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Lake City Reporter

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SUNDAY EDITION

Career Online High School's 1st grad earns diploma

1D



Barber stays home for next event

SEE SPORTS, 1B



On the map

FDOT crews, already busy with three local projects, are poised to begin a fourth this week.

1C

Brown: 'My heart is just really heavy'

Jacksonville Democrat pleads not guilty to multiple federal charges.

From staff and wire reports

JACKSONVILLE — U.S. Rep. Corrine Brown of Florida and her chief of staff pleaded not guilty Friday to multiple fraud charges and other federal offenses

in a grand jury indictment unsealed after an investigation into what prosecutors call a phony charity that turned into a personal slush fund.

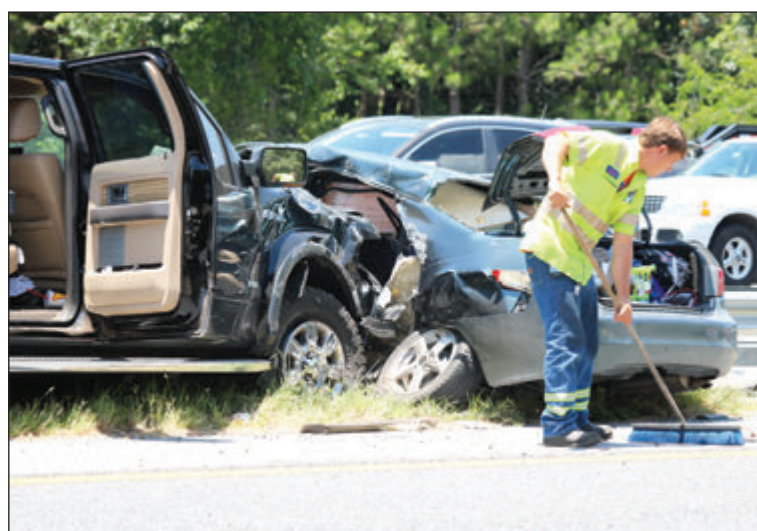
Brown, a 69-year-old Democrat, and Chief of



Brown Staff Elias "Ronnie" Simmons, 50, entered pleas in Jacksonville federal court on charges of mail and wire fraud, conspiracy,

BROWN continued on 3A

One killed, four injured in I-75 crash



NICK ROLLISON/Lake City Reporter

The driver of a Honda Accord was killed Saturday on Interstate 75 when he attempted to cross three lanes of traffic and make a U-turn on the grassy median. His vehicle was T-boned by a Ford F-150. Four people were injured. See story on Page 2A.

PRAYER VIGIL FOR FALLEN OFFICERS



Photos by KAYLA LOKEINSKY/Lake City Reporter

Deputies from the Columbia County Sheriff's Office and officers from the Lake City Police Department stand in the center of a circle of Lake City citizens Friday as a symbol of the community surrounding them and showing its support during a prayer vigil at Olustee Park in downtown Lake City. The event was held in the wake of a shooting in Dallas on Thursday that left five law enforcement officers dead and wounded seven others, as well as two civilians.

'I hope they know we have their back'

Dallas shooting leads to local outpouring of grief and support.

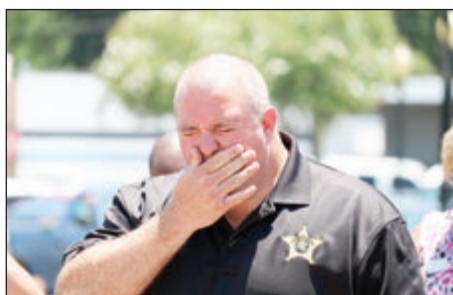
By KAYLA LOKEINSKY
klokeinsky@lakecityreporter.com

Law enforcement officers and first responders stood in the middle of downtown Lake City on Friday afternoon, the citizens they serve encircling them in a show of love and support.

Dozens of officers, community leaders and residents came together at Olustee Park to mourn the five Dallas officers who lost their lives to a sniper late Thursday.

Sheriff's deputies and citizens wiped away tears as they prayed. Every speaker conveyed the same

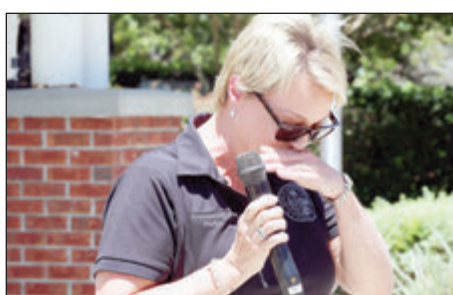
VIGIL continued on 3A



CCSO Deputy Clint Dicks wipes his eyes during Friday's prayer vigil at Olustee Park in downtown Lake City.



ABOVE: Retired law enforcement officer Gary Klatt puts his arms around his wife, Eddie. "We had to come out and show our support," Eddie Klatt said.



