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"For I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" — Genesis 37:17

\$2.00

Dale County Emergency Management Agency

Posts lead to official's suspension, fine

BY SABLE RILEY
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McDaniel

OZARK — The Dale County Emergency Management Agency director will be suspended for 10 days without pay and pay a \$1,000 fine for posting controversial posts to his personal

Facebook account, Dale County Commission Chairman Mark Blankenship confirmed Tuesday.

EMA Director Jonathon Kurt McDaniel posted a series of memes the first week of June to his Facebook page condemning protesters in the aftermath of George Floyd's death.

His most recent post read, "I Hope all of the Looters are stealing condoms so we don't have another generation of idiots."

Another post showed an image of a crop-duster with overlaying text: "Riot control. Fill these with pepper-spray."

A third post read, "Bet they don't burn down any welfare offices."

Blankenship learned of the posts from a WTUV reporter, who questioned him about McDaniel's social media activity.

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RAISING THE BAR



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Surrounded by applauding law officers, President Donald Trump shows the executive order on police reform he had just signed at a ceremony Tuesday in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Trump order pushes police to meet higher standards

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Following weeks of national protests since the death of George Floyd, President Donald Trump signed an executive or-

der on policing Tuesday that he said would encourage better police practices and establish a database to keep track of officers with a history of excessive use-of-force complaints.

In Rose Garden remarks,

Trump stressed the need for higher standards and commiserated with mourning families, even as he hailed the vast majority of officers as selfless public servants and held his law-and-order line.

"Reducing crime and raising standards are not opposite goals," he said before signing the order flanked by police.

Trump and the GOP have

See **TRUMP**, Page 7A

Jones faces trial date in September

Early '19 fight set off deadly events

BY MICHELE W. FOREHAND
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A September jury trial date has been set for the man charged in a deadly February 2019 crime spree.



Jones

Jeremy Jermaine Jones, 38, was arrested in February 2019 and charged with murder, eight counts of first-degree robbery, one count of first-degree assault, leaving the scene of an accident and attempted kidnapping. His jury trial is tentatively set for Sept. 28.

Jones entered pleas of not guilty and not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect during his

See **JONES**, Page 3A

Sex abuse counts filed on Melvin

BY MICHELE W. FOREHAND
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A lengthy investigation by the Henry County Sheriff's Office ended Friday with the arrest of a Dothan man charged with sex involving a 10-year-old girl.



Melvin

Zachary Bunyon Douglas Melvin, 25, is charged with electronic solicitation of a child under the age of 12.

At the time the alleged crime was committed, Melvin was out of jail on bond from Houston County, according to court records.

In 2017, a Houston

See **MELVIN**, Page 3A

State agency approves Dothan's landfill changes

BY SABLE RILEY
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Dothan may finally begin using its expanded landfill soon after an almost-decade-long saga with adjacent landowners was effectively settled by an Alabama Department of Environmental Management Commission

ruling Friday.

The commission rejected a hearing officer's report filed in May recommending the disapproval of a permit modification issued by ADEM to the city of Dothan for construction and operation of its landfill expansion after hearing arguments from lawyers representing Webb Road residents, the city of Dothan and ADEM's office of general counsel.

Ultimately, the com-

mission unanimously supported Dothan's legal counsel, Buddy Cox, and ADEM attorney Todd Carter's argument that the city obeyed ADEM's regulations regarding permit approval and "substantially complied" with analyzing and providing groundwater elevation data.

Contingent upon ADEM's final inspections

See **LANDFILL**, Page 7A



JAY HARE/DOTHAN EAGLE FILE PHOTO

A loader compacts trash at the Dothan landfill.

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For more information about the antibody test, please call Alabama Clinics at 334-712-1170.

Obituaries

Martha Sue Folsom Holman

Martha Sue Folsom Holman, 90, died June 13, 2020 in a Hospice home near Bradenton, FL.

A graveside service will be held at the Hartford City Cemetery, at 9:00 am on Thursday, June 18, 2020 with Rev. Bill Messer officiating and Sorrells Funeral Home of Slocomb directing.

Mrs. Holman was born December 6, 1929 in Hartford to Maggie Reeves Folsom and Conway Folsom. She graduated from Geneva County High School in 1948 and married Gene Holman in 1950. She spent her life helping family, friends, and neighbors not sacrificial but joyfully and lovingly.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Hartford First United Methodist Church, 205 South Third Avenue, Hartford, AL 36344, or your favorite charity.

