The Cullman Tribune

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Human trafficking: Local focus on national epidemic

January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

At an awareness event in October, Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force Chair Kathy Wilson, right, displayed Tribune articles on the county's first two human trafficking arrests.

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CULLMAN – On Dec. 29, President Donald Trump signed a proclamation naming January 2018 National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. The City of Cullman and Cullman County are following suit, and the Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force (CCHTTF) is planning a special event on Jan. 11 at Karma's Coffee House.

"We are signing proclamations with the County Jan. 9 at 10 a.m. and the mayor's office Jan. 11 at 9:30 a.m.," said CCHTTF Chair Kathy Wilson. "We have also partnered with Karma's Coffee House for 'Coffee for a Cause' on Jan. 11. We will be there all day educating people on human trafficking. A HUGE 'Thank You' to (Karma's Coffee House owner) Katie (Nelms) for partnering with us to help make our community a better place to live!"

In his statement on the national proclamation, Trump said, in part: "During National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, we recommit ourselves to eradicating the evil of enslavement. Human trafficking is a modern form of the oldest and most barbaric type of exploitation. It has no place in our world. This month we do not simply reflect on this appalling reality. We also pledge to do all in our power to end the horrific practice of human trafficking that plagues innocent victims around the world.

"Human trafficking is a sickening crime at odds with our very humanity. An estimated 25 million people are currently victims of human trafficking for both sex and labor. Human traffickers prey on their victims by promising a life of hope and greater opportunity, while delivering only enslavement. Instead of delivering people to better lives, traffickers unjustifiably profit from the labor and toil of their victims, who they force — through violence and intimidation — to work in brothels and factories, on farms and fishing vessels, in private homes, and in countless industries.

"My Administration continues to work to drive out the darkness human traffickers cast upon our world. In February, I signed an Executive Order to dismantle transnational criminal organizations, including those that perpetuate the crime of human trafficking. My Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons has enhanced collaboration with other nations, businesses, civil society organizations, and survivors of human trafficking. The Department of Health and Human Services has established a new national training and technical assistance center to strengthen » PAGE 4

Altec donates $5,000 to benefit Wallace State Welding



WSCC

Altec representatives Kelly Westin, left, and Chris Harned, present a $5,000 donation on behalf of the Altec to Wallace State Future Foundation's Suzanne Harbin and Welding Program Director Jim Thompson.

Gail Crutchfield
WSCC

HANCEVILLE – The Wallace State Future Foundation recently received a donation of $5,000 from Altec to assist female welding students in completing their education at Wallace State Community College.

Altec is a leading manufacturer of utility equipment such as bucket trucks, cranes, tree equipment, etc., and employs a number of graduates from the Wallace State Welding program.

"Because we are currently seeing a shortage of skilled trade workers in the labor force, we are working heavily with local community colleges like Wallace State.

"Our primary focus has been on supporting welding programs as it's a big part of » PAGE 2

TROOPERS: 23 fatalities during holiday travel period

ALEA
Contributor

MONTGOMERY – Alabama State Troopers investigated 23 traffic deaths during the Christmas and New Year's Day holiday travel period, which was from 12:01 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, 2017, to midnight Monday, Jan. 1, 2018. The total is significantly lower than the total from the same period in 2016, when Troopers investigated 31 traffic fatalities.

The fatal traffic crashes occurred in Autauga, Baldwin, Calhoun, Choctaw, Colbert, Coosa, Crenshaw, Cullman, Dallas, DeKalb, Escambia, Geneva, Limestone, Mobile, Russell, St. Clair, Shelby and Washington counties. Those killed were 16 drivers, four passengers, two pedestrians and one bicyclist. Of those who died in these traffic crashes, 20 were traveling in vehicles equipped with seat belts, but 11 of them were not using them. Nothing further is available on these crashes as Troopers continue to investigate.

Troopers did see five zero-fatality days during this holiday travel period – including Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

In addition, Troopers wrapped up 2017 with fewer traffic fatality investigations than the previous year. In 2017, Troopers investigated 598 traffic deaths, 73 fewer than 2016's 671 traffic deaths. Still, the motoring public is encouraged to drive responsibly: Buckle up, obey speed limits, avoid driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs, and avoid driving when distracted. Do pay attention to the task of driving, and #arrivealivealabama.

Pet of the Week: Baby Hazel wants to grow up in her forever home

W.C. Mann
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CULLMAN – The Cullman County Animal Shelter's Donna Ruttkay wants to let their Pet of the Week, a tri-colored female puppy named Hazel, introduce herself.

"Hi! I'm just 7 weeks old, so I'm kind of new to life. I'm glad to be in a warm kennel on these cold days, but this isn't my forever home. I know I'm supposed to be someone's companion, because I really love to be around people. I'm a real snuggler!

"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 them at 935 Convent Road NE. Reach them by email at cullmancountyanimalshelter @gmail.com.



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Hazel is a 7-week-old tri-color puppy.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JANUARY 4, 2018

VFW, Auxiliary support local veterans

Nick Griffin
Tribune Correspondent

CULLMAN – Veterans of Foreign Wars is an organization that has been serving veterans and their communities since 1899 after the Spanish-American War. It was founded to secure benefits and rights for soldiers returning home from war and Cullman's VFW Post 2214 continues that work today. Cullman's VFW is very active in the community and contributes in a variety of ways, whether its conducting programs at schools or visiting veterans in nursing homes and hospitals.

Post 2214 Commander Jerry Willibey has been involved in the VFW for 16 years and has played many roles in the organization.

"I have held numerous positions over the years: commander, senior vice, junior vice, quarter master, I've filled in as the District One post commander and I have some state-level positions at the department in Montgomery," Willibey said. "I go to all of the department meetings and conventions since I'm the commander and I've been chosen to be the central point for the Scouts program here so all of the Scouts programs in the state of Alabama will come to me in March and I will select the winner for the state and they'll send it off to nationals."

Willibey and his staff are currently working on their programs and fundraisers coming up in 2018 and already have a lot of planning in place.

