Chipola Evening of Cabaret is March 14

Chipola College will host an Evening of Cabaret featuring Chipola music majors Friday, March 14. Two shows are scheduled at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. in the Center for the Arts Experimental Theatre.

Guests are invited to enjoy the taste of a sweet dessert and to hear the sounds of selected Chipola voice, piano and instrumental majors as they perform their sophomore recitals.

Pictured, Chipola music professor Dr. Josh Martin works with student Anna E. Williams of Havana.

Limited seating is available by reservation only. Tickets—$12—may be purchased in the Center for the Arts Box Office. For ticket information, call 718-2420.

Artist Series to feature Chinese Acrobats April 1

The Chipola Artist Series will present the Golden Dragon Acrobats, Tuesday, April 1, at 7 p.m., in the Center for the Arts. The Golden Dragons are recognized throughout the U.S. and abroad as the premiere Chinese acrobatic touring group representing a time-honored tradition that began more than 25 centuries ago. These artists will amaze with their breathtaking skill and spellbinding beauty.

Tickets are $14 for adults, $10 for children under 18, with special pricing for Chipola students and employees. Online tickets are available at www.chipola.edu and at the Center for the Arts Box Office Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to noon.

The Artist Series event also will feature a Gallery Exhibit opening of three-dimensional works by artist Jamey Grimes. The exhibit will be on display April 1 - May 15 in the Center for the Arts Gallery. Viewing is available by appointment at 850-718-2277. Grimes, who teaches art at the University of Alabama, describes his sculptures as “fragments of a conversation with Nature.”

For information, call 850-718-2277 or visit www.chipola.edu/fine-and-performing-arts.
Chipola teams advance in state basketball tournament

The Chipola men’s and women’s basketball teams made it through the first round of the FCSAA State Tournament, March 5-8, on the campus of the College of Central Florida in Ocala.

The Indians beat defending State Champion Central Florida 82-73 in a first round game March 5. Chipola will play Polk in the semi-finals Friday, March 7, at 2 p.m. (CST). A win Friday would put Chipola in the title game to face the winner of Pensacola and St. Pete. The men’s championship is Saturday, March 8, at 4 p.m. (CST). Chipola (23-5) tops the men’s state poll.

The Chipola Lady Indians (29-1) swamped Palm Beach Thursday, March 6, in the first round of the state tournament. The win puts the Lady Indians in the semi-finals, Friday, March 7, at 7 p.m., against Florida State College. A win Friday would put the Lady Indians in the championship, Saturday at 6:30 p.m., to face the winner of Northwest and St. Pete.

The Lady Indians are first in the women’s poll and fourth in the NJCAA National Poll.

Chipola’s state tournament games will be broadcast on WJAQ-radio, 100.9, on the web at www.ihigh.com/collegeofcentrafla, and also live on Chipola College Television (CCTV), Comcast Channel 4.

Chipola players and coaches named to All-Conference Team

Chipola’s Sam Cassell, Jr., has been named Panhandle Conference Player of the Year. The freshman guard also was named Newcomer of the Year in the league and to First-team All-Conference.

Cassell, Jr., is also this week’s FCSAA Men’s Basketball Player of the Week. Cassell, a freshman from Baltimore, Md., averaged 24 points and 4 rebounds in two games during the voting period. Chipola needed wins in its final two games to punch its ticket to the postseason and Cassell delivered, scoring 26 points on 8-of-16 shooting in a 67-64 win at Tallahassee (Feb. 18) then dropped in 22 points in a 69-64 win over nationally-ranked Northwest Florida State in the season finale (Feb. 22). For the week, Cassell shot 48.3 percent (14-of-29) from the floor and 75.0 percent (15-of-20) from the free throw line.

Teammates Carlos Morris and Demetrius Floyd join Cassell on the All-Conference First Team. Jose Jimenez received an Honorable Mention.

Chipola head coach Patrick Blake shares the Panhandle Coach of the Year award with Pensacola’s Pete Pena.

Lady Indians

The Chipola Lady Indians have seven players on the Panhandle All-Conference team including four first team picks in Brianna Wright, Evelyn Akhator, Tiffany Lewis and Khadijah Ellison. Three Lady Indians were named Second Team All-Conference: Diamonisha Sophus, Rhani Bell and Treyvonna Brooks.

Chipola head coach Greg Franklin was named Panhandle Coach of the Year for leading his Lady Indians to a Conference Championship with a 12-0 league record.
**Brain Bowl finishes second Nat’l Championship**

The Chipola Brain Bowl Team finished second in the Community College National Championship March 1 in Atlanta.

Chipola entered the championship game with a disadvantage, after losing to Valencia in the championship bracket earlier in the day. Chipola would have needed to defeat Valencia twice to claim the title. Chipola forced a second game by defeating Valencia in the first game, 335-280. However, Valencia claimed the title by defeating Chipola 405-245 in the second game.

