

Panthers dominate in season opener



JIM TAYLOR/CORRESPONDENT

South Florida State College's second baseman Case Hannum completes the double play to first against IMG Post Grad to end the game with the Panther's winning 20-2.

South Florida defeated IMG, 20-2

By JIM TAYLOR
CORRESPONDENT

AVON PARK — The South Florida State College Panther Baseball team scored twelve runs in the first two innings in route to a 20-2 win over the IMG Post Grad baseball team to start the season at Panther Field on Friday night.

The Panthers took advantage of five walks, a hit batter and base hits by Trey Fields, Mike Bessell and Edgar Castillo to score and take an 8-0 lead in the first inning.

Two more walks in the bottom of the second and base hits by Bessell, Castillo and a double by Carter Dahl accounted for four more runs to give the Panthers a 12-0 lead after two innings.

South Florida State College added a run in the third after Zeddrick Burnham eventually reached home after leading off the inning with a double into right centerfield.

The Panthers added another run in

the sixth inning after Case Hannum led off with a single into left field and reached third on a double down the left field line by Brian Perez. Hannum eventually scored on a wild pitch to give the Panthers a 14-0 lead.

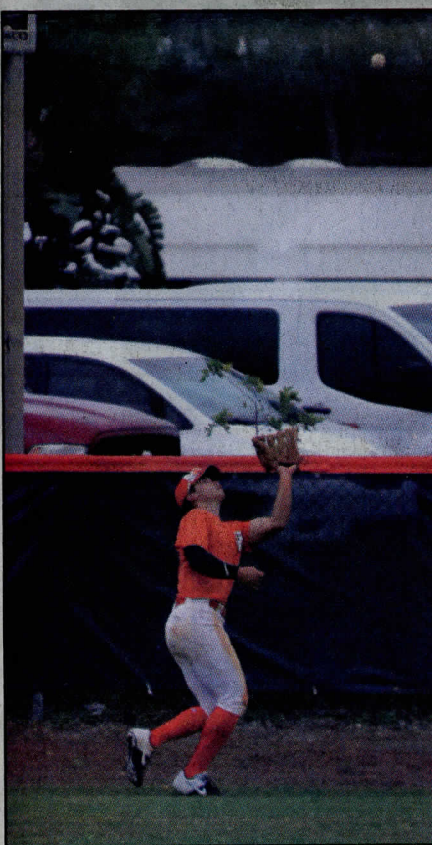
South Florida State College's offense continue to roll in the seventh inning with six more hits and six more runs.

Burnham led off with a double a scored on a single by Bessell. Bessell scored on a triple by Hannum into the left centerfield gap and scored on an error to give the Panther's a 17-0 lead.

That was followed by a single by Perez and a triple by Castillo to swell the score to 18-0 and Castillo later scored on a wild pitch to make the score 19-0.

The Panthers scored once more on a single by Burnham as the Panther took a 20-0 lead into the eighth inning.

IMG avoided the shutout with two runs in the top of the ninth to make the



JIM TAYLOR/CORRESPONDENT

South Florida State College's right fielder Casey Asman tracks down a deep fly ball in right field against IMG Post Grad.



JIM TAYLOR/CORRESPONDENT



JIM TAYLOR/CORRESPONDENT

South Florida State College's pitcher Trey Fields pitched six scoreless and hitless innings IMG Post Grad.

South Florida State College's Carter Dahl gets tagged out trying to advance to home.

SEASON

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final score 20-2.

Trey Fields and Nico Saladino pitched a hitless shutout for the first eight innings, with Saladino throwing two innings and Fields six before IMG

finally broke through in the ninth with a pair a runs and a pair of hits.

Bessell and Fields led the Panthers with three hits a piece and Bessell led the team with four runs batted in. Burnham, Hannum, Perez, and Castillo each had two hits with Perez, Castillo and

Dahl each driving in two runs.

The Panthers will be at Panther Field in Avon

Park again on Wednesday with a 5:00pm starter as they play host to Lake Sumpter State College.

SPORTS

• LOCAL • STATE • NATIONAL

Feb. 2, 2020

SECTION B

South Florida swept Palm Beach in doubleheader

Panthers won, 5-3 and 10-9

By **JIM TAYLOR**
CORRESPONDENT

AVON PARK – The South Florida State College Panthers Softball team opened up the season at home on Friday with a pair of wins against Palm Beach State College Panthers. Winning the opener 5-3 and squeezing out the nightcap 10-9.

