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Homecoming: Wendy Shaw returns to Cullman as the city's first certified nurse midwife



CULLMAN PRIMARY CARE

Wendy Shaw is Cullman's first-ever certified nurse midwife.

Heather Mann, Noah Galilee

CULLMAN – Cullman native Wendy Shaw is happy to be home. She's even happier to be breaking new ground as the city's first-ever certified nurse midwife (CNM). Shaw is now practicing at Cullman Primary Care Obstetrics & Gynecology and can deliver babies at Cullman Regional.

What is a CNM? According to the American College of Nurse-Midwives, CNMs are registered nurses who have graduated from a nurse-midwifery education program accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME) (formerly the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) Division of Accreditation (DOA)) and have passed a national certification examination to receive the professional designation of certified nurse-midwife.

Shaw joined Cullman Primary Care Obstetrics & Gynecology in late November after most recently practicing for five years in Gulf Port, Mississippi.

"When I was pregnant with my kiddo, my 19-year-old, I decided I wanted to be a midwife, and so I went to nursing school and did labor and delivery for about, I think I did it close to five years, and then I went back and started working on my master's degree to be a midwife, said Shaw. "I took the long way around because I had a kiddo, but it took me probably about three to four years to get that degree wrapped up. Took me about another year to find a job, somebody that was willing to take on a new midwife, and I ended up in Gulf Port and was there for five years."

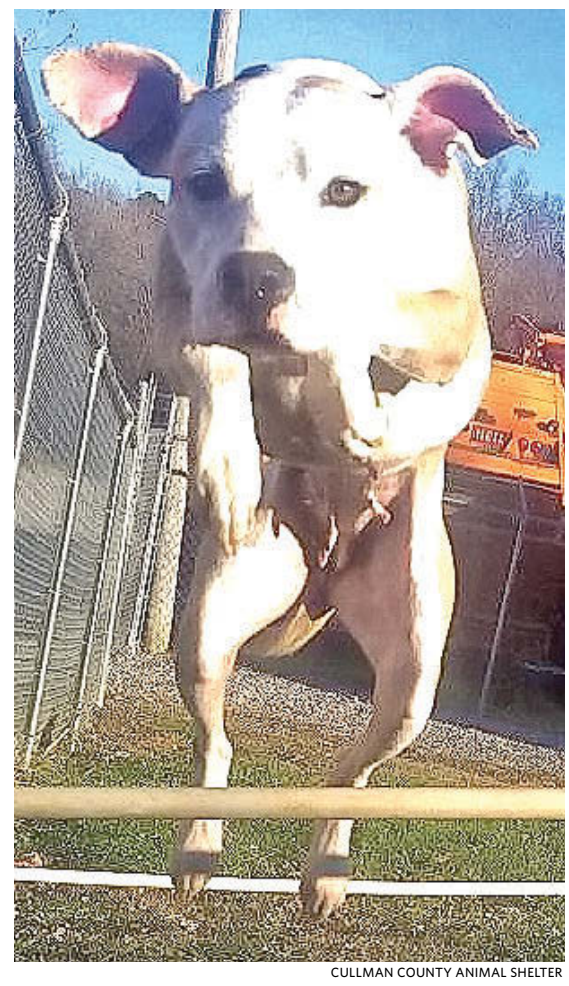
Shaw talked about what exactly a midwife is.

"It's taboo, yeah, sometimes. People don't know; everybody goes, 'Oh, do you deliver at home?' Um, no, I don't deliver at home, that's not how it works here. I deliver in the hospital. I'm kind of like a nurse practitioner for an OB/GYN, and then I do the delivery portion also. So I do some of, well, woman care, you know, contraceptive stuff for girls and women that need it that are married and need stuff like that. STDs, I treat those, take care of the adolescents who need help with that and with birth control. I do a lot of OB; that's what I've been doing for the past two years. Mostly OB because that's what the practice - it was three OB/GYNs and they hired me to do some OB, you know, to deliver.

Shaw continued, "I want to work with women to develop a plan of care that they are okay with and that we can come to an agreement about. Some intervention, maybe not even any intervention, and then the ones that want » PAGE 3

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Casey, who wants to start the new year in a forever home



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Donna Ruttkay of the Cullman County Animal Shelter introduces us to Casey, our Pet of the Week:

"Hi! I'm Casey, a 1.5-year-old, 30-lb. female terrier mix. I was picked up as part of an animal cruelty case. I know how to love, though; I just need someone to practice with. I'm kind, loving and low-maintenance, and I'll go out of my way to please you.

"My adoption fee is $90 and that includes the following: DHLPP vaccine, Bordetella vaccines, rabies vaccine, wormer, general exam at the vet, spay, microchip, free 45-day health insurance policy issued by 24PetWatch (with valid email only) and a free bag of food from Cullman Pet Depot (you must pay sales tax)."

Please consider adopting to give a rescued pet a chance at a happy and healthy life.

Contact the Cullman County Animal Shelter at 256-734-5448 or visit 935 Convent Road NE. Reach them by email at cullmancountyanimalshelter@gmail.com.

What happens on December 26?

W.C. Mann
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CULLMAN – We at The Tribune hope that you had a merry Christmas; but that day is now behind us and Dec. 26, the day of returned gifts, is upon us. Of all those treasures and trinkets that got bought before Christmas, just how many are going back from where they came? Is there anything else special about this day?

Retail and returns

According to RetailNext and Business Insider, Dec. 26 is the fifth-busiest day of the Christmas shopping season for shopper visits to stores, though it doesn't even make the top 10 days for sales. On average, about 15 percent of gifts purchased during the Christmas shopping season will be returned.

If you're going to have to return items for refund or exchange, the National Retail Federation (NRF) recommends that you:

- Put items back in original packaging, and try to keep that packaging in good shape
- Keep tags/stickers on clothing and other goods until you know you're keeping them
- Get the receipt or a gift return receipt
- Practice patience!

You probably don't even need to go stand in line right now. This time of year, retailers often extend their return periods. For many, any purchase made between Nov. 1 and Dec. 24 can be returned until Jan. 15 or even until Jan. 31. Call and ask!

All this talk of returns doesn't mean that the 26th is a bad day to shop, though. While 15 percent of pre-Christmas purchases will be returned, up to 15 percent of seasonal sales will take place in the week following Christmas.

