

Opportunities abound at tech center

Charlotte Technical Center has been in the career education business for more than 25 years, training adults to enter into the workforce in our community. Career education for high school students at CTC has been viewed as a pathway resulting in only entry-level work. But nothing could be further from the truth.

The dual enrollment program at CTC began

SCHOOL NOTES

Gary Bernardo
Dual Enrollment Coordinator

approximately 16 years ago with the first high school nurse assisting class. The students who completed the course then had a choice. Go to work or enroll in a licensed practical nurse program after graduation.

Having that choice is

what is important. Choosing opens the door at CTC for all students, regardless of their grade point average. Dual enrollment becomes a pathway to higher-wage work, or it can be a transition to further education. Dual enrollment students have a competitive advantage over other students because of the knowledge and technical skills learned.

As an example, practical

nursing is a two-year, high-academic program. It leads to industry certification by licensing through the state. This is quite an accomplishment for anyone at the age of 18. But now they can choose to enter a registered nursing program at the college level. One of our CTC completers from last year is now in a premedicine college program with a lot of pre-knowledge and practical medical skills.

Currently, there are three CTC construction program completers who started the carpentry program looking for some work skills with the intention to choose the work path. They all saw the opportunities that were there for them as a supervisor and used their training to get into a college program.

There are more examples that can be applied to any CTC program because, if completed,

each equals college credit at any community college in Florida. Check out the curriculum and opportunities in the CTC dual enrollment programs at www.charlottecenter.com, or contact Gary Bernardo or Michelle Wier at CTC for information at 941-255-7500, ext. 175 or 179.

Gary Bernardo is coordinator of dual enrollment at Charlotte Technical Center.

SCHOOL NEWS BRIEFS

State

The Florida Association of Postsecondary Schools and Colleges has extended its scholarship deadline to June 20. More than \$431,000 worth of scholarships have already been awarded to 99 students this year, with more than \$1 million worth of scholarships still available. To qualify for a scholarship, applicants must be a Florida high school senior or GED recipient looking to further their education. For more information, visit www.FAPSC.org.

Countywide

All Charlotte County children who are 18 years old or younger can have access to free meals throughout the summer through the Charlotte County Summer



Food Service.

The program provides lunches to children who sign up in advance to eat at one of the district's seven schools offering the services, as well as for children enrolled at school or community summer programs. School sites offering the

free meals include Peace River Elementary School, the Baker Pre-K Center in Punta Gorda, Charlotte Harbor School, Punta Gorda Middle School, Port Charlotte Middle School, L.A. Ainger Middle School and Murdock Middle School. For more information, including

program start and end dates and serving times, call Joyce Welsh at 941-575-5400, ext. 111.

During a School Board meeting May 19, board members recognized the Charlotte County Health Department for donating 20 Wii Fit game consoles and four Dance Dance

Revolution games to the school district. The items will be used to boost physical fitness initiatives at each of the schools. Also, the games will be used to promote staff wellness programs, as rewards for good behavior and as an alternative activity for students attending middle school dances.

Edison Collegiate High School

Members of the inaugural class of Edison Collegiate High School will get together for the first time during a class luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at the Charlotte County campus of Edison State College, 26300 Airport Road in Punta Gorda.

During the luncheon, students and their families will be introduced to Principal Tammi

Harvey, high school staff and Campus President Pat Land. Students and families can also partake in campus tours.

For more information about this event, call the school at 941-637-5673.

Edison State College

Edison State College freshman Guichard Jean-Louis, 19, died recently in a car accident that also took the life of his mother, Malouse.

To help the family defray funeral costs, an account has been established at FineMark National Bank and Trust under "The Jean-Louis Family Fund." For more information, visit www.finemarkbank.com. Donations can also be made to Edison's HOPE Scholarship Club in Jean-Louis' name by visiting www.edison.edu.



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Clowning around

Pauli the Clown paints a star on a child's face during the recent grand opening celebration at the Port Charlotte campus of Southwest Florida College. Nearly 250 people attended the event, where guests toured the career education facility's classrooms, medical assisting labs and surgical technician operating room. For more information about the school, located at 950 Tamiami Trail in Grand Oaks Plaza II, visit www.swfc.edu or call 800-526-7973.



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PCHS alum earns Johns Hopkins internship

Blake Neumann, a 2006 graduate of Port Charlotte High School, has been accepted for a summer internship with the Protection Project, a human rights research institute based at the Foreign Policy Institute at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C. Neumann is one of 15 students selected for the internship, in which she will conduct legal research, edit human trafficking publications and assist in the organization of national and international workshops and conferences. Currently, Neumann is a junior at Florida Gulf Coast University and is double majoring in legal studies and criminal justice.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEF

Tupperware party fundraiser

H.E.L.P. in Charlotte County, Inc. will present a family fun-filled day fundraiser from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center, 75 Taylor St., Punta Gorda. H.E.L.P. is a faith-based coalition of

churches, businesses, governmental agencies and social service agencies formed to help meet the needs of citizens of Charlotte County. There will be many activities including a Reverse Auction, Prize Wheel, Children's Corner and Tupperware demonstrations every 20 minutes. Tupperware is donating a portion of their proceeds and money earned through the activities at the event will be used to purchase

food that will be distributed to area food banks.

There will be a Guinness Book of World Records attempt at the "World's Largest Tupperware Party." The fundraiser is held to feed the hungry of Charlotte County. Admission is free, but the public is asked to bring a nonperishable food item for donation. To volunteer or donate goods and/or services, call Elaine at 941-625-4543 or e-mail to elaine.oliver@gmail.com.

WaterLine

You can't catch them if you don't know where they are! Check out the Fish Finder every Thursday, only in WaterLine, only in

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