

# Joiners and doers



MARC VALERO/STAFF

From left: Maya Cullipher and Brianna Alexander represented the Volley Ball Club at Thursday's Club Rush at South Florida State College.

# SFSC Club Rush highlights campus groups

By **MARC VALERO**  
STAFF WRITER

AVON PARK — South Florida State College freshman Paola Morales learned there were many campus organizations that she would like to join at the annual Club Rush held around midday Thursday in Build B on the main campus.

After she and her fellow freshman, Brenda Benitez, received information about the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Morales said she may join the group and was also interested in the Hispanic Club, Rotaract and AVID.

Rotaract is a student version of a Rotary Club and AVID is Advancement Via Individual Determination, which in higher education aims to continue the ongoing success of the secondary program through active and continued college support.



MARC VALERO/STAFF

**From left: SFSC students Jasmine Santana, Jordan Jackson and Aslan Smith at the Campus Christian Club table where they were accepting items to help the victims of Hurricane Harvey.**

Jasmine Santana, Jordan Jackson and Aslan Smith

welcomed students at the SFSC Campus Christian





MARC VALERO/STAFF

Highlands County area representative of Fellowship of Christian Athletes Paul Woosley provides information about the newly formed chapter FCA at South Florida State College.

# SFSC

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Club and collected items to help with the relief effort for the victims of Hurricane Harvey. The SFSC Student Government Association and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) are also part of the effort.

FCA area representative Paul Woosley said the Fellowship of Christian Athletes is new to the SFSC campus and will partner with the Campus Christian Club to minister to students.

Student Life Coordinator Andy Polk explained that the "big idea" of Club Rush is to provide students with information about the clubs, but also inform them of other services and resources that can benefit them.

them with a lot of information about the things they can get involved in because a lot of times they don't know," he said.

A lot of information was sent to students about Club Rush, but even if they missed the messages, many students will notice the event in Building B as they go to or from their classes.

"It's probably my favorite event because there are so many things students can benefit from by coming in and asking questions and getting information," he said.

Last year the college had 25 clubs and there have been as many as 30 different clubs at times, Polk said. It depends on participation and student interest. Some clubs are inactive some years due to a lack of membership.

Some clubs are tied to a field of study or



SFSC student Jasmine Santana enjoys the free pizza at Club Rush.

academics while others are interest based or athletic based or political based, he said.

Clubs are required to have a minimum of 10

students; some have 40 to 50 students with the average around 20, he said. So with 25 clubs the total membership is probably around 500.



**From left, standing: Freshmen Brenda Benitez and Paola Morales receive information about the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.**



# SFSC Library celebrates National Read-A-Book Day

SPECIAL TO THE HIGHLANDS  
NEWS-SUN

AVON PARK — The South Florida State College Library on the Highlands campus, Avon Park, will celebrate National Read-A-Book

Day from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday.

National Read-A-Book Day encourages people to take time out of their hectic lives to experience the joy of reading, and the SFSC library will offer quiet reading space, a

book giveaway and staff recommendations.

SFSC Librarian Claire A. Miller said: "We wanted to celebrate books not just as objects but as gateways to other worlds and new knowledge. A read-in allows people to share

the experience of both sharing the joy of reading and spending some time with a good book."

While Miller acknowledged that some people might choose to stay home and read to celebrate, she pointed

out the social nature of reading. "People blog about books; Goodreads is a hugely popular website," she said. "People want to share their favorite books. An event like this lets like-minded people get together off-line and

share."

The SFSC library is at 600 W. College Drive, Avon Park, Building Y, second floor. For parking, take Entrance 3 or 4. For more information, contact Miller at 863-784-7305 or millerc@southflorida.edu.

# SFSC closing at 5 p.m. today, closed Monday

By **MARC VALERO**  
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — Due to the approach of Hurricane Irma, South Florida State College and all its campus locations will close for operations including classes at 5 p.m. today, according to the SFSC website.

The college will remain closed through Monday. An announcement regarding reopening will be posted on the college's website and shared via text messaging through Blackboard Connect.

SFCC Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Services Sidney Valentine said the college is taking multiple measures to get prepared for the possibility of an incoming storm.

Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to check the college's web site at [www.southflorida.edu](http://www.southflorida.edu), which is where any

updates will be posted, he said.

The Highlands County School District is preparing for the storm.

Assistant Superintendent of Business Operations Mike Averyt said there were no particular areas of concern, but "We are doing everything we can to make the schools as secure as they can be. We are doing our normal hurricane preparedness."