The NRF even pointed out that up to 70 percent of customers making returns will buy something else while they're in the store.

In an article for U.S. News and World Report, Kendal Perez wrote in 2016, "Retailers try to capitalize on consumers' desires to spend gift cards and return gifts that missed the mark by offering discounts on remaining holiday inventory, gifts, toys and electronics. Many stores take a Black Friday-like approach to store hours, with some opening doors as early as 6 a.m. on the day after Christmas."

Perez recommended using the day to shop for "clothing, gift sets, holiday-themed products, decor and wrapping supplies. "Anything holiday-related will see discounts of 50 percent or more on Dec. 26. Consumers who want to save on decor, gift wrap and holiday-themed items like pajamas and accessories should shop post-Christmas sales.

Gift sets, like those provided by beauty and fragrance brands, are also good buys from department stores and specialty retailers since they're packaged specifically for holiday giving. Clothing is another top seller after the holidays since retailers are looking ahead to the new year and the rollout of spring styles in February." See www.money.usnews.com/money/blogs/my-money/articles/2016-12-07/the-best-days-for-holiday-shopping-in-december.

Julie Ramhold of DealNews recommended that this year's after-Christmas shoppers should be on the lookout for extra good deals on clothing, exercise equipment, the ever-popular bargain Christmas decor, video games and electronics. See www.dealnews.com/features/what-to-expect-from-after-christmas-sales.

Dec. 26 holidays

There are even ways that Dec. 26 is significant for reasons that don't involve standing in any lines. In many places » PAGE 7

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ALABAMA 200

Governor announces Alabama Bicentennial Schools Initiative

Alabama 200
Contributor

MONTGOMERY – Gov. Kay Ivey this month announced the Alabama Bicentennial Schools education initiative. The initiative is designed to encourage all public, private and homeschool students and teachers to participate in the celebration of Alabama's 200th anniversary of statehood in 2019.

"Just as it is important that we celebrate our past, we must also ensure future generations understand our state's history, so that they can guide us to new heights in the days ahead," Ivey said.

Participating schools are eligible to receive a gubernatorial commendation, a bicentennial flag, and bicentennial-themed school resources for the 2018-19 academic year.

Schools may apply on the Alabama Bicentennial Commission website here.

The announcement was made in the Old House Chambers at the State Capitol on Alabama Day to an audience including fourth-grade students from area schools, representatives of the Alabama State Department of Education, and members of the Alabama Bicentennial Commission.

Ivey was joined at the announcement by state Sen. Arthur Orr, chairman of the Alabama Bicentennial Commission, Alabama Department of Archives and History Director Steve Murray and Alabama Reading Initiative Program Coordinator Karen Porter.

The Alabama Bicentennial Schools program is part of a group of education-focused bicentennial projects that also include curriculum development and teacher training on civics and social studies.

Schools may also apply to be designated an Alabama Bicentennial School by developing a school-community project. Designated schools will receive a $2,000 grant to support their project.

Three high-achieving schools from each Alabama Congressional district will be recognized as Bicentennial Schools of Excellence during commemoration ceremonies held in Montgomery on Dec. 14, 2019.

For more information about the Alabama Bicentennial Schools Initiative, visit www.alabama200.org/educators/bicentennial-schools.

Alabama unemployment hits record low 3.5%; Cullman Co. steady at 3%

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

MONTGOMERY – The state's unemployment rate has dropped to 3.5 percent, a new record, according to a media release from Gov. Kay Ivey. Cullman County's rate is holding steady at 3 percent.

Ivey announced Friday that Alabama's preliminary, seasonally adjusted November unemployment rate set a new record low of 3.5 percent, down from October's previous record-setting rate of 3.6 percent, and well below November 2016's rate of 6.2 percent.

November's rate represents 75,807 unemployed persons, also a new record low, compared to 77,231 in October and 136,135 in November 2016.

More people were counted as employed in November, with 2,087,667 people working, up from 2,079,720 in October, and 40,152 more than in November 2016, when 2,047,515 were counted as employed.

At this same time last year, Cullman County's unemployment rate was 4.7 percent.

"It was just last month when we reached the extraordinary milestone of breaking all previous unemployment rate records, but now just a month later the trend continues, and we have once again broken those records," Ivey said. "This continued historic decline in our unemployment rate, coupled with the fact that Alabama's businesses are employing more Alabamians than ever before, shows that we are truly moving forward and proving to everyone that Alabama is a great place to live and do business."

Ivey continued, "We have 30,500 more jobs now than we did last year, over 40,000 more people are working, and the number of unemployed has dropped by over 60,000 from last year - the fewest number of people counted as unemployed in Alabama history!

"We will continue our work to ensure that any Alabamian who wants a job, can find one."

"Our construction employment, currently measuring 91,500, is at one of its highest levels in more than eight years," said Fitzgerald Washington, secretary of the Alabama Department of Labor (ADOL).

"Construction employment is an indicator of economic stability, and we have seen a steady increase in construction employment for most of this year.

"Additionally, our manufacturing employment is at its highest level in nearly nine years, nearing 2008 levels, which are pre-recessionary in Alabama."

According to ADOL, over the year, wage and salary employment increased by 30,500, increasing to 2,029,800, the highest number ever recorded, with gains in the construction sector (+6,600), the manufacturing sector (+5,600), and the leisure and hospitality sector (+5,200), among others.

Wage and salary employment increased in November by 6,700. Monthly gains were seen in the trade, transportation, and utilities sector (+6,200), the government sector (+1,800), and the manufacturing sector (+400), among others.

"All 67 counties experienced significant drops in their unemployment rates over the year," continued Washington.

"Wilcox County, which traditionally has the highest unemployment rate in the state, has seen its rate drop by 5.7 percentage points since last year.

"2017 marks the first time in a decade that all counties' unemployment rates have been in the single digits."

Counties with the lowest unemployment rates are: Shelby County at 2.6 percent, Marshall and Cullman Counties at 3 percent, and Madison, Lee, and Elmore Counties at 3.1 percent. Counties with the highest unemployment rates are: Wilcox County at 9.3 percent, Clarke County at 6.7 percent and Lowndes County at 6.4 percent.

