



Your hometown newspaper for Talladega and St. Clair counties

The Daily Home

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75 cents

Dr. James Martin selected next superintendent of Pell City Schools

BY DAVID ATCHISON
Home staff writer

PELL CITY — The Pell City Board of Education voted unanimously to hire Dr. James Martin III of Smiths, Ala., as the new superintendent of schools.

The vote came after Board President Laurie Mise Henderson asked if any of the other board members would like to recommend any of the five candidates the board interviewed last week.



DR. JAMES MARTIN III

Martin's experience played a big

part in the decision. Board member Joe Sawyer recommended the board consider Martin for the job.

No other board member made any other recommendation after Henderson solicited other recommendations.

It appeared

part in the decision.

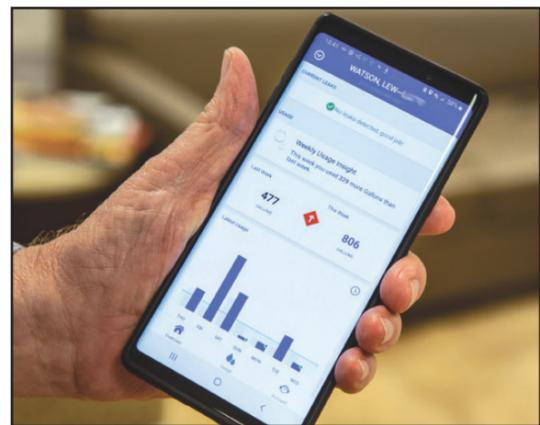
Eldon Hall, the newest member of the board, said it was a difficult decision for him to make, but he believed the school system needed a seasoned superintendent for the days ahead.

"I would support Mr. Sawyer's recommendation of Mr. Martin," Hall said.

Martin was the only candidate who had served as a superinten-

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LINCOLN



Bob Crisp/The Daily Home

Lincoln water customers will soon be able to check their monthly water usage from their smart-phones.

Council approves purchase of high tech water meters

BY DAVID ATCHISON
Home staff writer

LINCOLN — The Water Department is going high-tech, which will allow customers to check their water usage from their cellphones or home computers.

"This is not just an ordinary meter," said Mayor Lew Watson. "This will put us in the forefront of technology."

He said current city water meters are being replaced with new smart water meters, where individual customers, as well as city Water Department personnel, can get immediate access to real-time water usage information.

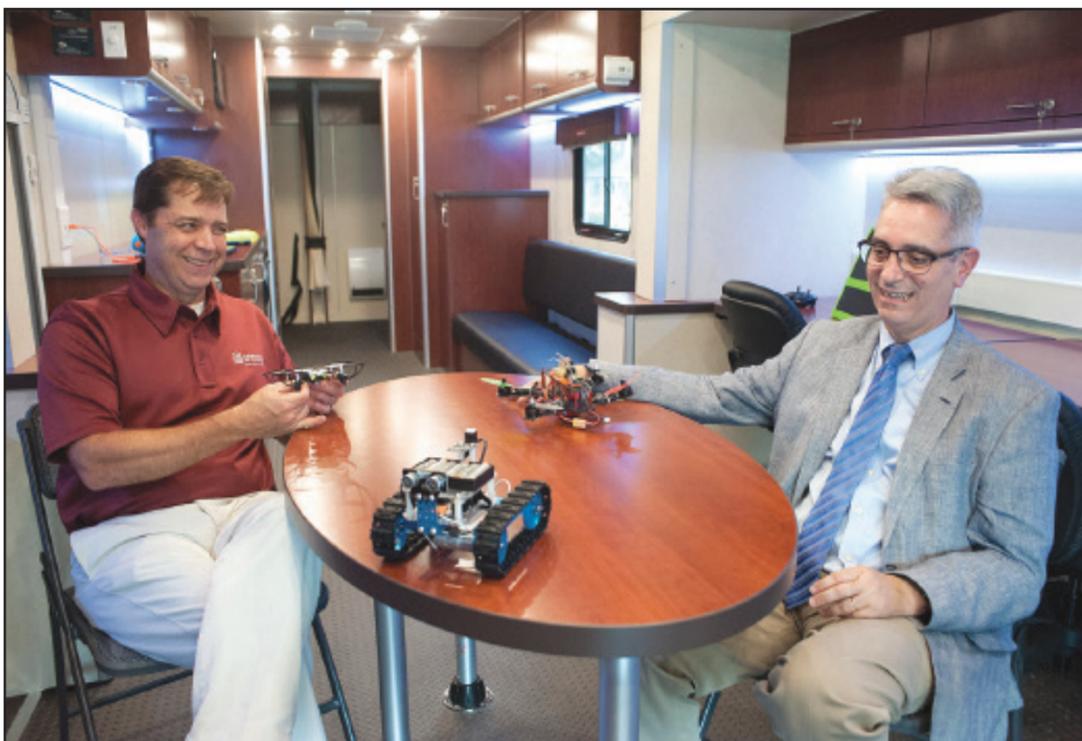
Watson said the battery life for the current meters is expiring after 14 years of service.

He said the new high-tech Badger Meters will replace the old meters.

"It's going to benefit both the customers and the city," said Water Department Manager Danny Groce.

