

REALTY AUCTION

Historic Buckner Center to be sold

By **STAN DIEL**

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Anniston's historic Buckner Center, once the recreation center at Fort McClellan, will be among a large collection of Calhoun County properties sold at auction next month, Birmingham-based auction firm Granger, Thagard & Associates announced.

The three-building Buckner Center includes an art deco 250-seat theater, an exhibition hall, conference center, arts studio, restaurant and lounge totaling 32,000 square feet in three buildings, all of which were built in 1936.

Julian Jenkins, who has owned the complex for about a decade, is selling because of health issues and so he can move to Auburn, he said.

The historic property is in a neighborhood of homes built in the same Spanish colonial style for officers and noncommissioned officers at Fort McClellan. All of those homes are occupied today, more than a decade after the fort was closed.

"It's a beautiful neighborhood and it's done really well," Jenkins said.

Jenkins renovated the complex over three years, and since 2003 has been renting it out for events. It routinely hosts high school proms and wedding receptions, he said.

The center is one of 23 properties in the county that will be sold at auction on May 12. Other properties include an apartment and homes in the same neighborhood. Five of the 23 properties will be auctioned with reserve prices and 18 without minimum bids.

The auction is scheduled to take place at 1 p.m. May 12 at the Buckner Center, 412 Buckner Drive in Anniston.