Chipola baseball alumni weekend set for Feb. 10-11

Major League Homerun leader Jose Bautista will return to Chipola College on Feb. 10-11 for the fifth annual Chipola Baseball Alumni event.

Chipola coach Jeff Johnson says, “It’s special to have these guys come back for this event. A lot of them have gone on to be successful in baseball and in other careers. They all have a lot of pride in Chipola and it means a lot for them to come in here and help us raise a little money for our program.”

The weekend begins Friday, Feb. 10, with a game between Chipola and Walters State at 11 a.m. Chipola plays San Jacinto at 2 p.m. A Golf Outing for Chipola Baseball Alumni and friends tees off at 2 p.m. at Indian Springs Golf Course. An Alumni Social will be held at Beef O’Brady’s from 6:30 p.m. to midnight.

Saturday, Feb. 11, events begin at 11 a.m. with Chipola vs. Walter’s State. An Alumni Home Run Derby begins at 1 p.m. Fans will have a chance to meet the players and get an autograph. A $100 a plate Pro Baseball Dinner and Auction is set for 6 p.m. at the Trammell Camp in Blountstown.

The following Chipola alumni have confirmed their attendance: Jose Bautista—Toronto Blue Jays, Tyler Flowers—Chicago White Sox, Adam Loewen—New York Mets, Mat Gamel—Milwaukee Brewers and honorary Chipola alumnus Jeff Mathis—Toronto Blue Jays. Several other former players are expected to attend.

For information, contact assistant coach Mike Bradford at 850-718-2243 or email bradfordm@chipola.edu

Former DOT secretary to discuss Lincoln at Chipola

Ben Watts, former Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation, will deliver a presentation on Abraham Lincoln, at Chipola College on Thursday, Jan. 26.

The public is invited to attend the event which is scheduled from 11:00 to 11:50 a.m., in Jackson Hall of the college Literature/Language building.

Watts’ visit was arranged by Chipola Social Science professor Melissa Cauley for students in her American Federal Government class. She decided to open the meeting to other students and to the public due to the great interest in President Lincoln.

Watts is an engineer who graduated from Chipley High School in 1965 and from the United States Military Academy at West Point. He joined the Florida DOT in 1974 and served in various leadership roles including Secretary before leaving in 1997. He joined Carter & Burgess, Inc., a national architectural and engineering firm headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas, in 1997. He was named President and CEO of Carter & Burgess in 2003. He retired in 2008 and lives in DeFuniak Springs, with wife Gardis, the sister of Gail Hartzog, Chipola’s Dean of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness. Watts is an avid golfer and student of Abraham Lincoln.

For information about the presentation, contact Melissa Cauley at 850-526-2761, Ext. 3224.
Civil War minstrel to perform at Chipola

The next event in the Chipola Artist Series “Songs and Stories of the Civil War” is set for Monday, Jan. 30, at 7 p.m. in the Chipola College Theater.

Professional musician Bobby Horton will transport the audience back in time to the most turbulent era in our nation’s history. Dressed as a 19th century performer, using period musical instruments, Horton explores the stories of both the North and South through the music they loved with each song placed in historical context. Each song is placed in historical context and portrays the struggles, hopes, and fears during this long and bloody conflict.

Audiences will enjoy an evening of great music, inspired storytelling, and unforgettable entertainment.

Tickets—$12 for adults, $8 for ages 18 and under and $4 for Chipola students—are on sale in the Business Office.

Two more events are scheduled in the series. “Fused Tutu” a mixed dance repertoire presented by Dance Alive, the Eleven students in Chipola College’s Automotive Service Technology Program recently passed examinations from the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE).

The students are: Jody Vowell of Blountstown, Terell Loper of Marianna, Dan Shivers of Altha, Dillon Chambliss of Basom, Brandon Johnson of Marianna, Wayne Sawyer of Marianna, Josh Weakland of Marianna, Clinton Seymour of Marianna, Marc Haviland of Donalsonville, D.J. Johns of Marianna and Sam Robison of Malone.