In the first game, the Panthers took a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the second

after Alexandra Garcia hit a one out single followed by walks to Allison Wagle and Baileigh Ehrlich to load the bases.

Singles by Haley Day and Alexandra Dilts each drove in a run to make to score 2-0.

South Florida added a run in the bottom of the third on a single into right field by Wagle, who scored a few moments later on a deep



JIM TAYLOR/CORRESPONDENT

South Florida State College's third baseman Alexandra Garcia makes the tag for the out at third against Palm Beach State College.

PANTHERS | 2B

PANTHERS

FROM PAGE 1B

double to the right centerfield fence by Ehrlich to put the Panthers up 3-0 over Palm Beach.

Palm Beach scored with Rileigh Manning scoring off a single by Kiersten Adams to cut South Florida's lead to two at 3-1.

South Florida made a pitching change to start the top of the sixth, as well as some of the sprinklers unexpectedly going off causing a short delay. When play resumed, Palm Beach started the inning with a double by Gabby Renner and single by Shelby Williams that made the score 3-2.

Williams also scored on a single to tie the game at 3.

South Florida answered in the bottom of the sixth as Wagle hit a double to center field that hit off the fence and later scored on a two out hit by Dilts to put the Panthers back on top 4-3. Dilts later scored on an error to make the score 5-3.

Corrin Flajole, who had a rough inning in the sixth in relief of Baylee Haggard, closed the game out in the seventh in order to secure the game one win for South Florida.

In game two, South Florida nearly lost a seven run lead before holding off Palm Beach for a 10-9



JIM TAYLOR/CORRESPONDENT

South Florida State College's Jane'a Mobley powered up a homerun in the bottom of the first in Game 2 against Palm Beach State College.

win.

South Florida took an early 2-0 lead in the first inning as Jane'a Mobley belted a two run homer over the left field fence.

Palm Beach answered with three in the top of the second with a pair of hits to take a 3-2 lead over the Panthers.

South Florida roared back in the bottom of the second with five hits to include doubles by Garcia, Wagler and Flajole that produced four runs to give the Panthers a 6-3 lead.

After scoring a run in the fourth with Payton Pilon driving in Keily Ulatowski, the Panthers added three more runs in the fifth.

Base hits by Haley Day and Pilon each produced a run and an error brought another across the plate to give the Panthers a 10-3 lead.

Palm Beach scored four in the top of the sixth and two more in the top of the seventh to cut South Florida's lead to one at 10-9 before South Florida was able to shut down Palm Beach to earn the win and the sweep.

The Panther will be playing in the Juco Tournament and on the road against Seminole State College and Palm Beach before returning home to play Lake Sumpter State College on February 14.



JIM TAYLOR/CORRESPONDENT

South Florida State College's second baseman Alexandra Dilts tries to get the call showing the umpire the ball.

Cynthia Barnett To Present 'A Water Ethic for Florida'

By **DEBORAH BELL LATTER**

Special To The Herald-Advocate

Through a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant, Cynthia Barnett will present "A Water Ethic for Florida" on Thursday, Feb. 20, at 4:30 p.m., in Building B, Room 204, on the South Florida State College (SFSC) Highlands Campus in Avon Park.

The presentation is free and open to SFSC faculty, high school and college/university educators, and museum and archive professionals. Others who are interested in attending should email Dr. Charlotte Pressler, SFSC professor of English and humanities, at presslerc@southflorida.edu. Barnett's presentation at SFSC examines water as a unifying force with the potential to build an environmental ethos across generations. She is an author of popular books on water and climate change including "Rain: A

Natural and Cultural History," which was long-listed for the National Book Award. Barnett is an Environmental Journalist in Residence at the University of Florida's (UF) College of Journalism and Communications and an Environmental Fellow at UF's Bob Graham Center for Public Service, where she works on Environmental Civics: helping develop the service, civic engagement and leadership ethos needed to make progress on the profound challenges facing the world and us.

Barnett earned her bachelor's degree in journalism, her master's in environmental history, and was a Knight-Wallace Fellow at the University of Michigan specializing in freshwater resources.

She is the recipient of numerous journalism and book awards and just finished her fourth book, a story of humanity and seashells.

