

SFSC awarded \$2.3 million job growth grant

By **MARC VALERO**
STAFF WRITER

AVON PARK — South Florida State College received an executed contract in January from the Department of Economic Opportunity signaling the official sanction of a \$2.3 million award to promote economic opportunity by improving public infrastructure and enhancing workforce training.

The grant from the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund was awarded under former Gov. Rick Scott.

“We are enormously grateful to Gov. Scott for supporting Florida’s Heartland Region with this grant award,” said Thomas C. Leitzel, president of SFSC. “The Job Growth Grant Fund award to South Florida State College will make a meaningful impact by supporting educational programs designed to put people to work in infrastructure support jobs that will contribute to positive economic growth and development.”

In the tri-county region of Highlands, DeSoto, and Hardee counties, there is a demonstrated need for affordable housing and

an educated workforce in order to encourage advanced manufacturing companies to set up locations in Florida’s Heartland and employees to relocate to homes in the region, both boosting the economy of the area.

With this grant, SFSC plans to create a construction institute to provide skills-based training that will meet and exceed the industry’s standard. Students who progress through the institute and graduate can find work with construction firms to sustain and expand the housing industry within the region.

The second phase of funding will expand and enhance the advanced manufacturing

curriculum at SFSC. Students who progress through these courses and graduate will be able to gain employment as a machinist or an industrial maintenance technician, both valuable to the manufacturing industry, which the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics says is on an upswing for hiring with the creation of 288,000 new jobs over the past year.

The third and final phase introduces another option for students who progressed through the advanced manufacturing curriculum and also those who have a military background. SFSC will create an electronic warfare program through a partnership with Florida

Institute of Technology and the United States Air Force. The electronic warfare program labs will be housed partially at the Avon Park Air Force Range. This program will be the first in the nation.

SFSC identified economic demands in the region and with the Florida Job Growth Grant, the college is able to address those needs head-on.

For more information about the variety of programs at SFSC, call 863-453-6661 or email recruiter@southflorida.edu.



MARC VALERO/STAFF

South Florida State College has been awarded a \$2.3 million grant to promote economic opportunity by improving public infrastructure and enhancing workforce training.

TOOTH TESTERS

February 7, 2019, The Herald-Advocate



COURTESY PHOTO

South Florida State College dental students showed off their knowledge of dental hygiene and took first place in the "It's Hygienic" competition on Saturday at the State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota. This is the second year the It's Hygienic competition has been held in Florida. Last year, the two SFSC teams placed first and second. SFSC's team members, who called themselves the Flossy Posse, were presented with a trophy in honor of their first-place win. The dental hygiene students on the team were Alesha Sledge, Rebeca Espinoza, Raquel Maldonado, Melisa Escobedo, Areli Mendiola, Stephanie Bennett and Ashley Mercer. The It's Hygienic competition covers the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination from core sciences to case study applications in a five-round, quiz-show format and serves as a means to prepare students for the national exam.

SFSC Program Showcases Florida History, Folklore & Traditions

Through a National Endowment for the Humanities grant, South Florida State College will present two history scholars and a professional storyteller in a showcase on early Florida called "First Forays into Florida."

The event will be held on Thursday, Feb. 21, at 3:15 p.m. in the SFSC University Center Auditorium on the Highlands Campus in Avon Park. Members of the community are welcome to attend for free.

Presenters for "First Forays into Florida" are Dr. Jerald T. Milanich, professor emeritus at the University of Florida; Dr. Maurice O'Sullivan, professor of English at Rollins College; and Carol Mahler, storyteller and singer-songwriter from Arcadia.

Milanich will discuss "Women in Spanish Moss Sarongs and Alligators with Ears: Theodore de Bry's Famed 1591 Engravings of Florida Indians."

De Bry's engravings may have been spawned from imagination, written accounts, and borrowings from previously published images or they may be based on paintings done by a French colonist, Jacques le Moyne, in 1564-1565. According to Milanich, it is a 420-year-old mystery involving Sir Walter Raleigh, English investors, a dead

French artist, a live English artist, a prolific British promoter, the lost Roanoke colony, two French noblemen, and ancient Picts from the British Isles.

Through his illustrated presentation, Milanich will unravel the mystery.

O'Sullivan will present "Have You Not Heard of Florida? Early Spanish, French, Portuguese, English, and Latin Accounts of Florida."

