

## **SFSC dental clinic offering free oral cancer screenings**

**AVON PARK** — This year alone, oral cancer will be diagnosed in over 45,000 Americans and cause 8,650 deaths — or one every hour of the day — according to the Oral Cancer Foundation. Because patient survival rates improve when oral cancer is detected early, the South Florida State College Dental Education Clinic will offer free oral cancer screenings Thursday, Oct. 15 from 3:30-6 p.m.

The signs and symptoms of oral cancer are often not detected until the cancer has advanced to the point that patients only have a 50 percent chance of survival. Oral cancer screenings are painless and take only a few minutes, but can catch the disease early when it is in its most treatable stage.

The screenings help SFSC's Dental Hygiene students as well by giving them real-world experience detecting oral

cancer under the supervision of a licensed dentist and dental hygienists.

Appointments are required by calling 863-784-7020. SFSC's Dental Education Clinic is located in Building T-1 on the Highlands Campus, 600 West College Dr.

## **Cosmetology clinic now open on SFSC campus**

**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.

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.

# Marquee Donation

SFSC theater renamed in honor of Wildstein's gift



## Comedian Jay Leno to perform next month to celebrate venue's new name

BY MARC VALERO  
Highlands Today

**A**VON PARK — The South Florida State College theater has a new name in recognition of Sebring businessman Alan Jay Wildstein's major gift to the college.

At a Thursday morning press conference on the stage of the SFSC Theatre for the Performing Arts it was announced that a major gift marked a key milestone in the college's recently launched \$10 million capital campaign, the Partnership Project.

College President Thomas Leitzel said Wildstein is a good friend of the college and hundreds of other local charities in the community.

Wildstein's gift, which will be funded over time, is the largest planned gift in the history of the SFSC Foundation, Leitzel noted. Leitzel announced that as of

Thursday, the theater will convey the name of "Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts at South Florida State College."

After the press conference, Leitzel said Wildstein's "base donation" is \$4.2 million over 20 years. The donation could go higher, he said.

Wildstein, president/CEO of the Alan Jay Automotive Network, received a standing ovation from the college officials, faculty and staff who were present for the announcement.

"It's a big day and important time for me, for my family," he said.

Wildstein thanked the college and the SFSC Foundation's administration and acknowledged a fellow auto dealer/businessman who also supports the college and was present at the press conference.

"Bill Jarrett has been a com-

THEATER, Page 8

RYAN PELHAM/STAFF

Above: Alan Jay Wildstein poses with an artist rendering of the new signage on the newly-renamed Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts at South Florida State College. The theater will host Donny Most and Jay Leno, at left, on Nov. 19.

THE STRAZ CENTER

## Theater

From Page 1

munity partner and mentor for me for almost 25 years," he said.

Supporting the Partnership Project is the best way he can honor his parents, siblings, children and is a way to create a legacy that will continue for many years, Wildstein said.

"It's really special to me and to my family," he said. "I have spent a lot of time with them discussing this opportunity and they are very excited and I think maybe more for the next announcement."

The next major announcement Wildstein was referring to involved next month's renaming celebration.

Comedian and former Tonight Show host Jay Leno will perform at 7 p.m., Nov. 19, to celebrate the theater's new name featuring the Wildstein Center naming visuals.

"Happy Days" actor Donny Most, who sings standards, will open for Leno.

Wildstein said he is a business partner with Most in another company.

"I am very involved in the Celebration Exotic Car Festival; I am on the board; we raise money every year for children's charities and Donny was very gracious to come perform at that event for us," he said. "He's a great guy and an amazingly talented singer. The people are really going to enjoy him."

Tickets for the Leno/Most show will range from \$55 to \$145.

The college's online box office will open at 12:01 a.m. Oct. 12.

The box office opens Oct. 19.

Both Leitzel and Wildstein acknowledged SFSC Cultural Programs specialist Chase Smith, who designed the Wild-

stein Center's "W" logo.

Renderings of the theater's facade show a yellow script "W" within a circle with a black background with a border of two white circles.

The college's 34-page program book for the 2015-16 cultural performance season features on the front cover a photo of Leno on the top with the Wildstein Center logo in the center and a photo of Bobby Vinton on the bottom.

Leitzel said Wildstein, in light of his SFSC contribution, agreed not to diminish his charitable giving to any other community group.

Former SFSC presidents Catherine P. Cornelius and Norm Stephens attended the press conference.

The auditorium, which was built in 1978 during Cornelius' tenure, underwent a major \$12 million renovation in 2009-10 during Stephen's tenure.

The venue, which seats 1,460, features art galleries in the lobby and the upper balcony displays exhibits by regional artists.

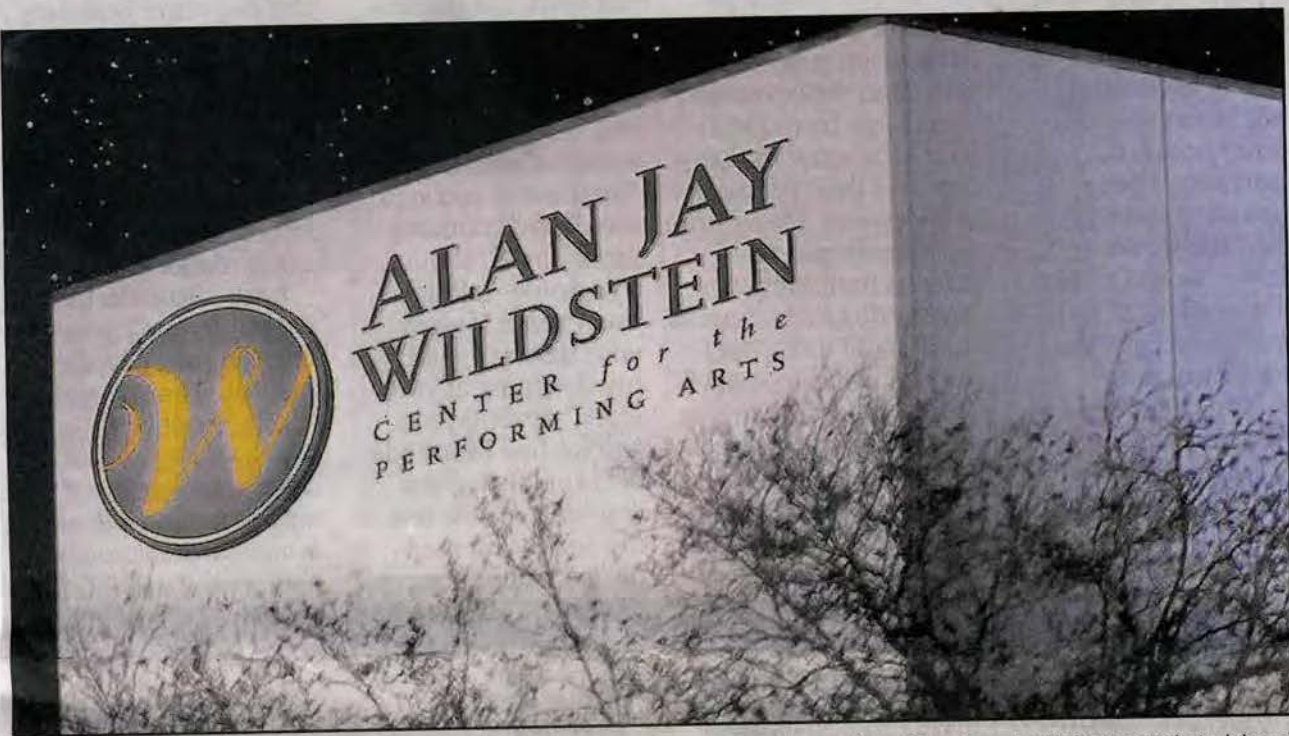
SFSC quietly launched the Partnership Project in February. The capital campaign is the largest fundraising initiative in the history of the college, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

It was announced that, during this "silent phase," the effort is near the halfway point of raising \$10 million within five years.

According to the college, although the center will bear Wildstein's name, his donation goes directly to the Partnership Project and will be used to meet emerging collegewide initiatives that are not funded through traditional means.

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# GIFT of a LIFETIME



Phil Attinger/News-Sun (top photo) Courtesy photo (above)

Alan Jay Wildstein (top photo) speaks with Alan Jay Automotive Network employees after the announcement that South Florida State College's Center for the Performing Arts will be named after him, a thank you from the college for a multi-million dollar donation from Wildstein to the college's capital campaign.

## SFSC Performing Arts Center named for Alan Jay

**By PHIL ATTINGER**  
STAFF WRITER

AVON PARK — Not too long after the start of a five-year campaign to raise \$10 million for the South Florida State College Foundation, the campaign has made it almost halfway there.

And as a thank you to the single donor who took the college to that point, SFSC officials have renamed the Center for

the Performing Arts after Alan Jay Wildstein.

"It took me aback a little bit," Wildstein said Thursday after the official announcement. "It's pretty flattering to be recognized."

To celebrate the renaming, the college has booked Jay Leno for a one-night performance Nov. 19, with singer Donny Most — well known for his part on "Happy Days" — as the opening act.

Wildstein called that a natural fit. Although he and his racing crews have only been acquainted with Leno and his racing crews, the fact that they are both car guys suits Wildstein well.

"If I could pick someone with the character traits I value and similar hobbies, (it's Leno)," Wildstein said. "I didn't know they could make it happen."



Phil Attinger/News-Sun

**Alan Jay Wildstein smiles at an artist's rendering of the new front entrance for the South Florida State College Center for the Performing Arts, after it's formally renamed for Wildstein. The center, a brainchild of former college presidents Catherine Cornelius (right) and Norm Stevens (not shown), the center has become an 'amazing' facility, Wildstein said, which most rural areas like Highlands County don't have.**

# ALAN

FROM PAGE 1

Wildstein said the college had approached him as part of its \$10 million capital campaign, the "Partnership Project." He had already supported the college over the last two decades, he said, so it was a natural fit to upgrade that relationship.

SFSC officials did not disclose the exact amount of Wildstein's donation during the press conference. Wildstein also declined to say, referring the question to SFSC

*affiliated*  
SFSC President Tom Leitzel and Mike Whitham, chief operating officer of Alan Jay Automotive Network, confirmed privately that Wildstein has guaranteed a pledge of \$4.2 million over the next 20 years, with more donations being possible during a 30-year partnership.

Glenn Little, vice president of Administrative Services, said having that kind of donation helps pay for the accredited programs, such as nursing.

Costs have increased for the technology — \$70,000 for a new maternity simulator, \$30,000 to upgrade an older patient simulator and \$15,000 to \$20,000 to put digital projectors in every classroom — but state revenue has not increased.



Courtesy photo

When formally renamed, the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts at South Florida State College will have his name on the cornice over the entryway, on the doors, on the west wall facing U.S. 27 and on the proscenium arch over the stage. The college honored Wildstein as thanks for a \$4.2 million donation over the next 20 years to the college's capital campaign and foundation.

