

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

IN THE NEWS



January 24, 2008 - February 13, 2009

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TCC offers job training to Gadsden

By Christine Thomasos
DEMOCRAT WRITER

Close to 500 people are scheduled to be laid off from Quincy Farms on Jan. 31, and Tallahassee Community College has decided to do something about it.

After training nearly 100 people in the Leon County area through the Quick Job Training Program last year, the college is aiming to do the same

MORE INFO

Information sessions will be held at Workforce Plus at 1140 W. Clark St. 3-4:30 p.m. and 5-6:30 p.m. Monday.

For more information, visit www.quickjobtcc.com or call (850) 201-8760.

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Two information sessions on the program are

set for Monday.

"Last year we set a goal to train somewhere between 75-100 people in Leon County, and we met our goal," said John Chapin, vice president for economic and workforce development at TCC. "What we're really doing is taking that model and applying that to Gadsden County, so jobs can be trained for in 90 days or less."

With Quincy Farms

closing at the end of the month, Chapin said TCC President Bill Law secured \$50,000 for a workforce intervention fund.

"The college president agreed to pay for that out of some contingency funds that we keep for such emergencies," Chapin said. "The Quick Job Program started when we saw the need on the horizon for people to change jobs."

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funds to respond to community need."

The funds will be used as financial aid for unemployed Gadsden County residents interested in taking part in the Quick Job Training Program.

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GADSDEN

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"That's a goal based on people's response to the program," she said. "It depends on people wanting to access the program."

Although the program will help with career skills, Baragona said it does not provide people with jobs.

Nevertheless, Kim Moore, CEO of Workforce Plus, the company hosting Monday's information sessions, said the program will have a powerful effect on the community.

"The goal is in an economic downturn that individuals will have a better opportunity to market themselves by gaining better skills," she said.

PROGRAMS OFFERED ARE:

- Green Building
- Introduction to Photovoltaic (PV)
- Introduction to Solar Thermal Hot Water Heating
- First Line Supervisor
- Bank Teller
- Digital Marketing — Sales
- Heavy Equipment — Backhoe
- Heavy Equipment — Dump Truck
- Cabling and Wiring
- Electrician's Helper
- Plumber's Helper
- HVAC Helper
- Mason's Helper
- Administrative Medical Specialist with Medical Billing and Coding
- Medical Front Office Certificate Program
- Introduction to CNC Lathe Machining - Operator Training
- A+ Certification Prep Course
- Introduction to Networking
- Intermediate Networking
- Graphics Design Certificate
- Web Developer
- Web Application Developer
- Private Security Guard

Military taught TCC's James how to be a man

Now basketball has him poised for bigger things

By Doug Blackburn
DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

Protecting the paint is mere child's play for Tallahassee Community College freshman basketball center Bernard James. Particularly compared to the kind of guard duty he was pulling 18 months ago.

In August 2007, James was stationed at Camp Bucca in southern Iraq, a member of the Air Force Military Police assigned to help the Army keep watch on 22,000 prisoners — detainees, in military parlance.

James was equipped with an M-4 assault rifle, a 12-gauge Mossberg pump-action shotgun and an M-9 Beretta pistol, but they were of little use when a mortar shell fired from a half-mile away blasted into the prison — er, detainment facility.

James was knocked to the ground and suffered temporary hearing loss, but other than that he wasn't hurt. While no American or Allied forces sustained life-threatening injuries from the mortar attack, six detainees were killed and at least five dozen more were injured.

"It was kind of crazy, but we had good leadership," said TCC's elder statesman, who turns 24 next month. "Everybody pulled together and got things done. We all made it through alive."

James' incredible journey — from a 16-year-old high-school dropout, hanging out at malls in his Savannah, Ga., hometown, to a six-year stint in the military to today, a student-athlete at TCC poised to join Florida State's basketball team next season — is almost the stuff of fiction.

Equally amazing, he didn't even play organized basketball as a kid. He only started playing ball regularly after enlisting in the Air Force.

His commander, Eric Dumas, a basketball enthusiast, saw a sculpted 6-foot-4 17-year-old and demanded he give basketball a try.

It was a good fit from the start. It got even better as he shot up five inches over the next two years, making it easy for the 6-9 James to dominate games at Beale Air Force Base near Sacramento, Calif.

Soon he was on the U.S. Armed Forces All-Star team, and last year he led the U.S. to the International Military Sports Council basketball championship, earning tournament MVP honors



Bernard James spent six years in the Air Force before coming to Tallahassee to play basketball at TCC. He's expected to eventually move on to Florida State. (Phil Sears/Democrat)

after recording 12 points, 18 rebounds and six blocks in the title game against Lithuania.

Further playing against stereotype, James was neither a trouble-maker nor a teenager who got in trouble. He simply didn't like school. And he didn't like following in the footsteps of his three older brothers, all star athletes at Richard Arnold High.

So he stopped going to class during his sophomore year. He would miss a day or two, then a week or two. Then he stopped going altogether.

"Not to fault my parents, but I think I was kind of the forgotten one. I was always the quiet one," James said. "I never really got in much trouble, so my parents didn't have to worry about me too much."

James' father, Darryl Cook, who recently retired from the Air Force Reserves after a career in the Army, steered his son toward the Air Force after James obtained a GED.

He had a choice of signing up for four or six years. He chose six.

"I wanted to get back on track in my life. I like the military

lifestyle, it's how I grew up," James said. "My father said until I figured out what I wanted to do for a career, the Air Force would be the better choice.

"The quality of life is a lot better. They treat you like a person instead of a robot."