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'ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND'



Tucker Webb/The Daily Home

ABOVE: Dr. Dennis Gilliam, executive director of special projects for AIDB, and AIDB President Dr. John Mascia on board the mobile STEM classroom. BELOW: The exterior of AIDB's STEM bus.

AIDB providing outreach opportunities, hands-on learning through new mobile STEM lab

BY LACI BRASWELL
Home staff writer

The Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind is providing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education outreach opportunities for its deaf and hard-of-hearing consumers through its new mobile STEM lab.

"It's the only one of its kind that we know of," AIDB President Dr. John Mascia said. "Everyone is really excited to use it. It will without a doubt better prepare our students for college and careers in STEM fields."

The mobile lab is loaded with technology amenities, including Wi-Fi accessibility, digital video screens on the interior and exterior, student work spaces, a restroom — and much more.

Mascia added the mobile classroom is also compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and has a wheelchair lift.

With the addition of the mobile lab, K-12 students from the Alabama School for the Deaf and Helen Keller School will be receiving a more "hands-on approach" to STEM education than ever before, AIDB officials note.

"Students will be able to learn more about coding, robotics and so much more with our mobile STEM lab," Dr. Dennis A. Gilliam, executive director of special projects for AIDB, said. "It is our goal at AIDB to always provide students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing the proper STEM instruction."



Gilliam added the RV has enough work space to fit "about 12 to 13 students" comfortably.

The mobile learning is part of a partnership between AIDB and the Rochester Institute of Technology/National Technical Institute of the Deaf, in Rochester, N.Y.

AIDB's campus also serves as the National Technical Institute for the Deaf's Southeast Regional STEM Center.

Gilliam noted the vehicle has already traveled more than 5,000 miles for summer camps in Key Largo, Florida and Austin, Texas, earlier this summer.

The STEM lab will not only serve as an outdoor classroom for AIDB, but also for other deaf or hard-of-hearing students in the city, state and region enrolled in public schools.

"We are excited for the many outreach and partnership opportunities the mobile classroom will bring to the deaf community, especially for those in rural areas who

do not have access to Wi-Fi or a STEM-based curriculum," Mascia said. "Our plan is to have members of our staff travel to area public schools to help close the technology gap with deaf or hard-of-hearing students.

"We want to help give other teachers and instructors the proper tools and training as well. The possibilities are endless. This is such a positive thing for the community, not just AIDB. We welcome any interested schools or teachers to contact us."

AIDB officials note funding for the \$363,000 mobile STEM lab was provided by federal appropriations.

"We didn't have to spend anything from our operations budget," Mascia said. "This would not have been possible without the support from Sen. Richard Shelby and other area elected officials. They continue to show their support for our students and institution."

For more information, visit www.aidb.org.

It's business as usual for Georgia-Pacific's Talladega plant despite company changes

BY CHRIS NORWOOD
Home staff writer

It would seem some changes are afoot at Georgia-Pacific, but the Talladega facility will continue to operate as it is now for the foreseeable future, according to a company spokesman.

A story published in Business Alabama, citing a report published earlier this week by PR Watch, said the company "announced a retreat from its commercial paper, particle board and wood products business ... (while) renew(ing) its focus on bath tissue."

Alabama tends to benefit from this process, while plants in Louisiana will be hit the hardest, according to the article.

G-P spokesman Rick Kimble told The Daily Home on Thursday the impact on the Talladega plant specifically would be "none. We are still very focused on our business products."

The Talladega plant is strongly market-based, and the market remains strong, he said.

"There have been closures, but Talladega is one of the newest and strongest plants we have; it's state-of-the-art," he said. "The article kind of makes things look more negative than they actually are."

Greater Talladega and Lincoln Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jason Daves said Thursday he had not seen the article, but said he kept in touch with the plant and had a company representative on his board.

"If there was going to be bad news, I would probably know about it," he said. "I'm not worried."

In a press release from January, the company announced it was "exiting the communication papers business following an assessment of its long-term competitive position in a declining market."

"As a result, the company will permanently shut down the communication papers machines, related converting asset, as well as the wood yard, pulp mill and a significant portion of (the) energy complex at its Port Hudson, La., facility. Approximately 650 jobs at the facility will ultimately be impacted by the ... closures. About 40 business and sales jobs will be affected by this decision."

A more recent release, from early June, announced the company was shutting down bleached board operations at a plant in Arkansas starting in October. About 530 plant jobs and 25 business and sales jobs will be impacted, but operations related to consumer tissue and towel businesses at the plant will continue.

The "bleached board business, including supply to the Dixie business, will be supported from the Naheola and Brewton, Alabama, mills, and the St. Mary's, Georgia, extrusion facility," according to the more recent release.

Neither release specifically mentions the Talladega plant, which reopened last year after being shuttered for more than a decade. The plant had originally been a pulp mill operation, but before reopening was renovated and retrofitted for plywood.

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Weather

Friday Aug. 23

60%
90° - 71°

Saturday Aug. 24

70%
90° - 71°

Obituaries

- Donald Edward Bean, Sylacauga
- Clarine M. Borden, Sylacauga
- Doris Jean McKinney, Sylacauga
- Eddie Smoot, Birmingham



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