Everything that is loose outside will be taken in or secured, computers will be covered, etc., he said.

An example of the preparations: the picnic tables/benches outside the cafeteria at Woodlawn Elementary School have been turned upside-down reducing their profile for the storm's winds.

Highlands County public schools, along with many private schools, will be closed today and Monday.

The 2004 hurricane

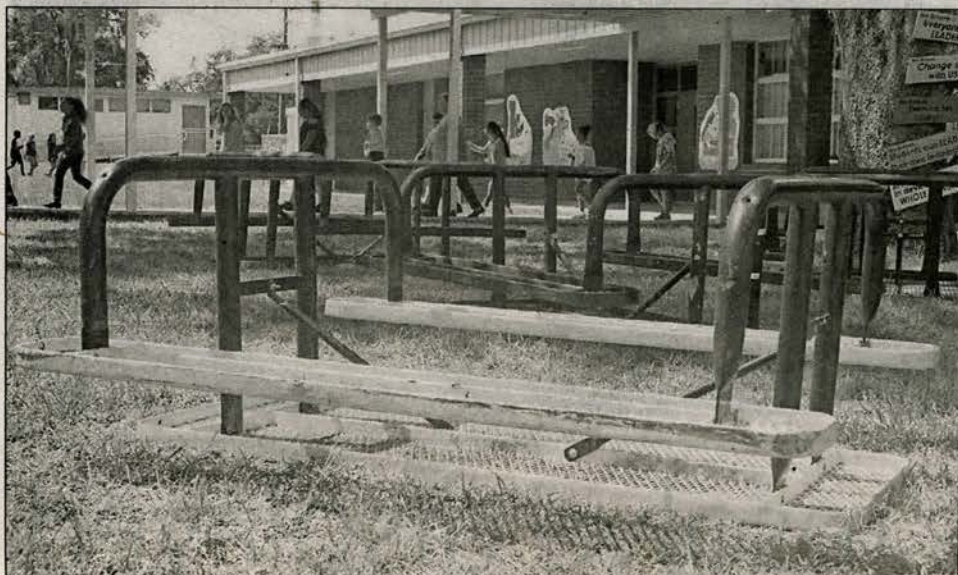
season caused about \$3 million in damage to the School District causing roof damage at many schools and severely damaging the main office at Avon Park High School.

Averyt said Hurricane Charley was the one that did most of the damage, Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne added to some of the damage, but most of it occurred with Charley.

The damage in Highlands wasn't as bad as some of the other district's in the Heartland Educational Consortium, he noted. The consortium is comprised of Highlands, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry and Okeechobee counties.

The Charlotte County School District's damage from Hurricane Charley was close to \$100 million, Averyt said.

Hurricane Charley made landfall at Punta Gorda with 145 mph winds on Aug. 13, 2004.



MARC VALERO/STAFF

Picnic tables/benches outside the cafeteria at Woodlawn Elementary School have been turned upside-down reducing their profile in preparation for Hurricane Irma's winds.



# SFSC Crews Center damaged from storm

By **MARC VALERO**  
STAFF WRITER

AVON PARK — South Florida State College facilities workers removed damaged insulation and ceiling tiles Wednesday from the Crews Center on U.S. 27 in Avon Park.

SFSC Vice President of Administrative Services Glenn Little stopped by to assess the damage from Hurricane Irma.

“This is the hardest hit, but fortunately we don’t have a lot of classes here; we have some apprenticeship classes that we can relocate,” he said. The commercial vehicle driving instruction is mostly outside so it is just a lot of repair that is needed.

It will take awhile, but it shouldn’t interrupt the classes, Little said.

Is the college still aiming to resume classes on Monday?

“We are hoping, but obviously that is subject to power restoration in a timely manner,” Little said. “We still have to get our computer systems up and you can’t pull those up until we get the power back up. That will take close to a day just to get all the computers up and running.”

Overall there is some roof damage around the college’s campuses, “here and there, mostly minor,” he said. Tarps are being placed so the interiors can be dried out. They are extracting the water that came in around windows and doors and in some cases through the roof.

“We have been blessed to not getting any rain,” Little said.

The Lake Placid Center had roof damage and there are several leaks at the Hotel Jacaranda and a couple of windows blew out from the storm so they have some drying out to do there, he said.

The lack of power that is creating some challenges for refrigeration units, Little said. Also, without power, generators are being used to power the dryers/blowers.

What is the impact of missing a week of classes/instruction?



