

# SFSC offers tuition break to victims of Hurricane Maria

SPECIAL TO THE  
HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

AVON PARK — Following last's week destruction of Puerto Rico by Hurricane Maria, South Florida State College is offering in-state tuition to college students who are residents of the island.

"As a gesture of goodwill and compassion for our friends and neighbors in Puerto Rico, the

governor has reached out and asked those of us in the Florida College System and Florida University System to lend a helping hand," said Sidney Valentine, vice president for Academic and Student Services. "We're most pleased to open our doors to those students who, under the circumstances, would otherwise not be able to continue their studies."

In a letter to the

presidents of colleges and universities across Florida on Sept. 26, Gov. Rick Scott requested that they allow any student who has been displaced from their home in Puerto Rico by Hurricane Maria to be eligible for in-state tuition.

"Access to in-state tuition will ease the burden for students and families during this difficult time and allow them to focus on their education,"

Scott said.

At SFSC, tuition for a full-time, in-state student in a college transfer program would be \$1,567.80 for 15 credit hours. For an out-of-state student, that cost would be \$5,911.50.

Open registration for spring term at SFSC begins Monday, Oct. 16, and classes begin Jan. 3.

To apply to SFSC, prospective students should complete an application that can be

found on the SFSC website at [southflorida.edu/future-students/apply](http://southflorida.edu/future-students/apply). They will receive letters of acceptance that provide information about signing up for orientation and list any additional information needed to complete admission to SFSC.

Prospective students may also visit the SFSC Advising and Counseling Center, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through

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

To learn more about SFSC and its programs, visit the college website at [www.southflorida.edu](http://www.southflorida.edu).

# Spring, summer 2018 registration begins at SFSC

SPECIAL TO THE HIGHLANDS  
NEWS-SUN

**AVON PARK** — South Florida State College begins its spring and summer registration in October. Priority registration for students with 20 or more hours for SFSC's 2018 spring 16-week, spring and summer flex sessions is going on now. Open registration for all other students begins Oct. 16. Spring Term 2018 classes begin Jan. 3.

Returning students may register and pay for classes through the college portal, Panther


Central, which operates 24 hours a day. To access Panther Central, visit the college's website and click the Panther Central link on the right. Then click the student tab to access registration, financial aid, and payment options.

The SFSC Office of the Registrar accepts walk-in registrations from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays. Students can register in Building B on the Highlands Campus and at the Desoto Campus, the Hardee Campus, and the Lake Placid Center.

New students can apply for admission by visiting the college's website at [www.southflorida.edu](http://www.southflorida.edu). Click Apply Now at the top right, and complete the Application Form. Following admission to the college, new students must meet with an academic advisor to register for classes.

The spring and summer 2018 schedules of classes are available on the SFSC website in searchable and PDF formats. For more information about registration, call 863-453-6661, 863-465-3003, 863-773-3081, or 863-993-1757.





## **CPR, basic life 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](mailto:CorporateTraining@southflorida.edu) or call 863-784-7033.

# SFSC offers Hispanic Heritage Month Bilingual Poetry Reading

## Open Mic Night part of Thursday event

AVON PARK — In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, the South Florida State College Library will host a Bilingual Poetry Reading and Open Mic Night at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 5. The event is free and open to the public.

Tasha Morales, project director of Re-Engineering Our Future at SFSC, and Claire A. Miller, SFSC librarian, collaborated to develop this celebration of Hispanic poetry in both English and Spanish. Morales

will read at the event and will be joined by Michelle Macbeth, who teaches Spanish at SFSC, as well as students from the college. Attendees are invited to listen or read works by famous Hispanic poets in both English and Spanish.

Morales shared that the inspiration for this event was intended to raise awareness of Hispanic poets and restore a sense of normality after the impact of Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

"Some of our students are still dealing with the aftereffects of the storms both here and for family in Puerto Rico and other affected areas," she said. "This event will be a celebration of culture and resilience in this stressful time."

"Hispanic poets form an impressive body of work in English, Spanish, and other languages," Miller said. "I'm excited to share this poetry with new listeners."

Miller is collecting poems

for volunteer readers to share. She noted that some poems will be read in both English and Spanish, as a collaborative performance, while others will be read only in the language in which they were first written.

"Poetry written in Spanish has a different sound than English verse," Miller said. "For example, Pablo Neruda's work in translation always sounded odd to me, but after I heard it read in Spanish for the first time, I understood much more of the

structure and lyric nature of his poetry."

In addition to poetry and performance, the reading will feature light refreshments and door prizes. The Bilingual Poetry Night and Open Mic will be held on the first floor of Building Y (Learning Resources Center) on the Highlands Campus. To get to Building Y, take Entrance 3 or 4 from West College Drive. For more information, contact Miller at 863-784-7305 or Morales 863-784-7401.



# Leadership Highlands retreat builds teamwork

By **MARC VALERO**  
STAFF WRITER

**HAINES CITY —** Indoors and outdoors, the Leadership Highlands retreat Friday and a half day on Saturday offered many opportunities to examine problems, seek solutions and work together.

Due to Hurricane Irma the retreat was pushed back a few weeks, but most of the 26 class members were able to attend including this reporter who is a participant and offering a look at the unique program without getting too specific.

Mike McLeod, Dean Emeritus of South Florida State College and Board Chair of Leadership Highlands, offered the welcome and overview of the retreat and led the re-introductions as this



MARC VALERO/STAFF

**From left: Part of the Leadership Highlands team: Board Chair Mike McLeod, Coordinator Kris Juve and Trainer Laura Barben at the weekend retreat at the Florida FFA Leadership Training Center, Ben Hill Griffin Lodge, Haines City.**

was the first session since the orientation in August.

The leadership training was led Lisa Dunson and Laura Barben, both of Dunson Consulting LLC. Barben was class

president of Leadership Highlands 2011.

The training covered personality types and how they affect the interaction of staff and managers in the

workplace.

After lunch, the participants changed into outdoor clothing for team building exercises that



# TEAMWORK

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required problem solving and a lot of team work. It was hot and there was some rain, but the teams remained on task for the three-hour session led by Brandon Ball (LH 2015), Jeff Roth (LH 2001) and Susie Bishop (LH 2003).

Before dinner, team building assignments were made and the teams got to work on their presentations that were scheduled after dinner.

Kevin Brown, Dean Emeritus of South Florida State College, conducted the Saturday morning leadership training.

Leadership Highlands Coordinator Kris

Juve said Monday, "Despite the challenges of rescheduling our team-building retreat due to Hurricane Irma, we were thrilled to have 22 of the 26 members attend the event.

"I'm grateful for our LH Retreat Alumni team, Jeff Roth, Susie Bishop,



MARC VALERO/STAFF

**From left: Allison Huggins of Clifton Larsen Allen LLP, Justin Brock of Laye's Tire Service, Sree Challa of Florida Hospital and Stan Perry of Perry Brothers citrus during the Saturday morning Leadership training at the weekend retreat of the Leadership Highlands Class of 2018.**

Brandon Ball and Kevin Brown for their time and professional input. I also wish to thank our presenters Mike McLeod,

Lisa Dunson and Laura Barben for their contributions as well," Juve said. Leadership Highlands

2018 class member Blair Pakowski, development and communications director of Highlands County Habitat for

Humanity, commented on the retreat. "It's a great place to get to know others in the community, other

leaders, but also to learn more about the community and I am excited for what is to come."

