

Opinions, yours and ours

We salute J.C. Douglas

When the Jenkins County Commissioners convened for their first meeting of the new year this past Tuesday morning, a familiar face was notably absent at the conference table, that of commissioner J.C. Douglas. Mr. Douglas, after 12 years of service on the board of commissioners, did not seek re-election in 2006.

J.C. Douglas has served the citizens of Jenkins County faithfully during his terms of office, without prejudice. He served as chairman of the board of commissioners for many years with a dedication to duty that is enviable and a quiet spoken manner that was often a calming catalyst in times of controversy.

Mr. Douglas was never afraid to take a stand and vote his conscience, even when it was unpopular to do so, and representing the citizens of this county in a fair and professional manner was always at the forefront of his decision-making.

We salute you, Mr. Douglas, for your willingness to serve the citizens of this county and wish you well in your future endeavors. You will be missed.

A new face at the conference table on Tuesday was that of Pam Dwight, elected to fill the seat vacated by Mr. Douglas. We wish her well as she enters the political arena, knowing she has some "big shoes" to fill.

The Chatter Box

By Deborah Bennett

The holidays are finally over. So, maybe I can get back into my normal routine, both at home and at work. It is time to move on.

This is also the time of the year when we look back on what we have accomplished and plan ahead for what we want to do. Looking back is always easy. The mistakes are apparent, the solutions obvious and the path taken clearly marked.

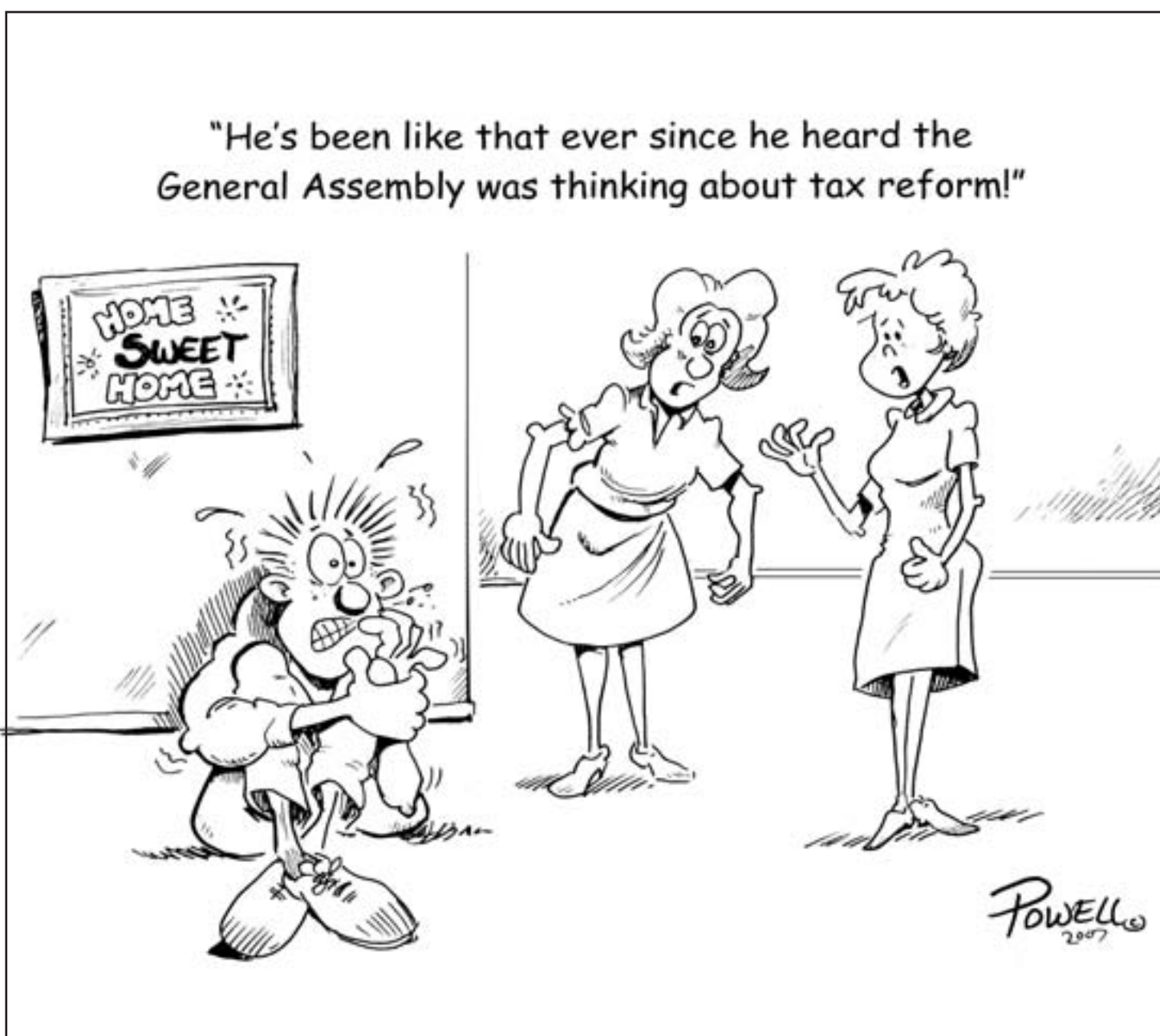
Unfortunately, looking ahead is not as apparent. We make plans, set goals, mark the path, and, then, get sidetracked by mistakes or blindsided by difficulties.