"Ken Brown and I are on the yearly veterans committee and he does the planning for the aircraft and stuff that comes in for our program in November," he said. "We're in the process right now of planning the program here in 2018 and it's going to be set up for the Iraqi era this year. We used to do it all ourselves, but it got so big that we couldn't handle it. We didn't have the manpower to do it, so we branched out and asked the Elks to help us and they help us, and we help them so that's how we pay for everything. We'll have meetings throughout the year about that function coming up in November. We'll have things going on here at the Post as well. We'll have fundraisers; right now we're selling chances to win a Henry rifle for a fundraiser to support programs coming down the road. We host the district meeting once a year here at the Post and everyone from the state of Alabama will come in here for the meeting and we'll provide the lunches for them and it helps everybody out for the Post to do that."

The Cullman VFW's Auxiliary, led by President Dee Harris, is happy to be able to help out Commander Willibey and the Post with its events as well as organizing some of its own.

"Every Tuesday we cook a meal for the public and we ask for a $5 donation. Veterans who need to eat are welcome to come and eat free," Harris said. "We work with other fundraisers; we do Buddy Poppy with the members. This year we did the Veterans Day celebration that we had here at the Post, we did a Gold Star family memorial at Veterans Park, we have a girl scout troop that we work with and do things for and we make a lot of donations at the food bank and do fundraisers for families in need. We're kind of the members' backup on the major things, but we do our own different fundraisers."

The Ladies' Auxiliary and the Post also work with educational programs in the community. Harris and the Auxiliary work in any fundraiser that the Post is involved in on top of their own.

Harris said her motivation comes from her family's roots in the military and a lot of her focus is dedicated toward bringing about legislative change to support veterans.

"Basically, the way I see it, the VFW is a lobby. The more numbers we have, the more politicians will pay attention when we have bills come before Congress and the Senate that involve veterans," she said. "The more numbers we have on our rolls the better because it's a voting block for people who are going to support veterans the way our president does. We send emails, we make phone calls and we write letters to our congressmen about bills coming before them that involve veterans. I did even before I worked with the VFW because my husband is a 26-year veteran, my dad was a World War II veteran, our son is a 15-year veteran, our daughter is a Navy veteran and our grandson is a Navy veteran, so I am laser focused on veteran's issues and working to benefit them because they were made a lot of promises and those promises haven't been kept."



NICK GRIFFIN /THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman VFW Post 2214 Post Commander Jerry Willibey and Ladies' Auxiliary President Dee Harris.

Harris is also involved in an organization dedicated to finding the cause of the up-tick in veteran suicides and finding ways to people help who need it.

"Another issue that is important to me is veterans suicide. We have the Blue Teardrop campaign that works to try and find the cause of all these veterans' suicides," she said. "There are 22 per day that die, but here in Cullman alone this past year there's been how many? It's up to 30 plus, something is wrong, and we need to find answers for that."

Catch up with the VFW on Facebook at www.facebook.com/cullmanVFWPost.

Below is a list of activities for the Post and Auxiliary:

- On the first Thursday of each month the Post provides a free meal prior to the scheduled business meeting.
- By appointment, the Service Officers' telephone number is on the east parking lot door; the Post will be opened to advise and assists veterans in their effort to receive the benefits earned by their service.
- The Post Auxiliary hosts an Open Lunch (open to all) each Tuesday from 11:30 – 12:30.
- The Post hosts live entertainment on most Saturdays, from 6:30 p.m. until...
- The VFW sponsors an annual patriotic essay contest for local schools and provides cash prizes for winners at the Post, District, Department (state) and National levels.
- The Post utilizes several fundraising means, Buddy Poppy Drives, an annual fishing tournament, as well as private donations, to provide financial help to veterans and veterans' families in distress.
- The Post member volunteers conduct patriotic programs and ceremonies at the city and county schools.
- The Post member volunteers place United States flags along the main north, south, east and west highways leading into and out of Cullman four times a year during major patriotic holidays.
- Post member volunteers place United States flags on the final resting places of Cullman city and county veterans on Memorial Day.
- When requested by the family of deceased veterans, Post volunteers provide a ceremonial slow salute to honor their service.
- Post member volunteers provide a float to the annual Cullman County Fair Parade and an informational booth at the fairgrounds.
- Post member volunteers provide support to local Army National Guard members and their families during home station training and deployment.
- Post and Auxiliary members periodically visit homebound and nursing home veterans.
- Post member volunteers stage an annual Christmas banquet and party for member families and their guests.
- The Post sponsors an annual Post, District, Department (state) and National law enforcement, fire fighter, and emergency medical award program.
- The VFW sponsors an annual Post, District, Department (state) and National Eagle and Girl Scout Gold Award program.
- The VFW sponsors an annual Post, District, Department (state) and National Teacher of the Year program.

Welding (from Front)

what we do at Altec," said Chris Harned, general manager of Altec's Birmingham facility.

"The associates we've hired from the Wallace State Welding Program have been a fantastic addition to the Altec team," said Kelly Westin of Altec.

Jim Thompson, head of the Wallace State Welding program, said the support from partners like Altec helps give their graduates an opportunity to work in the field.

Students who are employed by Altec have given him very positive feedback on working with them. "They are very happy to have the opportunity to work there," Thompson said.

The $5,000 donated by Altec will help pay tuition, fees, books and supplies for a female welding student. The scholarship will provide up to $1,250 per semester for each recipient.

"Right now, women are underrepresented in the trade," Harned said of one of the reasons for gearing the scholarship toward female welding students. Both he and Thompson agreed women have become great welders, because they tend to be more detailed.

To qualify for the scholarship, a student must have completed one semester in the welding program; have a 2.75 GPA or higher; demonstrate financial need; apply each semester; and provide an essay explaining their need for scholarship assistance and why they chose welding as a career.

"We truly appreciate Altec's support of Wallace State students," said Suzanne Harbin, director of advancement at Wallace State. "It's a wonderful gift they give to students that allows them to make a better life for themselves and their families."

For more information about the scholarship, contact the Wallace State Future Foundation at 256-352-8144, email suzanne.harbin@wallacestate.edu or visit www.wsccfuturefoundation.org. For more information about the Wallace State Welding program, contact Jim Thompson at 256-352-8272 or jim.thompson@wallacestate.edu, and visit www.wallacestate.edu.