He was with the military police for all six years, finishing as a staff sergeant. He went from basic security detail — writing up parking tickets, responding to domestic disputes — to three tours overseas in the Mideast.

During those six years a boy became a man, something James and his coach at TCC are acutely aware of.

"When you're in the military you don't realize how much you've benefitted from what you've been through," James said. "I've gained loads of knowledge, discipline.

"I look at my peers (at TCC). It seems like things that come naturally to me from being in the military — being on time to places, doing things the right way, not breaking the rules, enforcing the rules — are completely foreign to them."

Eddie Barnes, the Eagles' coach, marvels at James. "Bernard's an unbelievable person. He's our leader. When he speaks, the rest of the guys listen."

James missed the Eagles' first five games while he recovered from surgery to repair a cracked right kneecap, his lone military injury incurred while playing on a cement court. He's been rounding into shape, averaging 11.2 points per game, shooting 60.4 percent from floor and leading the team with 22 blocked shots.

His real challenge, he admits, wasn't on the basketball floor. It was proving that the classroom — his one-time nemesis — would no longer be a foreign, unfriendly place.

Was seeing the world, protecting his country and finding a talent that might one day pay him riches enough to overcome a fear of teachers and books?

James' come-to-Jesus moment took place in June, when he took a seat in an algebra class at TCC.

"I was really scared at first. It was the whole high-school thing," James said. "I hadn't really been in school for six years.

"When I got to high school I was never really good in school. I could see the doubt in me. I didn't know if I could do it. I didn't know if I was smart enough."

James earned an 88 in the algebra class, good enough for a B-plus. He finished the fall semester with two As and three Bs, is taking a full load now and hopes to add another 18 credits this summer to complete his associate degree.

He thinks one day he'd like to be graphic artist, or have his own business. After he follows his hoop dreams, of course.

FSU coach Leonard Hamilton, who attended James' military games, is the reason the long left-hander is in Tallahassee, according to James. NCAA rules prohibit Hamilton from talking about the junior college player.

One thing James is sure of: He's not returning to Savannah, where it all almost came undone for James.

"The whole dropping out of school thing left a bad taste in my mouth," he said. "I know a lot of people who have pretty much screwed up their whole lives just doing stupid stuff.

"I went through fire and didn't get burned."

Union making push to represent faculty at TCC

By Doug Blackburn
DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

The union representing faculty at Florida State and Florida A&M universities wants Tallahassee Community College to recognize it as the bargaining agent for teachers at TCC.

United Faculty of Florida officials are scheduled to attend Monday's TCC board of trustees meeting and make their request official.

TCC President Bill Law is mystified by the union's push to represent TCC's faculty. In a memo to the board, Law is recommending that the board not grant voluntary recognition of UFF.

It is believed to be the first time in TCC's history that UFF has made a formal offer to represent the community college's full-time faculty.

"I don't know what the issues are that would cause them to want a union to represent them," Law said. "I'm not being a little bit disingenuous – I don't know the reasons.

"I have to be shown that there's more than half of the faculty that want to go down this trail."

TCC history professor Frank Baglione is president of the TCC chapter of UFF. Thirty-eight of TCC's 180 full-time faculty members are UFF dues-paying members. In addition to all 11 state universities, UFF represents faculty at 10 colleges in Florida.

Baglione and other UFF members initiated a petition campaign in late fall. He said 126 of 155 faculty members who were approached – 80 percent – signed the petition affirming they want collective bargaining by UFF.

Baglione stressed that there is no pressing issue causing the teachers to want union representation at this time.

"There has been no particular problem," he said. "The administration has been very good at working toward resolution of any issues."

In his memo to the board, Law wrote that "the establishment of a bargaining unit would signal a very major shift in the long-

standing commitment to collegial shared governance that has served the college up to this point."

Baglione said he was surprised by Law's statement. A written contract would prevent problems, not create them, according to Baglione.

"When issues to arise, we want to regularize the policies and procedures," he said.

A faculty senate serves as the representative for TCC's teachers, but has only an advisory role, Baglione added.

"The president has a contract," he said. "We would like to have one also."

There is a formal process for obtaining union representation. UFF's request at Monday's board of trustees meeting is one of the first steps in that process.

If the board adheres to Law's recommendation and refuses to recognize UFF, the union may petition the Public Employees Relations Commission for certification as the bargaining agent for the faculty at TCC.

That could lead to an election by secret ballot.

Our Opinion: Young professionals can create their niche

One frequent criticism of Tallahassee is that there are few amenities here to persuade one of the city's top exports — recent college graduates — to make their homes here. In recent years, community and civic leaders traveled to cities such as Raleigh, N.C.; Chattanooga, Tenn.; Austin, Texas; and Madison, Wis., to uncover the magnetic factors that help each community attract and retain young professionals.

What they found is truth in the maxim, “_____ is what you make it.”

On Thursday, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation announced the second grant in two months geared toward stemming the young-professional brain drain. The grant will fund an institution, based at Tallahassee Community College, geared toward keeping young, college-educated workers in town by helping them foster a “sense of place” for themselves.

The opportunity couldn't be more obvious. The foundation, through the Knight Creative Communities Initiative, is investing millions to encourage young professionals to quash any quarter-life crisis they may have about making their home in Tallahassee. Best of all, the grants acknowledge YPs as assets to their community, and equip them with financial resources to build the civic bridge from university to family life within city limits.

YPs are part of what social theorist Richard Florida refers to as “the creative class,” individuals who work in the sectors of technology, research and development, arts and culture, education and training at professional and managerial levels. It currently accounts for 30 percent of the U.S. work force.

KCCI has seized the realization that investing in young professionals and the creative class is key to private-sector job growth, where real economic impact, rather than government-fueled stimulation, is made.

