

SFSC's Take Stock in Children earns award

SPECIAL TO
HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

AVON PARK — South Florida State College Foundation's Take Stock in Children program has earned the Excellence Award, Gold Level Category, for the third consecutive year from its statewide parent organization.

The award was announced at the annual TSIC's College and Career Readiness Summit held in Jacksonville on Sept. 15. Local TSIC programs that provide college readiness and mentoring support to middle and high school students vie for the award each year.

"The award is a source of pride for our organization and shows Take Stock's dedication to serving the students in our communities who aspire to achieve their dreams through



COURTESY PHOTO

From left: South Florida State College's Danielle Ochoa and Irene Castanon with Ele Bautista-Bernard of Take Stock in Children.

postsecondary education," Jamie Bateman, SFSC's executive director for Institutional Advancement, said.

Bateman oversees the SFSC Foundation and the local TSIC effort.

SFSC TSIC coordinator Irene Castanon and

college success coach Danielle Ochoa were on hand to accept the award at the summit.

The summit attracted

more than 250 participants from local TSIC programs across the state. They heard from national leaders about the latest trends and data on innovation in education, mentoring, college readiness, and career opportunities.

The SFSC Foundation is the lead agency for TSIC in DeSoto, Hardee, and Highlands counties. TSIC serves students who are at-risk for dropping out of school. Students are matched with a mentor, receive in-school support, and college readiness services provided by TSIC college success coaches. Upon high school graduation, students earn a college tuition scholarship.

TSIC mentors meet with their assigned students each week during the school year, offering encouragement, advice, and a sympathetic ear.

A TSIC college success coach provides support and guidance to the mentor and the mentee.

Local TSIC programs earn the award by meeting rigorous criteria that includes a robust data reporting system that measures student readiness, recruiting, mentor matching rates and mentor contacts.

"Our program staff, including mentors and the close partnerships with area middle and high schools, work hard throughout the year to make sure our students stay on track from high school to college and into a competitive career," Castanon said. "We have had lots of success stories since the program began in 1995."

For more information about SFSC TSIC, or how to become a mentor, email castanoni@southflorida.edu.

Study abroad: SFSC goes to London

SPECIAL TO
HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

AVON PARK — South Florida State College's study abroad program is taking a weeklong trip to the United Kingdom titled "London: The City Experience" in May 2017. Drs. Sonji Nicholas and

Theresa James, professors in the Division of Arts and Sciences, are spearheading the trip.

The trip includes air fare, hotels, breakfasts, several dinners, and visits to many notable London landmarks led by a full-time tour guide, including use of a bus.

The itinerary includes visits to Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, Piccadilly Circus, St. Paul's Cathedral, Windsor Castle, St. George's Chapel, and Queen Mary's Doll House.

Also included are guided tours of the Tower of London and the British

Museum. A highlight will be a visit to the Warner Brothers Studio Harry Potter Experience. An optional excursion to Stonehenge and Bath are available.

Enrolling is easy and includes a \$95 deposit. The program price increases each month, so

participants are encouraged to lock in the lower price early.

This year, Drs. Nicholas and James, along with a committee of faculty, have revived SFSC's overseas travel program, including plans to offer academic credit for completing the program,

as well as creating a clearinghouse for travel opportunities throughout the state.

The SFSC Highlands campus is located at 600 W. College Drive, Avon Park. For more information, contact Dr. James at 863-784-7185 or jamest@southflorida.edu.

UPCOMING SFSC COURSES

Security guard training available

AVON PARK —

Applicants can become eligible to work as unarmed security guards by completing 40 hours of training at South Florida State College's Criminal Justice Academy.

The Security Guard Certification Course will meet 6-10 p.m. every weekday from Tuesday, Nov. 8 through Monday, Nov. 21, at the Criminal Justice Academy, located on the SFSC Highlands Campus.

This course meets the requirements for receiving a basic Class D security guard license from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Licensing, which regulates the state's private security industry.

Instruction covers the basic principles of security, including patrol techniques, first aid, CPR, terrorism, and Florida statutes regarding security guards. Students who successfully complete the course may apply for licenses through the Department of Agriculture.

Security guards with the Class D license have the primary responsibility of preventing crime in places such as businesses, schools, hospitals, and shopping centers. They deter crime by being seen in uniform and by observing, detecting, and reporting criminal acts to law enforcement.

Cost is \$200 per person. Students must register before the class begins.

To register, call 784-7405 and request CRN 11532.

For information about the course, call Michael Huften, coordinator, criminal justice, at 784-7285 or email michael.huften@southflorida.edu.

Florida State College will offer a two-session class for workers and employers on how to enhance workplace safety.

The 10-hour class is based on content from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the arm of the federal government that regulates workplace safety and investigates occupational accidents.

The first session is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 10, noon – 5 p.m., in Building T, room 24, on the SFSC Highlands Campus, Avon Park.

The second session is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 17, noon – 5 p.m., at the same location as the first session.

The two-session class will teach participants how to recognize, avoid, and prevent safety and health hazards in general industry work settings.

Participants will also learn about workers' rights, employers' responsibilities, and how OSHA handles complaints.

This class does not meet any mandated OSHA training requirement, but is offered as a general introduction to workplace safety.

The class costs \$159 and anyone interested in registering should reference course number 21455. The SFSC Highlands Campus is located at 600 W. College Dr., Avon Park.

To register for the class, call 863-784-7405 or email corporatetraining@southflorida.edu.

**Learn OSHA
workplace safety**

'Pocahontas' kicks off SFSC Young Peoples Theater season

AVON PARK— The SFSC Young Peoples Theater opens its 2016-17 season on Nov. 4 with a performance of "The True Story of Pocahontas," at the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts.

The show is a factual retelling of the life of Pocahontas from a playful girl to a young wife and mother who carries her message of peace and mutual cooperation across the Atlantic Ocean to the King of England. It is a production of the professional touring group Theatre IV, based in Richmond, Va.

The Wildstein Center hosts two performances:

9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$4. School groups receive one free ticket for a teacher or chaperone with every 10 tickets purchased. The performance is recommended for students in grades one through five.

"Theatre IV is the touring educational arm of Virginia Rep," said Mitzi Farmer, the SFSC Young Peoples Theater coordinator. "Their productions not only delight students, but teach them important life lessons and classroom curriculum."

Free study guides for "The True Story of Pocahontas" are available that highlight the English, social science, and history behind

the story. Duke Energy sponsors the show.

"School-organized trips to a live performance are more than a day out," said Cindy Garren, director of Cultural Programs at SFSC. "There are lasting and sustainable outcomes when students attend live theater, and the educational research literature confirms this."

SFSC has presented live theater for school-based groups since 1998. The most popular productions have been musicals based on much-loved books about Curious George, Junie B. Jones, and Amelia Bedelia. "We usually have 1,000

students or more at each performance," Farmer said.

"The House of Pooh," based on the A.A. Milne classic, is scheduled for March 30, 2017, with performances: at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. The Chinese folk tale "The Song of Mulan," is scheduled for May 1, 2017. Both performances are recommended for grades K – four.