Major cities with the lowest unemployment rates are: Vestavia Hills at 2.4 percent, Homewood at 2.5 percent, and Alabaster and Hoover at 2.6 percent. Major cities with the highest unemployment rates are: Selma at 6.6 percent, Prichard at 6.5 percent, and Anniston and Bessemer at 4.9 percent.





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What were the hot last-minute gifts this Christmas?

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CULLMAN – What did people looking for last-minute gifts tend to look at this year? Below are Amazon's top five sellers in several categories, updated on Dec. 24. Some things may be surprising, and the absence of some things might be equally surprising. Maybe the hottest of the hot were sold out, so they got replaced in the carts of people desperate to buy something. Maybe items that were hot early in the season just peaked too soon.

One of those items was the Fingerling, an interactive electronic monkey, which was among the hottest tickets the first week of December.

On Dec. 6, Fox News called it "the biggest must-have" of the season. As of the 24th, though, it was still readily available and way down to number 144 on Amazon's list of top-selling toys.

Zing's Tumblstix ("the new fidget spinner"), the early-on number two item, was also in large supply at number 33,521 on the Amazon list.

Squishies, crushable spongy hand-sized animals that were near the top early on, were still selling well, but down in the 20s.

Games and toys

1. "Exploding Kittens" card game
2. "What Do You Meme?" adult party game
3. "Cards Against Humanity" card game
4. Scientific Explorer: My First Mind Blowing Science Kit
5. Nerf N-Strike Elite Strongarm Blaster

Movies and TV

1. "Despicable Me 3" (Blu-ray)
2. "Spider-Man: Homecoming"
3. "Wonder Woman"
4. "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2"
5. "Despicable Me 3" (DVD)

Electronics

(Note: these are proprietary Amazon products, and will not reflect the retail market as a whole.)

1. Amazon Echo Dot (black)
2. Amazon Echo Dot (white)
3. Amazon Echo (charcoal black)
4. Amazon Fire TV Stick
5. Amazon Echo Dot (heather gray)

The top five non-Amazon electronic products sold on Amazon:

1. Anker Soundcore bluetooth speaker
2. Fujifilm instax film double pack
3. Fujifilm Instax film triple pack
4. DOSS Touch bluetooth speaker
5. Fujifilm Instax Mini instant camera

Video games and consoles

1. Super Mario Odyssey for Nintendo Switch
2. The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild for Nintendo Switch
3. Mario Cart 8 Deluxe for Nintendo Switch
4. Nintendo Switch (gray)
5. Nintendo Switch (neon red and blue)

Music

1. "Reputation" - Taylor Swift
2. "Frozen" - Disney karaoke
3. "Hamilton" - original Broadway cast recording
4. "A Pentatonix Christmas Deluxe" - Pentatonix
5. "Divide" deluxe version - Ed Sheeran

Shaw (from Front)

every intervention I can do that too, so it's a big mix of what I can do. Take care of high-risk patients, diabetic patients, hypertensive, that kind of stuff, as well as those people who have no risk factors and want nothing and just want a home birth but in a hospital setting. I can do that too. I have all those skill sets and am very comfortable with all that. There are some things that are too high-risk for me, and that's why we have OB/GYNs. I don't do surgery, but my patients do get epidurals; they have IV pain medications. They have what they need and want. The ones that don't, we do everything we can to try and get them through the labor process and have a healthy baby and healthy mama."

So, what brought Shaw home?

"I grew up here in the Welti area and went to high school at Holly Pond. I went to school here and worked as an RN. My actual first job in labor and delivery was at Cullman Regional Medical Center," Shaw smiled. "I did about six months in Mother & Baby over in Atlanta when I first got out of nursing school because nobody around here would hire you fresh out of school as a labor and delivery nurse at that time. So I went over there and this position came open. My aunt works here at the hospital, and she called me and let me know, so I applied for it and they hired me, so I came back.

"I was here for about a year, then I decided I wanted to get some high-risk experience and a lot of volume. Cullman at that time was probably doing 40, 50 deliveries a month, but I was working night shift. I mean it was busy, but it wasn't like UAB, so I went to UAB and worked there for several years. After the first year I started being in charge on nights, and you know we're talking 400-500 deliveries a month, so that's a much higher volume. So I got to see a lot of stuff, and you also get to work with residents, so it's a teaching environment. They were always ready to teach and you were always hearing the new stuff that was coming out, which was good. After I had some experience from UAB, that's when I thought I was ready to go back to (school)."

Shaw said she's happy to be back, but misses the patients she bonded with in Mississippi.

"So far, so good. I love being home, I'm ready to get started. I've been seeing a few of the partners' patients, but it's not like seeing your own patients," she said. "It was hard to leave, you know, because some of those people I would've been delivering their third baby sometime this month. There's been a couple that delivered right after I left that would've been their third baby I'd have delivered. It's tough when you have that patient bond and you have to leave those women, and it's hard on them too, I'm sure."

Do you find that midwives have a much closer relationship with patients?

"I think that varies on who the OB is and how they treat their patients. I've seen some OB/GYNs that have really good relationships with their patients and their patients don't want to see anybody else, and that's also the case with me. My patients were like, 'Well what am I gonna do?' I've promised that they'll get good care and they say, 'But it's not gonna be you, though.' It's just different between people, but when you've seen somebody for 10 months almost, you do get a connection with them. Especially if you've seen them with multiple pregnancies, so I think that happens with OB/GYNs too," she said. "Maybe more, because I don't have to do surgery. I mean, I am up in the middle of the night, but if I am up then it's to do a delivery or whatever, not surgery. I do assist with C-sections if my patients have to have one or if I have a mom that just wants a repeat C-section, but other than that I'm not the primary one. I'm just there to help at that point. I do have a little bit more time, so I can spend longer with them, and some patients want that, and some patients don't; they want you to come in and do what you gotta do so they can move on with their life. So everybody's kind of different."

If there's a woman out there that's just recently found out she's pregnant or is planning to have a child and is wanting to go with a midwife, what would you tell them to expect along the way?

"I would say expect kind of what you, if you've had a child before with an OB/GYN, it's the same type of care. I practice evidence-based just like they do, I try to be up-to-date on stuff, but I'm also discussing it with them and we're making decisions together, and I try to keep an open mind if they want something that's a little bit out of the box.