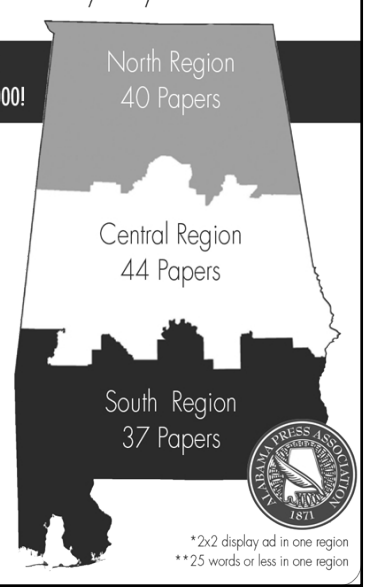
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CCSO: shooting investigation reports turned over to DA

Wendy Sack
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CULLMAN – Findings of an investigation into a fatal Christmas Eve shooting have been turned over to the Cullman County District Attorney's Office, the Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) confirmed late Tuesday. The victim in the incident, Logan Wayne Trammell, 22, of Jones Chapel, was allegedly shot by his father, according to family and friends who spoke to Birmingham news station WIAT CBS 42. The CCSO is not releasing further details at this time. The Tribune is awaiting comment from Cullman County District Attorney Wilson Blaylock.

Trammell's family told WIAT that he was driving away from his parents' home around 11:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve in one of his father's vehicles.

Family said the father was unaware that his son was borrowing his truck, and, fearing the vehicle was being stolen, the father yelled and fired a warning shot, attempting to get the driver's attention.

Family said the father shot once at the tailgate, and once the truck stopped, the family said, the father realized he had accidentally shot his own son.

"It was just a horrific accident. A horrific accident. My brother thought someone was stealing his truck, never realized it was Logan because he didn't live down here all the time, he lived with my mom and dad," Logan's aunt Tammy Jacobs told WIAT. "And he was supposed to be in the bed."

Jacobs continued, "He'd never come and gotten one of his dad's vehicles before, and his dad was out in his little shop, the little camper beside his shop....and he was recording (music), and he thought someone was stealing his truck, when he saw his truck going up the driveway," she said.

"And he shot and hollered, and he said it sped up, and he shot toward the truck again, and it's dark, and he said, I shot toward the tailgate, and the truck stopped. And he said, 'I walked up there, you know, hollering, 'get out,' I didn't know who was in my truck,' and still never realized that it was Logan, until he got the door open, and he realized who it was."

Cullman County Coroner Jeremy L. Kilpatrick told The Tribune, which first reported the shooting, that Trammell was transported to Cullman Regional, where he died of his injuries a short time later, early Christmas morning.

Trammell was a singer-songwriter; his family and friends told WIAT that Trammell had dreams of moving to Nashville.

"Love your family every chance you get. Cause you never know when the last time you're gonna see someone, or the last chance you're gonna get to hug them. Or tell them that you love them," Stacey Tankersley, another of Trammell's family members, told WIAT.



FACEBOOK/LOGAN WAYNE TRAMMELL

Logan Wayne Trammell

Missoula Children's Theatre in Cullman; auditions Jan. 15

Wendy Sack
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CULLMAN – Missoula Children's Theatre (MCT) will make its annual stop in Cullman this month. The group will be in town from Jan. 15-20 to put on "Jack and the Beanstalk." The production will include area children, ages 5-18, with auditions held on Jan. 15 at 3:30 p.m. at the Cullman Civic Center.

The theatrical company has come to Cullman annually for more than 20 years in partnership with Cullman Parks and Recreation (CP&R).

"Jack and the Beanstalk," written by Jim Caron, is an original adaptation of the classic children's story. Said MCT: What happens when a young boy plants Wonder Beans in his own backyard? For Jack, it is the beginning of a great adventure. With a little help from P.T. Wonder and a Giant, Jack learns a valuable lesson about true happiness. This musical production also features a host of other characters, including the Elegant Harp, Jill, Mother, Milky White, the Farmers, the Merchants, the Circus Performers and the Wonder Beans.

Children ages 5-18 are welcome to audition; not all who try out will be given roles. There is no pre-registration or registration fee to audition. Actors who are awarded roles will be charged a $35 fee, which includes two parent tickets to the show on Saturday, Jan. 20. Approximately 50-60 roles are available for local students. No advance preparation is necessary. Most students rehearse four hours and 15 minutes each day, Monday through Friday. Selected actors will practice the week of Jan. 15-19 with practices in the afternoons, and perform two shows on Saturday, Jan. 20, one at 2 p.m. and one and 6 p.m. Both performances will be held at the Cullman Civic Center and open to the public. Tickets are $5 per show for adults and free for ages 10 and younger.

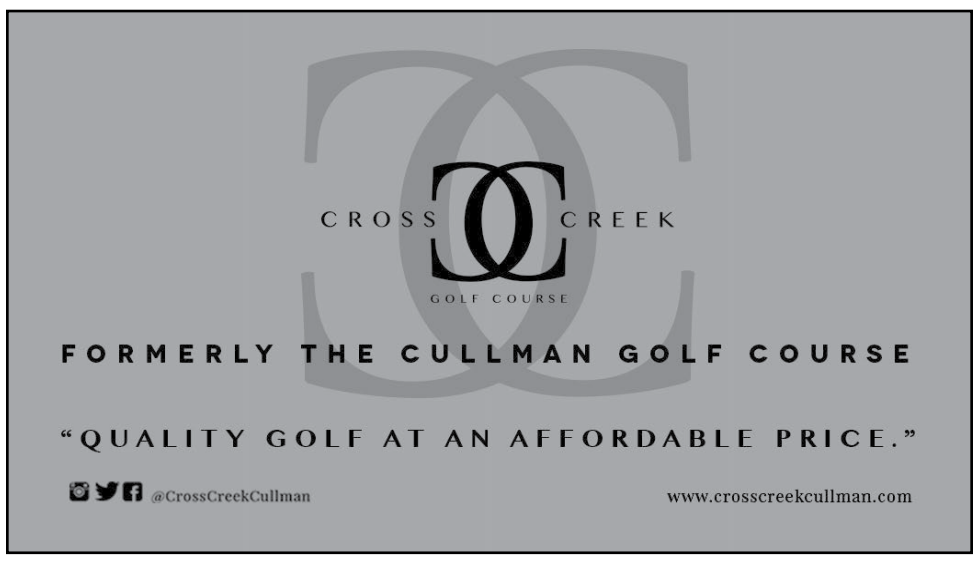
Last January, the group performed "Treasure Island" in Cullman. Read all about it at www.cullmantribune.com/articles/2017/01/21/young-performers-hit-stage-treasure-island.

