Wizard of Oz tickets on sale at Chipola

Tickets for the Chipola Theatre production of The Wizard of Oz go on sale Feb. 11 in the Center for the Arts Box Office. The show runs Feb. 25 through March 1. Shows are nightly, Wednesday through Saturday, at 7 p.m., and a Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. Tickets—$8 for adults and $6 for 18 and under—are available online at www.chipola.edu.

A special Sunday Brunch and show is available at noon, with the show at 2 p.m. Brunch tickets are $20 which includes show admission. Cost is $15 for ACT fund ticket-holders. Brunch tickets must be purchased by Feb. 19 at the Center for the Arts Box Office by Feb. 19. There will be no additional seating available the day of the event.

Chipola Theater director Charles Sirmon selected the cast for Wizard of Oz which includes: Kate Burke as Dorothy, Elyn Sapp as Aunt Em (Emily Gale), Austin Spears as Uncle Henry, Josiah Brooks as Zeke and Cowardly Lion, Caleb Brooks as Hickory and Tin Man, Seth Alderman as Hunk and Scarecrow, Saylor Novonglosky as Professor Chester Marvel, Gracie Wallace as Glinda the Witch of the North, Odra Chapman as Wicked Witch of the West, Colton Day as the Wizard of Oz, Patrick Mathis as Mayor of Munchkinland, Jared Standiford as Emerald City Guard and Ray White as Winkie General.

The Ensemble includes: Brooke Anna, Lauren Canada, Victoria Taylor, Veronica Taylor, Michelle Fulford, Kimball Bass, ADajah Swilley, Libby Varnum, Alex Ozbun, Shayli Tharp and Calen Masai.


The Center for the Arts Box Office is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon on Friday, and one hour before each show. For ticket information, call 850-718-2420.

Commencement is May 7 at Dothan Civic Center

The Chipola 2015 Commencement Ceremony is set for Thursday, May 7, at 7 p.m., at the Dothan Civic Center. The address is 126 St. Andrews Street, Dothan, AL 36303.

Counted as members of the class are all who will complete degrees or certificates from December of 2014 to May of 2015 or during the Summer 2015 terms.

Diplomas will be awarded for Bachelor of Science, Associate in Science, Associate in Arts and Workforce Development Certificates.

Graduates may invite an unlimited number of family members and guests to share the event.

For information, contact the Admissions and Records Office at 850-718-2311 or visit www.chipola.edu.
Chipola Hosts Tallahassee Tuesday in final home games

Chipola hosts Tallahassee, Tuesday, Feb. 17, in the final home games of the season. The women play at 5:30 p.m., followed by the men at 7:30 p.m.

The Lady Indians clinched a berth in the FCSAA State Tournament with a 61-51 win over Gulf Coast on Feb. 11. Evelyn Akhator led Chipola with 24 points. Sueterrica Key had 15. Auteaonna Gilmore scored 13. Chipola led 31-26 at the half, but Gulf Coast tied the game with 10 minutes remaining. The Lady Indians battled back to win by 10. Chipola coach Greg Franklin said, “I’m proud of the kids. They really gutted it out,” he said. “You’re on someone else’s court and not playing particularly well, but we still found a way to win and they’re to be commended for that. It says a lot about your team and how you compete when you do that.”

With two games remaining, the league championship and top conference seed in the women’s state tournament is still undecided. A win over Tallahassee Tuesday would guarantee the Lady Indians at least a share of the league title.

Chipola scored an 87-31 win over Pensacola on Feb. 7. Akhator led with 20 points and 11 rebounds. Rosemarie Julien scored 18 points. Key and Kendra Martin scored 14 points each.

Evelyn Akhator was named NJCAA Region 8/FCSAA Women’s Basketball Player of the Week for the fifth time this season. She averaged 22 points, 16.5 rebounds, 1.5 steals and 5.5 blocks in two games during the voting period. Her 24-point, 22-rebound effort helped Chipola to a 63-48 win at Tallahassee on Feb. 3. Four days later, she added another double-double, 20 points and 11 rebounds, in an 87-31 victory at Pensacola. For the week, Akhator shot 48.6 percent (17-of-35) from the floor and 66.7 percent (10-of-15) from the free throw line.

Chipola is 9-1 in the league and 25-1 overall. Northwest (7-2) is second in league. TCC (5-5) is third. Gulf Coast is (3-6). Pensacola is 0-10. The top three teams in the Panhandle conference make the state tournament March 4-7 in Ocala.

The Lady Indians are first in the FCSAA State Poll and third in the NJCAA National Poll.

The Indians played a bit of a spoiler role with a big 59-51 win at Gulf Coast on Feb. 11. The loss moved the Commodores to third in the league behind Pensacola in second and Northwest in first. Both of Chipola’s league wins were recorded at Gulf Coast.

In the men’s Panhandle Conference race, Northwest (8-1) leads the league. Pensacola (6-4) is second. Gulf Coast (5-4) is third. Tallahassee is (3-7) and Chipola is (2-8).

