

"We Live on Old Dixie HWY Too"



COURTESY PHOTO/SFSC

Marlon Tobias. *The Let Out*, 2022. Acrylic, sand, oil pastel, pen and ink on paper. 17' x 5'7"

Artist reception for MOFAC exhibition of Riverview artist Marlon Tobias

Special to the Highlands Sun

AVON PARK — "We Live on Old Dixie HWY Too" features recent paintings and installations by New College of Florida drawing instructor Marlon Tobias. An artist reception for the exhibition was held Wednesday, Jan. 11, at the Museum of Florida Art and Culture (MOFAC) on the South Florida State College Highlands Campus in Avon Park. The exhibition is on view through

Friday, Feb. 10.

"Marlon Tobias is an artist with an archival practice," said Anthony Record, MOFAC curator. "He uses this incredible wealth of archival material that has been passed down to him from the maternal side of his family as the subject of his art. Things like family photos, letters, legal documents, even collected objects like silverware and achievement awards inform his paintings and are included in his

installations."

In the mid-1800s, Tobias' great-great-grandfather, Cubby Wardlaw, acquired land in Callahan, a small, rural town in Florida about 15 miles north of Jacksonville, and his family has established and maintained a community there.

"Tobias is working with a remarkable amount of Black history and Florida history that his family has been a part of and

documented," Record said.

As African Americans in the mostly white town of Callahan, Tobias' family lived under the constant threat of being displaced by their white neighbors. Their meticulous record-keeping was a strategy for clearly establishing and documenting their history on the land, their legal ownership of property and wealth, and to control how these things were maintained and transferred to the

next generation. They even used Robert's Rules of Order and would take meeting minutes for regular family meetings which have been saved.

"Tobias' paintings, installations, and collected objects tell stories that give us an intimate view of the people that played a pivotal role in the development of this community in Callahan," Record said. "Tobias says that every person's life is history, and his work allows us to meet these

people from the past, to learn from that history and relate to how they lived, organized, and thrived."

Learn more about Marlon Tobias and see examples of his work by viewing this MOFAC-produced video: youtu.be/hdZRUV12aQs

MOFAC is located at 600 West College Drive, on the SFSC Highlands Campus, in Avon Park. For more information, call the Museum Office at 863-784-7130.

"This is Power"



MARC VALERO/STAFF

The Ridge Seventh-Day Adventist Youth Choir performs at the Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast.

MLK Prayer Breakfast highlights the power of education

By **MARC VALERO**
STAFF WRITER

AVON PARK — "This is Power," with a focus on education, was the theme of the Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast presented by the Highlands County NAACP.

The annual event was held Monday morning in the Grogan Center at St. Catherine Catholic Church, Avon Park.

In welcoming the attendees, Cynthia Gilbert Barrett said those who are in the room are there because they care. "Dr. King's dream should be realized everyday and embraced and lifted up and be within our community."

Pastor Leroy Taylor II, of The Hope Center, who offered the invocation, said, "As we pray, let us remember what Martin Luther King has done for this nation.

"As we look around and see the different colors, different backgrounds,



MARC VALERO/STAFF

From left: Cynthia Gilbert Barrett, Felicia Dozier and Suzie Johnson were honored with the

POWER

FROM PAGE 1A

different people who represent a variety of people, we can appreciate the vision, we can appreciate God's anointing on the Dream that was set before us," he said.

Barrett asked those in attendance to take a look around the room. "One of the quotes from Dr. King states, 'We may all have come on different ships, but we are in the same boat now.'"

She said, "We came from different places, but we are sharing a common ground."

"Where there is unity, there is — 'Strength,'" the audience stated in finishing the quote.

Kaitlyn Jones sang the hymn "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

The Ridge Area Seventh-Day Adventist Youth Choir performed two songs: one featuring a soloist who performed the Mahalia Jackson hymn, "How I Got Over," and the choir sang the Christmas song, "Pretty Little Baby Child."