"We've been holding tuition flat," Little said. "(These) funds will enhance our operations."

Leitzel added that Wildstein pledged he would not diminish any other charitable giving he makes to other local groups and organizations.

It takes the campaign, which has just begun, close to the halfway mark, said Jamie Bateman, executive director of Institutional Advancement.

Wildstein said the biggest factor for him that made giving to the campaign was that the fund is an unrestricted endowment, which allows the college to use the funds however they see fit.

"That's more valuable than the amount or the naming," Wildstein said.

Wildstein thanked the college for the honor, his employees for attending the press

conference and Bill Jarrett, a fellow auto dealer, for being a community partner and mentor over the last 25 years.

The Center for Performing Arts, which he said was "amazing" to have in a rural area, will be renamed the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts, with his name and a "W" logo on the doors, cornice, exterior west wall and the proscenium arch that is over the stage.

"There's no better way to honor my parents. There's no better way to honor my siblings. There's no better way to honor my children," Wildstein said.

To book tickets for Jay Leno — 7 p.m. Nov. 19 — visit <http://www.sfscarts.org/special-events/>. Tickets go on sale at midnight, Oct. 12 for \$55 to \$145 each.

# SFSC's museum hosting alumni art exhibition

Special to Highlands Today

AVON PARK — The Museum of Florida Art and Culture at South Florida State College will mount an exhibition of art produced by alumni, including Max Gooding and Cody Coltharp.

"Coming Home 2015: SFSC Alumni Exhibition" will be on display from Oct. 7 to Dec. 2. The exhibition coincides with the celebration of SFSC's 50th anniversary.

"Visitors will delight in the vibrant and eclectic exhibition of some of today's finest working artists, many of whom are graduates of top visual arts programs and all of whom are alumni of SFSC," said Mollie Doctrow, curator. "From the evocative sketches of Max Gooding to the explosive video graphics of Cody Coltharp, this is a must-see exhibition that will engage the senses and imagination."

Several alumni will discuss their work and art education during a reception at



COURTESY PHOTO

**SFSC's Museum of Florida Art and Culture will host an alumni art exhibition through Dec. 2 and feature works like Max Gooding's "Kulick Residence."**

5:30 p.m. Oct. 15 in the University Center Auditorium.

"Our alumni artists tell truly compelling stories," Doctrow said. "They will share insights about how they navigated from a small, two-year college to large, four-year schools and the professional art world."

After the reception, the artists will assemble in MOFAC's gallery at 6:45 for an evening viewing of their work.

The exhibition, the third to feature work of SFSC's alumni, includes painting, photography, sculpture, drawings and digital media.

In addition to Gooding and Coltharp, artists con-

tributing to the exhibition include Katie Jane Altvater, Whitney Broadaway, Gabe Clogston, Joe Colangelo, Caroline Colby, Kiri Crommet, Hope Flowers, James Futral, Allen McPherson, Quinn Miller, Emmie Pereira, Holly Scherlacher, Chase Smith and Laura Wolfe.

The exhibition is co-sponsored by the SFSC Alumni Association and the SFSC Foundation, Inc.

MOFAC is located at 600 W. College Drive. The gallery opens for viewing 12:30-4:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday.

For more information, call Doctrow at 784-7240 or visit [mofac.org](http://mofac.org).

# SFSC Elementary Education program gets final OK

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-SUN

AVON PARK — The Florida Department of Education gave South Florida State College the final stamp of approval for its new bachelor in elementary education degree.

The move paves the way for SFSC's first graduating

## Class of 2016 can now have certification with endorsements

class in May 2016 to earn teacher certification with endorsements in ESOL, or English for speakers of other languages, and reading, a move that will boost its employment prospects.

With a state-declared

shortage of teachers holding certification and endorsement in ESOL and reading, SFSC's elementary education program positions itself as the only teacher preparation program in the region whose

students will graduate with the endorsements and ready to take the certification examination.

"The ESOL and reading endorsements students earn by completing our program will put them at

a tremendous competitive advantage in the job market," said Michele DeVane, professor education, who heads up SFSC's elementary education program. "These are the endorsements that schools really want from new hires."

# EDUCATION

FROM PAGE 1

The state's final approval comes nearly two years after giving SFSC the green light to launch the new bachelor's degree program.

In 2013, SFSC saw a need to train teachers to fill slots in elementary schools opened up by retirees and enrollment growth. After getting the go-ahead from Tallahassee to add the degree program, SFSC enrolled its first class of 12 students in 2014 fall term.

The inaugural class already had associate degrees under its belt. In addition, the students had completed a three-course sequence applicants must pass before SFSC will accept them.

"We are thrilled at the progress our first class has made as they enter their final year of coursework," DeVane said. "Come January, they will start their full-time internships in classrooms working alongside teachers to satisfy a state-mandated requirement for real-world experience."

The state's initial approval, and the enrollment of the first class, proved to be just the beginning of the approval process. Next, SFSC had to get the okay of the regional accreditation body, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.



Courtesy photo

**Jessica Young, a student in the bachelor of science in elementary education (BSEE), gets a lesson in art education for kids from Cathy Futral, professor of art.**

After an on-site review in June by a team from the Decatur, Ga.-based group, SFSC's received news that the new program met all the standards without any recommendations for further improvement.

"Zero recommendations," said Dr. Thomas C. Leitzel, in response to the accreditation report. "That's a major achievement for our college."

Completing the course work and graduating in May, won't mark the end of the process for the inaugural class. The students must complete two certification exams.

"I am confident our graduates will have jobs come the start of the next school year," DeVane said.

SFSC will enroll its next class in August 2016. DeVane said now is the time for folks interested in a teaching career to start the

application process.

Applicants to the elementary education program must have completed their associate degree or higher. The state also requires applicants to pass a test of general knowledge before they enroll in the program.

Before gaining final acceptance, applicants must pass three introductory courses designed to introduce students to the foundations of a teaching career. Students can take the courses online

during any term.

DeVane encourages those looking at a teaching career to visit the program's website.

The ESOL and reading endorsements were built into the program's curriculum, they are not optional for students, DeVane said.

The Florida Department of Education's latest report on critical teacher shortages shows a need for more teachers qualified in math, science, reading, and ESOL.

DeVane noted that many teacher education programs do not mandate their students attain endorsements in these key areas, putting them at a disadvantage.

For more information about SFSC's bachelor in elementary education visit [www.southflorida.edu/current-students/degrees-programs/academics/education](http://www.southflorida.edu/current-students/degrees-programs/academics/education). Or, call Michele DeVane at 863-784-7154.

# AROUND TOWN



Courtesy photo

# SFSC students come out for breast cancer awareness

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-SUN

**AVON PARK —** Students at South Florida State College turned out Oct. 1 to help kick off Breast Cancer Awareness month.

An overflow crowd of more than 200 students crammed into a classroom theater on the Highlands Campus to hear diagnostic radiologist Mary Gardner speak about breast cancer in both women and men.

Gardner, who treats patients at the Breast Cancer Center of Florida Hospital Heartland Medical Center, gave students a crash course on the latest technological advancements in diagnostic procedures designed to detect breast cancer.

SFSC's Hispanic Students Association and Student Nurses Association sponsored the event with the support of the Student Government Association. Breast Cancer Awareness Month, held every October, aims to increase awareness of the disease and to raise funds for research, diagnosis, and treatment.

"Our goal is to get more involved in the community," said

Eddie Cuencas, who guides young students toward completing their education at SFSC and serves as an adviser to the Hispanic student's group. "We thought breast cancer was the right issue to rally around as a way to connect with the community."

After Gardner spoke, female and male nursing students took turns demonstrating how to perform a gender-specific self-examination for breast cancer.

Peyton Elizabeth Sullivan demonstrated the self-examination procedure for women and said the presentation helped her become better aware of the need to educate her patients how to detect breast cancer.

"Those of us in the medical professions have an obligation to our patients to educate them in ways that will reduce their risk for breast cancer," Sullivan said.

Breast cancer doesn't just affect women. About 2,350 U.S. males will receive a diagnosis of invasive breast cancer in 2015, according to the American Cancer Society.

"Until today, I did not realize that breast cancer touched men

and in such large numbers," Cuencas said. "Today's event was a real eye-opener for me."

Cynthia Acevedo, who lost her mother to breast cancer, painted a picture of family life after cancer strikes. When her mother died after a three-year illness, Acevedo was 17 years old and found herself rearing her younger siblings, who were 15 and 5 years old.

"Cancer changed my life and that of my two younger brothers," said Acevedo, an SFSC alumna who now works as a program manager for the Highlands County health department. "Being able to share my story and encourage others was a great opportunity."

The students plan to put on several fundraising events leading up to next April's Relay for Life, an annual event sponsored by the American Cancer Society that raises money to fund cancer research.

For more information on the students' efforts during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, contact Eddie Cuencas at 863-784-7161 or email him at CuencasE@southflorida.edu.

## **SAT prep offered**

AVON PARK — South Florida State College's Community Education Department is offering a SAT Preparation Class.

This class will help you identify your academic strengths and areas that need improvement.

The class will cover math and language arts as well as test taking tips.

The class is offered Saturday, Oct. 24, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost is \$40, and the course

number (CRN) is 11498. The lunch break is from noon to 1 p.m., with lunch on your own. The class does not include the book. The book to purchase for this class is *The Official SAT Study Guide*, (2016 Edition) ISBN-13- 978-1457304309.

Pre-registration is required. Register for classes in Building B, at the Highlands Campus or any SFSC campus or center. For more information on this or any other Community Education classes, contact Community Education at 863-784-7388 or email [communityeducation@southflorida.edu](mailto:communityeducation@southflorida.edu).

## **Concealed Weapons course set at SFSC**

AVON PARK — The South Florida State College Criminal Justice Academy (CJA) is offering a Concealed Weapons Permit course. This course is required to carry a concealed weapon in Florida. Topics to be covered include Florida Statutes, use of deadly force, carry restrictions, and live fire exercises. The course will be held on Saturday, Dec. 5, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. The cost of the course is \$55.

For information, equipment list, and maps to the range please contact Richard Morey, training coordinator at 863-784-7285 or visit [www.southflorida.edu/publicservice](http://www.southflorida.edu/publicservice). Register at any SFSC Campus or center, pre-registration is required.

# SFSC Community Education offers training classes

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-SUN

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

• 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 all the health benefits ballroom dancing offers. This class is offered Tuesdays, Oct. 20 through Dec. 8, 6-7 p.m. The cost is \$48, and the course number is (CRN) 10749.

• In Ballroom Dance II, this class builds on the foundation of Ballroom Dance I, and introduces other popular rhythm style dances. This class is offered Tuesdays, Oct. 20 through Dec. 8, 7-8 p.m. The cost is \$48, and the course number is (CRN) 11464.