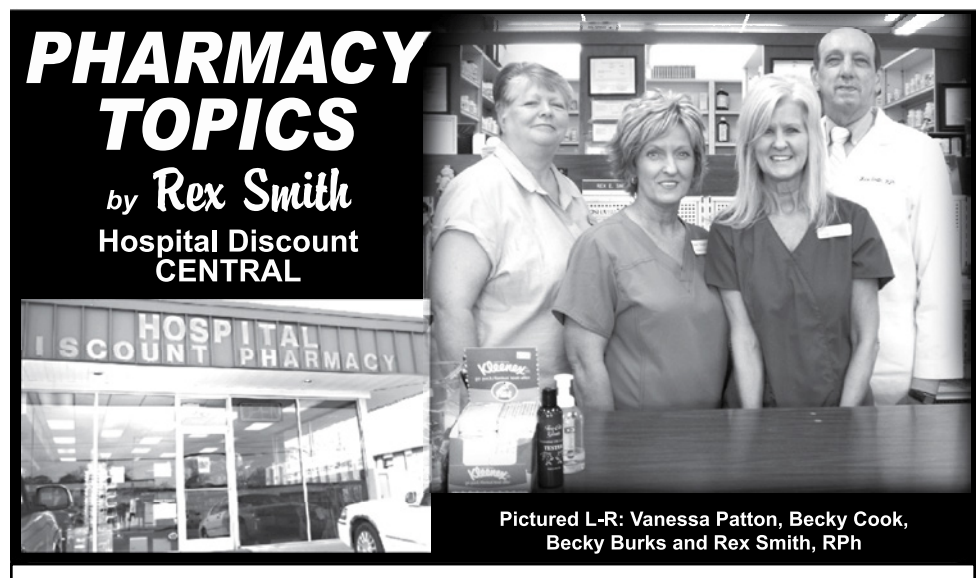
For more information, contact CP&R at 256-734-9167, visit www.cullmanrecreation.org or http://mctinc.org/about-mct/story-mct.

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A new study published in the *Annals of Neurology* finds that pyrimethamine, a decades-old drug used to treat malaria, lowers levels of a biomarker linked to the inherited form of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as ALS and Lou Gehrig's Disease. Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis is a relentless disease that progressively attacks nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord. As time goes on, patients lose the ability to initiate and control muscle movement, their speech is affected and they become paralyzed. Swallowing and breathing become increasingly difficult and ALS is often fatal within three to five years. In addition to Lou Gehrig, acclaimed physicist Steven Hawkings is a well-known person with ALS.

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In a recent study published in the *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease* scientists tested an anti-epileptic drug, levetiracetam, for its potential impact on the brain activity of patients with mild Alzheimer's disease. Changes in patients' EEGs suggest the drug could have a beneficial effect.

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Use of fluoxetine – the most commonly prescribed antidepressant – during pregnancy is linked with a slightly increased risk of malformations in infants, according to a recent analysis of published studies. In the analysis of 16 studies, infants exposed to fluoxetine during the first trimester had an 18 percent increased relative risk of major malformations and a 36 percent increased relative risk of cardiovascular malformations. There were no significant observations of other system-specific malformations in the nervous system, eye, urogenital system, digestive system, respiratory system, or musculoskeletal system. The findings are published in the British Journal of *Clinical Pharmacology*.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JANUARY 4, 2018

PREP BASKETBALL

Lady Warriors, Raiders start off new year with victories

Sammy Confer
Tribune Correspondent

WEST POINT – What a way to start off 2018 for the West Point girls and Good Hope's boys, along with the JV boys, coming away with big wins Tuesday night.

Good Hope 42, West Point 37 (JVB)

Things started off slow between both teams, but Good Hope's Tanner Malin had a big quarter, scoring eight of the Raiders' 10 points in the first. West Point's Lawson Burgess hit a shot just before the buzzer sounded to cut it to 10-5 after one.

Malin, along with Max Bavar, helped Good Hope stretch its lead to 16-5 with 3:54 remaining in the first half. West Point struggled on offense for most of the half, but a Kobe Bowers three finally gave the Warriors their first basket of the quarter, then later on, Tyler White hit a layup to cut it to 16-10, and Harper Chiaranda nailed a three to make it 19-10 at the half.

The start of the third quarter was a mirror copy of the first half, as both teams struggled to score points early, but West Point did make it a 19-14 game behind two free throws by Will Brown and a layup by Bowers. Good Hope finally got on the scoreboard on a layup by Malin at the 3:20 mark of the quarter. Then, both teams started to get their offenses going. After a Chiaranda layup made it 27-19, the Warriors finished the quarter on a mini 5-0 run to make it a 27-24 game going into the final period.

A Baver layup, followed by three free throws by Dawson Turner, quickly stretched Good Hope's lead to 31-24. But, treys by Bowers and White cut it to 32-30 with 3:11 left in the game.

Later on, a Bowers layup, followed by an Elvis Arroyo trey, gave the Warriors a 35-34 lead, but they didn't have it for long, as two more free throws by Turner, followed by a trey from the left corner, gave the Raiders a 39-35 advantage. West Point cut it to 39-37 on a Brown layup, but three free throws by Malin finally sealed the Raider win at the end.

Malin finished with 17 for the game for Good Hope. Turner ended up with 10. Bavar had eight. Chiaranda ended up with five, and Justin Crumpton had two. The Raiders will play at home vs. Dora on Thursday.

Bowers and White each finished with 10 for West Point. Arroyo had nine. Brown ended up with four, and Burgess had two. The Warriors will take on Fairview at home on Friday.

West Point 64, Good Hope 44 (Varsity Girls)

Both teams got off to very slow starts with six turnovers combined, and bad shot selection kept them both scoreless for almost four minutes until West Point's Miriam Oldacre hit a layup at the 4:14 mark for the first basket of the game. Lexi Shadix made it 5-0 with a layup and a free throw, and Good Hope's Leyton Seal finally got her team on the scoreboard with a trey at the 2:41 mark that was answered by a Lady Warrior trey by Mackenzie Carter.

But the Lady Raiders' finished the quarter on a 7-0 lead behind a layup by Kate Kent and five quick points by Erika Woodall, including a three by the latter, to give Good Hope a 10-8 lead after one quarter.