Deborah Bell Latter is the

coordinator of internal communications at South Florida State College and can be reached at 863-784-7251 or Deborah.Latter@southflorida.edu.



COURTESY PHOTO

Author Cynthia Barnett will be the featured speaker at South Florida State College on Feb. 20.

Comedian Bill Engvall Brings His 'Just Sell Him For Parts Tour' To SFSC

By DEBORAH BELL LATTER

Special To The Herald-Advocate

Comedian and Grammy Award nominee Bill Engvall comes to the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts at South Florida State College (SFSC) in Avon Park on Friday, Feb. 21 for one performance at 8 p.m.

Known for his ability to connect with his audience with stories about being a husband and father, and growing up in Texas, Engvall shies away from political and religious topics. He's best known for appearing on television shows like "The Jeff Foxworthy Show," his own "The Bill Engvall Show," and "Dancing with the Stars."

"Bill is known as the 'everyman of comedy' because his humor is relatable," said Cindy Garren, director of cultural programs at SFSC. "He's a real guy and he talks about things we all can relate to in our own lives."

Engvall first appeared in a Showtime special, "A Pair of Jokers," with Rosie O'Donnell, followed by hosting A&E's "Evening at the Improv" and appearances on "The Tonight Show" and "The Late Show with David Letterman." In 1992, he won the American Comedy Award for Best Male Stand-Up Comedian.

After appearing in several episodes of the television hit "Designing Women," Engvall went on to portray Buck Overton on the ABC sitcom "Delta" starring Delta Burke.

A star of the big screen as well, Engvall has also appeared in several films including "Strawberry Wine" with Christina Ricci, and "Bed and Breakfast" with Dean Cain, as well as "Delta Farce." His latest film, "The Neighbor," takes him out of his typical comedy scene and into the horror genre.

Alongside Jeff Foxworthy, Larry the Cable Guy, and Ron White, Bill Engvall was part of the enormously successful Blue Collar Comedy Tour concert films, which have sold more than 9 million units and are some of the most watched movies and specials in Comedy Central history. The soundtrack for Blue Collar Comedy Tour, "One For The Road," (Warner Bros./Jack Records) was also nominated for a Grammy Award.

Following the Blue Collar Comedy Tour movies, Eng-

vall was reunited with Jeff Foxworthy and Larry the Cable Guy on the Them Idiots Whirled Tour, which was filmed as a special for CMT and aired 2012. Engvall also has several solo specials on Comedy Central including Aged and Confused (2009) and Live (2004), which was certified multiplatinum, 15° Off Cool (2007) and Here's Your Sign (1996).

Engvall's first album, "Here's Your Sign" (1996), has been certified platinum and held the No. 1 position on the Billboard Comedy chart for 15 straight weeks, went on to peak at No. 5 on Billboard's Current Country Album chart and reached the Top 50 on Billboard's Top 200 Album chart. The single of the same name was ranked No. 1 on Billboard's Country Singles Sales chart for 10 weeks, reached the Top 30 on the Billboard's Singles Sales chart, and achieved gold status, which is not a common occurrence in the comedy market. In 1997, Engvall won the Best Selling Comedy Album award at the annual National Association of Recording Merchandisers (NARM) convention, outselling albums by Chris Rock and Adam Sandler.

Engvall's second album, "Dorkfish" (1998), was certified gold (500,000 copies), and had the honor of being ranked No. 1 on Billboard's

Comedy chart, even surpassing Jerry Seinfeld's album. All of his following comedy album releases debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard Comedy Chart, including "15° Off Cool" and "Aged and Confused."

Tickets, which start at \$75, are available online at sfscARTS.org, by phone at 863-784-7178, or in person at the SFSC Box Office located at 600 West College Drive on the Highlands Campus of SFSC. The performance is sponsored by Midflorida Credit Union, Sebring International Raceway, and V & W Dairy Farms/Suzanne and Joe Wright.

Upcoming performances at the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts include: A Tribute to Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald with The Lisa Kelly Sextet on Feb. 22; Central Park Revisited: James Taylor on Feb. 25; international a cappella sensation Blue Jupiter on Feb. 29; Tamburitzans on March 3; South Carolina Ballet's "Cinderella" on March 7; and "An American in Paris" on March 12. For a complete lineup and to view videos, visit sfscARTS.org.