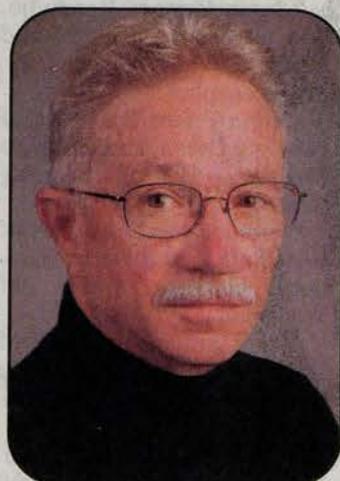
"I'm actually finishing up a manuscript on the state's colonial literature in Spanish, French, Latin, Portuguese, and English." When explaining the title of his presentation, O'Sullivan said, "That's, of course, the title of the first English poem about Florida, printed in either 1563 or 1564, the year Shakespeare was born."

Mahler specializes in telling Florida folklore and will draw her presentation from tales in the Seminole, African-American and Florida Cracker traditions. Combining education and entertainment, she has also performed stories about Florida throughout the state, at the Florida Folk Festival and at the Philadelphia Folk Festival.

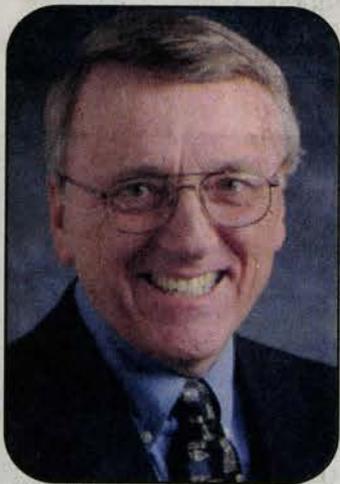
"The National Endowment for the Humanities is doing something innovative with its grant to SFSC," said Charlotte Pressler, professor of English



Mahler



Milanich



O'Sullivan

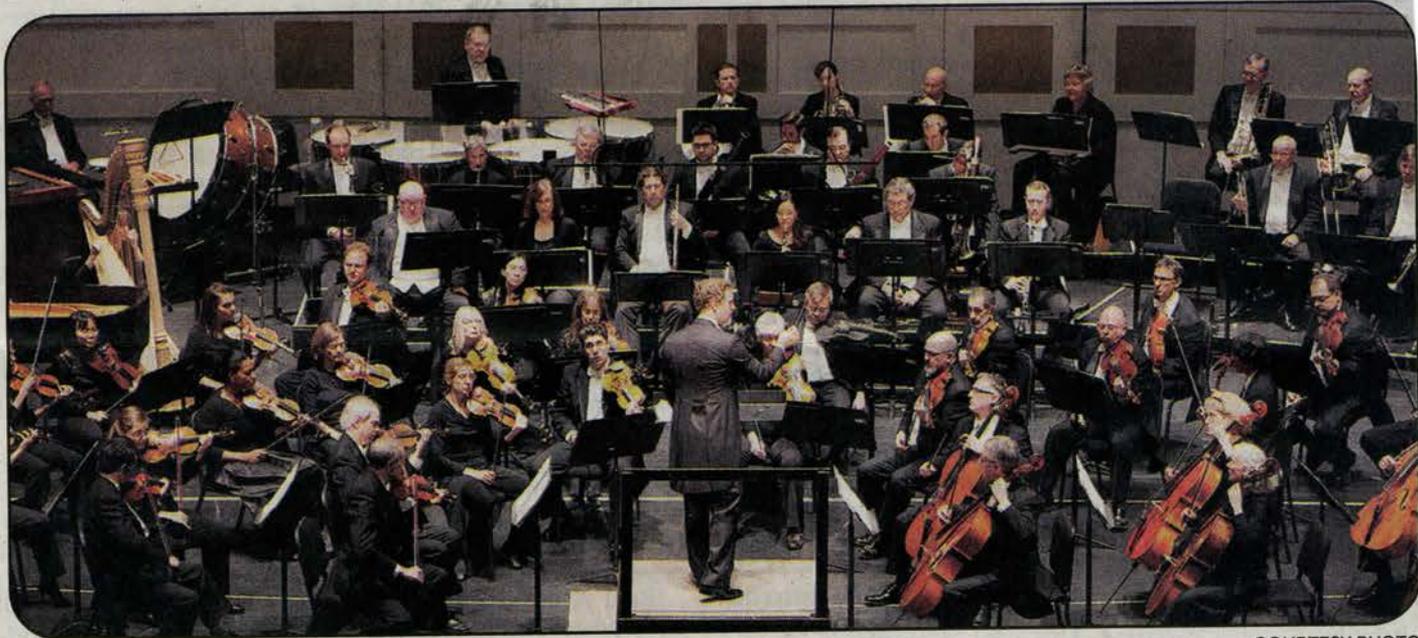
and philosophy and director of the Honors Program at SFSC.