Pakowski said she relocated from Wilmington, North Carolina, and has been in the area for a year and a half so she is still learning about the community.

Founded and nurtured by the three Highlands County Chambers of Commerce and select alumni, who comprise the Leadership Highlands Advisory Board, the goals of the program include familiarizing the participants with the infrastructure, agencies and economic enterprises that exist in Highlands County.

The monthly eight-hour sessions focus on criminal justice and county courthouse, economic development, media and human services, agriculture, education and health care.

The next session, criminal justice and the county courthouse, is scheduled Oct. 19.

## **SFSC Fall Flex B Session is open**

AVON PARK — The flex session is designed for students to finish in eight weeks. The session runs from Oct. 16- Dec. 13. Students can register through Dec. 17 and fees are due at the time students register. The schedule of classes is available online and students can apply online at [southflorida.edu](http://southflorida.edu). Financial aid office is 863-784-7134.

# SFSC box office to open



## IF YOU GO:

The SFSC Box Office phone is 863-784-7178. Phone sales are available for \$8 per order. No refunds or exchanges on ticket purchases are available.

The South Florida State College (SFSC) Box Office opens to the public on Monday, Oct. 23, at 11:30 a.m., for all performances at the 1,460-seat Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts and the 250-seat SFSC University Center, Highlands Campus, Avon Park.

Online sales begin Monday, Oct. 16, 9 a.m. Subscription packages for the Artist, Matinee, Jazz, and Trending Now series offer the largest discount and new benefits. In addition to keeping the same seat for all the shows in a series, subscribers now receive a 15-percent discount on additional tickets for any SFSC presentation. Subscribers also receive reduced processing fees, dining discount at the Hotel Jacaranda in Avon Park, best seats in the house and invitations to exclusive events.

SFSC will present 10 performances during the Artist Series which includes Broadway tours, international stars, orchestras and Grammy Award winning artists, and 10 performances during the Matinee Series, which is held Tuesday afternoons, January through March. Five contemporary, family friendly performances like The Nutcracker and Black Violin are offered during the Trending Now series. One of the best jazz series in Florida features five performances of traditional and Dixieland jazz. Special engagement

performances of Peace of Woodstock and rock and roll legend America are also on the schedule.

Group rates are available for most performances. A group of 12 can save as much as 50 percent over single ticket prices with a free ticket for the group organizer.

"A group can be family members celebrating a special occasion, a bunch of co-workers or friends, or a church group," said Cindy Garren, SFSC director, Cultural Programs. "It's a great way to fundraise, too."

For more information, call the SFSC Box Office at 863-784-7178.

Reduced rates are available for children, but babes in arms are not recommended. Children's tickets are only \$10 for Voice Play on Nov. 18, Mutts Gone Nuts on Jan. 27, Black Violin on Feb. 10, and Snowkus Pokus on Feb. 18. Adult subscription packages for the Trending Now series are as low as \$19 per show.

"Our goal is to get more families and young people to experience the performing arts," said Garren.

A "choose your own" package is also available offering a 15 percent discount when any five shows are purchased during one transaction.

"Tickets to a show are always a great gift and we have some great shows this season," said Garren. "I usually give my parents tickets to concerts and musicals because they have everything they need. A night at a concert is always delightful and much appreciated."

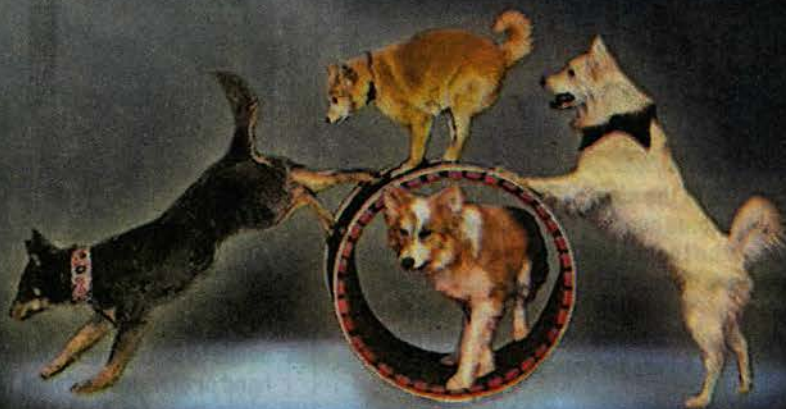
The SFSC Box Office is located on the Highland Campus, 600 West College Drive, Avon Park. (Take Entrance 1 or 3 from West College Drive to get to the box office.)

Videos, show information, and ticketing is available online at [www.sfscarts.org](http://www.sfscarts.org). The SFSC Box Office phone is 863-784-7178. Phone sales are available for \$8 per order. No refunds or exchanges on ticket purchases are available.



# Mutts Gone Nuts!

Canine Cabaret



COURTESY PHOTO

Gary Mauer from The Phantoms — Unmasked!



# Electric lineman program to start, schools and college partner in work project

By SHASTA MOTT

ARCADIAN CORRESPONDENT

Keeping kids in town with a good job is a consideration in a training partnership between DeSoto County schools and South Florida State College in Arcadia.

A bucket truck donated by the Peace River Electric Cooperative will jump-start a skilled-trades program at South Florida State College. The project announced at the DeSoto County School District's Tuesday meeting will bring 15 high-school students into the dual-enrollment program, training them to become electrical

linemen, a trade needing more workers. Hurricane Irma made that more clear, school and college officials said at Tuesday's school board meeting. Dual-enrollment students from DeSoto County High School will gain hands-on experience under the guidance of their instructor, Guns Lee.

South Florida State College DeSoto Campus director Asena Mott and DeSoto County Schools Superintendent Adrian Cline thanked Peace River Electric Cooperative representatives Van Crawford and Jason Hernandez for giving the partnership a working tool with the truck donation. "Organizations that are willing to

support the community are an invaluable resource," Cline said. "The payoff is huge for our students, who would never have this unique educational opportunity if it weren't for PRECO and the DeSoto school system." Cline also noted that the PRECO bucket truck is the same vehicle donated in an earlier lineman program at the college. "And she still looks good," he said of the truck.

Not wishing to take all the credit for the collaborative success, Crawford, a Peace River Electric Cooperative executive, noted that in addition to his passion for restoring the lineman program in DeSoto County, the company's

CEO, Randy Shaw, "has been willing to go the extra mile because he believes that collaboration with the DeSoto County School District and SFSC is a win-win for students," he said.

School Board member Ronny Allen thanked those involved in the dual-enrollment lineman program, asking whether DeSoto schools and the college could continue to look into more skilled-trade programs for students. Board member Deborah Snyder suggested surveying local businesses for their workforce needs and building programs in that direction.

# ELECTRIC

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Following the announcement of the truck donation and the lineman program at the college, DeSoto schools Instructional Services Director Carrie Fuller provided detailed information on the two newest programs that roll

out this month. State grants will allow the district to phase out older learning programs, replacing them with interactive activities and lessons to help keep students actively engaged, Fuller said, while also providing more opportunities for students to take advanced placement and certification courses as well as college prep tests.

