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The Cullman Tribune

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VOL. 147 • 50¢ PER COPY | FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2020 | USPS 139-700 • NO. 233

–EDUCATION–

STUDENTS COMPETE IN FCCLA ALL COUNTY BEEF COOK-OFF



STEPHANIE BLAIR

Left to right are Bailey Sharp, Allison Milligan, Alexus Wells, Piper Stricklin and Kailey Coffey.

» PAGE 3

– ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT –

'WE ARE MORE SUCCESSFUL WORKING TOGETHER'

CEDA receives Excellence in Economic Development Award from IEDC for partnership with HomTex

W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Left to right are Cullman Economic Development Agency (CEDA) Director Dale Greer, CEDA's Jamie Troutman, HomTex Founder Jerry Wootten, HomTex President and CFO Jeremy Wootten, CEDA's Belinda Hyatt and CEDA's Stanley Kennedy.

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – The Cullman Economic Development Agency (CEDA) in a small ceremony at Cullman City Hall on Thursday revealed it won a gold category award for its public-private partnership to assist HomTex. This project was in the Public-Private Partnerships category of the International Economic Development Council's (IEDC's) 2020 Excellence in Economic Development Awards Program. The honor was presented at an awards ceremony in October during the IEDC Annual Conference, which was held virtually.

When the COVID-19 crisis struck, HomTex knew it could do something to help. HomTex, manufacturer of DreamFit sheets, is a leading innovator in the global textiles industry. Instead of sitting idly by, the leaders at HomTex engaged their entrepreneurial spirit. Because of its international relationships and domestic infrastructure, HomTex was able to locate automatic production equipment in China to produce masks to combat COVID-19.

The total cost of the equipment was $4.5 million. To secure this equipment, a deposit of $1.5 » PAGE 3

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Commission loosens Dumpster regulation restrictions



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Commissioner Kerry Watson (on screen) attended Thursday night's meeting from his home due to being in quarantine.

» PAGE 5

– ARTS –

The show WILL go on!

Cullman High School Theatre announces Steve Martin's 'Bright Star' coming in January

» PAGE 8

LIFESTYLE

Explore: Take a stroll around Lions Club Park



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Xena The Tribune Park Puppy checks out the grounds of Lions Club Park on Cullman's southeast side.

» PAGE 5

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Nov. 19

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported Nov. 19, 2020. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

GJ = grand jury; **FTA** = failure to appear

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Nov. 16

- domestic violence, criminal mischief; CR 15
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance, unlawful possession of marijuana; CR 1367
- illegal possession of prescription drugs; Hwy. 157
- trespassing; CR 998
- harassment, trespassing; CR 1101
- theft of property; CR 509
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance; CR 1114
- trespassing; Hwy. 278 W
- theft of property; Hwy. 31
- possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 226
- domestic violence; Hwy. 157
- unlawful breaking and entering of a motor vehicle; CR 1435

Nov. 17

- criminal mischief; CR 1289
- dog bite; Tillery Road
- permitting dogs to run at large; CR 1659
- theft of property; Hwy. 157
- burglary; CR 248
- criminal mischief, trespassing; CR 386
- domestic violence, criminal mischief; CR 1352
- theft of property; Hwy. 278 E
- domestic violence; CR 641

Nov. 18

- menacing; CR 704
- harassment, criminal mischief; CR 234
- illegal use of a debit card; CR 437
- theft of property; CR 1332
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, receiving stolen property; CR 421
- attempting to elude; Apple Grove Road

ARRESTS

Nov. 16

Bartee, Katherine Loveda, 38

- FTA- third-degree burglary
- DUI- alcohol and controlled substance
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Bell, Christopher Shaunn A., 31

- FTA- third-degree burglary
- FTA- first-degree theft of property

Bevington, Ronald Eric, 52

- second-degree receiving stolen property (2 counts)
- third-degree receiving stolen property

Cheatham, Nathan Ray, 28

- third-degree burglary

Hurst, Bradley Justin, 35

- third-degree burglary (4 counts)
- second-degree theft of property

Mason, Kimberly Denise, 44

- illegal possession of prescription medicine
- public intoxication

Moore Jr., Ted Franklin, 28

- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Reid, James Wallace, 27

- FTA- improper equipment

Smith, Jonathan Kerry, 46

- FTA- driving while revoked
- FTA- expired tag
- FTA- improper taillights
- FTA- tag light required

Smith, Kenneth Ski, 48

- FTA- driving while revoked

Sparks, Timothy Jean, 19

- electronic solicitation of a child
- possession of obscene matter- 17 YOA
- second-degree sodomy

Williams Jr., Theodore Vann, 32

- FTA- driving while revoked

Nov. 17

Boyd, Lacie Michele, 24

- second-degree theft of property

Brant, Melissa Anne, 43

- drug court sanction- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Brizendine, Christopher Neal, 46

- FTA- third-degree criminal trespassing (2 counts)
- FTA- third-degree domestic violence- harassment
- driving without a license
- FTA- identity theft
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)
- FTA- second-degree promoting prison contraband
- FTA- proof of liability insurance required
- FTA- fourth-degree receiving stolen property
- FTA- third-degree theft of property
- FTA- fourth-degree theft of property (2 counts)
- FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Creasey, Griffin Eli, 24

- FTA- driving while suspended

Crumb, Lashaundra Denise, 28

- drug court sanction- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Green, Michael Jason, 37

- drug court sanction- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Grubb, Christopher Charles, 27

- felon registration- change of address

Lewis, Alonzo Michael, 26

- FTA- third-degree receiving stolen property

Peak, Robert Alan, 29

- second-degree theft of property

Smith, Zackery Daniel, 34

- discharging a firearm into an occupied/unoccupied building or vehicle (3 counts)

Thomas, Charles Chase, 29

- FTA- speeding

Nov. 18

Brown, James Raymond, 38

- FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Carpenter, Corey Matthew, 31

- illegal possession or use of a credit or debit card

Farrow, Chelsea Ruby Jean, 31

- possession of drug paraphernalia
- fourth-degree receiving stolen property
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Frost, Matthew Zechariah, 36

- FTA- unlawful breaking and entering of a motor vehicle (with theft)

McGriff, Derek Scott, 36

- writ of arrest- child support

Priest, Jason Reverda, 44

- DUI- influence of alcohol

Ricketts, Stacy Spencer, 34

- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- second-degree promoting prison contraband
- FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
- FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Riddle, Howard Scott, 44

- FTA- driving while revoked

Weaver, Aaron Robert, 35

- FTA- first-degree theft of property

Woods, Arron Blake, 20

- FTA- driving while suspended (2 counts)

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

No incidents reported.

ARRESTS

Nov. 18

Burns, Jonathan S., 39

- third-degree theft of property

Morin, Carol D., 35

- FTA- fourth-degree theft of property

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No incidents or arrests reported.

Find arrest reports online Monday-Friday at www.CullmanTribune.com.

COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS

Thursday, Nov. 19, 2020 COVID-19 update from the Alabama Department of Public Health's COVID-19 Data and Surveillance Dashboard

- Total confirmed cases in AL: 189,461 (+1,838 since yesterday)
- Probable cases in AL: 36,449 (+586 since yesterday)
- Total confirmed deaths in AL: 3,123 (+50 since yesterday)
- Probable deaths in AL: 296
- Total confirmed cases in Cullman Co.: 2,915 (+35 since yesterday)
- Probable cases in Cullman Co.: 1,025 (-2 since yesterday)
- Total confirmed deaths in Cullman Co.: 26 (+1 since yesterday)
- Probable deaths in Cullman Co.: 6
- Total tested in Cullman Co.: 23,953
- Total tested in the last 14 days in Cullman Co.: 2,819
- Cases in the last 14 days in Cullman Co.: 955
- Total tested in Alabama: 1,496,717
- Cases in the last 14 days in Alabama: 27,236
- Total tested in the last 14 days in Alabama: 119,388
- Currently hospitalized in Alabama: 1,315
- Cumulative no. of hospitalizations in Alabama: 23,295
- Presumed recoveries in Alabama (reported weekly): 90,702

See more details at https://bit.ly/2VjCQbP.

Thursday, Nov. 19 COVID-19 update from Cullman Regional

- 54 positive patients, with 12 currently on ventilators
- Cullman Regional has reported 40 COVID deaths to the ADPH. Of these patients, 31 were from Cullman County.