Its grants and goals echo the Network of Young Professional's slogan: “Live. Work. Play. Stay.” Thus far, they have brought to life initiatives such as the Tallahassee Film Festival, Sustainable Tallahassee and Get Gaines Going. In the case of the first two, the KCCI grant money helped create self-sustaining projects that foster ties to the city's creative class.

In the coming months, KCCI will select 30 individuals (from diverse backgrounds — you need not be a young professional to apply) to work together to shape the institute's identity. Through this effort, KCCI has extended another opportunity for anyone who deems him or herself a community stakeholder to help cement a place for YPs in Tallahassee.

With that, at least one excuse has dried up for allowing our young workers to trickle out of our community unnoticed and under appreciated.

TCC Celebrates African Americans with Annual Calendar Unveiling

Reporter: Tasia Stone

Email Address: tasia.stone@wctv.tv

Tallahassee Community College will celebrate the unveiling of its 9th annual African American History Calendar tonight. The calendar features 29 local well known African Americans- including our very own Shonda Knight.

African American History Coordinator Cherry Alexander

says she wants to inspire local young people to dream big. She says that's her motivation to produce the calendar each year.

"These kids go to church with these people they go to school with them and they recognize, 'hey if doctor whomever can do it then so can I,'" says Alexander.

30,000 copies will be distributed to schools, churches and community organizations across the Big Bend. The calendar unveiling will start at 7pm at TCC's Turner Auditorium with a reception at 6pm...and it's free to the public.

Union pushes to represent TCC faculty

By Doug Blackburn
DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

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TCC President Bill Law is mystified by the union's push to represent TCC's faculty. In a memo to the board, Law is recommending that the board not grant voluntary recognition of UFF.

The teachers at TCC do not have union representation. This is believed to be the first time in TCC's history that UFF has made a formal offer to represent the community college's full-time faculty.

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TCC Delays 'Green Building' Course

Reporter: John Rogers

Email Address: john.rogers@wctv.tv

Tallahassee Community College has delayed a class on environmentally friendly building.

TCC had planned to offer a 'Green Building' Course starting Monday but it has now been pushed back because of low enrollment.

The course will provide teaching in constructing Eco-friendly buildings that use less energy and water and cost less to maintain.

School officials say the class will now be offered in the late Spring.
take phone

For more information on the class, call (850) 201-8760.

TCC meets with United Faculty of Florida

Tallahassee, FL (WTLX) The Tallahassee Community College faculty and staff for the first time in history met with the United Faculty of Florida, a union that might represent TCC employees. The union currently represents employees at both Florida A&M and Florida State.

The meeting serves as the first step in order to move forward with any union decisions. UFF wants the faculty at TCC to recognize this as a bargaining agent, but TCC President Bill Law says employees have worked well without a union for many years.

The process is expected to take several months before faculty makes their final vote on the union.

TCC to provide job training in Gadsden County

By Christine Thomasos
DEMOCRAT WRITER

Officials from Tallahassee Community College and Workforce Plus will outline at 3 p.m. today the job-training opportunities to be available in Gadsden County for displaced workers and others seeking employment.

After providing skills for nearly 100 people in Leon County through the Quick Job Training Program last year, the college is aiming to do the same for its neighboring county in need.

Two information sessions on the program are set for today, one at 3 p.m. and another at 5 p.m., at the Quincy office Workforce Plus, 1140 W. Clark St.

"Last year we set a goal to train somewhere between 75-100 people in Leon County, and we met our goal," said John Chapin, vice president for economic and workforce development at TCC. "What we're really doing is taking that model and applying that to Gadsden County, so jobs can be trained for in 90 days or less."

With Quincy Farms closing at the end of the month, Chapin said TCC President Bill Law secured \$50,000 for a workforce intervention fund. The mushroom farm's 490 employees are losing their jobs the end of this week.

"The college president agreed to pay for that out of some contingency funds that we keep for such emergencies," Chapin said. "The Quick Job Program started when we saw the need on the horizon for people to change jobs."

The funds will be used as financial aid for unemployed Gadsden County residents interested in taking part in the Quick Job Training Program.

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Michelle Baragona, program director for the Quick Job Training Program, hopes to help between 75 and 100 people with the program. "That's a goal based on people's response to the program," she said. "It depends on people wanting to access the program."

Although the program will help with career skills, Baragona said it does not provide people with jobs.

Nevertheless, Kimberly Moore, CEO of Workforce Plus, said the program will have a powerful effect on the community.

"The goal is in an economic downturn that individuals will have a better opportunity to market themselves by gaining better skills," she said.

- Check back on Tallahassee.com for an update of this story and look for additional reporting in the Tallahassee Democrat tomorrow.

Additional Facts MORE INFO

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For more information, visit www.quickjobtcc.com or call (850) 201-8760.

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- A+ Certification Prep Course
- Introduction to Networking
- Intermediate Networking
- Graphics Design Certificate
- Web Developer
- Web Application Developer
- Private Security Guard

Training in 90 Days or Less

Reporter: Heather Bianca

Email Address: heather.biance@wctv.tv

A work training program in Gadsden County is doing what it can to get residents the skills they need to get back into the work force.

Monday, more than 40 Gadsden County residents came out to sign up for "Quick Job Training" which offers various classes that can be completed within 90 days and most of them come with no cost to the residents.

"With certain jobs they want new skills, like I say I'm looking for that new opportunity in the computer field, and I think this is my start right here," says David Vickers.

So far, 20 courses are available this Spring, ranging from Alternative energy occupations, to construction to information technologies.

