

A12 The Herald-Advocate, February 2, 2017

Former HHS Grad A Top Math Professor At SFSC

Mathematics professor James J. Moye, who drops James in favor of J.J., was holed up in college classroom one recent Friday.

Sporting a dark blue untucked SFSC T-shirt and jeans, he sat grading quizzes.

"I guess you can say I've belonged to SFSC ever since I was in high school," Moye said. "After all, I attended SFSC college classes while in high school, I graduated from the Highlands Campus, and I've been teaching classes for the college in one form or another since I earned my Bachelor's Degree and started teaching."

Moye has been a fixture at South Florida State College for 25 years.

Moye teaches the most rigorous of mathematics courses on the SFSC Highlands Campus: pre-calculus algebra and trigonometry, and calculus.

When it comes to teaching mathematics, Moye leaves no room for yield or curves. He expects much from his students. Students learn on day one that Moye doesn't allow late entry into class.

He stands out for his nontraditional approach to teaching mathematics. He asks calculus students to do the occasional term paper. Students tell others considering Moye's courses that they should expect quizzes at the start of class.

Moye confirmed that's the case, noting students learn when expectations are set high.

"I'm always here for my students," said Moye, who noted he can't recall when he last

missed a teaching day. "If I'm not here, the students aren't learning. Consequently, I expect them to be on time. So once I walk in, it's all about me teaching them math as best as I can."

Moye said students appreciate his approach to teaching. "I find students readily and easily accept that learning a rigorous subject matter requires focus."

Lynn MacNeill, interim dean of arts and sciences, said of Moye, "I've known him since he was a student in my speech class as a freshman. His commitment to getting his students engaged with their often difficult coursework has earned him their respect year after year."

"He has a knack for taking difficult math problems and getting students to understand them," said teacher Daniel Witt after taking a couple of courses with Moye.

"I'm going to use his approach when working with my students," said Witt, a graduate of SFSC's elementary education program who now teaches mathematics to fourth graders at Bowling Green Elementary School.

It was at Hardee Senior High School that Moye discovered he had a knack for mathematics. "Math just came naturally to me," Moye said. "Probably because I had to think about it, the concepts made sense to me."

Moye made his first connection with SFSC while in high school. He was one of the early dually enrolled students at Hardee High, taking a regular course load through the

high school while also taking college-credit courses at SFSC.

His next stop was the SFSC Highlands Campus, where he earned his Associate Degree and the distinction of "Top Graduate" at his commencement.

After two years studying mathematics education at the University of South Florida — the only gap in his association with SFSC — Moye returned to Hardee County and resumed his connection with the college by teaching dually enrolled students at his former high school.

"While teaching a class of dually enrolled students at Hardee, SFSC's mathematics and science department chair observed me in the classroom and asked me to teach at the college," said Moye. "First I started out as an adjunct, teaching part-time for a few years before coming onboard full time."

Now in his 16th year teaching full-time on the Highlands Campus, Moye recently earned two distinctions. This year, he will conclude his two-year appointment to the Carol Emery Endowed Teaching Chair, established by Emery, a retired SFSC mathematics professor and intended to honor instructors in mathematics.

"The appointment to the endowed chair came with a monetary award that I used to fund the purchase of a touch board that replaces the old whiteboard and marker setup I had in my classroom," Moye said. "This eases the mechanics of getting formulae and equations up for the students."

And in December, Moye received the 2016 President's Meritorious Award for his excellence in the classroom. Moye said the announcement of the award came at a special moment for him.

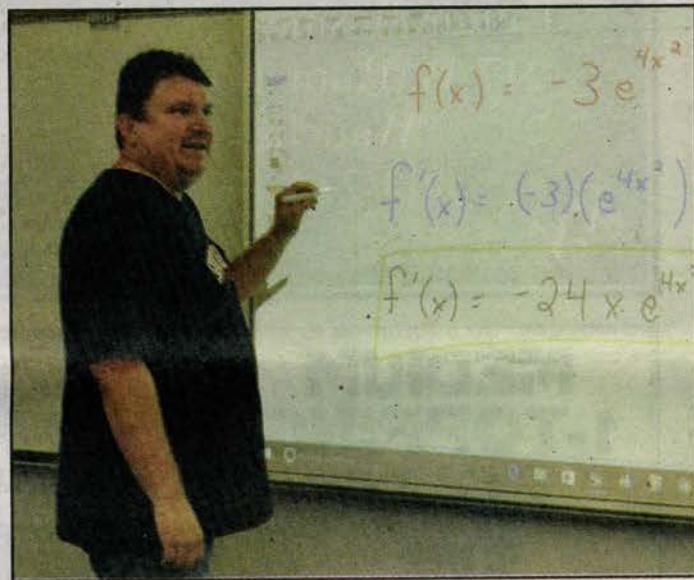
"The award was announced at our annual holiday luncheon where I happened to be seated with Professor Emery, who had dropped by to share the holiday spirit with her former colleagues," Moye recalled. "Receiving the award with her looking on meant a great deal to me."

Moye credits his success in academia to his parents. "Their guidance, support and love shaped who I am," he said. "They never stopped stressing the importance of education to me and my brother."

When Moye isn't on campus, he shares a Sebring home with his wife. They both look forward to out-of-town trips, sometimes following Moye's beloved Tampa Bay Rays on road games.

Between grading quizzes in his classroom in the quiet of the Friday morning, Moye thought about his bond with SFSC and how he has benefited from it, both as a student and instructor.

"My constant hope is SFSC students take time to be thankful for the opportunity to come to a college classroom as often as they can," Moye said. "That time is such a wonderful opportunity to learn, one that should not be taken for granted."



COURTESY PHOTO

Professor J.J. Moye, who grew up in Hardee County, is shown in his college classroom, using a newly acquired touch board to explain mathematics equations.

New career launched for Navy veteran

Digging in to Digital Networking Technology

SPECIAL TO
HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

AVON PARK — Andrew Protasio graduated from South Florida State College in December with an associate degree in network systems technology. He immediately landed a job with the City of Sebring's information technology team.

He recalled a job interview he said was easily one of the most nerve-racking he'd been through.

"Before the interview could start, they left me in a room with a desktop computer that wasn't functioning," Protasio said. "To get interviewed, I had to get into the machine, check the boards, and have it up and running — something I'd never heard done in an interview."

Protasio found the problem, passed muster in the interview, and said he has settled into a job that's right for him — one where he can use the skills he honed at SFSC.

The SFSC Network Systems Technology program didn't just prepare Protasio for troubleshooting computer problems and managing a local



COURTESY PHOTO

Andrew Protasio at work in front of the server rack at the city of Sebring.

area network. He also probed the underworld of unwelcomed network intrusion, more popularly known as hacking.

"Hands down, taking ethical hacking classes were the most fascinating and fun classes in SFSC's Network Systems Technology program," he said, referring to a two-course sequence taught by program instructor Brian Bohlman.

In the two-semester course, Bohlman takes students through the paces of how to penetrate, test and exploit connected computer systems so that they learn how to prevent hacking once they're on the job.

"Bohlman showed us the tools we can use to beat back the threats that are out there," Protasio said. "I learned what malicious actors are really capable of doing to a network I would one day manage."

Protasio has put those skills to work looking for vulnerabilities in protecting the City of Sebring's network, one that sees traffic from the public looking to access everyday services, like utility bills.

Protasio didn't come to computing as a novice when he started at SFSC. The United States Navy veteran did a four-year stint handling cryptology and satellite

communications. He joined the Navy in Guam, the U.S. territory in the western Pacific, where he was born and raised.

After his discharge, Protasio stepped away from working in technology. He moved to Highlands County, where his family had relocated from Guam.

"In a complete switch from what I did in the Navy, I started working in the restaurant industry," he said. "For the next 10 years, I worked my way up from server to management."

In that time, Protasio started a family, but the vagaries of restaurant hours caused a strain, keeping him away from his son. Using his veterans benefits, he decided to register for SFSC's networking program and complete it as fast as he could.

"I took a full load and took summer courses, too," he said. "I finished up so fast I sort of get whiplash looking back at my time on the SFSC Highlands campus."

He said he learned valuable on-the-job skills through an internship arranged by SFSC. "We went out to the airport and,

working with a new enterprise, put down cables and set up a network," Protasio said. "Those are essential real-world skills that are difficult to master in a classroom."

Protasio heaped praise on his instructor, Bohlman. "He's someone just like me, someone who worked his way up the restaurant industry but is now in academia," he said. "He knows what it's like to work in one sector and move to another — he gets the real world and is more of a mentor to me that he realizes."

Protasio was so taken with learning the darker side of computing, he decided to return to SFSC for more. "I've gone back to the SFSC Highlands campus and started the Digital Forensics program," he said.

SFSC offers a college credit certificate in Digital Forensics that students can complete in less than a year. Students learn investigative techniques to recover and examine trace material found in digital devices, such as computers and cellular phones, often as part of a crime, corporate investigation, or to analyze unauthorized network intrusion.