"As long as it's safe and there's no harm, then we just move on and let them do it."

Like water births?

"Yeah, I don't know what the hospital's policy will be on that, but probably won't be doing stuff like that, especially in the beginning. Things may change down the line, but I can't - I don't know that they would even have the facilities for that here, because there's a lot of things that have to go into place for that to be safe, especially when you're having multiple patients use the same tub and that kind of stuff.

"So I don't think that that would be an option, but you can get in the shower while you're in labor, or walking around while you're in labor versus being in bed. Something like that, that's kind of what my patients do. And a lot of times I tell them to stay at home as long as they can, until they can't stand it anymore. Usually that's the best thing to do because you come in and you're almost ready to have your baby."

What's the biggest satisfaction you get from your profession?

"I think just seeing that mom and the partner, dad, or whoever - maybe it's their grandma there with them - but just seeing them with that new baby and how happy they are," Shaw smiled. "You see them, especially the young girls, you see them grow up to be good moms, and you see them the next year and they're doing well. I think that's the biggest. Seeing them, and seeing that healthy baby at the end. It doesn't always turn out like that, but the majority of the time it can and will."

Cullman Primary Care Director of Human Resources & Marketing Shana Hice shared, "We're just excited to have a female presence in our OB/GYN department because we know we have great physicians and we have a great service to offer, but you have those patients who are more comfortable with a female, and to have Wendy up there is just a great asset to our practice.

"It's just gonna complement the group so well, you know, we're just excited to offer that service to the community and be able to work with Cullman Regional to expand their OB/GYN & Delivery department, too."

And it helps to have a hometown personality, too.

"Exactly! We love having people coming home!"



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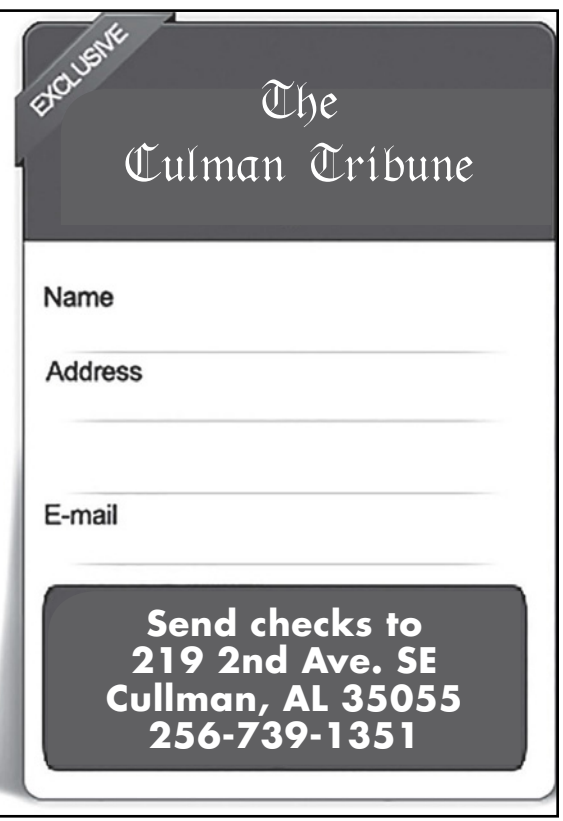
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Fr. Patrick Egan compliments the kids on a job well done.

Christmas Eve at Sacred Heart

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CULLMAN – On Sunday afternoon, Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in downtown Cullman celebrated one of its favorite annual traditions in the Christmas children's pageant.

During the Christmas vigil Mass (the service that occurs the evening before the holiday), around 30 of the parish's kids performed a nativity play for the congregation, complete with the holy family, wise men, two-legged animals, and an entire choir of angels.

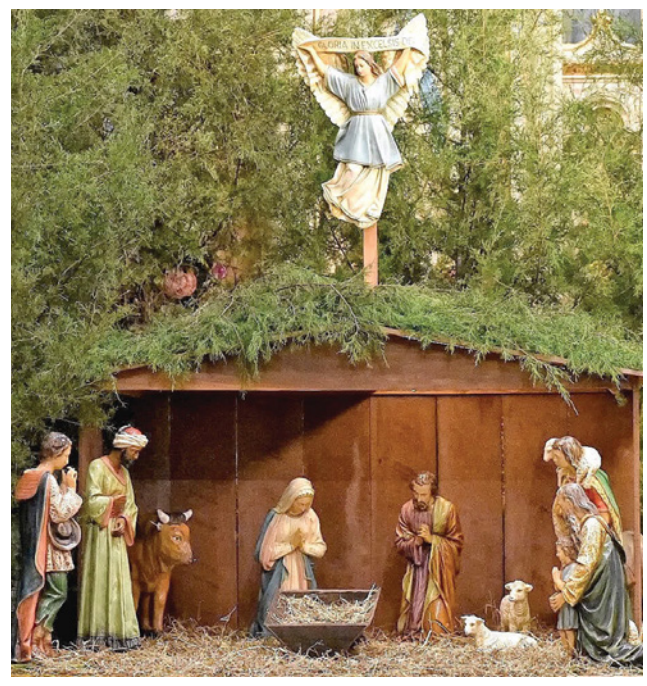
The staging of live nativity displays is an old Catholic tradition.

St. Francis of Assisi has been credited with creating the first live nativity scene in 1223 in Greccio, Italy, after returning from a trip to the Holy Land during which he visited the traditional site of Jesus' birth.

After the service, Sacred Heart Pastor Fr. Patrick Egan, with a few hours break before he had to start getting ready for the parish's midnight Mass, took a moment to compliment his new pageant team.

"This year we switched. Mary Hovater had been running it, and now Monica Windham and her sister Natalie Hilb picked it up, along with Annabelle Hazard and Kelly Allbright," said Egan.

"They took it, and they kept the tradition up. It was equal to or better than. Mary did a fabulous job; she did it all by herself. So now there were four of them, and they did a fabulous job tonight."



The miniature nativity set in the church did not include the baby Jesus, which would be added on Christmas Day. The wise men were on the opposite side of the church, and will join the scene on Jan. 6, when the visit of the magi is celebrated in the Feast of Epiphany.

