

Avery D. Niles, Commissioner **Department of Juvenile Justice**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** **CONTACT:**

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 **Groundbreaking Set for New Laurens County Regional Youth Facility**

 ***- Community Leaders to Attend -***

**(Decatur, GA) –** Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Commissioner Avery D. Niles is pleased to announce the groundbreaking ceremonies for the state juvenile justice system’s new Cadwell Regional Youth Detention Center (RYDC) in Cadwell (Laurens County, Georgia). The ceremony is scheduled for October 31st starting at 10:30 a.m. Cadwell RYDC is located at 2839 Railroad Avenue, Cadwell, GA 31009.

The Cadwell RYDC groundbreaking marks an employment milestone for this east-central Georgia community, bringing in jobs for teachers, nurses and juvenile correctional officers. The new RYDC repurposes a former Georgia Department of Corrections center and when it is completed Cadwell RYDC will be a showcase for Georgia juvenile justice programming.

Cadwell RYDC will have 23,000 square feet of dormitory space to securely accommodate a population of up to 48 male and eight (8) female juvenile offenders. There will be 9,300 square feet of education/vocational education space, demonstrating DJJ’s emphasis on education and technology. A gymnasium will have 7,700 square feet. The secure facility is expected to be open and operational in late 2018.

“Cadwell will provide better outcomes for the youth who will reside there. The facility will also provide employment opportunities for people who want to provide programs, treatment and services for our youth,” stated Commissioner Niles.

A number of community leaders, state legislators, DJJ Board and staff members are expected to attend the groundbreaking. Commissioner Niles said, “We’re grateful to Governor Deal, the General Assembly and the citizens of Georgia for supporting our mission and this project.”

To learn more about available employment opportunities with the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice at the new Cadwell RYDC and facilities throughout Georgia, go to [www.djjcareers.org](http://www.djjcareers.org). For more information about juvenile justice reform in Georgia, please visit [www.djjnewsandviews.org/juvenilejusticereform](http://www.djjnewsandviews.org/juvenilejusticereform).

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