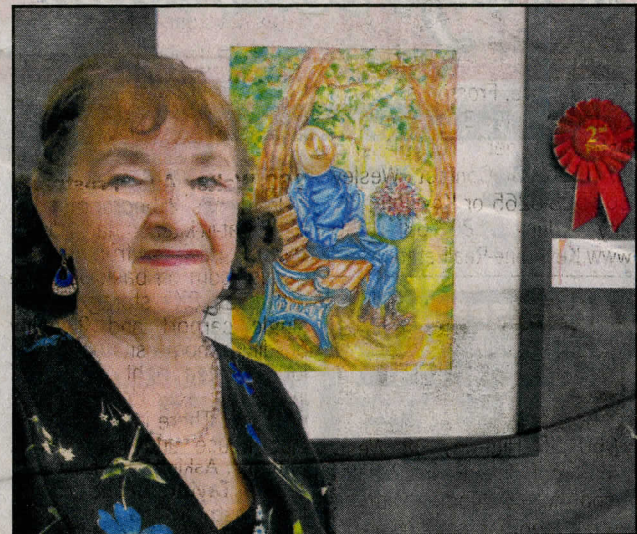


Sharon Weatherhead/Highlands Sun

TAG Artists are, left to right, (back row): Bob Fishel, Nancy Adams, Kathy Morgan, Louise Weis; and (front row): Betty McCarthy and Betty Heim.



Student artist Hilma Shehan of Avon Park claimed first place with her watercolor "Water Ballerinas."



Student artist Joanne Cunningham with her second place watercolor "Peaceful Nap."



"Ride on Santa," an acrylic by Nina Seibold.

Left: "Deep Sea Turtle" by Peggy Golden earned a third place in acrylics.

SFSC cosmetology clinic now open

AVON PARK — The South Florida State College Cosmetology clinic is open for public appointments now at the Highlands Campus. The clinic offers hair design, haircuts, perms, coloring, facials, makeup, eyebrow arching, and manicures performed by SFSC Cosmetology students at low cost. Clinic hours are by appointment, Tuesday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. To schedule

an appointment, call 863-453-4949.

"Clients time and time again say how much they like the salon environment," said Timothy Johnson, cosmetology program manager and instructor, "and the fact that the students take their time to complete the services they render

and that the instructor is always near if needed."

The Cosmetology program at SFSC is a 10 1/2 month course that focuses on careers in hair design, nail services, and skin care. For more information on the program, call Johnson at 863-784-7143.

SFSC Dean Appelquist to retire

Foundation head ends 45-year career with school June 30

BY MARC VALERO
Highlands Today

AVON PARK — In August 1970, a new professor at then-South Florida Junior College stepped into a classroom to teach biology.

On June 30, after years of teaching and more years of leading the college's foundation, Don Appelquist will be retiring.



Appelquist

His current title is dean of resource development and foundation.

Appelquist said Wednesday that his title has changed over the years, but he has been in his current position as head of the foundation since 1987.

"At the end of June when I retire, I will have been here 45 years," he noted.

When he started as a biology professor it was soon after the campus moved from downtown Avon Park to its current location, Appelquist said.

"I would estimate from 1987 on through to today that we've raised about \$30 million in our three counties and beyond, but primarily in our three counties," he said. "And most of that has gone to provide scholarship assistance for needy students ... although we do have a permanent endowment now that is in the neighborhood of \$13 million."

SFSC Board of Trustees member Joe Wright said Appelquist has had a fabulous career with the college and has been a tremendous asset.

He heard the story about how



COURTESY PHOTO

Don Appelquist circa 1985. The South Florida State College dean of resource development and foundation will be retiring on June 30 after 45 years with the college.

then-President Catherine Cornelius organized the college's foundation, Wright said.

"Our college had a foundation at a time when very few community colleges in the entire country had foundations, and Dr. Cornelius handpicked Don Appelquist to run it and he has done a fabulous job with it," he said. "It really has been a great success story."

Appelquist said the college has been a wonderful place to spend a career. He enjoyed working with the students.

