

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Man gets \$900,000 after tractor wreck

parts for the gray market tractors.

HAMILTON — A Marion County jury deliberated about two hours before awarding a man seriously injured in a tractor rollover accident \$900,000.

Randy Nichols, 52, lost his right arm and suffered serious leg and hip fractures when the "gray market" Yanmar tractor rolled over while he was cutting a field with a mowing attachment. A gray market tractor is a tractor built in another country for use in that country.

The narrow wheelbase Yanmar tractor Nichols was operating was light and made for use in Japanese rice fields, according to Susan Silvernail, managing partner of the Birmingham law firm of Marsh, Rickard and Bryan.

The case was tried by attorneys Roger Lucas and Jeff Rickard, a former Florence resident, and Hamilton attorney Bill Atkinson.

"There are still thousands of these gray market tractors which unsuspecting operators are using every day, unaware that these tractors will turn over more easily," Lucas said.

He said the dealer, Artec of Marion County, also was unaware of the hazard the tractor posed. Silvernail said the dealer agreed to settle their portion of the case for \$550,000.

The case was filed against Yanmar Diesel Engine Co. The \$900,000 verdict was against Yanmar America, which at one time provided