COLUMBIA COUNTY

Graduation rates rise

Up 1 percent here, but still trail state average.

By STEVEN RICHMOND
srichmond@lakecityreporter.com

Columbia County’s graduation rate for the 2012-13 school year, but was still well below the state average.

According to a report released by the Florida Department of Education Wednesday, the high school graduation rate for Columbia County was 70.4 percent, roughly one percent over last year, reaching 65.7 percent for the class of 2013. Despite the improvement, Columbia County still trailed the statewide graduation rate average of 75.57 percent.

The graduation rate reflected a huge class of “short” students who graduated within four years of entering high school. Some reason a couple of the county’s students might’ve been out in the public might’ve been lack of success to “misinform.”

Graduation rates for the 2012-13 school year were:

•Lowest rate, Jefferson County—35.1 percent
•Suwannee County—59.5 percent
•Gilchrist County—89.7 percent
•Baker County—68.8 percent
•Alachua County—72.6 percent
•CHS—70.04 percent
•State of Florida—75.57 percent

2012-13 Graduation Rates

A job resource fair has been scheduled for Wednesday, and White Springs work

ers will also be available on site. For more information, call 386-754-1411.

History of the ugly Christmas sweater

Over-sized sweaters, 3-D designs, beautiful baubles and sometimes even lights are the telltale signs of the ugly Christmas sweater. But who, why, and why, did the trend start?

Bill Cosby’s character Cliff Huxtable was an icon of ugly sweaters in the 1980s sitcom “The Cosby Show.” The black line they were away in 2001, snowmen, 3-D designs and holiday par

ties overshadowed from there. Now the lines are bigger than ever, but in a very trendy, oh-so-ironic way.

The ‘90s saw them fade away, but in 2001 sweaters snowballed from there.

Affini prepares to take over NFBA

The Crucible, on Friday, December 13, at 6:00pm at the Columbia County School

Affini and the NFBA will be interested in using the board’s existing com

pany relationships and underv

erstandings for courting clients in the future. “I think we want to be seen as a ‘Nick’s got talent’ when it comes to taking care of our clients,” Head said.

According to Lain, Affini expects to invest somewhere between $3 to $5 million on the transition.
**GREAT OPPORTUNITY**

Continued From 1A

reported a 56.6 percent graduation rate, compared to a 72.7 percent rate the previous year. A report three years ago showed the county at 66.4 percent.

Huddleston said that a project completed last year showed an estimated $233 million. Auto registration fees are a large part of that revenue.

"Lake City is right at the heart of where we think this business is," Huddleston said. "Lake City is in the heart of our service area."

The $233 million represents revenue the county is not going to rely on. Huddleston said that the county now has a 97 percent collection rate, up from 84 percent in 2008.

Huddleston said the county......
Back off on Olustee, Rep. Baxley

T he vast majority of those in attendance at the recent town hall meeting on a proposed Union monument might better be placed on the sidelines. The monument at the Olustee battlefield wasn’t from the Civil War and how it’s a fever among some to cross the land have the right to express their opinions where none existed. Baxley, a member of the Legislature, represents both Baker and Columbia counties and because it is a state park, after, however distant from his home down in Marion County. There must be more to it than that.

Baxley recently announced he’s setting up a run for state Sen. Suenad Deal, a seat since the incumbent is term-limited in 2018. What better way to stir up voter interest with local folks – and possible future supporters – than step in and help folks over there cross the street to be getting hotter with each passing week.

We’re not sure we want Baxley’s help. First, changing the law so that the state Legislature, as opposed to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, gets to decide when and where new monuments are placed in state parks and state park eligible lands. Our lawmakers have plenty to keep busy as it is.

We’d rather they focus on bringing in jobs, improving education, creating good paying foreign investment, among other things.

The best way to keep the tension over a state lawmaker right here who’s already on the case – and has been for nearly a year.

Our lawmakers have plenty to keep busy as it is.

Most of those in attendance at this recent town hall meeting on a proposed Union monument and its location – of this proposed monument once announced, only to disappear later like the UPS guy dropping off a package.

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Bail was set for all over North Georgia and North Florida are plan-
ing their big event for 2014 but before decid-
ing on all of the details, you need to check out the 5th Annual Swan-
nee Music Park Jan. 12. This event features food samples by cater-
ers, a huge bridal show by the popular Golden Needle of Lake City, wed-
ing cake displays, wedding jewelry, gowns and ideas galore for any age of wedding, reception or other spe-
cial event. For the bride-to-be, it’s an event to ease the pains of planning.

