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HOWARD PICKS UP PLAY-BY-PLAY MIC
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ATHENS BANNER-HERALD

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Commission: Please save water



By Blake Aued
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Athens-Clarke commissioners pleaded with the public Thursday night to do whatever they can to preserve water, as the commission ratified a total outdoor water ban that went into effect Monday.

"People, we don't have any water, and people are out there wasting it," Commissioner Kathy Hoard said.
The ban — made necessary by the one of the most serious droughts of the past century — outlaws both residential lawn and garden watering and commercial

outdoor water use. Landscapers, car washes, nurseries and other water-dependent businesses can get a permit to keep operating if they show the county they can cut water use by 20 percent.
Barrow, Jackson and Oconee counties, which also draw water from Bear Creek Reservoir, also

enacted total outdoor water bans after the Upper Oconee Watershed Authority declared a Level 4 drought last Thursday. The reservoir has enough water to last about six weeks under current conditions, and the Middle and North Oconee rivers are too low to draw water from or

refill the reservoir.
Even if the drought ends soon, Athens residents and officials need to begin conserving water at all times to prevent such a serious shortage in the future, commissioners said.
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CITY'S LEADERS SHARE EXPERIENCES, ANECDOTES FROM PAST 42 YEARS



David Manning/Staff

Seven former Athens mayors joined current Mayor Heidi Davison for a discussion Wednesday at Athens Country Club. From left, are Doc Eldridge (1999-2003), Davison, Dwain Chambers (1988-91), Julius Bishop (1965-70), Upshaw Bentley (1970-80), Lauren Coile (1980-88), Cardee Kilpatrick (2003) and Gwen O'Looney (1990-98).

Athens mayors weigh in on office

By Chris J. Starrs
Correspondent

Anyone who thinks today's Athens leaders are the first to grapple with alcohol ordinances needs a history lesson.
Seven former Athens mayors joined current Mayor Heidi Davison and set the record straight at an Athens Rotary Club-sponsored panel discussion Wednesday at Athens Country Club.
"Watching the recent commission meetings on TV concerning alcohol ordinances reminds me of the time the downtown bar owners wanted to extend their hours of operation," said Lauren Coile, who served as mayor from 1980-1988. "When the religious groups got wind of it, they came to the meeting, and we had a chamber full of people."
It was 3 a.m. before city leaders voted whether to extend bar hours. The council

"Alcohol issues came back time after time after time."

— Former Athens Mayor Dwain Chambers (1988-91)

deadlocked 5-5, forcing him to cast the deciding vote.
"I voted not to extend the hours," he said. "Then, we had a vote to roll back the hours and that one was also 5-5, and I voted not to roll back the hours. We got out of there at 4 a.m. and I'm not sure anybody was happy by then."
"Alcohol issues came back time after time after time," added Dwain Chambers, who served from 1988-1991 and was the last mayor before voters approved a unified city-county government in 1990.
Cardee Kilpatrick, who briefly served as

mayor between the end of Doc Eldridge's term and the beginning of Davison's, recalled that during her stint on the first unified commission, then-Mayor Gwen O'Looney asked her to serve on an ad hoc alcohol ordinance committee, and when her assignment was completed, O'Looney asked her to serve on another alcohol-related committee.
"I told Gwen I didn't want my career to be alcohol-based," quipped Kilpatrick, who later added that the only full commission meeting where she presided as interim mayor, "Wouldn't you know it? The main issue involved alcohol."
Davison, who was elected mayor in 2002, said the community's alcohol ordinance had been revised "26 or 27 times."
"We always have a room full of bar owners and students to help us make our decision," she added.
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H.T. EDWARDS

Longtime principal dies at 98

By Benjamin Price
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Former students and friends of Homer Theodore Edwards Sr. remembered the longtime Athens principal as a legendary figure who influenced young people long after he retired from education almost 40 years ago.
Edwards died Wednesday at age 98.
"He really helped shape so many lives in our community — unbelievable numbers," State Rep. Keith Heard said Wednesday. "Those people have contributed not only to our community, but to this country. That was his driving force. He always wanted people to achieve beyond where they were."
A native of McRae, Edwards worked for more than 20 years in Athens as principal of the all-black Athens High and Industrial School and Burney-Harris High School until his retirement in 1968. The former Burney-Harris High building was re-named the H.T. Edwards Building in his honor in 1998.
Edwards first came to Athens in 1945 when he was named principal at Athens High after serving as principal at schools in Louisville and Thompson.
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EDWARDS

INMATES CURRENTLY HOUSED BY OCONEE COUNTY

Jackson breaking ground for new jail

By Merritt Melancon
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JEFFERSON — On any given day, about 30 or 40 men and women awaiting trial in Jackson County's judicial system are waiting in Oconee County's jail.
Housing inmates in another county not only causes logistical problems for deputies who have to round up inmates for trial, it costs Jackson County taxpayers several hundred thousand dollars each year.
"We're pretty much paying for Oconee County's jail," said Jackson County Sheriff Stan Evans.
But the situation is better than in years past, when Jackson County housed inmates as far away as southwest Georgia. In about a year, the situation will be even better, Evans said.
Jackson County is breaking ground on a new 424-bed, \$32 million jail today, which will ease jail overcrowding and eliminate the need to ferry inmates across county lines, Evans said.



Tricia Spaulding/Staff

Jackson County Sheriff Stan Evans stands in front of the courthouse at the location of the county's new jail, for which officials will break ground today.
The facility will become the fourth new jail to open in North-east Georgia in two years.
"It's been a long time coming," Evans said.
The jail will stand between Jackson County's current jail and courthouse on the 20 acres known as the county farm.
Designers opted to construct the jail with rows and rows of pre-cast steel cells that open into secure day rooms where low-security inmates will spend most of their time, Evans said.
The decision cut the cost of the jail, which will be bought with \$10 million in local sales tax revenue and about \$20 million in borrowed money.
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DOWNLOADS CONTRACTED

Downloads to be free, legal for UGA students

By Rebecca K. Quigley
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University of Georgia students soon will be able to download free music and movies from the Internet without getting sued.
UGA and other University System of Georgia officials are finalizing a contract with Ruckus, a free music downloading service designed for college students with .edu e-mail accounts.
"We were trying to find a good way for students to download music, and eventually movies," said Bert DeSimone, UGA's associate director of information technology.
But it was the UGA Student Government Association that came up with the idea to bring Ruckus to campus.
Ruckus, to which Georgia Tech already subscribes, allows students to download music to their computers for free. The service prevents the material from being uploaded to an MP3 player or burned on a CD.
Students who want to upload or burn music or movie files can pay for a discounted subscription through Ruckus, DeSimone said.
Computer users legally can download music from some sites, but recording companies recently accused more UGA students of sharing recordings over the Internet or giving copies to others, which is illegal unless the owner or artist gives permission.
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