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Lady Indians fall in playoffs

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WEEKEND EDITION

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Lake City Reporter

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Lifeguard: 'We'll sue'

Ambulance service threatens legal action after county gives EMS contract to Century.

By **CARL MCKINNEY**
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on its contract with Lifeguard Ambulance Services during a Thursday night meeting.

The county pulled the plug

County Commission chose Jacksonville-based Century Ambulance as its emergency medical services provider.

Commissioner Rusty DePratter dissented.

Within two hours after the meeting, Lifeguard sent out a

statement saying it would immediately pursue a lawsuit against the county regarding what it contends was an unfair bidding process.

A county advisory committee ranked Century its top choice

EMS continued on 2A

Today

Columbia High Top Talent

The 12th annual Columbia High Top Talent Show begins at 7 p.m. today, with special performances by the CHS Tigerettes, the Fancy Dancers, Alexis Branscome and the R twinz. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$3 for students and \$5 for adults in advance and \$5 for students and \$7 for adults at the door.

Saturday

'50s sock hop

The American Legion Post 57 will host a '50s sock hop Saturday at the post, 2602 SW Main Blvd. in Lake City. Sliders, fries and floats at '50s prices will be served from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Music will be provided by Helen from 6 to 10 p.m. There will be contests for dancing, hula hoop and best '50s costume. There will also be a 50/50 raffle and a cake auction to raise funds for the Brenda McDiarmid scholarship fund. The cost is \$10 per person.

Master Gardeners Plant Sale & Festival

The Master Gardeners of Columbia County will hold its 13th annual Plant Sale and Festival from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday in the large banquet hall at the Columbia County Fairgrounds. Admission is free. Call 752-5384.

Corporate Cup

The Corporate Cup, a new initiative that promotes fitness in the workplace starts at 9 a.m. Saturday at Columbia High School. Sponsored by Altrusa, the event is part of Get Fit Lake City. Teams from local businesses will compete in 10 contests including tug of war, dodge ball and a corn hole challenge. The public is invited to tailgate at CHS and cheer on a favorite team. Visit www.getfitlakecity.com.

Princess Party at FGC

Florida Gateway College will host a "Princess Party" from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday for girls ages 3 to 10. Participants will receive a new hairstyle (updo), a little makeup and fingernail polish, along with a tiara and a wand. They will also have their photos taken. The cost is \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Appointments are encouraged. For more information, call 752-9313.

For details on other events, see Pages 2A and 5A in today's edition.

A FRESH CHOICE

DOH farmers market designed to encourage low-income families to eat healthier.

By **KAYLA LOKEINSKY**
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IT ISN'T OFTEN that federally-funded food programs are associated with fresh, local produce.

However, with the Florida Department of Health WIC Program's newly-established farmers market in Columbia County, families on WIC government assistance will have access to fresh fruits and vegetables from local farms.

The FDOH's Women, Infants and Children Program is a federally-funded nutrition program that provides healthy foods and nutrition education at no cost to low-income families.

The Columbia County Health Department has partnered with the Alachua County WIC Program to start a farmers market nutritional program.

"We want to educate people to eat healthy and eat fresh fruits and vegetables," said Candi Morris, the vendor manager for the Alachua County WIC Program. "We wanted to bring the people out here and show them that they can eat healthy."

This is the first year that farmers market vouchers are being given out in Columbia County by the WIC Program.

"We wanted to give WIC clients that fresh food option," said Mark Lander, the administrator for Columbia and Hamilton

FRESH continued on 3A



KAYLA LOKEINSKY/Lake City Reporter

Lisa Bradley (left) shops for produce sold by Marion Hope from Triple J Farms on Thursday during a visit to the new farmers market offered by the Columbia County Health Department/ WIC Program. The program encourages families to buy fresh produce and eat healthier.