The school board next meets on Oct. 24.



ARCADIAN PHOTO BY SHASTA MOTT

Keys to a bucket truck donated by the Peace River Electric Cooperative on Tuesday were handed over by company executives Jason Hernandez (left) and Van Crawford to DeSoto Schools Supt. Adrian Cline and Asena Mott, director for South Florida State College-Arcadia.



# 'Florida Treasures' moved to October 14

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS 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.

There will be a free arts workshop for the kids one hour before the show, which was

postponed to this Saturday, Oct. 14, due to Hurricane Irma. The show, which is part of the Kaleidoscope Series, was originally scheduled for Sept. 9.

Nut 'n Fancy Food

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COURTESY  
PHOTO

# TREASURES

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Truck will be on site 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.

The next show in the Kaleidoscope Series, Orquesta Caribeño Tropicale, will now take place Saturday, Oct. 21, at 7 p.m.

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).

This event is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.



# 'Fluid Nature' takes place at SFSC

By JIM ERVIN

CORRESPONDENT

The Museum Of Florida Art And Culture (MOFAC) exhibition season for 2017-18 has begun at South Florida State College. The season kicks off with an exhibit called, "Fluid Nature" which features the art of three Florida artists.

"The opening is the 19th (of October). The 'soft opening' is the 11th. It got pushed back a week because of the hurricane," said Megan Paquette Stepe, the curator of MOFAC. The featured artist are Nancy Bauer Dillen, Candice Knapp and Marianna Hamilton Ross. Some of the things you will see are "paintings, sculptures and mobiles."

Oct. 19 is also the initial installment of the "Third Thursday Program," where you can come in beginning at 1 p.m. and meet the artists.

There is a static display in the lobby area of the Alan Jay Wildstein Theater where you can view "works



JIM ERVIN  
/CORRESPONDENT

**Museum Of Florida Art And Culture Curator Megan Paquette Stepe.**

from our permanent collection" said Stepe. "(On one wall) we have a collection from the art group, they call themselves TAG, The Art Group, from Avon Park. They are a collection of artists from the surrounding area. They have a studio at The Hotel Jacaranda in Avon Park. And so we have a collection from them.

"I anticipate most, if not all the artists from both exhibits, to be here on the 19th."

Nancy Baur Dillen is Art Professor Emeritus at Brevard Community College (BCC).

She graduated from Florida State University with an M.A. in Art Education and Constructive Design in 1971. After graduation, she moved to Melbourne, where she became an art instructor at BCC. After 35 years of teaching, Dillen retired in May 2006. She is now painting on a full time basis, creating art for public places, exhibiting and conducting painting and drawing workshops locally and nationally, according to dillenart.com.

Candace Knapp says, "I know that works of art have an influence on

individuals and on society. These sculptures have something to tell you, a message that is beyond words. My work usually begins with an encounter with nature, an experience with a plant, animal or some other earthly thing in which I sense that we participate in each others existence. Painting, is my way of describing the atmosphere of a place with all the life moving within it" (candaceknapp.com).

Inspired by both irregular forms in nature and the human figure, Marianna Hamilton Ross has been painting in watercolor since earning her MFA in Painting at the University of Arizona in 1968. She was introduced to the batik process in 1970, reinforced by a trip to Indonesian

batik factories in 1976. Her painted silks fuse her watercolor painting approaches with the batik process. Since moving to Florida in 1984, Ross has been interpreting Florida's rich diversity of both tropical foliage and native forest

habitat using a variety of transparent painting methods and materials. The silk painting process used here is particularly responsive to the rich color luminosity found in nature

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COURTESY PHOTOS

A work by Nancy Baur Dillen.

**SFSC**

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(theartsweb.com).

MOFAC was founded in 2001 and has been hosting art exhibits since that time.

Museum hours are Wed.,  
Thur. and Fri. 12:30-4:30  
p.m.

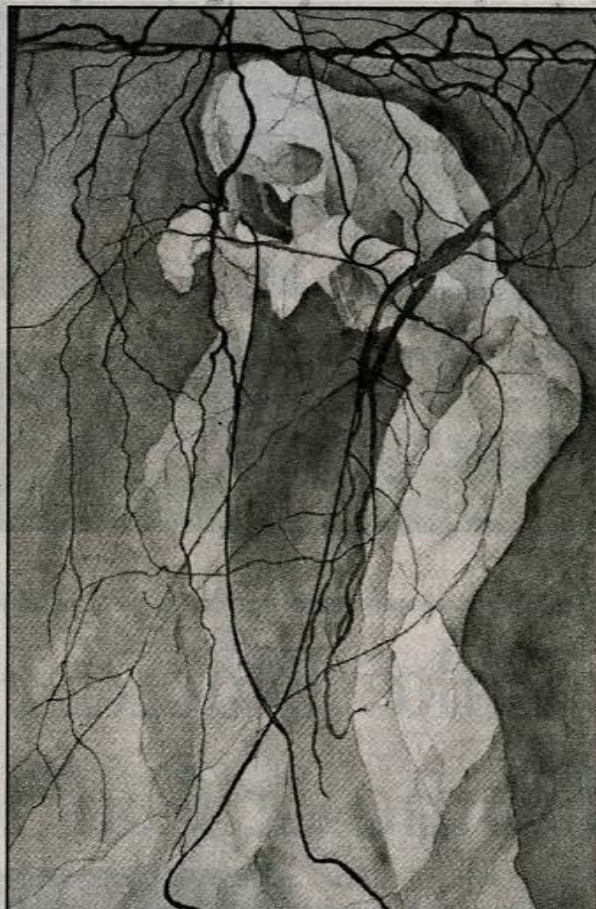
Third Thursday Program  
starts at 1 p.m.

Admission to all exhibits  
is free.

For more information  
call 863-784-7240



A piece from Candace Knapp.



A work from Marianna Hamilton Ross.



# SFSC Dental Education clinic offers free oral cancer screenings

SPECIAL TO  
HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

AVON PARK — South Florida State College's Dental Hygiene program will hold oral cancer screenings from 3:30-6 p.m. Thursday in Building T, SFSC Highlands Campus, Avon Park.

The screening is by appointment only, is open to the public, and is free.

The screening is a simple process that only takes about 15-20

minutes. After a brief medical history, patients will undergo a head and neck evaluation.

When needed, the visual exam is followed by a VELscope examination in which a florescent light is shown into the mouth and helps to detect abnormal cells that are not visible to the naked eye.

"Even people who wear dentures should have an oral cancer screening every year," said Dr. Deborah Milliken, department

chair, Dental Education. "Dental hygienists and dental assistants tend to be community-minded individuals, and oral cancer screening is only one of the many ways they serve in their communities."

According to the Oral Cancer Foundation and Oral Cancer Consortium, oral cancer is more deadly than Hodgkin's lymphoma, cervical, thyroid, and skin cancers, and kills one person every hour of the day, but

when found early, oral cancer patients have a 90 percent survival rate.

Oral cancer risk factors include alcohol and tobacco use, advancing age, sun exposure, a diet low in fruits and vegetables, and the human papilloma virus (HPV), which presents a five-times increase in occurrence in people under the age of 40.

To make an appointment, call SFSC Dental Education at 863-784-7020.