MARC VALERO/STAFF

**South Florida State College’s Crews Center incurred roof damage during Hurricane Irma, which resulted in damage to the interior of the building.**



**A South Florida State College facilities staff member removes damaged insulation from the Crews Center on U.S. 27 in Avon Park.**

“Usually we can make it up during the term,” Little said. “We may have to extend a day or two into the winter break. We always have a little bit of extra time built into the schedule.

“I don’t anticipate it being a major issue unless we are down all of next week or something,” he said.



# Generator users: Cut main breaker

## Some are energizing dead power lines

By **GARY PINNELL**  
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — For folks who have generators, please turn off the main power switch, Sheriff Paul Blackman said Tuesday.

In a conference call with the governor's office and Florida sheriffs, Blackman learned that some people are plugging generators into a switch that shoots electricity back through the power grid.

"Turn off the main breaker" in your house, the sheriff said.

"The lines are being energized," Blackman said. "That can kill somebody." Also, the power

companies are sending "pop-up gas stations" for their own vehicles, sheriffs were told.

"Those are not for the public," Public Information Officer Scott Dressel said. "I think they are fuel tankers that are able to fill up a vehicle."

Blackman wanted to know where the temporary fuel stations would set up, so deputies could provide security. That answer was not available at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Blackman also asked Duke Energy's timeline for restoring power to Highlands County, but was only told that an influx of contractors "from Duke are getting after it

hot and heavy."

A map from the Florida Division of Emergency Management showed Highlands is the only Florida County where 100 percent of the customers are without power. In Marco Island and Naples, about 80 percent of customers were without power. Hardee and Polk were among neighboring counties where 40-60 percent were without power.

Most of the Keys were without telephone service, Dressel said. Only satellite phones would work.

"Nothing useful," said Highlands County Commission Chair Don Elwell, who listened to the conference call.



# Henry playing at South Florida State College

## Singer part of SFSC's Kaleidoscope Series

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS  
NEWS-SUN

Since her debut in 2004, Nicole Henry has established herself as one of the jazz world's most acclaimed vocalists. Her repertoire includes the American Songbook, classic and contemporary jazz titles, contemporary standards, blues, and originals; while her accompaniment ranges from a simple jazz trio to a full big band. She will be bring her act to South Florida State College on Saturday, Sept. 30, at 7 p.m. when she performs at the SFSC University Center Auditorium as part

of the Kaleidoscope Series, a free event designed for family entertainment.

Henry's passionate, soulful voice and heart-felt charisma has earned her a 2013 Soul Train Award for "Best Traditional Jazz Performance," three Top-10 U.S. Billboard and HMV Japan jazz albums, and rave reviews both domestically and internationally by The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, The Japan Times, El Pais, Jazz Times, Essence and more.

Henry has captivated audiences in over 15 countries, headlining at venues in cities including New York, Tokyo, Madrid,

Moscow, Paris, Shanghai, Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston, San Francisco and Miami. She has performed in more than 30 music festivals worldwide and in some of the world's most famous venues including Blue Note, NYC; Jazz at Lincoln Center; Blues Alley; Arsht Center; Feinstein's; Green Mill; Madrid Jazz Festival; the Regattabar; and Catalina Jazz.

Free arts workshop for the kids one hour before the show.

Nut 'n Fancy Food Truck will be onsite serving food and snacks starting at 5:00 pm.



COURTESY PHOTO

**Nicole Henry will be at South Florida State College on Saturday, Sept. 30.**

The doors will open one hour before show time and attendees will be admitted on a first-come, first-served basis.

No tickets are required. This event is held in the SFSC University Center Auditorium which has a capacity of 245.

# SFSC 'Florida Treasures' moved to October due to Hurricane Irma

SPECIAL TO  
HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

When two tourists discover a treasure chest full of historical artifacts, they are magically transported back in time in a fun-filled journey through Florida's history. Laugh and learn about Ponce De Leon, the settlement of Pensacola (Florida's "Almost Oldest" city), the founding of St. Augustine, and the "original" Pocahontas story. Free arts workshop for

the kids one hour before the show, which will now be held Oct. 14.

Nut 'n Fancy Food Truck will be onsite serving food and snacks starting at 5 p.m.

This event is free and open to the public.

The doors will open one hour before show time and attendees will be admitted on a first-come, first-served basis. No tickets are required.

This event is held in the SFSC University Center Auditorium which has a

capacity of 245.

This series is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. To find out more about how National Endowment for the Arts grants impact individuals and communities, visit [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov).

Sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.