Organizers say the program was put into place when the Tallahassee Community College Board of Trustee's allotted \$50,000 for the Gadsden Initiative in November 2008.

If you'd like more information on Quick Job Training, go to www.quickjobtcc.com or call 850-201-8760.

TCC Board of Trustees Say No to Union

Reporter: Heather Biance

Email Address: heather.biance@wctv.tv

Monday night, The Tallahassee Community College Board of Trustees was approached for the first time in the history of the college by a union wanting to represent the school's instructors.

Currently all eleven state colleges and eight community colleges in Florida are represented by United Faculty of Florida.

However, Tallahassee Community College's Board of Trustees and the school's president Dr. Bill Law says this is neither the time nor the place.

Monday night, the Board voted 7 to 0 to not recognize UFF as the union representing the college's teachers.

"At this juncture we're going to take it one step at a time. We're very mindful there's a very carefully defined process and I think we simply said lets go through the process, lets not short circuit it.

Members and representatives of UFF say they're looking for a written contract that will allow members to negotiate their terms and conditions.

"The college has grown tremendously in size and in the number of faculty and many of us feel that we need a more regular process for negotiating certain items," says Frank Baglione, TCC President of the United

Baglione says more than 70% which equates to 126 out of 155 of the TCC faculty members have filled out a card requesting UFF representation.

Baglione says the next step involves UFF filing paperwork with the Public Employees Relations Commission or PERC.

PERC will then review the situation and if it feel it's appropriate to have the faculty cast votes, either for or against, such an election would be implemented.

As for a time line, no dates have been set, but it could be as early as this Summer.

UFF says that if it becomes the representative organization for the college, faculty members will still have a choice whether to join the union or not.

Job hunt persists for Gadsden residents

By Will Brown
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

For jobless residents in Gadsden County, an economic stimulus plan that would give companies enough confidence to hire workers cannot come soon enough.

Quincy resident Cedric Wynn is certainly hoping for such an answer. He was among the 50 or so Gadsden County residents who attended an informational session Monday for the Quick Jobs Training Program that will be sponsored by Tallahassee Community College.

"People really need jobs in Gadsden County," Wynn said. "You only have a few places that make decent money over here, unless you want to work at McDonald's or Burger King or something like that."

If not for Monday's session, Wynn said he would be relegated to using help-wanted ads or relying on tips from friends and family members to find work.

Gadsden County has the highest unemployment rate in the area at 7.7 percent. However, nearly 30 percent of those unemployed residents were laid off by mushroom producer Quincy Farms in November, which skews the jobless numbers.

In response to the layoffs at Gadsden's biggest business, TCC allocated \$50,000 to implement the job-training program at little or no cost to Gadsden residents who had proof they were unemployed. The money was taken from a rainy-day fund, said Rick Frazier, director of the Economic & Workforce Development department at the college

Frazier said it's ludicrous to ask people to pay \$350 on average for classes when 1,688 Gadsden residents are out of work. The financial assistance would allow residents to receive \$400 for one course that is offered either in Quincy or Tallahassee.

It's not only adults who are searching. Havana resident JaCondria Gibson is looking for a part-time job that will keep her from asking family members for money. Gibson said some members of her family have been laid off from their jobs, and she is looking to gain skills as an assistant in a medical office so she can earn her own money.

"We can't really find a job because we're all in school and there will not be enough hours to work," Gibson said about the effort she and her peers have made in finding employment. "I need a job. I want a job."

Quincy resident David Vickers Sr. is working temporarily at a local grocery store as a way to support his family. He is interested in learning additional computer skills that he hopes will make him an attractive candidate for a full-time position that incorporates his skills as an electrician.

"I think all rural areas have a problem with the resources and the opportunities," Vickers said. "The employers here are scarce compared to Tallahassee."

TCC board declines to recognize union for college's faculty

By Doug Blackburn
DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

The Tallahassee Community College Board of Trustees voted 7-0 today to not recognize United Faculty of Florida as the union representing the college's teachers.

It was the first time in the school's history that the faculty had approached the board with the request that it be represented by UFF. The union is the collective bargaining agent for the faculty at all 11 state universities and eight other colleges in Florida.

UFF will file paperwork as early as today with the Public Employees Relations Commission, according to UFF Executive Director Ed Mitchell. PERC could oversee an election that would determine if TCC's faculty comes under UFF jurisdiction.

Frank Baglione, a history professor at TCC since 1990 and the UFF chapter president at the college, said 38 of the full-time faculty at TCC already are dues paying UFF members. More than 70 percent – 126 out of 155 – TCC faculty members signed cards requesting UFF representation, he said.

Baglione told the board there is no one issue prompting faculty members to want union representation.

"Many of us felt it was time we had a more regular system for dealing with issues," he said. "We would just like to have a written contract."

TCC President Bill Law recommended the board not recognize the union at Monday's meeting.

Board members Frank Messersmith and Bill Hebrock said they wanted the faculty to vote before they would be willing to recognize UFF.

"I don't believe this is the time and place for TCC to do this to improve the institution," Hebrock said.

African American Calendar Unveiling

Reporter: Heather Bianca

Email Address: heather.bianca@wctv.tv

Tallahassee Community College rolled out the red carpet Monday night for African Americans in our community who are making a difference.

Monday night, TCC unveiled its 9th annual African American History Calendar, featuring 29 local well known African Americans, including our very own Shonda Knight.

African American History Coordinator Cherry Alexander says the event has grown in leaps in bounds every year and says it gives the younger generations people to look up to.

“Because I know how important it is for we to understand how all generations and races contribute to this community. And if our kids can see that, they’re going to work hard and that’s the dream I have,” says Black History Month Coordinator at TCC, Cherry Alexander.