Seal nailed another trey to stretch the Lady Raiders' lead to 13-8. Then, Shadix got red-hot, nailing a pair of threes, followed by a layup, to give the Lady Warriors a 16-13 lead. Good Hope took a 17-16 lead off an Abby Neighbors rebound and put-back with 5:08 remaining in the first half, but it was all West Point after that, as Olivia Ball nailed a three to start a quarter-ending 14-3 run, which ended with a Micah Oldacre getting a trey of her own before the buzzer to give the Lady Warriors a 30-20 lead at the half.

Miriam Oldacre stretched West Point's lead to 33-20 on a three, but Good Hope's Seal hit one of her own to push it back down to 10. Five quick points by Micah Oldacre made it 38-23, and Good Hope looked to cut the deficit before the buzzer sounded, as Woodall hit a shot before it went off, to make it 44-30 after three.

West Point stretched its lead to 20 at one point in the final quarter, and Good Hope could not get out of the double-digit hole as West Point played ferocious defense to keep the Lady Raiders at bay to take home a 64-44 win.

Miriam Oldacre and Shadix each had 17 points to lead no. 8 West Point. Shadix also added eight rebounds and seven steals. Carter had 11 points, eight rebounds and a pair of blocks. Micah Oldacre ended up with 10 points, five rebounds and a pair of steals. Ball had five points and two steals, and Kyler Hembree had four points and four rebounds. The Lady Warriors improve to 13-6 on the season.

Woodall had 18 points to lead Good Hope. She also added five rebounds and a steal. Seal added nine points, six rebounds and two steals. Kent finished with six points, 10 rebounds and two blocks. Neighbors had five points and five rebounds. Rudi Derrick ended up with four points, and Bailey Swann had two. The Lady Raiders' record falls to 6-11 on the season.

Good Hope 63, West Point 58 (Varsity Boys)

Good Hope didn't waste any time getting off to a quick start as a Michael Lowe put-back basket, followed by five quick points by Isaac McDonald later in the first, gave the Raiders a 7-1 lead with 4:17 remaining in the quarter. At the 3:52 mark, West Point's Kolton Sapp hit the Warriors' first basket of the quarter, then added a 3-point play later on, cutting the Raider lead to 7-6. They didn't stop there, as an 8-2 quarter-ending run, which was highlighted by a Landon Ray trey from the right corner, gave them a 14-9 lead and the momentum.

The Raiders started off the second quarter strong, as a 3-point play by Lowe, followed by five quick points by Drew Maddox, gave them a 17-16 lead.

The lead flip-flopped a few times in the quarter as each team looked for that big run again to stretch the lead. After three points by Sapp gave them a 24-22 lead, Cole Maddox got his first points of the game on a pair of free throws to tie the game. Austin Dubberly completed a 3-point play to give West Point a 28-24 advantage, and added a layup to make it 30-26 at the half.

The third quarter saw West Point quickly increased its lead to 33-26 to start it off, but layups by Matt Dixon and Noah Fendley cut the deficit to just three at 33-30. After a Sapp layup made it 35-30, Dixon nailed a three from the right corner to make it a 35-33 game, then Cole Maddox took over from there, putting up 11 third-quarter points, and Zach Phares scored his first varsity points for the Raiders to give them a 44-40 lead, then McDonald and Cole Maddox each added a pair from the charity stripe as they finished the quarter strong, outscoring the Warriors, 18-7, to take a 48-42 lead after three.

Every time West Point looked to start a run, McDonald hit a big shot to keep the lead at a sizable advantage. After the Warriors cut it to 51-47 on a Jones layup and a Dalton White free throw, McDonald nailed a deep trey to make it 54-47. West Point cut it to 56-52 on another Sapp layup with 2:29 remaining in the game, but McDonald added one of his own to push it back to six, then to seven on a Dixon free throw, but the Warriors were not done, as a pair of Whit Laney free throws, plus a layup by Sapp, made it a 59-56 game. A layup by Good Hope's Drew Maddox, followed up by a pair of free throws later on by Dubberly, kept it at a three-point game, then Fendley sealed the game at the line to give Good Hope a 63-58 victory.

McDonald had a big game offensively, putting up a game-high 20 points, plus he added a pair of huge steals late in the fourth quarter to help seal the win. Cole Maddox ended up with 15 points, four rebounds and a big steal late as well. Dixon added eight points, five rebounds and a steal of his own, as he came up big in hustle plays. Drew Maddox had seven points, plus four rebounds. Fendley had six points, three rebounds and a pair of key steals late. Lowe had five points, a steal and a block, and Phares had two points as the Raiders won a big road game without two of their main players in the lineup in Kallen Sharpton and Landyn Freeman and look to get them back on Thursday against Dora at home. They improve to 9-7 on the season.

"I'm really proud of the way they gritted and fought to get the win," Good Hope coach Drew Adams said. "We hadn't beaten West Point in a long time. We came close a number of times, but this time, we got it done tonight, especially without two of our main guys."

"It was big for me to have this performance against West Point," McDonald said. "We hadn't beaten this team since the sixth grade, so this was a huge win for us. We showed heart and hustle to get those steals late. We wanted it more than they did."

Sapp led West Point (8-9) with 18 points and four rebounds. Dubberly ended up with 14 points, eight rebounds and two steals. Rylan Jones had nine points, seven rebounds, three steals and a block. Ray finished with nine points as well. White had four points and a pair of rebounds. Laney had four points as well. The Warriors look to recover on Friday as they take on Fairview at home in a big area game.

Epidemic (from Front)

our healthcare industry's anti-trafficking response. The Department of State has contributed $25 million to the Global Fund to End Modern Slavery, because of the critical need for cross-nation collaborative action to counter human trafficking.

The Department of Labor has released an innovative, business-focused mobile app that supports private-sector efforts to eradicate forced labor from global supply chains. And this month, I will sign into law S. 1536, the Combating Human Trafficking in Commercial Vehicles Act and S. 1532, the No Human Trafficking on Our Roads Act. These bills will keep those who commit trafficking offenses from operating commercial vehicles, improve anti-human trafficking coordination within Federal agencies and across State and local governments, and improve efforts to recognize, prevent, and report human trafficking.

"In addition to these governmental actions, Americans must learn how to identify and combat the evil of enslavement.

