Chipola automotive provides training for good jobs

Chipola College’s Automotive Service Technology Program is now accepting applications for the Fall 2010 semester. The Fall application deadline is Aug. 5.

The 1,800 hour automotive program features a state-of-the-art training facility with the latest software, simulators, and diagnostic equipment. The program is competency-based and self-paced with open-entry. The TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education) is required for entry. There is no charge for the test.

Chipola automotive professor John Gardner, says, “The job outlook for this career field is above average. It 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 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.

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

The Automotive program is part of the college’s Workforce Development Division. Other Workforce programs include: Cosmetology, Networking Services, Corrections, Law Enforcement, Fire-fighting and Culinary Management.

For more information, call 850-718-2306.

Chipola profs learn D2L

Dr. Lou Kind helps Richard Hinson learn more about how to use the Desire-2-Learn (D2L) course management system during a recent Summer Technology Institute. Dr. Kind will conduct three institutes for full-time faculty and adjunct instructors. The Title III Project is sponsoring the summer institutes.
Marianna Middle students study groundwater at caverns

More than 200 Marianna Middle School seventh graders recently visited the Florida Caverns State Park to study groundwater and native plants and animals.

Students participated in an interpretive program on park fauna led by Deanna Wickham and Bethany Wagner. Students observed oak snakes, scarlet king snakes, ring neck snakes, earth snakes and box turtles. Park Rangers Frank Strickland, Scott Jacob, Dustin Calevro, Cristina Holley, Natalie Johnson and Billy Bailey led the students on cave tours.

Students hiked the one mile Beech Magnolia Trail to find flora and land topographical features. Students were given ground water bottles and information about protecting natural resources. Kelly Banta, Park Education Specialist, designed the tour with special emphasis on the Nature Trail Learning Stations.

MMS science teacher Kenny Hamilton, said, “The students enjoyed being in the great outdoors while soaking up firsthand knowledge of caves, sinkholes, aquifers, bluffs, ground water, wetlands, flora, fauna, and karst topography. The field trip was a great connection with nature and will hopefully raise our students’ environmental awareness.”

The Chipola Groundwater Outreach Program is funded by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Swim lessons set at Chipola

Chipola College will offer Swimming lessons for ages four and up. Lessons are based on a combination of nationally-recognized methods. The following sessions are scheduled: Session 3: July 12-22, registration deadline is July 6; and Session 4: Aug. 2-12, registration deadline is July 26. Classes are available at 9 a.m., 10 a.m. or 7 p.m. Sessions are Monday through Thursday for two weeks of 45-minute lessons.

Cost is $45 and pre-registration is required, with a $5 late registration fee.

An Adult Swimming class is scheduled for July 26 – July 29 with classes available at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Registration deadline is July 19. Cost is $40.

For information, call pool manager Rance Massengill at 718-2473.