"Its program is designed to build up the knowledge base of SFSC's faculty in the arts, humanities and social sciences. We faculty can then refresh our own courses and offer our students exciting opportunities for research into this strange and wonderful state that is Florida. Florida's history is like no other state's history, and students can get involved with projects that illuminate the past, present and future of this state they call home.

"The speakers, Drs. Milanich and O'Sullivan, are dynamic, engaging and funny, and Mahler weaves compelling traditional tales. This

event is our way of saying 'thank you' to the college, the community and the National Endowment for the Humanities."

DATE NIGHT



COURTESY PHOTO

The Florida Orchestra returns to the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts at South Florida State College in Avon Park on Valentine's Day for a romantic trip through the stars. Music Director Michael Francis will conduct Holst's iconic "The Planets" along with two dreamy pieces by Debussy, "Clair de Lune" and "Nocturnes" on Thursday, Feb. 14. The concert, which begins at 7 p.m., also features the Master Chorale of Tampa Bay. Tickets start at \$24 and are available online at sfscARTS.org, by phone at (863) 784-7178 or in person at the SFSC Box Office located at 600 W. College Dr. in Avon Park.

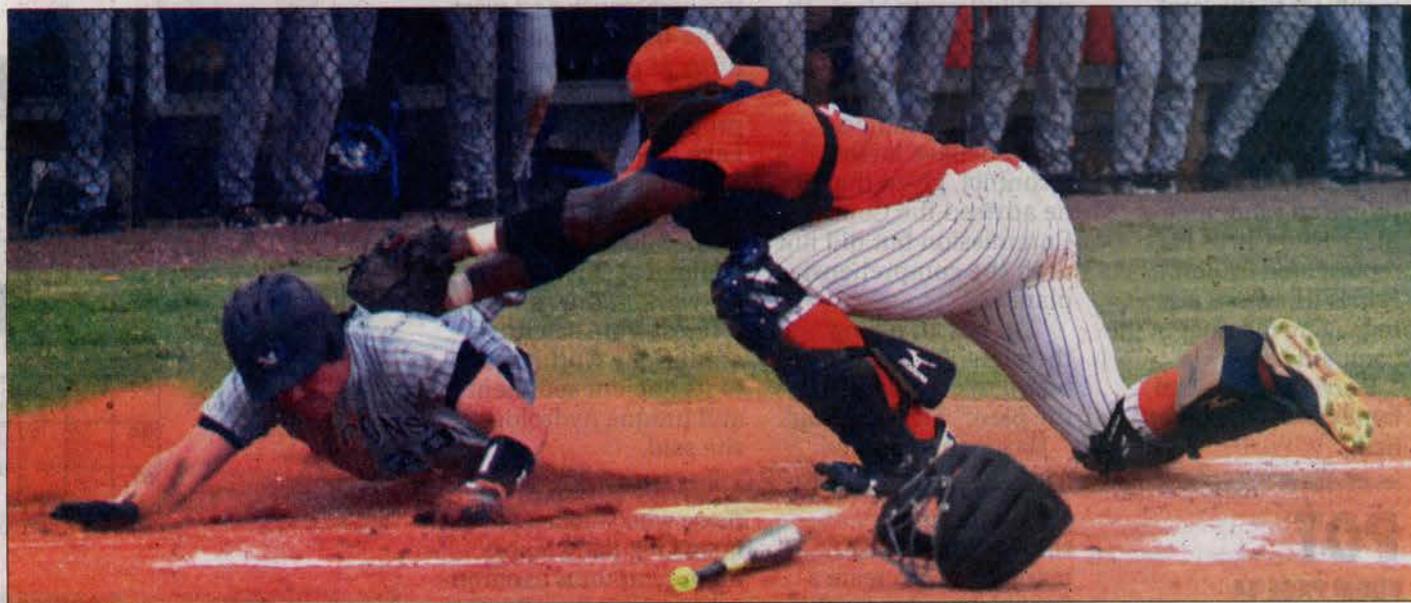
BROADWAY LEGEND



COURTESY PHOTO

Broadway legend and two-time Tony Award winner Chita Rivera will recreate signature moments from her illustrious career – including numbers from "West Side Story," "Sweet "Chicago," "Kiss of the Spider Woman," "Bye, Bye, Birdie" and "The Visit" – at the 1,460-seat Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts at South Florida State College in Avon Park on Wednesday, Feb. 20, at 7 p.m. Robert Klein, who has had an acclaimed 40-year career in comedy on Broadway, television and in film will open the show. Tickets begin at \$45 and are available online at sfscARTS.org, by phone at (863) 784-7178 and in person at the SFSC Box Office located at 600 W. College Dr. on the Highlands Campus.