IF YOU GO

- **WHAT:** Farmers Market Nutritional Program.
- **WHEN:** Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **WHERE:** Florida Department of Health in Columbia County (217 NE Franklin St. in Lake City)
- **DETAILS:** The farmers market is free and open to the public. You do not have to be a part of the WIC program to visit.
- **INFO:** 758-1068 or columbia.floridahealth.gov.

Fort White man faces child porn charges

CCSO: Leon Howard Wood, 68, remains jailed with bond set at \$35,000.

By **NICK ROLLISON**
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Wood

A Fort White man suspected of downloading child pornography in 2015 is in jail after doing it again, according to a sheriff's report.

Leon Howard Wood, 68, was arrested Tuesday and remains jailed on \$35,000 bond.

ARREST continued on 2A

Gwen Graham says she'll give up House seat

Tallahassee Dem considers entering race for governor.

By **BRENDAN FARRINGTON**
AP Political Writer



Graham

TALLAHASSEE — The daughter of former senator and governor Bob Graham will leave Congress next year and consider trying to follow her father's footsteps into the governor's mansion.

Democratic Rep. Gwen Graham of Tallahassee announced Thursday that she

GRAHAM continued on 3A

Reporter's controller to retire after 46 years

Sue Brannon: 'I have so many things to do it's ridiculous.'



Brannon

By **SAM BURROUGHS**
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Sue Brannon means it when

she speaks in reverence of her workplace.

Brannon, the Lake City Reporter controller, is retiring from the newspaper after 46

years of work. A celebration will

be held on Wednesday at the Lake City Reporter to commemorate Brannon's time at the newspaper.

Looking forward, Brannon said she is very excited about her future.

"Anything I want to do, whenever I want to," is how Brannon describes her upcoming retirement.

Brannon, who began work at the Lake City Reporter as a receptionist in 1970, has been a witness to great changes that came in waves for people and technology.

Her recollection of it all sounds like it came straight from an Orson

BRANNON continued on 3A

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BRANNON

Continued From 1A

Welles' film: men chewing on cigars, business people coming in from New York City, big press machines, waxy paper and hand-pasting copy.

"It's like night and day," she said. "When I started working here, we still had hot type. We had our own press here at the time. There were no computers, and everything was through the (news service) wire."

She can still hear the rumble of the old press. She can still see the huge computers in the early days of electronics. She can reimagine the morning hustle before the paper was delivered back when the Reporter was an afternoon paper and hit the streets during lunch time.

Her passion for the paper has come partly from the unpredictability of the profession. The other part has come from the community.

"I truly believe that the newspaper is the voice of the

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

- **WHAT:** Sue Brannon's Retirement Celebration.
- **WHEN:** 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, with a special presentation at 5:15 p.m.
- **WHERE:** Lake City Reporter, 180 E. Duval St.
- **DETAILS:** Open to the public. Cocktails and refreshments to be served.

community and the voice of the little people," she said. "I could not have worked here as long as I have if I didn't believe it."

Lake City Reporter Publisher Todd Wilson said things won't be the same without Brannon.

"Sue's retirement marks the end of an era at the Lake City Reporter, and we salute her service to our company," Wilson said. "Sue has seen a lot of changes through the decades, and she has excelled in a lot of roles in our organization, including being the interim publisher at least twice. What sets her apart above all other things is her love of this community. Sue was born, raised and educated in Lake City, and

she loves our town as much or more than anyone. She is passionate about what's best for Columbia County, and she has always been eager to give back to Lake City whenever possible. She leaves us with a great example."

Every day has been exciting, according to Brannon.

She's been the office jack-of-all-trades. She had a three-year stint in advertising sales, worked on the classified desk and aided with the printing process back when the task was something physical.

Brannon has always been seen volunteering at the many community events co-sponsored by the newspaper or as an Altrusan. She is a longtime member of the Lake City Altrusa Club and is a past

president of the organization.

Brannon is now looking forward to the open road. She has a bucket list of scenic highways, and she said there is so much of the country she hasn't seen yet.