Deborah Bell Latter is the coordinator of internal communications at South Florida State College and can be reached at 863-784-7251 or Deborah.Latter@southflorida.edu.



COURTESY PHOTO

Bill Engvall will perform at the South Florida State College Center for the Performing Arts on Feb. 21.

February 6, 2020

SFSC Presents Performing Arts, Culture Award

By **DEBORAH BELL LATTER**

Special To The Herald-Advocate

John Lackey IV received the first \$300 Performing Arts and Culture for Students (PACS) Award from South Florida State College's (SFSC) Office of Cultural Programs. Funded by the SFSC Foundation, PACS is a volunteer program that encourages SFSC students to experience three arts or cultural events, sites, or festivals.

Created by Director of Cultural Programs Cindy Garren, the program's goal is to incentivize students to visit a museum, attend a performance, or enjoy a cultural heritage festival. Students are required to attend three arts or culture events, then submit a selfie and a two-page reflection paper.

Lackey, who is a first-year student studying computer sci-

ence at SFSC, said that he heard about the PACS program from his English professor, Dr. Keith Cavedo. Lackey visited the Museum of Florida Art and Culture (MOFAC), the Highlands Museum of the Arts, and the Lake Placid murals.

"Seeing all the art and people's creativity and their masterpieces makes me want to see more art and visit more museums," Lackey said.

When asked if it was a difficult project, Lackey said that it was an easy way for a student to earn a \$300 stipend.

For information about the PACS program, visit southflorida.edu/PACSaward or contact Cindy Garren at pacs@southflorida.edu. One \$300 stipend is awarded each academic semester. Materials must be submitted at least two weeks prior to the end of the

semester.

Deborah Bell Latter is the coordinator of internal communications at South Florida

State College and can be reached at 863-784-7251 or Deborah.Latter@southflorida.edu.



COURTESY PHOTO

SFSC student John Lackey (left) with Cindy Garren, director of cultural programs at SFSC.



TOM MEISENHEIMER/CORRESPONDENT



TOM MEISENHEIMER/CORRESPONDENT

Jean Venema has been a patient at the Dental Clinic since the program began. "I just love the students."

Dr. Deborah Milliken, DMD is Professor and Department Chair.

Dental Hygiene Clinic helps patients, teaches students

By **TOM MEISENHEIMER**
CORRESPONDENT

You can have your teeth cleaned, gain a better smile and take pride in knowing that you helped a dental student become proficient in providing preventive dental care.

Dental care is provided by South Florida State College dental hygiene students under the supervision of licensed dentists and dental hygienists.

chose SFSC, "because they have such a good program." She added, "I plan to begin my career in Lakeland." When asked about her most challenging task to date she said, "Convincing my patients the value of daily flossing."

The school offers two programs. The Dental Assistant program is 11 months. Students are trained to work side by side with dentists. The Dental Hygienist program is three years. The first year requires prerequisite courses in science. Dr. Milliken said Dental Assistant hourly wages begin at \$10-\$15 an hour. Hygienists can

hour.

The clinic is primarily a teaching and learning classroom where students practice to become competent professionals. Area residents can become patients and have x-rays taken, their teeth cleaned, fluoride treatment administered, all under the direct supervision of dentists and licensed dental hygienists.

"Dr. Milliken said that, "A number of our patients use our service on a regular basis. Others come just a time or two." The clinic is always in need to patients with various cleaning needs.

Lauren Redick is the

patients meet. Each patient will fill out basic screening requirements to receive service. Redick is there to help.

Long-time patient Jean Venema from Sebring has been coming to the clinic since it started. "They have me on a four-month schedule. The students are great and I highly recommend their work." However many patients come for a short time and are referred to a local dentist office for dental needs that can only be provided by a licensed dentist.

The cost for dental cleaning, complete mouth x-rays, fluoride treatment, sealant

DENTAL

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applications, polishing and oral hygiene therapy is significantly lower than the charges at a dental office. But treatments take longer as your teeth are being cleaned by supervised students in a teaching environment. All treatments are free to children who live in Highlands County and full-time students at SFSC receive treatments at half price.