• Digital Photography I (day class), learn how to shoot digital photos

and create wonderful memories. Participants must have a camera with the ability to set shutter speed and lens opening. The class is offered on Thursdays, Oct. 15 through Dec. 10, 9-11 a.m. The cost is \$63, and the course number (CRN) is 11488. A night class will be offered Thursdays, Oct. 15 through Dec. 10, 5:30-7:30 p.m. The cost is \$63, and the course number is (CRN) 11478.

• In Fiction Writing, participants will learn how to captivate the reader from the beginning, through end by developing character and writing skills. The class is offered Mondays, Oct. 26 through Dec. 14, 6 - 8 p.m. The cost is \$73, and the course number (CRN) is 10976.

• In Basic Home Computer I, participants will receive hands-on basic computer training. This class is for students who have little or no computer experience.

The eight-week class is offered Tuesdays, Oct. 13 through Dec. 1, 5:30-7:30 p.m. The cost is \$80, and the course number (CRN) is 10562.

• In Basic Home Computer II, learn how to keep files organized, use email, attach files/pictures, how to retrieve files/pictures, manage your computer, and backup and restore. This course goes in-depth with Microsoft Office, Microsoft Operating System, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. The class will be taught with Windows 7 operating system. The class is offered Thursdays, Oct. 15 through Dec. 10. The cost is \$80, and the course number (CRN) is 10635.

Register in Building B, at the Highlands Campus or any SFSC campus or center. For more information on this or any other class, call 863-784-7388 or email [communityeducation@southflorida.edu](mailto:communityeducation@southflorida.edu).

# Black Seminoles to be topic of SFSC lecture



Courtesy photo

**Professor of anthropology, Dr. Rosalyn Howard, will speak on the black Seminoles of Florida.**

AVON PARK — The black Seminoles of Florida will be the topic of a Kissimmee Valley Archaeological and Historical Conservancy lecture today (Thursday) at South Florida State College.

Rosalyn Howard, a professor of anthropology, will speak at 7 p.m., in Building G, Room 101, on SFSC's Highlands Campus. The public is invited at no cost.

Howard will talk about the history of black Seminoles in Florida,

a group of enslaved Africans who joined the Seminole tribe in a bid to escape their masters. She will show a 25-minute documentary video as part of her presentation.

After earning a doctorate at the University of Florida, Howard has conducted research among African populations in Florida, the Bahamas, and Bermuda. She wrote "Black Seminoles in the Bahamas," a study of black Seminoles who fled to Andros Island, the Bahamas.

Howard teaches at the University of Central Florida, where she is director of the program for North American Indian studies. She specializes in cultural

anthropology and her primary area of research centers on African and Native Americans in the Americas and the Caribbean.

The talk is one of a

series at SFSC sponsored by the Kissimmee Valley Archaeological and Historical Conservancy.

For more information call Anne Reynolds at 863-840-3995.

◆ FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2015 ◆ HIGHLANDS TODAY

# SFSC hosts workshop on pros, cons of UAVs

# Unmanned aerial vehicles are nifty but raise questions

Special to Highlands Today

AVON PARK — Some see them as a threat to privacy and public safety; others see them as useful but remain wary.

For John Byrd, professor of electronics at South Florida State College, and his student, Leo Mourao, they make classroom learning exciting and enjoyable.

Unmanned aerial vehicles, or UAVs, were the topic of the day at SFSC's Highlands Campus recently, not only for the professor and his student, but also for 20 law enforcement officers, hobbyists and the curious who had gathered for a day-long seminar on the good, the bad and the ugly of UAVs.

"We see UAVs as an amazing learning tool," said Byrd, as he stood with Mourao at a campus parking lot on the edge of a field bracketed by light poles and palm trees.

"About a dozen students in my electronics class built a UAV this year and they had to learn algebra, basic engineering, software and, of course, electronics to get it flightworthy."

That student-built UAV sat on the asphalt as Mourao, a second-year student from Sebring, held a control module secured by a lanyard draped around his neck.

After asking the onlookers who were taking a break from the workshop to stand clear, Mourao sent a signal that had the six rotors on the lawn mower-sized UAV buzzing. Within seconds, Mourao maneuvered the UAV 50 feet into the air, zigging and zagging between poles and trees.

To show off its power, Byrd attached six-pack of water bottles weighing nearly 7 pounds that dangled from the underbelly. Mourao sent it aloft and through an aerial course across the field without any effect from the extra weight.

"This UAV could carry up to 30 pounds, but that would greatly limit its flight time," Byrd explained. "We call them UAVs because they perform a function, unlike drones which really are just targets."

The UAV's agility and capacity to carry a payload, including a camera, underscored much of the discussion during the workshop.

"UAVs can save lives, both civilian and law enforcement," said Joe Marble, a sergeant with the Hardee County Sheriff's Office, who took much of the morning to discuss what he said were the pros and cons of UAVs.



COURTESY PHOTO

**SFSC student Leo Mourao inspects an unmanned aerial vehicle he built with fellow students before sending it aloft during a recent workshop for students, law enforcement agencies and the public.**

"But in the hands of bad guys, a lot of folks could get hurt with a UAV," he said.

Marble, who is a self-described UAV enthusiast, owns a device about 2 feet in diameter equipped with a video camera that sends real-time video to a handheld console, and can fly 1 mile from the operator.

"There are legitimate concerns about privacy when you have folks flying a video camera above backyards," Marble said. "But they are here to stay, and we need to adapt."

Marble said a recent standoff between Hardee sheriff's deputies and an armed suspect convinced the sheriff to acquire a small UAV that will allow for a live aerial video feed of incidents, rather than putting a deputy in harm's way. He said his department is now testing the UAV and plans to place it in service soon.

Highlands County does not have UAVs, according to Robert Jordan, director of the information services division of the Highlands County Sheriff's Office.

Byrd, who worked as an engineer before taking up teaching electronics at SFSC, said his classroom-built UAV cost about \$3,000 to put together.

"We purchased parts from several suppliers and had to fashion much of it ourselves," Byrd said. "This hands-on work really engaged the students and prodded them into learning much more than just the electronics we usually teach."

He said students who were typically adverse to algebra eagerly computed weight loads to ensure they chose the right motors.

Byrd said the craft is not limited to its current configuration. He hopes to get funding to upgrade the motors and batteries that would allow for longer flights with heavier payloads.

While SFSC students built their UAV, the public can purchase a ready-built craft with a video camera and hand-held controller for around \$2,000.

When operated by inexperienced users, these UAVs can fly in the path of jetliner approaching an airport for a landing with disastrous consequences, Marble noted.

"At some point, the FAA is going to have to intervene to ensure that all commercially available UAVs are designed to steer clear of airports and other sensitive sites," Marble said.

But a home-built UAV remains a constant danger. A prospect that loomed over much of the workshop's discussion.

Marble played a video showing a small UAV equipped with a paint gun darting about striking accurately at several silhouettes that had been set up as targets in a large field.

"Here is the nightmare scenario," Marble said, pointing to the silhouettes splattered with red paint.

The downside to UAVs doesn't dampen Mourao's enthusiasm.

Donning a pair dark sunglasses to shield his vision as he guided the UAV above the power lines, Mourao extolled the potential of UAVs.

"With the right motors and equipment, you could get a small UAV to fly to Orlando and back," he said. "Now that's cool class project."

## **Starting Your Business Seminar offered**

**AVON PARK** — Ever wanted to start your own business but not sure how to get started? The Florida Small Business Development Center at University of South Florida, located at South Florida State College, will host a Starting Your Business Seminar 2-4:30 p.m. Oct. 28 at South Florida State College, Corporate and Community Education Room T24.

From how to determine feasibility and legal structures to the types of license you'll need, this seminar covers all the essentials that will help you get started. It is customized for start-ups in DeSoto, Hardee and Highlands counties.

Cost is \$10 which includes seminar materials. To reserve a seat, call 784-7405 and refer to CRN 11389.

# Area students can explore science at SFSC's STEMQuest

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-SUN

**AVON PARK** — South Florida State College invites first through ninth-grade students on a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics adventure, STEMQuest. Students will explore the world of rare habitats, computer game development, and computer-based graphics in three science-packed classes from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 24, at SFSC's Highlands Campus.

Through fun activities and problem-solving challenges, students learn how to use science and math to discover the world around them, while gaining insight into career opportunities. Science, math, and computer science instructors teach all classes.

For first through third-graders, SFSC

offers "Florida's Big Backyard," a three-hour outdoor exploration of Highlands County's scrub habitat, one the state's rarest natural environments.

Students will learn about rare plants, practice observation skills, and act out animal behavior. Participants receive a Florida scrub coloring book.

For students in grades four through six, SFSC offers "Custom Gaming!" This classroom adventure is ideal for kids who have thought about creating their own computer game.

This class will show students the mathematics programmers use to develop computer games.

Students in grades seven through nine will tap into their creative talents with "Computer Graphics," an introduction to the cloud-based graphics application SUMO. Students will learn to create

their own artwork by combining images, enhancing photos, learning basic graphic techniques, and more.

The cost is \$20 for each student.

Parents can download class information and the application at [www.southflorida.edu/current-students/degrees-programs/special-programs/stemquest](http://www.southflorida.edu/current-students/degrees-programs/special-programs/stemquest) or [goo.gl/1ENwmi](http://goo.gl/1ENwmi).

For more information, contact Dr. Kimberly Batty-Herbert, at 863-784-7329 or email [battyhek@southflorida.edu](mailto:battyhek@southflorida.edu).

# SFSC seeks 'zombies' for record

Special to Highlands Today

**AVON PARK** — The South Florida State College Performing Arts Club will host the annual "Thrill the World" event Saturday on the Highlands Campus in the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts at SFSC.

The club is recruiting zombies of all ages to participate in "Thrill the World" in central Florida.

All zombies throughout the world will dance to "Thriller" at precisely 6 p.m. Saturday.

To participate, register online at [www.sfscarts.org](http://www.sfscarts.org). Registration is \$5 per person and participants can attend the dance lessons, participate in the global event and attend the screening of the zombie horror classic "Night of the Living Dead."

"Thrill the World" is an annual worldwide simultaneous dance of Michael Jackson's song "Thriller." This tribute to Michael Jackson was founded by Ines Markeljevic, a dance choreographer and instructor in Toronto, Canada.

"It is her unprecedented 'Thriller' dance instructional teaching videos that make it possible for dancers, non-dancers, young and young-at-heart learn the dance in a very short



COURTESY PHOTO

**The SFSC Performing Arts Club is recruiting volunteer zombies for annual "Thrill the World" event Saturday on the Highlands Campus in the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts at SFSC.**

time," a news release states. In 2013, zombies at 134 events in 22 countries and six continents raised \$68,000 for charities.