Chipola automotive professor John Gardner, says, “I am proud of our students who worked hard to pass the ASE exam. This is an important step in reaching their career goals.”

ASE offers forty-plus certification tests for repair professionals and parts specialists. ASE was established in 1972 to help improve the quality of automotive service and repair through the voluntary testing and certification of automotive technicians and parts specialists. More than 350,000 ASE-certified professionals work in dealerships, independent shops, collision repair shops, auto parts stores, schools and colleges throughout the country.

Chipola Auto Tech students pass ASE exams

Chipola’s Automotive Service Technology Program also is certified by the National Automotive Technician Education Foundation (NATEF) program.

The job outlook for the automotive technology field is above average and is expected to grow 12 to 15 percent over the next decade, according to the Florida Department of Labor Handbook. The outlook for long-term job security is also positive and should be able to survive any economic downturn, as the automotive industry has been historically unaffected by general economic trends. Entry level automotive technician pay can range from $21,000 to $32,000. Mid-range technicians can earn up to $55,000 with experienced technicians earning up to $72,000. Master technician salaries can range from $58,000 to 108,000.

For information about Chipola’s automotive program, visit www.chipola.edu or call 850-718-2306.

Chipola offers free tax preparation

In order to help more local citizens get the most refund due them, Chipola College business instructor Lee Shook and his student volunteers are providing free tax preparation and free electronic filing.

The free service—for individual tax returns only—is available from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., on Wednesdays beginning Jan. 25 in room M-201. Reservations or appointment times are requested. Those who drop in may have a longer wait. Preparation time is usually around 30 minutes.

Professor Shook says, “If it is a very complicated return, we ask that you continue to use your paid professional, but if it is a fairly simple return we can help. We will do Schedule A, itemized deductions.”

For faster refunds, taxpayers are asked to bring a personal check which has routing information needed for electronic refunds.

To make an appointment for free tax assistance, call Lee Shook at (850) 718-2368.

Pictured from left, are: (front) Jody Vowell, Terell Loper, Dan Shivers, Dillon Chambliss; (back) Brandon Johnson, Wayne Sawyer, Josh Weakland, Clinton Seymour, Marc Haviland, D.J. Johns and Sam Robison.
Chipola hosts Gulf Coast and Tallahassee this week

Chipola hosts Gulf Coast in a pair of games Saturday, Jan. 21, in the Milton H. Johnson Health Center. The women’s game tips off at 5:30 p.m., followed by the men’s game at 7:30 p.m. Chipola hosts Tallahassee, Tuesday, Jan. 24.

The Indians fell to 1-2 in conference play and 17-3 overall with a 45-42 loss to Pensacola on Jan. 18.

Northwest (3-1) leads the Panhandle Conference race. Gulf Coast (2-1) is in second. Pensacola (2-1) is third. Chipola (1-2) is fourth, followed by Tallahassee (0-3). In the Jan. 17 FCSAA poll, Chipola’s men were ranked second behind Northwest.

The Indians fell to top-ranked Northwest on Jan. 10. Despite a standout performance from Chipola freshman Kruize Pinkins with 29 points and nine rebounds, the Raiders picked up the 69-58 win. The Indians were without the services of their leading scorer and Joseph Uchebo, who was recent honorable mention pick for FCSAA player of the week.

Chipola opened league play with a pair of wins in Tallahassee. The Indians defeated sixth-ranked Tallahassee 53-50. During the first half, Chipola’s Jason Carter was injured during a loose ball battle for a rebound and did not return to the game. The Indians finished with 28 points in the paint and 19 points off the bench.


Northwest (3-1) leads the women’s Panhandle Conference race. Gulf Coast (2-1) is second. Pensacola (2-1) is third. Chipola (1-2) is fourth. Tallahassee is 0-3.

The Lady Indians lost another close game to Northwest Florida 46-44 on Jan. 10. Djassi led Chipola 12 points and 10 rebounds. Sidney scored 11 points and pulled down 10 rebounds.

The fourth-ranked Lady Indians edged the Lady Eagles, 52-49, in the conference opener. Djassi came off the bench to score 18 points and grab 12 rebounds to lead Chipola.