30,000 copies will be distributed to schools, organizations and churches throughout the Big Bend area.

Alexander says most if not all copies will be gone within the first week.

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Leaders honored in Black History Calendar

DEMOCRAT STAFF REPORT:

Tallahassee Community College unveiled its black history calendar, which honors 29 local black leaders, Monday night. The calendar is being named the Tallahassee Community College Cherry Alexander African-American History Calendar after Alexander, TCC's director of library sciences who coordinates black-history events and established the calendar. Alexander is retiring from TCC at the end of this school year.

Calendar honorees are:

- Sevilla Burney Tillman: co-founder of Tillman Funeral Home in Monticello
- Nancy E. Mosley Russell: former principal of Wesson Elementary School
- Laymon A. Hicks: FSU student-body president Andrew Collins: FAMU student-body president, University Trustee of FAMU
- Louis Dilbert: coordinator for Black Male Achievers at TCC
- Henry "Skip" C. Hunter: attorney specializing in eminent domain and president of Tallahassee Barristers Association
- Na'im Akbar: FSU Department of Psychology with specialty in black mental-health issues, author of psychology books
- Shonda Knight: anchor/host for WCTV
- Lesa Crosby-Harley: Leon County Schools supervisor in personnel services
- Allen D. Stucks Sr.: Big Bend Crime Stoppers executive director
- Joe Nell Thomas: Walker/Ford Community Center supervisor
- Charee Williams: United Way of the Big Bend major gifts campaign associate
- Lyn Stanfield: TCC District Board of Trustees and Apple Inc. strategic relations director
- Eugene Lamb Jr.: former Midway mayor
- Frances Stallworth: FAMU English associate professor, gospel artist
- Marvin Henderson: Leon County Schools associate superintendent
- Gregory Turner: president, CEO, owner of Abundant Solutions Enterprises Inc.
- Brian J. Henderson: CEO of Mind Altering Strategies LLC
- Brenda Scott, poet, playwright, author
- Howard F. McMillan: Faith Christian Family Center senior pastor
- Hinton "Goo" Battle: founder of BattleOne Enterprise
- Michael R. Moore: Leon County Schools director of transportation, Powerhouse Church of God In Christ senior pastor
- Leonard L. Inge: Capital Regional Medical Center pharmacist
- Evelyn Jackson Corbin: former Bethel A.M.E. Church minister, teacher and girls' basketball coach
- David Jackson: FAMU Department of History, Political Science, Public Administration, Geography and African American Studies chair
- Doris Maloy: Leon County tax collector Henry Lewis III: FAMU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences professor and dean
- Ronald E. Henry II: FAMU Enterprise Information Technology director
- Edward E. Acoff: FSU Supplier Diversity Program director

TCC Offering Aviation Science Course

Reporter: John Rogers

Email Address: john.rogers@wctv.tv

Tallahassee Community College will soon allow students to be grounded in the basics of air travel.

On February 2nd, TCC will offer an aviation science course.

Students will learn the history and the basics of flying an aircraft.

The course will also prepare students for the Private Pilot written exam.

The eight-week course will be held at Compass Pointe at the Tallahassee Airport, and for more information call (850) 201-8030.

Two from Gadsden on African American calendar

By Byron Spires
Herald Editor

Two Gadsden County residents are being recognized on this year's Tallahassee Community African American History Calendar, "Quest for Black Citizenship."



Gadsden County Commission Chairman Eugene Lamb (July) and United Way's Charee Williams (June) were chosen for the ninth addition of the calendar as African American achievers who have made significant contributions to Leon and surrounding counties.

A reception and unveiling of this year's calendar was held Monday night at the Turner Auditorium at TCC.

Lamb was recognized for

his long history of civic involvement including his involvement with the City of Midway where

he held the position of mayor, as a TCC Board of Trustees member, a board member of the

Miracle Hill Nursing and Convalescent Center.

In addition, Lamb was noted for his involvement in the Havana Kiwanis Club, Tallahassee Recreation Department, Midway recreation facility and the Eugene Lamb Jr. Foundation's work in Midway.

Williams was recognized for committed dedication to making a difference in Gadsden County as a Major Gifts Campaign Associate for the United Way of the Big Bend.

She has been involved in the Gadsden County school



Eugene Lamb (r) receives recognition from TCC President Bill Law along with Lyn Stanfield of Tallahassee. Stanfield shares the month of July with Lamb. Photos by Byron Spires

district's Host program where she has mentored at-risk students.

Williams frequently speaks to youth groups and participates in civic opportu-

nities that promote cultural awareness.

Calendars are available at the TCC library and Strong and Jones Funeral Home in Tallahassee.

Sunday's Editorial: Florida education too poor to get help

City, county and school district officials, plus partners in neighboring counties, moved forward last week, putting together regional plans for spending what might come this way from the federal stimulus package.

It was worth noting that Mayor John Marks mentioned not enough attention was being given to Florida State and Florida A&M universities or to Tallahassee Community College.

When it comes to being overlooked, the mayor on Thursday may not have known the half of it.

The stimulus bill passed in Congress on Wednesday was just being dissected on Thursday, when the ugly discovery was made that Florida's education system doesn't have a seat at the table.

Language in the bill "will stop Florida from receiving stabilization fund dollars for education," Sen. Evelyn Lynn, R-Daytona Beach, wrote in a letter to presidents of all 11 public universities.

And the reason, in a nutshell, is that the Florida Legislature has reduced all public education budgets so drastically that schools from kindergarten through college can't meet this critical requirement: that only states that can fund schools for the next two years at the levels they had in the 2005-06 school year are eligible.