"I really enjoyed teaching ... also since I have been doing resource development, I enjoy the fact that a lot of students have been able to pursue their dreams of a higher education who would of not otherwise been able to do it without the help of our local citizens and the scholarship money that we raised."

Probably between 200 and 300 students per year have been helped, Appelquist said.

When he retires, Appelquist said he will likely continue to live in the area and will pursue his many interests.

"I will be doing some traveling and maybe doing some writing," he said.

The college will be advertising to fill his position, Appelquist said. "We are hoping to be able to bring somebody in so that I can overlap with them for about a month before I leave."

The No. 2 staff member of the foundation, Jane Hancock, director of planned and major giving, will also be retiring on June 30.

Appelquist said Hancock has been with the foundation for four years.

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SFSC selects 5 finalists for vice president of academics

Special to Highlands Today

AVON PARK — South Florida State College has selected five finalists to interview for the vice president for academic affairs and student services position.

The position vacancy was posted in January following the retirement announcement of Leana Revell who has served in the role since 2004. Revell will retire from SFSC on June 30.

Applicants for the vice presidential position are required to have an earned doctorate from a regionally accredited college or university, five years of successful experience in higher education in a senior leadership

capacity and various attributes that support the SFSC's vision and mission.

The candidates selected as finalists are:

♦ Glenda Ballard, currently serving as dean of the College of Education and Liberal Arts at Texas A&M University, Texarkana, Texas.

♦ Barbara Buchanan, former vice president of Paris Junior College in Paris, Texas.

♦ Martin McClinton, currently serving as dean for academic affairs at State University of New York, Adirondack in Queensbury, New York.

♦ James McGee, currently serving as dean of Mathematics,

Science and Engineering at Elgin Community College in Elgin, Illinois.

♦ Sidney Valentine, currently serving as associate vice president of Industrial and Engineering Technology at York Technical College in Rock Hill, South Carolina.

Arrangements are in progress for each of the candidates to visit SFSC, and each candidate has responded positively to the invitation.

Visit dates will be April 13, 15, 27 and 29 and May 4.

Each visit will include two forums (morning and afternoon) for faculty, staff and students to get to know the candidates.

On stage at SFSC

Swingtime! featuring The Jive Aces

AVON PARK — Direct from London, The Jive Aces will be on stage at the SFSC Theatre for the Performing Arts at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 5. The Jive Aces are internationally renowned for their superior musicianship, spectacular stage show, and their energetic renditions of fresh arrangements of swing, jive, and R&B classics. Tickets start at \$28. Visit www.performances.southflorida.edu or call 863-784-7178.



Peking Acrobats

AVON PARK — The Peking Acrobats will thrill audiences at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 7, at the SFSC Theatre for the Performing Arts. They perform daring maneuvers atop a precarious pagoda of chairs. They are experts at trick-cycling, precision tumbling, somersaulting, and gymnastics. Watch as they defy gravity with amazing displays of contortion, flexibility, and control.

Tickets start at \$24. Visit www.performances.southflorida.edu or call 863-784-7178.



The David Osborne Trio

AVON PARK — David Osborne will be on stage at the SFSC Theatre for the Performing Arts at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10. He is known as the “Pianist to the Presidents,” having regularly performed in the White House for each administration since Reagan. Tickets start at \$16. Visit www.performances.southflorida.edu or call 863-784-7178.

Thursday, March 5, 2015

Peking Acrobats Promise Great Family Entertainment

The Peking Acrobats and Jigu! Thunder Drums of China will astound young and old alike at the Theatre for the Performing Arts in nearby Avon Park this weekend.

The troupe of gifted tumblers, contortionists, jugglers, cyclists and gymnasts is complemented by drum and percussion virtuosos as they bring their 2,000-year-old tradition of acrobatics to South Florida State College while on their 29th North American tour.

The Peking Acrobats will do the extraordinary this Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

"This is a perfect family show," said Cindy Garren, director of cultural programs. "It's got spectacle and amazing feats that will delight the kids."

The Peking Acrobats have been the featured performers on television shows and specials, including appearances on "The Wayne Brady Show," NBC's "Ring in the New Year Holiday Special," Nickelodeon's "Unfabulous" and "Ellen's Really Big Show" hosted by Ellen DeGeneres.