For more information or to reserve seats for Young Peoples Theater performances, email ypt@southflorida.edu. All Young Peoples Theater performances are held in the 1460-seat Wildstein Center on the Highlands Campus at 600 W College Drive.



COURTESY PHOTO

Ready for the fall season to begin

Twelve members of the GFWC Lake Placid Woman's Club attended the annual fall board meeting in Orlando at the Rosen Plaza. Those attending included (front row, from left) Maureen Raymond, Kay Healey, District 9 Director Rose Mary Pinto and Carol Spear; (back row) Junior District Director Joy Post, Sally Kinsey, Jeanne Johnson, Elaine Adelman, LPWC President Berylene Wagner, Ginny Howard, and Christine Winslow. Not pictured Terry Reese, financial officer Executive Board GFWC Florida.

Schools/SFSC closed today and Friday due to storm

By **MARC VALERO**

STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — Highlands County District Schools and South Florida State College will be closed today and Friday due to Hurricane Matthew, which has prompted many school closures in the Florida peninsula.

Assistant Superintendent of Business Operations Mike Averyt said Superintendent Wally Cox made the decision to cancel school, and all extra-curricular activities today and Friday, based on his discussions with Highlands County Emergency Management Director Scott Canaday.

At around 1 p.m. Wednesday, Averyt noted that Polk, Glades and Orange county districts had

already made the decision to close schools.

"We may have to use one of our facilities for a shelter so that is the reason we are going to close the schools," he said.

Many of the schools are secondary shelters, but Lake Placid High is the primary shelter for the Lake Placid area, Averyt said.

The district's press release from Cox states the closure is a "safety precaution for our students and staff."

The district anticipates all schools will reopen on Monday, Cox stated, however, it is extremely important to monitor the public information services in case conditions change including the school district's recorded message at 471-5555.

The school closure

SCHOOLS | 8

SCHOOLS

FROM PAGE 1

will effect some of Sebring High School's Homecoming events.

Sebring High Administrative Secretary Penny Decker said there will be no school and no activities today and Friday.

"We haven't made a plan yet for Saturday's

events," she said.

"We may move the Homecoming game to Saturday and we may move the alumni dance to Saturday and the Homecoming dance is already on Saturday."

When a decision is made there will be a call out to every parent and the notification will go out on remind.com, which sends a message to Smartphones and the media will be informed,

Decker said.

South Florida State College Director of Community Relations and Marketing Deborah Latter Bell said the college will be closed today and Friday.

The college's website states, "For the safety of SFSC students, staff and community members, SFSC will be closed Thursday and Friday and will reopen on Monday."

College financial aid filing date moved up

BY MARC VALERO

HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

AVON PARK —

Students seeking financial aid for the Fall 2017 semester can submit their application now, instead of waiting until the previous opening filing date of Jan. 1.

The date to start submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, FAFSA, has been moved up three months to Oct. 1.

The FAFSA is the student's passport to financial aid in the form of Pell grants, loans,



**SOUTH
FLORIDA**
State College

scholarships (from the state and college), and college work-study jobs.

SFSC Financial Aid Director Jerry Donna said the process was opened by the federal government on Oct. 1.

Another major change deals with how students and their families report income on the FAFSA.

In previous years, filers

would estimate their income for the coming year. This year, with the earlier deadline, students and families will use the income they reported on their 2015 income tax returns. This is called the "prior-prior" year tax return because the student is seeking financial aid for 2017.

"When the FAFSA was

turned on in January, people were scrambling to get their tax returns done so they could put accurate information on their FAFSA forms," Donna said. "Now with the October date, and with the prior-prior year idea, people should always have their tax returns finished and be able to give the information," on the financial aid forms.

The U.S. Department of Education initiated the changes to make the financial aid process simpler. Still, completing the FAFSA can be a

INFORMATION

To file the FAFSA online go to fafsa.gov.

For more information about SFSC's financial aid program, call 863-784-7134, or follow the financial aid link on SFSC's website at www.southflorida.edu.

confusing task.

"We know completing the FAFSA can be difficult for some folks," Donna said. "That's why students and families who have SFSC in their plans can get help completing the form by coming to SFSC's

Financial Aid office."

By filing the FAFSA, students also become eligible for an array of scholarships available to them from the SFSC Foundation.

Students can list more than one college or university on the form.

The numbers have been consistent over the past five years, Donna noted, with 50 percent of those listing SFSC on their FAFSA forms. For example, in 2011-12, SFSC was listed on 4,740 forms, and 2,391 students be awarded some type of financial aid.

Fall classes for South Florida State College

SPECIAL TO THE
HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

AVON PARK — Pine Cone Quilting is rich in history and makes a beautiful quilt. This six-week hands-on class will teach hand sewing techniques, color selection, scissor skills, relaxation, and increased patience. No sewing machine is needed, just a needle, thread, scissors, and fabric. Students will make a square 24 x 24 inches wide. The finished piece will be suitable for a wall hanging, framing or a large pillow top. Old clothes can be used and cut up or other scrap fabric. This six-week class is offered on Tuesdays, Oct. 18 through Nov. 8, 10 – 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$40, and the course number (CRN) is 11545.

In Basic Home Computer II, learn to perform routine maintenance, delete unnecessary files, temp files, and cookies, block pop-up ads, search using hyperlinks, use bookmarks and create favorites lists, and surf the internet safely. Learn

about browsers, sending and receiving email, and how to protect yourself from email viruses. This eight-week class is offered on Mondays, Oct. 10 through Nov. 28, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$80, and the course number (CRN) is 11546.

Register in Building B, at the Highlands Campus or any SFSC campus or center. You can also register and pay over the phone by calling 863-784-7405. For more information on this or any other Community Education classes, please call 863-784-7388 or email CommunityEducation@southflorida.edu.

SFSC's Community Education Offers Foundation Tools For Business Success Workshop

South Florida State College's, Community Education Department is offering a variety of Foundation Tools for Business Success Workshops.

In Designing Your Team Playbook, learn the value of knowledge and skills

needed to create an edge in managing a winning team and to provide optimal services to customers and clients as a result of creating a playbook. We will examine the critical tool for developing and maintaining a compliant, state-specific Workforce Management Personnel Handbook. The workshop is offered Friday, Oct. 17, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$75, and the course number (CRN) is 11312.

In Tools for Business success and Team Efficiency, learn two tools for team management and business success. The first is writing job descriptions and understanding the role they play in hiring, training, and job growth. The second is the importance of developing and maintaining compliant personnel files for your team and business. The workshop is offered Friday, Oct. 14, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$75, and the course number (CRN) is 11313.

In Building a Winning Team, explore the success formulas of hiring a

winning team and the role it plays in the success of your business. The workshop is offered on Friday, Oct. 21, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$75, and the course number (CRN) is 11314.

In Effective Team Training and Evaluations, learn the dos and don'ts of team employee evaluations and how they can positively impact the overall achievement of your company. The course is offered on Friday, Oct. 28, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$75, and the course number (CRN) is 11315.

Discovering Your Team's Synergy is the working together of two or more people, and organizations. Discover ways to tap your team's synergy and define your distinctive style for success, and level of quality and excellence. The course is offered on Friday, Nov. 4, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$75, and the course number (CRN) is 11316.