That would not include Florida's 11 public universities, which FSU President T.K. Wetherell described wearily as "being so underfunded they're giving us up for dead."

Mr. Wetherell and University of Florida President Bernie Machen both indicated that they expect to see the issue go unresolved until a conference committee is inevitably called to sort out differences between the just-passed U.S. House stimulus bill and the one going to the U.S. Senate this week.

Meanwhile, all hands are on deck complying with Ms. Lynn's urgent call for the presidents to work for a change in the bill that now includes this "maintenance of effort" (MOE) requirement regarding the 2005-06 funding levels.

Ms. Lynn explained that the predicament is in part due to increased state revenue during 2005-2006 and 2006-07, which she said gave Florida a fairly high amount of funding for education.

"Unfortunately, our sudden and deep economic downturn began during 2007-2008 and is projected to last at least through 2009-10," she told the presidents. "Due to this downturn, our state funding for education has already been reduced below the amount required to meet the MOE requirement in the House Bill."

This is grim news indeed given that the current higher ed funding is lower than it was in 2004-05 — and with projected budget shortfalls of nearly \$4 billion, no relief is in sight.

Ms. Lynn described this dismal predicament as a "fiscal anomaly" due to the economic downturn, but the fact remains that other states — none of which are immune from the economic downturn — are not experiencing the same anomaly and will be eligible for the stimulus funds.

It's not as if the situation comes as a surprise to FSU and other universities, either. FSU Provost Larry Abele was last summer warning the Board of Governors, Florida's Higher Education Task Force, lawmakers and other state leaders of the predicament Florida has been putting itself in by failing to meet those "maintenance of effort" levels that are required in state law.

Having resisted even modest efforts to enhance Florida revenues to a point where it can sustain its greatest economic engine, higher education, it appears that Florida has all but cooked its golden goose.

Area preps for stimulus funds

Leaders' proposal would create 15,591 jobs in the Big Bend

By Dave Hodges
DEMOCRAT BUSINESS EDITOR

Government officials from around the Big Bend met Thursday to put the finishing touches on a regional plan for projects that may qualify for funding under the federal government's economic-stimulus package.

The \$819-billion stimulus bill before Congress passed the House on Wednesday and is headed to the Senate. It is estimated to bring Florida \$29.36 billion in various spending and tax provisions.

In preparation, local officials are proposing public works and infrastructure projects they expect to be "shovel ready" within 120 days. Others in a second phase would be ready to go in six months, according to Leon County.

Representatives from Wakulla, Gadsden and Jefferson counties, along with officials from the city of Tallahassee, Leon County Schools, the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency and Tallahassee Memorial Hospital attended the Regional Economic Stimulus meeting.

"My intent is to start the discussion, to start people thinking about how do we work as a community together as opposed to working as individual entities?" Said Leon County Commission Chairman Bryan Desloge.

The plan proposed by local officials, if funded by stimulus dollars from Washington, would cost \$1.1 billion and create 15,591 jobs, according to the summary brochure that highlights six categories of work and gives sample projects under each.

Listed under those for the area's most vulnerable residents is the \$540,000 expansion of the neonatal intensive care unit at TMH. The design is 100 percent complete and could meet the test of "shovel ready" in 120 days. It would create an estimated 62 jobs, the proposal says.

Water projects include the \$220 million upgrade to the city of Tallahassee's advanced wastewater treatment plant, which Mayor John Marks said will benefit Leon County, but also Wakulla because it protects Wakulla Springs.

Desloge responded that language could be added to stress the importance of that project to the larger area.

Although the brochure did summarize some of the most critical projects, Marks said it did not give enough attention to Florida State University, Florida A&M University and Tallahassee Community College, which have infrastructure plans, too.

"I know they are there. I know they have got those programs," Marks said, noting that the universities represent a significant local population.

Rural county bridges were a concern of Gadsden County Commissioner Douglas Croley. He said many are well beyond their intended service life and need replacement.

Ken Morris, assistant to the Leon County administrator, said a follow-up meeting is planned for Feb. 5 at 7:30 p.m. In the meantime, the project brochure will undergo some final editing and minor revision, but the 30-page project report that accompanies it is largely complete.

Contact Democrat Business Editor Dave Hodges at (850) 599-2321 or dhodges@Tallahassee.com.

Additional Facts The Economic Stimulus Report

What: \$1.1 billion in projects directed at facility and infrastructure repairs and enhancements, funded by stimulus plan dollars from Washington.

Where: Leon, Wakulla, Jefferson and Gadsden counties.

Impact: The projects are projected to create 15,591 jobs in the four counties.

When: Pending approval of the federal stimulus plan and allocation of the money, the projects could begin within 120 days of the funding being received.

Cherry Alexander honored for service to black history

Christine Thomasos
DEMOCRAT WRITER

Born into a family of 11 children to parents who never made it past the ninth grade, Monticello native Cherry Alexander is lucky to retire at the tender age of 56.

After 36 years in the workforce, Alexander, director of library services at Tallahassee Community College, has managed to become the TCC alumni chapter president on the college wall of fame and re-create the school's black student union.

One of her latest accomplishments is having TCC's annual Black History Month calendar named in her honor. It is now the Tallahassee Community College Cherry Alexander African-American History Calendar.

The calendar and the month are very dear to Alexander's heart.

"Black History Month is a time to recognize the contributions of African Americans because they really contributed to every area of this country," she said.

Despite all of these accomplishments, the creator of the nine-year calendar insists that her hard work has never been about her.

"We should all be about service," she said. "We shouldn't be concerned about doing everything for a dollar."