Tickets start at \$24 and are available online at sfscarts.org, by calling the

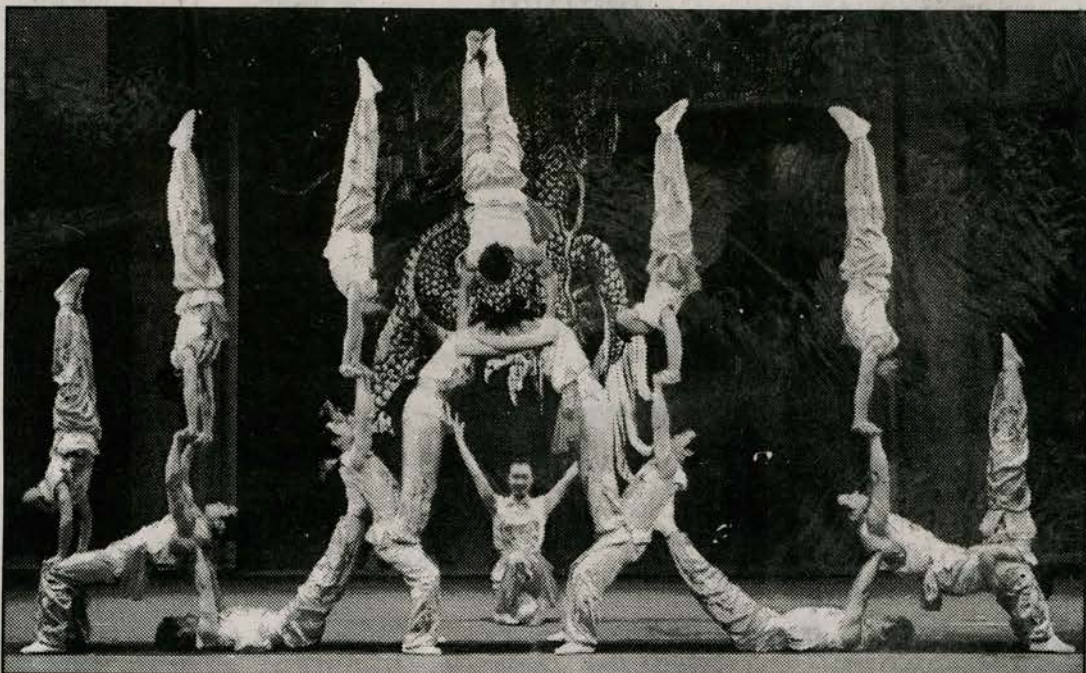
Box Office at (863) 784-7178, or by visiting the Box Office at 600 W. College Dr. in Avon Park.

Tickets also are available at the door.

Children and students receive a 50 percent discount on tickets.

Groups of 15 or more receive a 15 percent-plus one free ticket. Call the box office for group rates.

The Box Office is located in front of the SFSC Theatre for the Performing Arts and is open Mondays through Fridays from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.



COURTESY PHOTO

On tour in the United States, the renowned Peking Acrobats of China will amaze both young and old during a stop on Saturday in neighboring Avon Park.

'Swingtime,' featuring The Jive Aces, today at SFSC

AVON PARK — The Jive Ace's will perform during South Florida State College's Artist Series at 7:30 p.m. today (Thursday) in the SFSC Theatre for the Performing Arts. The group's repertoire stretches from tunes of the swing era to the glitz of the Rat Pack, with rhythm and blues, swing, and jazz.

Swingtime features songs by Louis Prima, Cab Calloway, Benny Goodman, Bobby Darin, Sammy Davis Jr., and Ella Fitzgerald, along with originals from their albums.

In 2012, the band was the semi-finalist on Britain's Got Talent, performing versions of Disney's *The Jungle Book* favorites "I Wanna Be Like You" and "Bare Necessities."

Tickets for Swingtime start at \$28 and are available online at www.sfsccarts.org, by calling the Box Office at 863-784-7178, or visiting the Box Office at 600 W. College



Courtesy photo

The Jive Ace's will perform "Swingtime" during South Florida State College's Artist Series at 7:30 p.m. today (Thursday) in the SFSC Theatre for the Performing Arts.