FILE PHOTO

South Florida State College's Dental Hygiene program will hold oral cancer screenings from 3:30-6 p.m. Thursday in Building T, SFSC Highlands Campus, Avon Park. The free screening is available to the public by appointment.



# SFSC is top prize contender — again

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS  
NEWS-SUN



AVON PARK — South Florida State College has been named one of the nation's top 150 community colleges eligible to compete for the \$1 million 2019 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America's community colleges, the college said.

This is the fifth consecutive time SFSC has been recognized.

The Aspen Prize recognizes institutions with outstanding achievements in four areas: learning; certificate and degree completion; employment and earnings; and high levels of access and success for minority and low-income students.

"The recognition from the Aspen Institute affirms that SFSC is a top-performing college due to quality learning initiatives led by a stellar faculty," said Thomas C. Leitzel, SFSC president. "Moreover, by looking deep into the data Aspen collects, SFSC far exceeds performance indicators in areas including graduation rates, number of credentials awarded, and overall student success."

Every two years, 150 community colleges are named as eligible to compete for the prize and are selected from a pool of nearly 1,000 public two-year colleges

nationwide using publicly available data on student outcomes.

Recognized institutions are located in urban, rural, and suburban areas and serve as few as 300 students and as many as 95,000 students.

The Florida College System as a whole is well represented. Santa Fe College in Gainesville was awarded the Aspen Prize in 2015, and Valencia College in Orlando won the inaugural prize in 2011.

SFSC joins 13 other FCS institutions in the top 150 colleges eligible for the 2019 Aspen Prize. They are Broward College, Chipola College, Daytona State College, Eastern Florida State College, Florida Keys Community College, Florida State College at Jacksonville, Indian River State College, Lake-Sumter State College, Miami Dade College, North Florida Community College, Northwest Florida State College, Palm Beach State College, and Tallahassee Community College.

No more than one half of the community colleges in each state may appear in the final list of eligible institutions.

The top 10 finalists for the 2019 Aspen Prize will be named in May 2018. The Aspen Institute will then conduct site visits

to each of the finalists and collect additional quantitative data, including employment and earnings data.

A prize jury will select a grand prize winner, finalist(s) with distinction, and rising star(s) in spring 2019.

"Higher education attainment has never been more important. Estimates from Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce suggest that out of the 11.6 million jobs created in the post-recession economy, 11.5 million require at least some college education. The vast majority of students who enroll in community colleges do so because they believe that post-secondary education will provide them a path to rewarding work, stable employment, and family-sustaining wages," a news release states.

The 2019 Aspen Prize is funded by the Joyce Foundation and the Siemens Foundation.

The Aspen Institute is an educational and policy studies organization based in Washington, D.C. Its mission is to foster leadership based on enduring values and to provide a nonpartisan venue for dealing with critical issues.

For more information, visit [www.aspeninstitute.org](http://www.aspeninstitute.org).



# La Orquesta Caribeño Tropical at SFSC

South Florida State College Performing Arts, together with the City of Avon Park and Sebring Radio Group, will present La Orquesta Caribeño Tropicale on Saturday, Oct. 21, at 7 p.m., in the 250-seat SFSC University Center, Highlands Campus, in Avon Park. A free percussion workshop for young people will be conducted one hour prior to the performance.

"Put on your dancing shoes and get ready to salsa!" said Cindy Garren, director of Cultural Programs. La Orquesta Caribeño Tropicale performs the heritage rich sounds of the Caribbean and Latin America including Puerto Rico, Cuba, Republica Dominicana, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, and Peru. The 12-piece band is led by Miguel Lucas who put the band together to play more than salsa music. "I wanted to play merengue, bachata, cumbia, bolero, Son Montuno, and other genres of Latin music," said Lucas.

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

Cumbia music is sometimes called the mother of all Latin music. The origin of the music comes from the days of slavery in the late 17th century and is derived from the



COURTESY PHOTO

**La Orquesta Caribeño Tropicale will be doing a free performance on Saturday at South Florida State College.**

African word cumbé which means dance. It is said to have predated and influenced other types of Latin music including Salsa. Cumbia, which has a simple, straightforward dance step, originated in Colombia and moved to Mexico in the

1950s where it became popular.

Nut n Fancy Food Truck will be onsite at the performance at 5 p.m., offering brisket and pulled pork dinners for \$10. Other snacks are available. The food truck makes cash sales only. Seating for diners

is available in the SFSC University Center lobby.



No tickets are required for the performances. All seating is first come, first served. Persons requiring special accommodations, please contact the SFSC Box Office at 863-784-7178. More information and performance videos are posted online at [www.sfscarts.org/kaleidoscope](http://www.sfscarts.org/kaleidoscope).

SFSC presents over 35 national and international touring artists at the 1,460-seat Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts and the 250-seat SFSC University Center at the Highlands Campus in Avon Park. SFSC offers a Matinee Series for adults at leisure,

Young People's Theater Series for school performances, Jazz Series, Trending Now Series of contemporary, family shows and the popular Artist Series. Group rates and subscriptions are available online and at the box office. Upcoming performances include: The Phantoms...

Unmasked on Nov. 30, The Nutcracker on Dec. 5, and Grammy Award winner Petula Clark on Dec. 10.

The SFSC Performing Arts Box Office is located at the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts at 600 West College Drive, Highlands Campus, Avon Park.

# VoicePlay set to rock Wildstein Center

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS SUN

Soaring to fame on NBC's "The Sing-Off" and two sold-out national tours of "The Sing-Off Live!," the enormously entertaining five-piece a cappella group, VoicePlay, is set to rock South Florida State College's Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts, Highlands Campus, in Avon Park, on Saturday, Nov. 18 at 7 p.m. in the season opener of the Florida Hospital Trending Now Series. The performance is sponsored by Drs. Audwin and Patrice Nelson.

"This is a really fun show for kids," said Cindy Garren, director, SFSC Cultural Programs, "and youth tickets are only \$10."

Much more than a concert, VoicePlay is a theatrical experience that magically recreates the orchestrated sound of an entire musical production with nothing but the human voice. Alternating between eras and styles to showcase the quintet's amazing vocal feats, each show is laced with inventive and hilarious on-stage theatrics. With over a million YouTube views for their cover of "The Phantom of the Opera," and their collaborations with Disney, the group has played a part in the surging popularity of contemporary a cappella.

What began as a street corner barbershop act has evolved into an internationally acclaimed touring sensation with six national tours and video entertainment

brand. The cast of VoicePlay has taken the timeless sound of vocal music and turned it completely on its head.

Geoff Castellucci, one of the founding members of VoicePlay said, "We find that a cappella music tends to be pretty relatable to most audiences. Everyone is familiar with it in one form or another, whether that's Motown, or a guy singing on a street corner. Everyone can relate to the voices and harmony. Making that leap has pretty much already been done for us. We want you to walk away from our show saying that was amazing and then, 'Oh yeah, it was a capella.'"

Tickets for VoicePlay are \$22 to \$30. Student/child tickets are \$10. For more information, videos

and to order tickets online, visit [www.sfscarts.org](http://www.sfscarts.org). The SFSC Box Office is located on SFSC's Highlands Campus, at 600 West College Drive, Avon Park. To contact the SFSC Box Office, call 863-784-7178.