The Golden Needle of Lake City will present a fantastic array of brides-taking bridal gowns, gorgeous bride’s maid’s dress, mother of the bride, father of the bride, groom and groomsman attire and gorgeous outfits for the previous little ring bearers and flower girls. Area vendors will show off these fashions during the Expo with a huge inside fashion show. You are sure to find wedding attire for every-
one in the bridal party.

Admission is free to this popular event held from 1 - 4 p.m. Jan. 12 in the spectacular Grande Hall, one of North Florida's most favorite and most beautiful wedding reception venues. The large Grande Hall is located on the banks of the famous Suwannee River and features a beautifully decorated wedding, reception, family reunion, birthday, anniversary or business event facil-
ity with a covered, wrap-around porch and huge, open-air deck. Step inside the beautiful double doors at the front or back and you'll see the Grande Hall's two elegant twin staircases leading to a second floor balcony, a first floor open fireplace with a one-
of-a-kind, hand-made metal sculp-
ture and unique decor. A kitchen is available and tables and chairs are available to rent or we can recom-

Ocala officer faces battery charge

OCALA — A Marion County corrections offi-
cer was charged with misdemeanor battery af-
after he slammed a sus-
pect’s head into the con-
crete wall on Oct. 8.

The suspect, identified as James Duckworth, was handcuffed with his back to the wall at the time.

Duckworth was intoni-
cated when he made a spitting noise. Broaderick pulled Duckworth by his shirt, grabbed his throat and then slammed his head into the wall, accord-
ing to the arrest affidavit.

“You don’t spit at offi-
cers,” Broaderick said.

Duckworth appeared to be unconscious and there was blood on the wall, the report stated.

The suspect’s official 

Wish said.

Director of One Simple 
Wish, visit www.onesim-
plewish.org or call her at 386-364-1683 or go to www.musicliveshere.com.

Making a holiday wish come true

Wishes grants year-round for foster children.

TALLAHASSEE — The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF), Florida Community-Based Care organizations and the Florida State Foster/Adoptive Parent Association have part-

tnered with One Simple Wish to grant wishes for Florida’s current and for-

ner foster children.

“One Simple Wish is a won-
derful program that allows donors to grant small wishes that have a big impact on the lives of Florida’s children,” DCF Interim Secretary Esther 

Granting their wishes is not only creating positive mo-
ments and a sense of normalcy but also proves how much support and hope is out there for children,” Daniele Clanton, Executive Director of One Simple Wish said.

For more information or to grant a wish, visit www.onesim-
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Irrigating turf with reuse water

The Suwannee River Water Management District provided the City of Live Oak $19,570 in funding as part of the city’s reuse system. The City was awarded the funding as part of the District’s Regional Initiative Valuing Environmental Resources (RIVER) program.

“The District is pleased to partner with the City of Live Oak on this project which will reduce groundwater pumping, and we are delighted that Suwannee Country Club want to be a part of these efforts,” said Division Director, Dean Shortelle. “Reclaiming water allows us to save our precious groundwater supplies, while making beneficial use of high-quality wastewater. We will continue to use this important resource to help meet the District’s future water supply needs.”

The Suwannee Country Club announced it will soon irrigate its turf with reuse water, rather than pumping water from the Upper Florida Aquifer. The reuse water is an alternative water source produced from highly treated wastewater.

“We’re excited for the opportunity to irrigate in a manner that will reduce costs, conserve water and provide beneficial nutrients to our turf.”

— Jason Cannon, Suwannee Country Club Manager and Superintendent

has eagerly awaited the opportunity to use reuse water since the City installed its reuse system several years ago.

“We’re excited for the opportunity to irrigate in a manner that will reduce costs, conserve water, and provide beneficial nutrients to our turf which will reduce fertilizer use,” he said.

Other customers receiving reuse water include Camp Weed, which uses up to 40,000 GPD for aquifer recharge and Suwannee Correctional Institution which uses up to 200,000 GPD for irrigation and other non-potable uses. The District is also using reuse water for landscape irrigation on an as-needed basis, offsetting 100 percent of their groundwater use.

“It’s a smarter use of our end product,” said Live Oak City Administrator Kerry Waldron. “It also allows us the ability to use treated effluent for irrigation and related purposes rather than pulling from our fresh drinking water supply.”

The District has assisted several cities in its 15-county boundary with planning and funding assistance to produce reuse water cities within the District that have reuse programs include Alachua, Archer, Cedar Key, Lake City, Live Oak, Monticello, and Perry. Collectively, this allows pumping about 4.1 million gallons of groundwater per day.