"This is especially important for those who are most likely to encounter the perpetrators of slavery and their victims, including healthcare providers, educators, law enforcement officials, and social services professionals. Through the Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign, all Americans can learn to recognize the signs of human trafficking and how to report suspected instances. By taking steps to become familiar with the telltale signs of traffickers or the signals of their victims, Americans can save innocent lives."

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security defines human trafficking as "a form of modern-day slavery, and involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to exploit human beings for some type of labor or commercial sex purpose. Its victims include those forced into prostitution, as well as unpaid and severely underpaid domestic servitude, factory, and farm labor jobs. They are often lured into bondage with offers of jobs, drugs or immigration assistance."

Alabama is far from immune to the dangers of human trafficking: the segment of I-20 from Birmingham to Atlanta is the busy thoroughfare for sex trafficking in the United States, and Cullman County saw two human trafficking arrests last year.

In an interview last October, Wilson informed The Tribune that the problem predates the terminology, saying, "Human trafficking has existed here for quite some time; we just didn't call it that. We've had parents that have been arrested for selling their children to the neighbor for drugs, but it wasn't called that. It was just a sexual abuse case, or something like that.

"So, it's been here. We've got boyfriends that have been trading their girlfriends, not for a monetary amount, but for a case of beer or something like that. That's what exists here in this county.

"I want folks to know that human trafficking exists here in this county. I want people to open their eyes, see that it's here, and to educate themselves and to educate someone else."

On Wednesday, Wilson said of the task force's current efforts, "Our goal of this task force has been to raise awareness, educate people and to get those people to take action. I feel that because of the efforts of this task force this shows true with the two local arrests made this year. People are more aware and know what to look for. We will continue our efforts until this heinous crime is no more. These are our children, our community, and (it is) our responsibility to protect them!"

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Upcoming development could begin new approach to downtown construction

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Architect's concept drawing of the front of the proposed Turner three-story business/loft apartment development

CULLMAN – On Monday evening, the City of Cullman Planning Commission met in a protracted session, voting to recommend to the city council a modification of Cullman's ordinance governing downtown loft apartments, to allow the development of three-story buildings with businesses on their ground floors and two levels of residences above.

Section 62-517 of the Cullman, AL Code of Ordinances currently reads:

"In all business zoning districts, B-1, B-2, B-3 and CBD, apartments, loft apartments, efficiency apartments and similar residential occupancies may be constructed in new and existing business occupancies as a secondary use.

"All such uses must be approved by the planning commission under rules established by that board. These occupancies shall also strictly comply with all building and fire protection related codes in their construction. The primary use of all commercial buildings located in the B-1, B-2, B-3 and CBD zoning districts shall be those uses listed as permitted uses and conditional uses in the zoning district in which the property is located. *As described in this section, the term 'primary use' means at least 50 percent of a development's usable floor area is to be used for business or commercial purposes."*

In a change proposed by City Zoning and Planning Director Rick Fulmer, the *italicized portion* would be removed and replaced with the following text:

"The ground floor of the structure must be used for business or commercial purposes and not residential use. Spaces above the first floor may be either business or residential use subject to compliance with all adopted codes and ordinances."

The current version requires that at least half the square footage of a retail/apartment combination must be retail.

According to Fulmer, that arrangement made such development not worth the investment developers would have to make versus the returns.

He told the commission: "The reason for the request for change, which comes directly from me through my office: I have two developers who've looked at this in the past, and they're interested in doing three-story buildings.

"I think to protect the city we should change the ordinance so that anything on the ground floor should be commercial or business; that's the idea of the downtown district.

"The issue is that often they can't make the numbers work with a two-story building, because the second story won't rent for enough money to justify construction.

"That changes with a three-story building. So there's a lot of interest in doing three-story buildings, but then your 50-50 rule is prohibitive."

Fulmer's requirement of first-floor commercial use stemmed from past instances in which developers located residences on the ground floors of buildings in the downtown business district.

He also added, based on earlier discussion with Commission President Mike Voss, a recommendation that basements, when present, be included in the commercial space.

What does all that mean?

Based on the discussion and proposed wording change, a three-story building with a basement in the downtown business district would have to commit to commercial/business use of the basement and ground floor (the floor that opens onto street level), with both above floors available for either businesses or apartments.

After lengthy discussion, the commission voted to give a favorable recommendation to the change.

The proposal must next go before the city council for final approval.

Developer waiting to hear the outcome of the city council's deliberations

In a coincidence, between his drawing up of the ordinance change and the commission meeting, Fulmer received a preliminary plan for a development that would put the new ordinance to immediate use if passed.

On behalf of property owners Roger and Lori Turner, Kevin Baughn of JMR+H Architecture had sent to the commission a site plan for a three-story building to be located on the south side of Fourth Street Southeast between Second Avenue Southeast and Third Avenue Southeast, with ground-floor business space and two upper floors of loft apartments.

The original plan did not meet the current 50 percent commercial use rule, so Baughn brought to the meeting a revised building plan on which the square footage of the upper floors was restricted so that their total would be 49 percent of the total, with the first-floor commercial space comprising 51 percent.

The commission approved Baughn's revised site plan, but he said that he would talk to the owners if the ordinance change passed, and felt confident that they would want to pursue a plan for larger upper floors on a building with the same footprint, which would require the submission of another revised plan. Approval of the current plan allows site preparation to commence while the developer awaits the city council's decision.

If the council approves the change to the ordinance, with at least two other developers having looked into similar projects, the Turner retail and loft building could be the first in a series of such multi-story structures in downtown Cullman's business district.

Other retail and housing developments

The commission approved a site plan submitted by Jim Boyd for parking areas and lumber sheds for the possible development of a Marvin's building materials and home improvement store at 4933 Alabama Highway 157 NW in the Piggly Wiggly building.

After lengthy discussion, especially about storm water drainage, a site plan submitted by Dale Bright was also approved for the development of retail centers Cullman Row East and Cullman Row West along either side of Second Avenue Southwest near Kensington Station apartments on lots including the old Dodge dealership and Sticks N Stuff store.

The commission also approved a conditional use request submitted by Terry Mount for the development of a 56-unit apartment complex, "Catoma Center," on County Road 1402 between Eva Road and Lake Catoma.