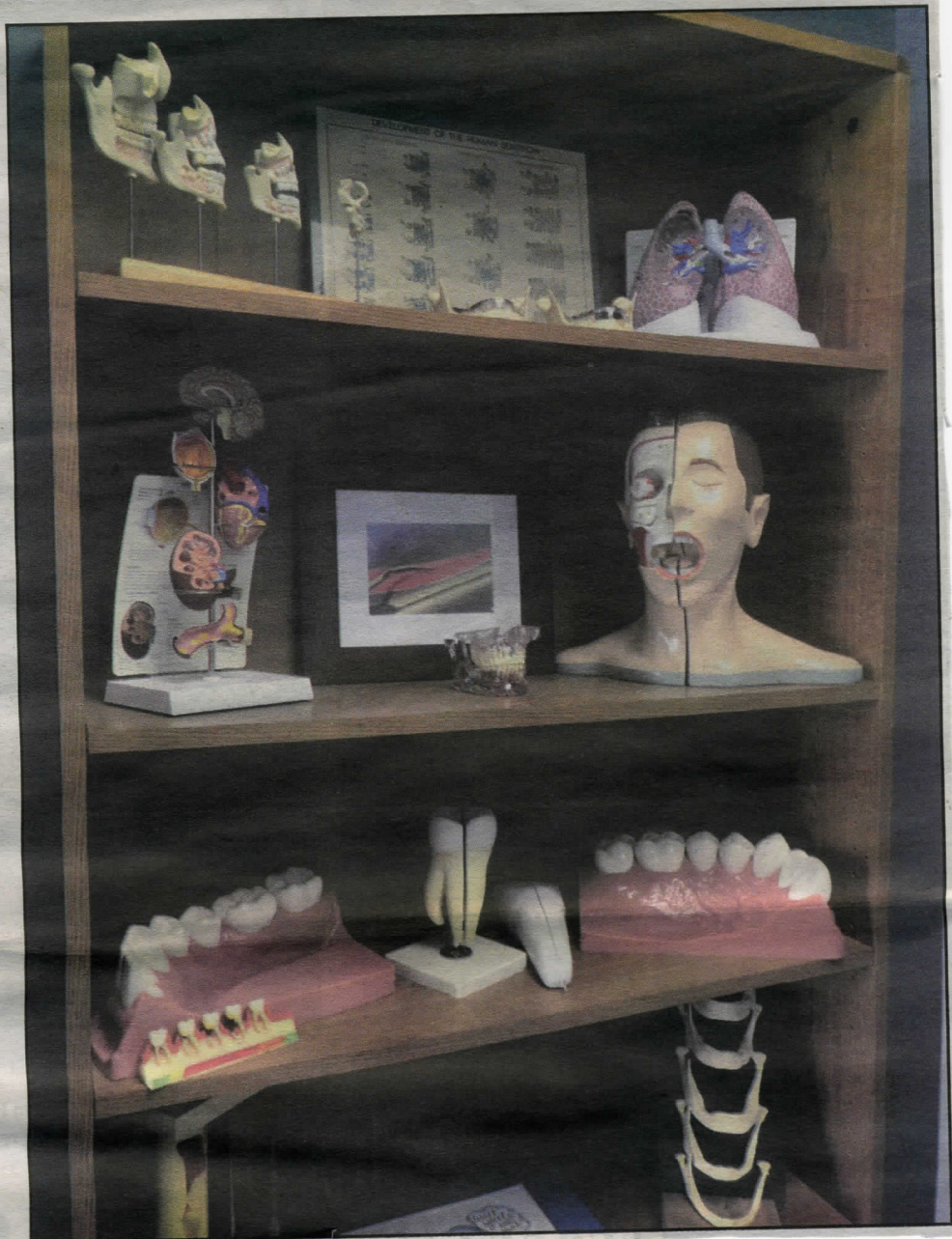
Over 20 area dentists became charter members of the program with their contributions. Many have benefited by hiring the highly trained clinic graduates.

The estimate cost for the program is about \$17,000. That includes the \$105.42 per credit hour, Florida State Licensing exam fee and other fees. Financial aid is available via grants, scholarships and loans.

Students must meet the demands of the program. These include motor skills, visual, tactile, hearing, communications, interpersonal, self care, critical thinking, organizational skills, intellectual ability, behavioral and social attitudes, all meant to assure that your choice of an area dentist office has a staff of well rounded, professionally trained Dental Assistants and Hygienists.

The program boasts an 80% graduation rate with and employment rate of 100% within three months or less of graduation. Students range in age from 19 to their mid 30s.