Aviation Science Course Offered in Tallahassee

Reporter: Blaine Tolison

Email Address: blaine.tolison@wctv.tv

An aviation science course is now offered through TCC, Embry-Riddle and Flightline and instructors say they hope to teach students about the many opportunities in aviation. The class will also give an introduction to flying, the history, and the science of aviation. Instructors say the course will help students pursue a variety of careers.

The instructor of the class, Charles Russo said, "We want it to be a little more inclusive. You could come here and have no desire to even be a pilot and just have an interest in aviation or maybe another part of the aviation field--for example maintenance or management."

Once students complete the class, they will have the skills necessary to take the Private Pilot written exam if they choose.

Chamber Chair Glenda Thornton addresses women's forum

By Dave Hodges
Democrat Business Editor

Attorney Glenda Thornton, chair of the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce, outlined some basics for surviving the economic storm during her keynote address Tuesday at the Professional Women's Forum.

While bad economic news should not be ignored completely, Thornton offered another view. "I think we add unnecessarily to the self-fulfilling prophecy of doom and gloom when we perpetuate it," she said. "Instead, I challenge you to be the aberration and take advantage of this downturn."

Her speech was entitled "Leadership: A new Challenge in this Economy". Thornton recommended that business owners take action. "Don't stand still. Move while everybody else is distracted," she said, quoting Winston Churchill. "'When you're going through hell, keep going.'"

Take advantage of free courses and programs, earn professional credentials and be on the lookout for fresh ideas. Invest time in ways to improve business. "Right now that's all some of us have — time. A lot of it," Thornton said. "Believe me, in the end you will be ahead of your competitors."

Get back to basics. Spend time reflecting on the real reason you're in business, what your strategic plan should be for your company and how you can create value for customers.

In relationships with employees, offer them as much hope as you do fear. Lastly, find mentors. Strive to take advantage of the experience of others, especially those business owners who survived the last recession, she said.

Sue Dick, president of the chamber, echoed some of the same encouragement. "During these economic times the one thing that we've noticed is that it does open a window of opportunity and we are all going to step right through it and show this state and this nation that we are all going to be competitive."

Following her remarks, attendees stayed for a panel discussion with Thornton, Workforce Plus CEO Kimberly Moore, Carol Easley of Tallahassee Community College and Terrie Ard of Moore Consulting Group. The panel discussion was a continuation of the chamber's popular "Economic Straight Talk" series of practical information for business owners.

Tallahassee native Lyn Stanfield reinvests in her community

By Christine Thomasos
DEMOCRAT WRITER

After graduating from Florida State University 15 years ago and seeing most of her friends move out of the city to pursue better career opportunities, Tallahassee native Lyn Stanfield knew something had to be done.

When Gov. Jeb Bush designated Stanfield to a position on the District Board of Trustees for Tallahassee Community College in 2001, she was given the opportunity to improve the workforce in her community.

“TCC now has a strong economic and development sector which we did not have before,” said Stanfield about a major accomplishment made during her eight-year tenure.

She has also made major strides in her community as the strategic relations director for Apple Computer for the past six years.

The 36-year-old works with lieutenant governors in the Southeast to create policy for education technology, making sure school systems have adequate funding.

She credits her family and community for her successes thus far, and plans to return the favor.

“My goals are to continue to invest and reinvest in a community that has provided so much to me,” she said.

Adult vocational programs in the Big Bend seeing budget cuts

By Angeline J. Taylor
Democrat Staff Writer

Nearly \$100,000 has been stripped from the budgets of adult vocational rehabilitation programs in Leon, Gadsden, Jefferson and Wakulla counties. [Tallahassee Community College's](#) vocational program is also not immune.

Barbara Van Camp principal of Leon County Schools Adult & Community Education said the money taken from her program was originally earmarked for salaries.

She said she doesn't anticipate doing away with any services this year. But \$60,274 was taken away from her program and she gets the lion's share of dollars.

Gadsden County would have gotten almost \$30,000. Jefferson County was slated to get more than \$4,000. And, Wakulla County would have gotten a little more than \$2,400 along with [Tallahassee Community College](#).

Return to Tallahassee.com for more details.

Vocational rehab programs facing cuts

By Angeline J. Taylor
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Student Latoya Locket looked like she was cramming for an important test Thursday morning as she worked at the computer.

The grammar work that captured her attention may mean little to an onlooker. For Locket, it's part of a program to become a well-rounded citizen.

That program has been repeatedly threatened by budget cuts.

Locket, 27, is one of more than 300 in Leon County who take part in vocational rehab for adults with disabilities — where students are exposed to job skills, grammar tests and practical money matters.

Program officials throughout the region received a scare for the 2008-09 budget year. Nearly \$100,000 was stripped from the program in local counties due to budget cuts.

In Leon County, about \$60,200 was cut. That's money that would have gone to salaries for special education teachers and for programs to educate adult students. The 2009-10 budget won't be finalized until after this year's legislative session, which starts in March.

"The Florida Legislature is facing difficult decisions during the 2009 session," said Bill Palmer, state director of the division of vocational rehabilitation. "Reductions in funding would result in a loss of services for individuals with disabilities."

Said Barbara Van Camp, principal of Leon County Schools Adult & Community Education: "I don't anticipate doing away with any services this year. What happens next year is up to the Legislature."

Students who are legally blind, emotionally or mentally

handicapped and those diagnosed as autistic attend her facility. Without the school, students would be restricted to staying at home watching television, said teacher Martha Del Moral.

"They were falling through the cracks," she said. "They found a place here where they have moved up."

Gadsden County's program lost about \$28,490. Jefferson County lost \$4,034. Wakulla County and Tallahassee Community College's programs lost about \$2,400 each.

