



AHSAA mediation sparks debate over private-public future

SPORTS, 1C

WEEKEND

Montgomery Advertiser

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PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

FRAME BY FRAME

The Montgomery Advertiser's 2025 photos of the year

Look back on the year with staff photographer Jake Crandall's favorite shots on pages 6-7A.

PHOTOS BY JAKE CRANDALL/
MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER,
ILLUSTRATION BY JADE INGLADA



U.S. Space Command prepares for move to AL

Sarah Clifton

Montgomery Advertiser | USA TODAY NETWORK

Gen. Stephen Whiting was alive for the lunar landing, but he doesn't remember it. What he does remember is being around four or five years old when his father was stationed at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery.

"Back then, we didn't wear seatbelts, and we were laying in the back of, I think, a station wagon, and my mom said, 'Hey, look up, at the moon. There's men on it right now,'" Whiting said. "Must have been one of the last Apollo missions that they did. And so, I just caught the bug."

That bug — an interest in space and the possibilities there — led to a career that took Whiting to the Air Force and eventually evolved into being named the commander of the U.S. Space Command a year ago in 2024, an organization whose operations are what Whiting described as essential to America's "modern way of life."

As Space Command moves its operations from Colorado to Alabama over the next few years, Whiting said Huntsville will find itself integral to their "foundational" operations.

What is Space Command?

The U.S. Space Command was established in 1985, disestablished in 2002, and then reestablished in 2019. On paper, Space Command's job is to "protect American interests in, from, and to space," as Whiting said, with their responsibilities starting about 62 miles up into the atmosphere and extending beyond into outer space. It's a joint command made up of members of all the military services.

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Note to readers

Due to the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday, there will be no mail delivery on Monday, Jan. 19. Instead of receiving your Jan. 19 paper on Monday, you'll receive it in the mail on Tuesday, Jan. 20.

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CAPITAL OF DREAMS.

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SANITATION DEPARTMENT
FOR GARBAGE - TRASH ROUTE**

SCHEDULE CHANGES

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BIRTHDAY

MONDAY, 1/19/2026 CLOSED

WEEK OF JANUARY 18TH THRU JANUARY 24TH 2026

See ad on Page 3A for more information.

AL-43108325

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