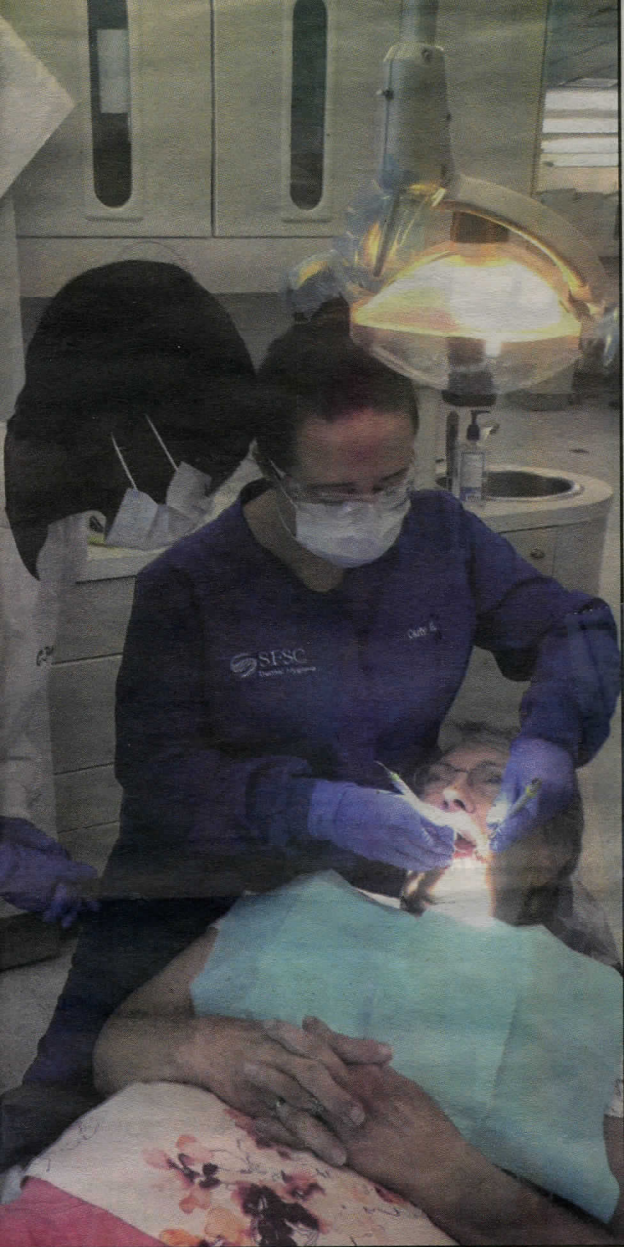
If patients coming to the SFSC Dental



A teaching display at the clinic.

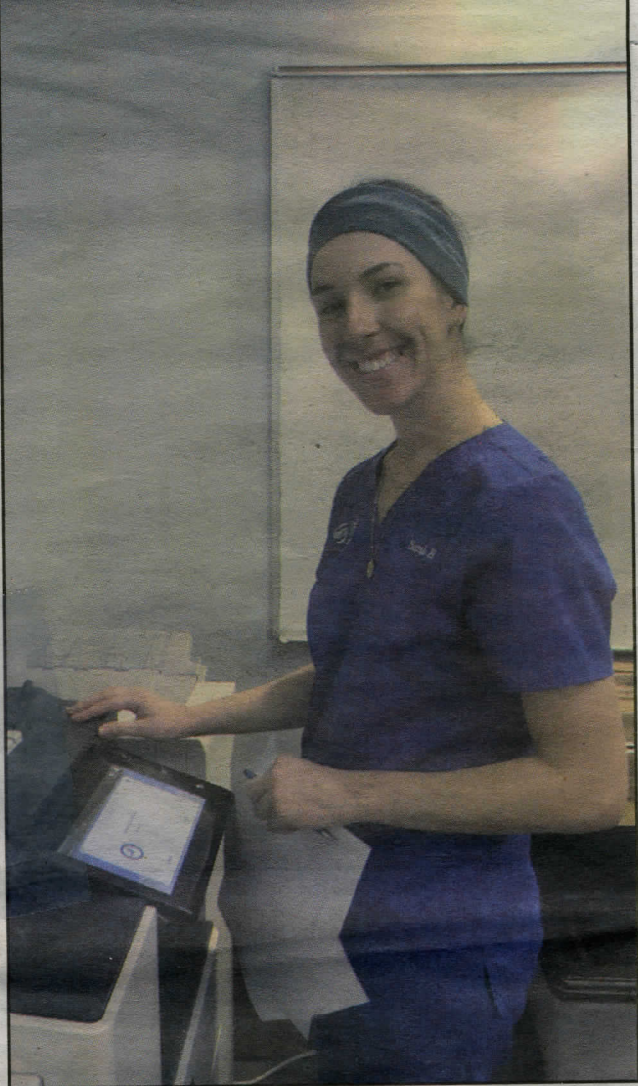
Hygiene Clinic need restorations, extractions, or other dental work not performed by the clinic, they will be referred to local dentists or dental specialists.

