

SFSC honors veterans

By MARC VALERO
STAFF WRITER

AVON PARK — South Florida State College honored U.S. military veterans at its Avon Park campus Monday with a program that included remarks from student veterans and a veteran celebration formation.

SFSC District Board of Trustees Chair Tami Cullens said, “Throughout this nation’s history, American soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and coast guardsmen have bravely entered the cause to defend our freedom, to aid our friends and allies, and to turn back aggressors.

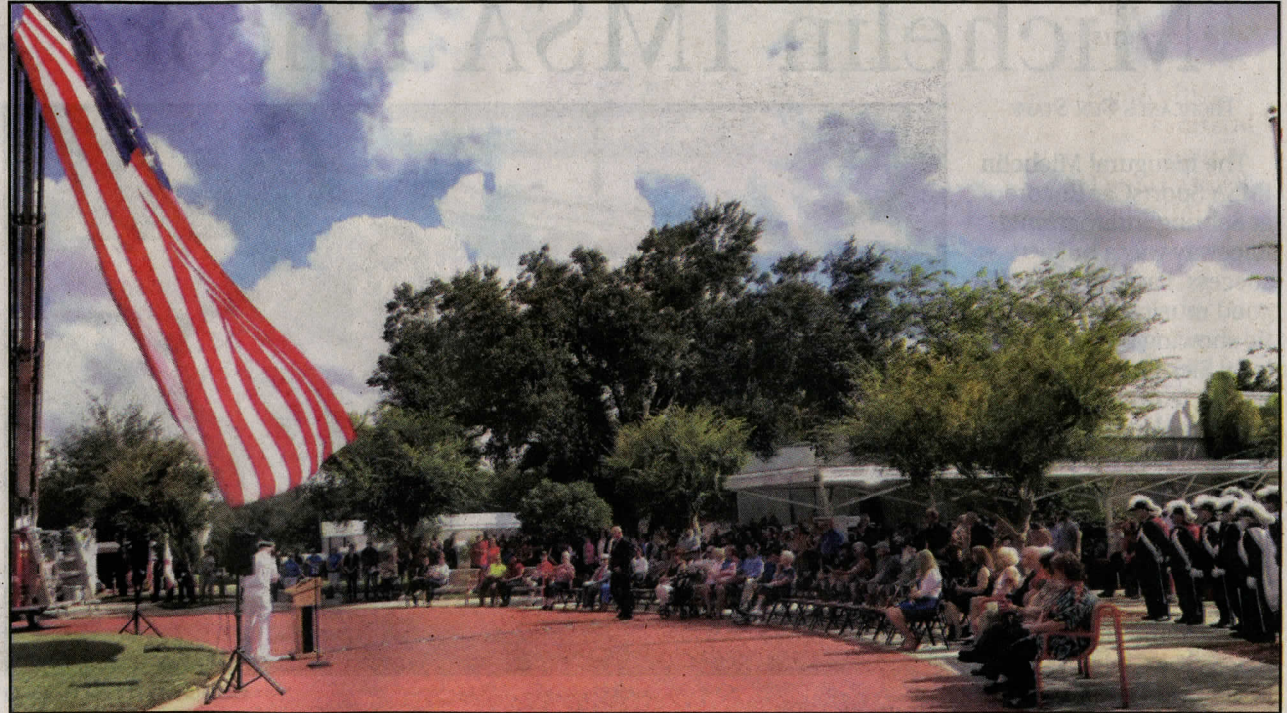
“We can never fully repay our debt of gratitude

to the more than 1.2 million American service members who died in battle or the 1.4 million who were wounded; we can however recognize and thank the over million veterans still living today.”

SFSC student Levi Lambert, U.S. Army Reserve, said the Army taught him more than he expected.

“In some ways I needed the Army more than they needed me,” he said.

Veterans are the reason we have the opportunity to better ourselves, to improve our lives and the communities that we live in, and encourage future



MARC VALERO/STAFF/

VETERANS

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generations to fight for our freedom, Lambert said.

SFSC student Vincente Moore, U.S. Marine Corps veteran, said, "Not a day passes that I don't think about the individuals who instilled discipline in me. I created relationships that will last a lifetime with a group of men and women whose never-ending commitment worked to enhance my development."

Col. Mike Borders, U.S. Army veteran, noted that this Veterans Day marks the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I.

"That seems like a long time ago and it was, but some of the less young people in the audience actually knew World War I veterans,"



MARC VALERO/STAFF

The Veteran Celebration Formation during Monday's Veterans Day program at South Florida State College.

he said. "One of my grandfathers served in World War I, so generationally we are not that far removed from it. It has, however, somewhat faded from our collective memory," he said.

"Even today we tend to view World War II as a distant memory," Borders said. "But, World War I shaped the world today in so many important ways that we

fail to consider."

He noted some of those significant facts about World War I were listed in the SFSC Veterans Day program.

The Hunts to open Trending Now series at SFSC

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS
NEWS-SUN

AVON PARK — The Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts at South Florida State College (SFSC) welcomes The Hunts, a Chesapeake, Virginia-based band made up of seven brothers and sisters who've been playing music together almost their entire lives, on Friday, Nov. 30 at 7 p.m.