The Florida Trending Now Series features five family-friendly, contemporary performances. Upcoming performances are The Nutcracker, Black Violin, Mutts Gone Nuts and Snowkus Pocus. Subscription packages are \$95 to \$121. Group rates are also available.

SFSC presents over 35 national and internationally touring artists at the 1,460-seat Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts and the 250-seat SFSC University Center. SFSC offers a Matinee Series for adults at



COURTESY PHOTO

**VoicePlay will be performing at SFSC's Alan Jay Wildstein Performing Arts Center on Nov. 18.**

leisure, Young People's Theater Series for school performances, Jazz Series, Trending Now Series of contemporary, family shows, and the popular Artist Series. Group rates and subscriptions are

available online and at the SFSC Box Office. Upcoming performances include The Phantoms... Unmasked on Nov. 30; The Nutcracker on Dec. 5; and Grammy Award winner Petula Clark on Dec. 10.



# Rouse celebrates 25 years cancer free

By **MARC VALERO**  
STAFF WRITER

A routine mammogram in 1992 showed that Kathy Rouse, then 42, single and working two jobs, had breast cancer.

"I was shocked," she said.

Rouse told her doctors she was working two jobs, but they told her it doesn't matter she needed surgery right away.

Two weeks later doctors removed her left breast and performed reconstructive surgery.

"I had no insurance, but the hospital and doctors worked out a payment plan," she said.

After her surgery, Rouse didn't have time to rest at home.

"I still worked; I went right back to work; I wasn't supposed to, but I did because I was single and I had a car payment and house payment like everybody else," she said.

Two years later Rouse faced a complication from the reconstructive surgery.

"My implant migrated into my chest so more surgery was required and, once again, no insurance," she said. "But, things went well.

"I never stopped working as a waitress at Main Street America in Lake Placid," Rouse said.

She is also a certified aerobics instructor at South Florida State College where she teaches as many as 13 classes a week.

In 2014, Rouse celebrated another year (23 years) of being cancer free and celebrated paying off her medical bills.

"On Aug. 2, 2014, I paid my cancer treatment bill in full, which was well over \$150,000," she said. "It took me 23



Kathy Rouse had surgery in 1992 two weeks after cancer was detected in her left breast.

years of working two jobs to do it!

"I am extremely proud and feel fortunate to be here today to tell my story."

Rouse is thankful for the support of her friends and family.

"It was a hard thing to go through being by myself, but I think going back to work kept my spirits up a little more," she said.

"Now my aerobics students always join me the fight against breast cancer during the month of October," Rouse said. "They donate their time and money and we have Pink Parties at the SFSC aerobics room.

"I have been teaching aerobics at the college for over 20 years and a lot of those girls have been with me that long."

All the money goes to Florida Hospital for breast cancer research and treatment.

"Today, I am 25 years cancer free," Rouse declared.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Kathy Rouse (standing) celebrates being cancer free every October, which is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



# Take Stock in Children receives \$75,000 gift from anonymous donor

*News-Sun  
Oct. 22, Sunday*

Special to

HighlandS newS-Sun AVON PARK — The South Florida State College Foundation has received a gift of stock valued at \$75,000 from an anonymous donor to bolster the Take Stock in Children program.

Because of the donation, more than 18 Take Stock in Children college scholarships will be available to

local children. "Bob Duncan, an SFSC Foundation board member, shared his enthusiasm for being a Take Stock in Children mentor with an anonymous donor," said Jamie Bateman, executive director, SFSC Institutional Advancement. "He illustrated for her the personal and academic success kids in Take Stock have had and explained that his own student mentees have gone on to be successful at state universities."

The anonymous donor was so impressed by Duncan's passion for Take Stock in Children that she decided to do something so more students would have the opportunity to go to college. She consulted with her financial advisor, and together they began the process of donating a gift of stock to the SFSC Foundation to be used for Take Stock in Children.

Take Stock in Children is a statewide program that provides at-risk children with a mentor and a college scholarship. In return, Take Stock scholars sign contracts in which they promise to remain drug-free, to avoid behavior that would get them into trouble with law enforcement, to attend school regularly, and to earn satisfactory grades.

The students' parents also sign the contracts and agree to provide home environments conducive to education. The local Take Stock program has been in place for 20 years and has awarded college scholarships to more than 400 local students. The SFSC Foundation is the lead agency for Take Stock in Children within the college's service district of DeSoto, Hardee, and Highlands counties.

"This \$75,000 donation is beneficial because we now have 18 more Take Stock scholarships to give out," Duncan said. "The graduation success rate of Take Stock is about 99.99 percent. I've been on the Take Stock scholarship selection committee for 10 years or better. We have eight, maybe, 10 children who are eligible, but we can pick only two or three. We want to help more children, but there's just not enough money. I think most people feel 'if I can't donate \$5,000 or \$10,000, I just won't bother donating anything.' But smaller amounts of money add up."

Duncan has seen two of his previous mentees graduate from the University of Florida. "It just brings tears to my eyes because these kids have accomplished a lot in spite of the many difficulties in their lives," he said. "The Take Stock program just needs to expand."

"Donations to Take Stock in Children are used for college scholarships and matched one-to-one by Project STARS, which is under the Florida Prepaid Foundation," said Irene Castanon, Take Stock in Children program coordinator. "It costs almost \$8,000 for one child's scholarship. So Project STARS pays half of the cost of the scholarship, and we raise money for the other half."

The scholarship covers tuition as well as college readiness services. "The student receives a mentor such as Mr. Duncan and a college success coach," Castanon said.

"We offer workshops to familiarize the students with completing a college application and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

When Take Stock students are in the ninth grade, we begin to prepare them for taking the SAT and ACT.

We discuss Bright Futures scholarships, requirements, the categories of the scholarship, and when to register for them. We also discuss the availability and requirements for other types of financial aid." Take Stock scholars are offered tours of colleges and universities to help them decide where they might like to attend.

Duncan encouraged others to volunteer as Take Stock mentors. He said that, initially, the student mentees think the mentor is there because they have to be. "Pretty soon, you become friends, and they start to ask questions and tell you about life situations they may not have related to anyone else. It's because they know you care."

I think the strongest element in being a Take Stock mentor is just being there on a regular basis and not monopolizing the conversation. The best attribute anyone can have is to listen."





**From left, Jamie Bateman, executive director, South Florida State College Foundation; Irene Castanon, Take Stock in Children program coordinator; and Bob Duncan, member, SFSC Foundation Board of Directors.**

COURTESY PHOTO

# Students inducted into Phi Theta Kappa honor society

SPECIAL TO THE  
HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

AVON PARK — South Florida State College inducted 89 students into its Tau Epsilon chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) honor society Oct. 19.

With families and fellow students looking on, the students recited an oath of membership, joining the honor society that recognizes distinguished academic achievement by students enrolled in two-year academic programs.

Michelle Macbeth, SFSC instructor, Foreign Languages, and co-advisor for the PTK chapter, served as guest speaker. Macbeth offered the students words of advice, citing a list of five things she wished she had known during her own academic career.