"It's important to point out that the Legislature is very supportive of vocational rehabilitation programs," Palmer said. "However, given the current economic conditions, it's difficult to say what decisions they will make regarding the budget."

"We'll have a better idea of the impact to our programs and services once the legislative session concludes."

Florida's Department of Education oversees the adults with disabilities program. The budget for the vocational rehabilitation programs in the Big Bend is more than \$1.5 million, Palmer said.

The adults with disabilities program provides services such as adult literacy instruction, daily living skills instruction, work preparation skills training, recreation, sheltered work and supported employment, Palmer said.

Del Moral said there are no bounds for adults with disabilities.

"It's incredible the amount (students) keep learning as adults," Del Moral said. "How far can they go? We never know."

TCC's 'The Big Read' Program

Reporter: John Rogers

Email Address: john.rogers@wctv.tv

It's never too late to get interested in reading.

Tallahassee Community College is partnering with the Leon County Public Library to push 'The Big Read'.

In this month-long event, students and faculty are encouraged to pick up a book and read.

TCC has adopted 'Fahrenheit 451' as its official book for the campaign, and librarians say the book is a fitting analogy for this day in age.

TCC Head Librarian Janys Barnidge says, "Even though we have television and we have our iPods and we have all of this technology, I think we need to realize what would happen if all of a sudden someone came in and said, 'You can't have books anymore, we're going to burn them.'"

There are a number of reading events at TCC this month.

The following is from a TCC Press Release:

During the week of February 9-14, TCC will hold a writing contest related to the theme of Fahrenheit 451. Students will be asked to complete an entry form asking them to name a book they would save from a fire and explain why. Three of TCC's English faculty will serve as judges and will determine the contest winners, to be announced on February 16. Winners will receive prizes and have their photo posted to The Big Read @ TCC's Web site.

On Wednesday and Thursday, February 18 and 19, TCC history professor Dr. David Proctor will conduct lectures on the historical events that influenced Bradbury as he penned his novel. Fahrenheit 451: The Historical Background lecture will take place from 1:25-2:15 p.m. on February 18 and 1:05-2:20 p.m. on February 19. Both sessions will take place in Room 265 of the TCC Library.

On February 25, TCC will host a book club discussion. Led by Jenny Perkins and Dr. Wolfgang Lepschy, both members of the College's English faculty, the event will provide students, faculty and staff with an opportunity to engage in an entertaining chat about the book in an informal setting.

Finally, The Big Read @ TCC will conclude with a viewing of the movie Fahrenheit 451 on February 26 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. in Room 193 of the Student Union.

Participation slips will be available for the lecture, book club discussion and motion picture presentation for faculty who wish to award extra credit for students who attend.

For more information on The Big Read @ TCC, contact Janys Barnidge by email at barnidgj@tcc.fl.edu.

Local officials release list of federal-stimulus projects

List includes \$540,000 expansion of NICU at TMH

By Dave Hodges
DEMOCRAT BUSINESS WRITER

Government officials from around the Big Bend rolled out their final plan Tuesday that outlines the projects they hope will attract funding under the federal government's economic-stimulus package.

The product of several months of work, the Tallahassee Capital Region Economic Stimulus Projects total \$1.1 billion and are projected to create a total of 15,931 jobs in Leon, Gadsden, Jefferson and Wakulla counties.

At a Tuesday afternoon news conference, local government leaders described the cooperative effort it took to arrive at which critical needs could be met and which are ready to go if funds are secured.

Tallahassee Mayor John Marks praised his counterparts in other area cities for their commitment to the initiative.

"We no longer can continue to look at issues in a very narrow and parochial way with regards to our own individual communities," Marks said. "We can't do that. We have to begin to look at things on a regional basis, and that's what this is all about."

The plan brochure highlights six categories of work and gives sample projects under each.

Listed under those for the area's most vulnerable residents is the \$540,000 expansion of the neonatal intensive care unit at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. The design is 100 percent complete and could meet the test of "shovel ready" in 120 days. It would create an estimated 62 jobs, the proposal says.

Water projects include the \$220 million upgrade to the city of Tallahassee's advanced wastewater treatment plant, which Marks said will benefit Leon County, but also Wakulla because it protects Wakulla Springs.

"We hope we get some of our projects funded," Kessler said. "We hope that we have our community center, which is something we really want for Wakulla County. But we all realize that we are moving in a regional manner to make these projects meaningful for our region and not just our backyard."

Besides Wakulla, there were representatives from Gadsden and Jefferson counties, municipal governments, Leon County Schools, the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency, TMH, Tallahassee Community College, Florida State and Florida A&M who participated in drafting the plan.

Replacing rural county bridges was a concern of Gadsden County Commissioner Douglas Croley, who stressed the importance of making an investment in public facilities.

"If there is one thing I think comes out of this, it's the fact that we've all come together to work together," said Leon County School Superintendent Jackie Pons.

Contact Democrat Business Editor Dave Hodges at (850) 599-2321 or dhodges@Tallahassee.com.

Additional Facts
Representative Projects in the Plan

Road, Bridge and Transportation: Quincy Bypass, \$35 million.

Water: Lake Bradford and T.P. Smith Wastewater Treatment Plant Renovations, \$160 million.

Other Infrastructure: Gadsden County Agricultural Multi-Purpose Center, \$15 million.

Climate & Energy Efficiency: Leon County Photovoltaic Power Systems, \$19.4 million.

Most Vulnerable: Tallahassee Memorial Cancer Center, \$38 million.

School Repair & Construction: FAMU Pharmacy Research Center, \$33.5 million.

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