

# Smith was last seen by his father on Sept. 8

**BODY**  
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Response and a Team Texas K-9 team.

The search followed a winding trail of clothing and personal belongings leading several miles from the abandoned vehicle deep into the densely-wooded area.

The trail grew cold last week, resulting in the temporary suspension of the search on Friday, Sept. 20.

The very next day, on Saturday, Sept. 21, the body was found by a pair of Tallahassee volunteers, who were searching and checking their hunting game cameras in the area.

"Decomposition is a process, and at certain

points of the process, the human body emits gases," Deeson explained when asked how the trained tracking dogs might have been unable to locate the body.

The last memory Will Smith has of his son will be a glimpse in his rearview mirror of Bruce walking into a convenience store.

Bruce Smith was last seen on Sept. 8, when he met with his father at a convenience store in Ocala, one hour north of where they lived in Tavares, Fla.

"I filled his tank and gave him \$10 for food. When I was pulling out, he was going back into the store to get something to eat. When I realized he was not coming home..." a teary-eyed Will Smith paused to

catch his breath. "If I had driven him home...maybe...just maybe, he would not have died on me," the grief-stricken father continued.

The past two weeks have been a nightmare for Bruce Smith's family, as they have traveled to Perry four times to search, while his mother, Donna Smith, stayed in Tavares awaiting her son's return.

"She cleaned the car, cleaned his room. She even washed his laundry," Bruce Smith's sister, Tara Erkert, said.

"She wanted it to be nice for him," stepmother Belinda Smith added.

According to family members, Bruce suffered from schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and manic

depression for more than 23 years and had been self-medicating with street drugs.

"I feel like he was crying for help for so long. We tried, but we should have been more vigilant. It is hard to make an addict dry up until they are willing to do it," Erkert said with a grimace. "Bruce is finally at peace from his demons and in the hands of his savior."

His family remembers him for the "fun, carefree spirit" he was.

"When we named Bruce, we were trying to think of a middle name. We kept going back and forth, back and forth. We thought wait a second, 'Wayne.' We did not think about it after that, but his grandma started calling him 'Batman,'" Will

Smith laughed. "His mom hated it."

"It ended up being his nickname, though," Erkert said.

Bruce Smith was known for his generosity, strong work ethic, cooking skills and love for his family.

"He was too giving. He would go over and beyond. I can't tell you how many times he would give me a gift card for groceries just for the heck of it," Erkert said.

"He knew you needed it, though," Will Smith interrupted.

"Yeah, I was a single mom of two kids for 12 years. He was looking out for me," Erkert added.

In the wake of the tragedy, Bruce's family is clinging to their fond

memories of him, and his once estranged family members are grieving their loss as a united family.

"This was a family divided before all of this happened. There was a lot of butting of heads. I told Belinda three or four days ago that something positive had to come out of all this chaos. Bruce created a miracle by bringing us all together," Erkert said.

Bruce Smith is survived by his mother, Donna Smith, his father and stepmother Will and Belinda Smith, siblings Tara (John) Erkert, Sara (Brian) Erkert, aunts Tracy Harper, and Terry Selg, an uncle Corey McLaughlin, five nephews, Zachary, Nicholas, Justin, Samuel and Seth, and a niece, Naomi.

# Friday's game against Fort White will also be 'Senior Night'

**DOGS**  
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completion, which brought up third and inches. The Bulldogs managed to draw the Baby Rattlers offside to pick up a first down.

Thomas threw to Glanton on first down for a three-yard completion followed by a short gain by McGrew on second down. An incomplete pass brought up 4th and 5 for Taylor County at FAMU's 36-yard line.

Thomas called his own number and appeared to pick up the necessary yards for the first down, but a controversial spot by the official resulted in the Bulldogs turning the ball over on downs.

Taylor's defense

responded by forcing yet another three-and-out, which quickly brought the Bulldog offense back on the field.

McGrew picked up five yards on first down, but a false start penalty on second down erased the gain.

On second down and 10 yards, Thomas hooked up with Glanton for an 8-yard completion, and on 4th and 2 McGrew broke loose for his longest run of the night that went for 16 yards to move the Bulldogs across midfield to the 36-yard line.

Two plays later, McGrew picked up another nine yards on the ground, but an illegal motion penalty turned a 3rd and 1 into a 3rd and 6 followed by an incomplete pass.

Taylor would go for it on

fourth down, and the gamble paid off when Thomas connected with Glanton for a completion of 11 yards and a first down.

Taylor shot themselves in the foot with a holding penalty on first down followed by a 12-yard loss when Thomas lost his footing deep in the backfield.