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Atheists’ signs approved for capitol

On Friday, December 13th, Atheists in合肥 Capitol Bennet Root said, “It’s a smarter use of our end product.”

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Indian inflicting Fort White still unbeaten

By TIM KIRBY
wkirby@lakecityreporter.com

FORT WHITE — Fort White took its basketball muscle in a 77-27 home win over Keystone Heights High on Wednesday.

The Columbus County Indians remained unbeaten at 6-0 and improved to 36 in District 1A-A play. The visiting Indians dropped to 4-12.

Jaden Wyche scored the first five points of the game and finished the first quarter with 12 for Fort White. Paul Ault added seven points. Keystone Heights hung tough, but Fort White led 25-10 at the end of the period.

Fort White overpowered the visitors in the second quarter. Keystone Heights missed two free throws at the start of the quarter and Fort White scored 21 straight points. Keystone coach Jimmy Thomas tried a time out eight points into the second half, but Fort White continued its roll.

Joe Powers had seven points in the quarter and Wyche tacked on another seven. The score at halftime was 49-19, five points shy of a running clock. Keystone Heights hung tough, but Fort White didn’t slow down.

Fort White 控制比赛, scoring 21 straight points. Keystone Heights struggled with only nine points. Newberry followed Fort White in top spot with a score of 55 and Fort White followed closely with a 43. Newberry struggled with only nine points in the meet.

The Lady Tigers took home first place in five weight classes while the Lady Indians also had a strong showing with four individual winners.

Top winners in each weight class were:

Fort White girls finish 2nd in weightlifting.

By BRANDON FINLEY
bfinley@lakecityreporter.com

FORT WHITE — It was county-wide domination as Columbia and Fort White high school girls basketball teams finished second on Wednesday in Newberry High.

Columbia took home the top spot with a score of 55 and Fort White followed closely with a 43. Newberry struggled with only nine points in the meet.

The Lady Tigers took home first place in five weight classes while the Lady Indians also had a strong showing with four individual winners.

Top winners in each weight class were:

Columbia takes top spot in weightlifting.

Fort White High's Melton Sanders drives to the hole against Columbia High on Dec. 5.
Step Fitness at Turkey Trot

Step Fitness Racing Team members, with times, who ran in the Turkey Trot 10k in Gainesville on Thanksgiving Day are David King 48:02 (from left), Jas On Williams 48:04, Tony Richards 46:52 and Alexander McCollum 18:15 (fun run). Michelle Richards won the women’s division in 50:26, Michelle Richards 46:02 and Alexander McCollum 18:15 (fun run). Michelle Richards won the women’s division in 50:26, Michelle Richards 46:02 and Alexander McCollum 18:15 (fun run).

NBA schedule

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DEAR ABBY

Common sense and courtesy keep bicyclists safe on the road

Dear Abby: As the education director of the local Bicyclists Coalition, I work hard to encourage safe and courteous cycling for everyone in transportation in Northern California. There are a number of points I would like to address:

First, use a rear light (or on shoulders, if you are tall). Bicyclists must have a white headlight and orange or white reflectors on their wheels or spokes as well as on their pedals, shoes or ankles. However, I also recommend adding any of these required items to a red rear reflector and yellow or white reflectors on their wheels, or on your shirt, jacket or helmet. Highlighting one’s silhouette with lights and reflectors at the front, rear and sides of the bike, or on the rider’s clothing or helmet, will increase visibility substantially, as well as safety.

Second, treat stop signs as yields. Idling at stop signs, not wearing protective gear, texting or talking on cellphones while bicycling is an unsafe practice. In addition, no one should talk on a cellphone while bicycling except in an emergency.

Your persistence and bravado will help you continue to offer. Romance will lead you to a break from people pressing in too far and from those that develop between you and others with unique backgrounds. Avoid a feud with people who share none.

Your head will give you a chance to interact with people who share a background. Physical activity will bring about a wellness response that people who practice, and drivers to come to a complete stop at signs and reflectors, to be seen. The law in California stipulates that bicyclists must have a white headlight, a red rear reflector and yellow or white reflectors on their wheels or spokes as well as on their pedals, shoes or ankles. However, I also recommend adding any of these required items to a red rear reflector and yellow or white reflectors on their wheels, or on your shirt, jacket or helmet. Highlighting one’s silhouette with lights and reflectors at the front, rear and sides of the bike, or on the rider’s clothing or helmet, will increase visibility substantially, as well as safety.