Friday, Nov. 13, 2020 COVID-19 update from Alabama's K-12 COVID-19 School Dashboard

- Total cases reported by Cullman City Schools last week: 26
- Total cases reported by Cullman County Schools last week: 67

See more details at https://bit.ly/31Z4uhd.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Submit your calendar items or public notices to wendy@cullmantribune.com

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings
The Grace of God group of Alcoholics Anonymous has open AA meetings (all are welcome) Monday and Thursday nights from 7-8 p.m. at the Carriage House, located next to Grace Episcopal Church, 305 Arnold St. NE Cullman. Contact phone numbers: 256-347-1097, 256-841-2209 or 256-708-1340

Church Services

- Spirit Life Church of GOD, 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
- Prayer meetings- Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Please join us to pray or come for prayer.
- "Events of the End Times" Bible study with Pastor Bobby Dodd- Wednesdays at 6 p.m.
- Sunday mornings- 10 a.m. adult, youth and children's classes; 11 a.m. children's classes; praise and worship, and message by Pastor Bobby Dodd

Cullman Moose Lodge Annual Turkey Shoots
At the Lodge on Eva Road at 8 a.m. every Saturday through Dec. 5. There will also be a special shoot Thanksgiving Day. Proceeds from these events will go to benefit the Lodge Special Projects Fund and local charities. Call 256-318-3013 for additional details or information.

Wallace State Future Foundation Student Investment Lunch-In and Auction

- The online auction will take place through Dec. 3, with anyone welcome to bid on items.
- The Lunch-In will be catered by Seasoned Catering and The Historic Bakery. The menu includes stuffed pork loin with bacon, Swiss cheese, sundried tomato and bacon citrus cream, green beans almondine, roasted baby red and gold potatoes, house made rolls and a gourmet red velvet cookie for dessert.
- The drive-thru event will be held Dec. 2 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the new Traditions Bank Operations Center at the corner of Third Avenue Northwest and First Street Northwest in Cullman. Deliveries will be made to Legacy, Premier and Gold sponsors on the date of their choice between Dec. 7-18.
- Sponsorship levels range from the $50 Fund a Need Sponsor to the $25,000 Legacy Sponsor, which pledges $5,000 annually for five years. Any donation will be gladly accepted, and donations can be earmarked to a specific scholarship fund of your choice.
- Visit www.wsccfuturefoundation.org/sil20 to register for the event, to access the online auction or make donations.
- Reservations for lunch should be made by Nov. 20. Call 256-352-7842 for more information or visit www.wsccfuturefoundation.org/sil20.

2nd Annual Christmas at the Grotto

- Christmas lights return to the Grotto! Come and experience the beauty of Br. Joseph's work at night surrounded by lights and music! We have expanded this unique holiday experience throughout the grounds and have added several dates!
- On Dec. 19, we will have a Christmas Crafts Fair in our parking lot, plus have live musical performances throughout the park!
- Coffee and cookies will be available each night. Make your plans to visit now!
- Ave Maria Grotto, 1600 St. Bernard Drive SE, Cullman

- Dates
Dec. 3,4,5 – 4-9 p.m.
Dec. 10,11,12 - 4-9 p.m.
Dec. 17,18 - 4-9 p.m.
Dec. 19 – noon-9 p.m.
Dec. 26 - 4-9 p.m.
Dec. 30,31 - 4-9 p.m.

- Admission
Adults - $6
Students - $3
Children 3 and younger - free

Vinemont Band Booster Craft Show

- Friday, Nov. 20 from 9 a.m.-7 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 21 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Cullman Church of Christ, 4345 AL Hwy. 157, Cullman, AL 35058
- Free admission. Door prizes and concessions. $500 cash raffle at noon Nov. 21.

Turkey Plunge

- Join the Friends of the Public Libraries of Cullman County for its Freezin' for a Reason event, the Turkey Plunge, by running/walking into the chilly waters of Smith Lake Saturday, Nov. 21 at Smith Lake Park.
- "Turkeys" of all ages are invited to take the plunge and participate in the "coolest" event of the season.
- The event is open to the public, requiring registration and a $15 entry fee payable on the day of the event. ($10 per additional family member) On-site registration will be from 9:15-10 a.m. prior to the event. Plungers are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items that will be donated to the Cullman Caring for Kids Food Bank. Each entrant will receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win a $25 gift certificate (total of five).
- At the "Gobble," the plungers will run/walk into the ice-cold Smith Lake waters from the Smith Lake Park beach. There is no time limit to remain in the water – and no specific depth to reach.
- Social distancing will be required during the Plunge.

Christmas in the Warehouse District

- Saturday, Nov. 21 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Christmas fun, shopping and eating in the Warehouse District!

Saving Forgotten Warriors Thanksgiving Dinner for Veterans

- Monday, Nov. 23 from noon-6 p.m. at the Brandin' Iron restaurant in West Point (87 County Road 1242) and Cullman Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2214 (112 Veterans Dr. SW). Opening prayers at 11:30.
- All veterans are welcome to come out for a traditional Thanksgiving meal. Meals will also be available for carryout at the VFW, and meals will be delivered to homebound veterans by Cullman County Sheriff's Office staff.
- All veterans, their spouses, their caregivers, Gold Star family members, widows of veterans and veterans' children 18 and younger are welcome to come out and enjoy the Thanksgiving meal. Everyone is encouraged to wear masks and adhere to social distancing guidelines.
- Those who would like to pick up orders or would like a meal delivered to their home can call the Brandin' Iron at 256-739-1112 or Saving Forgotten Warriors at 256-747-5006.

Fairview Lions Club Turkey Shoot

- Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 26 at 7 a.m. at the Clinton Barbee Field (old pool field) on Wesley Avenue in Fairview starting
- We will shoot for turkeys and hams- $4 a shot. We are also selling chances on a Savage Bolt Action 270 rifle with a 22" barrel and case. Drawing will be after the turkey shoot. Tickets are $1 each or 6 for $5. All proceeds will go to the Fairview Lions Club Project Fund. For more info, call Kita at 256-385-8805.

Cullman Regional Foundation Dr. Herman C. Ensor Lights of Love Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

- Thursday, Dec. 3 at 6 p.m. The annual event is normally held on the Cullman Regional campus, but this year it will be virtual and live streamed on the Cullman Regional Foundation's Facebook page.
- Giving a gift of love of $20, $40, $60 or more places a light on the Christmas tree at Cullman Regional as a tribute to someone special. These tax-deductible gifts help support the Foundation's mission of advancing health care services at the medical center.
- Donations may be contributed throughout the entire holiday season; gifts received by Tuesday, Dec. 1 will be included in the special ceremony. Contributions may be made in memory of or in honor of someone special.
- To donate, go to www.cullmanregional.com/foundation/events or call the Foundation at 256-737-2565 for more information.

City of Hanceville Christmas Tree Lighting
Friday, Dec. 4 at 5 p.m. at Veterans Park

Christmas in Cullman Parade/Tree Lighting

- Friday, Dec. 4 from 5-9 p.m. in downtown Cullman, Depot Park
- During the event, we will feature a mini Christkindlmarkt, and kids will be able to get their photos taken with Santa!

Cullman County Bosom Buddies Foundation Mastectomy Bra and Prothesis 2-Hour Sale Fundraiser

- Saturday, Dec. 5 from 10 a.m.-noon at the Cullman VFW, 112 Veterans Drive SW
- We will have:

1. New mastectomy bras, in various sizes, for a minimum donation of $10
2. New, in box, prostheses in various sizes for a minimum donation of $25

- If you use these products, this is a great deal for you!

31st Annual Cullman County Christmas Parade

- Saturday, Dec. 5 at noon, along U.S Highway 31 from Wallace State to Hanceville Fire Station no. 1

Kids Loving Kids

- Dec. 12 at Spirit Life Church of GOD, 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
- A community outreach that provides clothes and toys for children and teens. Help us provide for those in need by donating gently used clothes or toys, new toys or cash! Bring donations to the church Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Call Joanne at 256-339-4138 to arrange a different time to drop items off. Call Alisha at 205-717-7478 to arrange for pick-up. To register to receive these items, sign up on Kids Loving Kid's Facebook page or go to https://form.jotform.com/202483601332041.