"Thrill the World South Florida State College" is a fundraising event for the SFSC Performing Arts Club. "It's not about how well someone dances," said club member Denzil Snipe. "Our goal is to have 50 zombies of all ages come out for this fun event. Elementary school kids can do it and grandmas can do it, too."

Dance lessons will be offered from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Center for the Performing Arts at

SFSC. The global dance begins at 6 p.m. There is no charge for spectators.

Those who can't attend the dance lessons can go online at [www.thrilltheworld.com](http://www.thrilltheworld.com) and watch the video. They can learn the dance in their own home and then join the club on stage, said Cindy Garren, SFSC director, Cultural Programs.

The Performing Arts Club will also show the George Romero classic horror movie "Night of the Living Dead" at 7 p.m. Saturday in the SFSC University Center.

## SFSC news

### Artists return to exhibit their work

AVON PARK — A landscape architect, sculptor, photographer and artists of other genres all came home last week to South Florida State College to exhibit their work and talk about their careers in art.

In all, eight SFSC alumni artists spoke at an evening program on campus to launch the exhibition and talk about art education and the success they have found in the art field.

The exhibition, "Coming Home 2015," marks SFSC's third showing of works produced by artists who finished its two-year program before embarking on art careers. This year's exhibit, which opened Oct. 7 and runs through Dec. 2, is part of SFSC's 50th anniversary celebration.

With the job market under pressure from global competition, many college students glance over careers in art, focusing instead on a technical or professional path toward a job.

Max Gooding, a 2007 Lake Placid High School graduate and a 2009 graduate of SFSC's fine arts program, showed that a career in art pays. While at SFSC, he studied drawing, watercolor painting and illustration. "I always wanted to know where my next meal was coming from," Gooding, 27, said. "So, making money from my art was always a priority for me."

Using his foundation



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

**Gesture is an art piece by Kiri Crommet. The Coming Home 2015 Alumni Art Show runs through Dec. 2 at South Florida State College's Museum of Florida Art and Culture.**

in drawing and painting at SFSC as a springboard, Gooding went on to the University of Florida, where he studied landscape architecture. He now owns his own consulting company in Naples, where he combines the illustrative drawing and painting techniques he learned at SFSC with landscape architecture. His company has a clientele list that includes luxury home builders and real estate developers.

"My company gives me financial security so now I can experiment with my own drawing when I am not collaborating with my clients on their projects," Gooding said.

Artists need not only strike out on their own for success. Museums, higher education and the non-

profit sector offer career opportunities for artists.

Whitney Broadway, a 2005 Sebring High School graduate, completed her first two years of college at SFSC in 2007. She studied under veteran art professor Cathy Futral and Mollie Doctrow, the curator of the college's Museum of Florida Art and Culture, who also teaches illustration.

After earning her bachelor's degree in fine arts at the University of Central Florida, Broadway took a job at UCF's library restoring books, a skill she developed when she learned how to bind books for art projects. She recently landed the post of collections manager at the Orange County Regional History Center, where she serves as the caretaker of the center's artwork and exhibits.

Like Gooding, Broadway relishes the opportunity to keep one foot in day-to-day artistic business while using her spare time to produce her own art. When not overseeing the center's collection, Broadway shows her own etchings at exhibits and art festivals across Central Florida.

"I hope there are current students here tonight," Broadway told the audience, which had assembled for the program in SFSC's University Center Auditorium. "Being an artist is really hard, but if you never stop making art, you can make it happen and succeed in your career."

The alumni artist exhibition, which is on display at the Museum of Florida Art and Culture, features paintings, sculptures, digital media, and drawings.



**Max Gooding speaks at South Florida State College's Artist Alumni Program on Thursday. Gooding is a 2009 graduate of SFSC and owns a landscape architecture business in Naples.**



**The Panther, an art piece by Gabe Clogston, is on display at the Coming Home 2015 Alumni Art Show. The exhibit runs through Dec. 2 at South Florida State College's Museum of Florida Art and Culture.**

After the artists spoke, more than 100 visitors paced through MOFAC's gallery to view the exhibit and meet the artists.

Students in SFSC art classes study pottery, drawing, painting and art history.

"What is most gratifying is to see these students coming back to SFSC and showing they built successful careers in art," said Doctrow, who has overseen MOFAC's collection since 2005.

"My hope is that our current students will learn from our alumni that they too can achieve success in art."

**Hop back to the '50s at SFSC's Sock Hop**

LAKE PLACID — Plan to go back in time in November

by reliving the happy days of the 1950s and '60s with an evening sock hop.

The night of music, dance and fun caps off South Florida State College's yearlong 50th anniversary celebration.

It is set for 7-10 p.m., Nov. 7 at SFSC's Lake Placid Center, 500 E. Interlake Blvd.

Admission is free. Finger foods, popcorn and ice cream will be served.

Lotela Gold, a nine-member band that pays tribute to Elvis, Sam Cooke and Ricky Nelson, will play in the center's gym.

Folks are asked to wear their best dancing socks or Converse sneakers.

For more information, contact Randall Paepow at 784-7083 or [paepowr@southflorida.edu](mailto:paepowr@southflorida.edu).

## **Hop back to the '50s at SFSC's Sock Hop**

LAKE PLACID — Plan to go back in time in November by reliving the happy days of the '50s and '60s with an evening sock hop at South Florida State College's Lake Placid Center. The night of music, dance and fun caps off SFSC's yearlong celebration of its 50th anniversary.

The sock hop is set for 7-10 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7 at SFSC's Lake Placid Center, 500 E. Interlake Blvd. Admission to the event is free. Finger foods, popcorn, and ice cream will be served.

Lotela Gold, a nine-member group that pays tribute to Elvis, Sam Cooke, and Ricky Nelson, will play in the center's gym. This is a true '50s-style sock hop, so folks are asked to wear their

best dancing socks or Converse sneakers.

Not only can folks go back in time by swinging to the music of Buddy Holly, residents who went

to school at the center decades ago when it was Lake Placid's middle and high schools can tour the buildings.

SFSC's 50th Anniversary celebration is sponsored by Harbor Community Bank, Dental Care of Mid Florida, and the News-Sun.

SFSC acquired the five-building complex in 1989 from the Highlands County school board. The center now houses a library, computer labs, and classrooms for college credit and adult education instruction.

Contact Randall Paeplow at 863-784-7083 or [paeplowr@southflorida.edu](mailto:paeplowr@southflorida.edu).

## SFSC SNAPSHOTS

### SFSC offers stained glass workshop

AVON PARK —

Learn how to create a beautiful stained glass window with local artist Coye Brenner-Mann, an expert in mosaic media.

The two-session workshop runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays, Dec. 4 and Dec. 11 in Building A, Room 16, at South Florida State College, Highlands Campus.

The workshop will introduce participants to the art of stained glass. Each participant will design and create an 11-by-14-inch stained glass window.

Participants are encouraged to bring simple designs and ideas to the first session, although pre-made patterns will be

available. The cost of the two-session workshop is \$75 per person and includes all materials. Participants are asked to bring a packed lunch.

Participants can download a registration form at [mofac.org/education](http://mofac.org/education) and email it to [SubmissionsMOFAC@southflorida.edu](mailto:SubmissionsMOFAC@southflorida.edu) or mail it to SFSC MOFAC, 600 W. College Drive, Avon Park, FL 33825.

For more information on this or any other art class, call the SFSC Art Department at 863-784-7195 or 863-784-7240.

### Concealed Weapons course set at SFSC

AVON PARK — The South Florida State College Criminal

Justice Academy (CJA) is offering a Concealed Weapons Permit course.

This course is required to carry a concealed weapon in Florida.

Topics to be covered include Florida Statutes, use of deadly force, carry restrictions, and live fire exercises.

The course will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5.

The cost of the course is \$55.

For information, equipment list, and maps to the range contact Richard Morey, training coordinator, at 863-784-7285 or visit [www.southflorida.edu/publicservice](http://www.southflorida.edu/publicservice).

Register at any SFSC Campus or center.

Be advised that pre-registration is required.

Thursday, October 22, 2015

## **Thrill the World**

AVON PARK — The SFSC Performing Arts Club is recruiting zombies of all ages to participate in the Thrill the World event. All zombies throughout the world will dance to “Thriller” at precisely 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24. To participate, register online at [www.sfscarts.org](http://www.sfscarts.org).



Registration is \$5 per person and participants can attend the dance lessons, participate in the global event and attend the screening of the zombie horror classic, “Night of the Living Dead.”

# Hop back to the 1950s at SFSC's Sock Hop

LAKE PLACID — Plan to go back in time Saturday, Nov. 7 by reliving the happy days of the 1950s and '60s with a sock hop from 7-10 p.m. in the gymnasium at South Florida State College's Lake Placid Center at 500 E. Interlake Blvd.

The night of music, dance, and fun caps off SFSC's year-long celebration of its 50th anniversary. Admission is free. Finger foods, popcorn, and ice cream will be served.

Lotela Gold, a nine-member group that pays tribute to Elvis, Sam Cooke, and Ricky Nelson, will play rock 'n roll classics for listening and dancing. "This is a true '50s-style sock hop, so folks are asked to wear their best dancing

socks or Converse sneakers," said coordinator of public relations Manuel Cortazal.

Sock hops originated in the early '50s when kids at high school dances were required to remove their hard-soled shoes to protect the varnished floors of gymnasiums — sneakers were not yet in vogue as everyday footwear.

"Not only can folks go back in time by swinging to the music of Buddy Holly, residents who went to school at the center decades ago when it was Lake Placid's middle and high schools can tour the buildings," Cortazal said.

SFSC's 50th Anniversary celebration is sponsored by Harbor Community

Bank, Dental Care of Mid Florida, and the News-Sun.

SFSC acquired the five-building Lake Placid complex in 1989 from the Highlands County school board. The center now houses a library, computer labs, and classrooms for college credit and adult education instruction.

For more information, contact Randall Paepow



Shutterstock

at 863-784-7083 or [paepowr@southflorida.edu](mailto:paepowr@southflorida.edu).

# Cosmetology clinic now open on SFSC campus

AVON PARK — The South Florida State College Cosmetology clinic is open for public appointments now at

the Highlands Campus. The clinic offers hair design, hair-cuts, 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.

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 at 863-784-7143.

# SFSC to host Global Zombie Event

AVON PARK — The South Florida State College Performing Arts Club will host the annual 'Thrill the World' event Saturday on the Highlands campus in the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts at SFSC.

The SFSC Performing Arts Club is recruiting zombies of all ages to participate in the Thrill the World event. All zombies throughout the world will dance to "Thriller" at precisely 6 p.m. Saturday in an attempt at a world record. To participate, register online at [www.sfscarts.org](http://www.sfscarts.org). Registration is \$5 per person and participants can attend dance lessons, participate in the global event and attend the screening of the zombie horror classic, "Night of the Living Dead."