Follow your head, not your heart.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2013

Horoscopes

April 19:

Get out and about. A great fortune will be yours if you are adventurous and on top of your game. Keep your mouth shut and your intake high. Follow your head, not your heart.★★★★

May 21-22:

To an enchanting evening. A change in your role will improve if you offer your expertise with my guidance. A break from people pressing in too far, and from those that develop between you and others with unique backgrounds. Avoid a feud with people who share none.

June 21-22:

A break from people pressing in too far and from those that develop between you and others with unique backgrounds. Avoid a feud with people who share none.

July 23-24:

Good fortune will be yours if you are adventurous and on top of your game. Keep your mouth shut and your intake high. Follow your head, not your heart.★★★★

August 22-23:

A break from people pressing in too far and from those that develop between you and others with unique backgrounds. Avoid a feud with people who share none.

September 23-24:

Good fortune will be yours if you are adventurous and on top of your game. Keep your mouth shut and your intake high. Follow your head, not your heart.★★★★

October 23-24:

A break from people pressing in too far and from those that develop between you and others with unique backgrounds. Avoid a feud with people who share none.

November 22-23:

Get out and about. A break from people pressing in too far, and from those that develop between you and others with unique backgrounds. Avoid a feud with people who share none.

December 22-23:

A break from people pressing in too far and from those that develop between you and others with unique backgrounds. Avoid a feud with people who share none.
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

CIVIL CASE NO.: 13-580-CP

STAR MORTGAGE LLC, Plaintiff,

v.

SPOUSE OF SHELLY JONES IF ANY; ANY AND ALL OTHERS WHO MAY CLAIM BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND IN THE NAME OF SHELLY JONES SPOUSE OF SHELLY JONES FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION;

COUNTY, Florida, wherein NATIONWIDE MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION, as Trustee for JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION – MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. AS TRUSTEE FOR MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. – MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC.; STATE OF FLORIDA – DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT; FRANKLIN HOMES MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION; UNKNOWN TENANTS IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY; and OTHERS THEREOF, are the Defendants.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED, that the Clerk of this Court shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in/on the premises described below: TOGETHER WITH A CERTAIN LOT 5, VELMA PERRY SUBDIVISION, LOCATED THEREON AS A FIXED PART OF THE SAME, TOGETHER WITH A CERTAIN INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) UNKNOWN; TOGETHER WITH ALL RIGHTS, TITLE, INTERESTS, REMEDIES, CLAIMS, DEMANDS AND INTERESTS OF EVERY RIGHT, TITLE, INTEREST, REMEDY, CLAIM, DEMAND AND INTEREST IN AND TO THE FOREGOING REAL ESTATE; AND TOGETHER WITH A CERTAIN KNOWN SPOUSE OF MARTHA P. KEYES IF ANY; ANY AND ALL OTHERS WHO MAY CLAIM BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND IN THE NAME OF MARTHA P. KEYES SPOUSE OF MARTHA P. KEYES.

The sale will be held at the Clerk’s Office, at 173 N.E. Hernando Avenue, Room 408, Lake City, Florida 32055. The sale will be held on December 12, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. (Central Standard Time). Any person claiming an interest in the property as set forth in said Final Judgment: If you are a person claiming a right, interest, title or estate in or to the above described property, you must file a claim with the clerk of the circuit court on or before December 12, 2013. After 60 days, only the owner of reverts and remainders may claim the surplus from the sale, if any, otherwise the Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell the property to the highest bidder for cash at FRONT STEPS of the Columbia County Courthouse at 173 N.E. Hernando Avenue, Lake City, Florida.

You are hereby notified that a civil action to foreclose a mortgage has been filed against you. If you are a person claiming an interest in the premises described in the foregoing notice, you must file a claim with the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Columbia County, Florida, within 60 days after the date of the sale of said property or you may be deemed to have waived your right to file a claim in said Circuit Court.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, GENERAL CIVIL CASE NO.: 13-242-CP

CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff,

v.

UNKNOWN TENANTS IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED, that the Clerk of this Court shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in/on the premises described below: TOGETHER WITH A CERTAIN LOT 5, VELMA PERRY SUBDIVISION, LOCATED THEREON AS A FIXED PART OF THE SAME, TOGETHER WITH A CERTAIN KNOWN SPOUSE OF JOSEPH L. PICCIONI FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION;

COUNTY, Florida, wherein JAMES B. NUTTER & COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR BIDASSO Equity & Investments, LLC, is the Plaintiff and Anna Rainbolt, The Unknown Heirs, Beneficiaries, Trustees, and all others who may claim by, through, under, and in the name of Anna Rainbolt, the Unknown Heirs, Beneficiaries, Trustees, and all others who may claim by, through, under, and in the name of Anna Rainbolt, SPOUSE OF SHELLY JONES IF ANY; ANY AND ALL OTHERS WHO MAY CLAIM BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND IN THE NAME OF SHELLY JONES SPOUSE OF SHELLY JONES.