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Drive Avon Park. Call the Box Office for details on group rates. The Box Office is located in front of the SFSC Theatre for the Performing Arts and is open Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

One hour prior to the performance, audience members can visit the *Flight: Aloft in the Everglades* exhibition at the SFSC Museum of Florida Art and Culture which is open to the public Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.; one hour prior to each Artist and Matinee Series performance; and by appointment.

'Hotel California' takes stage March 24 in Avon Park

By **SUSAN E. HOFFMAN**

ARCADIAN EDITOR

AVON PARK – Hotel California "A Salute to the Eagles" begins a three-county tour on March 24 in Highlands County at South Florida State College, 600 West College Drive, in Avon Park. The tour then travels to Polk County on March 26, followed by a trip to the west coast in Charlotte County on March 27.

"You'll want to get tickets to this performance that features two live bands," said Joe Gallimore, president of JG Big Star Productions Inc. "Along with Hotel California, a well known local group – California Toe Jam, who have played for their fans over three decades, will open all three shows in this tour at 7 p.m.

Hotel California has touched the hearts of fans all over the world for more than 20 years, by faithfully and accurately reproducing the Grammy-award-winning

sounds of The Eagles. See how a spirited blend of originality and the pursuit of excellence have taken Hotel California to a level of international recognition normally reserved only for gold and platinum recording artists.

This dynamic, highly acclaimed show incorporates their own world-renowned vocal harmony and authentic instrumentation, including all specialty instruments in a stage spectacle that is modern and exciting. Each concert presents an electrifying showcase of The Eagles' mega hits, such as "Take It Easy," "Heartache Tonight" and, of course, "Hotel California," as well as selected titles from the solo works of Don Henley, Glen Frey and Joe Walsh.

The magic and mystique of this truly timeless music is as powerful as it is captivating. "So join us now on a trip down a dark desert highway, feel the cool wind in your hair,

and experience Grammy-winning sounds ... it's time to check into Hotel California," Gallimore said.

Ticket prices are \$29 Gold, \$25 Silver and \$22 Bronze.

"The box office at the college will not be available during Spring Break, March 13-23," Gallimore said, "and they will not be taking phone orders. So the only way to order tickets during that time is to visit www.SFSCarts.org/other-Events.

All tickets ordered in advance can be picked up at Will Call the day of the performance.

Doors open at 6:15 p.m. and the show starts at 7 p.m.

Courtesy photo

Hotel California has touched the hearts of fans all over the world for more than 20 years, by faithfully and accurately reproducing the Grammy-award-winning sounds of The Eagles.



On stage at SFSC

Blue Crescent Syncopators

AVON PARK — The five-piece Blue Crescent Syncopators will perform some of the greatest Dixieland and swing tunes of the 20's and 30's, adding their signature spice. The show is at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, March 27, at the SFSC University Center Auditorium. Tickets start at \$24. Call 863-784-7178.



Panther softball splits with Illinois team

By JAMES TAYLOR

NEWS-SUN CORRESPONDENT

AVON PARK – The South Florida State College Panthers last Saturday showed they still have some fight left in them this softball season.

Taking on out-of-town opponent, Lincoln Land Community College from Illinois, the Panthers held on to win the first game 6-5 and lost the second game 5-1. The split left SFSC with an 8-18 record on the season.

In the opener, the Panthers started out strong as Shelby Press led off the game with a single and Elizabeth Fording and Paige Davis walked to load the bases.

Press scored on a wild pitch and singles

by Danielle Garcia and Samantha Vance brought home Fording and Davis to give the Panthers a 3-0 lead.

Leading 3-1 heading into the bottom of the third inning, the Panthers added three more runs for a 6-1 advantage. Haley Pinterich led off with a double to the right center gap. A bunt single by Amber Duncan and a hit batsman then loaded the bases.

Pinterich scored on a fielder's choice by Vance. She and Garcia later scored when the Logger's first baseman committed two errors on one play. The first baseman first misplayed a groundball by Rachel Reinbott. Unable to make the play, she committed a throwing error to home

plate, allowing two runs to score, giving SFSC a five-run lead.

