

DeKalb's chief jailer retires, assistant commander takes jail's top job

DeKalb County's chief jailer **Dennis Cheatham** has retired after 27 years of service spanning the tenures of five sheriffs. Sheriff **Thomas Brown** has appointed a 23-year veteran jailer and former assistant commander Major **Wanda Collins** to fill the Jail Division's top post. She assumed command on Jan. 1.

Cheatham began work as a jail detention officer in March 1979 and rose through the ranks to chief of jail operations.

"The DeKalb County Sheriff's Office allowed me a career, Cheatham said, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of what I feel [has become] the best Sheriff's Office in the state, if not the nation.

"When I came to the Sheriff's Office, to be honest, I was looking for a job. I had never really aspired to be in law enforcement, but once I was hired, met people in the business and learned just exactly what it means to be in law enforcement and a public servant, I just fell in love with it."

Cheatham said that he has had the opportunity to work with the best of the best who are dedicated to serving DeKalb's citizens, which is a job benefit, a reward, to be coveted.

"I have had the pleasure to work for five sheriffs," Cheatham added, "and would like to thank them all for allowing me the opportunity to serve. I especially would like to thank Sheriff Brown for his support and confidence in me. I feel I have gained through his leadership an ability to treat people like you would want to be treated. His dedication to being a public servant sets an example for all to follow and is unparalleled."

Like Cheatham, Collins began her career as a detention officer and, with her new appointment, has advanced to the top jail post. She reported for initial duty in 1984.

"I am honored to have been selected and to bring to my new position the knowledge and experience that I have acquired over the years."

Collins, who is a certified jail manager, said she is not altogether new to the job of being in command because she has served in that capacity when others have taken vacation or other leave time.



Dennis Cheatham, at left, leaves the Sheriff's Office after 27 years. Above, Wanda Collins, who moves into the top spot, accepts her certificate of promotion to the rank of major from Sheriff Thomas Brown.

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The Champion Weather Feb. 7, 2008

Mostly Sunny
High: 58 Low: 35

Mostly Sunny
High: 58 Low: 39

Mostly Sunny
High: 56 Low: 31

Sunny
High: 53 Low: 31

Mostly Sunny
High: 52 Low: 30

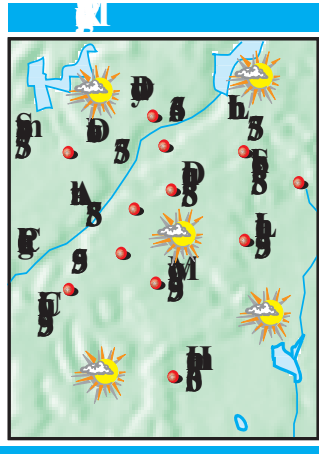
Mostly Sunny
High: 55 Low: 32

Partly Cloudy
High: 60 Low: 35

Today we will see mostly sunny skies with a high temperature of 58°, humidity of 43% and an overnight low of 35°. The record high temperature for today is 72° set in 1937. Friday, skies will remain mostly sunny with a high temperature of 58°.

	D	H	L	M	Pp
Tuesday	66	37	53/34	0.41"	
Wednesday	53	28	53/34	0.04"	
Thursday	50	27	53/34	0.26"	
Friday	48	30	54/34	0.74"	
Saturday	58	28	54/34	0.00"	
Sunday	61	32	54/34	0.04"	
Monday	59	48	54/35	0.01"	
Rainfall1.50" Average temp44.6				
Normal rainfall1.19" Average normal 43.9				
Departure+0.31" Departure+0.7				

*Data as reported from De Kalb-Peachtree Airport



W - The worst winter storm of record struck coastal New England. The storm produced 27.5 inches of snow at Boston and nearly 50 inches in northeastern Rhode Island. The 14-foot tide at Portland, Maine was probably the highest tide of the century.

S - A powerful storm hit the Great Lakes region. North winds of 50 to 70 mph raised the water level of southern Lake Michigan two feet and produced waves 12 to 18 feet high, causing seven million dollars damage along the Chicago area shoreline.

	W	R	S	M	J	S
Thursday	7:29 a.m.	6:14 p.m.	7:50 a.m.	6:59 p.m.		
Friday	7:28 a.m.	6:15 p.m.	8:20 a.m.	8:04 p.m.		
Saturday	7:27 a.m.	6:16 p.m.	8:48 a.m.	9:09 p.m.		
Sunday	7:27 a.m.	6:17 p.m.	9:17 a.m.	10:16 p.m.		
Monday	7:26 a.m.	6:18 p.m.	9:46 a.m.	11:24 p.m.		
Tuesday	7:25 a.m.	6:19 p.m.	10:20 a.m.	No Set		
Wednesday	7:24 a.m.	6:19 p.m.	10:58 a.m.	12:34 a.m.		

	R	S
Mercury	7:11 a.m.	6:05 p.m.
Venus	5:44 a.m.	3:46 p.m.
Mars	1:42 p.m.	4:26 a.m.
Jupiter	5:21 a.m.	3:15 p.m.
Saturn	7:30 p.m.	8:37 a.m.
Uranus	8:55 a.m.	8:27 p.m.

0-2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11+

0-2: Low, 3-5: Moderate, 6-7: High, 8-10: Very High 11+: Extreme Exposure

U The Northeast will see mostly clear to partly cloudy skies with isolated rain and snow today through Saturday, with the highest temperature of 51° in Frederick, Md. The Southeast will see mostly clear to partly cloudy skies with a few showers today through Saturday, with the highest temperature of 84° in Miami, Fla. The Northwest will see scattered rain and snow today, partly cloudy to cloudy skies Friday and Saturday, with the highest temperature of 57° in Brookings, Ore. The Southwest will see mostly clear to partly cloudy skies today through Saturday, with the highest temperature of 75° in Yuma, Ariz.

L ?

L : The fear of lightning.

C How dark is dark? I remember being "trapped" in Sennufer's tomb, mayor of Thebes in Amenophis II's reign (18th Dynasty; 1427-1397 BCE) located in the Valley of the Nobles on the West Bank of the Nile at Luxor. The tomb guard, equipped with his kerosene lantern, had disappeared upstairs for "just a moment," and my wife and I were left in complete darkness and silence for what seemed to be an eternity, but probably was no less than 10 minutes. We were in the heart of Egypt's greatest necropolis and that was the scariest dark I have yet experienced. The night sky is never that black, for stars, planets, and even the sky itself gives off sufficient quantities of light for the fully dark adapted eye to discern easily a myriad of details on the ground. Let's not even consider what the moon can do or the constant reminder of orange from the urban sky glow which domes our cityscapes. So how dark can it get? Astronomers say the darkest skies in the world occur in the Australian Outback. There the Milky Way is so brilliant that it can cast diffuse shadows on the ground. In New Mexico and Utah, where I have done a great deal of my observing in the summer, I have regularly noticed shadows being cast by the planet Venus. I had read about Jupiter being able to accomplish this same feat, but it was not until August 2000 that I made that observation from Chaco Canyon, NM. High in the eastern sky about 4:30 a.m. was Jupiter, Saturn, the Pleiades, and the winter group of constellations, including Orion the Hunter, beginning his leap over the North Mesa and his chase of Taurus the Bull. What a glorious sight! And there was my shadow plainly visible on the ground pointing directly away from Jupiter. It was surely a night (morning) which I will never forget. www.astronomy.org.