As a student who started college as an adult, Protasio said he felt at home at SFSC. "I was prepared to be surrounded by a lot of people younger than me," he said. "There were plenty of them, but you'll also sit next to someone in class who's older than you — there's a place for everyone."

Heartfelt surprise

LP senior gets \$40,000 college fellowship

By **KIM LEATHERMAN**
CORRESPONDENT

LAKE PLACID — Lake Placid High School senior Maria Gloria got the surprise of her young life Wednesday when she received a \$40,000 non-tuition college fellowship. Her family, teachers, school vice principal Valerie James and mentor Pam Karlson hid in the school's media center until it was time for the big reveal.

Gloria was ushered in with her entire AVID class, none the wiser.

Take Stock In Children Executive Director Jamie Bateman singled her out and congratulated her for winning the Asofsky Family Foundation fellowship, "Leaders 4 Life." She will receive \$10,000 a year for four years. The money is intended for housing or other needs, allowing the teen to focus on her studies rather than worrying about living expenses while at college.

Gloria received a certificate and lots of hugs. Through tears of joy she thanked everyone, especially her parents, Esmeralda Avila and Artemio Gloria, her brother and LPHS junior, Omar Gloria, and Karlson.

The short ceremony ended with a cake cutting.

"The scholarship pays for everything except tuition," said program coordinator Irene Castanon. "It will allow Gloria to focus on her academics and complements the two-year scholarship that she already has through us."

Gloria is the very definition of an overachiever. She has held a class office every year of high school and is class president this year. She is vice president of Student Government Association,

SURPRISE | 8



KIM LEATHERMAN/
CORRESPONDENT

Take Stock In Children Executive Director Jamie Bateman hugs a grateful Maria Gloria after handing the student a certificate for a \$40,000 'Leaders 4 Life' non-tuition college scholarship.

A purple cake was part of the surprise ceremony for Maria Gloria for winning a \$40,000 scholarship Wednesday afternoon.



SURPRISE

FROM PAGE 1

a member of AVID, Interact, National Honor Society, and runs cross country and track. And that's just a partial list of her extracurricular activities.

Gloria's parents do not speak English but both work to provide education for their five children. Gloria's older sister is already on a college path as a student at Florida State University at Tallahassee.

Gloria said she will use the money for college necessities. She will not have to purchase a laptop; all the finalists for the Asofsky Family Foundation fellowship received a MacBook laptop computer valued at \$3,500.

She could not say enough about the mentor programs through TSIC.

"I got a two-year scholarship for college," she said. "With their guidance I will be going to college. The program is so great. I met Mrs. Karlson. She pushed and



KIM LEATHERMAN/ CORRESPONDENT

Maria Gloria (center, with flowers) with her entire AVID class Wednesday afternoon after she was announced the winner of a \$40,000 'Leaders for Life' fellowship from the Asofsky Family Foundation.

motivated me to strive for more. I will always be grateful."

The senior was in the seventh-grade when she was matched with Karlson for the mentor program. "I just gave her some advice and we had a plan," said Karlson, who practices law from her Lake Placid office. "She is the one who executed it; she has worked

very hard for this."

James spoke for the entire staff. "This is a huge honor for both Maria and LPHS," James said. "She is a very deserving school leader. We all wish her well in the future."

Gloria has already been accepted to the University of South Florida at Tampa but her first choice remains the University of Florida at

Gainesville. She is still waiting on approval letters. She plans to become a lawyer.

Gloria's mother summed up her daughter's award simply as she spoke through a translator: "It is very good."

TSIC has been giving the Asofsky Family Foundation scholarship since the 2010-2011 school year. This is the

second time a LPHS student has won the award. Luci Torres took home the award in 2014. She is now a junior at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. Lake Placid attorney Michael A. Rider and his office staff mentored Torres, and he stays in touch with her. "She is absolutely excelling at college," he said. "We

couldn't be more proud of her."

The scholarship is open to all high school seniors in Florida and is based on community service and letters of recommendation from teachers and community leaders. A team of judges chooses 14 finalists, and six judges watch video essays and make their choices.

Community ed classes on tap at SFSC

SPECIAL TO THE HIGHLANDS
NEWS-SUN

AVON PARK — South Florida State College's Corporate Education Department is offering a variety of classes for the 2017 spring term.

•Introduction to Microsoft Outlook 2016: learn tips for using Outlook; create and format email messages; add attachments, a signature and organize the inbox. In Outlook Calendar learn how to make appointments and events. The workshop is offered from 5:30-9 p.m. Tuesday. The cost is \$95, and the course number is 21349.

•Introduction to Microsoft Access 2016: learn to create, format, save, and print basic spreadsheets, charts, manipulate sheets in an Excel file, and basic spreadsheet formulas. The course is offered from 5:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14. Cost is \$95, and the course number is 21350.

•Intermediate Microsoft Access 2016: learn to create and format reports, mailing labels, and export Access objects. The course is offered from 5:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21. The cost is \$95, and the course number is 21351.

•Advanced Microsoft Access 2016: Learn advanced queries using multiple tables, the addition of calculations and formulas to queries and reports, and enhanced forms with buttons and actions. The course is offered from 5:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28. The cost is \$95, and the course number is 21352.

•Introduction to QuickBooks 2015: Learn how to create a new company file, work with lists, set up items, track various things. This course is offered as a two-day workshop from 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays, Feb. 15, and Feb. 21. The cost is \$169.99, and the course number is 20361.

All classes will be held

on the SFSC Highlands Campus.

Register in Building B there or any SFSC campus or center.

For information, call 863-784-7033 or email corporatetraining@southflorida.edu.

Aquila Theatre performs, teaches locally

By **SHARON WEATHERHEAD**
CORRESPONDENT

SEBRING — South Florida State College brought the Aquila Theatre to Highlands County to perform "Murder On The Nile" this week and also offered an acting workshop at Highlands Little Theater. Cindy Garren, director of Cultural Programs at SFSC, welcomed the actors who attended and introduced instructors Lincoln Hudson and James Lavender.

"The performance of Aquila Theater is funded in part by a grant from South Arts in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs," Garren explained.

The workshop titled, "Physical Theater," focused on performing an ensemble style of acting. Hudson and Lavender shared movement and vocal exercises to help participants explore imaginative and physical resources to create theater.

Hudson started the evening by saying,

"Have fun this evening and learn to explore. It doesn't matter what you know or don't know – just feel."

The exercise began with deep breathing. "Start listening to your bodies," said Hudson. The room was so quiet you could hear a pin drop as the participants were deep in concentration.

More than 20 actors, from as young as teenagers to well-loved veterans of the stage, did head and shoulder rolls as well as making facial expressions according to the instructions provided.

Hudson had the group lie down on the floor. "Think back to a memory; something in your life that made you happy or even angry," she prompted. "Something that gives you a specific image and involves a memory."

After some time to retrieve the desired memory, Hudson randomly tapped the actors on the shoulder and had them relate the vision from the past. "This helps you get in touch with yourself," she said. "I hear the detail and texture in your descriptions; the colors, smells, taste and



Acting students getting instructions on a tableau exercise.

feelings."

The next exercise was to create a tableau. Hudson described it as a non-verbal description of a physical image. The focus was on the interpretation of the images. One group depicted the Statue of Liberty; others did '911' and 'Two Jima'.

Lavender took over to focus on Shakespeare. "Shakespeare is the language of giants," he said.

He described how everything they have covered is necessary to properly read the works of Shakespeare. "Your breathing, emotions, all affect how you project. You learn to paint with words and understand the beauty of the imagery."

Aquila is a producer of touring classical

theater in the U.S. with an international reach as well. They have also performed on several occasions at the White House.

Aquila Theater performed Agatha Christie's "Murder on the Nile" at the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts at SFSC on Jan. 31.



Sharon Weatherhead/Highlands Sun

Lincoln Hudson (from left), Cindy Garren and James Lavender. Garren is director of Cultural Programs at South Florida State College. Hudson and Lavender are with the Aquila Theatre group.



Education website tweaks aim for ADA compliance

Local entities targeted by complaints

SEBRING — Local educational institutions are updating their websites in response to complaints that they do not comply with the American with Disabilities Act accessibility standards.

The website accessibility complaints were filed with the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), which has launched investigations to determine compliance.

Education Week reported in June that OCR had 227 open investigations nationwide concerning accessibility of online courses and websites.

The result of many of those investigations are consent agreements with schools, districts and states to fix their websites.

South Florida State College Vice President of Administrative Services Glenn Little said Tuesday the college recently updated its website and doubled checked it for compliance with the accessibility standards.

The college received a complaint that claimed its website did not meet ADA accessibility standards, he said. But, the college believes its website is compliant.

"There is no legal basis for the claim that is clear," Little said. "The issue is accessibility, but the standard isn't clear ... it's hard to know if you are in compliance or not."