COURTESY PHOTO

**'Florida Treasures' has been moved to Oct. 14.**



## **X CPR, basic list support offered**

AVON PARK — South Florida State College's Corporate Education Department is CPR and basic life support classes.

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 skills practice and skills testing, and complete a written exam. Cost is \$55.

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 for either session contact CorporateTraining@southflorida.edu or call

# Panthers place second in meet

## South Florida's cross country team runs strong

HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN  
SPORTS STAFF

The South Florida State College women's cross country team shook off the rust after a two-week hiatus because of Hurricane Irma by competing in Saturday's University of Florida Mountain Dew Invitational in

Gainesville.

"I wasn't sure how the race was going to go for the team," said Panthers cross country coach Krista Schult. "We had pretty much two weeks off due to the hurricane, and missed out on some valuable training. It was strange having our first 5k of the year, so late in the season. However, the

girls all persevered and ran well."

South Florida, which is in its third year of having a women's cross country program, was paced by Kamryn Folger who finished with a time of 21:56, which was good enough for 189th place.

Other Panther runners were Brenda Miramontes who had a 22:54 and

came in 212th. Lexy Barraza finished at 22:58, Lily Addison had a time of 23:56 and Mariah Turgeon rounded out the team scoring with a time of 25:15.

At this race were all of the NJCAA Division I cross country teams from Florida, including all the

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COURTESY PHOTO

The South Florida State College women's cross country team had a strong showing in Saturday's meet in Gainesville.



# PANTHERS

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schools that are in South Florida's region.

The highlight of the meet was the Panthers were able to place second out of the five NJCAA squads.

The top three NJCAA teams qualify for the national finals. South Florida, which qualified for nationals in its inaugural season, is hoping to finish in the top three again this year and make the trip to the finals held in Iowa.

"It was a great experience for all of the girls on that team to go to nationals," said Schult. "Those are great memories and I would like for the girls

on this year's team to be able to experience that for themselves."

South Florida will look to get in some valuable practice time before they face their main competition in late October.

"We look forward to getting back on a regular training schedule," Schult said. "We won't face the NJCAA teams again until our region meet on Oct. 28. The girls want to lower their times and we've got a lot of work to do before the regional meet."

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COURTESY PHOTO

**South Florida State College cross country runner Kamryn Folger led the way for the Panthers during Saturday's meet.**





# Panthers fall to Seahawks



JAMES TAYLOR/CORRESPONDENT

South Florida State College's Kayla Wood (10) and Shadisha Summerrall (13) block a shot attempt by Broward College.

## SFSC volleyball team comes up short against Broward College

BY JIM TAYLOR  
CORRESPONDENT

AVON PARK — The South Florida State College Panther Volleyball team fell short in trying to overcome a two-set deficit against the Broward College Seahawk Volleyball team on Friday night, losing in four sets, 21-25, 21-25, 25-21 and 22-25.

The loss drops the Panthers to 2-3 on the season while the Seahawks picked up their first win of the year to improve to 1-3.

The first set was a tight, highly contested game in which both team swapped leads and were tied 19 before the Seahawks scored four consecutive points to take a 23-19 lead before winning the first set 25-21.

The Panthers seemed out of sorts in the second game as several unforced errors in

hitting and serving resulted in an eight point disadvantage to the Broward College at 20-12.

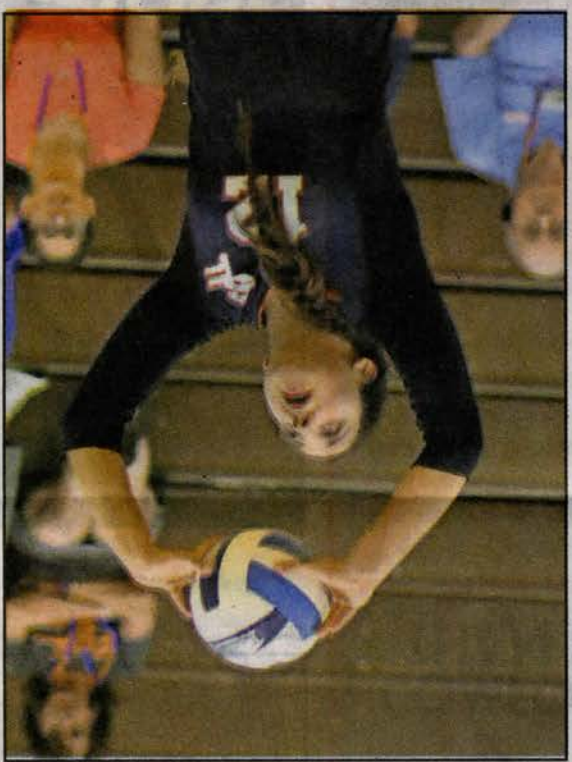
At that point, the Panthers attempted to rally back, cutting Broward's lead to three points late in the set at 24-21 before dropping the set at 25-21 to trail the match 2-0.