Other business

The commission approved subdivision requests from:

- Paul Bussman for the subdivision of a lot at 1635 Main Ave. SW into four lots
- Dale Bright for the subdivision of a lot on Second Avenue Southwest between Birmingham Street Southwest and Short Street Southwest
- Clifford Harris for the subdivision of a lot on Walnut Street and Brantley Avenue for Rusken Packaging

The commission also voted to send favorable recommendations to the city council for four property annexations totaling more than 175 acres:

- 165 acres off Hwy 278 West, zoned as agricultural
- 11 acres off Fromhold Road, zoned as agricultural
- 2 acres off Fromhold Road, zoned as residential
- 220 County Road 1320, zoned residential

The City of Cullman Planning Commission normally meets at 5:30 p.m. on the first Monday of each month in the auditorium at Cullman City Hall. The public is invited to attend.





THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JANUARY 4, 2018

Fairview moves to appoint Edelman new councilman

Nick Griffin
Tribune Correspondent

FAIRVIEW – The Fairview Town Council voted unanimously Tuesday evening to approve the appointment of Steve Edelman as its new councilman. Edelman, who was not present at the meeting, will fill the seat left vacant by Norman Dye, who passed away in September 2017. Edelman is expected to be introduced at the council's next meeting in February.

In old business, the council passed a motion to apply a $25 vendor charge for those vendors who want to come in and participate and sell food during the Town's disc golf tournament in April. The tournament will be held at Heritage Park in Cullman.

In new business, Mayor Keith Henry presented the council with a resolution, which was approved, to apply for a health insurance quote through the League of Municipalities for the Town's employees. Henry described it as "just a way to see where we stand as far as getting insurance to our employees, to see if our employees qualify to get insurance through the Town."

The Fairview Town Council will meet again at Fairview Town Hall on Feb. 5 at 7 p.m. Meetings are open to the public.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Obituary Announcements: Jan. 4 - 6

Funeral service for Refford Eddy, 77, of Cullman will be at 11 a.m., Thursday, January 4, 2018 at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Bethsadia Cemetery, Revs. Larry Brown and Tim Nabors officiating. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mr. Eddy passed away December 30, 2017 at Cullman Regional Hospital. He was born December 30, 1940 to parents, Arthur Clarence & Jeannie V. Blackmon Eddy. He served his country in the United States Army and served two tours in Vietnam and one in Cambodia. He was a member of Living Faith Baptist Church. Mr. Eddy was a family man who dearly loved his wife, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Truman and Buford Eddy and a sister, Mary Stricklin. Survivors include his wife of 55 years, Annette Eddy; son, Griffin (Bethany) Eddy; daughters, Tammie (Shannon) Brown, Sonya (Blake) Morris; brothers, Dillard (Wilda) Eddy, Billy Ray (Barbara) Eddy; sisters, Hazel Kris, Charlotte (Garrold) Hamilton; grandchildren, T'aira (Michael) Ugarkovich, Tyler Gibbs, Chase Talley, Chance Talley, Calan Talley, Jordyn Eddy, Ty Eddy, Emily Morris, Trey Morris, Garrett Brown; great-grandchildren, Katherine Ugarkovich, Bryson Wright, Brynlee Wright, Emmett Talley, Spencer Gibbs, Charlie Talley; and a host of family and friends. Visitation will be Wednesday evening at the funeral home from 5:30 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Nancy Louise Townsend Haynes was born January 1, 1945 in Decatur, AL to Claude & Leona Francis Maddux Townsend. She passed away on January 2, 2018. She was preceded in death by her parents; grandparents, Frank & Minnie Townsend and Frank & Inez Maddux; sisters, Polly Alvis, Donna Haynes and Myra Townsend; brother, Kenneth Townsend. Survivors include her husband, James "Robert" Haynes; daughters, Tina Haynes (Greg) Johnson and Sherri Haynes (Brad) Hankey; son, Michael Dewayne (Sheila) Haynes; sisters, Barbara King and Margie Bradford; grandchildren, Misty Montgomery, Michael Haynes Jr., Melody Haynes Sharp and Brooklyn Hankey; great grandchildren, Brody Montgomery, Weston Montgomery, Cade Haynes and Cooper Haynes. Visitation for Mrs. Haynes will be Thursday, January 4, 2018 from 5:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home. Services will be Friday at 2 p.m. at Moss Service with Alton Bailey officiating. Interment will be at Mt. Zion Cemetery.

Funeral service for James Sherrell Rhodes, 79, of Vinemont will be at 2 p.m., Thursday, January 4, 2018 at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Bethsadia Cemetery, Bro. Mike Tidwell and Bro. Carlton Bates officiating. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mr. Rhodes passed away December 31, 2017. He was born November 17, 1938 to parents, James Elvie & Derinda Inez Young Rhodes. He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Kennon Rhodes. Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Mary Alice White Rhodes; son, James Keith Rhodes; daughter, Becky Rhodes (Randy) Aaron; brother, Maxie (Diann) Rhodes; sister, Doris (Martin) Merriman; grandchildren, Cathy Rhodes (Phillip) Hillman, James Brandon Rhodes; great-grandchildren, Emma & Alli Tucker-Hillman, Audree Hillman; sister-in-law, Sue Jordan Rhodes; host of family and friends.

Nancy Ann Carey, age 72 of Decatur, passed away on Friday, December 29, 2017 at her residence. She was born, July 23, 1945 in Providence, RI to Stanley and Marie Banach. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. She is preceded in death by her, parents, grandchild, Ian Eslick, sister, Janice, brother, Stacho Banach. Survivors include her, daughter, Shannon (Adam) Swanner, sons, David (Angie) Carey, Scott Carey, grandchildren, Donielle Eslick, Shawn Eslick, Dawn Carey, Natasha Carey, Christopher Carey, and 3, great grandchildren, sisters, Paula Morelli, and Tina Strazzullo, brother, Kevin Banach. A memorial service will be January 5, 2018 at 1 p.m. at Annunciation of the Lord Catholic Church, 3910 Spring Ave SW Decatur, AL 35603.

Ryan Holman, 38 of Ashridge, entered into rest at Lakeland Community Hospital on Wednesday, January 3, 2018. A full obituary and funeral arrangements will be announced at a later time. Nichols Funeral Home directing.