The Loggers fought back in the fifth inning with a base hit and took advantage of two Panther errors to score three runs and cut SFSC's lead to two runs, 6-4.

The Panthers committed another error in the sixth inning – five for the game – that eventually led to another Logger run as Lincoln Land trimmed the Panthers' lead to one, 6-5. Despite a scare in the seventh inning, the Panthers held on to win.

SFSC carried the momentum of the opening-game win to take a 1-0 lead in the first inning of the second game. Taking advantage of a Logger error,

Pinterich hit her third double of the day into the right center gap to drive in Duncan.

The tide began to shift, though, in the second inning when the Panthers were unable to score after loading the bases on two hits and a walk. It would be the last hit for the Panthers as they were held scoreless for the rest of the game.

The Loggers tied the game in the fourth inning on base hits. In the fifth, they scored three runs on two singles, a double and a Panther error to take a 4-1 lead. The Loggers scored once in the seventh when a two-out error on the Panthers third baseman opened the door as consecutive singles made the final score 5-1.

Pinterich went 3-for-4



James Taylor/News-Sun

South Florida State College shortstop Amber Duncan fields the ball, touches second for the force out and throws past a Lincoln Land Community College runner to complete a double play during a doubleheader last Saturday at home.

with three doubles and two walks in the doubleheader.

The Panthers were scheduled to play Hillsborough Community College on Tuesday and will spend

the next two weeks on the road before playing at home again against St. Petersburg College on March 24. SFSC visits Broward College in Davie on Friday at 5 p.m.

COLLEGE BASEBALL ROUNDUP

By JAMES TAYLOR
CORRESPONDENT

AVON PARK — The South Florida State College Panthers baseball team has slipped into a six-game slide after going one game over .500 and battling to a 2-1 record in the Suncoast Conference.

With their record at 13-13 overall, the Panthers dropped the opener of a three-game set to conference opponent, Hillsborough Community College, by an 8-1 score.

The Panthers battled back to win the next two games against Hillsborough, 2-1 and 3-2.

SFSC couldn't continue the momentum, however, in the opener of a three-game series against conference juggernaut, St. Pete College, last Wednesday. The Panthers let a four-run lead slip away in a 5-4 loss.

Sandwiched between the three-game series was a 9-1 loss to Lincoln Land Community College from Illinois last Thursday. SFSC then hosted St. Pete College for the second time and fell 8-4 on Friday. The Panthers then traveled to Clearwater on Saturday for another contest with the Titans and lost 6-2.

SFSC's slide continued on Monday when it fell to State College of Florida

in Bradenton, 10-1. The Panthers' sixth consecutive loss dropped them to 15-19 overall, 2-5 in the conference.

SFSC nearly pulled one out, however, against St. Pete College in last Friday's showdown. Tyler Knowles started for the Panthers and rolled through the batting order the first time around.

Later, with two outs in the third inning, Knowles walked a batter that opened the door for St. Pete. A fielder's choice, an error on the shortstop and a single accounted for two runs before Knowles could get out of the inning.

With SFSC trailing 2-0, the Panthers' Harrison McClure homered in the bottom of the third to cut St. Pete's lead in half. The Panthers then took the lead in the bottom of the fourth on singles by John Tatum, Tobias Culpepper and McClure.

Culpepper drove home Tatum to tie the game at 2-2 and Culpepper scored on a hit by McClure for a 3-2 lead.

Knowles worked into the sixth inning where he struck out the side, but those strikeouts were intertwined with a leadoff walk and a pair of base hits that resulted in St. Pete tying the game at 3-3.

Knowles left the game after the sixth inning, scattering five hits and

giving up three runs, of which only one was earned. He also had eight strikeouts.

"His pitch count got too high in the accumulation of six innings," SFSC coach Rick Hitt said. "When you bunch them (pitches) up in a couple of innings, it does not give you an opportunity for longevity in the game. We were hoping to get him a little deeper."