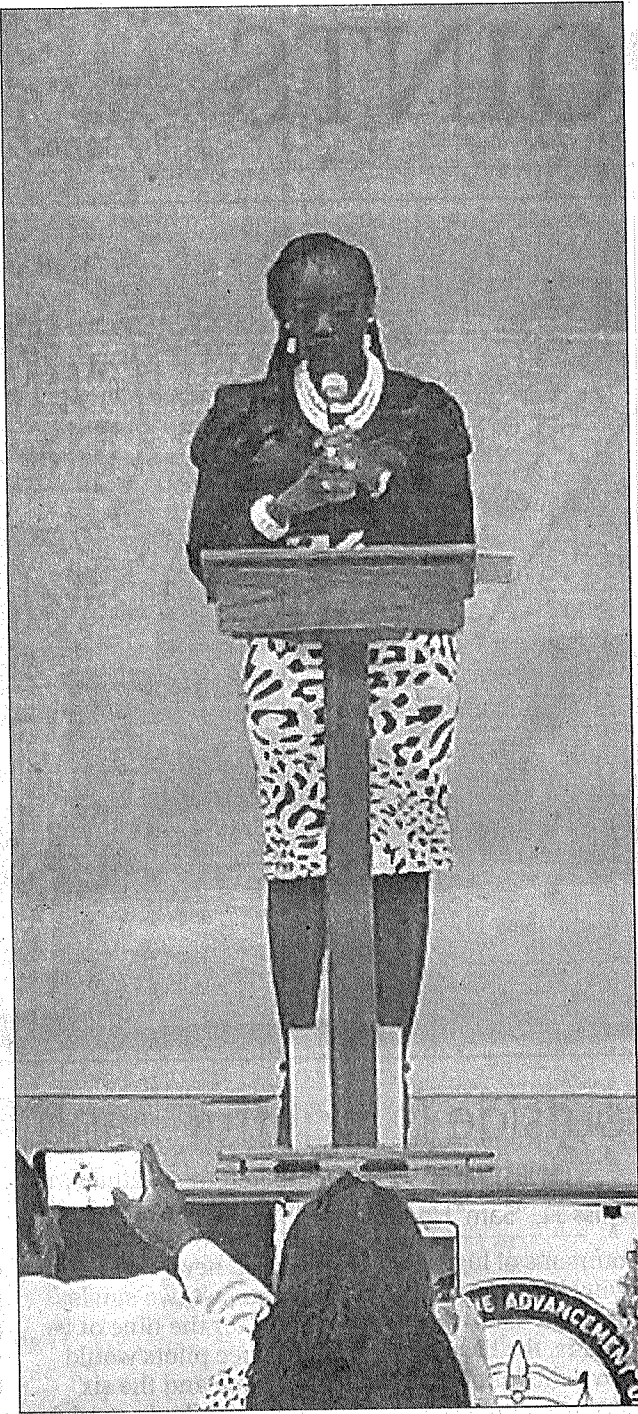
Timika School sang the hymn "The Old Rugged Cross."

Barrett explained the Negro Spirituals are instrumental in the culture of America. She said, "It is not Black history, it is American history because without the work and sweat of our ancestors a lot of those present wouldn't be sitting there."

The spirituals still live on. "I don't know about you, but they still get me through some hard times," she said.

Timika Scott then sang "Amazing Grace" and a spiritual.

Keynote speaker Rasheena Morris-James spoke of her



MARC VALERO/STAFF

Rasheena Morris-James, the keynote speaker at the Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast presented by the Highlands County NAACP.

determination to succeed in her schooling despite having testing anxiety. She shared the role that some educators played in encouraging her to pursue her educational and career goals.

She is a family nurse practitioner and a

professor in the nursing program at South Florida State College.

The Power Award was bestowed to three educators who had a significant impact in helping and guiding students — Suzie Johnson, Felicia Dozier and Cynthia Barrett.

E LIVING —



COURTESY PHOTO

The Lviv National Philharmonic Orchestra of Ukraine will perform today at the Center for the Performing Arts at South Florida State College.

Lviv National Philharmonic Orchestra Of Ukraine To Performs Today At SFSC

Special To The Herald-Advocate

Founded in 1902, the Lviv National Philharmonic Orchestra of Ukraine is one of its nation's largest and most internationally known ensembles. South Florida State College (SFSC) in Avon Park is honored to host the Orchestra at the 1,460-seat Center for the Performing Arts today (Thursday), Jan. 19 at 7 p.m.

"This concert and the Orchestra's American tour is a testament to the power of music to overcome adversity," said Cindy Garren, director of cultural programs at SFSC.

The Lviv National Philharmonic Orchestra of Ukraine was established in the medieval city of Lviv in 1902. The Orchestra has toured extensively around the world to countries including Poland, Spain, France, Switzerland, Germany, and The People's Republic of China. During the past several seasons, they have completed highly ac-

claimed recordings for major international labels including Naxos, Toccata Classics, and Brilliant Classics.

The multiple award-winning conductor, Theodore Kuchar, is the most recorded conductor of his generation. Stanislav Khristenko, who has been called a "poet of piano," is the featured soloist, performing Chamber Symphony No. 3 for flute and string orchestra. The Chamber Symphony No. 3 was composed by the contemporary Ukrainian composer, Yevhen Stankovich.

The program will include Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 in A major, Opus 92. This symphony was completed in 1812, the year in which Napoleon was beginning to fail in his conquests. Celebrating this turn of events, the Seventh Symphony premiered at a concert in Vienna on Dec. 8, 1813 to benefit troops wounded in the Battle of Hanau, a small but tactical victory on Oct. 31, 1813, which routed Napoleon into a

retreat in the War of the Sixth Coalition.

During the tour, the Lviv Orchestra of Ukraine will appear at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center for the Arts in Washington, D.C., and 38 cities throughout the United States.

"I am proud that South Florida State College is presenting these remarkable musicians," Garren said. "Orchestra members needed special permission to leave their country during this war-torn time. I am asking all music lovers to show their support for these artists and their country."

Tickets are \$45, \$35, and \$25. Tickets can be purchased online at sfscARTS.org or by calling the SFSC Box Office at 863-784-7178 which is open Monday through Friday, 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. The Center for the Performing Arts is located on the SFSC Highlands Campus at 600 West College Drive in Avon Park.