The Cullman Tribune
Cullman County's Oldest Business, Serving the area since 1874
Publication Number USPS-139-700
Telephone: 256-739-1351 Fax: 1-256-739-4422
Humble Roots, LLC
Published Tuesday - Saturday at 219 2nd Avenue SE, Cullman, Alabama 35055 Entered as periodical material at the Cullman Post Office Periodical postage paid at Cullman, Alabama 35055
POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGE TO:
The Cullman Tribune
219 Second Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Email Address: robin@cullmantribune.com

ANNUALLY BASED RATES

Cullman.....$100.00
Outside Cullman.....$150.00

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FCCLA (from Front)

Stephanie Blair
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Students from all over Cullman County on Wednesday, Nov. 18 met at the All Steak Restaurant for the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) All County Beef Cook-Off, sponsored by the Cullman County Cattlewomen's Association.

Participating schools were Cold Springs High School, Cullman Area Technology Academy (CATA), Cullman High School, Hanceville High School, West Point High School and Vinemont High School.

Students had to prepare a main dish with at least 1 pound of beef in the recipe.

Cold Springs' Bailey Sharp placed first and will represent Cullman County at the Alabama State Cattlemen's Beef Cook-off in Montgomery.

Other winners were Allison Milligan (second place) from West Point, Alexus Wells (third place) from West Point, Piper Stricklin (fourth place) from Cold Springs and Kailey Coffey (fifth place) from Cold Springs.

The students were supported by FCCLA sponsors Amie Veal from CATA, Stephanie Blair from Cold Springs, Carin Rains from Cullman, Amy Chambers from Hanceville, Renee Lee from West Point and Tammy Whittle from Vinemont.

CEDA (from Front)

million was required. HomTex could not produce this amount immediately because most of its capital had been invested in new product lines that were ready to launch prior to the pandemic. HomTex contacted CEDA. The Industrial Development Board of the City of Cullman and Cullman County Industrial Development Authority met to discuss how they could help this local industry. These groups loaned HomTex the $1.5 million to secure the equipment. After a public hearing, seven days later, the City of Cullman repaid the boards and assumed the loan. Approximately two months after the public loan, HomTex repaid the full $1.5 million, plus interest.

Said Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs, "The partnership with HomTex won this award because community leaders leapt into action and made this project happen. We didn't sit around and talk about it for days and days. After being approached by HomTex, we found a solution."

HomTex Founder Jerry Wootten said he believes one legacy of the COVID-19 pandemic will be a better understanding of the strategic importance of the U.S. textile industry and its production capabilities.

"If anything good can come from this situation, it's that the country begins to realize that our domestic textile industry has just about vanished, and that has caused a strategic disadvantage in our supply of PPE," he said.

CEDA Director Dale Greer said, "Success of a local industry is good for everyone. It provides direct and indirect jobs, and capital investment in the community. This public-private partnership has served as an example to everyone that things can happen when we all work together."

IEDC's Excellence in Economic Development Awards recognize the world's best economic development programs and partnerships, marketing materials, and the year's most influential leaders. Thirty-five award categories honor organizations and individuals for their efforts in creating positive change in urban, suburban and rural communities. Awards are judged by a diverse panel of economic and community developers from around the world, following a nomination process held earlier this year.

"The winners of IEDC's Excellence in Economic Development awards represent the very best of economic development and exemplify the ingenuity, integrity and leadership that our profession strives for each and every day", said 2020 IEDC Board Chair and One Columbus CEO Kenny McDonald. "We're honored to recognize the more than 100 communities whose marketing campaigns, projects and partnerships have measurably improved regional quality of life."

In his opening remarks, Greer acknowledged the project undertaken by HomTex's Jerry and Jeremy Wootten and their staff, along with the contributions and/or presence of a number of people who have supported the project:

- Congressman Robert Aderholt's Office, represented by Paul Housel
- Kristi Bain of Alabama Industrial Development Training
- Cullman County Commission Chairman Jeff Clemons
- Cullman County Commissioner Garry Marchman
- Mayor Woody Jacobs and the Cullman City Council
- City and County Industrial Development Boards
- President Dr. Vicki Karolewics and Kristen Holmes of Wallace State Community College
- Peggy Smith and Kay Shabel of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce
- Cullman County Economic Development Director Bradley Williams
- CEDA, with special recognition to the work of Jamie Troutman

Greer told the audience, "The Cullman community has built a reputation of supporting and growing existing industry. Cullman County ranks among the best counties in Alabama every year for the number of expanding companies and the jobs they create. Today we are here to celebrate another existing industry/community partnership achievement. The International Economic Development Council has honored our community and HomTex for the HomTex project that resulted in the production of disposable face masks to combat the coronavirus. IEDC is the largest professional economic development group in existence with more than 5,000 members worldwide. Every year the organization reviews economic development projects around the globe and recognizes those of particular significance. The HomTex project was honored with a gold medal as a public/private partnership success story other communities should copy."

He continued, "Out of all of the economic development projects in the world last year, Cullman and HomTex received a gold medal. Less than 100 projects were honored across the globe in communities, in major metropolitan areas to rural towns."

Greer cited the work of the city and county industrial development boards in the HomTex project, saying, "The City wanted to provide the loan funds, but could not do it without a seven-day public hearing notice; HomTex would have lost the opportunity in that waiting period. The City encouraged the two boards to make the loan and said they would reimburse the funds the following week. The City IDB pledged $1 million, and the County the other $500,000. Neither board could have made the loan by themselves. It proved again: partnerships make things happen. We are more successful working together."

About the International Economic Development Council

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is a nonprofit, non-partisan membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 5,000 members, IEDC is the largest organization of its kind. Economic developers promote economic well-being and quality of life for their communities, by creating, retaining and expanding jobs that facilitate growth, enhance wealth and provide a stable tax base. From public to private, rural to urban and local to international, IEDC's members are engaged in the full range of economic development experience. When we succeed, our members create high-quality jobs, develop vibrant communities, and improve the quality of life in their regions. Learn more at iedconline.org.

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LEGALS

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given to all owners, secured parties and lienholders of the following described motor vehicle, which I have a right to sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, in accordance with the State of Alabama abandoned vehicle law, Statues, Chapter 13, Section 1-8, Title

1994 Toyota Pickup, blue, Vin. #JT4RN81A3R5196515.

This vehicle will be sold on Tuesday, December 29, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., unless all towing, storage and repair fees are paid before sale date. The sale will take place at Ponder's Wrecker Service, 2600 Alabama Highway 157, Cullman, Alabama 35058.

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given to all owners, secured parties and lienholders of the following described motor vehicles, which I have a right to sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, in accordance with the State of Alabama abandoned vehicle law, Statues, Chapter 13, Section 1-8, Title 32 and Alabama Law Act Number 83-494-S-80.

1998 Chevy Blazer, Vin. #1GNCD13W1W2243592
1997 4 Runner, Vin. #JT3GN86R9V0026175
2004 Mazda MPV, Vin. #JM3LW28A140528891
2008 GMC Yukon, Vin. #1GKFC13J28R146326
2010 Nissan Altima, Vin. #1N4AL2APXAN510935
2003 Ford Mustang, Vin. #1FAFP44483F404889
2018 Chevy Malibu, Vin. #1G1ZB5ST9JF281924
2001 Ford Explorer, Vin. #1FMYU70E51UB46475
2002 Mitsubishi Galant, Vin. #4A3AA46G82E139017
2008 Chevy Cobalt, Vin. #1G1AS18H897239067

These vehicles will be sold to pay storage and or repair fee at Smith's Body Shop and Wrecker Service, LLC, 11597 US Highway 278 East, Holly Pond, Alabama, 35083, on Thursday, December 31, 2020, at 8:00 a.m.

PB WIL BK 98 PG 836 - 11/12/2020 02:14 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
MELVIN CLYDE SMITH, JR. * CASE NO PC 2020-319
Deceased *

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary of said deceased having been granted to **Amy Whaley a/k/a Amy Brown**, as Personal Representatives of the Estate of Melvin Clyde Smith, Jr., deceased, on the 18th day of November, 2020, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate Court of Cullman County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Amy Whaley a/k/a Amy Brown
Personal Representative

G. Edward Coey
Attorney for Personal Representative
PO Box 834
Hanceville, Alabama 35077

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

STATE OF Alabama
COUNTY OF CULLMAN

Default having been made of the terms of the loan documents secured by that certain mortgage executed by Garry Smith Wife Carolyn Alldredge Smith Paul Mack Aldredge Single to CitiFinancial Corporation, LLC dated July 31, 2002; said mortgage being recorded on August 1, 2002, in Book 1258, Page 311 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Corp. by assignment recorded in Deed Book 340, Page 492 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.