In Structuring an Effective Team Communication Culture, learn how to structure a

coordinated team approach to communications and to generate significant rewards for your business to open doors and create exciting business opportunities. The course is offered on Friday, Nov. 11, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$75, and the course (CRN) number is 11317.

Register for classes in Building B, at the Highlands Campus in Avon Park or any SFSC campus or center. For more information on any Community Education classes, call 863-784-7388 or email CommunityEducation@southflorida.edu.

SFSC's Corporate Education Offers Training in Fall 2016

South Florida State College's Corporate Education Department is offering classes for the 2016 fall term.

The CPR Training classes with Basic Life Support through the American Heart Association is being offered for students who are new or need renewal training on how to perform CPR, as well as other

lifesaving skills, in a wide variety of in-hospital and out-of-hospital settings. Students will participate in simulated clinical scenarios and learning stations, work with an American Heart Association Certified BLS Instructor to complete Basic Life Support (BLS) skills practice and skills testing, and complete a written exam. The cost is \$55. For a detailed class schedule, email CorporateTraining@southflorida.edu, or call 863-784-7033.

First Aid Training classes provide employee training for designated first responders or individuals needing credentialled training for job or regulatory requirements. This course covers first aid basics, medical, injury and environmental emergencies, and automated external defibrillator AED use. Students will also complete a written exam. The cost is \$55. For a detailed class schedule, contact CorporateTraining@southflorida.edu or call 863-784-7033.

Heartland Games For Active Adults to return in 2017

SPECIAL TO THE
HIGHLANDS SUN

For more than 20 years, the Heartland Games For Active Adults have provided those 50 years of age and older an opportunity to compete in a variety of events with like-minded residents of DeSoto, Hardee and Highlands counties.

The Heartland Games, organized by South Florida State College, serve as a qualifier for the Florida Senior Games.

In 2016, bridge and euchre were added to provide new challenges for those who are active but not necessarily sports-minded. In 2017

there will be a mah-jong tournament as well as an exciting new experience for those who like a high speed challenge: go-cart racing.

Also on tap will be table tennis; track and field; bowling; cycling; golf; swimming; singles, doubles and mixed doubles tennis; shuffleboard; and doubles and mixed doubles pickleball.

Competition in each event is by age and gender with medals being awarded to the top three finishers in each 5-year age category.

Registrations can be submitted online. Visit www.southflorida.edu/heartlandgames for



Metro Creative

more details including dates and event venues.

The Heartland Games are sponsored by: Alan Holmes of Edward Jones, Newsom Eye, Vitas Healthcare, Florida Hospital, Turner Furniture, and Drs. Thakkar and Patel.

MOFAC exhibition pays tribute to Florida's waterways

SPECIAL TO THE
HIGHLANDS SUN

AVON PARK — The Museum of Florida Art and Culture (MOFAC) at South Florida State College is showcasing its first exhibition of its 2016-17 season with works that capture the splendor of Florida's lakes, streams, and coasts.

"Florida Waterworks: Friends, Teachers, Students" runs now through Dec. 1 at MOFAC's gallery in the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts on the SFSC Highlands Campus.

"What began as a canoeing trip among several artists evolved into this exhibition," said MOFAC curator Megan Paquette Stepe. "These artists then came together to interpret through art such Florida treasures as the Peace River, Lake Istokpoga, Charlotte Harbor, and Arbuckle Creek."

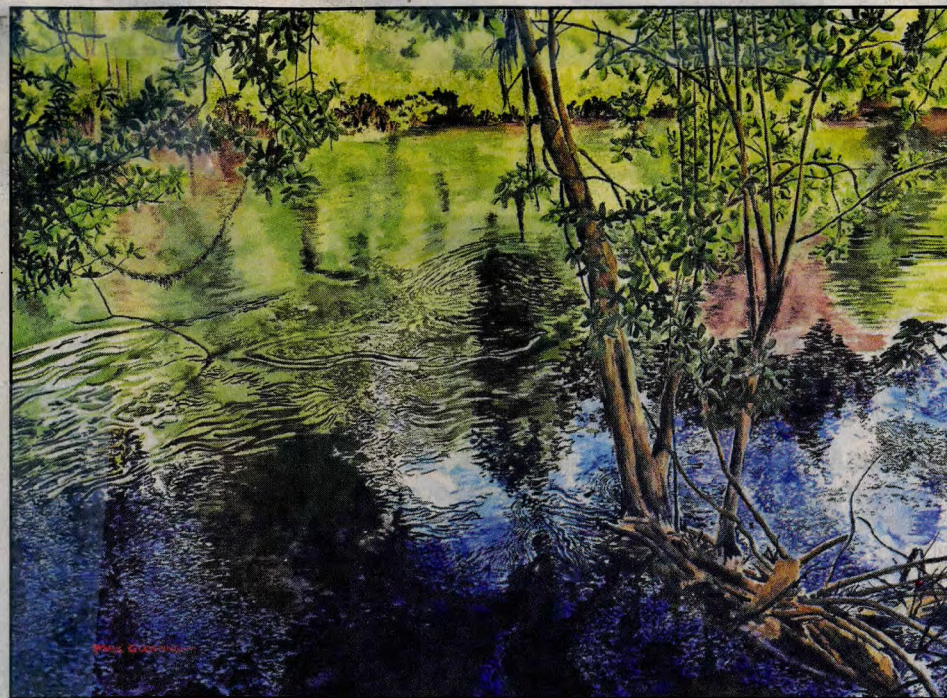
Several of the artists will be familiar to regular patrons of MOFAC or admirers of an increasingly prominent cadre of Florida artists. The exhibition will feature works by Janet King, Jaye Whitehead, Rose Besch, Dustin Angell, and Alice Hansen.

Adding their works to the exhibition are two artists with a connection to MOFAC and teaching art at SFSC that stretches back years: Mollie Doctrow and Cathy Futral.

Doctrow, who turned over the curatorship of MOFAC to Stepe upon her retirement in June, will display her print "Peace River Interlude." Futral, who retired in May after teaching art at SFSC for 20 years, will show her painting titled "Peace River with Yellow Brush and Trees."

"This exhibition presents a wonderful opportunity to bring back two award-winning artists and, what's more, two creative individuals who have called MOFAC and SFSC home," Stepe said.

The exhibition includes works by SFSC alumni Max Gooding, Chase Smith, Barbara Wade,



Courtesy photos

'Peace River 2' by Max Gooding.

and Allen McPherson, all of whom have moved on to successful careers producing art.