Both Chipola squads finish out the regular season Saturday, Feb. 21, at Northwest.

First Commerce to host free cookout

First Commerce Credit Union will host a free cookout for fans at the Chipola Softball and Baseball games on Friday, Feb. 13, from 3 to 5 p.m.

The Lady Indians host three games in the Florida Public Utilities Classic, Friday, Feb. 13: Gordon at 11 a.m., Central Alabama at 1 p.m., and Meridian at 5 p.m.

Chipola baseball hosts St. Petersburg College, Friday, Feb. 13, in a 3 p.m. game.

On Saturday, Feb. 14, Chipola softball hosts Hillsborough at 4 p.m. and Miami Dade at 6 p.m. On Sunday, Feb. 15, the Lady Indians host Georgia Perimeter at 11 a.m. and Central Florida at 1 p.m.

The Indians play St. Pete in a baseball doubleheader at noon and 2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 14. The baseball team hosts Wallace Sunday, Feb. 15, at 1 p.m. Chipola hosts Gordon State for three games, Feb. 19, at 5 p.m., and Feb. 20, at 1 and 3:30 p.m. The Indians host LB Wallace Saturday, Feb. 21, at 1 p.m.

Black History program Feb. 20

at 6:30 p.m., in the Continuing Education Center.
Dinner will be served.
For info, contact Dr. Willie Spires at 718-2232.

FSU-PC Open House
Saturday, Feb 28
Deadline 2/20 call 718-2431
Chipola ACE lab presented at Bellwether competition

The Chipola ACE (Academic Center for Excellence) was among the top 10 finalists for a Bellwether Award in the Instructional Programs and Services category.

A team from Chipola presented “ACE Is the Place: Providing New Pathways to Graduation,” at the 21st Community College Futures Assembly, Jan. 26 in Orlando.

The team included Dr. Jason Hurst, President; Bonnie Smith, Director, Academic Center for Excellence (ACE); Dr. Sarah Clemmons, Vice President of Instruction; and Gail Hartzog, retired Dean of Development and Planning.

The Instructional Programs and Services competition recognizes activities designed and successfully implemented to foster learning in the community college. The field of nominations was competitive with over 300 applications and some 1,000 community college programs nominated. The ten finalists were selected in three categories.

“In more than 1,200 national community colleges this is one of the highest honors an institution can receive...similar to being selected by your peers for the Oscar or Emmy Award,” said Dale F. Campbell, Professor and Director of the Community College Futures Assembly and Institute of Higher Education.

Chipola’s tutoring center, known as the ACE has helped improved student success since its inception in 2005. Chipola’s three-year graduation rates for AA degree-seeking students increased from 24% in 2005 to 30.9% in 2013.

More than 800 students visit ACE weekly. Some 900 students made 8,000 visits to the ACE during the Fall of 2013. Chipola’s ACE also was recognized by former Florida College System (FCS) Chancellor Randy Hanna for innovation and excellence through the Chancellor’s Best Practice Awards.

The Community College Futures Assembly convenes annually as an independent national policy forum for key opinion leaders to serve as a think tank in identifying critical issues facing the future of community colleges, and to recognize Bellwether Finalist colleges as trend-setting institutions. For more information, visit http://education.ufl.edu/futures.

Chipola Champs Camp is Feb. 18

Area youth in foster care or receiving services in their own homes will experience educational and career-focused activities at the Third Annual Chipola Champs Camp, Feb. 18.

The Department of Children and Families, (DCF), Big Bend Community Based Care, Anchorage Children’s Home and the United Way of Northwest Florida teamed up with Chipola College to host the two-day camp for children ages 11-17.

The camp will give youth an opportunity to experience a college environment while participating in fun and educational arts, athletics and academic activities.
Chipola Baseball Alumni Weekend is a success

Professional baseball players joined more than 50 of their former Chipola College teammates for the recent annual Baseball Alumni Weekend. The event included live college baseball action, a Homerun Derby, an autograph session with pros Jose Bautista and his newest Toronto Blue Jays teammate, All-Star catcher Russell Martin. Honorary Chipola Alumnus Jeff Mathis also competed.

Jose Bautista, MLB’s two-time homerun leader, won the Homerun Derby with a total of 8 round-trippers. The college officially retired MLB All-Star Patrick Corbins’s Chipola jersey before the derby. Corbin played at Chipola in 2009 before being drafted by Anaheim in the second round. Corbin debuted with the Arizona Diamondbacks in 2012, and in 2013 earned a spot on the National League All-Star Roster after posting a 14-8 regular season record.

An Alumni Dinner and Auction raised several thousand dollars to support the baseball program.

Chipola baseball coach and AD Jeff Johnson, says, “It was a great weekend. We appreciate all the guys coming back to help our program. Not every Chipola player makes it to the pros, but so many of them say their time at Chipola helped them become successful in life. We’re already looking forward to next year.”

Former Chipola player Nathan Marks is leading the effort to reconnect with former players. For information about alumni happenings, email Marks at nathan@marksinsurance.com or phone Brent Shelton at 850-272-0014.