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# PICKENS COUNTY HERALD



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## Hospital Committee talks UA/Pickens County Partnership

*If we can be successful, this has a chance to help other struggling rural counties and their health care systems both in Alabama and across the U.S.*

-Dr. Rick Streiffer, University of Alabama, Summer of 2015



Three members of the Friends of the Hospital Committee were recently honored by the University of Alabama with two awards, including the Excellence Award for Outstanding Community Partner-Initiated Engagement Effort. Those awarded were Buddy Kirk, Patti Presley-Fuller and Alan Harper. Fuller noted that the three were recognized because of the Pickens County Commission's support with the ongoing project. Pictured is Commissioners Randy Dillard and Jerry Fitch, Commission Chairman Drew Elmore, Patti Presley-Fuller, Commissioners Frederick Kennedy and Bobby Bain, Project Coordinator Wilamena Hopkins and Buddy Kirk.

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partnership between Pickens County Commission and Pickens County Medical Center – it is that but it's much more than that. It's a partnership between Pickens County as a whole and the University of Alabama. Things are moving along very, very well."

Kirk also thanked the current and previous Commission for "taking a very active role in seeing to the welfare of the people of Pickens County."

Patti Presley-Fuller, chairman of the committee, said that when \$600,000 in funding came to the University of Alabama for this partnership, one of the first steps the committee took was decid-

ing the most efficient way to spend the money. The allotment was broken into three categories which included infrastructure and hiring a project coordinator, funding grants and hiring four graduate students for a one-year fellowship program in Pickens County.

Wilamena Hopkins, a University of Alabama graduate from Florida, was hired as project coordinator.

"I'm very excited to be here and to get started on the partnership to bringing these new programs," she said. "They're innovative and I believe they're going to work very well."

The eight grants written by various UA officials will

fund the following: mental health prevention program for children and parents of Head Start; an autism identification program that will take place at Dr. Julia Boothe's office in Reform; improving knowledge and risk factors for cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes with the target audience being Head Start children and parents; development of a rural family medicine residency in Pickens County; medical-legal partnership for the elderly;

See **PARTNER** on Page 3.

## CATCHING UP WITH THE TIMES:

Aliceville's website could be updated in the near future

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**ALICEVILLE** | Industrial Board Member Edgar Pruitt came before the Aliceville City Council Wednesday, June 8 with a specific request – to find a way to promote the city, different properties the Industrial Board owns and to promote different businesses in the area – and the Industrial Board's solution to that request comes in the form of updating the city's website. After a discussion, the Aliceville City Council voted to be one of three partners in paying for the update to its website. The Industrial Board approved to pay its part last Thursday. The Chamber of Commerce met this week.

Up front the cost for upgrading the website would be \$10,000 and then \$2,000 per month for the next six

months. Following that time, the fee would be \$100 per month. The city's current website cost \$3,000 and \$150 per month.

Pruitt said the proposal is pricey up front but would be worth it in the long term.

"Anything that is good is worth paying for and I believe this product will pay for itself in a lot of different ways," he said. "It will pay for itself in promoting our city. It will pay for itself to decide how to make the best use of the land the Industrial Board owns. It will significantly pay for itself with chamber members because we can put every chamber member, their business and market it on our website."

About two months ago the Industrial Board reorganized itself to form three commit-

See **ALICEVILLE** on Page 3.

## EARLY DEADLINE COMING UP!

The deadline for the July 6 issue of the Pickens County Herald will be Wednesday, June 29 at 5 p.m. due to an earlier printing schedule. The Pickens County Herald office will be closed Monday, July 4 for Independence Day.



See **PARTNER** on Page 3.

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## City of Reform sets election fees for Aug. election

The Reform City Council set the qualifying fee for the upcoming municipal election at \$10, which has been the qualifying fee since 2004. A resolution was also passed to allow City Clerk Annette Maughan to perform election duties which include organizing the voter list, ordering ballots, etc.

The council also appointed this year's election officers. The election inspector will be paid \$125 for the day of the election. Other election workers will be paid \$75 for the day and \$25 for attending the training class for the election. Councilman John Dean abstained from the vote as his wife is an elec-

tion official. In other news, the council talked about providing Park Director Marcuss Barnes with a stipend for the work he's done with the city park this summer. The council will vote on this at its next meeting. Barnes has volunteered his time and has helped with scheduling for Dixie Youth

games, keeping up the fields and all other aspects of running the park. All of the council agreed that the park has done well under the direction of Barnes and noted that City Hall hasn't received any complaints since he's taken over as park director.

## Gordo town council remembers employee



GARY MULLENIX

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**GORDO** | The Town of Gordo remembered one of its employees that suddenly passed away last year at its Monday, June 6 council meeting. Mayor Craig Patterson presented a proclamation to the family in remembrance of the late Gary Leon Mullenix, who died June 29, 2015. Mullenix worked in the utilities department and the proclamation stated it was "one of the saddest events" the town had faced. It declared June 29, 2016 as a day of remembrance in his honor. "His excellent work ethic

was not what made Gary Leon Mullenix special, whereas what made Gary special was how he brought a smile and sense of calm and peace," the proclamation read.

The proclamation stated that there are few people you meet in the world that make it a better place and he was one of them.

"I didn't realize the impact he had one more than just us," said his wife Desiree Stokes Mullenix. "We're just thankful for the love and support the town has shown us. I just appreciate this."

**BURGLAR ARRESTED**  
Chief Todd Hall said the police department has seen an in-

crease in activity in the last month. He attributed that to summer picking up. Hall said the department recently had one burglary and that some of the stolen items had been recovered and one person had been arrested.

"It's unfortunate it happens," Hall said. "The homeowner was very responsible. They had all of their information that they needed, the serial numbers on their weapons and TVs. That's always very important and makes our job a lot easier when we try to prosecute somebody for it."

The chief said as of the council meeting not all items had been recovered from the

burglary but he was hopeful that all items would be recovered. The chief finished by saying if anyone living in Gordo had questions about how to have things better secure, they could contact the police department.

### OTHER

• Qualifying for the Town of Gordo's municipal election is July 5-19.

• Mayor Patterson commented that the crowd for the recent Mule Day/Chickenfest was comparable to the crowd from the previous year. He said this year's was the 29th edition and that he expected a big event for the 30th Mule Day/Chickenfest in 2017.