For the latest scores visit www.chipola.edu or by call 718-2CJC.

Chipola College hosts STEM forum for talented students

A three-year project to raise the level of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education in Florida’s rural high schools got underway Jan. 13 at Chipola College.

Students from Holmes, Washington, Jackson, Calhoun, and Liberty Counties participated in a day-long forum to create innovative projects and hear from noted speakers Dr. James Brooks, Director of Florida State University’s National High Magnetic Field Laboratory and Chipola alumnus Brian Toole, a mechanical engineer working with Navy SEALs at the Naval Surface Warfare Center at the Naval Coastal Systems Laboratory in Panama City.

The event was organized by the FloridaLearns STEM Scholars Project, a collaborative effort of the Panhandle Area Educational Consortium (PAEC) targeting gifted and talented students in grades 9-12. The initiative is part of a $4.5 million dollar grant awarded to the consortia for the development of an enriched and rigorous STEM education campaign to reach students attending Florida’s rural schools.

During the day’s events, students worked in teams to develop a rolling vehicle powered only by a mouse trap. Such projects are designed to allow students to use their imaginations, grow leadership skills, work collaboratively, and gain a deeper understanding of the science and engineering skills associated with the project.

According to Brenda Crouch, FloridaLearns STEM Scholars Project Manager, “These events offer the students a chance to meet other gifted and talented students in the region but more importantly, they help build excitement and optimism that a STEM-related education and career are both achievable and attainable.”

Chipola College has embraced the STEM project and committed personnel, space, and is assisting with planning future events. College president Dr. Gene Prough, says, “Chipola is proud to be a part of this program to encourage students to continue their education in the areas of science, engineering, technology and mathematics.”

Patrick M. McDaniel, the Executive Director of PAEC, says, “The FloridaLearns STEM Scholars joint initiative addresses the need for some of the state’s most under-served students to have increased access to STEM-related courses and rigorous and challenging learning experiences. Our goal is to motivate these students to select STEM-related careers and help prepare them to be successful in Florida’s innovation economy.”

For additional information go to www.stemscholars.org
Credit score seminar set at Chipola

Chipola will offer a free seminar, “Credit Basics and Improving your Credit Score,” on Friday, Jan. 27.

The major determining factor on receiving any type of loan is a personal credit score and credit history. The class will cover credit basics, what makes up a credit score and how to improve the overall score. Anyone interested in opening a business can benefit from the information offered.

Johnny D. Branch, a Certified Business Analyst CPA MBA, will lead the seminar. Branch has been a restaurant owner for over 30 years. The seminar will meet from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Room M-108 of the Chipola Business and Technology building.

Students should contact Elissa Severson at 718-2441 to register, or sign up in person in Building M, Office 208A.


Register at http://clients.floridasbdc.org/center.aspx?center=41230&subloc=4 or contact Elissa Severson at 718-2441 or email seversone@chipola.edu.

“Our Town” honored by FCSAA

The Florida College Student Activities Association (FCSAA) recently honored performers and technicians in Chipola College’s Fall production of “Our Town.” Pictured from left, are: John David Brown, Haylie McLane, Leah Page and Chipola Theater director Charles Sirmon. Brown and Page were named outstanding performers. McLane was named an outstanding technician.

Chipola Black History program set for Feb. 24

The Chipola College Black Student Union and the Association of United Professionals will host a Black History Month Program, Friday, Feb. 24, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., in the Chipola Arts Center. Dinner will be served.

Dr. Rufus Wood of Panama City is the guest speaker. A prominent local civil rights leader and pastor Wood was honored in 2010 by the Glenwood Community Center for his 25 years of dedication in bringing social justice to the community. Wood has served as pastor of the Love Center Missionary Baptist Church, Moderator of the Progressive Missionary Baptist District Association of West Florida, and President of the Bay County branch of the NAACP.

The public is invited to enjoy the free festivities and dinner, while learning more about Black History.

For information, contact Dr. Willie Spires at 718-2232.

Dr. Rufus Wood