COURTESY PHOTO

**About 90 South Florida State College students were inducted into the local Tau Epsilon chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) honor society on Oct. 19.**

"You shouldn't feel stuck with any academic decision," Macbeth said. "You can always

change your major or track."

She went on to explain that education is a tool. "You may

love creative writing but that may not be a practical degree for you," she said. "You need to ask yourself, 'what you're going to use your degree for.'"

"What you think you're going to do with your life may change," Macbeth said. "I loved music, but didn't love studying music as much as I thought I would, so I changed my major."

She explained that at one point in her career she was put in front of a class to teach and was dreading the experience. However, she enjoyed it and discovered that teaching was meant to be her life's work.

Macbeth encouraged the students to make wise decisions. She cautioned that students don't necessarily have to "do all these crazy 'college experience' things." Speaking in the extreme, she said that

incurring a felony would haunt a student for the rest of his or her life. "Be wise in your decisions."

Finally, Macbeth encouraged students, "Don't let fear keep you from doing things that will be rewarding in the long run."

As the ceremony drew to a close, the inductees each signed the honor society's membership book, recording their status as scholars of distinction at SFSC. When the auditorium lights dimmed, each scholar lit a candle signifying his or her fellowship in the society.

The 2017 PTK officers are Danny Sustaita, president; Kevin Webb, vice president; Austin Beck, secretary; Madeline Charles, treasurer; and Erika Weaver-Coleman, public relations.



# Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program activated

South Florida State college is the Heartland area's intake point for the program

FLGOV.COM

FORT MYERS —

Governor Rick Scott activated the Florida Small Business

Emergency Bridge Loan Program to support small businesses

impacted by Hurricane Irma. The bridge loan program, managed by the Florida Department of Economic

Opportunity (DEO), will provide short-term, interest-free loans to small businesses that experienced physical or economic damage during the storm. The



SCOTT

**SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE**

600 W. College Drive, Building H  
Avon Park, FL 33825-9356  
863-784-7422

application period is through Oct. 31.

"Hurricane Irma was a massive storm affecting our entire state, including many of our small businesses. Small businesses are the backbone of Florida's economy, and families are depending on these businesses

recovering as quickly as possible. The small business bridge loan program will help small business owners and communities get back up and running and I encourage all affected business owners to apply today," Governor Scott said

# LOAN

FROM PAGE 1

DEO administers the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program in partnership with the Florida SBDC Network to provide cash flow to businesses damaged by a disaster. The short-term, interest-free loans help bridge the gap between the time damage is incurred and when a business secures other financial resources, including payment of insurance claims or longer-term Small Business Administration loans. Up to \$10 million has been allocated for the program.

"So many communities across Florida have been affected by this storm. Businesses from the Panhandle to the Keys

need assistance, and DEO is working with these businesses to make sure they can recover and be successful. The first step to getting our communities back on their feet, is getting our businesses back on their feet," DEO Executive Director Cissy Proctor said.

DEO is currently surveying businesses in the affected counties. To access the business survey, visit <http://flvbeoc.org/index.php?action=bda> and select "Hurricane Irma" from the drop-down menu.

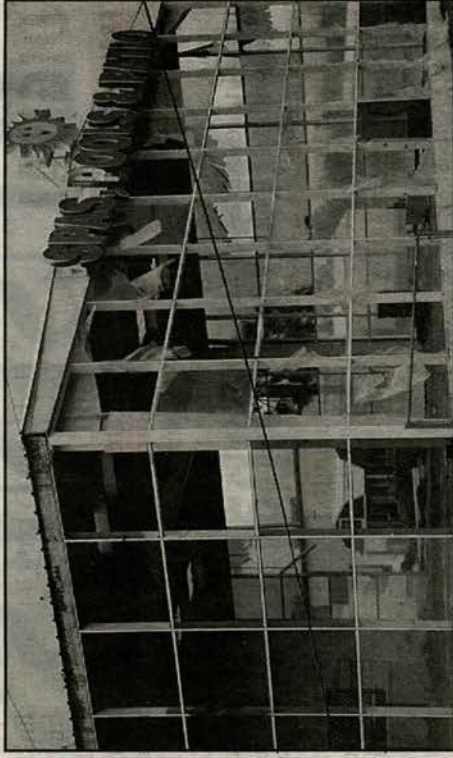
Response to the damage assessment is not an application for assistance, so businesses that fill out the survey and are interested in the bridge loan program must fill out a bridge loan application as well.

Small business owners with two to 100 employees located in any of Florida's 67 counties

affected by Hurricane Irma can apply for short-term loans up to \$25,000. These interest-free loans are granted in terms of 90 or 180 days. To be eligible, a business must have been established prior to Sept. 4, 2017, and demonstrate economic injury or physical damage as a result of Hurricane Irma.

"We are saddened to see and hear the stories of damage and loss that individuals and small businesses have suffered due to Hurricane Irma. We want our small business owners to know how important they are to our state and we are here to help walk them through the recovery process to get their employees back to work and growing their business," Michael Myhre, CEO and State Director for the Florida SBDC Network, said.

To complete an application by



BY GARY PINNELL/STAFF

## Spas Pool and Patio lost window panes during Hurricane Irma.

the Oct. 31 deadline, or for more information on the program, visit [floridadisasterloan.org](http://floridadisasterloan.org). For questions regarding the Emergency Bridge Loan Program, contact the Florida Small Business Development

Center Network at 850-898-3489 or email [Disaster@FloridaSBDC.org](mailto:Disaster@FloridaSBDC.org). The phone line will be answered during regular business hours; all voice mails and emails will be responded to within 24 hours.





MARC VALERO/STAFF

From left: Lake Placid High students, junior Karina Ramos and senior Lily Heredia, at College Night.



Representatives from colleges and universities offered information about their institutions to students and parents at the annual College Night, which was held Tuesday at the Sebring High Smith Center.

# Students get prepped at College Night

By **MARC VALERO**  
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — The annual College Night on Tuesday offered Highlands County students a one-stop location to meet college and university representatives.

But, there were fewer college reps than in previous years because the event had to be rescheduled to a later date due to Hurricane Irma.

The listing of participating institutions numbered 19, which included primarily colleges and universities in Florida including: South Florida State College, Warner University, Webber International University of Florida, University of Central Florida and Florida State University.

The U.S. Navy was the only military branch listed.

Lake Placid High

senior Kyle Warkentin was among those who arrived early for the event.

After high school he plans to continue his studies at South Florida State College.

"But, after that I don't know what I am doing yet," Warkentin said. That is why he came to College Night so he can get some ideas of what he wants to do after two years at SFSC.

He attended college night once before during his freshman year.

At Lake Placid High, Warkentin said he was active in the Positive Action Club, which brings awareness about the dangers of bullying, alcohol, drugs and tobacco.

Also, he was the Junior Class president last year and is in the National Honor Society.

It was Lake Placid High senior Lily Heredia's first time at College Night.



Lake Placid High senior Kyle Warkentin at Tuesday evening's College Night in the Smith Center at Sebring High.

Posters in the hallways of Lake Placid High informed and reminded students of College Night, she said.

Heredia hopes to get more information on her options after high school.

Her college preferences are the University of Central Florida, University of South

Florida and South Florida State College.

"I want to be a PA [physician's assistant]," she said, and wanted to learn more about the PA programs.