After making it down to the FAMU 20 yard line, the Bulldogs found themselves backed up to the 43 facing and 2nd and 32.

Glanton came in at quarterback for the final three plays of the series, starting off with an 11-yard scramble, followed by an incomplete pass on 3rd down before throwing the ball up for grabs on 4th down. The pass was picked

off at the Baby Rattlers' 27-yard line, but served as a punt for Taylor.

The Bulldog defense quickly forced their fifth three-and-out of the first half to bring out FAMU's punt team once again.

The Baby Rattler's deep snapper hiked the ball over the punter's head, and a host of Bulldog defenders recovered the ball at FAMU's 27-yard line with about a minute before halftime. Glanton and McGrew would both pick up four yards on the ground, but the gains were erased by a holding call against the Bulldogs.

On 3rd down, Thomas threw an incomplete pass just outside of the red zone before Azerte split the uprights with a 35-yard field goal attempt with 28 seconds remaining in the second quarter.

FAMU tried a deep pass just before the half, but Sante Harris recorded one of his two interceptions on the night to send Taylor County into halftime with a 10-0 lead.

The Bulldogs received the kickoff to begin the second half, and McGrew rushed twice for a total of 11 yards and a first down.

Thomas found Roberts for an eight-yard completion, but that turned out to be the last productive play of the series, as penalties forced Taylor County to punt.

Thomas, who also served as the Bulldogs' punter, nailed a 36-yard punt to put FAMU on their own 21.

FAMU was held to another three-and-out and another short 21-yard punt.

A 14-yard scramble by Thomas led to a 31-yard

completion the following play to Roberts, who made an excellent catch on the Baby Rattler's 19-yard line.

Thomas then had back-to-back rushes for nine and five yards down to the five-yard line, before Taylor County turned the ball over on a muffed snap at the Baby Rattlers' 10-yard line.

The Bulldogs committed a 15-yard personal foul on first down, which set up a 29-yard scamper by FAMU's quarterback.

The Baby Rattlers then committed a personal foul of their own before Sante Harris made his second interception thanks to some QB pressure by Tyler.

Taylor picked up their own 15-yard personal foul penalty for excessive celebration and began their drive at the 31-yard line.

On second down, Thomas threw to Stephens for a 10-yard completion before allowing his lone interception of the game to slip two plays later.

A Bulldogs' personal foul at the end of the play, combined with FAMU rushing for 14 yards and yet another penalty against Taylor helped give FAMU a first down on the Bulldogs' eight yard line.

Two plays later, on the first play of the fourth quarter, FAMU's quarterback scrambled for a 3-yard touchdown to pull the Baby Rattlers within 10-6.

After the ensuing kickoff, McGrew rushed for 13 yards and picked up an additional 15 due to a personal foul against the Baby Rattlers.

Two plays later, McGrew broke loose for nine yards, which set up a nine-yard

completion from Thomas to Glanton moving the Bulldogs to the FAMU six-yard line.

On first and goal, Kevin Thoms called his own number, scrambling for the remaining six yards to increase Taylor's lead to 17-6, following a successful PAT by Azerte with just under 10 minutes left in the game.

FAMU's offense threatened to close the gap with a long 23-yard pass play, but two plays later FAMU's quarterback was sacked for an eight-yard loss by Tahj Clark.

On 4th and 17, the Baby Rattler's completed a 16-yard pass to come up just one yard short of the first down with eight minutes left in the ball game.

After McGrew rushed for nine yards on first down and was thrown for a two-yard loss, the Bulldogs committed three consecutive false start penalties followed by a bad snap that led to a turnover, giving FAMU great starting field position at the Taylor County 29-yard line.

A stingy Bulldog defense held for three downs, and on 4th down Camron Upshaw came up with an interception at the 18-yard line to seal the win with just over four minutes remaining.

Taylor kept the ball on the ground and ate up some clock before being forced to punt. Thomas nailed a 36-yarder, before FAMU came back on offense trailing by 11 points with under two minutes to play.

JW Hudson came up with a huge sack that ended the Baby Rattler's hopes of a come back.

Two plays later, FAMU attempted to force a pass that Travin Barnes intercepted to seal the 17-6 victory for the Bulldogs.

Riding a three-game winning streak, Taylor County will host Fort White this Friday night in Dorsett Stadium beginning at 7 p.m. The game will also serve as "Senior Night" for the Bulldogs.

Senior members of JROTC, band, majorettes, color guard, cheerleaders and the football team will be recognized during pre-game ceremonies that begin at 6:20 p.m.