The undersigned, J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Corp., under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Court House in Cullman County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on the 4th day of December, 2020 the following property, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

A part of the Southeast quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 11, Township 9 South, Range 1 East, described as follows:

Beginning at the Southeast corner of the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 11, Township 9 South, Range 1 East; thence North along the East line of said forty 126 2/3 yards to the point of beginning; thence West to the center of the Arab-Oneonta Highway; thence North along the center of said highway 210 yards; thence East 71 yards to the East line of said forty; thence South along the East line of said forty 210 yards to the point of beginning, containing 2.9 acres more or less, in Cullman County, Alabama.

Said property is commonly known as 1224 Us 231 S, Arab, AL 35016.

Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description the legal description will control.

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, all outstanding liens for public utilities which constitute liens upon the property, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, easements, rights-of-way, zoning ordinances, restrictions, special assessments, covenants, the statutory right of redemption pursuant to Alabama law, and any matters of record including, but not limited to, those superior to said Mortgage first set out above. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The successful bidder must present certified funds in the amount of the winning bid at the time and place of sale.

Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process.

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Mortgage.

J.P. MORGAN MORTGAGE ACQUISITION CORP.
as holder of said mortgage
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC
Two North Twentieth
2 20th Street North, Suite 1000
Birmingham, AL 35203
(800) 275-7171
FT21@mccalla.com
File No. 9274320
www.foreclosurehotline.net

Cullman Tribune
11/06/2020,11/13/2020,11/20/2020

PB MIN BK 192 PG 243 - 11/12/2020 02:14 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
STANLEY JOHNSON, * CASE NO PC-2020-318
*
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Administration having been granted to Samantha McCain, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Stanley Johnson, Deceased, on the 18th day of November, 2020, by Tammy Brown, Probate Judge. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all persons having claim against the said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Samantha McCain
Personal Representative

C. Blake West
Attorney for the Estate
1701 Main Avenue, SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055

TO: **The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune**

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

PB WIL BK 98 PG 845 - 11/19/2020 02:22 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
LAWRENCE EDWARD SHELTON * CASE NO PC 2020-331
Deceased *

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary of said deceased having been granted to **Diana Marie Coleman**, as Personal Representatives of the Estate of Lawrence Edward Shelton, deceased, on the 18th day of November, 2020, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate Court of Cullman County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Diana Marie Coleman
Personal Representative

Beverly Paschal Poston
Attorney for Personal Representative
200 1st Avenue, SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
NOVEMBER 20, 2020

Free lunches extended through school year: Rollout at Cullman City Schools sees great interest, curbside expansion

Cullman City Schools
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. - All students in Alabama were set to receive free lunches through the end of the calendar year — and that's now been extended through the entire school year due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. In Cullman City Schools, the program's expansion came as welcome news for students and families navigating the challenges of 2020.

Dreama Young, the city schools' Child Nutrition director, said families have been receptive to the program, noting it's been a great help for our community.

The expansion is part of a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) initiative, which extended flexibilities to allow free meals to continue to be available to all children throughout the entire 2020-2021 school year.

The unprecedented move is part of USDA's efforts to ensure all children across the country have access to nutritious food as the nation continues through the pandemic.

"We have many excited students and parents. This is definitely helping families during this COVID craziness, just being one less thing for them to worry about," Young explained.

"The feedback from families has been phenomenal. They are so appreciative and thankful, and it's such a huge relief during this trying time.

"I also have to give credit to my hardworking, motivated staff.

"They love these kids and are going above and beyond to do all they can to keep everyone fed under unusual and uncommon circumstances."

Young said they've seen more traditional on-campus students taking advantage of school lunches this year, while meals are also available for curbside pickup for students who are sent home to quarantine or are doing their classes virtually this year.

The feeding program also provided meals to local students and families while school was out during the summer.

"For example, at Cullman High School, where the students are on a hybrid schedule, we send home breakfasts and lunches for the remote days when they are not attending in-class instruction.

"We've also recently started sending home weekend meals and holiday meals at some schools, depending on whether we have enough food from our distributors," Young explained.

"We really want to stress these curbside meals are available to students that are quarantined or attending virtually.

"Also, any child under 18 can pick up these meals, so families could benefit if they have toddlers at home, or in preschool."

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue said in a statement that the hope is the expansion of these feeding programs will help ensure students and families are able to get through the pandemic.



CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS

"As our nation recovers and reopens, we want to ensure that children continue to receive the nutritious breakfasts and lunches they count on during the school year wherever they are, and however they are learning," Perdue said in a statement.

"We are grateful for the heroic efforts by our school food service professionals who are consistently serving healthy meals to kids during these trying times, and we know they need maximum flexibility right now."



JOYCE NIX/ST. BERNARD PREP SCHOOL

St. Bernard Prep School affirms commitment to in-person instruction

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – St. Bernard Prep School this week affirmed its commitment to continuing in-person instruction as long as possible while remaining mindful of issues related to COVID-19 and in compliance with state mandates. The school has a strict mask policy for students in classrooms and buildings, and for faculty and staff working in close proximity to students. Classrooms are cleaned and sanitized each evening, and students and faculty have access to hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes throughout the day.

So far, the measures seem to be working; while several students and teachers have been quarantined after exposures that occurred outside of school, no one at the school has yet been diagnosed with COVID.

St. Bernard Headmaster Fr. Joel Martin, who discussed continuation of in-person classes with faculty on Wednesday, told The Tribune in a message, "St. Bernard Prep School is committed to the well-being of each of its students, and that includes on-campus education, for which there is no substitute. Education happens best when a teacher and a student interact in person. During this time of COVID-19 concerns, we at St. Bernard heed all the professionally recommended precautions such as facemasks and distance between persons.

"We have been blessed by having no student or staff member test positive for the virus, though a few have been in quarantine for the recommended two-week period after having been in significant contact with a person who has tested positive for the virus."

Even while students and faculty members have been in quarantine, their respective opportunities to learn and teach have continued through the use of classroom technology and Google Classroom, by which quarantined teachers have lectured to classes of students, and students at home have been able to join their classmates at school virtually.

Said Fr. Martin, "Our faculty have been trained for distance learning for students in such conditions and are conducting and videoing regular classes online for them, including student-teacher interaction. To keep their online skills sharp, teachers conduct their classes in that fashion even when no student is absent."

Before the start of school this year, Fr. Martin said, "Times are a bit challenging, but St. Bernard has been in Cullman since 1891, living through two world wars, an influenza pandemic in the early 20th century and many national and local upsets, but we're here, and will be, carrying out our mission of offering the best and fullest education possible: something that is found in Catholic schools – and nowhere else on earth."

St. Bernard Preparatory in Cullman is a co-ed college prep school, grades 7-12 for day and boarding students, operated by the monks of St. Bernard Abbey since 1891, and open to people of any creed, nation or race. For more information, visit https://stbernardprep.com or call 256-739-6682.





Park (from Front)

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

Recently, The Tribune set out to explore all the many beautiful parks within Cullman County. We'll visit one each week.

CULLMAN, Ala. – Lions Club Park, located in southeast Cullman at 1315 Seventh St., is perhaps the greatest picnic spot of Cullman's neighborhood parks. Formerly known as East Side Park, this 4.5-acre park has an updated playground, ball field and plenty of picnic tables for a family outing.

The many picnic tables are scattered throughout the park and covered by plenty of shade trees. If you prefer basking in the sun, there is ample open space at Lions Club Park to do just that, and for all kinds of activities and games. The entire perimeter of the park is fenced in, providing safety from the neighborhood traffic. This makes the park an ideal playdate destination for those with young children.

Looking for the old school swing sets? This park's got 'em. There are numerous swings, including safety swings for the wee little ones. Between the two large swing sets are the colorful jungle gym and climbing equipment.

There are three slides connected to the jungle gym and a set of monkey bars. The playground is not ideal for those with disabilities.

A full-size basketball court is connected to a large hard-covered surface that could be used for a game of four square or pickleball. The park has a very well maintained baseball field and is a perfect place for the neighborhood kids to have some fun after school. Lions Club Park is surrounded by residential neighborhoods, so please be respectful with the noise level.

Sidewalks are plentiful inside the park and make a nice loop around the property. Those wishing for a peaceful walk or jog would likely find the park to be an ideal choice. The park is also a safe and fun place to take your favorite pooch out for a stroll. With plenty of open space to run and lots of shade trees, Xena The Tribune Park Puppy gives it two paws up!