The college hired a firm to review and test its website, he said.

"We feel like we are in full compliance now and we felt we were in compliance before," Little said, "but we modified a few things and colors to make it easier for people

with vision problems to review the site."

Heartland Educational Consortium Executive Director Debra Elliott said OCR received a complaint alleging that the consortium discriminated on the basis of disability.

Specifically, the complainant alleged that the consortium's main web page was not accessible to students and adults with disabilities including, but not limited to, visual impairment, she said.

The consortium responded to the complaint and was willing to work with OCR in rectifying the issue, Elliott said. "We have updated our website and we have received notification that the investigation is now closed."

In its June 30 response to the Office for Civil Rights, The School Board of Highlands County said it realizes its website and the individual school websites were not fully ADA-accessible.

The School Board of Highlands County Human Resources Director Andrew Lethbridge said Wednesday that about half of the district's websites are now 100 percent in compliance.

All of the school webmasters will meet Tuesday as part of the continuing effort to bring all the school websites into compliance, he said.

In January, Lethbridge said one of the ADA website issues the district was facing was providing detailed descriptions of all photos for the visually impaired who use type-reading software. Also, type readers don't work well with PDF documents, and videos have to include close captioning.

The district's new website construction continues to move forward, Lethbridge said. The main framework of the website has been completed.

Meetings are being setup with each department to see what information they would like to bring forward to the new website from the old, he said.

SFSC registering for summer term

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS
NEWS-SUN

AVON PARK — South Florida State College has started registration for its summer term. Classes for the summer term begin May 5. The term ends July 31.

New students can apply for admission to

the college by clicking the "Apply Now" button on the top of SFSC's home page at: www.southflorida.edu. Students should apply for admission before the beginning of the term so that they're ready to start classes on time.

Returning students can register and pay for classes through the

college portal, Panther Central.

The summer term schedule of classes is available at www.southflorida.edu/current-students/class-schedules.

Students can register in person for the summer term on the SFSC Highlands Campus in

Avon Park by visiting the Advising and Counseling Center in Building B., 8 a.m.- 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 8 a.m.- 5 p.m., Fridays. Financial aid is available to those who are qualified. Students planning to seek financial support from the SFSC

Foundation should apply soon. The priority deadline for SFSC Foundation scholarships is March 15.

Students who plan to apply for financial aid should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible. The application is online at:

fafsa.ed.gov. For more information about financial assistance and scholarships, contact the SFSC Financial Aid Office at 863-784-7134.

For information about registration, call 863-453-6661 (Highlands Campus), or 465-3003 (Lake Placid Center).

Creativity on display at Art of the River event

By **SUSAN E. HOFFMAN**

DAHC

Through paintings, photos, sculptures and other media, artists expressed the beauty and importance of the Peace River area. Florida's environment, culture and heritage were honored last weekend at the Fifth Annual Art of the River show.

In addition to the art show, the event included a special tribute to the late

Keith Carlton who had been the art teacher at DeSoto Middle School. A special display of artwork by children from Nocatee Elementary, DeSoto Middle and DeSoto County High schools, along with the library's Art for Children program, was featured as part of the homage to Carlton.

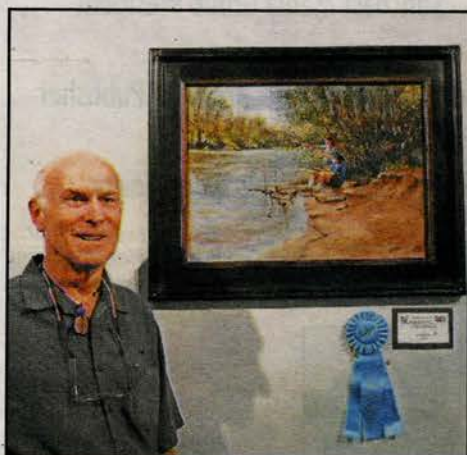
Live musical entertainment and sales of barbecue

ART | 3



PHOTO BY
SUSAN E. HOFFMAN

Several of the winning artists posed for a photo during Saturday's Art of the River Exhibit. They are, from left: Larry Creel, Bruce Trewyn, Melissa Bruneau (seated), Joan Cranor, Jimmy Peters, Pamela Davis, Michelle Held, Susan Covert, Anne Tuttle, Johan Bjurman, Kevn Pipher (standing in for Jamie Pipher) and Kerri Bowers.



PHOTOS BY SUSAN E. HOFFMAN

Johan Bjurman's painting, **Quiet Day Fishing**, won the People's Choice award after garnering the most votes from visitors who attended the Art of the River on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The scene depicts a father teaching his daughter how to fish along the banks of the Peace River.



Steve Owens was the winner in the raffle of Christa Friedl's painting, **The Red Door**. Friedl, an award-winning artist in her native Austria and in the United States, painted this scene during the DeSoto Arts and Humanities Council's Plein Air Paint-out in Arcadia last November.

ART

FROM PAGE 2

and crafts took place in the yard around South Florida State College. Quilts made by several local quilting groups were on display at the college.

Winning artists were:

Two-dimensional: First place, Susan Covert; second place, Thomas Petro; third place, Fran Mangino; honorable mention, Jane Keeling, Susan Hoffman, Joan Cranor, Johan Bjurman and Michelle Held; and award of merit, Jane O'Neal, Hane Hilton, Anne Tuttle, Victor Amemiya and Pamela Davis.

Three-dimensional: First place, Bruce Trewyn; second place, Melissa Bruneau; third place, Larry Creel; honorable mention, Larry Creel and Bruce Trewyn; and award of merit, David Brethauer and Jane O'Neal.

Photography: First place, Jimmy Peters; second place, Jamie Pipher; third place, Rhett Butler; honorable mention, Kerry Bowers; and award of merit, Jerry Waters.

Johan Bjurman's painting "Quiet Day Fishing," won the People's Choice award, voted on by those who attended the show.

DAHC raffled a painting, "The Red Door," generously donated by Christa Friedl, an artist from Austria who spends winters in the area. The lucky winner was Steve Owens. Sales of raffle tickets will be used for DAHC's children's art programs and student scholarships.

The event was held at the DeSoto Campus of South Florida State College.

'20th Century Seminole Experience' opens at SFSC

AVON PARK — The Museum of Florida Art and Culture at South Florida State College has mounted an exhibition, "The 20th Century Seminole Experience: Paintings from the Florida Indian Tribes Series."

The exhibition opened Feb. 15 and continues through March 7 in MOFAC's gallery on the SFSC Highlands Campus in Avon Park.

The exhibition includes paintings by award-winning artist Muffy Clark Gill who uses batik, a painting technique originating in Indonesia using wax on cloth.

"Gill appreciates the use of simple figures and vibrant colors that are often associated with the artwork of indigenous cultures, and she creates images that weave this love of color and design with Native American history," said Megan Stepe, MOFAC's curator.

Gill described her Seminole series as offering a modern



Courtesy photo

Muffy Clark Gill's 'The Three Fates' is a part of her display at MOFAC.

insight combined with a historical perspective of the Native Americans who live in South Florida, with a particular focus on the Seminole and Miccosukee peoples, according to Stepe.

Accompanying Gill's works, MOFAC will also display a collection of Seminole dolls. Members of the Seminole tribe

have created dolls since the 1940s. They used designs based on brightly colored fabric in a patchwork style typically worn by Native American women. The dolls were sewn with intricate designs inspired by animals and elements found in the natural environment.

"The Seminole tribe makes

many of their dolls from the palmetto leaves found in swampy marsh areas," Stepe said. "These dolls have been often used to teach children important lessons about life and are considered highly prized by collectors of Seminole artifacts."

Gill will present and discuss her photographs of the state's Native Americans who inspired her paintings today (Thursday, Feb. 16) from 1-2 p.m.

The talk is open to the public at no cost. Gill will speak in Building G, Room 101, on the SFSC Highlands Campus, Avon Park.

Also on display during the Seminole exhibition are a series of unconventional paintings by Melanie Hubbard. Titled "Text and Textures: Erasure Poetry by Melanie Hubbard," the paintings are based on a 1924 book dealing with child rearing.

Using watercolors, Hubbard paints atop enlarged images

replicating pages from the book to effect what she asserts is an "erasure" of the antiquated advice given to mothers.

Hubbard is a scholar, poet, and teacher whose work has received support from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

MOFAC is in the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts at 600 W. College Drive.

The museum is open to the public on 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.

SFSC offers batik workshop Feb. 17-18



Courtesy photo

A piece of batik artwork featuring a rendering of a bird.

AVON PARK — South Florida State College's Museum of Florida Art and Culture (MOFAC) will offer a two-day workshop introducing artists and non-artists to batik, an Indonesian-style cloth painting technique using wax on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 17-18.

The workshop will also introduce students to *rozome*, a Japanese-style batik process.

"Using both techniques, anyone can create unique artwork on fabric that can be used with everyday household objects, clothing, or works of art," said Muffy Clark Gill, an artist who will lead the workshop.