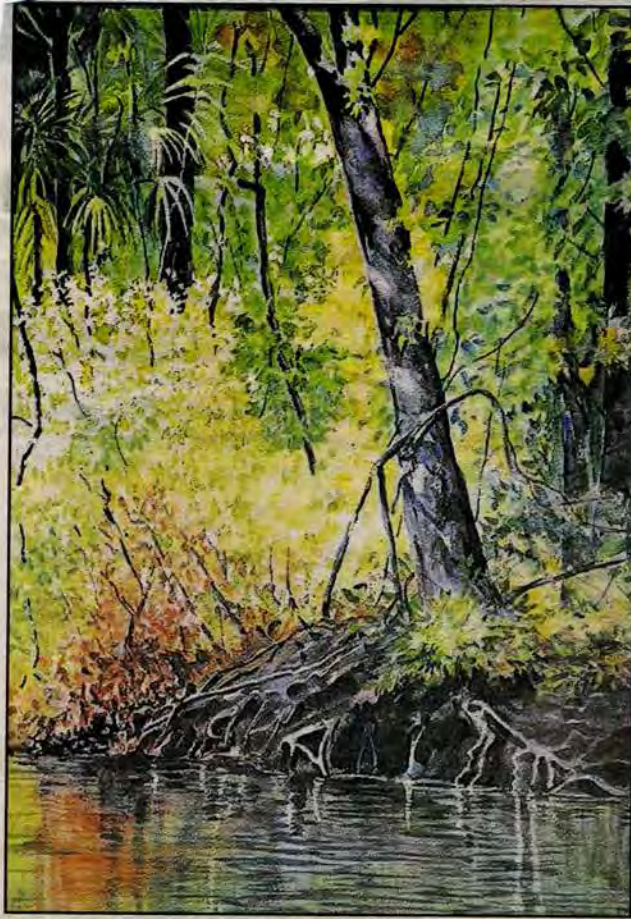
"The spirit of the exhibit is one of reverence for the area waterways," Stepe said. "Each artist reveals his or her own connection to the land via a chosen medium and technique which, in

turn, facilitates a similarly personal experience for the viewer."

MOFAC is open Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. or by appointment for group tours. Patrons of the Wildstein Center may visit the museum one hour prior to matinee and evening

performances.

For more information about MOFAC and its programs or to request a museum tour, contact Stepe at 863-784-7240, or email stepem@southflorida.edu. Visit the MOFAC website at mofac.org.



'Peace River with Yellow Brush and Trees' by Cathy Futral.



**Right: 'Peace River Interlude'
by Mollie Doctrow.**

SFSC's offers training in fall 2016

By **REBECCA McCONNIEL**
SFSC COMMUNITY RELATIONS

South Florida State College's Corporate Education Department is offering classes for the 2016 fall term.

The CPR Training classes with Basic Life Support through the American Heart Association is being offered for students who are new or need renewal training on how to perform CPR, as well as other lifesaving skills, in a wide variety of in-hospital and out-of-hospital settings. Students will participate in simulated clinical scenarios and learning stations, work with an American Heart Association Certified BLS Instructor to complete Basic Life

Support (BLS) skills practice and skills testing, and complete a written exam. The cost is \$55. For a detailed class schedule, email CorporateTraining@southflorida.edu, or call 863-784-7033.

First Aid Training classes provide employee training for designated first responders or individuals needing credentialed training for job or regulatory requirements. This course covers first aid basics, medical, injury and environmental emergencies, and automated external defibrillator AED use. Students will also complete a written exam. The cost is \$55. For a detailed class schedule, contact CorporateTraining@southflorida.edu or call 863-784-7033.

Free SFSC concert: Phil Dirt and the Dozers to kickoff cultural season

SPECIAL TO THE
HIGHLANDS SUN

AVON PARK — Phil Dirt and the Dozers, called “the nation’s most popular nostalgia rock and roll show” by HBO, kicks off the SFSC Cultural Arts season with a free performance Saturday, Nov. 5 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are not available at the SFSC Box Office.

Reserved seats can be ordered online at www.sfscarts.org.

Phil Dirt and the Dozers recapture the days of America’s classic rock and

roll. “With their musical talent, high energy, and contagious sense of humor, Phil Dirt & The Dozers will transport you to another time and place...namely, the ‘50s, ‘60s, and ‘70s,” said Cindy Garren, director of Cultural Programs.

The audience will hear The Four Seasons’ “Sherry” with the original falsetto vocals intact, the hauntingly beautiful Righteous Brothers’ “Unchained Melody” and “You’ve Lost That Lovin’ Feeling” as well as the beautiful ballads of Roy Orbison including “Pretty Woman”



Courtesy photo

Phil Dirt and the Dozers, called ‘the nation’s most popular nostalgia rock and roll show’ by HBO, kicks off the SFSC Cultural Arts season with a free performance Saturday, Nov. 5.

and “In Dreams.” Party on the beach with The Beach Boys and Jan and Dean. And the Platters’ soul-stirring “Only You” will be performed

with all the scratches and skips found on a well-worn 33 1/3 record, the way Phil Dirt

CONCERT | 14

Thursday, October 13, 2016

CONCERT

FROM PAGE 1

and the Dozers first learned it.

The Las Vegas Sun reports that Phil Dirt and the Dozers’ success stems from their wholesome approach, great instrumentation and harmonizing. From opening for The Beach Boys on tour to private parties for ABC News, the Dozers have a reputation for creating a musical atmosphere that gets audiences on their feet.

“In their previous performances here, we just about sold out, so we anticipate filling the house with this free

performance,” said Garren.

Tickets will be available online only. There is a limit of four tickets per order. “If you don’t know how to purchase online or don’t have a computer, ask your kids or grandkids to reserve your tickets,” said Garren. “They can buy tickets on their phones in your name and you can print them at home.”

“Our box office is closed for the season, so you can’t call us to order tickets,” said Garren. “Buying online is simple, and there are no added fees because you know what they say? ‘The best things in life are free.’”

Highlands Sun, Thursday, Oct. 20, 2016

SFSC cultural programs open ticket sales

SPECIAL TO THE
HIGHLANDS SUN

AVON PARK — Tickets for the new season's lineup of performances at the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts at South Florida State College are now on sale.

Online ticket sales for upcoming shows, including the Beach Boys

Holiday Show, are at SFSC Cultural Program's website: www.sfscarts.org.

"It's easy to order online," said Cindy Garren, SFSC's director of Cultural Programs. "You can select your seats for any of the shows."

The Beach Boys are scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. Patrons

can hear original members Mike Love and Bruce Johnston sing the group's unforgettable harmonies and classic hits at the 1,460-seat Wildstein Center's special holiday engagement. Expect to hear surf music and holiday favorites, as well.

Tickets for the Beach Boys are \$55, \$65, \$75, and \$99, plus a \$2.00

processing fee per ticket.

The SFSC Box Office opens Monday, Oct. 24 at 11:30 a.m. The Box Office is located in the Wildstein Center on the SFSC Highlands Campus at 600 W. College Dr., Avon Park.

Subscription packages for the Artist, Matinee, and Jazz series are still available. Subscribers save up to 20 percent

on single ticket prices, receive special discounts for select performances, pay reduced processing fees, and get advance notice of special engagements.

"Our subscribers had the first opportunity to buy seats for the Beach Boys," Garren added.

SFSC

FROM PAGE 1

"Subscribing has many benefits and you get to sit in the best seats in the house."

A popular package is the "Create Your Own Series" or "5-for-15" package. Select any five performances and save 15 percent on single ticket prices from among the "Artist," "Matinee," "Trending Now," and "Jazz" series.