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5 Rules for a more organized home in the new year

StatePoint
Contributor

After the hectic holidays, it's no surprise that many people commit to getting better organized in the new year. There are plenty of reasons why people obsess over organization and resolve to master it year after year. Household items become easier to find. Rooms all of a sudden seem bigger and more welcoming. Each walk past a tidy linen closet -- where there was once an avalanche waiting to spill forward -- comes with a small sense of accomplishment.

Whether you're after smarter storage or looking to cut clutter, successful resolutions begin with a thoughtful approach.

Think small

While it's fun to dream about a large-scale routine reset, smaller sustainable actions are key to lasting change. Take it one room or even one drawer at a time to keep momentum positive and to avoid feeling overwhelmed. Doing so also allows you to focus, leading to more creative solutions for taking advantage of under-utilized areas. For example, you may find using over-the door organizers a great way to free up space in home offices and craft rooms.

Say "No" to clutter

Everyone has items they keep around for no real reason that aren't particularly meaningful and don't serve a purpose. Being able to objectively identify these items makes everything easier.

Paring down possessions doesn't have to be painful. That cardinal shaped cookie jar that you've always been on the fence about? It would make an incredibly thoughtful "just because" gift for an ornithology-obsessed aunt. Often, less can literally be more: Consignment shops and eBay make it easy to turn four or five pieces of furniture you "kind of like" into one piece you absolutely love.

Store décor wisely

Everyone loves holiday decorating. Taking down decorations afterward... not so much. It's difficult to preserve items in a haphazard collection of cardboard boxes, plastic bags and mismatched bins, all crammed into the corner of a garage or basement. Stepping up storage containers can make a big difference. For a wide selection of storage solutions specifically designed for holiday décor, check out Improvements, which offers everything from ornament and gift wrap organizers to wreath and garland storage bags.

Keep a place for everything

Nobody likes wasting time gathering or searching. Make storage more convenient and efficient by streamlining. Items frequently used together should be kept together, from coffee supplies to vehicle maintenance tools.

Make a plan

Create a schedule so nothing is overlooked. Knowing which project is next gives you time to prepare and purchase any storage items you might need. When scheduling, designate specific rooms and spaces for certain seasons. For example, the first warm days of spring are made for cleaning out the shed or garage. Successful resolutions are essentially new habits that become part of a lifestyle. Deliberately choosing to incorporate small acts of organization on a daily basis will pay off tremendously throughout the year.



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PREP FOOTBALL

Cullman area football players make ASWA's All-State Team

Nick Griffin
Tribune Correspondent

CULLMAN – The Alabama Sports Writers Association's (AWSA's) All-State Football Team was released Saturday night and several local stars appeared on the list. The teams are broken down by classification and each classification has a first and second team offense as well as first and second team athletes. Each classification also includes a list of honorably mentioned players.

Senior offensive lineman Deakon Hembree and junior running back Hunter Persall both found spots on the 5A first team offense. Persall ran for the most yards in 5A this season with 2,153 including a 300-yard performance against Fairview in the "Brandin' Iron Bowl." All those yards came thanks in large part to Hembree and the rest of that Warriors' offensive line. Hembree has been a starter for West Point up front for three years, opening up holes for Warrior backs.

Cullman's Tyler Nunnelley was selected for class 6A's second team offense. The senior offensive lineman has started all four years for the Bearcats and has more football coming up in the future.

On Dec. 20, Nunnelley signed a scholarship to play football for Coach Mark Elder and the Eastern Kentucky Colonels.

Meek's standout running back John Mark Abercrombie was selected to Class 1A's first team offense after leading his team into the postseason in 2017.

Abercrombie was the Tigers' offensive workhorse all season starting in week one when he carried the ball more than 40 times against Phillips.

Addison saw several young players find spots on this year's All-State teams. Junior Zayne Guthrie was selected as a first team athlete for Class 1A. Guthrie did a little bit of everything for the Bulldogs this year. He led the team in passing and was one of the team's leading rushers. Guthrie led his team on a strong play-off run from his quarterback spot and finished the year with 29 total touchdowns, but he was also one of the team's leaders on defense as a starting safety.

Guthrie got a lot of help up front from his junior offensive lineman Hayden Ray. Ray's performance this year won him a spot on the 1A second team offense.

Ray helped open holes all season for a very effective running game and will return next season to put together another powerful running game and hopefully another play-off run.

Bulldogs' sophomore linebacker Matthew Harris made his way onto the class 1A honorable mentions list after a stellar season defensively. Harris has a lot of football left to play at Addison, but if he continues to build on this season, the Bulldogs will have a stingy defense for years to come. With several All-State selections returning in 2018, Addison doesn't appear to be going anywhere in Class 1A.

Rounding out the local selections for this year's teams is Holly Pond sophomore quarterback Kyler Chaney. Chaney earned a spot on the class 3A honorable mentions list as an athlete after a big year as the Broncos' centerpiece on offense. Chaney seemingly never came off the field this season as the sophomore led the team as a passer, a punter and a punt returner. Chaney was also one of the biggest parts of the Broncos' running game this season while also coming up with turnovers in the secondary. Chaney brings a lot of value to Holly Pond's team going forward thanks to his experience at several positions.

With half of this year's All-State selections returning for football in 2018, there should be plenty of competitive local teams next season and plenty of All-State honors to talk about one year from now.

EDUCATION

Water Treatment Training courses offered again at Wallace State

Gail Crutchfield
WSCC

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State Community College's Training for Business and Industry program will hold a new round of classes for Water Treatment Training. The course is designed to help the participant obtain a job in distribution systems. Typical jobs would include fixing water main line breaks, installing meters, flushing hydrants, collecting water samples, etc.

Students can choose the level of certification they are interested in obtaining, either Distribution Class Grade I or II.

With each higher certification, the level of responsibility and pay increases.

Training will include classroom work, as well as on-site training at water utility facilities.

Topics to be covered include:

- Water sources (ground and surface)
- Water testing
- Water treatment
- Operating water distribution systems
- Math equations associated with treatment and distribution

Upon successful completion of the training, students can take certification exams provided by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management for water distribution (Grades I & II). Drinking water operator certification establishes a professional standard, and also provides the knowledge and understanding drinking water operators need to provide safe, adequate drinking water to the public.