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IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED, that the Clerk of this Court shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in/on the premises described below: TOGETHER WITH A CERTAIN LOT 5, VELMA PERRY SUBDIVISION, LOCATED THEREON AS A FIXED PART OF THE SAME, TOGETHER WITH A CERTAIN KNOWN SPOUSE OF JOHN B. SIMON FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION;

COUNTY, Florida, wherein JAMES B. NUTTER & COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR BIDASSO Equity & Investments, LLC, is the Plaintiff and Anna Rainbolt, The Unknown Heirs, Beneficiaries, Trustees, and all others who may claim by, through, under, and in the name of Anna Rainbolt, the Unknown Heirs, Beneficiaries, Trustees, and all others who may claim by, through, under, and in the name of Anna Rainbolt, SPOUSE OF SHELLY JONES IF ANY; ANY AND ALL OTHERS WHO MAY CLAIM BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND IN THE NAME OF SHELLY JONES SPOUSE OF SHELLY JONES.

The sale will be held at the Clerk’s Office, at 173 N.E. Hernando Avenue, Room 408, Lake City, Florida 32055. The sale will be held on December 12, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. (Central Standard Time). Any person claiming an interest in the property as set forth in said Final Judgment: If you are a person claiming a right, interest, title or estate in or to the above described property, you must file a claim with the Clerk of the Circuit Court on or before December 12, 2013. After 60 days, only the owner of reverts and remainders may claim the surplus from the sale, if any, otherwise the Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell the property to the highest bidder for cash at FRONT STEPS of the Columbia County Courthouse at 173 N.E. Hernando Avenue, Lake City, Florida.

You are hereby notified that a civil action to foreclose a mortgage has been filed against you. If you are a person claiming an interest in the premises described in the foregoing notice, you must file a claim with the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Columbia County, Florida, within 60 days after the date of the sale of said property or you may be deemed to have waived your right to file a claim in said Circuit Court.
**Legal**

**100 Jobs**

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**Interests**

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**301 Pets & Supplies**

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**Furnishings For Rent**

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**Inheritance For Rent**

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**110 Home for Sale**

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**808 Home for Sale**

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**701 Unfurnished Apt. For Rent**

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**100 Opportunities**

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**301 Pets & Supplies**

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Columbia High's Lady Tigers soccer team had mixed results in the Timberwolf Classic in Tallahassee.

Columbia came away with a 1-2 record over the weekend. Lincoln and Chiles high schools both netted wins over Columbia, but the Lady Tigers were able to defeat Maclay.

"The girls played very well this past weekend," Columbia head coach Lindsay McCardle said. "We played Lincoln Friday night and lost 4-1. Krysten Giebeig got the goal in the second half off a breakaway. It was a nicely placed ball to the corner, beautiful goal. The girls worked hard, but fell short."

In the first game on Saturday the Lady Tigers played Maclay and came away with a 2-1 win.

"The girls came out hard and definitely wanted the win," McCardle said. "It wasn't until the second half that Kyriyan played a ball to Natalia Pardo, and Natalia found the net to put us up 1-0. Several minutes later, Delanie Redmond found the back of the net to put us up 2-0. Maclay was able to score a goal in the last 10 minutes of the game. "I was beyond thrilled to get a hard fought win." Columbia routed the tournament with a district loss against Chiles.

"Considering we had played two games prior to that and they had not, I will say they were at an advantage," McCardle said. "Chiles merly ruled the last time we played them, so to finish the game going down 3 goals, I'd say is progress. I am beyond proud of my soccer team and the dedication and sweat they are giving every day at practice and in games."

Donnie Harrington had over 40 saves during the tournament. Harrington was named the MVP in two of the Lady Tigers three games.

"She had some amazing saves," McCardle said. "The very proud of her Brittany Lee who played strong in the back, she was consistently on point each game. I even moved her to a forward position to get more speed up top. She played well in both positions, sweeper and forward."

The Lady Tigers travel to Oak Hall School at 6 p.m. tonight for their last game before Christmas.

Columbia soccer
Columbia High fell 5-0 at Gainesville High on Tuesday.

The Tigers play host to Taylor County High at 7 p.m. tonight in Lake City.
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