Panthers fly past Falcons



RUTH ANNE LAWSON/STAFF

South Florida catcher Jakobe Smith tags out Daytona State College's Bobby Sparling during Wednesday's game. The Panthers battled their way to a 12-9 win over the Falcons.

South Florida outscores Daytona State

By **RUTH ANNE LAWSON**

STAFF WRITER

AVON PARK – The South Florida State College baseball team rallied to knock off Daytona State College by a score of 12-9 on Wednesday night at Panther Field.

The victory improved South Florida to 6-12 on the season.

"We kept pecking away," said South Florida head coach Rick Hitt. "It was a good team win and a lot of people contributed to our success today. It was good to see. We have won three out of the last five games so we are doing some things better and we are more consistent. We will keep plugging away. We have had our moments of not pitching well and swinging it and then not swinging it and pitching well. We are doing a little bit more of a combined effort. Defensively we play pretty sound most days."

The Falcons jumped in front in the second inning 1-0, but the Panthers answered in the bottom of the frame as A'Darius Council drilled a two-run double to left field scoring P.J. Cimo and Mike Bessell for a 2-1 lead.

Daytona State fought back on a two-run homer to take a 3-2 lead in the top of the third inning.

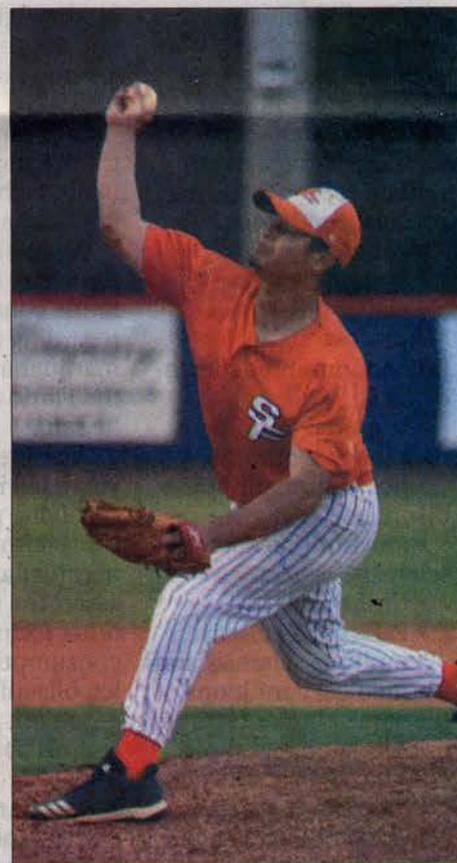
South Florida bounced back in the bottom of the inning as Zeddrick Burnham hit a double to left field and advanced to third on a passed ball. Pierson Lewis hit a line drive to second that bounced off the glove of the second baseman and into right field allowing Burnham to score and Lewis to reach first safely. Cimo hit a ground-rule double and Case Hannum stepped to the plate and lined a single up the middle to plate a pair of runs. Council hit a grounder down the third-base line for a double and Hannum raced home on a passed ball to give the Panthers a 6-3 lead.

Daytona State erupted for four runs in the top of the fifth inning to take a 7-6 lead.

South Florida rallied once again in the bottom of the sixth as A.J. Drisdorn and Council scored on a double to left-centerfield by Leeandro Alfonzo to make it 8-7 Panthers.

The Falcons tied the game with a solo homer in the top of the seventh.

The Panthers struck in the eighth inning as Drisdorn scored on a Jakobe Smith sacrifice fly. The Falcons intentionally walked



RUTH ANNE LAWSON/STAFF

South Florida's Edwin Serrano earned the save against Daytona State with an inning of relief on Wednesday night.

PANTHERS

FROM PAGE 6A

Burnham and Lewis drew a walk to load the bases. Cimo stepped to the plate and roped a double into right-center-field to clear the bases for a commanding 12-8 lead.