Chipola’s Jacob Leff finished third in individual scoring, while William Singleton finished 13th. The other members of Chipola A are Wesley Chevillot and Rebecca Delgado.

Chipola will now advance to the International Championship Tournament (ICT) on March 28 in Chicago. The top four colleges from the CCCT advance to the 4-year college tournament. Chipola finished seventh last year at the ICT.

The national championship field had 24 teams from across the country. Chipola earned its berth by finishing first in the Florida Sectional held in late January. This is the third time Chipola has finished as the National Runner-Up, after claiming three consecutive National Championships from 2011-2013. The national championship is played through the National Academic Quiz Tournament (NAQT) system.

Chipola will defend the FSCAA State Title later this month. Chipola is the six-time defending state champion.

Link to stats: http://www.naqt.com/stats/tournament-teams.jsp?tournament_id=5003&playoffs=1

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**Milton H. Johnson Health Center to undergo renovation**

The Chipola Milton H. Johnson Health Center will undergo a $1.1 million renovation beginning this month.

Construction will commence at the end of basketball season and is scheduled to be completed within 150 days. The target date for completion is the beginning of the school year in August.

M & W Construction was the winning bidder for the renovation project which will include a new roof. The gym will also get a new heating and air conditioning system which will be connected to the college’s Centralized Chilled Water Plant. Louy Harris, Chipola Capital Projects and Facilities Administrator, says he expects to see a significant savings in utility costs by connecting the building to the chiller plant. Four buildings on campus already are connected to the system which uses chilled water to heat and cool buildings.

The Center also will get a new hardwood floor playing surface. The old floor was installed in the early 90’s and has been refinished numerous times. Leaks in the roof have caused water damage, and a section of the floor had to be replaced last season.

The gym, named for the late Chipola Coach Milton Johnson, was built in the mid 1970’s for just over $1 million dollars.

The Health Center is used by thousands of people in the community. Chipola hosts more than 1,000 high school seniors in the gym each year for Senior Day. For 17 years, the gym was home to the Florida College System State Basketball Tournament. The tournament will be played in Ocala at the College of Central Florida for at least the next three years.

A sold-out crowd of more than 2,000 fans packed the Health Center when new state champion Malone played arch-rival Marianna in the gym earlier this season. The gym was also packed for Chipola’s Homecoming on Feb. 22.

The Chipola Commencement Ceremony, which is customarily held in the gym, has been moved to the Dothan Civic Center. Chipola president Dr. Gene Prough, says, “Graduation is an important event in the lives our students. We considered holding the ceremony in our new Center for the Arts, but this would have limited the number of guests that each graduate could invite. By moving the Civic Center, our graduates can invite all of their family and friends to celebrate this important accomplishment.”
Prough and Traynom reception

The public is invited to celebrate the retirement of president Dr. Gene Prough and Joyce Traynom, his Administrative Assistant, at a drop-in reception, Monday, March 31, from 3 to 5 p.m.

The reception will be held in Lobby of the Chipola Center for the Arts.

No gifts please. Those wishing may make donations to the Dr. Gene Prough Presidential Challenge Scholarship Fund in the Chipola Foundation. Those wishing to honor Joyce, may make donations to the Otis Traynom Memorial Scholarship Fund in the Chipola Foundation.

Stem events set at Chipola

Two STEM events will take place on the campus of Chipola College on March 13, for high school students in Jackson and Calhoun Counties, and on March 18, for students in Holmes, Liberty and Washington Counties.

The events will involve high school students enrolled in the STEM Initiative for Gifted and Talented Students in Florida’s Rural School Districts. Students, working in teams, will compete in a Rube Goldberg Challenge using only the materials provided by the instructors.

The challenge is designed to stimulate ingenuity and imagination in Engineering. Such activities are an important component of the curriculum to help foster team building skills as well as inspire and motivate students toward higher education and ultimately a career in a STEM related field.

For background information on STEM, go to: www.floridalearnsstemscholars.org

Law Enforcement Classes now forming

The Chipola College Criminal Justice Training Center will offer an evening Law Enforcement Academy and a Corrections to Law Enforcement Cross-over class beginning April 21. Classes will meet weeknights from 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Completion of either program prepares candidates to take the State Board Examination to become certified by the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission upon becoming employed with a law enforcement agency.

Candidates must earn a passing score on the Criminal Justice Basic Abilities Test (CJBAT) offered at the Public Service Building Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. Cost of the test is $45.

Applicants must have a standard high school diploma or its equivalent and must undergo a medical physical examination, background check and drug screening. Financial assistance is available based upon need and eligibility.

For information regarding the application process, contact Steven Stewart, Law Enforcement Coordinator, at 718-2286.