The Artist Series performances include: "Ethan Bortnick" on Nov. 19; "Miracle on 34th Street" on Dec. 1; "The Bronx Wanderers" on Jan. 12; "The Florida Orchestra" on Jan. 19; "So Good for the Soul: A Motown Revue" on Jan. 28; Pam Tillis & Lorrie Morgan in the "Grits and Glamour Tour" on Feb. 8; "A Night to Remember: Presley, Cash, Lewis and Perkins" on March 2; "Point of Grace" on March 9; "Women of Ireland" on March 23; and "Human Nature" on April 1.

Performances for the Good Time Matinee Series all

start at 1:30 p.m. and include "Flying Horse Big Band" on Jan. 10; "David Osborne Trio" on Jan. 17; "You'll Never Walk Alone" on Jan. 24; "Murder on the Nile" with the Aquila Theater on Jan. 31; "Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis Tribute" on Feb. 7; "Shake, Rattle and Laugh with Mark & Rodi" on Feb. 21; "Pauly and the Goodfellas" on Feb. 28; "Neil Zirconia" on March 7; and "Bravo Amici" on March 21.

The Florida Hospital-sponsored Trending Now Series includes "Artrageous" on Jan. 21; "Beginnings: A Chicago Tribute" on Feb. 11; "Beauty and the Beast" with the South Carolina Ballet on Feb. 25; bluegrass with The Hillbenders on April 6; and magician Adam Trent on April 11.

The Jazz Series includes: "Eddie Metz Trio" on Jan. 18; rising star Bria Skonberg on Jan. 26; "Bill Allred's Classic Jazz Band" on Feb. 9; "New Orleans Nighthawks" on Feb. 18; and "CanAmGer Band" on March 8. Jazz performances are held in the intimate 250-seat SFSC University



Courtesy photo

The Beach Boys are scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. Patrons can hear original members Mike Love and Bruce Johnston sing the group's unforgettable harmonies and classic hits at the 1,460-seat Wildstein Center's special holiday engagement.

Center Auditorium. "This is one of the best jazz series we've ever had," Garren said. "It's the best jazz south of Chicago."

For more information, visit www.sfscarts.org or call 863-784-7178. When placing ticket orders by telephone, an \$8 fee is charged.

SFSC gets \$5 million grant to launch new STEM program

Grant money will allow SFSC to create new degree programs in engineering technology, mechatronics, and biomedical science. Mechatronics is a combination of mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, computer control, and information technology that come together in the design of "smart" products, such as robots or sensor-driven windshield wipers.

These high-tech degree pathways will make it easier for students to transfer directly into the biomedical science degree program at the University of South Florida and one of several engineering programs at Florida Polytechnic University, the college said.

"In fact, SFSC will be the first college to set up such an articulation agreement with Florida Polytechnic University," the college added.

SFSC's engineering technology, mechatronics, and biomedical science programs are scheduled to begin next August.

Through the grant, \$1 million's worth of new, state-of-the-art technology will support these programs as well as enhance the lab sciences courses at the Hardee and DeSoto campuses. Included will be a series of mechatronics and engineering-specific lab equipment. The biomedical science program will make use of a negative 80 degrees freezer, phase contrast microscope, fluorescent microscope, illuminometer, and nuclear magnetic resonant spectrometer.

The college will send two instructors to Berlin, Germany, for Level One and Level Two Siemens mechatronics training and certification. Siemens

"SFSC is thrilled and honored to have been awarded this grant. It is imperative to the economic health of our service district that we prepare our students for an increasingly high-tech world. A STEM education is critical as new and emerging jobs require expertise in these disciplines.

This grant has given us the means to strengthen our efforts in providing workforce skills that are essential in attracting advanced manufacturing industries to locate in the tri-county region."

— Thomas C. Leitzel,
SFSC president

is known for offering the gold standard of training in the field of mechatronics, the college said.

"This grant will enhance academic and support services for students seeking STEM degrees," said Timothy Wise, dean of student services and project director for the STEM grant. "It will provide resources to hire specialists who will provide support who can assist students, such as academic advisors, recruiters, tutors, coaches. Because SFSC is considered a Hispanic-serving institution, the grant will allow us to reach out to students and their families." In fact, SFSC's student population is 30.6 percent Hispanic.

Resources will expand SFSC's campus-based services and support for Hispanic students.

"For instance, the college will produce Spanish language versions of key student services materials focused on graduation and transfer. The college will create a more culturally-sensitive institutional environment through employee professional development sessions," the college said.

Because mathematics serves as a firm foundation in

preparing students for STEM majors, a summer program called MathSteps will be available to recent high school graduates, first-year-in-college students, and dually enrolled students. It will prepare students for college-level mathematics and all the way through pre-calculus, if needed.

Other student support will be expanded tutoring opportunities for the college's Hardee and Highlands campuses. Students will be able to participate in a residential program developed in conjunction with Florida Gulf Coast University so SFSC students can learn more about what engineering students do. So families of students can learn more about the first year of college, SFSC will create a Spanish language version of its new student orientation and develop an orientation specifically for parents of potential

students.

SFSC will employ an early alert program so instructors, coaches, or support personnel can better identify students who are running into academic or personal stumbling blocks. Through the program, they can give students encouragement and help them get back on track.

Students who have graduated from SFSC and encounter the challenges of transition to a university will be able to rely upon Inside Track coaching for support. This nationally recognized, distance-based coaching service assists students in navigating through the academic experience. For example, Inside Track coaching can guide them through the financial aid process, course mapping, or tutoring.

To sustain the momentum of the "Re-Engineering Our Future" project, SFSC will kick start a

\$250,000 endowment to go hand in hand with the SFSC Foundation's Partnership Project. Donations to the endowment would be matched one-to-one and used to support ongoing programs and student scholarships for Hispanic and low-income students.

"The 'Re-Engineering Our Future' project is a perfect example of how education and economic development can work together," Leitzel said.

AVON PARK — South Florida State College has been awarded a nearly \$5 million, five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education to launch a postsecondary science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) project called "Re-Engineering Our Future."

This project will create educational opportunities for Hispanic and low-income students in the college's service district of DeSoto, Hardee, and Highlands counties, the college said.

"SFSC is thrilled and honored to have been awarded this grant," said Thomas C. Leitzel, SFSC president.

"It is imperative to the economic health of our service district that we prepare our students for an increasingly high-tech world. A STEM education is critical as new and emerging jobs require expertise in these disciplines. This grant has given us the means to strengthen our efforts in providing workforce skills that are essential in attracting advanced manufacturing industries to locate in the tri-county region."

For the project, the college will focus on four major activities. They will develop a high-tech degree pathway with transfer into the University of South Florida and Florida Polytechnic University, to improve pre-collegiate services to better prepare low-income Hispanic students for these programs, to improve college academic support and students services to better support low-income Hispanic college students, and to create a more culturally sensitive campus culture to increase student engagement and success

USF launches enhanced guaranteed admission program

SPECIAL TO THE HIGHLANDS
NEWS-SUN

TAMPA — The University of South Florida System and seven regional Florida College System institutions, including South Florida State College, celebrated Friday the launch of FUSE, a new guaranteed admission program that creates a “seamless and timely degree path for students to earn an associate degree before transferring to any of the USF System institutions for a bachelor’s degree.”