Gill said the workshop will employ environmentally-friendly soy and bees wax and fiber reactive dyes for vivid colors. She said the technique is ideal for silk painters, fiber artists, or anyone who would like to work with fiber to add new techniques and ideas to their tool kit.

Artists of all abilities are invited to attend, Gill said.

A professional batik artist, Gill has shown her work in more than 70 regional, state and national juried exhibitions.

The workshop runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 17, and Saturday, Feb. 18. In the Friday session Gill will focus on simplifying designs, introduce the materials, and help students create dye and wax. In the Saturday session she will concentrate entirely on teaching the batik technique.

The workshop will be in Building A, Room 16, on the SFSC Highlands campus at 600 W. College Drive. Cost is \$75 per person, plus an additional \$20 fee for instructor-provided supplies, which include stencils, soy and bees wax, dyes, and two silk handkerchiefs.

"We encourage everyone to bring lunch each day," said Megan Stepe, MOFAC's curator, who organized the workshop. "We want folks to hang around so that they don't want to miss out on any fun time."

Stepe said workshop participants

should bring a sketchbook, some of their own designs and symbols for reference, two small clean white towels, a few clothes pins, 20-by-20-inch wooden stretcher bars or commercial system for stretching fabric, push pins, four to six small glass jars (baby food jars are ideal), and any Japanese or Indonesian wax, dye, brushes, or tools they may own.

Workshop participants can find supply sources at these websites: dye, www.prochemical.com; Thai silks, www.thaisilks.com; and www.dharmatrading.com. Stepe welcomes participants to contribute heavy duty orange extension cords, electric wax and frying pans, electric blender, iron and ironing board, duct tape, and newspapers.

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

SFSC offers advanced driver improvement

AVON PARK — South Florida State College's Community Education Department is offering a 12-hour Advanced Driver Improvement Course for drivers who have a suspended license or who have too many points on their license.

The course will be held Feb. 21, 22 and 23 from 5:30 – 9:30 p.m., SFSC DeSoto Campus, 2252 N.W. Turner Ave., Arcadia. Students must complete all three nights to receive their certificate.

Pre-registration is required, and the cost is \$155. Register in Building B on the Highlands Campus or at any SFSC campus or center.

For more information, contact the Community Education office at 863-784-7388, or email CommunityEducation@southflorida.edu.

Banquet to feature history of Jacaranda

SPECIAL TO THE
HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

AVON PARK — Donald Appelquist, retired executive director of the South Florida State College Foundation, will be the guest speaker at the annual banquet of the Historical Society of Avon Park. Appelquist will speak on the history of the Hotel Jacaranda, often referred to as the "Queen of the Ridge."

The hotel is listed on the National Register of Historic

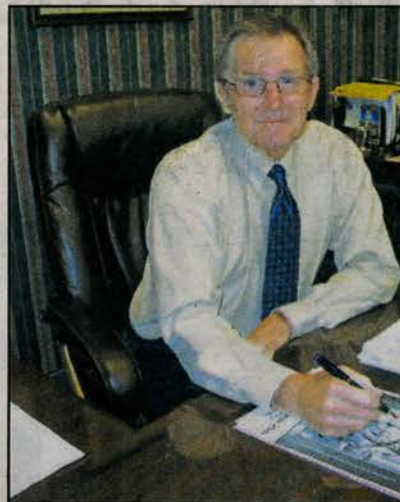
Places. It has been in continuous operation as a hotel since opening in 1926. It was the home for hundreds of young pilots training during World War II from 1941-1945, and many famous baseball players lived at the hotel in the early days when baseball was popular.

After the Foundation was formed in 1990, the college assumed ownership of the hotel and began immediately securing historical preservation grants to restore

the hotel, which had fallen on hard times.

The banquet will be held at the Jacaranda in the Palm Room on Tuesday with social time at 6:30 p.m., followed by buffet dinner at 7 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person. Tickets can be purchased at the hotel, which is in downtown Avon Park, or by calling Elaine Levey at 863-414-3316.

Again this year, there will be a raffle of baskets and other items donated by individuals and businesses.



COURTESY PHOTO

Don Applequist will share the history of the Hotel Jacaranda during the Avon Park Historical Society banquet next week.

SFSC monitoring bills affecting state colleges

By **MARC VALERO**
STAFF WRITER

AVON PARK — A Florida Senate bill proposes putting a cap on the ability of state colleges to expand their bachelor degree programs and seeks to create a new entity to oversee the 28 colleges under the umbrella of the Florida College System.

Senate Bill 374 recently cleared the Senate Education Committee by a unanimous vote. The bill calls for creating a new State Board of Community Colleges to oversee Florida's state colleges.

South Florida State College Vice President of Administrative Services Glenn Little said it is early so it is not known how the bill will move forward in the state House of Representatives.

"We are waiting and letting our division office work with the Legislature to explain what our concerns are as a system," he said. "We are no different from the other colleges that would be affected by Senate Bill 374 or Senate Bill 2 or Senate Bill 4; they are all related and all directly involve the Florida College System."

COLLEGES | 5

COLLEGES

FROM PAGE 1

SFSC President Thomas Leitzel has been to Tallahassee and attended other meetings on these legislative issues, Little noted.

"As it is right now, we don't see it impacting our decisions on baccalaureate degrees significantly," he said. "We are tracking it and keeping our board informed."

Some colleges have

developed many baccalaureate degrees likely due to the demand of their service area, Little said. SFSC has three four-year degree programs, in nursing, elementary education and supervision in management.

"Right now we feel that is meeting our local need; we are not capped out in enrollment in any of those," he said. "So we feel we are meeting the local need for the employers as well as the students."

Heartland Games track events go on



PHOTO BY NEIL SIMPSON

From left, Brenda Scott, Lee Pearson, Grant McLaughlin and Joseph Oblon. McLaughlin took gold in a time of 14.8 edging Pearson who recorded a time of 15.0.

Late change to Avon Park keeps Games running

By NEIL SIMPSON

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

The Heartland Games For Active Adults got off to a great start with the table tennis and mah jongg tournaments held last week. On Saturday, both the 5K run and the track and field meet ran smoothly, thanks in large part to Chet Brojek, retired Avon Park High School athletic director.

The 5k run was held in conjunction



with the Sebring Sunrise Rotary Red, Blue and White run at Highlands Hammock State Park. The weather was perfect for the 8 a.m. start with Heartland Games runners competing for medals in nine age/gender

categories. Gold medal winners were Jane Wickman, Sharon Griffin, Judy Bateman, Lois Hotchkiss, Chuck Best, Charlie Potter, Cliff Ables, Chuck Imboden and Harold Smith.

The Heartlands Games organizers from South Florida State College thank the Sebring Sunrise Rotary for allowing the Heartland Games runners to compete in this run which is

HEARTLAND

FROM PAGE 12

a fundraiser for Rotary Freedom Flights for local veterans.

As soon as Brojek packed up his timing gear at the 5K run, he headed to Avon Park High School to serve as meet director for track and field. The meet was originally scheduled to be held at Sebring High School. Due to staff changes and a conflict in booking at the Sebring venue, the meet was canceled a week before it was to be held. As soon as Brojek heard of the cancellation, he contacted the South Florida State College organizers, offering to run it at Avon Park. After a little scrambling, the meet was back on and competitors who had just been informed of the cancellation were advised that it would go ahead.

Due to the changes, participation was down but those who competed had a great day. Brojek knows how to run a meet efficiently and participants were kept on their toes moving from one event to another. The field events were shot put, discus, high jump and long



Earl Bosley competes in the shot put.

jump. Runners competed in 100, 200, 400, 800 and 1,500 meter races.

As the Heartland Games are held early in the year, many athletes from further afield choose to compete here in order to qualify for the Florida Senior Games which are held in December. Participants came from Flagler Beach, Okeechobee, Oviedo, St. Petersburg, Seffner, The Villages and even Wisconsin.

Duncan Beck, a 75 year old from Manawa, Wisconsin has been traveling Florida taking part in meets.



PHOTOS BY NEIL SIMPSON

Heartland Games 5K runners, from left; Jane Wickman, Leesa Skipper, Chuck Best, Sharon Griffin, Charlie Potter, Cliff Ables, Lois Hotchkiss, Audrey Smith, Frances Sletvold, Chuck Imboden and Harold Smith.

Once he left Avon Park, he was headed to Orlando to board a flight for Phoenix to compete in a meet on Sunday. Now that's dedication.

There were four multiple medal winners from Sebring. Earl Bosley, competing in the 70 to 74 category, was weighed down by seven gold medals. In the highly competitive 60 to 64 age group, Joseph

Oblon went home with two gold, one silver and three bronze medals while Lee Pearson ran away with three golds and two silvers and Grant McLaughlin walked off with a gold and three silver.