If you are interested in seeking a career in the dental field or want to be a patient at the clinic helping a supervised student become a professional while having your teeth cleaned and other procedures, call 863-784-7020 for details.



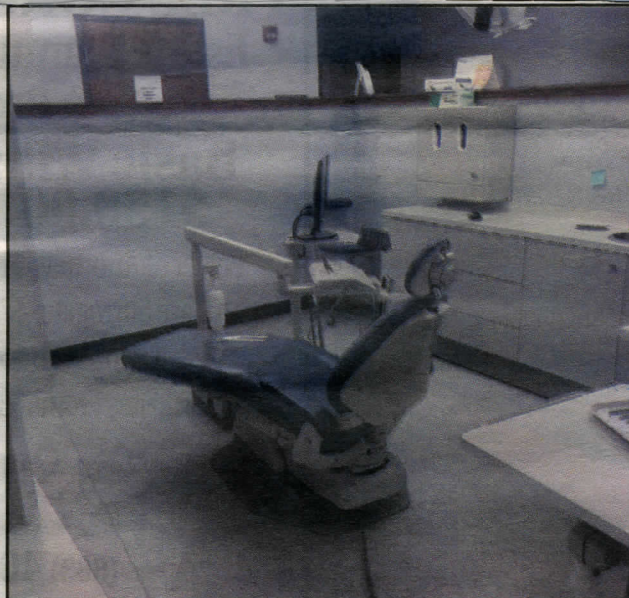
TOM MEISENHEIMER/CORRESPONDENT

Second-year student Carly Earls cleans a patient's teeth while under the supervision of instructor Carole Francois.



TOM MEISENHEIMER/CORRESPONDENT

Second year Dental Hygienest student Sarah Brock, "I love my patients and I work to convince them to floss everyday."



TOM MEISENHEIMER/CORRESPONDENT

One of the many dental bays at the clinic.

SFSC Elementary Education Students Score High On Teacher Examinations

By DEBORAH BELL LATTER

Special To The Herald-Advocate

South Florida State College's (SFSC) Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education (BSEE) was recently lauded for its student pass rates on the Florida Teacher Certification Examinations (FTCE) in three areas.

The Florida Department of Education oversees the FTCE, and according to its website, the examination "ensures that all teacher candidates demonstrate the necessary content and pedagogical knowledge necessary to effectively instruct students in Florida."

Student who take the exams come from state-approved teacher preparation programs from state universities, state colleges, private colleges and universities, educator preparation institutes (EPIs), and professional development certification programs (PDCPs).

In a recent report prepared by the Florida Department of Education, SFSC BSEE students scored higher than any other state college on the Professional Education examination on their first and best attempts.

On their first attempt, 93.5 percent of SFSC BSEE students passed the Professional Education examination, a rate 3.1 percent higher than the next highest scoring state college. SFSC BSEE students achieved a 100 percent passing rate at their best attempt at the exam, scoring 2.6 percent higher than the next highest scoring state college.

"Best attempt is the highest score of all students in all attempts in taking the examination," said Dr. Maday Leon, lead instructor of the SFSC BSEE program. "Clearly, SFSC has a really high rate of passing the Professional Education examination when compared with other state college bachelor's degree programs. And our students are very competitive with the state universities, such as the University of Florida with its first attempt pass rate of 95 percent."

According to Dr. Leon, SFSC's BSEE students take the Professional Education examination in the summer before their last semester in the program. "It's like a midpoint check."

The BSEE students take subject area exams through the Florida Department of Education in the fall term before their spring classroom internships.