The new program differs from existing Florida programs that guarantee admission to a state university system school. FUSE offers guaranteed admission to the USF system institution and degree program of the student’s choosing.

With more than 40 students in the initial cohort, Hillsborough Community College and St. Petersburg College

are piloting the program, while the College of Central Florida, Pasco-Hernando State College, Polk State College, South Florida State College and State College of Florida will join the program in the near future.

By syncing courses and creating graduation pathways for select degrees, the participating institutions have ensured students will take the classes needed to seamlessly attain associate and bachelor’s degrees, a news release said.

Students who apply and are enrolled in the FUSE program are placed on an established graduation pathway plan to ensure that courses taken apply to their associate degree and successfully transfer towards a USF system bachelor’s degree.

With academic advising provided from both institutions at their regional college, FUSE students will be ensured

of the appropriate degree path, meeting all requirements, earning their associate degree in a timely manner and guaranteed admission to the USF System.

“This groundbreaking partnership will make a meaningful difference in the lives of students and their families, and advance the cause of higher education attainment across the Tampa Bay Region,” said USF System President Judy Genshaft. “Expanding and preserving access for students is essential to their success. FUSE makes college more affordable and eliminates many of the barriers students can encounter on the road to their degrees.”

Graduation pathway bachelor’s degrees currently offered in the FUSE program include:

- Accounting
- Art History
- Biomedical Sciences
- Communication Science & Disorders,

Concentration:
Language, Speech & Hearing

- Criminology
- Elementary Education

- Exceptional Student Education

- Finance
- Marketing
- Studio Art

Additionally, to help ease the transition to USF, FUSE students will also be engaged in activities on their selected USF System campus, including a specially designed orientation session at the outset of the program and ongoing general student involvement in social activities while they are enrolled in their community colleges.

“After that first meeting with all those working on FUSE, I knew it was a program I needed to be in,” said David Martinez Jr., a freshman majoring in marketing at HCC and FUSE enrollee, “An advisor who knows my name will be helping

me all the way through, priority registration, no wasted credits, access to USF student events — it was all too perfect to pass on.”

With climbing employer demand for employees with higher education, the FUSE program will help the Tampa Bay region and surrounding areas meet this need by producing more graduates with associate’s and bachelor’s degrees, the news release said.

“By 2020, 65 percent of Florida jobs will require a postsecondary degree or certificate, so we need to make sure students are getting the education and earning the degrees to fill those jobs,” said Laurie Meggesin, executive director, Florida College Access Network. “The FUSE program is another excellent step by USF in developing an employable workforce so critical to our state’s economy.”

Newly released U.S.

Census data shows that Florida has increased the percent of college-educated Floridians for the sixth year in a row with 39.9 percent of working-age adults holding an associate’s degree or higher, but the state still lags behind the national average of 40.9 percent.

“We are excited to offer students such a seamless transition from a regional Florida Community College System institution to USF,” said Ralph Wilcox, provost and senior vice president for the USF System. “FUSE students will come to us with their associate’s degree, already familiar with an advisor, engaged in campus activities, and academically prepared for USF—I consider that a formula for bachelor’s success. That’s a win for the student, USF, employers and the state of Florida.”

For more information about the FUSE program, go to usf.edu/fuse.

SFSC's Community Education Department offers 'Love Your Body' fitness class

SPECIAL TO THE HIGHLANDS
NEWS-SUN

AVON PARK — South Florida State College's Community Education Department is offering new classes in the fall.

Ageless Grace® is a brain fitness program based on neuroplasticity that activates all five functions of the brain-analytical strategies, kinesthetic learning, memory/recall, creativity, and imagination, and simultaneously addresses all 21 physical skills for lifelong optimal functions. The class is offered at the Highlands Campus from 1-2 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, Nov. 1-29. The cost is \$43, and the course number (CRN) is 11568.

Nia Technique® is the "Love your Body Workout," a fusion fitness technique of dance, Duncan, Jazz, and Modern. The power and precision of martial arts Tai Chi, Tae Kwon

Do, Aikido, and the wisdom of the healing arts. Nia cardio-dance workouts are non-impact and combine 52 simple moves with self-expressive free dance to get you fit in 60 minutes. Benefits include strength with flexibility, improved coordination, tension release, supports weight loss and metabolism, and improves circulation. The class is offered at the SFSC Highlands Campus from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Thursdays, Nov. 3 through Dec. 1. The cost is \$30, and the course number (CRN) is 11569.

Register in Building B, at the Highlands Campus or any SFSC campus or center. You can also register and pay over the phone by calling 863-784-7405. For more information on this or any other Community Education classes, call 863-784-7388 or email CommunityEducation@southflorida.edu.

Organization is goal of SFSC class

By **BILL ROGERS**
CORRESPONDENT

AVON PARK — Organizing, like reading or driving a car, is something a person can learn.

Professional organizer Sherry Norris is going to help people conquer clutter during a class at South Florida State College. "Your Journey to an Organized Home" will meet Tuesdays, Nov. 1-22, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. in Building T, Room 24 on the Highlands campus.

The goal is to help people have a clutter-free and organized home with real-life organizing solutions for real-life

clutter issues.

Norris is the owner of Just Fix This Mess, which she started in January. She is a member of the National Association of Professional Organizers.

"Organizing is a learned skill," Norris said. "Anybody can learn it."

Attendees will learn how to fix any mess in any space in a home or office. "You can apply the techniques, tips and ideas that will be presented in this class to any space — even cars," she said.

If she is hired to help someone organize, for example, a kitchen, Norris said the first

thing she would do is look where things are at currently. "I would watch them in their kitchen," she said. "How do you do things? Where do you go to get this? Where's the first place you think of when I say 'Go get your whatever.'" Norris will ask questions related to cooking. "What do you do at your stove? You cook. Ok, what do you need to cook?"

She said that within arm's reach a person

should have spoons, spatula, spices. Pots and pans and bowls should be close.

Norris said she can help business owners with QuickBooks, too. "I come to you," she said, noting that her SUV is her office. "I have everything I need in order to do it on the road. I can stop anywhere I need to and tend to my client's needs."

A brochure said her business "will work

confidentially and non-judgmentally in your environment and with your materials to provide tailored solutions based on your individual needs and style."

The cost is \$49.99. To register for the class, call 863-784-7405.

Bill
Rogers/
Highlands
Sun

Sherry Norris is the owner of Just Fix This Mess. She will teach organizational techniques in a weekly class at South Florida State College.



SFSC holds auditions for 'Beauty and the Beast' ballet

SPECIAL TO
HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

AVON PARK — Dance auditions for children who will perform in the Florida premiere of the ballet "Beauty and the Beast" will be held on Nov. 6 at the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts at South Florida State College, Avon Park.

"This is the same company that performed 'The Nutcracker' last December," said Cindy Garren, director of Cultural Programs at SFSC. Garren said William Starrett, artistic director of Columbia City Ballet, will conduct the auditions. Nancy McDuffee, with Dance Unlimited of Highlands County, will serve as the local dance director.

The "Beauty and the Beast" ballet is a new production that will be staged at the Wildstein Center on Feb. 7, with

one performance at 7 p.m.