The Heartland Games continue this week with singles and doubles bowling, go kart racing, euchre and cycling. The Games are organized by the Corporate and Community Education Department of South Florida State College as one of 21 qualifiers held across the state for the Florida Senior Games. Gold sponsors are Newsom Eye and Edward Jones/Alan Holmes. Silver sponsors are Drs. Thakkar and Patel, Turner Furniture and Florida Hospital.



Multiple track and field medal winners from Sebring, from left; Lee Pearson, Earl Bosley, Grant McLaughlin and Joseph Oblon.

Ruth Davis, daughter of pioneering family, dies

BY JAY MEISEL
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — When Ruth Davis' father died while she was a student at Louisiana State University, she didn't hesitate to curtail her education and return to Sebring and run the family's department store.

But meeting her family obligations didn't stop her ultimately from achieving her long-term educational, religious, business and civic goals.

Over a period of nine decades, Davis completed her education, married and had four children, ran a real estate business, served as a School Board of Highlands County member and celebrated her bat mitzvah while she was in her 80s.

Davis died on Feb. 15. She was 92. A graveside service was held Feb. 17

at Pinecrest Cemetery. A memorial service that will be open to the public will be held at a date to be announced.

"She was more like a sister to me," said Elsa Kahn, her sister-in-law. "She was someone I admired for all her accomplishments, her magnetic personality and her intelligence. She was a joy to be with."

Davis was the daughter of Michael and Sadie Kahn, pioneering residents of Sebring. She grew up in Sebring and attended public schools. In the 1940s, she enrolled in Louisiana State University.

But her father's sudden death from a heart attack at the age of 51 drew her back home, where she managed the family's department store.

"Ruth took on a lot of responsibility," said Marvin Kahn, her brother.

"Successfully managing that department store at 19 was quite an accomplishment."

Later on, Abraham "Bucky" Kahn, a brother of Marvin Kahn and Ruth Davis, ran the store.

Davis eventually returned to school and completed her education. She was one of the first graduates of what is now South Florida State College. Then, she completed her education at the University of South Florida.

She got married and had two daughters and two sons. They are Michelle Backus of Sebring, Jimmy Davis of Atlanta, David Davis of Sebring and Sarah Guterman of Los Angeles.

Backus said Davis was a devoted mother. She would drive her children to Lakeland to attend Hebrew school,

Backus said.

"She (Davis) got us to where we needed," said Backus, who added that she and her siblings also participated in various other activities while growing up. "She always had a good sense of humor. She was caring and loving."

Backus said in 1972 her mother started Ruth K. Davis Real Estate and Associates. That was at a time, she said, when it was far less common for a woman to start her own business.

In 2000, she received the Hall of Fame Award from the Sebring Board of Realtors.

Davis also served on the School Board of Highlands County from 1972 to 1984. Backus



COURTESY PHOTO

Ruth Davis and her brother, Abraham Jacob "Bucky" Kahn, celebrate their bat and bar mitzvahs in 2006.

said her mother didn't run for the prestige of being board member. "She was very interested in education and the schools," Backus said.

Newspaper accounts said Davis worked to make the board meetings more transparent to

the public by providing people with agendas and installing a speaker system that allowed people to hear the board members.

Davis also played golf, liked needlepoint and could play the clarinet and the piano.

Hotel California returns by popular demand

AVON PARK — They were one of the most popular and successful rock bands of the '70s, and while it's not The Eagles that are coming to Highlands County this week, it's the next best thing.

Hotel California, A Salute to the Eagles is an Eagles tribute band and will take the stage at the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts on Thursday evening for a return performance.

For more than two decades, Hotel California has touched the hearts of fans all over the world, by faithfully and accurately reproducing the Grammy award winning sounds of the Eagles.

This dynamic, highly acclaimed show incorporates their very own world renowned vocal harmony, and authentic instrumentation, including all specialty instruments in a stage spectacle that is both modern and exciting. Each concert presents an exciting showcase of The Eagles mega hits such as "Lyin' Eyes," "Witchy Woman," "One of These Nights," "Take it Easy," and of course, "Hotel California."

The magic and mystique of this truly timeless music is as powerful as it is captivating.

The opening act, The Kollections, covers a vast repertoire of music from the 1950s to the present day including rock, pop, reggae, country, rhythm and blues, and salsa. The members play a medley music that audiences won't hear from any other band.

Vocalist and guitarist Pierre Hilaire, a New York



Courtesy photos

The Kollections will open Thursday night at the Hotel California concert at Alan Jay Wildstein Center for Performing Arts at South Florida State College.

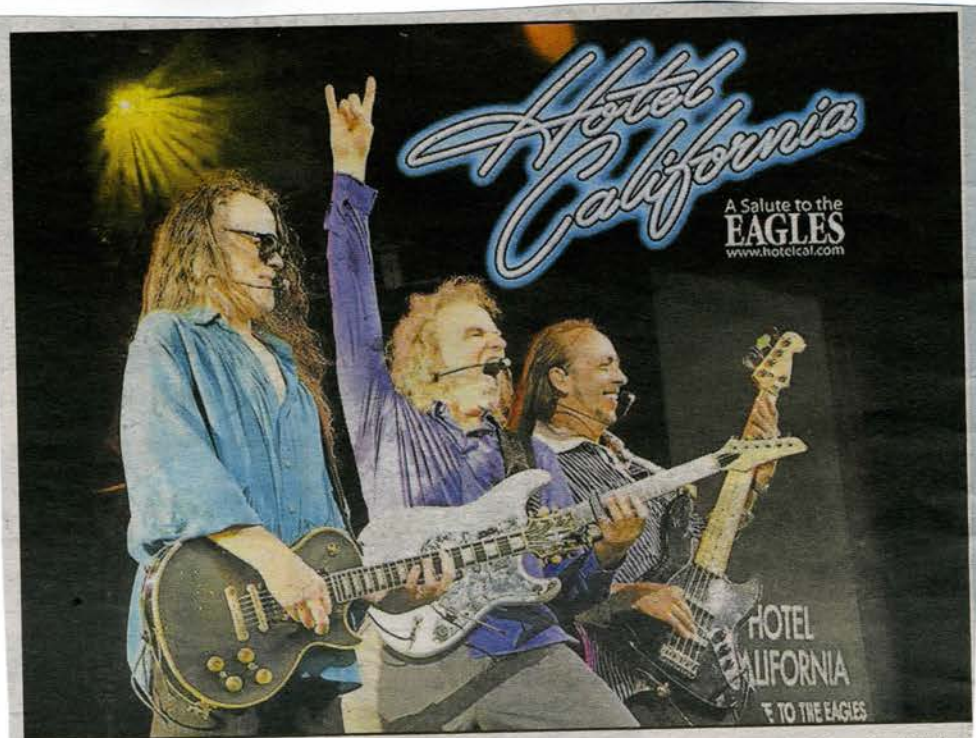
native, is a behavior intervention analyst for the DeSoto County School District and is president of Eyes Corporation, a charitable trust that operates group homes for developmentally disabled adults.

Wayne Onofri has been playing guitar for 40 years. He formed his own band at just 15. He retired as an assistant administrator for DeSoto

County School District.

Drummer Mark Taylor has played rock and roll and Motown show bands throughout the East Coast. Bassist and backup singer is Paul Seusy.

The show opens at 6:30 p.m. For more information, to get your tickets and to sign up for the Sun Events newsletter, visit sunevents.com.



Hotel California: A Tribute to the Eagles will take the stage Thursday night at the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts. Opening for the band will be The Kollections.

MOFAC to host Pygmy Fringe Tree Wildflower Festival March 9

SPECIAL TO THE
HIGHLANDS SUN

AVON PARK — South Florida State College's Museum of Florida Art and Culture (MOFAC) plays host to the Pygmy Fringe Tree Wildflower Festival, a celebration of the region's native wildflowers, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, March 9, on SFSC's Highlands Campus, Avon Park.

The festival kicks off with guided walks through SFSC's Wayside Shrine Trail, a footpath winding its way through pristine scrubland on the college's campus. The tract, blanketed by fine white sand and overspread with shrubs, is home to native wildflowers that bloom in early March.

"The Wayside Shrine Trail on the SFSC Highlands Campus offers the public an easily accessible venue with which to view this rare and extraordinary shrub," said Megan Stepe, MOFAC's curator. "This beautiful plant flowers in early March, so now is the time take in this wonderful event."

Leading the walking tours will be Dustin



Courtesy photos

The pygmy fringe tree flowering.

Angell, a conservation photographer and education coordinator from Archbold Biological Station. He will be joined by Claire Miller, an SFSC librarian, and Diana Cleghorn, a member of SFSC's Information Technology Department.

The festival takes its name from the pygmy fringe tree (*Chionanthus pygmaeus*), a now rare flowering shrub that grows between three and six feet tall. The pygmy fringe tree once thrived throughout central Florida. But farming and development nearly swept it from the region, prompting the federal government to declare it an endangered species in 1987.