The Hunts include twin sisters, Jessi and Jenni, and five brothers, Josh, Jonathan, Jordan, Justin, and Jamison. They range in age from 19 to 28 and learned to sing and play violin as young kids. The Hunts spent much of their childhood performing in their community. After widening their following and playing at theaters, universities, and major music festivals like Austin City Limits Music Festival (twice), Summerfest, Landmark, and Firefly, plus two national tours with O.A.R., they have over 10.3 million streams on Spotify.

"I saw The Hunts in New York City three years ago," said Cindy Garren, director of cultural programs at SFSC. "They



COURTESY PHOTO

The Hunts

were so much fun and so talented that I wanted to introduce them to Highlands County audiences. This is wholesome family entertainment and a great way to introduce young people to live performances. The dress is casual and the parking is free."

With a harmony-laced take on alt-folk that's both breathtaking and sweetly ethereal, The Hunts write songs that move audiences with their positive themes and joyful sound. Their debut extended play record for Cherrytree Records/Interscope, "Life Was Simple," features the

lead single "Make This Leap" which was eventually featured in a national Milk Bone commercial.

With roots in folk music, The Hunts infuse their songwriting with a fresh sensibility that is both Americana and indie-inspired folk. Ron Wray in *The Journal of Roots Music* calls them "an undiscovered gem."

When asked about The Hunts sound, singer/guitar player Josh Hunt explains, "We're aiming to create something we think is cool, and real, and joyful, and emotional, and whatever relates to us personally. I believe

that's how you create the most genuine music."

Prior to their Nov. 30 performance, The Hunts will conduct a Backstage Scoop at 6 p.m. in the Museum of Florida Art and Culture (MOFAC) at SFSC. The pre-show talk is free with a ticket to the performance and allows audiences to discover how they went from local band to national touring artists.

Tickets are \$24, \$20, \$17 and \$10 for children and students. Tickets are available online at sfscarts.org, by phone at 863-784-7178 or in person at the box office

located on the Highlands Campus at 600 West College Avenue in Avon Park. Group discounts are available by calling or visiting the box office. Ticket subscriptions are also available and include savings and perks.

The AdventHealth/Florida Hospital Series at the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts celebrates contemporary, family-oriented entertainment. Student/child tickets for all performances are only \$10. Upcoming Trending Now performances include: Forever Young on Jan. 13 at 3 p.m.; Wild World of Animals on Feb. 17 at 7 p.m., Irish dance spectacular Rhythm in the Night on Feb. 24 at 3 p.m. and Cirque Zuma Zuma on March 3 at 3 p.m. Subscription packages are available for \$92 – \$117 for adults. The Trending Now Series is sponsored by All Around Septic and Sewer and the SFSC Foundation.

About South Florida State College Performing

Arts

SFSC presents more than 35 nationally and internationally touring artists at the 1,460-seat Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts and the 250-seat SFSC University Center located on the Highlands Campus at 600 West College Drive in Avon Park. SFSC offers a Matinee Series for adults at leisure, Young People's Theater Series for school performances, a Jazz Series, a 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: national touring artists The Hunts on Nov. 30; Celtic Angels Christmas on Dec. 4; Sara Evans on Jan. 26; Grammy Award winner Jon Secada on Feb. 2; Wild World of Animals on Feb. 16; Chita Rivera and Robert Klein on Feb. 20; Wayne Newton on Feb. 28 and The Price is Right Live on March 30.



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Wayne Harris (third from left), chair of the Highlands County Health Facilities Authority, presents a check to Mary von Merveldt, director of South Florida State College's (SFSC) Nursing Education program; Dr. Michele Heston, dean of SFSC's Health Sciences Division and Jamie Bateman, executive director of institutional advancement.

SFSC Foundation receives grant

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS
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Wayne Harris, chair of the Highlands County Health Facilities Authority, presented a check to Mary von Merveldt, director of South Florida State College's (SFSC) Nursing Education program, Dr. Michele Heston, dean of

SFSC's Health Sciences Division and Jamie Bateman, executive director of institutional advancement, who oversees the SFSC Foundation. The Highlands County Health Facilities Authority awarded the SFSC Foundation a grant of \$15,000 to support the collaborative work of the College's Health Sciences

Division to purchase educational technology for the College's nursing and dental education programs. The SFSC Foundation is one of 11 local non-profit health care providers to have received such a grant. To date, the Authority has awarded grants to the SFSC Foundation totaling \$251,181.

STATE AWARD

The Herald-Advocate, November 29, 2018



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of South Florida State College's Take Stock in Children program received the Excellence Award, Gold Level Category, for the sixth consecutive year from its statewide parent organization. Pictured at the award presentation are (from left) Jillian Hasner, president and CEO of TSIC, state office; Irene Castanon, SFSC TSIC student services coordinator; Linda Roman, SFSC TSIC college success coach; Jamie Bateman, SFSC executive director of institutional advancement; Danielle Ochoa, SFSC TSIC college success coach; and Ele Bautista-Bernard, TSIC director of programs and student standards, state office.