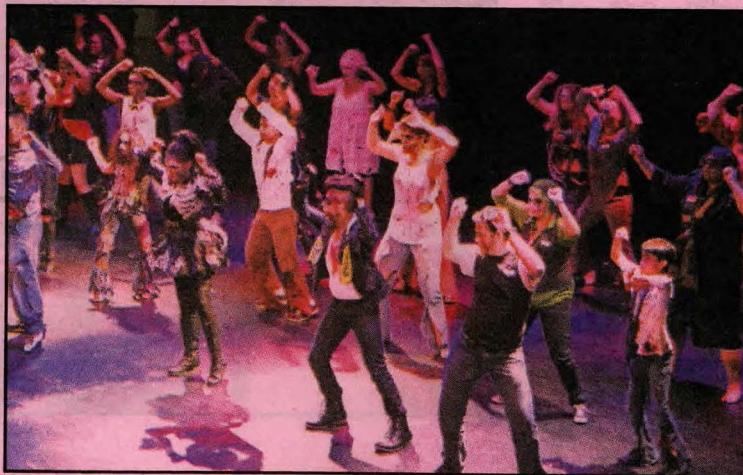
Thrill the World is an annual worldwide simultaneous dance of Michael Jackson's song, "Thriller." This tribute to Michael Jackson was founded by Ines Markeljivic, a dance choreographer and instructor in Toronto, Canada. It is

her unprecedented Thriller dance instructional teaching videos that make it possible for dancers, non-dancers, young and young-at-heart to learn the dance in a very short time. In 2013, zombies at 134 events in 22 countries and six continents raised \$68,000 for charities.

Thrill the World South Florida State College is a fundraising event for the SFSC Performing Arts Club. "It's not about how well someone dances," said club member Denzil Snipe. "Our goal is to have 50 zombies of all ages come out for this fun event. Elementary school kids can do it and grandmas can do it, too."

Dance lessons will be offered from 2-4 p.m. Saturday in the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts at SFSC. The global dance begins at 6 p.m. There is no charge for spectators.

"If you can't attend the dance lessons, go online at [www.thrilltheworld.com](http://www.thrilltheworld.com), and watch the video. You can learn the



Courtesy photos

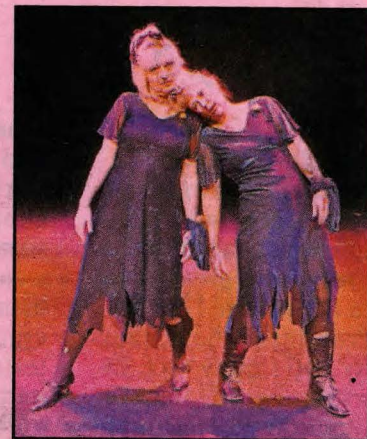
**Zombies will come together in Avon Park as part of a worldwide effort to set a record at Thrill The World.**

dance in your home and then join the club onstage," said Cindy Garren, SFSC director of cultural programs.

The Performing Arts Club will also show the George Romero classic horror movie, "Night of the Living Dead," at 7 p.m. in the

SFSC University Center. "Night of the Living Dead" premiered on Oct. 1, 1968 and became a financial success. It has since become a cult classic, eventually garnering critical acclaim.

The film has been selected by the Library of Congress for



**Lorrie Smith and Andie Hammett as zombies dancing to Michael Jackson's 'Thriller'.**

preservation in the National Film Registry, as a film deemed, "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant." The story follows characters Ben (Duane Jones), Barbra (Judith O'Dea), and five others trapped in a rural farmhouse in Western Pennsylvania, which is attacked by unnamed "living dead" monsters drawing on earlier depictions in popular culture of zombies.

For more information, contact Garren at 863-784-7177.

...  
Thursday, September 24, 2015

## **Concealed weapons permit course Oct. 3**

AVON PARK — south Florida State College's Criminal Justice Academy will offer a concealed weapons permit course on Saturday, Oct. 3 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The cost is \$55.

This course is required to carry a concealed weapon in Florida. Topics to be covered include Florida Statutes, use of deadly force, carry restrictions, and live fire exercises.

For information contact coordinator Richard Morey at 863-784-7285 or visit [www.southflorida.edu/publicservice](http://www.southflorida.edu/publicservice). Register at any SFSC campus. Pre-registration is required.

# SFSC scholars inducted into Honor Societies

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-SUN

AVON PARK — Academic honor societies at South Florida State College inducted 60 new members at an evening ceremony on Oct. 22 at the Highland Campus.

Students, their families, and SFSC administrators were on hand as 50 students recited in unison the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society oath of membership, joining the international honor society that recognizes distinguished academic achievement by students in two-year academic programs.

Students completing their four-year degree programs were inducted into the International Society of Baccalaureate Scholars. In all, 10 students who are wrapping up their bachelor's degree coursework took the oath of membership in the ISBS.

J.J. Moye, a professor of mathematics at SFSC, served as the guest speaker. In his remarks he encouraged students to rethink the common notions of success.



Courtesy photo

**Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Inductees** Hunter Altman, Levi Anderson, Marissa Baldwin, Jorge Barragan, Mary Maria Beadle, Hannah Belcher, Brandon Bowyer, Fabiana Castro, Savannah Christensen, Thomas Cook, Paola Cruz, Daniel Duque, John Eason, Mathew Estima, Lauren Falls, Katherine Fernandez, Treson Francis, Breanna Godwin, Catalina Hernandez, Johnathan Hernandez, Mayra Hernandez, Tyler Johnson, Kathleen Kennedy-Lowie, Tim Koning, Chase Langston, Pritesh Limbachia, Emily Little, Chris Maher, Marcos Merlo, Margarita Montero, Donnie Mullins, Melisa Mullins, Stephanie Narciso, Celina Nuevo, Selina Olguin, Luis Ortegon, Jessica Parker, Kayleen Prestridge, Hector Ramirez, David Sams Jr, Victoria Sawicki, Kayla Schock, Stephanie Skipper, Trevor Smith, Erika Soto-Angeles, Mary Stacy, Araceli Valdez, Juan Villafuerte-Albor, Brandi White, Maria Zamora.

Rather than measure their success by everyday measures, Moye, a PTK member from his undergraduate days at SFSC, exhorted the students to look instead at what brings them a sense of personal accomplishment.

As the ceremony drew to close, the inductees stepped to a candlelit table upon which lay each honor society's membership book.

One by one, they affixed their signatures in the books, recording their status as scholars of distinction at SFSC.



Courtesy photo

**International Society of Baccalaureate Scholars inductees** (from left) Kayla Austin, Gabrielle Baker, Heidi Graves, Jennie Spencer. Not pictured: Martile Blackman, Nicholas Croft, Leigha Gersper, Lisa Lavado, John Walker, George Wolfe IV.

# SFSC Library celebrates National Novel Writing Month starting today

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-SUN

**AVON PARK** — For those who've been yearning to write the Great American Novel, now there is no excuse to put it off for another year.

The South Florida State College library invites folks to unleash the Hemingway within by joining writers here and across the country to participate in NaNoWriMo, or National Novel Writing Month, by writing a 50,000-word novel during November.

The library on SFSC's Highlands Campus will host a series of Come Write In events in conjunction with NaNoWriMo.

"National Novel Writing Month is a wonderful opportunity for people to dive into their imaginations and do one of the most crucial things in life: create," said Grant Faulkner, executive director of NaNoWriMo.

SFSC's library kicks off the novel writing sprint today (Wednesday, Oct. 28) with writing-themed activities, including word challenges, a plot bunny auction, and more from noon to 3 p.m..

Last year, more than 325,000 writers accepted the challenge to produce a 50,000-word piece of fiction. In the end, nearly 60,000 writers met their goal.

An initiative among NaNoWriMo, libraries, and bookstores, Come Write In events across the nation will offer writing space, community, and opportunities for writers to meet up with each other.

SFSC Library will offer open writing hours during normal library hours, Monday through Friday.

Would-be novelists can sign up at

nanowrimo.org to access participant forums, seek advice, connect with mentors, and find local Come Write In events.

SFSC welcomes participants to celebrate the end of the month-long writing binge with its TGIO (Thank God it's Over) party, on Wednesday, Dec. 2, noon to 3 p.m., in the library on the Highlands Campus.

Now in its 16th year, organizers expects to see nearly 1,000 libraries sponsor local events for writers.

The SFSC library on the Highlands

Campus, at 600 W. College Dr, Avon Park, is open Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. The library is open on Fridays, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"Everyone has a story that needs to come to life," Faulkner said. "NaNoWriMo helps people find their voice in the act of writing."

For more information, contact Claire Miller at [Claire.Miller@southflorida.edu](mailto:Claire.Miller@southflorida.edu)

# SFSC to host Veterans Day remembrance

AVON PARK — South Florida State College will host a Veterans Day remembrance ceremony to honor the men and women who served their county in war and peace. The ceremony begins at 10:45 a.m. Nov. 11 at the flagpoles on the Highlands Campus.

The public is invited to join SFSC administrators, faculty, and students for this annual ceremony.

Eric Christensen, a retired commander in the U.S. Navy and professor of physics, will serve as the master of ceremonies. Cary Pigman, a member of

the Florida House of Representatives, will deliver the keynote speech. Rep. Pigman, an emergency room physician at Florida Hospital Heartland Medical Center, served in the U.S. Army and Navy.

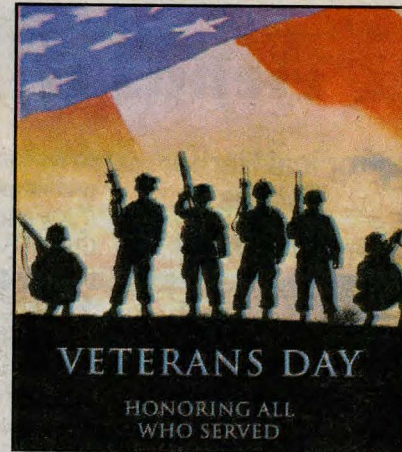
The Avon Park High School Air Force

Junior ROTC color guard and the Knights of Columbus Color Corps will lead a Remembrance Walk through the Highlands Campus at the conclusion of the program.

Visitors will find the flagpoles adjacent to the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for

the Performing Arts, accessible through entrance 3 on College Drive.

For information, contact Michael McLeod at [mcleodm@southflorida.edu](mailto:mcleodm@southflorida.edu).



# Hop back to the 1950s at SFSC's Sock Hop



LAKE PLACID — Plan to go back in time Saturday, Nov. 7 by reliving the happy days of the 1950s and '60s with a sock hop from 7-10 p.m. in the gymnasium at South Florida State College's Lake Placid Center at 500 E. Interlake Blvd.

The night of music, dance, and fun caps off SFSC's year-long celebration of its 50th anniversary. Admission is free. Finger foods, popcorn, and ice cream will be served.