I've come to realize that the best we can hope for in the year ahead is that we learned something from the year that has passed. If so, then, it was not time wasted, but time well spent.

Happy birthday this week to: Dustin Brown, Earl Jones, Al Jackson, Jack Kent, James Carlton Cowart, Maybelle Wiggins, Sheryl Dudley, Nigell Glisson, Tammy Cranshaw, Ken DeLay, Justin Chance, Drew Dudley, Matt Turner, Ray Garvin and Jeremy Dailey.

Celebrating wedding anniversaries this week are: Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Shelton, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Shackelford and Mr. and Mrs. Glynn Bassett.

Military Active Duty List: **Capt. Donald Slade Burke**, Travis Air Force Base, Fairfield, Calif.; **SPC Grade E4 Arthur Lamont Milton Jr.**, HHC 1-36 Infantry Support, Friedberg, Germany; **Staff Sgt. Gilbert C. Sheppard III**, 48th Brigade, 118th Field Artillery, Ft. Stewart; **Petty Officer 2nd Class Jamie A. Yager**, U.S. Navy, Maryland; **Petty Chief Officer Andy D. Crosby**, U.S. Navy, Elroy Destroyer, Norfolk, Va.; **Stephanie Crosby, R.N.**, U.S. Navy, Lafayette Destroyer; **LCPL Dwain "Cade" Lee**, 1st Marine Division Combat Service Support Group II Security Element, ArRamadi, Iraq; **Jimmy Cooper**, U.S. Army National Guard, 87th Engineering Battalion-Augusta, Persian Gulf; **1st Lt. J.R. Taylor**, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Iraq; **SPC. Daniel Stuart**, 18th MEDCOM, 121 General Hospital, Seoul, Korea; **SFC Floyd Bolton Jr.**, 7th Battalion, 159th Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, Ft. Campbell, Kentucky; **SFC Maria Bolton**, 61st Medical Detachment, 21st Combat Support Hospital, 4th Medical Brigade, Ft. Campbell, Kentucky; **Capt. Andrew P. Thomas**, U.S. Marines, 2nd Marine Division, F.A.S.T. Company, Yorktown, VA; **Sgt. 1st Class Steven Yager**, 362nd Sig. Company, Korea; **MM3 Jeffrey Sweat**, U.S. Navy, USS Kauffman, MM3 59/E-Division, A-Gang, Norfolk, Va.; **Cpl. Larry Lamont Clark**, U.S. Marine Corp, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C. Bagdad, Iraq; **Khan Young**, U.S. Navy, U.S.S. Kitty Hawk, Persian Gulf; **Robert Milton Jr.**, E-3, U.S. Army, Ft. Stewart, Hinesville, Ga., Mission Kuwait; **SFC Ronnie Perryman**, E-7, Georgia Army National Guard, Battery A, 118th Field Artillery Regiment, 48th Brigade Combat Team; **Arnold R. Mosley**, 2nd Lt., U.S. Air Force, Randolph AFB, Texas; and **Debra A. Mosley**, Tech. Sgt., U.S. Air Force, Randolph AFB, Texas



Bill Shipp

CHAIR CHANGE, & GLENN IN HOT WATER

Bytes and bits at the beginning of 2007:

Atlanta lawyer Bobby Kahn, a leading scapegoat for the Democrats' string of recent ballot-box catastrophes, ends his nearly three-year tenure as state party chair with the election of a new A glance at possible successors may cause a few Kahn haters to long for a return to the days of the brusque, razor-tongued strategist.