She is survived by three sons: Michael Vinson Holman, Ponce De Leon, FL, Alan Pinkston Holman, Hartford, and John Conway Holman, Santa Rosa Beach, FL; nieces, nephews, cousins and other extended family and friends.

www.sorrellsfuneral.com

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Oyette Taylor



Oyette Taylor, a resident of Headland, died Tuesday morning, June 16, 2020, at his home. He was 89.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 A.M. Thursday, June 18, 2020, in the Worship Center of the First Baptist Church of Headland with Dr. Cecil M. Sanders, Jr. and Reverend Norman C. Simmons officiating. Burial will follow in the Headland Baptist Cemetery. Holman-Headland Mortuary & Cremations is in charge of arrangements. The family will receive friends from 9:00 until 10:30 A.M. Thursday in the church sanctuary. Social distancing guidelines will be observed.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Headland Baptist Cemetery Fund, 301 East Church Street, Headland, AL 36345 or to the Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758516, Topeka, KS 66675-8516.

Mr. Taylor was born in Henry County, near Newville, son of the late Vernard Taylor and Mary Etta Snellgrove Taylor. At the age of fourteen, he began working with his father as a barber. Upon graduation from Headland High School, Mr. Taylor enlisted in the Army National Guard in the Headland unit. He served his country on active duty in the 31st Division, which was called the "Dixie Darlings", from January 1951 until August 1952, when his unit was mobilized during the Korean War. Mr. Taylor was a member of the First Baptist Church of Headland. He retired in 2008 as the owner and operator of Taylor's Barber Shop in Headland. Mr. Taylor was preceded in death by a brother, Andy Taylor.

Surviving relatives include his wife, Jewel Trammell Taylor; two daughters, Cindy Hamm (Billy Wayne), Headland; and Lori Fell (Pat), Theodore, AL; a son, Tim Taylor (Jennifer), Headland; five grandchildren, Kellie Price (Cary), Matt Hamm (Shana), Kaitie Taormina (Tyler), Kathryn Fell and Olivia Fell; three great-grandchildren, Tucker Price, Andrew Stone and Molly Hamm.

Serving as active pallbearers will be Charles McClenney, Frank Granberry, Tim Grace, Tucker Price, Andrew Stone, Don McClendon and Jimmy Hicks. Serving as honorary pallbearers will be the Jack Bridges Sunday School Class.

You may sign a guest register at www.holmanmortuaries.com. Phone 334-693-3371.

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Versie Jones



Mrs. Versie Jones, age 89, of Dothan passed away on June 13, 2020; Drive-thru viewing will be Wednesday, June 17, 2020 4-6 at the funeral home; funeral service will be held on Thursday, June 18, 2020 11:30 AM at the Dothan Tabernacle Church; under the direction of the caring staffs of Scott's Chapel Hill Mortuary "Because We Care".

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Celeste Dominey Kelley

Celeste Dominey Kelley, 87, formerly of Enterprise, Alabama, died June 16, 2020 in Clarksville, Tennessee.

She was born November 25, 1932 in Barbour County, Alabama to Marvin Martin and Evie Shirah Dominey. She was a graduate of the University of Montevallo and the University of Alabama. Mrs. Kelley retired as a Home Economics teacher from Enterprise High School and was a member of First United Methodist Church in Enterprise.

Graveside services will be held Thursday, June 18 at 2:00 pm at Meadowlawn Cemetery, with Searcy Funeral Home directing.

Visitation will be held at Searcy Funeral Home from 12:00-1:30 pm prior to the funeral.

She is survived by her daughter Kay Rye (Will) and three grandsons, Logan, Garrett, and Joshua Rye, all of Clarksville, Tennessee. She was predeceased by her husband Gil Kelley.

You may sign the register book or send condolences to the family at our website: www.searcyfuneralhome.com.

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Trump

From Page 1A

been rushing to respond to the mass demonstrations against police brutality and racial prejudice that have raged for weeks across the country in response to the deaths of Floyd and other black Americans. It's a sudden shift for the Republican Party — and one Democrats are watching warily — that shows how quickly the protests have changed the political conversation and pressured Washington to act.

Continued stand

But Trump, who has faced criticism for failing to acknowledge systemic racial bias and has advocated for rougher police treatment of suspects in the past has continued to emphasize his support for law enforcement. At the signing event, he railed against those who committed violence during the largely peaceful protests and made no mention of racism, while lambasting Democrats in an election year.