LEFT: State Rep. Elizabeth Porter (R-Lake City) weeps as she speaks during Friday's vigil.

Autopsy: Overdose killed local woman

Jessica Buttone's death at RV park was originally considered a homicide.

By KAYLA LOKEINSKY
klokeinsky@lakecityreporter.com

A woman local police said was murdered at an RV park actually died of a drug overdose, an autopsy report shows.

Jessica Lynn Buttone, 29, was found dead in a pool of blood the morning of June 6 in a camper at the Inn & Out RV Park on 3010 U.S. 90 West. A broken TV and other items surrounded her on the floor.

The Lake City Police Department issued a statement calling the death a murder

DEATH continued on 3A

Local schools fall from B to C in state ranking

Melrose, Niblack improve; Columbia City slips down.

From staff reports

The school district fell to a C from a B in state-assigned grades this year.

Two public schools improved a grade and one school dropped, accruing to state records released Friday.

Melrose Park Elementary rose to a C from a D in 2015, and Niblack Elementary, which got a C last year, rose to a B.

The only district school to lose a letter was

CCSD continued on 3A



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TODAY'S WEATHER
96 72
Storm chance, 2A



Opinion 4A
Business 1C
Obituaries 5A
Calendar 5A
Advice & Puzzles 3D



LOCAL
Residents have tons of fun on the Fourth, 6A.



LIFE
Elie Wiesel: 'We must bear witness', 4D.

BROWN

Continued From 1A

obstruction and filing of false tax returns.

She has represented a Jacksonville-based congressional district since 1993 — one of the first three African-Americans elected to Congress from Florida since Reconstruction — and is seeking re-election in a newly redrawn district that includes the northern portion of Columbia County.

The 24-count indictment comes after an investigation into the purported charity One Door for Education Foundation Inc., which federal prosecutors say was billed as a way to give scholarships to poor students but instead filled the coffers of Brown and her associates.

After the hearing, Brown predicted she would be cleared at trial. She was surrounded by supporters outside the courthouse, some carrying signs. One read, "Justice or else. Corrine matters."

"My heart is just really heavy. But I'm looking forward to a speedy day in court to vindicate myself," Brown said. "We will present the other side."

Brown and Simmons, of Laurel, Maryland, were both released on \$50,000 bail and ordered not to travel outside the U.S. A status hearing was set for July 26. Simmons, who has been Brown's chief of staff since 1993, declined comment after the hearing.

Earlier this year, One Door President Carla Wiley pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud after it was determined that she had deposited \$800,000 into the foundation's account over four years. Over that time, federal prosecutors say it gave one scholarship for \$1,000 and \$200 to an unidentified person in Florida, while Wiley transferred herself tens of thousands of dollars.

"Congresswoman Brown and her chief of staff are alleged to have used the congresswoman's official position to solicit over \$800,000 in donations to a supposed charitable organization, only to use that organization as a personal slush fund," Assistant U.S. Attorney General Leslie Caldwell, chief of the Justice Department's criminal division, said in a statement.

"Corruption erodes the public's trust in our entire system of representative gov-

ernment," Caldwell added.

The indictment says that Brown, Simmons and Wiley "used the vast majority" of One Door donations for their personal and professional benefit, including tens of thousands of dollars in cash deposits that Simmons made to Brown's personal bank accounts.

According to the indictment, more than \$200,000 in One Door funds were used to pay for events hosted by Brown or held in her honor, including a golf tournament, lavish receptions during an annual Washington conference and the use of luxury boxes for a Beyonce concert and an NFL game between the Washington Redskins and Jacksonville Jaguars.

One Door money was also used for such things as repairs to Brown's car and vacations to locations such as the Bahamas, Miami Beach and Los Angeles. In addition, House of Representatives money was used to pay a "close family member" of Simmons identified as "Person C" more than \$735,000 between 2001 and 2016 for a job in Brown's office that involved little or no work, according to the indictment. Simmons allegedly benefited from

some of that money.

"Our office is committed to ferreting out and prosecuting all forms of corruption and fraud, regardless of who the offender is," said U.S. Attorney A. Lee Bentley. "In our nation, no one is above the law."

Documents previously obtained by The Associated Press from Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer's office show that he received an invitation bearing the seal of the House of Representatives to a July 13, 2013, golf tournament called the "Corrine Brown Invitational." It was sponsored by the One Door organization and coincided with a freight and rail industry symposium in Jacksonville.

Potential donors attending the tournament received letters from One Door with Brown's signature and official House seal asking them to give from \$125 up to \$20,000 to One Door, according to Wiley's plea agreement.

The invitation said the donations would benefit a scholarship fund for the Jacksonville chapter of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials, or COMTO, and other charities. Authorities say none of the charities received any of the money raised.

Wendy's on SR 47 affected by data breach

Hackers stole customers' card numbers.