Here's the roster of candidates for state Democratic chair:

- Mike Berlon, Gwinnett County Democratic chair, is allied with leaders of Georgia's ever-shrinking labor movement. A handful of county chairs are also in his corner. Berlon's bid is built on the curious notion that the state party should keep Democratic elected officials at arm's length and concentrate strictly on raising cash for the overall "Democratic cause." (Some party organizations in other states already play such roles.) Several elected officials, including Labor Commissioner Mike Thurmond, are hopping mad at the idea of a party that is mainly an independent boosters' club and not an operational campaign organization. Berlon is presently favored to win the position, though he spent a wad in 2004 on losing a Public Service Commission primary to underfunded Democrat Mac Barber by a whopping 43 percentage points.

- Jane Kidd, daughter of former Gov. Ernest Vandiver and a consummate political person, is looking for a landing place after she gamely ran for the state Senate in a district openly gerrymandered to end Kidd's political career. She leaves the state House after serving only one term. Kidd is closely allied with House Minority Leader Dubose Porter of Dublin, causing her detractors to fear that she would use the position of state party chair to promote Porter's nascent bid for governor. She is the anti-Berlon candidate in the contest, seeing the party as mainly an instrument of and for elected officials.

- Former state Sen. Carol Jackson could be the compromise choice for chairperson. For three terms, this diehard Democrat held onto a state Senate seat in a GOP stronghold. She retired from the Senate in 2004, and then attempted unsuccessfully to regain the seat against Nancy Schaefer, a longtime conservative icon. Republican Schaefer retained the seat with the help of Democrat renegade Zell Miller, who once counted Jackson among his most influential supporters.

The Rev. Jim Nelson, an unsuccessful candidate for Congress in the 1st District, has indicated that he too expects to be a candidate for party chair.

Even if some Democratic regulars shout "good riddance" at the departing chairman, Kahn left an indelible mark of activity on a post often viewed as mostly ceremonial. In addition, Kahn as the party's executive director was a key player in landing the Democratic National Convention for Atlanta in 1988 and in getting Congressman Wyche Fowler elected to the Senate in 1986.

Kahn directed Roy Barnes' successful campaign for governor in 1998 and ran Barnes' disastrously unsuccessful re-election bid in 2002. Kahn also served as Barnes' chief of staff during one of the most activist administrations in recent Georgia history.

After Barnes' defeat, Kahn became the Democratic chairperson and was charged with the mission of constructing a challenger campaign against the Republican governor. Though Gov. Sonny Perdue won re-election easily, Kahn managed to raise issues about the

governor's business practices and questionable ethics that may haunt him for the rest of his term and beyond, should Perdue ever seek other elective office.

A Republican rebellion is brewing in the House against Speaker Glenn Richardson, whose personal conduct has raised eyebrows in political circles across the state.

Richardson has been seen as an almost sure bet to run for governor in 2010. He has already set records for fundraising as a legislator and speaker. In recent weeks, however, he has become the subject for derision among his peers because of his some of his after-hours activities.

The Perdue administration quietly arranged the ouster of conservation-minded Ralph Callaway from the Board of Natural Resources. Callaway, son of legendary GOP scion Howard "Bo" Callaway, was nixed for reappointment after he opposed measures to facilitate greater development of Georgia's marshlands. Sara Clark, another strong conservation advocate, also was dropped from the Natural Resources panel now dominated by timber cutters and developers. The Perdue administration said redistricting conflicts forced the two off the board.

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Letters policy

Letters to the editor of *The Millen News* are welcomed and encouraged. These are pages of opinions, yours and ours.

The unsigned editorials generally appearing on the left side of the editorial page represent the opinion of the newspaper and not that of any one person on our staff. Personal columns represent the opinions of the writers whose names appear on them and are not to be considered the opinion of this newspaper, its management or owners. Letters to the editor voice the opinions of the newspaper's readers.

The Millen News reserves the right to edit any and all portions of a letter. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters must include the signature, address and phone number of the writer to allow our staff to authenticate its origin. Letters should be limited to 400 words.

The deadline for letters is Monday at 9 a.m. You can email letters to deborah@eastga.net.

The Millen News Deadlines

FRIDAY AT NOON:
*Wedding Announcements
Engagement Announcements
Anniversary Announcements
Birth Announcements
Memoriams and Thank You's*

FRIDAY-5PM:
*School News, Chatter Box Items,
General News Items.*

MONDAY-9 AM:
Letters to the Editor

MONDAY-10 AM:
Datebook Items, Church News & Obituaries

MONDAY-11 AM:
Classified & Legal Ads

MONDAY-NOON:
Retail Display Ads