Lions Club Park is open during the daylight hours and does have bathrooms. The sidewalks provide wheelchair accessibility around the park but do not lead directly to the picnic tables or playground. Lions Club Park is beautifully maintained by Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism.

Commission (from Front)

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – The Cullman County Commission on Thursday night met at its new time of 6 p.m. It was the first regular meeting for new Chairman Jeff Clemons, who used his tie-breaking vote for the first time to pass a resolution allowing private roll-off sanitation companies to do business in Cullman County. Since 2000, the Cullman County Sanitation Department has had control of all Dumpster rentals.

In its earlier work session, Commissioner Garry Marchman voiced his support of the decision, saying, "We have contractors in the county that don't have the flexibility to use another company for a roll-off Dumpster when they are doing construction work or something like that. At times I can see the benefit of the way that we are doing business, but there are also times that I can see that we don't need to be in that business and competing with other businesses."

Commissioner Kerry Watson, who attended the meeting via video conference from his home due to being in quarantine, voiced concern over the timing, saying, "My only concern with that and not doing the roll-offs is when we did the $5 million for automated trucks, the revenue that we used to come up with on how we would pay off that loan was based on roll-offs.

"We are going to be giving up that revenue and that revenue is going to have to be generated by Sanitation somewhere. That means it could come back on our citizens and their residential (rates)."

Marchman agreed that it could have an impact, but said he felt it would be minimal due to the County's competitive rates.

Cullman Area Rural Transportation System (CARTS) was given the approval to purchase 14 new buses to replace aging buses in its fleet.

The total cost of the buses is $954,268 but will only cost CARTS $95,426.80. An additional $9,030 was also approved to add rear and front cameras to each of the new buses.

The commission also passed a resolution allowing Cullman County Economic Development to apply for a Rebuild Alabama Grant for FY2021 to repave County Roads 4 and 6 in the Bremen area.

Newly appointed Cullman County Economic Development Director Bradley Williams explained, "This is a grant for $250,000. This will not compete with the ATRIPII (funding) that has been put in or other roads. This is a free $250,000 grant, so we don't have to match if this is awarded to us on those two roads."

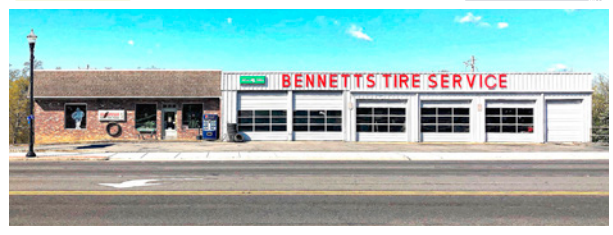
In other business, the commission took the following actions:

- Recognized Phillip Patterson on his retirement after 25 years of service to the Cullman County Commission
- Issued a proclamation for Farm-City Week
- Passed Resolution 2021-01- Payment of postage on voter notifications
- Authorized Clemons to sign an agency agreement with the secretary of state for payment of postage on voter notifications
- Amended Oct. 14, 2020 minutes to adjust total received from sanitation trucks sold to Ingram Equipment Company from $195,000 to $190,000
- Authorized Clemons to sign site agreement with FLW Pro Series Fishing Tournament
- Authorized Clemons to sign an agreement waiver and consent with the law firm of Baker Donelson for the filing of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) reimbursements
- Authorized Clemons to certify CARES Act reimbursements for public safety personnel
- Authorized Clemons and EMA Director Phylis Little to sign Homeland Security grant- total $29,183
- Authorized Clemons and Little to sign the State Mortuary Operations grant- total $12,000
- Authorized Maintenance Supervisor Chris Sears to purchase all equipment to upgrade courthouse restrooms for mitigation of COVID-19
- Approved the Water Department to have a rate study done by St. John & Associates.
- Approved the leasing of the Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center for the River Gun Show
- Approved payment to Johnston Technologies for dispatch battery cabinet servicing for the sheriff's office- cost $5,094
- Approved extension of employee vacation time to Feb. 29, 2021
- Approved the renewal of property insurance with Traveler's
- Approved payment to NARCOG for dues for fiscal year 2020- $56,299
- Approved the purchase of six tri-axle dump trucks for the Road Department- cost $942,030 ($157,005 per truck). This is done yearly to rotate new trucks in while selling the current trucks for more than the purchase price.
- Marchman appointed Darla West to the Department of Human Resources Board replacing Cynthia Dodd for a six-year term expiring May 15, 2026
- Extended bid to Traffic Sign Inc. for traffic signs
- Extended bid to J.C. Cheek for traffic striping
- Extended bid to McPherson Companies and W.H. Thomas Oil Co. for motor oil, hydraulic fluid, transmission fluid and grease

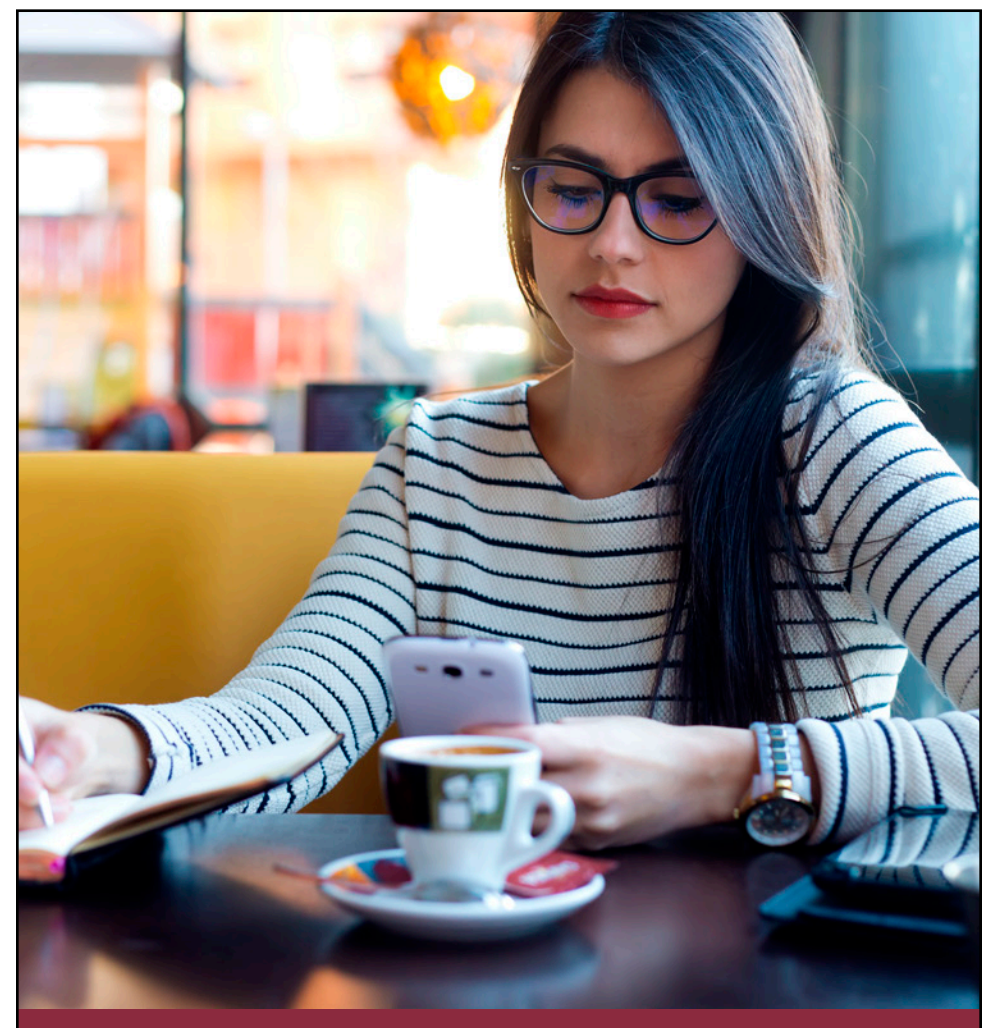
The next commission meeting will be Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. in the commission meeting room on the first floor of the Cullman County Courthouse.

CHRISTMAS
in Cullman
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4TH
DOWNTOWN CULLMAN & DEPOT PARK
5:00PM - 9:00PM
PARADE BEGINS AT 7:00PM
TREE-LIGHTING BEGINS AT 7:45PM
MINI CHRISTKINDLMARKT
& PHOTOS WITH SANTA

Cullman Christkindlmarkt
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11TH
3:00PM - 9:00PM
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12TH
10:00AM - 9:00PM
DOWNTOWN CULLMAN
ACROSS FROM THE FESTHALLE

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
NOVEMBER 20, 2020

PREP CROSS COUNTRY

Cullman's Heaton signs with Wallace State

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Another Bearcat athlete celebrated the next stage of their academic and athletic career Wednesday. Tess Heaton was joined by friends, family and coaches at Cullman High School Wednesday as she signed a scholarship to run for the Wallace State Cross Country team and Coach Stan Narewski. Tess has run for both the cross country and track programs during her time at Cullman High School.