By SAM BURROUGHS
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The Wendy's restaurant at 4046 State Road 47 is confirmed as one of the locations impacted by the recent data breach that resulted in unauthorized activity on some customers' credit cards.

The breach, which began in February, occurred over the span of the last several months, according to a Wendy's press release on Friday.

In June, the breach was found to have been more extensive than thought, according to the release. It was determined that the cardholder's name, credit or debit number, expiration date, verification value and service

card were accessible to the hackers.

The malware was spread like a virus, requiring no physical hardware to be placed on card readers at the location.

According to the press release, Wendy's has worked with third-party investigators to identify and disable the problem.

Wendy's is providing support to all potentially affected customers, including offering one year of complimentary fraud consultation and identity restoration services, according to the press release.

Patrons with questions may call toll free at 866-779-0485 from 9 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Information can also be found at www.wendys.com/notice. To look up affected locations, go to payment.wendys.com/paymentcardcheck.html.

Barbara Southwell prays during Friday's vigil. Columbia County Fire Rescue and the sheriff's office organized the ceremony, which included lowering the flag to half-staff, a group prayer and speeches from community preachers and political leaders.



Photos by KAYLA LOKEINSKY/Lake City Reporter

VIGIL

Continued From 1A

message to the officers they encircled: "Thank you."

"I hope that our law enforcement understands that we are behind them, we support them and we appreciate what they do for us every day," State Rep. Elizabeth Porter, R-Lake City, said after the ceremony. "I hope they know that we have their back."

Columbia County Fire Rescue worked in conjunction with the sheriff's office to stage the ceremony, which consisted of lowering the flag to half-staff, a group prayer and speeches from community preachers and political leaders.

The event took place in the wake of the deadliest day for U.S. law enforcement since 9/11.

On Thursday night in Dallas, a peaceful protest over the recent shootings of black men by police officers turned violent as a sniper fired at officers, killing five and injuring seven, along with two civilians.

"What really set it off was the events that took place in Dallas," CCFR Lt. Josh Wehinger said before the

ceremony. "We wanted to get everybody together and on the same page and show support for all law enforcement."

Deputy Shane Foote said they wanted the event to show local officers and law enforcement agencies that the community is behind them.

"I think when situations like this happen, law enforcement officers ask themselves why they do

The flags in downtown Lake City have been lowered to half-staff.

this," Foote said. "This is a way to get the community out with law enforcement and say, 'We've got your back.' That's what we thrive on."

The flags in downtown Lake City were lowered to half-staff to honor the 12 police officers and two civilians who were shot in the attack. There was also a prayer vigil at CCSO headquarters at noon on Friday, with a moment of silence for the victims.

During the event in Olustee Park, Porter, Wehinger and Parkview Baptist Church lead pastor Mike Tatem encouraged the crowd to come together and support these public servants.

"You guys work in a thankless job, so we just want to say thank you," Tatem told the crowd after leading them in prayer.



Columbia County corrections officer Danielle Chewning (left) stands with her arm around her sister, Jessica Chewning. Both are wearing shirts bearing the symbol honoring fallen police officers.



An emotional Debbie Marszalek attends Friday's vigil. Marszalek is a CCSO deputy. The sheriff's office also held a prayer vigil at CCSO headquarters at noon on Friday, with a moment of silence for the victims of Thursday's shooting in Dallas.

Juggler to perform at library

From staff reports

Juggler Ron Anglin will perform Friday at the Columbia County Public Library as part of the summer reading program.

Performances begin at

10 a.m. at the Fort White branch and 3 p.m. at the main library.

For more information about children's programs at the library, visit online at ccpl.ent.sirsi.net or call 758-2101.

NOTICE OF MEETING COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE CITY OF LAKE CITY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Community Redevelopment Advisory Committee for the City of Lake City, Florida will hold a meeting on Tuesday, July 12, 2016 at 5:30 P.M., in the Council Chambers located on the second floor of City Hall at 205 North Marion Avenue, Lake City, Florida.

All interested persons are invited to attend.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: If you require special aid/services for the meeting identified above, as addressed in the American Disabilities Act, please contact the City Manager's Office at (386) 719-5768.

AUDREY E SIKES, MMC
City Clerk

CITY OF LAKE CITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING Lake City Firefighters Local 2288

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Lake City shall hold a public meeting at 2:00 PM on Wednesday, July 13, 2016 in the City Council Chambers located on the second floor of City Hall at 205 North Marion Avenue, Lake City, Florida.

The purpose of this public meeting is to enter into contract negotiations, at the request of the Lake City Firefighters Local 2288.

All interested persons are invited to attend.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: If you require special aid or services as addressed in the American Disabilities Act, please contact the City Manager's Office at (386) 719-5768.

AUDREY E SIKES, MMC
City Clerk