Lotela Gold, a nine-member group that pays tribute to Elvis, Sam Cooke, and Ricky Nelson, will play rock 'n roll classics for listening and dancing. "This

is a true '50s-style sock hop, so folks are asked to wear their best dancing socks or Converse sneakers," said coordinator of public relations Manuel Cortazal.

Sock hops originated in the early '50s when kids at high school dances were required to remove their hard-soled shoes to protect the varnished floors of gymnasiums — sneakers were not yet in vogue as everyday footwear.

"Not only can folks go back in time by swinging to the music of Buddy Holly, residents who went to school at the center decades ago when it was Lake Placid's

middle and high schools can tour the buildings," Cortazal said.

SFSC's 50th Anniversary celebration is sponsored by Harbor Community Bank, Dental Care of Mid Florida, and the News-Sun.

SFSC acquired the five-building Lake Placid complex in 1989 from the Highlands County School Board. The center now houses a library, computer labs, and classrooms for college credit and adult education instruction.

For more information, contact Randall Paeplow at 863-784-7083 or [paeplowr@southflorida.edu](mailto:paeplowr@southflorida.edu).

# Respite Rescue

Shortcut through nature is focus of cleanup



# SFSC Boardwalk links parking lot to classes

BY MARC VALERO  
Highlands Today

**A**VON PARK— Squirrels, frogs, lizards, turtles and birds are some of the wildlife living along South Florida State College's boardwalk system.

Students say they enjoy taking a break on the boardwalk between classes, but instead of blue jays or a bullfrog, it has become easier to spot soda bottles, cans and potato chip bags.

Armed with telescoping grabber arms, gloves and boots, faculty, students and volunteers have stepped in to clean up the bay head area on the campus along the boardwalk system.

Museum of Florida Art and Culture Curator Mollie Doctrow said many trash bags were filled in the first day of the cleanup effort last week, but there is a lot more trash out there.

About a dozen worked on day two of the effort Thursday, removing cigarette lighters, oversized drink cups and many bottles and cans.

"Some of this stuff has been here a while," said art professor Kathy Futral.

"I want to know how they did that one," she said, as she used a grabber arm to remove a bottle that was stuck on the end of a small branch that

**BOARDWALK, Page 8**



**TOP:** Leighton Skipper trudges through the ferns growing under the boardwalk to pick up trash at South Florida State College on Thursday.  
**ABOVE:** Betty Stephens, a volunteer docent in the college's art museum, picks up a soda can.



**LEFT:** A pair of shoes hang from a tree in the boardwalk area.

RYAN PELHAM/STAFF

# Boardwalk

From Page 1

was out of arms reach from the boardwalk.

Student Leighton Skipper climbed down from the boardwalk into the foot-deep water to pick up trash by hand.

"Kids throw everything down here," he said as he retrieved an eye shadow compact.

He also pulled out two weathered orange traffic safety cones.

Freshman Ledia Peel goes to the boardwalk area frequently.

"We eat lunch, take a break and hang out with some friends and then go back to class," she said.

Peel believes whoever was there over the summer threw the trash in the area.

Auto technology student Lyle Wimer takes a break along the boardwalk about three times a day.

"It's a good spot to relax and stay cool and chill when we are

not in class," he said.

Lyle said he has seen lizards, turtles, squirrels and bullfrogs during his breaks.

Doctrow said they were going to survey other areas along the boardwalk, which will likely require three more days to clean up.

"It's a real respite on campus when it is clean," she added.

SFSC Vice President of Administrative Services Glenn Little said the boardwalk was built about 20 to 25 years ago as a shortcut for students.

Years ago, some roadways and parking areas were redesigned and additional parking spaces were built, he said.

The area the boardwalk covers had always been a wet area with many native species.

The college thought it would be nice at the time to put in an elevated boardwalk system similar to Highlands Hammock State Park, Little said.

It comprises a series of about five walkway paths with a center

section where one can come out and just enjoy the birds, he said. It's a place to unwind, but also gives students the opportunity to travel more directly from their outside parking areas into the campus.

The boardwalk system is located between Building I, the computer science building, and Parking Lot E.

College Drive curves around Parking Lot E, which in turn curves around the boardwalk/bayhead area.

Students can walk straight through on the boardwalk from the parking lot to Building I, the adult education classrooms in Building H or the library (Tutoring and Learning Center).

"We have a lot of students who walk through it," Little said. "We close it down during the evenings for safety reasons, but during the day it is open so anyone can come out."

mvalero@highlandstoday.com  
(863) 386-5826

# These teachers don't just drone on

At SFSC, unmanned aerial vehicles teach algebra lessons



Courtesy photo

SFSC student Leo Mourao readies an unmanned aerial vehicle, shown at right carrying a payload, for flight as part of an experiment for Professor John Byrd's class.



But for John Byrd, professor of electronics at South Florida State College, and his student, Leo Mourao, they make classroom learning exciting and enjoyable.

Unmanned aerial vehicles, UAVs for short, were the topic of the day at SFSC's Highlands Campus recently, not only for the professor and his student, but also for 20 law enforcement officers, hobbyists, and the curious who had gathered for a daylong seminar on the good, the bad, and the ugly of UAVs.

"We see UAVs as an amazing learning tool," said Byrd, as he stood with Mourao at a campus parking lot on the edge of field bracketed by light poles and palm trees. "About a dozen students in my electronics class built a UAV this year and they had to learn algebra, basic engineering, software, and, of course, electronics to get it flightworthy, said Byrd."

That student-built UAV sat on the asphalt as Mourao, a second year student from Sebring, held a control module secured by a lanyard draped around his neck.

After asking the onlookers who were taking a break from the workshop to stand clear, Mourao sent a signal that had the six rotors on the lawn mower-sized UAV buzzing. Within seconds, Mourao maneuvered the UAV 50 feet in air, zigging and zagging between poles and trees. To show off its power, Byrd attached a nearly seven-pound payload, a six pack of water bottles that dangled from the underbelly of the UAV. Mourao sent it aloft and through an aerial course across the field without any effect from the extra weight.

"This UAV could carry up to 30 pounds but that would greatly limit its flight time," Byrd explained. "We call them UAVs because they perform a function, unlike drones which really are just targets." The UAV's agility and capacity to carry a payload, including a camera, underscored much of the discussion during the workshop.

"UAVs can save lives, both civilian and law enforcement," said Joe Marble, a sergeant with the Hardee County Sheriff's office, who took much of the morning to discuss what he said were the "pros and cons" of UAVs. "But in the hands of bad guys, a lot of folks could get hurt with a UAV," Marble said.

Marble, who is self-describe UAV enthusiast, owns a device about two feet in diameter, equipped with a video camera that sends real-time video to a handheld console, and can fly one mile from the operator. "There are legitimate concerns about privacy when you have folks flying a video camera above backyards," Marble said. "But they are here to stay, and we need to adapt."

Marble said a recent standoff between Hardee sheriff deputies and an armed suspect convinced the sheriff to acquire a small UAV that will allow for a live aerial video feed of incidents, rather than putting a deputy in harm's way. He said his department is now testing the UAV and plans to place it in service soon.

Highlands County does not have UAVs, according to Robert Jordan, director of the information services division of the Highlands Sheriff's Office. Byrd, who worked as an engineer before taking up teaching electronics at SFSC, said his classroom-built UAV cost about \$3,000 to construct.

"We purchased parts from several suppliers and had to fashion much of it ourselves," Byrd said. "This hands-on work really engaged the students and prodded them into learning much more than just the electronics we usually teach." He said students who were typically adverse to algebra eagerly computed weight loads to ensure they chose the right motors.

Byrd said the craft is not limited to its current configuration. He hopes to get funding to upgrade the motors and batteries that would allow for longer flights with heavier payloads. While SFSC students built their UAV, the public can purchase a ready-built craft with a video camera and hand-held controller for around \$2,000. When operated by inexperienced users, these UAVs can fly in the path of jetliner approaching an airport for a landing with disastrous consequences, Marble noted.

"At some point the FAA is going to have to intervene to ensure that all commercially available UAVs are designed to steer clear of airports and other sensitive sites," Marble said. But a home built UAV remains a constant danger. A prospect that loomed over much of the workshop's discussion.

Marble played a video showing a small UAV equipped with a paint gun darting about striking accurately at several silhouettes that had been set up as targets in a large field. "Here is the nightmare scenario," Marble said, pointing to the silhouettes splattered with red paint.

The bad angle to UAVs doesn't dampen Mourao's enthusiasm. Donning a pair dark sunglass to shield his vision as he guided the UAV above the power lines, Mourao extolled the potential of UAVs. "With the right motors and equipment, you could get a small UAV to fly to Orlando and back," he said.

"Now that's cool class project," Mourao said.



Mary Kay Bernard/News-Sun

From right to left, South Florida State College's Cali Gumpel, Pasco-Hernando State College's Charlene Sanchez and SFSC's Julia Soto and Alexis Armstead race at the midway point of last Saturday's SFSC Panther Invitational.

■ COLLEGES: **South Florida State Cross Country**

# Panthers defend home turf

## SFSC wins invitational

By **MARY KAY BERNARD**  
CORRESPONDENT

AVON PARK - The South Florida State College Panther women's cross country team has high hopes of

advancing to nationals in Iowa this season.

Based on its performance in last Saturday's Panther Invitational, SFSC could very well reach its postseason goal.

Hosting their inaugural meet in near-perfect weather, the first-year Panthers under coach Krista Schult ran away with the team title, scoring



**SCHULT**

### UP NEXT

- \* **What:** Disney Cross Country Classic.
- \* **When:** Saturday, 8 a.m.
- \* **Where:** ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex, Kissimmee.

17 points to beat three other schools. SFSC had five runners finish

# PANTHERS

## FROM PAGE 1

in the top six slots en route to easily beating runner-up Pasco-Hernando State College (46). Chipola College finished third (75), and Warner University out of Lake Wales, fourth (84).

Individually, the Panthers' Grace Miller won the 5,000-meter run with a time of 19 minutes, 59 seconds – more than a minute ahead of the other runners.

"The season is unexpectedly great," Miller said. "We were really prepared for the course. It was exciting that it turned out like this."

SFSC's Cali Gumpel came in second (20:51) and Julia Soto, third (20:54).

Charlene Sanchez from Pasco-Hernando

State came in fourth (20:59).

The next two finishers were the Panthers' Alexis Armstead (21:04), fifth; and Savannah Walter (21:24), sixth.

"I thought the meet went very well for our first collegiate home race," Schult said.

"Our competition going in was Pasco-Hernando. They were previously ranked ahead of us. So, (Saturday), it was really important that we stayed in front of them so we continue to do well in the rankings."

The Panthers already have moved up in the National Junior College Athletic Association rankings from 25th to 18th. In order to qualify for nationals, they need to be in the top 25 percent for more than half of the season.