Auditions for girls and boys ages 4-6 will be held from 2-3:15 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6; ages 7-10, 3:15-4:30 p.m.; age 11 and older, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Dancers who have been on pointe over two years should bring their pointe shoes.

Girls should wear a black leotard, pink tights, and ballet shoes. Hair should be taken back in a bun. Boys should wear a white leotard or plain white T-shirt, black tights, and black shoes. Or, boys can wear black tights with white socks, and white shoes. Dancers should not wear sneakers or flip-flops.

A \$10 audition fee is payable to the Columbia City Ballet. The children should arrive at the Wildstein Center 30 minutes before the audition to complete registration forms and to warm up.

"This isn't a Disney version with dancing tea pots and candlesticks," Garren said. "This sumptuous ballet tells the age-old fairy tale where the good-hearted Beauty overlooks the Beast's ugliness and grows to love him."

Sponsors of the performance are: Dr. Andrew and Beth Kulick, Terry and Michele Heston, Carol Emery, Dr. Witford and Inga Reid, Dr. Catherine P. Cornelius, Joan Hartt, All Around Septic and Sewer, and Dr. Donald, Ruth, and Kimberly Geldart.

SFSC presents more than 30 national and internationally touring artists at the 1460-seat Wildstein Center and the 250-seat SFSC University Center Auditorium located on the SFSC Highlands Campus at 600 W. College Drive in Avon Park.

SFSC grads to gain 'guaranteed' admission to USF

SPECIAL TO THE HIGHLANDS
NEWS-SUN

AVON PARK — South Florida State College students will be guaranteed admission to degree programs at the University of South Florida under an agreement described as “groundbreaking” by USF president Judy Genshaft.

The FUSE program guarantees students access to competitive programs at USF by opening seamless academic pathways for students studying at SFSC and six other Florida College System (FCS) institutions.

Any SFSC student can participate in FUSE. By maintaining a 2.0 grade-point average, completing the required course sequences, and earning an associate degree at SFSC, students will secure guaranteed admission to limited access programs at USF. A limited access program uses selective

admission criteria to limit enrollment.

SFSC students can begin enrolling in FUSE with the start of the fall 2017 academic term.

“SFSC is excited to team up with USF to provide pathways to university degrees for many of our students,” said Sidney Valentine, vice president for Academic Affairs and Student Services.

“Under this agreement, students participating in the FUSE program will be guaranteed admission to competitive programs at a world-class research institution.”

On Oct 21, Valentine joined SFSC President Thomas C. Leitzel at a ceremony launching the FUSE partnership that included representatives from the other participating institutions.

FUSE students will receive academic advising from counselors at both USF and SFSC to ensure

they are completing the prescribed sequence of coursework that satisfies the requirements for their associate degree as well as admission requirements to their selected bachelor's degree program at USF.

FUSE students will be eligible to participate in USF campus activities, events, and sports.

“FUSE is open to all SFSC students,” said Christopher van der Kaay, executive director of Institutional Effectiveness, Planning, and Technology. “When students opt for FUSE, they are not just SFSC students, they're also USF students as well.”

Van der Kaay noted that FUSE revolves around two critical elements of university education: access and affordability.

“SFSC FUSE students get guaranteed access to programs at a top-ranked research university close



COURTESY PHOTO

SFSC president Thomas C. Leitzel (second from left) at a ceremony at the University of South Florida launching FUSE.

to home,” he said. “What’s more, FUSE enhances affordability because SFSC students earn their associate degree at a much lower cost than by taking classes at USF during their freshman and sophomore years.”

With the start of FUSE next fall, SFSC students can choose psychology, biomedical science, business and finance, accounting, and an engineering degree with an

emphasis on information technology, according to van der Kaay.

“The beauty of FUSE is that it will be easy to implement,” said van der Kaay. “USF will facilitate the training of our advising and counseling staff starting next month.”

In addition to SFSC, students at six other FCS colleges can enroll in FUSE: Hillsborough Community College, St. Petersburg College, College of

Central Florida, Pasco-Hernando State College, Polk State College, and State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota.

“SFSC students and their parents will benefit tremendously from FUSE,” said van der Kaay. “As admission to USF’s programs becomes increasingly competitive, our students now have the advantage of guaranteed access once they earn their degree at SFSC.”

SFSC launches evening class for Automotive Service Technology

SPECIAL TO THE HIGHLANDS
NEWS-SUN

AVON PARK — Heartland residents who want to gain a foothold in the automotive service business now have their chance at South Florida State College. In spring term 2017, SFSC will launch evening Automotive Service Technology classes. Students interested in the program can learn more at an evening open house on Nov. 17.

The 30-month-long evening program kicks off with the start of classes on Jan. 4, 2017. Classes run 6–10 p.m. Monday through Thursday on the SFSC Highlands Campus in Avon Park.

“SFSC’s new evening automotive service technology classes are a great fit for folks who work daytime jobs,” said Tom Bush, SFSC’s chairman of technical-industrial education. “This is the first time we’ve opened

the program to evening students.”

Bush said a career in automotive technology is recession-proof. “No matter how bad the economy gets, people in a region like ours need a working vehicle to get around. So there’s always a need for well-trained automotive service technicians,” he said.

Students can complete the daytime automotive service technology class in approximately two years. The 30-month evening class, though, will accommodate students who work during the day.

On Thursday, Nov. 17, SFSC will host an open house to showcase the program to prospective students. Bush said those interested in starting the program are welcome to attend the open house any time between 5 and 7 p.m., in Building M, Room 110. During the first year, students will

receive instruction in brake maintenance, engine performance, and steering and suspension.

Bush noted that, because of the program’s length, students may qualify for financial aid, including Pell Grants. They can get their financial aid questions answered at the open house, he said.

The SFSC Highlands Campus is at 600 W. College Drive, Avon Park.

Information about the automotive technology program can be found on SFSC’s website, southflorida.edu. Visit the page and type “Automotive” in the search box at the top of the screen.

For more information about the program or the open house, contact Bush at 863-784-7117 or busht@southflorida.edu. For information about financial aid, contact the college’s Financial Aid Office at 863-784-7134.

Great Florida Fire School returns to SFSC

SPECIAL TO THE HIGHLANDS
NEWS-SUN

AVON PARK — Basic and advanced firefighting techniques will be taught Wednesday-Sunday, Nov. 9-13, when the Great Florida Fire School comes to South Florida State College's Highlands Campus.

The Great Florida Fire School is a cooperative effort between the Florida State Fire College, local emergency services, and educational institutions like SFSC. Its mission is to continue the education and training of the fire and rescue community, the college said. Classes are taught by fire school and SFSC instructors.

Courses are geared to firefighters and emergency rescue workers of all experience levels. Students can practice firefighting techniques and learn about aerial operations, rescue maneuvers, use of equipment, medical care for blast injuries, firefighter

safety when dealing with explosives, and many other facets of the profession. They can also learn how to recognize stress, protect themselves from HIV/AIDS, and cope with other physical and mental challenges of firefighting.

Classes are scheduled 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for periods ranging from two hours to 45 hours over the course of five days. Many classes provide continuing education credits. For a flat fee of \$125, students can take as many classes as they can fit into their schedule.