The trail was conceived by Mollie Doctrow, a former curator at MOFAC and an award-winning

artist whose work revolves around capturing natural habitats. The trail opened in 2011.

The public can also glimpse other native plants flowering along the trail: the big flag pawpaw, sky-blue lupine, and another endangered species, the scrub St. Johns Wort.

This year's festival includes storytelling by Florida Seminole songwriter Rita Youngman and storytelling and song by Florida folklorist Carol Mahler. Photography walks will be led by Karla Respress, an art instructor in SFSC's Art Department.

Visitors to the trail can write their impressions in notebooks found in wooden shrine boxes along the path. The boxes, designed by Doctrow, contain information that showcases the shrubs and wildflowers.

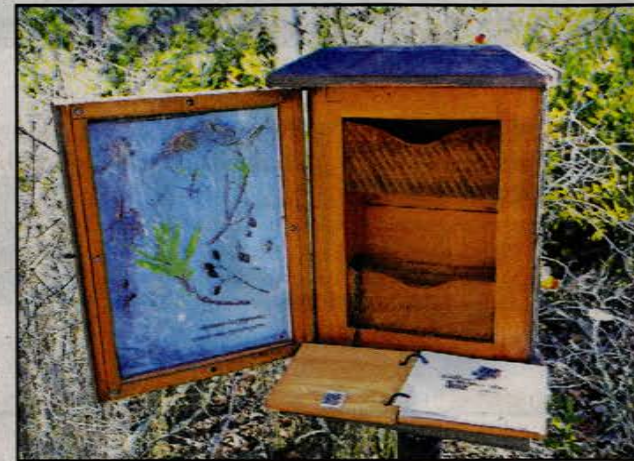
One side of each box has a plant image in relief, allowing visitors to make a rubbing on paper as a memento of their visit. Rubbing kits will be available for purchase, with proceeds going to SFSC art club.

Members of the Audubon Society and the

Ridge Rangers will be on hand to answer questions from the public. Visitors will find members from the Lake Placid Art League along the trail doing plein air, or open air painting of the shrubs.

Visitors can purchase lunch from local food truck Loafin' Around, who will set up a food tent at the site.

A walk through the trail gives visitors a chance to see the land, known as the Lake Wales Ridge, as it existed for centuries. The ridge, an ancient beach and sand dune system formed 1-3 million years ago, has been home to flora that has struggled to survive against



One of six shrine boxes along the Wayside Shrine Trail. Each box has information of the plant, a notebook for visitors to record their impressions, and a plant image in relief so that visitors can make a rubbing on paper as a memento of their visit.

development.

The guided walks start from the MOFAC's entrance adjacent to the Wildstein Theater for the Performing Arts at 11 a.m. Take Entrance 3 from College Drive to reach MOFAC. SFSC's Highlands Campus is located at 600 W. College Drive, Avon Park.

The trail is open to the public during regular college hours. To reach the trail, visitors should look for Entrance 5 along College Drive.

For more information on the festival, call Stepe at 863-784-7240 or follow the events link on MOFAC's website at mofac.org.

Beauty AND THE Beast



Courtesy graph

60 local youngsters to perform with South Carolina Ballet

By **TOM MEISENHEIMER**
CORRESPONDENT

AVON PARK — More than 60 up and coming ballet dancers ages 5-19 from Highlands and Polk counties will join the South Carolina Ballet on stage at the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25, for a production of "Beauty and the Beast."

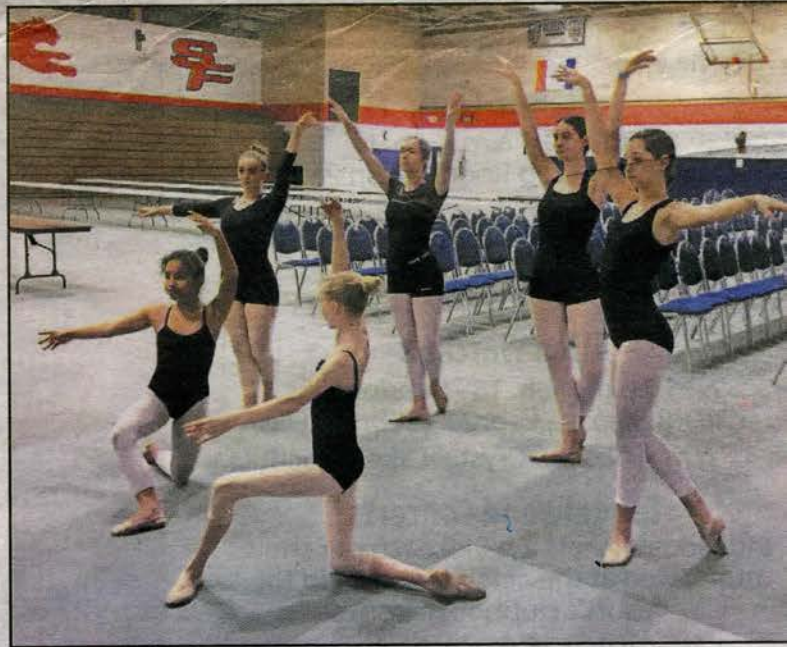
The Wildstein Center is on the campus of South Florida State College

The ballet is based not on the Disney production, but on the original book. "This is a fairy-tale story for people who don't like ballet," said SFSC Director of Cultural Programs Cindy Garren. The South Carolina Ballet

is made up of dancers from throughout the world. Choreographer is William Starrett. He was the principal dancer for Joffrey Ballet and the American Ballet Theater under the world-famous director Mikhail Baryshnikov.

Starrett came to Avon Park in November to cast local young dancers in the production. Over 60 of them now rehearse weekly with volunteer Nancy McDuffee, a teacher at Dance Unlimited.

The youngsters arrive at the college gym and do pre-dance stretching. The older dancers rehearse first, followed by those who will dance the part of the flower girls, then the bridesmaids, followed by those playing the orphans and then those in



Tom Meisenheimer/Highlands Sun

Young area dancers practice a dance variation at a Saturday rehearsal.

the wedding scene. The youngest kids play smaller roles.

"It's about having the experience of being in the company with some of the world's best ballerinas," said McDuffee.

The upper-level dancers will

dance "on point," meaning on their tiptoes. Those dancing the peasant roles will dance a whole piece. McDuffee has the team practice three variations



Nancy McDuffee of Dance Unlimited has volunteered to train her 60-plus dancers who will perform in the Beauty and the Beast.

BEAUTY

FROM PAGE 1

as Starrett will choose one and the children will be ready for the one he chooses.

The 60-plus youngsters have been practicing the piece every Saturday from 9 a.m. until 2:15 p.m. for four weeks. As curtain day gets close they will have a "polish" week. McDuffee will work with them on facial expressions, how to hold arms and legs, and how to correctly turn their feet.

What is most amazing is that the children will have only one practice with the South Carolina Ballet troupe itself. Starrett will make final adjustments at that rehearsal.

The production features enchanting medieval sets and a mysterious castle nestled in old France. A one-of-a-kind Belle gown has been designed to debut. And the Beast's character is created to come off artistically elegant

with a touch of menace.

Tickets for Beauty and the Beast are available by visiting www.sfsarts.org or by calling or visiting the box office at 863-784-7178 Monday-Friday between 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Florida Hospital is the presenting sponsor of the production. Additional

sponsors are: Dr. Andrew and Beth Kulick; Terry and Dr. Michele Heston; Carol Emery; Dr. Witford and Inga Reid; Dr. Catherine Cornelius; Joan Hartt; All Around Septic and Sewer Inc.; Dr. Donald, Ruth and Kimberly Geldart.



Tom Meisenheimer/Highlands Sun

Rachel Boyd and Cassidy Edwards do their pre-practice stretches. Both previously danced in the Nutcracker.

New Orleans Nighthawks showcase jazz at SFSC

AVON PARK —
The New Orleans Nighthawks provided an evening of exciting jazz music last weekend at the South Florida State College University Center. This group of mostly Florida "snowbirds" have been entertaining for about eight years with their special brand of jazz and perform mainly in the central Florida area.

"We are a unique type of jazz band as we don't have a trumpet player," said John Skillman.

"Why? Because I couldn't find one. Instead we have two fantastic bone (trombone) players."

Skillman, who is a vocalist and plays clarinet, is the group's leader. He introduced his band: Glen Carlton and Gordon Moore on trombone, Stan Mulder on drums, Bob Hudgins on bass, Mike Evans on banjo and vocals and his wife, Diana, also on vocals.

Each member is a veteran of other jazz bands from up north as well. They play a variety of different jazz genres and even add a little swing to the mix.

They started their set with "Big Lip Blues," a song from the 1940's written by Jelly Roll Morton "and a bit of New Orleans blues to start the evening," said Skillman.

Guests could close their eyes and imagine this band parading down Decatur Street in New Orleans outside at Café Du Monde while sipping its famous café au lait and eating a sugary beignet, while swaying to the beat.