South Florida State College was able to carry the momentum of the late second set rally into the third set. Despite trailing early 8-6, the Panthers were able to string together a series of mini-runs that gave them the lead.

The first being a 4-1 run that gave the Panthers a 10-9 lead. With the game tied at 12, the Panthers went on another 4-1 run to take their biggest lead at three, 16-13.

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South Florida State College's Sarah Castillo (12) sets the ball.





# PANTHERS

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win and though they able to keep the fourth set close and even tied it several times, the Panthers never had a lead.

Tied at six and then trailing 10-9, South Florida State College fell

five points behind after a 5-1 run by Broward College.

Trailing 15-10, the Panthers went on a 6-1 scoring spurt as they

The Panthers tried to build on their third set

The Panthers expanded their lead to seven with a pair of 3-1 runs that gave them a commanding 22-15 lead. The Seahawks were able to close the gap to three points late at 24-21 before the Panthers put the game away with a 25-21 win.

The Panthers tried to

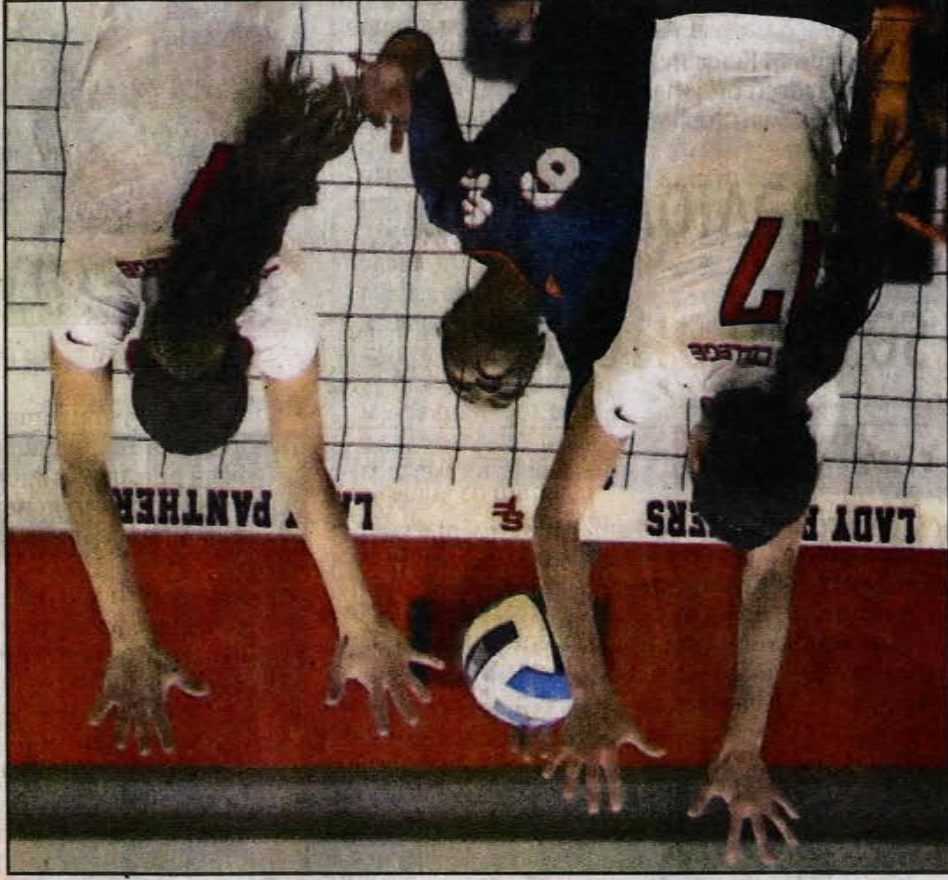
at 17. But Broward was able to hold off the late Panther surge by taking a four point lead late in the game 23-19.

The Panthers came

charging back, closing the gap to one at 23-22 before losing the fourth set to the Seahawks 25-22 and the match 3-1.

The next two weeks, the Panthers are on the road before playing their

next home match against St. Petersburg College on Oct. 3.



JIM TAYLOR/CORRESPONDENT

South Florida State College's Monet Butler (6) attempts to power a shot through two Broward College defenders.