In the seventh, the Panthers brought in TJ Vasquez, who was rocked for four runs on four hits and did not survive the inning. SFSC then brought in Isna Dean, who played well until the ninth inning when two defensive errors resulted in St. Pete's eighth run being scored.

Dean finished the game, pitching 2.2 innings with no earned runs on one hit.

The Panthers tried to rally in the bottom of the ninth, but only scored once as Avon Park's Alfred Brown singled in McClure to make the final score 8-4.

"It is the second conference game we have given up the lead," Hitt said. "It is unfortunate, but we got to figure out how to keep the lead."

SFSC hosts the State College of Florida today at 6 p.m. before visiting the Titans on Friday at 6 p.m.

Panthers rally past Manatees

South Florida
earns conference
win over State
College of Florida

BY RUTH ANNE LAWSON

Special to Highlands Today

AVON PARK — South Florida State College's Tobias Culpepper executed a perfect hit-and-run in the bottom of the ninth inning to lead the Panthers to a 6-5 win over State College of

Florida on Wednesday.

The win improved South Florida to 16-18 overall and 3-5 in the SunCoast Conference.

"I thought our guys battled," said South Florida coach Rick Hitt. "We made some mistakes that allowed them to get back into the game on the mound and on defensive side of the ball. We didn't play clean. They are one of the better teams in the state of Florida. Culpepper executing the hit-and-run in the last inning was a big play for us. I'm proud of our guys and I'm

happy for them. This was a good win for us."

The game was dominated by the pitchers as neither team scored until the seventh inning.

South Florida got on the scoreboard in the bottom of the seventh inning as Jorge Flores doubled down the left-field line, advanced to third on a single to left field and scored on an Alfred Brown RBI double.

Chris Kazen was hit by a pitch to load the bases and Isaiah

PANTHERS, Page 2



RUTH ANNE LAWSON

South Florida State College players mob Tobias Culpepper after his game-winning hit against State College of Florida.

Panthers

From Page 1

Dean drew a walk to force in a run.

Rodney Forbes capped the inning with a bloop single to plate Brown to give the Panthers a 3-0 lead.

The Manatees rallied in the top of the eighth inning with some timely hits and the aid

of a pair of South Florida errors to take a 5-3 lead.

The Panthers answered in the bottom of the frame as Harrison McClure had an infield single, Austin Bingham singled and Brown singled off the first-base bag to score McClure.

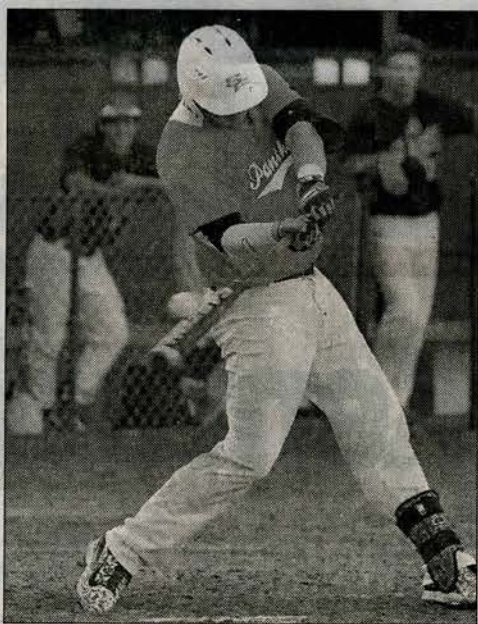
Bingham advanced to third and scored on a balk by the Manatees pitcher to tie the game at 5.

State College of Florida went down in order in the top of the ninth inning to set the stage for the Panthers' heroics.

Dean hit a ground ball past a diving shortstop and into left field for a single, Forbes put down a sacrifice bunt to advance the runner. Culpepper followed with a single to right field and Dean slid under the tag to score the win-

ning run to give the Panthers the exciting 6-5 win.

"I just want to thank my team," said Culpepper. "Coach Hitt gave me the sign and I executed it perfectly. We have been working on it every day in batting practice, and when I saw Isaiah rounding third I was really excited. We've been through a lot of struggles this season but I love my team."