CHS Athletic Director Mark Stephens is proud to see how far Tess has come in her years running for the Bearcats and is excited to see how high she can continue to climb at the collegiate level.

"To see where Tess has progressed from her freshman year to her senior season, for her to be able to accomplish the things she has been able to do here at Cullman High School, we couldn't be more proud," Stephens said. "She is a true winner. Tess epitomizes why high school athletics are so important."

CHS Track and Cross Country coach Trent Dean has seen Tess develop into a college runner firsthand and he will miss her production but more than anything else he will miss the leadership she displayed and the positive effect she had on her teammates."

"We are so proud of Tess and all that she has accomplished for Cullman High School's Cross Country and Track & Field programs but especially her positive leadership and being a tremendous teammate," Dean said. "Her impact was very special, and we will miss her dearly."



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHS

Cullman's Tess Heaton signs to continue her running career at Wallace State with her family at Cullman High School Wednesday.

Isaac Okoro drafted No. 5 overall by Cleveland in 2020 NBA Draft

Cody Voga
AU Athletics

AUBURN, Ala. – Dreams became reality for former Auburn star Isaac Okoro Wednesday night when he was chosen with the No. 5 overall selection in the 2020 NBA Draft by the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Okoro's selection is tied for the third-highest selection in program history behind only Chris Morris (No. 4, 1988) and Chuck Person (No. 4, 1986). Charles Barkley was also chosen No. 5 in the 1984 NBA Draft.

The Powder Springs, Ga. native became the first one-and-done player in program history.

"I feel like it was my work ethic," Okoro said. "I stayed in the gym early mornings and late nights, always finding a coach to go to the gym with me and get shots up. I feel like I just got better every day.

"I put the work in every single day. I had people around my circle that helped me out. I feel great and blessed to be here."

Okoro was just the sixth player in Southeastern Conference history to be named All-SEC, All-Defensive and All-Freshman in the same season.

"Character counts," Auburn head coach Bruce Pearl said. "He's a winner. He's the best defensive player in the draft. He can guard 1 through 5. He can keep little point guards in front of him, and if he switches off on the inside, you're not going to big-boy him. He can get downhill and he can score through contact. The ball doesn't stick in his hands. When that ball moves, if he's open, he's going to shoot it or he's going to drive it or he's going to move it along.

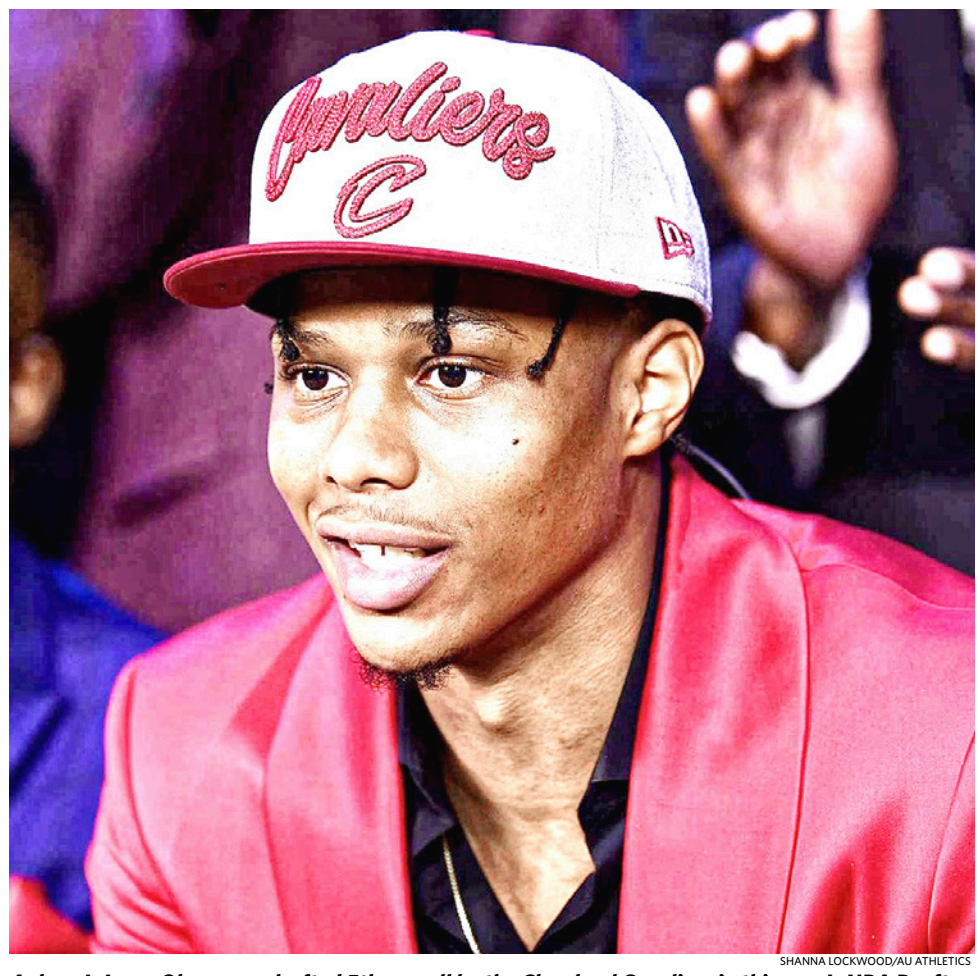
"He's going to do what the coach asks him to do. He's not going to come into Cleveland and go, 'this is who I am. Use me the way I am supposed to be used.' He's going to say, 'Coach, what do you want me to do?' and he's going to go do it."

Following Okoro's No. 5 selection and Chuma Okeke's No. 16 pick in the 2019 NBA Draft, Auburn has produced back-to-back first round draft picks for the first time in program history.

Okoro averaged 12.9 points, 4.4 rebounds, two assists, 0.9 steals and 0.9 blocks in 31.5 minutes per game while starting 28 games as a first-year player in senior-laden lineup. The Tigers posted a 25-6 record during the 2019-20 campaign.

Okoro scored in double figures 20 times and was named the SEC Freshman of the Week twice, becoming just the fourth freshman in program history to earn the conference distinction two times in a season.

Okoro is the second Tiger to be drafted by the Cavaliers, joining Mike Mitchell, who was taken with the 15th selection of the 1978 NBA Draft. Along with Mitchell (1978-82), former lettermen Eddie Johnson (1985-86) and Wesley Person (1997-2002) all played for the Cavs.



SHANNA LOCKWOOD/AU ATHLETICS

Auburn's Isaac Okoro was drafted 5th overall by the Cleveland Cavaliers in this year's NBA Draft.

Alabama's Kira Lewis Jr. drafted 13th overall by the New Orleans Pelicans in 2020 NBA Draft

UA Athletics
rolltide.com

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. – Former Alabama men's basketball guard Kira Lewis Jr. was selected by the New Orleans Pelicans as the No. 13 overall pick at the 2020 National Basketball Association Draft on Wednesday night.

Lewis was surrounded by his family, friends, coaches and former teammates at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville, Ala., to celebrate the NBA Draft proceedings. The family heard the news in a private room before joining the celebration later in the night.

Lewis on joining the New Orleans Pelicans

"It's very exciting to be a part of such a great young organization like the New Orleans Pelicans. They have a lot of veterans and younger players who mesh well. They compete, play above the rim and like to get out and run and play at fast pace, which is something I love.

"The fans and city of New Orleans are terrific and really support this organization. It's a great situation because I feel like I can come right in and help them in whatever way they ask me for."