"I have so many things to do it's just ridiculous," she said. "I love the outdoors. I want to finish off my list of visiting national parks and state parks, spend a bunch of time fishing with my sons and grandson ... and spend a lot of quality time with my family and girlfriends."

"Family" includes husband George, whom she met on the job. In June, they celebrate their 40th anniversary.

She's excited to finally be able to tackle that closet that needs reorganizing and take long trips out of town, perhaps out West, with her family. Underneath the excitement, the pride she takes in her work is unwavering.

"The most important thing the newspaper can do is tell the stories of the community," Brannon said. "I think I've been lucky being a part of a small paper."

Singer, songwriter Prince found dead in his home

Associated Press



Prince

CHANHASSEN, Minn. — Prince, the talented and charismatic singer, songwriter, arranger and instrumentalist who created a gender- and genre-defying blend of rock, funk and soul, died Thursday at his home. He was 57.

The Minneapolis native was found dead in his home, and the cause of death is under investigation.

The musician stood just 5 feet, 2 inches tall yet made a powerful visual impact

at the dawn of the MTV era, proving to be the Little Richard for the '80s. His openly erotic lyrics made him one of the most sexually daring artists of the era.

With hits such as "1999," "Purple Rain" and "Little Red Corvette," he sold more than 100 million copies and earned Grammys and an Academy Award.

GRAHAM

Continued From 1A

wouldn't run for re-election — a move that's been widely predicted since her congressional district was redrawn, splitting her home county in half. Her district, which includes the northern portion of Columbia County, is now firmly Republican.

Graham cited the new district in a video announcement, blaming politicians, lobbyists and courts for making it more partisan. "Our state government is just dysfunctional, and this causes me to rethink how I can best serve the people of north Florida and our

state. I'm seriously considering running for governor in 2018."

She said she will serve the remainder of her term and then consider the run.

Graham is one of more than 40 House members who have decided not to seek re-election.

Her father served two terms as governor, ending in 1987 when he began the first of three terms in the Senate.

She has continued to raise money and has nearly \$1.8 million in her House campaign account that she can give to the state Democratic Party or an independent political committee that could help her run for governor.

FRESH

Continued From 1A

County health departments. "Healthy food is so important for our clients."

The farmers market will be open every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parking lot of the Columbia County Health Department.

Those receiving support from the WIC Program are encouraged to get their vouchers from the health department and use them to get fresh produce from local farmers.

The farmers market is also open to the public, allowing anyone interested in supporting local businesses or getting fresh fruits and vegetables to participate.

"I'm so glad I could come here instead of going to the grocery store," said Vicki Crews after shopping at the farmers market on its opening day Thursday. "I would be much happier to support local business."

The WIC Program is hopeful that the farm-



KAYLA LOKEINSKY/Lake City Reporter

Shawn Cartwright (left), wife Candice and their baby boy, Vincent, buy fresh fruit Thursday from vendor Marion Hope at FDOH's WIC Program farmers market. The market will be open Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

ers market will not only benefit their clients by giving them the option of obtaining fresh fruits and vegetables for their families, but also benefit local farmers and businesses by giving them a chance to showcase their products to the public.

"We want to promote healthy eating, and we want to promote local

farmers," Morris said. "We've been wanting to do this for years. It benefits everybody."

For more information on the WIC Program or the farmers market, contact the Columbia County Health Department at 758-1068. You may also visit the agency's website at columbia.floridahealth.gov.

OBITUARIES

Katherine Edith Myer

Katherine Edith Myer, 75, passed away on Wednesday evening, April 20th, 2016. Edith was born in Lake City, Florida, the daughter of John and Vera (Keen) Dampier. She was a loving mother, grandmother and great grandmother, who devoted her love and time to the care of her family. Edith instilled in her daughters a love for sports, and she herself was a huge NASCAR Fan (Dale Earnhardt Sr.), the Florida Gators and Miami Dolphins. She was preceded in death by her brother, John Marion Dampier Jr. and her beloved husband of 47 years, Harold Dale Myer (2004).