"Joe King Oliver was a mentor to Louis Armstrong," said Skillman. "Oliver loved sweets and ate sugar sandwiches. This deteriorated his lips and he was rarely able to play so he had Louis do a lot of his playing. He wrote this song, 'Too Late'."

Diana Skillman sang "Ain't She Sweet" while her husband, John, accompanied her on clarinet. She also sang a very different type of song for a jazz band, "House of the Rising Sun."

"This is the first time we tried this," she said. "'Rising Sun' was a hit for The Animals in 1964. It was first published in 1925 as an American folk song. We don't know who wrote it."

It turned out to be a success as Diana Skillman sang in her smoky alto voice.

The concert, a part of South Florida State College's "Jazz Series,"



Mike Evans picks banjo in a jazz style.

was an enjoyable evening. There is one more concert in the series on March 8 when the "The CanAmGer Band" will perform.

Contact the box office at 863-784-7178 for tickets.

The jazz performances are held at the University Center Auditorium on the SFSC campus in Avon Park.



Sharon Weatherhead/Highlands Sun

The New Orleans Nighthawks include Glen Carlton on trombone, from left, Gordon Moore on trombone, John Skillman on clarinet, Stan Mulder on drums, Bob Hudgins playing bass and Mike Evans on banjo.

SFSC Panthers fundraiser

The South Florida State College Panthers will be holding their annual barbecue on Saturday, Feb. 11, at Panther Field. Both the baseball and softball teams will be in action that day. The event is sponsored by Nut'n Fancy Grillin' and proceeds benefit Panther athletics. The barbecue consists of pulled pork, Cole slaw, baked beans and ice tea for a \$9 donation. Advance tickets may be purchased by calling

863-784-7036.

Panther softball team at .500

South Florida State College earns Tuesday split

HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN
SPORTS STAFF

The South Florida State College softball team is sitting at 3-3 for the season after earning a split with Lake-Sumer State College on Tuesday. The Panthers dropped the first game by a 6-5 score, but put things together in the nightcap to take an 8-0, five-inning victory.

The Panthers didn't do

themselves any favors in the first game, committing four errors, which led to a couple of unearned runs scoring. Kaitlyn Vega had a pair of hits and scored twice; Amanda Ross had two hits and drove in a pair of runs; Kimberly Derringer had two hits, one RBI and scored a run; and Cristina Colli had three hits and drove in a run.

Things were much more to the Panthers' liking in the

nightcap, as they put the game away early, scoring six runs in the bottom of the third inning and were able to bring the contest to an early end via the mercy rule. Derringer had two hits; Leanna Hernandez had two hits and scored twice; and Dominique Lundy had two hits, scored and knocked in a run.



NEWS-SUN FILE PHOTO

SOFTBALL | 10 South Florida State College's Amanda Ross gets ready to deliver a pitch.

SOFTBALL

FROM PAGE 9

Evangeline Futch earned the victory, allowing two hits over five innings and striking out four.

The Panthers have split all three doubleheaders so far this season and have a team batting average of .285 and a team ERA of 1.79

Derringer is hitting .529 on the season and leads the Panthers with

5 RBIs. Her nine hits and three doubles are also team highs.

Colli leads the team with four stolen bases and her four runs scored are tied for the team lead with Vega.

In the circle, Ross and Futch have been the team's two workhorses, as Ross is 1-1 with a 1.67 ERA in 21 innings pitched, while Futch has thrown 14.2 innings with a 1.91 ERA and 15 strikeouts.

The Panthers return to action on Saturday,

hosting Santa Fe College for a doubleheader beginning at noon. Saturday is the day of the team's annual fundraising barbecue, sponsored by Nut'n Fancy Grillin'. Serving time starts at 11 a.m. and runs until 4 p.m. The barbecue consists of pulled pork, Cole slaw, baked beans and ice tea for a \$9 donation and proceeds benefit Panther athletics.

Advance tickets may be purchased by calling 863-784-7036.



Patriots rally past Panthers

South Florida errors prove costly in loss

By **MARK PINSON**
STAFF WRITER

AVON PARK — When you give the other team extra outs, it usually comes back to haunt you.

That was the case on Friday as South Florida State College saw a seventh-inning, five-run lead evaporate due to errors and walks in an 11-5 loss to College of Central Florida at a sun-splashed Panther Field.

"Providing momentum for the other club in baseball is something you don't want to do," said veteran South Florida baseball coach Rick Hitt. "If you do it, you have to be able to control it and we weren't able to do that. A two-out walk, an error and then a few mistakes against a good team came back to hurt us. We understand that you can't give the other team extra outs and we didn't do a very good job of that with seven outs left in the game. You have to be prepared to play every out of the game for nine innings and each player has to be prepared. We have done a good job of maintaining the momentum lately, but we

weren't able to do that today."

South Florida, which dropped to 7-4 on the season, jumped on top of the Patriots in the bottom of the first inning as leadoff batter Equon Smith doubled, moved to third base on a ground out and scored on a ground out by Drenis Ozuna to give the Panthers a 1-0 lead.

South Florida went back to work in the bottom of the third inning as Eric Schulte was hit by a pitch and Cody Spencer followed with a two-run homer over the left-field fence off Patriots right-hander Ryan Aspinwall.

Smith lined a single to right field, advanced to second base on a wild pickoff throw and raced home on a double down the left-field-line by Ozuna to give the Patriots a 4-0 lead.

South Florida starting pitcher Evan Lumbert cruised through the College of Central Florida lineup with ease through the first four innings.

The Panthers tacked on a run in the bottom of the fourth as former Sebring standout Matt Portis singled, advanced to second base

on a ground out and scored on an outfield error to increase the lead to 5-0.

The College of Central Florida got its first hit off Lumbert with a two-out single in the top of the fifth inning. But the hard-throwing right-hander retired the next batter to end the threat.

The top of the seventh inning started innocently enough as Lumbert retired the first two Patriots, but a two-out walk was followed by an infield error.

Ben Koff worked a base-on-balls off Lumbert to load the bases.

Tyler Cameron had an infield single to score a run and Ricardo Jimenez followed with a two-run single down the right-field-line.

Will Reddick lined a run-scoring single to centerfield. South Florida brought in former Sebring hurler Gerig Blackman who gave up a single to right field by David Flores that tied the game at 5.

Blackman retired the next batter to get out of the inning.

The College of Central Florida (Ocala) took advantage of a South



MARK PINSON/HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

South Florida starting pitcher Evan Lumbert received a no decision with 6 2/3 innings of work against College of Central Florida on Friday.

PANTHERS

FROM PAGE 1

Florida mistake in the top of the eighth inning as a two-out throwing error allowed a runner to score from third base to give the Patriots a 6-5 lead.

South Florida had an excellent scoring chance in the bottom of the frame as Quentin Davis lined a leadoff double, but Patriots relief pitcher, right-hander Pablo Toranzo, bore down to retire the next three batters to escape the jam.

The College of Central Florida tacked on five insurance runs in the top of the ninth inning to put South Florida in a big hole.

The Panthers went down in order in their last at-bat to end the game.

"We did a good job for the first six innings, but things got away from us after that," Hitt said. "We can't let that happen if we want to be an effective club for the entire season. We have to learn from these kinds of games and move on because our goal is to be an effective club for the entire season."

South Florida is on the road for three games before the Panthers are back at home against Daytona State College on Feb. 20.



MARK PINSON/HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

South Florida State College's Eric Schulte fouls off a pitch during Friday's game against the College of Central Florida. The Patriots rallied for an 11-5 win over South Florida State College.

**Right: South Florida State
College's Equon Smith dives
back safely as College of
Central Florida first baseman
Luis Medina applies a late tag
during Friday's game.**



Panthers move to 6-3 on season

SFSC pitching staff getting the job done

HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN
SPORTS STAFF

The South Florida State College Panthers baseball team improved to 6-3 on the season with a 16-2 thumping of Southeastern University. Pedro Castellano led the offensive charge for the Panthers, collecting four hits and scoring three runs. Cody Spencer, Alex

Marti, Quentin Davis, Eric Schulte and Drenis Ozuna each had a pair of hits, as the South Florida State College offense pounded out 18 base hits.

Ozuna also scored four runs and Schulte crossed home plate three times. Marti, Damani Thomas and Brett Norwood each knocked in a pair of runs, as did former Sebring

Blue Streaks Matt Portis and Jordan Austin.

Josh Heckman earned the win on the mound, allowing a pair of unearned runs over four innings.

The Panthers won in dramatic fashion on Sunday, scoring four runs in the top of the ninth inning to take a 5-4 victory. Davis and Pedro Castellano each had

three hits, while Ozuna and Equon Smith had a pair of hits.

Sebring graduate Gerig Blackman earned the win, pitching three scoreless innings.

Through nine games the Panthers are hitting .313 as a team and averaging 6.33 runs per game.