Draft Nuggets

Lewis becomes the 16th Alabama player to be chosen in the first round and is the seventh UA player selected with a top-15 pick in program history, joining Collin Sexton (No. 8 in 2018), Antonio McDyess (No. 2 overall in 1995), Robert Horry (No. 11 overall in 1992), Derrick McKey (No. 9 overall in 1987), Ennis Whatley (No. 13 overall in 1982) and Leon Douglas (No. 4 overall in 1976)

Lewis becomes the first Alabama player ever selected by the New Orleans Pelicans

With his selection, Lewis is the second Crimson Tide point guard in the last three years to be selected among the lottery in the NBA Draft (Collin Sexton selected No. 8 overall by the Cleveland Cavaliers in the 2018 NBA Draft)

Prior to Sexton and Lewis' selections, the last Alabama player to be selected in the first round was Gerald Wallace in 2001 (No. 25 overall)

Alabama career highlights

- First Team All-SEC and First Team United States Basketball Writers Association (USBWA) All-District honors in 2020
- 2019 First Team All-SEC
- Averaged 18.5 points, 5.2 assists, 1.8 steals and a league-leading 37.6 minutes per contest as a sophomore last season
- Finished the year with 29 double-digit scoring contests, eight games of scoring 20 or more and three 30-point contests.
- Also ranked as one of the top transition players in all of college basketball, as his 5.1 transition points per game were fourth-best among all Division I players a year ago
- Started all 65 games across his freshman and sophomore seasons and collected 1,013 points (15.9 ppg), 260 assists (4.0 apg) and 84 steals (1.3 spg)
- Only the second Alabama player in program history to eclipse 1,000 points in his first two seasons, joining only James "Hollywood" Robinson
- Played as the youngest men's basketball player in all of Division I in 2018-19 on his way to earning SEC All-Freshman honors.
- One of 12 members who made up the 2019 USA Basketball Men's U19 World Cup Team roster that won the gold medal in Greece

For all the latest information on the team, follow AlabamaMBB on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. General athletic news can be found @UA_Athletics on Twitter and Instagram and Alabama Athletics on Facebook



SHANNA LOCKWOOD/AU ATHLETICS

Alabama's Kira Lewis Jr. was drafted 13th overall by the New Orleans Pelicans in this year's NBA Draft.

OUTDOORS

With piers closed, Thornton takes to Alabama's beautiful beaches

David Rainer
Ala. Dept. of Conservation and Nat. Res.

With a nickname like Pier Pounder, David Thornton of Mobile has seen his favorite pastime disappear with 2020's double whammy of hurricanes. Hurricane Sally took the Gulf State Park Pier out of commission, and Hurricane Zeta destroyed Cedar Point Pier in Mobile County.

"I guess you can call me the Pier-less Pounder because the only pier open in the Mobile area is the Fairhope Pier, and it's closed at night because they don't have any lights," Thornton said.

However, Thornton has a major backup plan, thanks to Alabama's beautiful beaches and surf teeming with a variety of fish species.

Thornton said he's been hooked on fishing in the surf since he was 12, and a trip to Gulf State Park Pier with his buddy, Tom Allenbach, sealed his loved for pier fishing.

"Tom was fishing a live alewife under a float," Thornton said of the trip to Gulf State Park Pier. "He told me to hold his rod while he caught more bait. I asked him how I would know when I got a bite. He said, 'You'll know.' About that time, I felt a tug and thought I was hung on somebody else's line. Then the fish took off, stripping drag. It was about a 10.5-pound king, and that was when I really got hooked on pier fishing."

But for now, fishing from shore is where Thornton will be until a portion of Gulf State Park Pier is reopened sometime late this winter.

Before Thornton decides where to pursue fish in the surf, he gathers information about weather, water, wind and tide conditions.

"Know what the weather is going to be like with the marine forecast," he said. "It's not that I look for any certain conditions; it's just that I want to know what to expect and adjust. I look at the tide tables. Then I'll decide where I'm going and what I'm going to fish for based on the conditions.

"Ideal conditions would be 10-15 mph winds either onshore or sideshore with waves 1 to 3 feet. For shore fishing, it's really better with a little chop on the water. I think it stimulates the fish to bite more readily. Also, you have current flow. If there is a current working over the sandbar, you want to pay special attention to the tide, especially if it's close to a pass. If it's too rough or too calm or with very little tidal movement, the fish don't cooperate as well. If I'm going to fish a neap tide, I'm going to fish close to the pass."

When Alabama's tides come off a neap cycle, the tide swings will sometimes reach more than 2 feet from low tide to high tide. That's when Thornton likes to be fishing the open beaches.

"That tide movement stimulates the bite," he said. "When I go, I'm looking for a longshore sandbar. The longshore sandbar is usually 100 to 150 yards off the beach. But there are places where the longshore sandbar swings in closer to the shore.

"The best places are where the sandbar is within casting range. That creates a pinch point where the fish are going to be moving from one trough to the next. When the bar is closer, you can use lighter tackle and target a variety of fish.

"I'd much rather catch a big fish on light tackle and take a long time than catch a small fish on heavy tackle."

Thornton casts to the inside edge of the sandbar to start the day and adjusts his casts according to the bite.

"The fish tend to feed along the edges," he said. "They use the sandbars for protection from predatory fish. The area from the shore out to the first bar is where most of the fish live. That old adage is that 90% of the fish live in 10% of the water. It's the same in the surf."

Speaking of light tackle, Thornton truly goes as light as possible. Where some folks show up on the beaches with long rods with 20- to 30-pound line, Thornton fishes with line in a range from 4-pound-test to 15-pound-test. He uses his 10- to -12-foot rods with the 15-pound line for the long casts. He takes his 7-foot rods and light line for fishing closer to the shore. However, anything can bite any of his rigs.

"I've hooked 20-pound black drum within 10 feet of the shore, and I've caught whiting and pompano out by the sandbar," he said. "The mistake I see most people make is they'll cast out as far as they can, pop the rod in a rod holder, plop down in a chair and wait for a fish to bite.

"If they don't catch anything, they say the fish weren't biting that day. Odds are, they overcast the fish. With light tackle, I feel like I have just as much fun catching 14- to 16-inch whiting and an occasional pompano as somebody heaving this heavy tackle and waiting hours between bites."

Thornton uses No. 4 Kahle hooks and a variety of sinkers from pyramid to no-roll egg-shaped. If he wants the bait to remain stationary, he sticks with the pyramids. If he doesn't mind the bait moving a little, he'll use the flattened egg sinkers or coin sinkers.

"If I've got a side wind that is creating current, I can also use that slow-moving bait to cover more ground," he said. "That way, I'm not just throwing darts at the fish. If your bait is moving too fast, you may have to go to a pyramid."

Thornton suggests forgoing the ready-made pompano rigs and sticking with lighter line.

"If you're targeting one- to 2-pound whiting and one- to 3-pound pompano, even 20-pound line is overkill," he said. "Light line allows the fish to give account of themselves. They're really feisty for their size. When you match the tackle with the fish, you're going to have a lot more fun, and I really think you get more bites. It seems like every time I step down in tackle size, the number of bites I get practically doubles. Whiting and pompano can be particularly line-shy at times."

Thornton considers the Florida pompano as his target species, but he is happy as can be with what he calls the "byproduct" of pompano fishing, which is whiting, a silvery species with a black patch at the top of its tail. Known as Gulf kingfish elsewhere, whiting don't get much larger than 2 pounds but are delicious table fare. Thornton said Southern kingfish, known locally as ground mullet, are common in the surf at Dauphin Island.

"Whiting, by far, is the most prevalent fish in the surf," he said. "But you never really know what you're going to catch."

As far as bait, Thornton uses fresh dead shrimp with the heads and tails pinched off when he has run out of ghost shrimp, a crustacean that lives in the surf that is caught using a suction pump commonly called a slurp gun to extract the creatures from the sand. On our outing last week, the fish definitely showed a preference for ghost shrimp. Thornton also uses a product called Fish Bites, a product with different scents infused into the material.

Thornton said shore anglers will be able to catch whiting and a few pompano throughout the winter. When the water gets a little colder, sheepshead will show up around all the jetties. The pompano limit in Alabama is three fish with a minimum total length of 12 inches. The limits on sheepshead are 10 per person with a 12-inch fork length minimum. Whiting have no size or creel limit.

The best time all year to fish the surf is in the spring, according to Thornton, who keeps readers apprised of coastal fishing conditions with columns in Great Days Outdoors and the Mullet Wrapper.

"Late March through April and possibly early May is the time to fish the beach, especially for pompano," he said. "With the lockdown this past spring, we didn't get to fish for pompano until May. The Gulf State Park Pier was still open during that time, and the pompano catches were astounding."

Thornton is definitely going to celebrate when the Gulf State Park Pier reopens a portion of the pier about 40 feet past the middle section with the restrooms.