So, SFSC's prospects

for a national berth are even stronger after Saturday's meet. The Panthers are the only team ranked out of the Atlantic Region.

South Florida State's immediate success has not gone unnoticed by those outside the running realm, though.

SFSC President Tom Leitzel was part of the group cheering the runners on at the finish line. "It's an exciting start and they have great potential for our athletic department," Leitzel said. "The runners are dedicated and the coach is sterling. We're so fortunate."

SFSC has two more official runs before its anticipated trip to nationals: a run at Disney on Saturday and a local 5K. Both runs will clock in official times for ranking purposes.



Mary Kay Bernard/News-Sun

**South Florida State College's Grace Miller distances herself from the pack en route to winning the overall title of the inaugural Panther Invitational last Saturday.**

# SFSC fall season going strong

Panthers baseball team making good progress in fall ball

BY ALLEN MOODY  
Highlands Today

AVON PARK — The South Florida State College Panthers may not put a lot of emphasis on wins and losses in the fall season — they don't even keep score — but still it's always nice to score more runs than your opponent, which is what happened early Friday at Panther Field as the Panthers defeated Indian River State College 9-3.

What South Florida State College coach Rick Hitt is looking for is improvement and he said he's generally happy with what he has seen up to this point.

"We've progressed well from the first couple of weeks of the fall," Hitt said. "We've got a few weeks left to play and we're seeing some better things every week. We still have one day a week where we're not where I would like to see us, but for the most part we've progressed well."

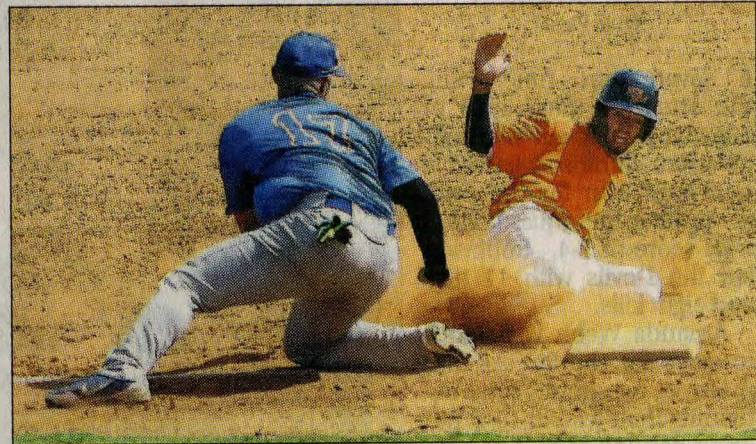
The Panthers had a definite Sebring feel on the mound at the start of the game. Former Blue Streak Jonathan Struck

started for South Florida State College and retired all six batters he faced.

The Panthers tallied three runs in the bottom of the second inning, as Equon Smith had a one-out single and former Blue Streak Matt Portis doubled to put runners on second and third.

Evan Schaffner walked to load the bases and Eric Schulte's RBI ground ball allowed Smith to score to make it 1-0. John Tatum followed with a two-run single to make it 3-0.

Portis retired the side in order in the top of the third in his



ALLEN MOODY/STAFF

**South Florida State College's Evan Schaffner slides safely into third base against Indian River State College on Friday at Panther Field.**

# SFSC

From Page 1

lone inning of work, but Indian River State College took advantage of a few Panthers miscues to knot the score at 3.

South Florida didn't waste any time regaining the lead, as Harrison McClure and Smith reached base and McClure scored on Portis' RBI fielder's choice. Schaffner and Schulte delivered RBI singles and the Panthers led 7-3 after four innings.

"To bounce back and get four runs right away — it was good to see us do that," Hitt said. "We've won a lot of games this fall and we're not bunting and doing all the things to try and win. It's more about giving guys reps and opportunity right now."

Smith had an RBI single in the bottom of the fifth and added another in the bottom of the seventh to account for



ALLEN MOODY/STAFF

**Sebring graduate Jonathan Struck throws a pitch for the South Florida State College Panthers on Friday. He threw two scoreless innings.**

the final score.

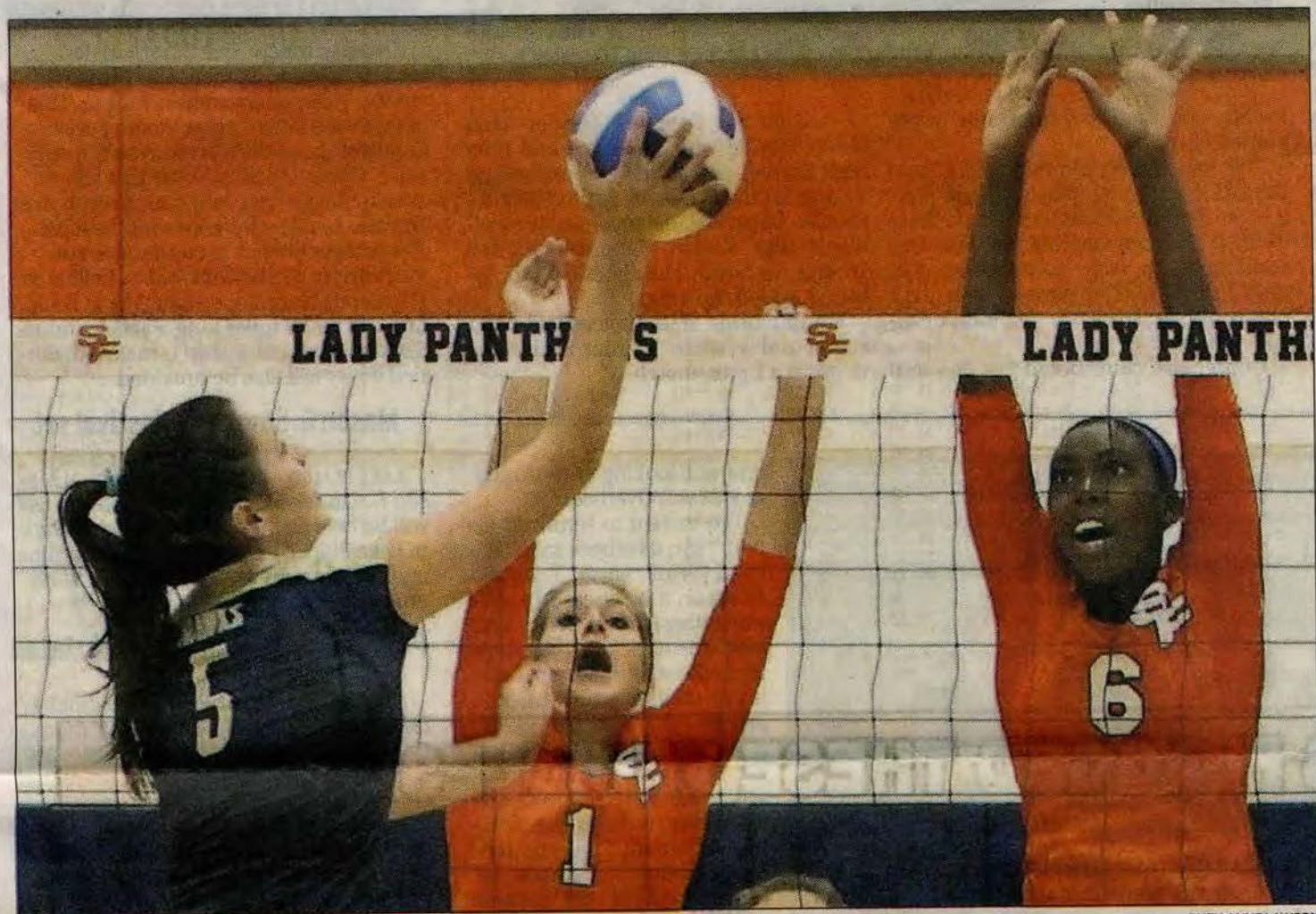
The Panthers used six pitchers in the seven-inning game, with Struck the only one who went more than an inning.

"We're just finding out who can and who can't and who will and who won't —

that's kind of the strategy for the fall," Hitt said. "So far we've been pleased in a lot of areas, but we still have plenty of work and we are definitely a work in progress."

The Panthers will be home on Friday when they host Inspiration Academy.

## College Volleyball



RUTH ANNE LAWSON

South Florida State College's Baylee Gunter (1) and Naomi Melville (6) go up to block Hillsborough's Abigail O'Ferrell during Thursday's match.

# Hawks soar past Panthers

Hillsborough defeats South Florida in 4 games

BY RUTH ANNE LAWSON

Special to Highlands Today

AVON PARK — The Hillsborough Community College Hawks swooped into South Florida State College and defeated the Panthers 3-1 in a Sun-Coast Conference volleyball match on Thursday.

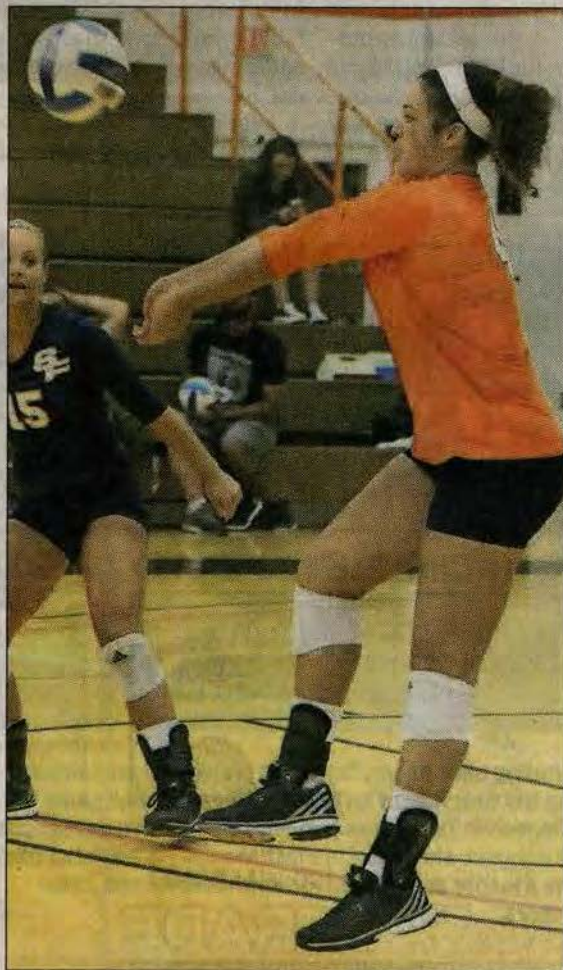
Hillsborough won the first game 25-15, the Panthers won game two 25-18 and the Hawks won the last two games by scores of 25-10 and 25-10. The Panthers conference record dropped to 1-3.