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If you are in search of the best – and I mean THE BEST – rodent and bug deterrent, look no further! Hi, I am Lucy Bell, and I am a 1-year-old black and white female cat. As a girl cat, I am the alpha predator of the domesticated felines. I will stalk, chase and eat what ever critters you don't want around coming into or around your house. In return, I only ask that you feed me as often as I like, let me chase your untied shoelaces and only rub my belly when I say it's okay. P.S. Please don't freak when I leave my prize-catches at your door – I am only making sure you are well fed.

Lucy Bell is available for adoption at the **Taylor County Animal Shelter at 302 W. Maurice Linton Rd. in Perry. Call (850) 838-3525** for more information.

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## NOTICE OF ROAD CLOSURE

**Please be advised that effective Friday, Sept. 27th Four Rivers Land & Timber Company LLC ("Four Rivers") will close Cooks Hammock Grade to general public access.**

**Although Four Rivers has previously permitted the general public to jointly, along with Four Rivers, use Cooks Hammock Grade (located between Red Padgett Road and Highway 51 in Lafayette County), this private grade will no longer be accessible to the public at large.**

**Gates will be locked on this date (Sept. 27) and will be routinely monitored by Four Rivers' staff, as well as law enforcement officials.**

**Four Rivers realizes the closure of this private road may cause some inconvenience, but we encourage individuals who currently utilize this route on a routine basis to begin using an alternate public roadway.**

**RICKY BOBBY'S TOWING LLC.**  
**Towing, Recovery & Lockouts**

**Ricky Norman**  
Owner/Operator

118 East Center Street • P.O. Box 1182, Perry, FL 32348  
r.norman33@yahoo.com  
**(850) 843-0395**

## LEGALS

(continued from page 10)

**AUCTION SALE NOTICE**  
To: Letty Blanco, Unit D-01  
Debra McGrew, Unity 2-28  
Valisha Chitwood, unit 4A-52  
Taylor Storage Center, 3498 Hwy 19 S. Suite 1, Perry, FL 32348, has possessory lien on all of the goods stores in the prospective units above. All these items of personal property are being sold pursuant to the assertion of the lien on October 12, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. in order to collect the amounts due from you. The sale will take place at 3948 Hwy 19 S. Suite 1, Perry, FL 32348. 9/25, 10/2

**HEARINGS** OCTOBER 7, 2019 AT 6:05 P.M. TO RECEIVE PUBLIC INPUT AND NOTIFY THE PUBLIC OF THE POSSIBLE GRANT APPLICATION TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION, FLORIDA RECREATION DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, FOR THE 2020-2021 FUNDING CYCLE REQUESTING FUNDING ASSISTANCE FOR THE REHABILITATION OF SOUTH SIDE PARK. THE COUNTY WILL BE REQUIRED TO WORK WITHIN THE GUIDELINES SET FORTH BY THE FLORIDA RECREATION DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR ANY PROJECT WHICH MAY BE SELECTED FOR FUNDING ASSISTANCE. THE FIRST PUBLIC HEARING WAS HELD SEPTEMBER 3, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M. ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND. NOTICE IS FURTHER HEREBY GIVEN,

PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTE 286.0105, THAT ANY PERSON OR PERSONS DECIDING TO APPEAL ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT THIS MEETING WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE HEARING AND MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED. THE PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD IN THE TAYLOR COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM LOCATED AT 201 E. GREEN STREET, PERRY, FLORIDA 32347. ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THIS MATTER SHOULD BE GOVERNED BY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE. PERSONS REQUIRING SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS SHOULD CONTACT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE AT 850-

838- 3500 EXT. 107 NO LATER THAN THREE (3) WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM: MELODY COX , GRANTS WRITER AT melody.cox@taylorcountygov.com OR AT 850-371-0377. 9/25

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**FILE NO. 2019 CP 404**  
IN RE: ESTATE OF BETTY H. PETERSON-TERRELL, Deceased,  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
The administration of the estate of Betty H. Peterson-Terrell, deceased, whose date of death was July 26, 2019, is pending in the Circuit Court for Taylor County, Florida, Probate

Division, Case No. 2019-CP-404, the address of which is 108 North Jefferson Street, Perry, Florida 32347. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.  
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.  
All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this Notice is September 18, 2019.  
Personal Representative:  
June Lee Harper  
28 Brave Drive  
Crawfordville, Florida 32327-2730  
Attorney for Personal Representative:  
Terrence T. Darioitis  
Florida Bar Number 190057  
Darioitis Law  
1695 Metropolitan Circle, Suite 6  
Tallahassee, Florida 32308-8722  
Telephone: (850) 523-9300  
E-mail: terry@darioitislaw.com  
9/18, 9/25