"The subject areas are in language arts and reading, science, social science, and mathematics," Dr. Leon said. "If the students don't pass all four subject area exams, they don't go onto their internships."

SFSC BSEE students scored high on the best attempt at the language arts and reading examination with a 93.8 percent passing rate in the best attempt. The students also scored high on first attempt on the mathematics examination, with a passing rate of 65.6 percent.

Dr. Leon maintains that SFSC's students do well on the FTCE exams because they're provided the necessary preparation. The Professional Education examination preparation is integrated throughout the BSEE program. Subject area exam preparation is bolstered with an online workshop series through The Learning Liaisons FTCE Workshop Series.

"We've known since day one that a small institution can provide more direct instruction than a larger one," Dr. Leon said. "Our students receive one-on-one attention and they receive a lot of support and the data now shows that."

SFSC launched the BSEE program in fall 2014 at SFSC's Highlands Campus in Avon Park. Those admitted to the two-year program will have completed an Associate in Arts (A.A.), prerequisite education courses, GPA requirements, and the General Knowledge Test of the Florida Teacher Certification Examination. Graduates will be eligible for Florida certification in kindergarten through sixth grade with English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and Reading endorsements.

For information about the program, visit southflorida.edu/academic/bsee or call 863-784-7154.

Deborah Bell Latter is the coordinator of internal communications at South Florida State College and can be reached at 863-784-7251 or Deborah.Latter@southflorida.edu.

FEB 13, 2022

South Florida State College students to study hemp

By **CHARLES A. BAKER III**
MIDFLORIDA NEWSPAPERS

AVON PARK —

Hemp4Water Founder W. Steven Edmonds Jr. said nobody else in the country is studying how hemp could be used to remove metric tons of nitrogen and phosphorus, nutrients that can cause problems at high levels in rivers and lakes.

On Feb. 7, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services staff issued an Industrial Hemp Planting Permit to South Florida Community College to quantify how much nitrogen and phosphorus can be metabolized in a single hemp growth cycle and analyze the results.

Plants like cattails also remove nutrients from water while alive. Problem is, when they die, those nutrients get dissolved into the water again. The difference with hemp is that once it dies on the bio mat, it can be harvested and turned into other bio mats or sold for other purposes.

Edmonds said that hemp is used to remove those nutrients from the ground at multiple locations in Canada and the Pacific Northwest of the United States. He said he is not aware of anybody using hemp to

clean water.

Hemp will be grown on bio mats anchored in two lakes on the college campus, one close to the main administration building and another on a more secluded campus lake. Edmonds said the first meeting at the college is Feb. 21.

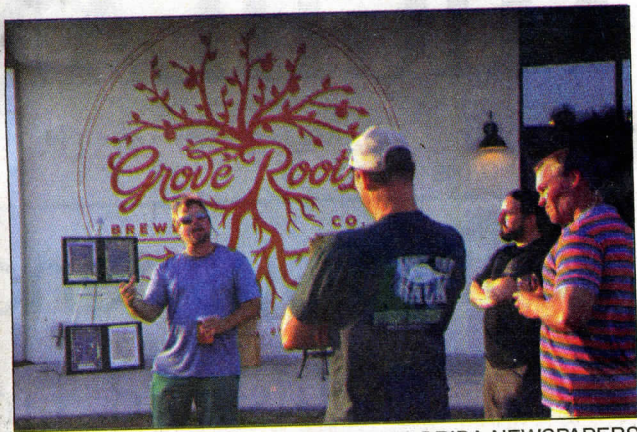
"We should be popping seeds the following week," Edmonds said.

Hemp4Water was established in 2013, generally speaking, to educate the public that hemp uses a lot less water from the Upper Floridan Aquifer than citrus or any other fruit.

Edmonds credited Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Director Nikki Fried for spearheading an effort to pass hemp-friendly legislation in Florida over the past few years. President Donald J. Trump signed a bill into law making federal trade of industrial hemp legal. Edmonds has long said that Florida was late arriving to that party but is hopeful for the future.

| February 18, 2020

www.highlandsnewssun.com



CHARLES A. BAKER III/MIDFLORIDA NEWSPAPERS

Hemp4Water Founder Steve Edmonds spoke about the benefits of growing hemp over other crops in Winter Haven back in 2017.