Training will take 15 weeks, with classes to be held beginning Jan. 22, 2018. Classes will be from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday, with instructor Wendy Waldrep. The program fee is $506. For more information, contact Mandi Perkins at mandi.perkins@wallacestate.edu or 256-352-7826.

The median annual wage for water and wastewater treatment plan and system operators was $45,760 in May 2016, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The lowest 10 percent earned $27,550 and the highest 10 percent earned $73,120. In Alabama, the mean annual wage was $44,610, with average salaries ranging from $28,590 at the lowest 10 percent to $61,980 at the highest 10 percent.

Obituary Announcements: Dec. 26 - Jan. 6

Gilbert "Wayne" Thomas Jr., age 61, of Holly Pond, passed away Friday, December 22, in Cullman. He was born July 27, 1956 to Gilbert Wayne, Sr. and Rubine Virginia Story Thomas. He was a loving husband and father. Mr. Thomas was a truck driver, known by his fellow drivers as Cannonball, for 25 years and especially enjoyed driving for Tyson the last 5 years of his career. Mr. Thomas is preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Shelia Ann Miller Thomas; a son, Joshua (Jessica) Wayne Thomas; a sister, Patricia Ann Thomas; and a nephew, Patrick Thomas. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday, December 26, 2017 in the Holly Pond Funeral Home Chapel, with James Burnham officiating. Burial will follow in Hopewell Cemetery, Arab, AL. The family will receive guest two hours prior to the service on Tuesday, December 26, 2017 from 12 noon until the service begins at 2 p.m. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Mr. Thomas.

William Olen Estes, 79, of Double Springs passed away on December 23, 2017 in Jasper surrounded by his family. Olen was born on June 21, 1938 in Winfield, AL. He was a member of First Baptist Church in Double Springs and served his country in the United States Army from 1965 – 1967. Olen owned and operated a lawn service in Jasper and Double Springs. He took exceptional pride in his work, never using a riding lawn mower, always using a push mower. Olen took a lot of pride in growing vegetables and giving his bounty away to friends. He loved to can vegetables and make jellies. Visitation will be on Tuesday, December 26, 2017 from 12 p.m. until 1 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Double Springs, where services will be held at 1pm. Brother Adam Veal will officiate. Burial will be in Walker Memory Gardens in Jasper. He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Ann Estes; step daughters, Jennifer Brackin and her husband Mark, and Emily Walker and her husband Mickel; grandchildren, Joseph Williams, Stacy (Bobby) Williams Rodgers and Mary Williams; step grandchildren, Ashley (Casey) Brackin Reed, Samantha Walker, Liz Swinney, Breanna Morris and Isabella Morris; and three great grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his father, William Austin Estes; mother, Allie Waire Estes Williams; and step father, Trannie Williams.

Sister Margaret Frederick, O.S.B., a Benedictine Sister of Sacred Heart Monastery in Cullman, AL, died on December 22, 2017, at the age of 82. Reception of the Body with Vespers of the Dead will be Tuesday, December 26, 2017, at 4:45 p.m. in Sacred Heart Monastery Chapel in Cullman, followed by Visitation. The Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 27, 2017, with interment to follow in the monastery cemetery. Born August 4, 1935, in Miami, Florida, to Robert deRolfe and Sarah Wilson Frederick, Sister Margaret entered the Benedictine Sisters in Cullman in 1953. The following year she entered the Novitiate, receiving her Religious name of Sister Mary Stephen. In 1955, she made her First Monastic Profession, with her Perpetual Monastic Profession following in 1958. Sister Margaret was preceded in death by her parents and by her brother Robert deRolfe Frederick, Jr. Survivors include her Benedictine Sisters, her sister Mary Michael Gaynor (John), sister-in-law Nancy Frederick, and eight nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL, 916 Convent Rd., Cullman, AL, 35055.

Betty Jo Page, 73, of Haleyville, entered into rest on December 23, 2017 at Haleyville Health Care. Mrs. Page was born on July 12, 1944. Visitation will be held on Tuesday, December 26, 2017 from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. at Nichols Funeral Home in Haleyville, where services will be held at 11 a.m. Brother Gary Wakefield will officiate. Burial will follow in Winston Memorial Cemetery. Betty is survived by her sons, Jeffery Kirkpatrick, Cary Page and his wife Jennifer; and grandchildren, Chelsie Page, Justin Page, and Jay Kirkpatrick. She was preceded in death by her parents, Brady and Lily Hodge; brother, O'Neill; sisters, Vera, Dorothy, Billie, and Barbara.

Funeral services for Roy Gene Leonard, 73 of Cullman, will be 2 p.m. Saturday, December 30, 2017, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home Chapel, with Dr. David Chambers officiating. Interment will be in Center Grove Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mr. Leonard passed away Friday, December 22, 2017, at his residence. He was born January 2, 1944, to parents, James Leonard and Jennie Turney Leonard. He was preceded in death by his parents. Mr. Leonard is survived by a daughter, Bobbie Jean Leonard of Gadsden, AL. Visitation will be 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday, December 30, 2017, at the funeral home. A special thanks to Kay Burks, Southern Beacon Hospice, and a host of caregivers

Graveside services for Mrs. Martha Ann Andrews, 75 of Cullman, will be at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 6, 2018 at East Point Cumberland Presbyterian cemetery, with a Celebration of Life service immediately following at St. John's Church in the Ruehl Building. Cullman Funeral Home is directing. Mrs. Andrews was born on May 1, 1942; and passed away on Friday, December 22, 2017 at Woodland Village Health Care Center. Survivors include two – Sons – Jim R. Andrews & Scot (Lisa) Andrews; one Granddaughter – Bailie Andrews; one Brother – Robert Zinsmeister; and a Host of Loving Nieces & Nephews. The family request in Lieu of Flowers, donations be made to the Scleroderma Foundation or the United Way in her memory.

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Cullman's Roxanne Orr on Belmont University's Dean's List

Hope Buckner
Contributor

NASHVILLE – Roxanne Orr, of Cullman, qualified for the Fall 2017 Dean's List at Belmont University. Eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours and a quality grade point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C. Approximately 35 percent of Belmont's 8,080 students qualified for the Fall 2017 Dean's List. Belmont Provost Dr. Thomas Burns said, "This achievement for the fall semester indicates that these students have placed a high priority on their work at Belmont and have invested time and energy in their studies. It is our strong belief that consistent application in this manner will reap great benefits, which will equip them for a lifetime of learning and growing."

