Softball celebrity Jennie Finch coming Jan. 25-26

Area softball players will have the once-in-a-lifetime chance to work with softball superstar Jennie Finch and four other professional players at the Chipola College Softball field, Jan. 25-26, 2014.

The two-day Chipola camp will includes instruction each day with lunch on Saturday. Registration fee is $200. Pre-registration is recommended.

The Skills Camp will be held Saturday, Jan. 25, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Players will learn to practice like a champion, play like a champion and live like a champion. Jennie Finch and other Softball Greats will lead a full day of personal instruction covering all aspects of softball.

The Camp will continue Sunday, Jan. 26, from 9 a.m. to noon. Skills camp coaches will include Jennie Finch, Kat Dodson, Ivy Renfroe, Lauren Gibson and Raven Chavanne.

Cast Named for Chipola’s ‘Sound Of Music’

Director Charles Sirmon has selected the cast for the Chipola College production of “The Sound of Music,” which opens Feb. 26.

Players are cast in the following roles: Lindsey Wheatley as Maria, Colton Day as Captain von Trapp, Keith Watford as Max, Seth Alderman as Rolf, Kate Burke as Liesl, Evan Barber as Friedrich, Meredith Saunders as Louisa, Chandler King as Kurt, Gracie Wallace as Brigitta, Clara McCallister as Marta, Catherine Lewis as Gretl, Elaine Barfield as Mother Abbess, Cherie White as Berthe, Amy Cloud as Margareta, Jamie Gibson as Sophie Gibson, Kayla Todd as Elsa Schraeder, Cody Ball as Franz and Odra Chapman as Frau Schmidt. Nuns are Victoria Taylor, Kayla Pickron, Olivia Black, Audrey Earnest, Baylee Earnest, Mary Ann Earnest, Patria Clark, Dianna Glaze, Deanna Baily, Mandy Deese, Odra Chapman, Kelli Todd, Gayle DiBenedetto and Chris Lauen.

Neighbors of Von Trapp, Nazis, contestants and guests include: Clyde DeClouet, Will Spencer, Joseph Concovan, Veronica Taylor, Deanna Bailey, Lee Shook, Victoria Taylor, Baylee Earnest, Hugh Black and Diana Glaze.

The play will be directed by Charles Sirmon and designed by Connie Smith. Musical directors are Dale Heidebrecht and Dr. Josh Martin with choreography by Chris Manasco. For more info, call 718-2227.
Florida Teacher of the Year to speak at Chipola workshop

Florida’s Teacher of the Year Dorina Sackman will speak at the Chipola College Teacher Workshop set for Saturday, Feb. 8, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in Building Z.

Sackman is an ESOL Language Arts teacher at Westridge Middle School in Orange County. For the past 15 years, she has been educating English Language Learners from around the globe. She treats her classrooms as a stage for children to celebrate their diverse backgrounds while still learning English and the necessary skills to become lifelong learners. Sackman says, “I believe in a world where every child deserves a quality education. I create a safe environment where children, brought to a new land, are happy and free to be themselves as they flourish in school.”

Sackman uses her world travels, proficiency in five languages and “kooky” teaching style to build relationships and touch the lives of students. With her engaging and optimistic outlook, Sackman inspires teachers, students and parents to come together and make education a first priority.

Teachers and students interested in a career in education are invited to attend the free workshop. Chipola education majors, education faculty, staff, and Chipola graduates will lead the workshops highlighting hands-on activities that can be used in the classroom.

Sessions will cover Math, Social Studies, Science, Reading, and English for elementary, middle, and high school teachers. Some topics include: Motivation and Feedback along with ELL Strategies K-2; Incorporating Art K-2; Using Graphic Novels Grades 4-6; Coming Soon to a Theatre Near You English 6-12; Using Math Manipulatives Grades 3-5; Hands on with the Senses Science 3-5; Constructive Movement and Music K-2; Integrating Social Studies Grades 2-4; Dystopian Literature Grades 6-12; Groundwater Science 7-9 and IPAD Apps for Math 9-12.

Special guest speakers will include: Deanna Golden, Teaching Math (K-1); Dee and Taura Brock, Higher Order Thinking with Cooperative Learning (K-12); Peggy Reihnhan, Social Studies Content w/ELA text (Common Core); Pam Bozeman, 4 A’s of Parental Involvement (K-6); Lisa Hamilton, Florida Character Counts; Outstanding Math Guides (Math Foldables); Heather Bailey, Whole Brain Teaching (K-6); and Dr. Giang-Nguyen Nguyen, Evernote and Geogebra Apps (Math).

PAEC will not offer in-service points for participating teachers this year; instead there will be even more food, guests, door prizes, and freebies.

To ensure that sufficient materials are available, please RSVP to FEC Sponsor Casey Bush at bushc@chipola.edu or phone 850-526-2761, Ext. 2449.

Take Stock In Children salutes mentors

In observance of January as National Mentoring Month, the Chipola College Take Stock in Children program salutes the 33 volunteer mentors in Washington County. The group also is seeking mentors for Calhoun, Holmes, Jackson and Liberty counties.

Mary Helen Smith, TSIC Coordinator at Chipola College, says, “We would like to extend our gratitude to our mentors in Washington County. TSIC is about providing scholarships, mentors and hope. These dedicated and compassionate mentors touch the lives of our children and help make our community a better place.”