"Hillsborough is a good volleyball team," said Panthers coach Kim Crawford. "We always enjoy playing them. Last year we beat them in our

gym. Our girls are very good at studying a team and making adjustments. I think we have really good servicing and defense. I think we just didn't have the offense to compete. We are taking teams to four and five. We are getting better with every game."

Hillsborough got out to an early lead in match one. Hillsborough pulled ahead when Erika Zemblya served a three-point run giving the Hawks a 5-1 lead. The Panther's Baylee Gunter served a two-point run to put South Florida just behind Hillsborough with a score of 8-6. The Hawks continued to extend their lead and got an overwhelming lead over

**VOLLEYBALL, Page 2**



**South Florida's Elle Barnett makes a dig during Thursday's match.**

# Volleyball

From Page 1

the Panthers of 19-10. The Hawks continued to dominate and defeated the Panthers 25-15.

The Panthers came back roaring in the second game. South Florida pulled into an early lead when Kelsey Sanders served a three-point run giving the Panthers a 3-0 lead. The Panthers maintained their lead all the way to 15-11. The Panthers attacked when Gunter served a three-point run, escalating their lead to 19-12. The Panthers held off the Hawks and defeated them 25-18, tying the match at 1.

The Hawks controlled game three. Hillsborough got a huge lead right off the bat when Briana Stowell served a six-point run right off the bat, giving the Hawks a 6-0 lead. The Panthers' Elle Barnett served a two-point run to close the gap to 6-2. The Panthers kept it close for a bit, trailing 14-9 before Stowell served an impressive nine-point run for Hillsborough, putting them just one point away from victory with a score of 24-9. The Hawks got the final point they need and defeated the Panthers 25-10, giving them a 2-1 lead.

The Panthers took the lead early in game four behind the serving of Sanders and grabbed a 3-1 lead. The Hawks and Panthers were tied at 4 and then again at 5. The Hawks skyrocketed into the lead when Torrey Smith served a six-point run, shoving Hillsborough into a 12-6 lead. The Panthers were unable



RUTH ANNE LAWSON

**South Florida State College's Alexis Sands goes up for a block during Thursday's match with Hillsborough.**

to rally and the Hawks defeated South Florida 25-10.

"We are starting rotation again," said Crawford. "We are playing State College of Florida (Friday) and took them to four. They are very big and fast. Our conference is very competitive. I'm proud of them. I'm pleased with their play, but offensively we just didn't execute tonight."

Gunter also contributed five digs and

an ace for the Panthers. Sanders lead South Florida with 31 assists and nine digs. Barnett also added an outstanding 12 digs for the Panthers. South Florida's Brooke Westphal devoted an incredible 21 digs. Kaelyn Mahoney supplied 16 digs for South Florida and Leah Sywanyk added eight digs.

South Florida State College will be in action today when Warner University visits for a 1 p.m. match.

**MONDAY**  
October 5, 2015  
Highlands Today

## College Cross Country



ALLEN MOODY/STAFF

Runners take off at the start of Saturday's Panther Invitational at South Florida State College.

The South Florida State College Panthers certainly lived up to their No. 18 ranking IN Saturday morning's Panther Invitational. The Panthers hosted their lone home meet of the cross-country season and made short work of the field, as all five runners placed in the top six of the four-team meet.

South Florida's Grace Miller ran away from the field, finishing with a time of 19:59 and she was followed by teammate Cali Gumpel, who was second in 20:51. Fellow Panther Julia Soto used a late pass of Pasco-Hernando's Charlene Sanchez to finish third with a time of 20:54. Alexis Armstead was fifth in 21:04 and Savannah Walter placed sixth out of 29 runners with a 21:24.

The Panthers had a gap of just 1:25 between Miller and Walter, which is exactly what Panthers coach Krista Schult wanted to see.

"They were very close to one another and that's what's going to help us," she said. "At our intersquad race back in August, our No. 5 runner ran a mid to high 22, so we've dropped that all the way to a low 21."

The Panthers finished with 17 points in the team race, followed by Pasco-Hernando with 46. Chipola College was third with 75 and Warner was fourth with 84.

The Panthers are the only team from the Atlantic region to be ranked in the United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association poll and jumped up to No. 18 from No. 25 after solid showings in Gainesville and Titusville.

Even though the team is in its first year a trip to Nationals in Iowa is now becoming distinct possibility. Saturday's decisive victory over Pasco-Hernando, who was earlier ranked ahead of South Florida in the polls and is still receiving votes, should work to the team's advantage.

"Based off our team results we did really well against the competition so I can see us maintaining, or hopefully moving up," Schult said. "It was all about the competition today and we beat what we needed to beat."

Schult said the upcoming meet at Disney on Saturday will be a big one for the team. Johnson County, who is ranked No. 13, has confirmed its participation and schools have until the end of the day to register. Schult said it was nice to get to run at home.

"Traveling is always fun, but it's a little more stressful, so I think it was nice for them to wake up in their own beds and then just hop in their cars and come down to the college," she said. "From my standpoint, I was very happy not to have to drive the van this weekend."

# New SFSC Theater series makes debut

Performances focus on contemporary entertainment

Staff report

**SEBRING** — The Alan Jay Wildstein Theatre for the Performing Arts at South Florida State College announces a new professional entertainment series sponsored by Florida Hospital Heartland Medical Center aimed toward families and fans of contemporary entertainment, according to a news release.

The new series, Florida Hospital Trending Now, joins the theater's lineup of major evening shows, matinee events and jazz performances already on tap for the 2015-16 season.

"Florida Hospital is a proud sponsor of the new SFSC theater series," said Eric Stevens, CEO of Florida Hospital. "We look at our sponsorship of the series as an investment in the quality of life in Florida's Heartland. SFSC has established a great reputation for bringing excellent performing arts to Highlands County."

The series kicks off at 7 p.m. Nov. 7 with a musical tribute to Billy Joel by the band Turnstiles. All seats for the series' inaugural show are \$10. The Turnstiles, a seven-member band headed up by Tony Monaco, started recreating Joel's music with their debut performance in 2011.

The theater will mount the



COURTESY PHOTO

**The two-time Grammy Award nominated Blue Highway returns to Highlands County Feb. 26 by popular demand for an evening of bluegrass.**

holiday classic, "The Nutcracker," Dec. 8, featuring the South Carolina Ballet, a professional company led by artistic director William Starrett. The performance will include a cast of local children.

January ushers in a New Year and the Willis Clan. The family of 12 have wowed audiences and captured the attention of critics with their mix of pop-country and bluegrass music.

Paul McCartney fans will delight in the Feb. 13 production by the group The McCartney Years, a six-member band who recreate the former Beatles' music note-for-note.

The two-time, Grammy Award-nominated Blue Highway returns Feb. 26 by popular demand for an evening of bluegrass.

Folk storyteller Judge Nelson Bailey opens with his solo act "Tales of Old Florida," a reminiscence on Florida's frontier days.

Other sponsors of the Florida Hospital Trending Now Series are Marcia Ward, Highlands Today and the SFSC Foundation Inc.

Tickets are available at [www.sfscarts.org](http://www.sfscarts.org).

The SFSC box office opens Oct. 19, and tickets are available by calling 784-7178.

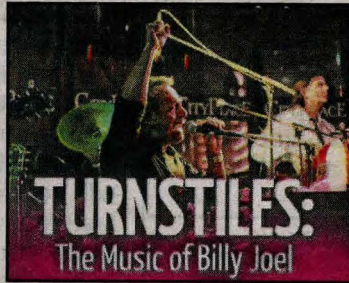
# 'Trending Now' series opens Saturday

SPECIAL TO THE HIGHLANDS SUN

AVON PARK — A new series, Florida Hospital Trending Now, will debut Saturday at 7 p.m. with a musical tribute to Billy Joel by the band Turnstiles.

All seats for the series' inaugural show are \$10.

The Turnstiles, a seven-member band headed up by Tony Monaco, started recreating Joel's music with a performance in 2011. "Anyone who loves Billy



Joel's music — 'It's Still Rock and Roll to Me,' 'Piano Man,' 'Uptown Girl' — should come out and sing and dance the

night away," said Cindy Garren, SFSC's director of cultural programs.

The performance will be in the Alan Jay Wildstein Theatre for the Performing Arts at South Florida State College. The show is part of a new professional series sponsored by Florida Hospital Heartland Medical Center aimed toward families and fans of contemporary entertainment.

"Florida Hospital is a proud

sponsor of the new SFSC theater series," said Eric Stevens, CEO of Florida Hospital. "We look at our sponsorship of the series as an investment in the quality of life in Florida's Heartland."

Other shows in the Florida Hospital Trending Now series include:

- 'The Nutcracker' on Dec. 8, featuring the South Carolina Ballet, a professional

# SERIES

## FROM PAGE 1

company led by artistic director William Starrett. The performance will include a cast of local children.

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- The two-time Grammy Award nominated Blue Highway return to SFSC by popular demand, Feb. 26, for an evening of bluegrass. Folk storyteller Judge Nelson Bailey will open for Blue Highway with his solo act 'Tales of Old Florida,' a reminiscence on Florida's frontier days.

"The support we have received from Florida Hospital for this new series signals how vital the performing arts are to a healthy and vibrant community," Garren said.

Tickets are available online at [www.sfscarts.org](http://www.sfscarts.org) or by calling 863-784-7178.

# Florida Hospital presents ...



## TURNSTILES: The Music of Billy Joel

### Entertainment series on tap at Wildstein Theatre

SPECIAL TO THE HIGHLANDS SUN

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# SERIES

FROM PAGE 1

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The theatre will mount the holiday classic, 'The Nutcracker' on Dec. 8, featuring the South Carolina Ballet, a professional company led by artistic director William Starrett. The performance will include a cast of local children.

January ushers in a New Year and the Willis Clan. The family of 12 have wowed audiences and captured the attention of critics with their mix of pop-country and bluegrass music. "With a new reality TV show on TLC and a new CD in Walmart," Garren said, "the Willis Clan are becoming America's new Von Trapp family."

Paul McCartney fans will delight in the Feb. 13 production by the group The McCartney Years, a six-member band which recreates the former Beatles' music note-for-note. "Only one show celebrates the genius of McCartney at the height of his career, and this

show, praised by Beatles promoter Sid Bernstein, is the best on the scene today," Garren said.

The two-time Grammy Award nominated Blue Highway return to SFSC by popular demand, Feb. 26, for an evening of bluegrass. After 20 years of recording and performing, the group has staked out a role as one of the premier bluegrass groups on tour. Folk storyteller Judge Nelson Bailey opens for Blue Highway with his solo act 'Tales of Old Florida,' a reminiscence on Florida's frontier days.

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calling 863-784-7178.

The Alan Jay Wildstein Theatre for the Performing Arts at

SFSC is located on the Highlands Campus, at 600 West College, Avon Park.

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*"The best on the  
scene today..."*

— Sid Bernstein

FF

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