PHOTO BY MARK PINSON/HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

South Florida State College's Matt Portis gets back safely to first base as Eastern Florida State College's Dylan Owens waits for a throw.

PANTHERS | 10

PANTHERS

FROM PAGE 9

South Florida State College has a team ERA of 4.13, but the pitching staff has been throwing better as of late, allowing 15 runs in the team's last five games.

Ozuna leads the team with a .467 batting average and has driven in nine runs to lead the Panthers in that category. Blaise Maris is hitting

.368 and Smith is batting at a .364 clip through the first nine games.

Davis has driven in seven runs to rank second on the Panthers, while Norwood has 6 RBIs so far this season.

On the mound, Portis and Blackman each have thrown five scoreless innings, with Blackman having one win and Portis earning a pair of saves.

Cody Spencer leads the team in innings pitched, throwing 10 1/3 innings

and owning a solid 1.74 ERA and Josh Heckman has thrown 9 1/3 innings and has a 0.96 ERA. Six different pitchers have wins for the Panthers and 13 pitchers have thrown at least one inning.

The Panthers return home on Friday for a 1 p.m. game with the College of Central Florida and have a doubleheader scheduled for Saturday beginning at noon against Santa Fe College.

Panthers drop pair to Saints



ALLEN MOODY/HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

South Florida's Matt Portis fields a throw to get an out at first base in Saturday's doubleheader with Santa Fe College.

SFSC softball continues to split doubleheaders

HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN SPORTS STAFF

The South Florida State College baseball team's late-inning woes continued Saturday, as Santa Fe scored five runs in the top of the seventh to complete a two-game sweep of the Panthers at Panther Field. That came one day after South Florida was unable to hang to a 5-0, seventh-inning lead in a nine-inning game.

It was the early innings that weren't to the Panthers' liking in the first game Saturday, as the Saints scored six runs in the top of the third inning and went on

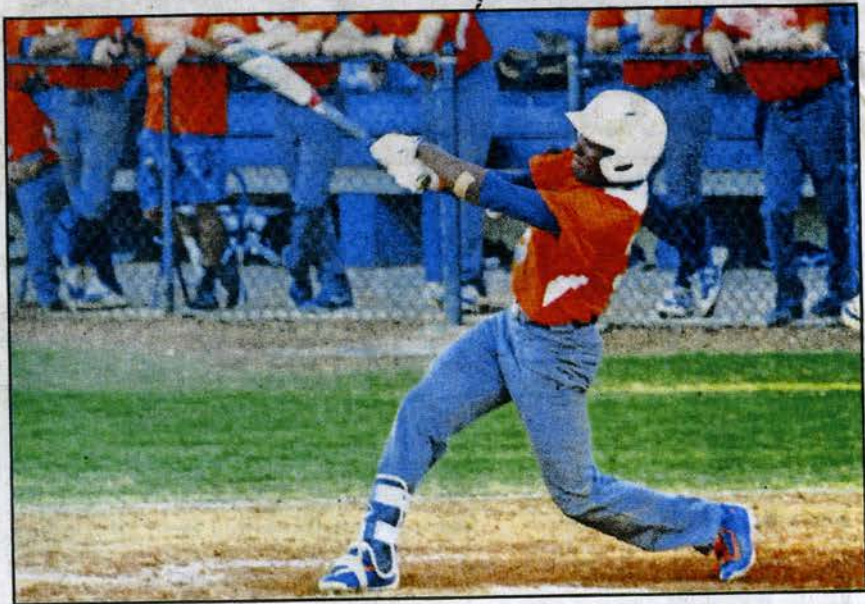
to post an 11-4 victory in the seven-inning game. South Florida led 2-1 after two innings, but Santa Fe scored 10 runs over the next three innings to put the game out of reach.

Equon Smith, Pedro Castellano and Brett Norwood each had two hits for South Florida, while Castellano knocked in two runs. Former Sebring Blue Streak Matt Portis and Blaise Maris also had RBIs. Norwood scored a pair of runs.

In the nightcap, Portis and Smith each had two hits and Portis had three stolen bases. Fellow former Blue Streak Jordan Austin and Portis had RBIs in the game.

The South Florida softball team split its doubleheader with the Saints, winning the first game 4-3, as Stephanie Norris earned the win and Evangeline Futch earned the save. Brianna Schwecke and Victoria Eland had RBIs for South Florida and four different players had hits and scored runs.

The Panthers, who have now split all four doubleheaders played so far this season, scratched out a run in the seventh inning to tie the nightcap, but Santa Fe took a 6-4 victory.



ALLEN MOODY/HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

South Florida's Damani Thomas takes a swing at a pitch during Saturday's doubleheader with Santa Fe College.

PANTHERS

FROM PAGE 9

Alyssa Whittington and Leanna Hernandez each had two hits to lead the Panthers, while Hernandez, Shyann Skinrud and Cristina

Colli had RBIs in the game.

The Panthers didn't help themselves in the field, making five errors which led to four unearned runs.

The baseball team will

be Seminole State College on Wednesday, while the softball team will be at Lake Sumter State College today and will be at home on Thursday for a doubleheader with Pasco-Hernando.

Falcons ease past Panthers



PHOTO BY MARK PINSON

South Florida State College's Equon Smith steals third base as Daytona State College's Alan Burnsed (21) looks to make the tag during Monday's game. The Falcons edged the Panthers by a score of 5-3.

Daytona State rallies for win over South Florida

By MARK PINSON

HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

AVON PARK - A bloop hit here and a bounce there proved to be the difference in Monday's game between South Florida State College and Daytona State College.

Daytona State's Alan Burnsed's two-run double in the seventh inning provided key insurance runs and the Falcons withstood a last-inning rally to beat the Panthers by a score of 5-3.

The loss evened South Florida's record at 9-9 on the season.

"We made some mistakes and Daytona State College got a couple of key knocks," said Panthers baseball coach Rick Hitt. "We made some poor pitches with two strikes that they delivered on and you have to give them credit. Our guys fought hard and we had a chance in the last inning to pull

out the win but we came up just a little short."

South Florida got on the scoreboard in the bottom of the first inning as former Sebring standout Matt Portis singled to left field, moved to second base on a ground out and trotted home on a double to right field by Quentin Davis to give the Panthers a 1-0 lead.

Daytona State College answered in the top of the third inning as Austin Massebeau was hit by a pitch, Matt Swiderski singled and David Maberry worked a walk off of Panther left-hander Josh Bobrowski to load the bases with no outs.

R.J. Ball lofted a sacrifice fly to left field to plate Massebeau to tie the score at 1.

Bobrowski bore down to retire the next two Falcon hitters to escape further trouble.

South Florida bounced back in the

bottom of the frame as Equon Smith reached on an infield error and used his speed to steal second and third base.

Pedro Castellano came through with a double to left-center field off of Falcon right-hander Jake Rothwell to plate Smith to give the Panthers a 2-1 lead.

Bobrowski, who hit four batters and issued two walks, was able to overcome his control issues to keep Daytona State College from scoring again until the top of the sixth inning.

With two outs, Bobrowski hit Austin Barnes and allowed a single to Dustin Baber.

Tyler Barron followed with a bloop to right field that Panther second baseman Portis and right fielder Cody Spencer chased after until they collided.

FALCONS

FROM PAGE 16

The ball fell for a double allowing Barnes and Baber to score to give the Falcons a 3-2 lead.

Both players stayed on the ground for a while and were attended to by trainer Todd Bobo.

Portis and Spencer stayed in the game and Bobrowski retired the next hitter to keep it a one-run game.

"We're pretty beat up for only being 18 games into the season," said Hitt. "That was a bad collision and we're hoping both guys are going to be okay. That's part of baseball and you have to take the good with the bad."

South Florida got a runner into scoring position with two outs in the bottom of the inning, but Rothwell, who scattered five hits, bore down to retire the next batter to keep the Falcons in the

lead.

Daytona State College tacked on a couple of big insurance runs in the top of the seventh inning as Ball and Mario Presutti drew walks off of South Florida reliever Adam Mitchell.

The Panthers brought in right-hander Gerig Blackman in relief of Mitchell, but Burnsed ripped a double to left-center field to score Ball and Presutti to give the Falcons a 5-2 lead.

Blackman settled down

and kept Daytona State College off the board for the rest of the game.

South Florida rallied in the bottom of the ninth as Falcons reliever Zach Bryant hit a pair of batters to open the inning.

A single by Smith loaded the bases with one out.

Castellano hit a sacrifice fly to left field to score one run to bring the winning run to the plate.

But Bryant bore down to strike out the next

hitter to end the threat and the game.

"We're a blue collar, tough-nosed bunch and we battled to the end," Hitt said. "I like our guys and they're a joy to be around every day. We've done some good things so far this season and we've got some things we

need to improve on before we start conference play next week. We'd like to start conference play on a strong note."

South Florida is back in action with a home game today against Indian River State College. First pitch is set for 5 p.m. at Panther Field.