In the past, the Great Florida Fire School has drawn more than 200 firefighters from all over the state to the SFSC Highlands Campus.

For more information and to register for classes, go to www.greatflorida-fireschool.com or call 800-883-4817. Those interested may also call Lorrie Key, director, SFSC's Corporate and Continuing Education Department, at 863-784-7033 or email



COURTESY PHOTO

The Great Florida Fire School is a five-day program of intense firefighting training. Courses in firefighting techniques, use of equipment, and many other topics will be available when the Great Florida Fire School returns to South Florida State College in November.

SFSC opens spring 2017 registration to returning students

Special to the Highlands News-Sun

AVON PARK — South Florida State College will open spring academic term class registration on Nov. 4 to current students who have already earned 20 college credit hours. Registration for all students, new and returning, begins on Nov. 18.

Spring academic term classes begin on Jan. 4, 2017.

Some classes have limited seating, said Timothy Wise, dean of Student Services. So, opening registration in advance to students who have earned 20 or more college credit hours ensures they remain on track to complete their degree requirements, he noted.

While registration for all students, regardless of the number of credit hours they've earned, opens on Nov. 18, students can meet with a guidance counselor now to map out their course plans for the spring academic term, Wise said.

"Students don't have to wait until mid-November to start planning for January classes," he said. "They can meet with a guidance counselor now by visiting any SFSC campus in Highlands, Hardee, or DeSoto counties."

Students can self-register online, or use Degree Works to audit progress toward their degrees, at SFSC's student portal Panther Central, he added.

SFSC will host an open house from 4-6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 10, to showcase its academic and occupational programs to prospective students. Wise said the open house is an ideal opportunity for students who may not be sure of their academic or career path to explore SFSC's many

offerings.

The open house will be held in the lobby of Building B on the SFSC Highlands Campus at 600 W. College Drive, Avon Park.

Information about SFSC's academic and occupational programs, including entry requirements and class schedules, can be found on SFSC's website: www.southflorida.edu.

For more information about the open house, contact Summer Miller at 863-784-7447 or email her

at summer.miller@southflorida.edu.

Students can visit the SFSC Advising and Counseling Center, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, or 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays. Students can call the center at 863-784-7131. The center is in Building B of the SFSC Highlands Campus in Avon Park. Or, students can visit the Hardee Campus in Bowling Green, the Lake Placid Center in Lake Placid, or the DeSoto Campus in Arcadia.

Westphal paces Panthers to victory

Defensive specialist a key player for SFSC volleyball team

BY CHARLES BAKER III

CORRESPONDENT

AVON PARK – There are around 100 Division I teams in the National Junior College Athletic Association. At 10 players per team that would mean South Florida State College sophomore Brooke Westphal is the best defensive specialist out of 1,000 or so other rated junior college athletes across the country.

Westphal has 8.46 digs per set. She has the second most digs in the country but the only athlete with more has played more sets.

The Florida College System Activities Association released a NJCAA Region 8 volleyball coaches' poll Tuesday naming Westphal defensive player of the week for matches played between Sept. 26 and Oct. 2.

In volleyball, a defensive specialist is the player who keeps the play

alive after an opponent smashes a kill shot. Lots of diving, and when at her best, lots of communicating with her teammates. Setting up a good kill shot starts with good defense.

Westphal's play has helped turned the Panther season around this season.

The volleyball team started slow. The team was 2-8 in mid

PANTHERS | 2



CHARLES BAKER III

South Florida's Paula Castro (1) is all smiles as the Panthers beat the Webber JV volleyball team on Tuesday night.

PANTHERS

FROM PAGE 1

September. Since then the Panthers have gone 5-3 including a huge win over nationally ranked conference opponent Polk State College on Sept. 24.

"That was fantastic, a very big conference win for us," said South Florida head coach Kim Crawford. "Brooke has been really good this season."

Assistant coach Tymesia Ellis said Westphal and her teammates have been winning as a result of better communication on the court.

Recently Westphal had 32 digs against Polk

State, 51 against Florida College (9/27), 33 against Pasco-Hernando State (9/29), 43 against Palm Beach State and 36 against State College of Florida.

Statistics were not taken in the Panther straight-set victory over the Webber International University JV team on Tuesday night.

South Florida rolled to the victory by scores of 25-11, 25-23 and 25-15. The win improved the Panthers to 7-11 on the season.

The team was scheduled to play conference leader St Petersburg College (6-4, 3-0 Region 8) Thursday.

The match was canceled due to Hurricane Matthew.

After the Webber JV

game, Brooke's grandfather Terry Westphal said his goodbye before driving back to Bradenton. When congratulated for being the best junior college defensive specialist in the country, Westphal showed her braces with a smile and said being the best has always been her goal.

Born in Indiana, Westphal said her explorer spirit and a full ride scholarship brought her to sunny Florida.

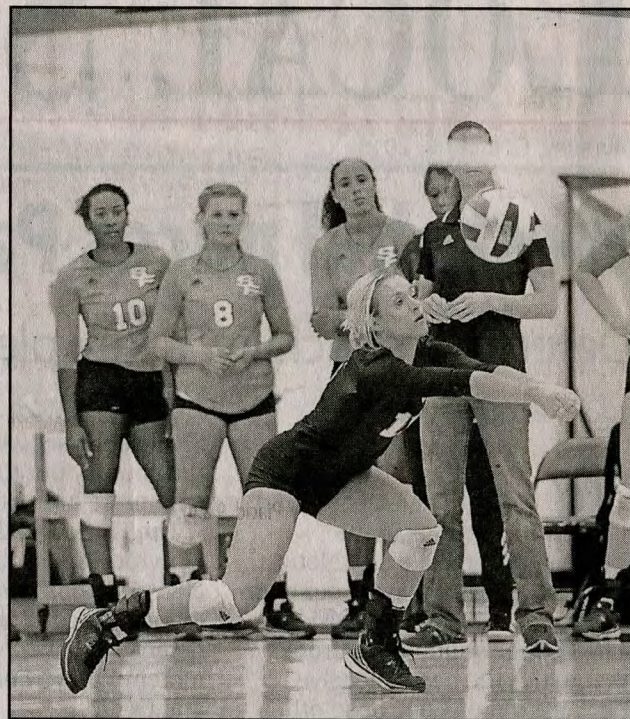
Since making her mark here at SFSC, Westphal said she has received attention from around 10 good schools who want to help her get a bachelor's degree in health science. She has her eye on Columbus State in Georgia because it's

beautiful, she said.

Westphal plans to be a physical therapist some day. She currently has a 3.2 GPA at SFSC. She should have her AA degree in health science after next semester. Elizabeth Tauchen, a brand new freshman who recently graduated from Lake Placid, got to play a bit against the Webber JV.

Tauchen is the grand daughter of Highlands County Commissioner James L. Brooks. Toni Brooks got to see her grand daughter play for the first time as a college athlete Tuesday night.

The Panthers travel to play Hillsborough Community College (16-7, 2-1 Region 8) in a tri-match on Saturday weather permitting.



CHARLES BAKER III

South Florida's Brooke Westphal is one of the best junior college defensive specialists in the country.