News

SFSC enrollment up in fall and spring

By MARC VALERO Staff Writer

Jan 26, 2023

AVON PARK — South Florida State College's enrollment has increased and street signs will be going up soon on the Avon Park campus.

At the recent meeting of the SFSC District Board of Trustees, SFSC President Thomas Leitzel said the 2022 fall enrollment, including adult education, was up 4.4%.

Spring's first day (credit) enrollment (Jan. 9) was up 1.43%.

The campus/center numbers (excluding adult education and supplemental) comparing Jan. 9, 2022, to Jan. 9, 2023, show an 8.1% increase at Avon Park, 21% increase at DeSoto, no change at Hardee and a decrease of 9.5% at Lake Placid.

Virtual enrollment was down 2.6% from 1,638 to 1,595 students.

The college is leveling out in virtual education, Leitzel said. He said it may be plateauing after it reached an all-time high during the pandemic when the college was offering virtual classes to 75% of the student body, but it is coming down. He believes virtual may not hold the appeal that it once did when the college was fully operational with virtual classes. He called it a good sign.

He recommended the Board of Trustees consider updating the college's facilities master plan in coordination with the new president. It was last updated in 2009 so it is time for an update.

Leitzel showed a map of the Avon Park campus with its roads because the County and Sheriff's Office wants the streets named and the buildings numbered.

The idea was to name the streets after the college's core values, he said.

The core values are: integrity, service, community, learning, excellence, accountability and responsibility.

The college proposed "service," but there is already a Service Road in Lake Placid, Leitzel said.

They were going to offer "Saxon Drive" for the road off Lake Glenada Drive that goes into the athletic fields and to the Saxon Field House, he said. But, there is already a Saxon Lane, so they couldn't use that.

The college's roads are now named and the buildings are numbered and everything is consistent with the wishes of the Board of Trustees, Leitzel said. "So you will soon be seeing the green street signs installed and everything is GPS accessible so that is a project that is coming along."

The road that goes in front of the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts Center, and connects to College Drive in two places, is called Enlightenment Circle. The road passes the Tower of Enlightenment, the cylindrical cooling tower with the Keith Goodson mural.

The other road names on campus, from west to east, are: Excellence, Learning, Reliability, Integrity, Community and



COURTESY PHOTO

The Winners Circle: (from l) Dr. Thomas C. Leitzel, SFSC president; Scott Hitt, first place; Jamie Bateman, SFSC vice president of institutional advancement and external affairs; Ronnie Carter of Century 21 Advanced All Service Realty, Inc.; Michael Ewing, second place; and Steve Sortore, third place.

6th Annual Million Dollar Hold-in-One Golf Shootout Raises Funds for SFSC Panther Athletics

Special To The Herald-Advocate

At the conclusion of the South Florida State College (SFSC) Foundation's sixth annual Million Dollar Hole-in-One Golf Shootout on Saturday, Jan. 14, no one claimed the big prize. However, three qualifiers came closest to the 18th hole and emerged for first, second, and third places. Scott Hitt came in first place when his ball came within 20'5" of the hole. Michael Ewing, in second place, came in at 21'2" from the hole and Steve Sortore's golf ball fell 27'3" from the hole. Hitt won \$750, Ewing won \$500, and Sortore came away with \$250.

This year, golfers struggled against the colder than normal Central Florida weather throughout the three-day Golf Shootout that began on Thursday, Jan. 12 and was held at Sun 'N Lake Golf & Country Club in Sebring. In spite of the weather, 76 people turned

out to vie for the \$1 million prize money.

The golfers who rounded out the group of 12 qualifiers were: Tom Kestler, David Schmidt, Steve Sortore, Donald Bressette, John Zdonek, Shawn Bray, Jeff Taylor, Michael Ewing, David Boersma, Scott Hitt, Ty Van Bulck, and Doug West. Tom Kestler hit a hole-in-one during this round.

"We're extremely grateful for the opportunity to host this event with the great support of the SFSC Foundation, our Foundation board members, our administration, our student athletes, and our tremendously supportive surrounding community," said Rick Hitt, SFSC athletic director. "The Golf Shootout gets bigger every year, and the continuous turnout of our competitors has been outstanding.

"A special thank you to Century 21 Advanced All Service Realty, Inc. and Ronnie Carter as our event

sponsor. We are extremely grateful for their sponsorship over the last several years. To Bill and Lisa Jarrett of Bill Jarrett Ford, this year's awards sponsor, and to all of our many sponsors for this event, we appreciate your support. We look to continue to advance this event year after year."

Proceeds from the Golf Shootout benefit SFSC Panther athletic teams in women's volleyball, women's cross country, men's baseball, and women's softball. SFSC's student athletes assisted with preparation and organization at the Golf Shootout.

In 2024, the seventh annual Million Dollar Hold-in-One Golf Shootout will return to Sun 'N Lake with qualifying days on Thursday, Jan. 11 through Saturday, Jan. 13. For more information on the event or how to become a sponsor of next year's Golf Shootout, contact the SFSC Foundation at 863-453-3313.