Trump's executive order would establish a database that tracks police officers with excessive use of force complaints in their records. And it would give police departments a financial incentive to adopt best practices and encourage co-responder programs, in which social workers join police when they respond to nonviolent calls involving mental health, addiction and homeless issues.

Trump said that, as part of the order, the use of chokeholds would be banned "except if an officer's life is at risk."

However, senior administration officials said the order would instead promote certification bodies that train officers in de-escalation techniques and use-of-force standards that prohibit chokeholds "except in those situations where deadly force is allowed by law." Chokeholds are already largely banned in police departments nationwide.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Donald Trump speaks on police reform Tuesday in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Democrats and other critics said Trump's measure doesn't go far enough.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said it "falls sadly and seriously short of what is required to combat the epidemic of racial injustice and police brutality that is murdering hundreds of black Americans."

"During this moment of national anguish, we must insist on bold change, not meekly surrender to the bare minimum," she said.

Kristina Roth at Amnesty International USA said the order "amounts to a Band-Aid for a bullet wound" at a time when "this moment is calling for transformational change of policing."

Rep. Val Demings, D-Fla., a former Orlando police chief who is seen as a potential vice presidential running mate for Democrat Joe Biden, praised the executive order as "on the right track." But she criticized Trump for failing to acknowledge racism in acts of police brutality and failing to engage the Justice Department in police reforms.

President's alternative

Trump, meanwhile, framed his plan as an alternative to the "defund the police" movement that

has emerged from the protests and which he slammed as "radical and dangerous."

"Americans know the truth: Without police there is chaos. Without law there is anarchy and without safety there is catastrophe," he said.

Trump's audience included police officials and members of Congress, and came after he met privately at the White House with the families of men and women who have been killed in interactions with police.

"To all of the hurting families, I want you to know that all Americans mourn by your side," Trump said. "Your loved ones will not have died in vain."

The Rose Garden announcement comes as Senate Republicans are preparing their own package of policing changes following a rollout by Democrats. Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina, the sole African American Republican in the Senate, has been crafting the GOP legislative package, which will include new restrictions on police chokeholds and greater use of police body cameras, among other provisions.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has called the effort "a serious proposal to reform law enforcement."

Landfill

From Page 1A

of the landfill's new construction, City Manager Kevin Cowper said Dothan may be able start dumping at the site as soon as July.

"This will save us money because it costs more to dispose of the garbage in the private landfill than it will in our own," Cowper said Tuesday.

The city was on track to get the landfill construction project off the ground since 2012, when it committed to purchasing 182 acres to expand the existing landfill and finally purchased it in March 2014.

Since the landfill closed due to capacity concerns in May 2014, the city has transferred its garbage to a collection point, where a contractor has carried it to a privately owned landfill in Campbellton, Florida. The cost of the contract, based on tonnage, began at between \$70,000 and \$80,000 per month but has approached \$1 million per year recently.

Residents opposed

The project has been derailed many times since 2014 to resident opposition and legal challenges.

Two previous permit modifications granted for the landfill expansion in 2016 and 2017 were rescinded by ADEM after residents exposed errors in the notifications provided by ADEM to adjacent landowners.

Before the June 12 hearing, the Dothan landfill hearing record amounted to 1,800 pages, representing 24 witnesses and more than 100 exhibits, briefs and objections. Environmental lawyer David Ludder argued at the Friday hearing on behalf of seven clients, pleading with the commission to uphold the hearing officer's recommendation.

His clients, all property owners near the landfill, opposed the landfill for many reasons. Among their concerns was that the landfill expansion would cause a variety of issues to them and their properties.

In a December 2017 "request for hearing to contest" filing by Ludder, landowners complained that the landfill would:

- » Generate "fugitive dust" that would affect vehicles and homes.
- » Produce odors that are harmful to their health.
- » Attract animals like vultures and insects that have been known to carry diseases.

The current landfill expansion project, nearing completion, has cost around \$6 million. It adds about 8.3 acres to the landfill, but the city has another 12.3 acres designated for two future cell expansions. The current project is expected to extend the landfill's life by about 20 years.

The total size of the landfill after expansion will be about 522 acres.

pay the fine to the Dale County Commission.

Blankenship said he could not comment further on the matter as part of the legal agreement.

Blankenship put McDaniel on administrative leave with pay while the Dale County Commission, its attorney and county officials investigated.

"Today, we actually had the due process hearing, and his attorney and our attorney worked out an agreement to suspend McDaniel 10 days and fine him \$1,000," Blankenship said.

McDaniel is ordered to

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