

LOCAL STATE

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SECTION D

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2005

THE MILLENNIUM GATE CELEBRATED WITH TOUR ACROSS STATE



Elissa Eubanks/Staff

Mayor Heidi Davison gets ready to ride through town from the Classic Center to the Lyndon House on Saturday. Behind her on the carriage are two pieces called "Peace" and "Justice." The National Monuments Foundation sponsored the creation and tour of the two bronze statues that eventually will be installed at the entrance of a development in Atlanta.

Statues continue on 'monumental journey'

By Merritt Melancon

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What weighs 3 tons, has a combined height of more than 16 feet and will be tooling through the streets of Watkinsville this afternoon at the breakneck pace of 3 mph?

If you've been in any of the five other towns that

already have played host to the two bronze, horse-drawn behemoths known as "Peace" and "Justice," you may know.

The National Monuments Foundation, a nonprofit group unaffiliated with the federal government, has sponsored the creation and tour of the two bronze classically styled statues. Once they finish their tour of Georgia, the two statues, which were created and

shipped from Scotland, will be on permanent display at The Millennium Gate — an Arc de Triomphe-style monument that will sit near the entrance of Atlantic Station, a 138-acre mixed-use development situated in midtown Atlanta on the site of the former Atlantic Steel Mill.

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Local/State

Athens Banner-

BLOTTER

Convenience store robbed at gunpoint

A robber stole money from an Epps Bridge Road gas station at gunpoint Saturday.

A clerk at the Golden Pantry told Athens-Clarke police he was counting money and preparing to open the store at about 5:30 a.m. when a man used a car battery to break through the glass door and walked into the office. The man told the clerk to give him money or he would kill him, and gave him a red bag, according to police.

The thief left after getting the money, but the clerk heard two

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The monument, which was funded entirely with private donations, will be the largest monument to be erected in the United States since the Jefferson Memorial was completed in 1943, said Sue Deer, communications director for The Millennium Gate Project.

"Atlanta doesn't have many classical monuments, and what we did have was destroyed during the Civil War," Deer said.

Rodney Cook, who oversaw the restoration of the Fox Theatre in Atlanta, is chairman of the National Monuments Foundation and organized the statues' statewide tour.

The statues will arrive at Rocket Field in Watkinsville at 2:30 p.m. today and will be on display until 3:30 p.m. when they are taken down Third Street and up Main Street toward Ashford

Manor on a horse-drawn cart driven by Watkinsville Mayor Jim Luken and Peggy Holcomb, director of the Oconee Cultural Arts Foundation. Marching bands from North Oconee High School and Oconee County High School will flank the statues as they make their way down Main Street.

"We wanted to get the schools involved because this will be part of history," Holcomb said. "When these kids have kids they'll be able to visit the arch and I say, 'I marched behind or in front of this statue when it came through Watkinsville.'"

Saturday, the statues were taken from the Classic Center in Athens to the Lyndon House Arts Center by horse-drawn cart as part of the Tour Athens Art Weekend — a two-day tour of studios and galleries in Athens.

PUBLIC AGENDA

LAST MONDAY

Madison County Commission

At its regular meeting Monday, the commission:

- Voted 4-0 to rezone 80 acres on Racetrack Road just outside Danielsville from an intensive agriculture class to a rural residential designation that allows single-family homes on two-acre lots. Property owner Marcia Bryan had asked for a rezoning for a high-density development of up to 71 houses. Instead, commissioners voted for a zoning that allows a maximum of less than 40 houses.

Oconee County Board of Education

At its regular meeting Monday, the board: