

inspired by the spoken word



— Stuart Tannehill/staff
Gwen Walthour has opened an assisted living facility. Walthour said that after listening to a speech by motivational speaker Pat Council, she decided to pursue her dream of helping others.

Quotable motivators

The nation's most prominent motivational speakers offer their own distinct flavors of advice to the unmotivated masses. Here is a sampling of their philosophies and life what you want. You don't get it? You don't get it. You get what you are."

■ **Les Brown:** "You don't get it? You don't get it. You get what you are."

■ **Willie Jolley:** "A setback is setup for a comeback."

■ **Anthony Robbins:** "Within you is a powerful driving force that, once unleashed, can make you boldest visions, dreams, and desires real."

■ **Zig Ziglar**

"I believe that persistent effort, supported by a character-based foundation, will enable you to get most of the things money will buy and all of the things money won't buy."

Real folks reap what motivational speakers sow

By Earl Daniels
Times-Union business writer

As far as Gwen Walthour was concerned, she was too old to start another business.

That mind set changed after Walthour heard a motivational speech by Jacksonville resident Pat Council, owner of Charles Thoroughbred Seminars.

"Pat said, 'It is never too late to start your own business,'" said Walthour, 52.

After Walthour heard those simple words, she put them into action and has opened Pleasant Living Facilities, an assisted living home in Jacksonville. "I really enjoy what I do," said



"I came to Jacksonville, got divorced and was broke. All I had was a television and a stereo that I acquired in the military. I did not invite anybody over because I did not have any furniture in my apartment. I did not starve. I ate turkey wings and grits."

Pat Council
Jacksonville motivational speaker

Walthour, whose center accommodates three people. "Pat gave me the extra push that I needed," she said. "I don't think I would be doing this if I had not heard her speech."

Whether it is to start a business, improve a business plan

or become a better employee, Walthour and scores of people in Jacksonville and across the world have taken tips, advice and inspiration from motivational speakers to make a fresh start.

With the plethora of self-empowerment programs being marketed by motivational speakers, choosing which program to heed and even buy can be a daunting task. "Edu-tainment" is what Char Reagan calls motivational speaking. Reagan, who is president of Get Ahead Pro Speakers Bureau, a professional speakers bureau in Nottingham, N.H., schedules speaking opportunities for several nationally