Funeral services for James Ronald "Ronnie" Quick, 63, of Hanceville are 2 p.m. Friday, January 5 at Hanceville Funeral Home, with interment in Bethlehem East Cemetery. Visitation on Thursday from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. Mr. Quick passed away on January 2, 2018 at his residence. He was preceded in death by his parents, J.C. and Ima Louise Quick; a sister, Carol Chambers and his father-in-law, Jimmy Johns. He is survived by his wife, Linda Quick; children, Brandon (Kerry) Quick, Brittney (Robyn) Canady and Brent Quick; grandchildren, Collin Harris, Josie McDonald, Sagey Canady and River Canady; brothers, Jeff (Vickie) Quick and Mike (Karen) Quick; sisters, Denise (Jackie) Johnson and Sandy Morgan; mother-in-law, Barbara Johns and a host of nieces, nephews, other family and friends.

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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U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

The Black Warrior waterdog, also known as the Alabama mudpuppy, is now listed as an endangered species.

Alabama 'mudpuppy' now listed as endangered species

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

ALABAMA – The Black Warrior waterdog, a large aquatic salamander found only in the Black Warrior River Basin in Alabama, is now a federally protected species.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) listed the salamander as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), meaning it is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

A rigorous review of the best available science has found low and declining population numbers due to loss and fragmentation of its habitat and poor water quality in the Black Warrior River Basin.

The highly permeable skin and external gills of the waterdog make it particularly sensitive to declines in water quality and oxygen concentration.

The Service is also finalizing critical habitat for the Black Warrior waterdog, designating 420 river miles of critical habitat in four units, including 127 miles of habitat already designated for other federally protected fish, mussels and salamanders.

The designation includes only areas currently occupied by the species and will protect more than 50 percent of the waterdog's historical habitat. The designation is comprised of five tributaries within the Black Warrior River Basin; Sipsey Fork (Lawrence and Winston Counties); Locust Fork (Blount, Etowah, Jefferson, and Marshall Counties); Blackwater Creek (Walker and Winston Counties); and Yellow Creek (Tuscaloosa County).

The critical habitat designation should have minimal or no impact on the forestry and coal mining community. Since there are already critical habitat designations for other species in this area, very little additional regulatory action will be necessary for the waterdog. The designation will also have no impact on private landowners taking actions on their land that do not require federal funding or permits.

Establishing critical habitat will raise awareness of the needs of the waterdog and other imperiled species and focus the efforts of our conservation partners.

It also alerts federal agencies that they are required to make special conservation efforts when they work, fund or permit activities in those areas.

The Black Warrior waterdog, known by its nickname, the Alabama mudpuppy, is a large, night-loving salamander that maintains its larval characteristics, including retention of external gills, throughout its life.

It is found in streams within the main channel of the Black Warrior River and parts of the North River, Locust Fork, Mulberry Fork and Sipsey Fork. Sources of pollution in the Black Warrior River Basin include runoff from industrial plants, landfills, sewage treatment plants, construction, and the historical impacts of surface mining.

The Black Warrior waterdog is recognized as a Priority 2/High Conservation Concern by Alabama, meaning the state has been actively engaged with local and federal partners in understanding and addressing the impacts to the waterdog and other imperiled wildlife that share its habitat. There are 26 federally protected animals found in the Black Warrior River Basin, 15 of which are aquatic, including the flattened musk turtle.

Consideration of the status of the waterdog was required under a court-approved litigation settlement agreement with two environmental groups.

The complete listing and critical habitat rule, which becomes effective 30 days after publication in the Federal Register, can be obtained by visiting the Federal eRulemaking Portal: http://www.regulations.gov at Docket Number FWS–R4–ES–2016–0031. A copy can also be obtained by contacting U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1208-B Main Street, Daphne, Alabama, 36526.

For a complete breakdown of the rule, including Frequently Asked Questions, click on the following links:

- fws.gov/southeast/news/2018/01/alabama-mudpuppy-to-receive-federal-protection/
- fws.gov/southeast/faq/final-listing-critical-habitat-designation-and-draft-economic-analysis-for-the-black-warrior-waterdog/
- fws.gov/southeast/wildlife/amphibians/black-warrior-waterdog/

Statement from environmental group, Black Warrior Riverkeeper:

"The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service made our New Year happy today by announcing the listing of the Black Warrior waterdog as Endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

"The Black Warrior waterdog (Necturus alabamensis) is a rare aquatic salamander found in Alabama's Black Warrior River basin and nowhere else in the world.

"Proposed for listing in October 2016, this action means the Service will work with other agencies to conserve and protect the waterdog when federal actions that may affect them are considered or undertaken. The Service also finalized the designation of critical habitat for the waterdog today.

"Critical habitat is defined as those specific geographic areas that contain features essential to the conservation of an endangered or threatened species and that may require special management and protection by the Service.

"When an area is designated as critical habitat, federal agencies are required by law to ensure that any action they fund, authorize or carry out is not likely to result in the destruction or adverse modification of the habitat.

"Originally, the Service proposed to designate 669 river miles within eleven tributaries of the Black Warrior River basin as critical habitat.

"Unfortunately, the Service's announcement today cuts that proposed habitat by a third.

"The Service designated 420 river miles of critical habitat, comprised of five tributaries within the Black Warrior River basin; Sipsey Fork (Lawrence and Winston counties); Locust Fork (Blount, Etowah, Jefferson, and Marshall counties); Blackwater Creek (Walker and Winston counties); and Yellow Creek (Tuscaloosa County).

"While we are disappointed that the waterdog's habitat was not fully protected as first proposed, we are pleased with the listing of the waterdog as Endangered and the designation of critical habitat for this imperiled species.

"We are proud that Black Warrior Riverkeeper Nelson Brooke was entrusted with Peer Reviewer status for both the Black Warrior waterdog's proposed listing as well as the proposed critical habitat designation."

–Eva Dillard, staff attorney, Black Warrior Riverkeeper



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COMMUNITY NOTE

Board of Directors of the Cullman County Bosom Buddies Foundation



JUDY WATTS

Sitting, left to right: Lorie McGrath, Mary Dyer, Judy Grissom and Janice McNeal. Back row: standing left to right: Doctor William E. Smith, Becky Richardson, Louise Cole, Mike Doss and J.L. Parker.

From the board: We thank each and every one that has supported the Foundation and made it possible for the Foundation to help many of our neighbors. We wish you all a blessed New Year!!

Submitted by Judy Watts

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