Survivors include her daughters, Debi (Pete) Dahlberg of Lake City, FL, Cindi (Pete) Rodela of Melbourne, FL, and Shellie (Allen) Raulerson of Lake City, FL; brother, Calvin Wesley (Janet) Dampier of Lake City, FL; sisters, Ann Marion Read of Smithville, TN, Dolly Theresa Dobbs of Sumnerall, MS, Mary Ruth Bison of Waterport, NY, and Sylvia Kay Snell of Lake City, FL; grandchildren, Brian Rodela, Brandi Roberson, James Rodela, Matt Friedman, Keele Smith, Kaitlynn Smith and Remington Raulerson; great grandchild, Ria Rodela.

Funeral services will be conducted on Monday, April 25th, 2016, at 11:00 a.m. in the Gateway-Forest Lawn Memorial Chapel with Rev. Hugh Dampier officiating. Interment will follow in Scott Cemetery. Visitation with the family will be held Sunday afternoon, April 24th, 2016, from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm, at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Suwannee Valley Care Center (Haven Hospice) at 6037 West

Us Hwy 90, Lake City, FL 32055.

GATEWAY-FOREST LAWN FUNERAL HOME, 3596 South US Hwy 441, Lake City, Florida 32025. (386) 752-1954. Online at www.gateway-forestlawn.com

Ronald "Chill" Bryant Wills

Mr. Ronald "Chill" Bryant Wills, age 77, of Macclenny, Florida passed away on Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at his residence with his family by his side. He was born July 7, 1938 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to the late Guy James Wills, Sr. and Anna Catherine Barret Wills. Chill married the love of his life Charlotte Evelyn Shumate on September 1, 1956. In that same year, Chill joined the United States Air Force where he dedicated his life to serving his country. In 1982, he retired from the USAF as a Chief Master Sergeant. Chill was also employed at Aero Corporation in Lake City and later Boeing as a Quality Engineer where he served for 25 years. Chill enjoyed being outdoors fishing, hunting and golfing. He also enjoyed woodworking and dancing. He is predeceased by his parents; brother, Guy J. Wills, Jr.; and granddaughter, Sarah Jean Edenfield.

Chill is survived by his wife, Charlotte Evelyn Wills of Macclenny, FL; children, Debby (Clay) Carroll of Lulu, FL, Ronald Bryant (Sandy) Wills, Jr. of Hernando, MS, Patty (Bobby) Padgett of Macclenny, FL;

brother, Richard (Michelle) Wills of Plano, TX; sisters, Shirley Ann Elizabeth Hildebrand of Franklinville, NJ, and Margaret Tarasiewicz of Macon, GA; sister-in-law, Kimi Wills of Ft. Walton Beach, FL; 7 grandchildren, Joshua Kyle Mann, Zachary Daniel Wills, Benjamin Paul Wills, Callie Marie Blachowski, Timothy Wayne Padgett, Crystal Cheyene Wills; great grandchildren, Isaac Daniel Mann, Kyle Bryant Wills, Shelby Elise Wills, and Jasmine Kilara Mann.

A Celebration of Chill's Life will be held on Monday, April 25, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services Chapel with Chaplain Tina Sweet officiating. Interment will follow at Jacksonville National Cemetery. The family will receive friends on Sunday, April 24, 2016 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, please contribute to any charitable military organization or Wolfson Childrens Hospital, 841 Prudential Drive, Suite 1300, Jacksonville, FL 32207. The arrangements are under the care and direction of V. TODD FERREIRA FUNERAL SERVICES, 250 North Lowder Street, Macclenny, FL 32063 (904)259-5700. Visit www.ferreirafuneralservices.com to sign the family's guest book.


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