About Belmont University
Ranked Number Five in the Regional Universities South category and named as a "Most Innovative" university by U.S. News and World Report, Belmont University is celebrating its 125th anniversary in academic year 2015-16. Founded in 1890, the University consists of more than 7,400 students who come from every state and more than 25 countries. Committed to being a leader among teaching universities, Belmont brings together the best of liberal arts and professional education in a Christian community of learning and service. The University's purpose is to help students explore their passions and develop their talents to meet the world's needs. With more than 80 areas of undergraduate study, 22 master's programs and five doctoral degrees, there is no limit to the ways Belmont University can expand an individual's horizon. For more information, visit www.belmont.edu.

Cullman's Will Raney presents honors research during UA's CBH Live

Richard LeComte
Contributor

TUSCALOOSA – Will Raney, of Cullman, a student in the Computer-Based Honors Program in the Honors College at The University of Alabama, presented the goals, outcomes and impact of research conducted in fall 2017 during "CBH Live 2017," an interactive presentation. The title of the Raney's project was "Towards Open and Interactive Sharing of Polymer Membrane Gas Separation Data."

The Computer-Based Honors Program, soon to be re-named the Randall Research Scholars Program, is a nationally recognized undergraduate research program that pairs academically elite students with leading research professors and cutting-edge computing technology to conduct research in a variety of disciplines.

The University of Alabama, the state's oldest and largest public institution of higher education, is a student-centered research university that draws the best and brightest to an academic community committed to providing a premier undergraduate and graduate education. UA is dedicated to achieving excellence in scholarship, collaboration and intellectual engagement; providing public outreach and service to the state of Alabama and the nation; and nurturing a campus environment that fosters collegiality, respect and inclusivity.

WSCC Alumni Association plans 'Beach Ball' to raise scholarship funds

Gail Crutchfield
WSCC

HANCEVILLE – Make plans to break out your Hawaiian shirts and Bermuda shorts a few weeks early to attend the first annual Beach Ball, a fundraiser hosted by the Wallace State Community College Alumni Association.

The Beach Ball will be held Friday, March 2, 2018, at 6:30 p.m., at Top of the Town in Cullman. The event is a fundraiser for the WSCC Outstanding Alumni Promising Student Scholarship and the WSCC Kenya Relief Student Volunteer Service Scholarship.

"We are really excited about this new fundraiser, which supports two wonderful scholarship funds at Wallace State," said LaDonna Allen, Alumni Coordinator. The Outstanding Alumni Promising Student Scholarship fund offers scholarships to dependents of Alumni Association members and Student Alumni members. The Kenya Relief Student Volunteer Scholarship assists with travel expenses for students who volunteer to go on an international service learning trip with the Kenya Relief organization to Migori, Kenya.

Guests to the event will enjoy a beach-themed buffet, a specialty drink and two drink tickets for either beer or wine. Live music will entertain and allow participants to dance the night away. Andy and Liz Page will be giving shag dance lessons during the evening.

Allen said she's particularly excited about the silent auction, which will include African art pieces from Kenya. Allen said they are still accepting donations for the auction.

Dress for the occasion is casual, but not too casual, with beach attire welcome, but no bathing suits, please.

Tickets for the event are $60 for an individual or $100 per couple. Membership to the Alumni Association is not required to attend.

Guests can register at www.wsccalumni.org/beachball18 or contact Allen at 256-352-8071 or ladonna.allen@wallacestate.edu.

The Wallace State Community College Alumni Association is open to anyone who wishes to support its scholarship programs. You do not have to be a graduate or have attended Wallace State to be a member. Annual regular membership is $25, and lifetime membership is $250.

Current students can join for $15. Membership benefits include discounts at participating area merchants, discounts with the Alumni Travel program, and more. Corporate sponsorships are also available through the Alumni Association.

December (from Front)

around the world, this day is celebrated as its own holiday.

Boxing Day
In Great Britain and the present and some former countries of the British Commonwealth, the first weekday after Christmas has been observed as "Boxing Day" since at least the 1600s.

Public servants such as mailmen and garbage collectors would visit their customers to receive small "Christmas boxes" containing gifts meant to thank them for their service.

At many places of employment, low-ranking employees could expect the same privilege.

The tradition goes back to an even earlier British practice among upper economic class estates, in which household servants who worked on Christmas Day would be given the following day off to go home and visit their families. They would often be given small boxes of gifts to take with them.

Feast of St. Stephen
If you've ever really listened to the carol "Good King Wenceslas," you know that the good King "went down on the Feast of Stephen" to discover a poor man shivering and hungry in the cold.

In western church history, the Feast of St. Stephen the Martyr of Jerusalem is celebrated on Dec. 26 (Dec. 27 in Eastern Orthodox traditions).

It is a national holiday in Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Sweden, Ukraine and Switzerland, among others.

In various places in Europe, the festival is celebrated with parades, dances and dinners.

In some places there is a particular interest in horses, with horseback rides, rides in horse-drawn wagons or sleighs and the blessing of horses in churches.

Good luck out there. May the deals ever be in your favor, and may you come home with what you really wanted. Be safe, be patient and behave.

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2003 GMC Sierra 4dr White, Vin. #1GTEK19T83E300461

This vehicle will be sold to pay storage and or repair fee at John Kings Auto Sales, Inc., 448 US Hwy 278 East, Cullman, Alabama 35055, on Thursday, February 1st, 2018, at 8:00 a.m.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF HANCEVILLE

Pursuant to the instructions of the City Council of the City of Hanceville, notice is hereby given that the proposed ordinance set forth will be considered by the City Council on the 11th day of January 2018 for passage. Prior to this meeting a public hearing will be held at 6:30 p.m. on the 11th day of January 2018 in the Hanceville City Hall Council Chambers, located at 112 Main Street SE, Hanceville, Alabama, 35077, regarding Ordinance No. 618.
All interested citizens shall have the opportunity to be heard for or against the passage of this Ordinance No. 618 during this public hearing.