HIGHLANDS TODAY FILE PHOTO

Playing two

South Florida's Jordan Jackson takes a cut during a game. The Panthers host a doubleheader today for Jade Jackson Day at the Ball Park.



Jade Jackson Day at the Ballpark

AVON PARK — The South Florida State College baseball team will host "Jade Jackson Day at the Ballpark" today. The Panthers will play host to the University of Tampa B team for a doubleheader beginning at noon. Special guest for the day will be Jade Jackson, the 16-year-old daughter of Jackie and Greg Jackson, of Avon Park. Jade continues her battle with brain cancer and will throw the game's first pitch. Jade's family has many ties to Panther athletics, as both her brothers, Kyle and Ty, played baseball at South Florida and her grandfather, Clay Gooch, coached baseball at SFJC/SFCC for 15 years.

In honor of "Jade Day," the Panthers will host a barbecue pork spareribs dinner for \$8 and hold a 50/50 contest for all fans to participate in. All proceeds from these activities, as well as all gate donations, will be donated to the Jade Jackson Fund. Serving time for the barbecue will be noon to 4:30 p.m.

South Florida State College Baseball



RUTH ANNE LAWSON

South Florida's John Tatum (1) slides safely into second as the University of Tampa's Dan Donohue tries to come up with the throw.

Panthers sweep doubleheader

SFSC takes both games on Jade Jackson Day

BY RUTH ANNE LAWSON

Special to Highlands Today

AVON PARK — Saturday was Jade Jackson Day at the South Florida State College ball park. The Panthers played a double header against the University of Tampa Spartans B team, had a barbecue and a raffle to raise money for Jade Jackson.

"Jade is a young lady who has brain cancer," said South Florida State College coach Rick Hitt. "She is 16 years old, an Avon Park High School student. She is the granddaughter of Clay Gooch, both of her brothers, Kyle and Ty, played baseball here for me. She is an outstanding young lady fighting a difficult battle."

"What we wanted to do today was have her and her family out here and make this a special day

for them. She came out and threw the first pitch, which was great. We are having a rib barbecue to raise a few dollars for them. Hopefully it was a day she enjoyed it and took her mind off what she has to deal with for a while."

The Panthers swept the Spartans B team, winning both games by scores of 2-1 and 5-4. These wins raised South Florida's record to 18-22 for the season.

Max Boling pitched the entire first game for the Panthers and struck out seven hitters in picking up the win.

"Max battled," said Coach Hitt. "He goes the route, does what he does, makes the pitches, throws a lot of strikes and gets the guys swinging the bats. We got enough runs to win and that's the key, having more runs than the other team."

The University of Tampa took an early lead when Nick Brobner hammered the ball over the left

BASEBALL, Page 2

Baseball

From Page 1

field fence. South Florida's Rodney Forbes jumped up onto the fence in an attempt to grab the ball, but it was out of his reach.

South Florida answered back in the bottom of the first. Alfred Brown got on base when he was hit by a pitch and stole second. Harrison McClure then stepped to the plate with two outs and Brown on second. McClure hit a line into the right-center gap for a double, driving home Brown to tie the game at 1.

The Panthers took the lead in the bottom of the third. After hitting several fouls, Brown got on base when he hit a ground ball to left field for a single. Jorge Flores hit a bloop to left field for a single and Brown advanced to



RUTH ANNE LAWSON

University of Tampa's Connor Rooney dives back to first ahead of the tag of South Florida's Austin Bingham during Saturday's doubleheader.

third.

McClure hit a grounder to third and Brown was safe at the plate, giving the Panthers a 2-1 advantage, which was all Boling needed.

In the nightcap, the Panthers took a 5-4 win in nine innings.

The Panthers went into the

bottom of the ninth inning with the game tied at 4.

Brown led off the inning with a triple and McClure singled him in for an RBI.

"We are really glad that everyone came out in support of Jade Jackson Day and for everyone that helped support the day financially and dona-

tion-wise," Hitt said. "We really hope the Jackson family had a great day out at the ball park."

The Panthers have conference games at home against the Hillsborough Community College Hawks on Wednesday and Friday. Both games begin at 6 p.m.