The School Board of Highlands County through Student Support Services hosts College Night.



## THE ALAN JAY WILDSTEIN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

# Theater for younger people at SFSC

SPECIAL TO  
HIGHLAND NEWS-SUN

**AVON PARK** — Virginia Repertory Theatre, one of the largest professional theaters in Virginia, brings its national tour of "The Adventures of Pinocchio" to Highlands County on Monday, Oct. 30, for two performances — at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., at the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts, South Florida State College, Highlands Campus, Avon Park. The performance is recommended for children in grades kindergarten through 4th grade. Tickets are \$4 each and complimentary tickets for chaperons are available with every 10 tickets purchased.

Based on the novel by Carlo Collodi, one of the most loved children's tales around the world, the musical follows the mischievous wooden puppet as he learns valuable lessons that lead him back home to Geppeto. This fun show for young people teaches lessons

about honesty and self-esteem. A free study guide helps teachers and parents incorporate the show into classroom curriculum.

"Huck and Tom and the Mighty Mississippi" tells the story of America's greatest young adventurers in this foot-stomping musical based on the novels by Mark Twain. Recommended for students in grades three to five, the production is scheduled for March 28 with performances at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

"Huck and Tom and the Mighty Mississippi" introduces the audience to the characters, setting, humor, and humanity of Mark Twain's most famous novels, "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" and "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn."

Selected scenes from the novels form the basis of the musical play and introduces students to some of the most legendary adventures and characters in all of American literature. Huck, Tom, Jim, Becky Thatcher, Aunt Polly and



COURTESY PHOTO

## A scene from "Pinocchio."

all the residents and rapsalions of Hannibal explore the majestic river that defined their lives, tested their souls, and carried their spirit into the heart of America.

Curriculum subjects covered are language arts, history, art, multi-culturalism, and music.

Based on the award-winning

book by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler, "The Gruffalo," scheduled for May 8 at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., is a classic fantasy story captures the imagination of young children as it takes them on a journey with mouse as he strolls through the wood and meets the beast himself, the

Gruffalo. Performed by Tall Stories, a professional theatrical production company based in London, this performance has toured throughout Great Britain and the United States. Filled with songs and laughs, "The Gruffalo" is recommended for children ages 4 and up.

"We encourage homeschoolers to attend any of our presentations," said Cindy Garren, SFSC director, Cultural Programs. "Reservations are highly encouraged because some shows do sell out."

For more information or to make a reservation, contact Mitzi Farmer at 863-784-7284.

The Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts is a 1,460-seat venue at SFSC's Highlands Campus in Avon Park. Since 1998, SFSC has presented professional touring theatricals for school groups. SFSC also provides complimentary tickets to students for all Jazz Series performances. Free student tickets are available at the SFSC Box Office the night of the show.



# SFSC spices it up with Chili Cook-Off

By **MARC VALERO**  
STAFF WRITER

**AVON PARK** — It was a slightly chilly day by Florida standards Thursday making it an appropriate day for the annual faculty and staff Chili Cook-Off to heat up the competition at South Florida State College.

The ground floor of Building B became chili central during the midday with six teams presenting their creations to a three-member panel of judges who looked for the best combination of aroma, texture, taste and aftertaste.

The teams included: Cow Town Chefs, Pumpkin Guts, Back-Draft, The Hot Heads, Kiss Konnektion and Beano 911.

The judges, who took their role as chili tasters seriously, were Dean of Applied Sciences and Technologies Erik Christensen, Vice President Administrative Services Glenn Little and Dean of Arts and Sciences Lynn MacNeil.

Services Glenn Little and Dean of Arts and Sciences Lynn MacNeil.

Little said he has been a chili judge for about 10 years.

The "Beano 911," team, comprised of Tara Huften, Kendall Carson and Debbie Gutierrez, took the first-place honors.

The 911 ladies wore matching police uniforms and sunglasses.

Gutierrez said she was in charge of the props and decorations and Huften and Carson were the "cookers."

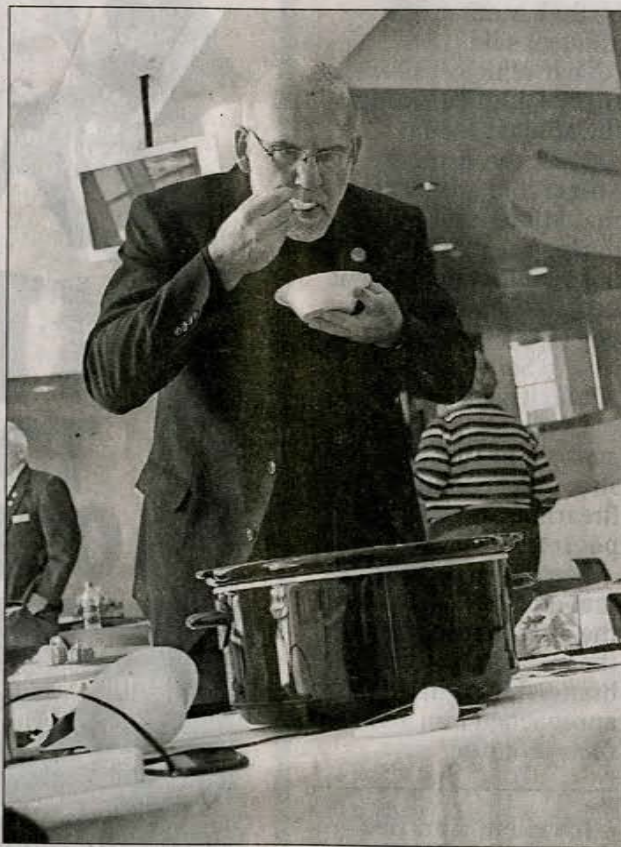
"It was a team effort," she said.

What are a couple of the secrets for creating a great chili?

"Google it," Huften replied, which prompted giggles from the team.

After the judging, students had the chance to eat a bowl of chili for \$5.

Other faculty members made chili for the occasion, but did not enter the competition.



**Above:** Dean of Applied Sciences and Technologies Erik Christensen tastes one of the six entries in Thursday's faculty and staff Chili Cook-Off at South Florida State College.



MARC VALERO/STAFF

**The Chili Cook-Off judges, from left: Dean of Applied Sciences and Technologies Erik Christensen, Vice President Administrative Services Glenn Little and Dean of Arts and Sciences Lynn MacNeil.**



