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New use for Lurleen Wallace Center

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By WAFF.com Staff - email

DECATUR, AL (WAFF) - The National Guard is coming to the rescue for the long-empty Lurleen Wallace Center in Decatur.

On Thursday, Governor Bentley is scheduled to join local leaders at the center to make the announcement.

The Department of Mental Health will turn over the facility to the Alabama National Guard. The Guard plans to use it as a training center for the region.

"It's an excellent opportunity for both agencies. The Mental Health to be able to let the National Guard have this property. It's a great opportunity for us to have to re-utilize and re-purpose those facilities," said Col. Dennis Butters with the Alabama National Guard.

The Lurleen Wallace Development Center was the state's first regional development center, opening in 1971. The center closed in 2003.

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