Daytona State narrowed the deficit in the top of the ninth inning on a solo home run but the Panthers held on for the victory.

"We had a couple of good innings early and then they had a couple of key innings," said Hitt. "We had some big knocks late. Eddie Serrano came in and does what Eddie does on the mound. He competes very well at the

end of games for us. The wind was blowing and when you mess up it can be a big fly in a hurry. The guys played hard and kept grinding it out and I'm happy. We just have to keep working, come to the ball park with the right attitude and the right frame of mind. There are a lot of guys that are a joy to be around and they have good attitudes, but we just have to get everybody feeling the same way and to be confident in what they do. We have a difficult schedule and we have to play well to have success in it."

South Florida is back in action on Saturday when the Panthers host Kalamazoo Community College (Michigan) at 1 p.m.

Wayne Newton playing SFSC



“...he consistently offers the best in entertainment value. ... Wayne Newton is in a class and category all his own.”

Melissa Cook
Casino Player Magazine

COURTESY PHO

Wayne Newton will perform at South Florida State College on Thursday, Feb. 28.

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS SUN.

Wayne Newton, known worldwide as “Mr. Las Vegas,” epitomized the talent, glamour and energy of Las Vegas, and he’s bringing his “Up Close and Personal” performance to the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts at South Florida State College (SFSC) in Avon Park on Thursday, Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. Tickets start at \$55. Groups of 12 or more can save 20 percent on admission plus the group leader receives one free ticket.

In 1999, Newton became the first Las Vegas “headliner in residence” with his own

showroom where he appeared six nights a week for 40 weeks. For many years, Wayne was voted “Entertainer of the Year” by both Nevada Magazine and Casino Player Magazine. Melissa Cook of Casino Player Magazine said, “...he consistently offers the best in entertainment value. ...Wayne Newton is in a class and category all his own.”

Newton, who has recorded and released 165 albums, learned to play piano, guitar and steel guitar by ear. He was doing a daily radio show at the age of 6, appeared with the Opry roadshows that came through Virginia and Tennessee and performed on

weekends at local movie theaters. While in the first grade, he and his brother, Jerr, performed in a USO show for President Harry Truman.

At age 8, he won a local talent contest which provided him with an audition for “Ted Mack’s Amateur Hour.” “There are two people I know of,” said Newton, “who flunked ‘Ted Mack’ auditions: Elvis Presley and me.”

Continuing to perform throughout his teen years, Newton learned to play 13 instruments. Jackie Gleason invited him

NEWTON

NEWTON

FROM PAGE 1

perform his first national network television show and Newton performed 12 more times in the next two years. In the early to mid-1960s, he also acted and sang as "Andy" the baby-faced Ponderosa ranch hand on the classic western TV series, "Bonanza."

Other showbiz mentors were Lucille Ball, Danny Thomas, George Burns and Jack Benny. Bobby Darin produced his first record hits, "Danke Schoen," "Red Roses for a Blue Lady," "Summer Wind," and "Dreams of the Everyday Housewife."

His "Up Close and Personal" show is currently at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas. The show features performances of his favorite hits, showbiz stories, and candid conversations with questions from the audience.

"It's an interactive show," said Cindy Garren, director of cultural programs at SFSC. "It's a wonderful,



COURTESY PHOTO

Wayne Newton.

intimate show that reminisces about old-style Vegas."

The performance is sponsored by the Thakkar Foundation, Drs. Ashok and Raji Sonni and Coldwell Banker/Gary Delatorre.

Tickets are available online at www.sfscARTS.org.

org, by phone at 863-784-71778 or at the SFSC Box Office located on the Highlands Campus of SFSC at 600 West College Drive in Avon Park.

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

"It's an interactive show. It's a wonderful, intimate show that reminisces about old-style Vegas."

Cindy Garren

Director of cultural programs at SFSC

Performing Arts and the 250-seat 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, 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 Lew Del Gatto Quintet with Dan Miller – March 1; My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish and I'm in Therapy – March

HOW TO GET TICKETS:

- Purchase online at www.sfscARTS.org,
- Purchase by phone by calling 863-784-71778
- Purchase at the SFSC Box Office at the Highlands SFSC campus at 600 West College Drive in Avon Park

5; Legally Blonde: The Musical – March 7; From Bach to Beatles with Violinist Doug Cameron – March 19; The Sound of Music – March 23; University of Florida Concert Choir "A Gospel Mass" – March 26; Sandi Patty – March 23 and The Price is Right Live – March 30.