Take Stock in Children, a Florida-based nonprofit, has more than 7,823 volunteer mentors who work with at-risk students throughout the state to help them succeed in school. TSIC scholars sign a pledge to maintain high academic standards, remain drug and crime free and meet regularly with their mentor. Approximately 92% of Take Stock students graduate from high school, with 87% going onto college. Smith says, “A mentor can have a lasting and profound effect on a child’s life.”

The local program at Chipola is currently seeking mentors in Calhoun, Holmes, Jackson, and Liberty Counties. To learn more, contact Mary Helen Smith at (850)718-2428 or find a county program at TakeStockinChildren.org.

Chipola Foundation thanks Williams

The Chipola College Foundation recognized outgoing Foundation president Shirl Williams at the Foundation’s end of year banquet. Here, Foundation Director Julie Fuqua (left) presents a gift to Williams.
Chipola hosts Northwest Florida in league clash

Chipola hosts Northwest in a pair of big conference games Saturday, Jan. 18. The women’s game tips off at 5:30 p.m., with the men’s game slated for 7:30 p.m.

The top-ranked Lady Indians enter the game at 18-1 overall and 3-0 in league play. Chipola is first in the FCSAA State Poll and fourth in the NJCAA National Poll. The Lady Raiders are 3-0 in the conference and third in the state poll.


The Lady Indians knocked off arch-rival Gulf Coast 68-61 on Jan 7. Wright led Chipola with 19 points. Akhator scored 17. Lewis had 13.

Chipola opened conference play Jan. 4 with a 91-76 win over Pensacola. Akhator led Chipola with 19 points with 10 rebounds. Wright scored 18 and pulled down 13 rebounds. Janisha Lindsey scored 15 with 4 assists. Lewis scored 12 with 5 rebounds and 3 assists.

The Indians enter the game as the top-ranked team in both the NJCAA National Poll and the FCSAA State Poll. Northwest (2-1) is second in the state poll and seventh in the national rankings.


All Conference games will be broadcast on WJAQ-100.9 FM and on the web at PSBLIVE.com. For the latest news about Chipola Athletics, visit www.chipolaathletics.com.

Chipola donates welding machines to Liberty County High

The Chipola Welding program recently donated five welding machines to Liberty County High School.

LCHS has numerous students enrolled in a welding program at the high school but are awaiting federal grant funds to purchase equipment. The Chipola donation includes one multi-process machine, two MIG machines and two stick welding machines.

LCHS principal Aaron Day, says, “We are so thankful to Chipola for helping our students. We will put this equipment to use immediately.” Byron Ward, Welding Career Coach at Chipola, says, “We are glad to help Liberty County with their program. We welcome all of their students to enroll at Chipola when they graduate.” LCHS officials are planning a field trip for the high school students to visit Chipola’s state-of-the-art welding lab. Chipola began a new welding class on Jan. 7 with 20 students. For information, call 718-2303.
Chipola to host second annual Champs Camp

Chipola College, the Department of Children and Families (DCF), Big Bend Community Based Care, Anchorage Children’s Home and the United Way of Northwest Florida will host the second annual “Chipola Champs Camp” for children, ages 13-17, on Jan. 21-23.

The two-day Chipola Champs Camp will give youth in foster care and children receiving services the opportunity to participate in fun, education-focused, hands-on learning activities that align with many of the academic programs offered at Chipola College. Children also will learn how they can begin establishing clear pathways to post-secondary education in a presentation by Chipola’s Student Ambassadors.

On Tuesday, Jan. 21, campers will attend two Chipola basketball games in the Milton H. Johnson Health Center. On Wednesday, Jan. 22, campers will participate in the following activities on the Chipola campus:

8:30 a.m.—Campers arrive at Chipola College Continuing Education, Building S.
9 a.m.—Learning to Learn—Chipola Future Educators Club, School of Education, Building O.
10 a.m.—Weird Science—Chipola Science Club, Natural Science, Building D, 132.
11 a.m.—Cars and Curls—Chipola Automotive and Cosmetology, Workforce Development. Noon—Lunch with the President—Chipola Gym Front Lawn, Building R.
12:30 p.m.—Building Motor Skills with Games—Chipola Student Government—Gym.
1:30 p.m.—Show Business—Chipola Theatre, Center for the Arts, Building X.
2:30 p.m.—College is for Me—Chipola Student Ambassadors, Continuing Education, S. 3:30 p.m.—Campers depart from Chipola College

DCF and their community-based partners provide more than a dozen Camp for Champions (www.campsforchampions.com) statewide, giving Florida youth in foster care the platform to learn, develop team-building skills, and interact with others. Several camps are athletic focused, while other camps offer art classes, technology, engineering and skill-building activities.

For information about the Chipola Champs Camp, contact Bryan Craven at 718-2264.

Chipola Nursing to host site review for National Accreditation

The Chipola College Health Sciences Department will host a site review for initial accreditation of its Associate Degree and Baccalaureate Degree in nursing programs by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

The public is invited to meet the site visit team and to share comments about the programs in person at a meeting scheduled at 3:30 p.m. on Jan. 28, at Chipola College, Health Sciences Building (Q).

Written comments are also welcome and should be submitted directly to: Dr. Sharon Tanner, Chief Executive Officer, Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, 3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850, Atlanta, GA 30326. Emails may sent to: sjtanner@acenursing.org