ORDINANCE 618
AN AMMENDMENT TO ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 510 INCLUDING THE ZONING MAP

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HANCEVILLE, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. The public health, safety, morals and general welfare requiring it under authority granted by Article 4, Sections 11-52-70 through 11-52-79, Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended and the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Hanceville, Alabama Ordinance No. 510, adopted the 1st day of May, 2006, as amended, and more particularly the Hanceville, Alabama zoning map as a part thereof, is hereby amended, changed and modified as follows:

   (a) That the real estate being the property of Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church, Inc., located in Hanceville, Cullman County, be zoned as I-D, described as follows, to-wit:
   Three and 2/10 acres in the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 18, Township 11 South, Range 2 West, described as follows: From the Northeast Corner of the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 18, Township 11 South, Range 2 West, go North along the West line of the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 18, Township 11 South, Range 2 West, 243.7 feet to the true point of beginning, thence go 79` 20` right, 357.7 feet, to the West Edge of a blacktop road, thence go Northwest to the South Right-of-Way of a second blacktop county road, thence 49` 50` Left, 327 feet to the West boundary of the above described quarter-quarter section, thence go South along said boundary 530 feet to the point of beginning.

2. That this Ordinance has been published once each week for two (2) successive weeks, prior to passage, within the City of Hanceville, Alabama, and the publication of said notice and ordinance being verbatim.

   That a public hearing has been held relative to the passage of this ordinance on the 11th day of January 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at which time interested parties and citizens had opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance and any changes relating thereto.

3. That all notices as required by law were given by the City Clerk concerning said public hearing.

4. That upon final passage of this ordinance, all zoning maps, master comprehensive plans or any other documents of the City of Hanceville, Alabama, in conflict with this ordinance be and are hereby changed and amended to reflect the changes and amendments herein.

5. Should any part or portion of this ordinance be held invalid, unenforceable or unconstitutional, for whatever reason, by a court of competent jurisdiction, such ruling shall not affect any other part or portion of this ordinance.

6. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the above described property is zoned I-D and that appropriate action be taken to change and modify the City Zoning Map to so reflect the said land as such.

7. This ordinance adopted the ____ day of _____ _____shall take effect after its publication as required by law, including notice, publication and public hearing, all in accordance with Section 11-52-1, et seq., Code of Alabama 1975, as amended.

_____
Mayor Kenneth Nail

ATTEST:

_____
Tania C. Wilcox, City Clerk

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF HANCEVILLE

Pursuant to the instructions of the City Council of the City of Hanceville, notice is hereby given that the proposed ordinance set forth will be considered by the City Council on the 11th day of January 2018 for passage. Prior to this meeting a public hearing will be held at 6:30 p.m. on the 11th day of January 2018 in the Hanceville City Hall Council Chambers, located at 112 Main Street SE, Hanceville, Alabama, 35077, regarding Ordinance No. 619.
All interested citizens shall have the opportunity to be heard for or against the passage of this Ordinance No. 619 during this public hearing.

ORDINANCE 619
AN AMMENDMENT TO ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 510 INCLUDING THE ZONING MAP

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HANCEVILLE, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. The public health, safety, morals and general welfare requiring it under authority granted by Article 4, Sections 11-52-70 through 11-52-79, Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended and the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Hanceville, Alabama Ordinance No. 510, adopted the 1st day of May, 2006, as amended, and more particularly the Hanceville, Alabama zoning map as a part thereof, is hereby amended, changed and modified as follows:

   (a) That the real estate being the property of Hopewell Cemetery located in Hanceville, Cullman County, after annexation be zoned as A-1, described as follows, to-wit:
   (b) Tract One:
   All that part of the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 18 Township 11, Range 2 West, lying West of the Hanceville and Cullman Public Road, beginning at the SW Corner of Hopewell Church lot, running West with the Blacktop Road to the McElroy Line, North to the Creek, East to the Church lot, South to the point of beginning, being (2) acres, more or less.
   (c) Tract Two:
   Part of the SE¼ of NE¼ of Sec. 18, TllS, R2W described as beginning at the intersection of the North R.0.W. line of County Road 582 with the West R.0.W. line of County Road 599; thence Westerly along the North R.0.W. line of said County Road 582, 400 feet; thence Northerly 140 feet, more or less, to Whaley Mill Creek, at a point that is 380 feet, along said creek line, from the West R.O.W. line of said County Road 599; thence Easterly and Northeasterly along said Whaley Mill Creek, 380 feet to the West R.O.W. line of said County Road 599; thence Southwest along the West R.0.W. line of said County Road 599, 240 feet to the point of beginning. Situated, lying and being in Cullman County, Alabama.
   All that part of the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter and the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 18, Township 11 South, Range 2 West, and more particularly described as follows:

   Begin at the Southwest comer of the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter; thence North along the West line of said forty 243.7 feet; thence go North 79 degrees 20' right 357.7 feet to the West edge of a black top road; thence Northwest to the South right of way of a second black top road; thence Easterly along the South right of way to the West right of way of County Road 599; thence Southerly along the West right of way to the South line of the North half of the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter; thence West along the South line of the North half of the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter to the Southwest corner of said twenty; thence North along the West line to the point of beginning.

2. That this Ordinance has been published once each week for two (2) successive weeks, prior to passage, within the City of Hanceville, Alabama, and the publication of said notice and ordinance being verbatim.

3. That a public hearing has been held relative to the passage of this ordinance on the 11th day of January 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at which time interested parties and citizens had opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance and any changes relating thereto.

4. That all notices as required by law were given by the City Clerk concerning said public hearing.

5. That upon final passage of this ordinance, all zoning maps, master comprehensive plans or any other documents of the City of Hanceville, Alabama, in conflict with this ordinance be and are hereby changed and amended to reflect the changes and amendments herein.

6. Should any part or portion of this ordinance be held invalid, unenforceable or unconstitutional, for whatever reason, by a court of competent jurisdiction, such ruling shall not affect any other part or portion of this ordinance.

7. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the above described property is zoned A-1 and that appropriate action be taken to change and modify the City Zoning Map to so reflect the said land as such.

8. This ordinance adopted the ____ day of _____ _____shall take effect after its publication as required by law, including notice, publication and public hearing, all in accordance with Section 11-52-1, et seq., Code of Alabama 1975, as amended.

ATTEST: _____ Mayor Kenneth Nail

_____
Tania C. Wilcox, City Clerk



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