

Statesboro Herald

Wrongful death suits settled in fatal crash

Families of 3 GSU nursing students reach agreement; 2 still unresolved

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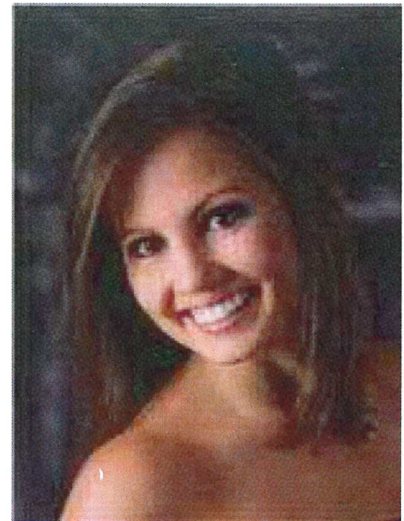
By Holli Deal Saxon



DeLoach



Clark



Baggett

Just days before the one-year anniversary of a fiery crash that took the lives of five Georgia Southern University students, attorneys announced that “substantial” settlements were reached in wrongful death lawsuits regarding three of the victims.

Friday, April 22, marks the date one year ago on which Caitlyn Nicole Baggett of Millen, Emily Elizabeth Clark of Powder Springs, Abbie Lorene DeLoach of Savannah, Morgan Bass of Leesburg and Catherine “McKay” Pittman of Alpharetta lost their lives when a tractor-trailer plowed into them as they sat in their vehicles in a line of traffic that was halted due to cleanup efforts following a previous wreck.

Families of all five victims filed wrongful death lawsuits in Bryan County in May. Both the cases of the families of Baggett and Clark had been set for trial on May 16 in Bryan County Superior Court before Judge Paul Rose, and DeLoach’s family’s case had been set for trial on April 18 in Bryan County State Court before Judge Jack Carney. However, settlements were reached in all three of those cases, according to a press release issued Wednesday.

Attorneys Brandon L. Peak, David T. Rohwedder, and Robert D. Cheeley of Butler Wooten Cheeley and Peak LLP of Atlanta and Columbus served as lead counsel. Attorney Billy N. Jones of Jones, Osteen and Jones of Hinesville served as local counsel, with DeLoach’s family represented by attorneys Mark Tate and Jim Shipley of Tate Law Group in Savannah. More than a dozen depositions were taken as attorneys gathered information on the cases.