**Right:** The winning Chili Cook-Off team, "Beano 911," from left: Tara Huften, Kendall Carson and Debbie Gutierrez.



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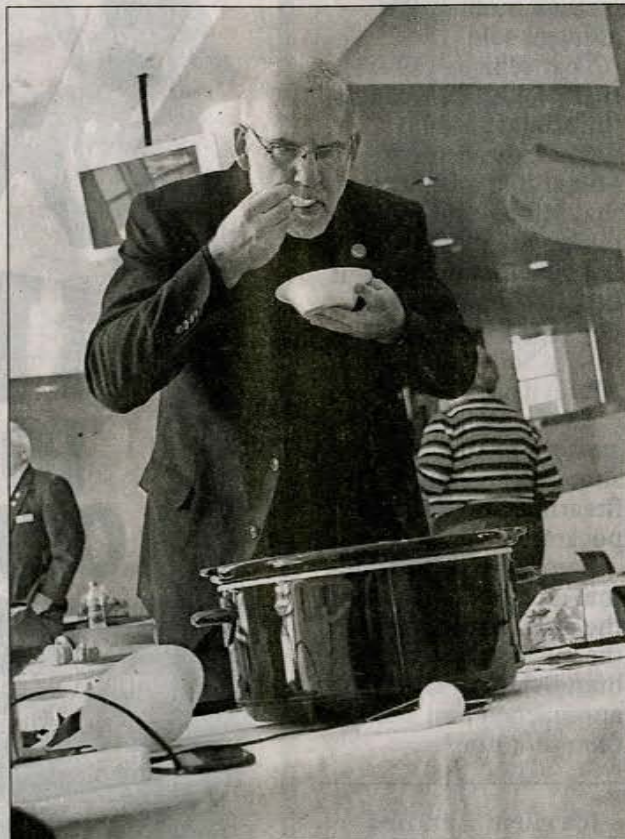
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Right: The winning Chili Cook-Off team, "Beano 911," from left: Tara Huften, Kendall Carson and Debbie Gutierrez.



MARC VALERO/STAFF

The Chili Cook-Off judges, from left: Dean of Applied Sciences and Technologies Erik Christensen, Vice President Administrative Services Glenn Little and Dean of Arts and Sciences Lynn MacNeil.





# Inaugural Business Expo, a new town favorite

By **KIM LEATHERMAN**  
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — The inaugural Sebring Business Expo was hosted by the Greater Sebring Chamber of Commerce Friday at the Jack Stroup Civic Center. Some 50 businesses set up booths to highlight the nature of their businesses both inside and outside

the building.

The free expo boasted a wide variety of businesses. The gamut ran from financial institutions, exterminators, masseuses, home health care and more. The walk was at a relaxed pace with time to grab freebies and smell the aromatherapy. More than a few guests took in a chair

massage.

Food was available via food trucks and Senor Jalepeno's, which had a taste for every bud with burgers, barbecue, breakfast burritos and gator tail.

Every hour educational seminars were offered by experts in their fields including identity theft, social media, personal

safety, financial investing and cardiac health.

Sebring Chamber of Commerce CEO Liz Barber was pleased with the turnout.

"The expo gives our local businesses an opportunity to showcase their products to people who may have never heard of the company," Barber said. "They can

demonstrate products and offer new services."

Many vendors offered Halloween candy but none with as much flair as the team from South Florida State College, which had its new robot handing out candy. The robot is part of a new class of mechatronics at the school.

The ladies of Harbor

Community Bank were glad they participated and promise to return for next year's expo.

"This was great exposure," Terry Caauwe, residential loan officer. "This is a great time to do this, when our northern residents are coming back, we can help them with their banking needs."





KIM LEATHERMAN / STAFF

Dee Snyder of the RidArea Arc and Nan Immel of Comfort Keepers seem to be enjoying the Sebring Expo and each other on Friday at the Jack Stroup Civic Center.



SFSC instructor Michele Leidel is remotely controlling the robot that is handing out Halloween candy on Friday morning.



Agero and dozens of other businesses attended the first Sebring Business Expo at the Jack Stroup Civic Center on Friday.



Business representatives help out visitors to the Sebring Expo on Friday by showing them what their companies offer.



George Pelaez aka. Captain Boom Boom is brave to wear tights in public as he represented Boom Boom Guns and Ammo at the Inaugural Sebring Business Expo on Friday.



# Game Day at SFSC library

By **MARC VALERO**

STAFF WRITER

AVON PARK — It was more than a game, it was a bunch of games from puzzles to word play to strategies and an “epic” Twister championship on Monday with the South Florida State College library participating in International Games Day.

Librarian Claire Miller said this is the third year the library is participating in the movement that celebrates games and gaming and libraries and how it can support learning, literacy and outreach.

Miller showed freshmen Jamele Bedell and Edward Harden how to play Word Winder.

Bedell said, as a kid, he played Scrabble with his younger brother and his cousins that were around his age.

He remembers an “apple” game.

Miller asked, “Apples to Apples?”

“Yes,” Bedell replied, also Chutes and Ladders, and Candyland were

other board-game favorites he remembered playing.

Harden said he played mostly chess and Monopoly.

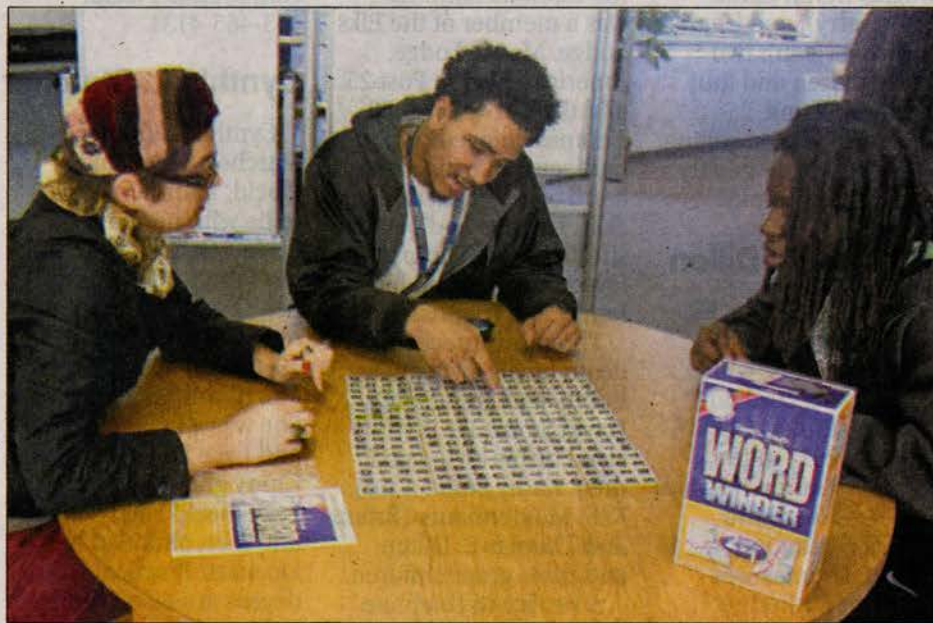
Students had the opportunity to work on a jigsaw puzzle, which was set up on a table with a sign that stated, “puzzle away your stress.”

The 750-piece puzzle was of the Vincent van Gogh painting “Iris.”

The available board games included: Clue, Uno, Sorry, Battleship along with chess and checks and many others.

The library also had at least two editions of the abstract-strategy board game “Blokus” with the selling points on retail websites that state — 400 piece game board with raised edges, 84 colored playing pieces, promotes healthy brain activity.

Miller said the giant Twister board, which is about twice the size of the normal board, was ready in the library for the “Epic” Twister championship during later times in the day.



MARC VALERO/STAFF

**Above:** From left: SFSC librarian Claire Miller show freshman Jamele Bedell and Edward Harden how to play a word game during International Games Day Monday at the South Florida State College, Avon Park campus library.

**Right:** There were games to be played Monday at South Florida State College, which observed International Games Day. Several of the games available included Clue, Uno, Sorry, Battleship, Blokus, Taboo, Twister, chess and checkers.