"I'll be ecstatic," he said. "The cruelest irony of all was the pier had scheduled a grand reopening the day that Sally smashed it. I was supposed to give a little talk that day, and I was going to reminisce about walking out on the new pier after many people had been waiting five years for the pier to be rebuilt after Ivan. It took my breath away. I remember on the old pier, we would often say, 'If it was just 100 yards longer.' Then they built it 200 yards longer. The fishing was just outstanding.

"When I walked out on the pier before Sally, I couldn't help but think about all those people who helped me become a better fishermen, people like Harley Rogers and so many others. For most of the people who are regulars on the pier, they have the attitude of 'pay it forward.' When you see somebody struggling, you try to help them with their tackle or bait. Then you see their whole attitude change. You don't see that everywhere. That's one of the things that makes Gulf State Park Pier special."



DAVID RAINER

David Thornton of Mobile unhooks a nice whiting that hit a ghost shrimp in the surf at Orange Beach.

Obituary Announcements: Nov. 20

Funeral services for Jordan Chance Jones Pope, 22, will be at 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21, 2020 at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel; Rev. Steve Rodgers officiating. Visitation will be from 2-3 p.m. Saturday prior to the service. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Jordan passed away Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2020. He was born Feb. 6, 1998. He loved his family, friends, hunting, fishing, and welding. He loved his job. He was loved and will be missed. He was preceded in death by his grandparents John T. and Grace Parker; mother Hattie Pope; and friend Tazz Wynn. Survivors include his grandmother Nancy (Randy) Bates; his biological mother Wendi (Carlos) Perez; father Roy Pope; fiancé Chey Greenhill; sons Hank Parker Pope and Bowdie Kace Pope; brother Dexton Bates; special friends Austin and Heather Vankeuren; and family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Graveside services for Peggy Hyatt Windsor of Enterprise, formerly of Cullman, who passed away Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2020 at the age of 84 will be Sunday, Nov. 22, 2020 at New Hope #2 Cemetery. Moss Service Funeral Home directing. Peggy worked and retired from Americold. She adored her children and grandchildren and enjoyed spending time with them. She moved to Enterprise, AL 15 years ago after the passing of her husband, Jerry Windsor. Her parents W.O. and Florence Oliver Hyatt and sisters Doris Hyatt Hurt, Virginia Hyatt Blackwood, and Mona Lee Hyatt Sizemore also preceded her in death. She is survived by her daughter Cecilia Windsor Smith (Kenneth) of Enterprise; son Chris Windsor (Shelia) of Cullman; sister Faye Hyatt Jernigan (Millard) of Huntsville; grandchildren Andrea Smith Jones (Jason) and Kyle Windsor (Rachael); and great-grandchildren Noah and Emma Rigsby and Kade and Roman Jones. Condolences and special memories may be shared with the family at www.mossservicefh.com.

Funeral services for Sue Carol Duckett Humphries, 84, of Cullman, AL will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21, 2020 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Reverend Chris Chambless officiating; interment in New Hope #2 Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mrs. Humphries passed away peacefully at Hanceville Nursing Home Thursday, Nov. 19, 2020. She was born July 20, 1936, in Brooklyn, AL to Homer Lee and Ola Belle Taylor Duckett. Mrs. Humphries worked with her husband at Humphries Heating and Air in Brooklyn, AL for over 50 years. She was a proud member of Shelton Grove Baptist Church and loved working with the children in the VBS program. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband of 64 years, Herbert L. Humphries; sons Ronald and Randy Humphries; brother Dalton Duckett; and sisters Betty Nell Easterwood and Lillian Haynes Appenzeller. Survivors include grandchildren Jennifer (Mike) Jones of Mobile, AL, Jonathan Dale (Brandy) Humphries of Hartselle, AL, and Derek Humphries of Guntersville, AL; great-grandchildren Olivia and Sophia Jones, and Jace, Addison, and Danielle Humphries; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Visitation will be from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21, 2020 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home in Cullman, AL.

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Show (from Front)

W.C. Mann
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WAYNE COOK

Cullman High School Theatre students, shown here celebrating their wins at the 2020 Alabama Thespian Festival, were set to put on "Bright Star" last spring.

CULLMAN, Ala. – Wayne Cook, director of Cullman High School Theatre, took to social media Thursday to announce that the department's production of Steve Martin's "Bright Star," scheduled for last spring but canceled due to the COVID shutdown, is on again and slated for the latter part of January.

Cook told The Tribune, "Our principal and our administration have consistently encouraged us to try to do things that would involve our kids. It's been a real struggle across the board, but our fine arts teachers have been committed to do what we can, safely.

"We do everything safe. We've had to limit rehearsals; we've had to limit everything! It's totally different from what we're normally used to. But we've put together a plan based on the safety protocols, and the administration thought it was a good plan, and we've been implementing it since the beginning of the semester.

"We've scheduled this show; once we got into it and started working a little bit on it- of course, we were working on it last spring, but we had to recast it, redevelop it.

"We've had to socially distance the show, so we reblocked it. We've got a lot of different things going on that we didn't have in the spring; we don't have live musicians, we're going to be doing recorded music, things like that.

"Just a lot of things are different about it, but, you know, I've got some of the most talented kids that I have ever worked with in this show. Some of my seniors are some of the most talented kids I've ever had; I just hate for them not to go out with something strong. So we're working on the show; we're going to do it."

Cook has set a tentative date in the third week of January, depending on circumstances at that time, though he said that the schedule must remain flexible for now.

"Our commitment is to try to at least get this show off the ground sometime this (school) year," he said.

Audience seating for the show will be limited and socially distanced, and the event will be streamed for people to watch at home.

Cook concluded, "We have to have a goal. Kids have to have a goal; they have to have a plan. We can't just wander around.

"You know, there are certain things we can do in class, but our kids are not motivated if they don't have something to look forward to and plan for, so this is what we've been shooting for, and it seems to be working OK. We're pleased with how it's gone so far."

Get involved!

On his social media post, Cook sent out this request:

It is a show that takes place in the 1920s and 1940s. There are two different decades. The setting is the mountains of North Carolina. It's very rural and rustic (small town) with some scenes in larger cities and towns like Raleigh and Asheville.

I am looking for costumes and props from this time period to set the stage for this show. I am going to send a couple of pictures of hats and outfits out for you to analyze. If you think you have something that will match this show, and you do not mind parting with it - we would love to have you donate items to our department. We keep what we get and reuse it in future productions. We also try to share with other departments around the area who are looking for certain items. We will also borrow items if you need them back and would not mind us using them. Shout out to Vestavia Hills High School for allowing us to use some of their costumes and props for this show!

Greatest need:

- *Men's suits, vest and blazers - double breasted if possible*
- *Ties for men-plain*
- *Hats for men and women- straw hats and dress hats*
- *Dresses from the 20s rural and 40's no rural- very conservative*
- *Military dress outfit for a soldier returning from the war- tall slim guy*
- *Leather looking suitcases*
- *An older typewriter*
- *Desk lamps that reflect the period*
- *Books with older looking binding*
- *Doctor's office divider screen with cloth panels*
- *Older office gadgets like a tape dispenser, stamp etc.*
- *I'll send updates for additional items!!!!!*

Those interested in helping can contact Cook at Cullman High School at 256-734-3923 or visit www.facebook.com/cullmanhighschool or www.cullmancats.net.

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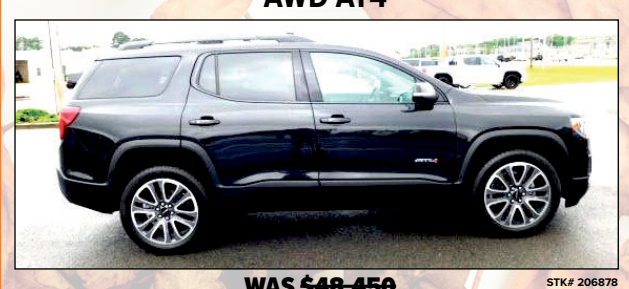
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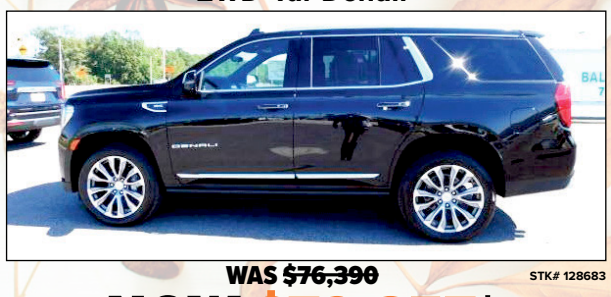
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