

# Opinions, yours and ours

## The Chatter Box

By Deborah Bennett

Why is it that a heater never quits in the summer and an air conditioner never goes out in the winter? Must be one of those little "quirks" of life.

Our heater waited until the coldest weather of the winter hit to lie down and die. Actually, the pilot light just went out, and we cannot get it lit again. Never mind that the flame burned all summer without a problem! It is only when it gets cold that it doesn't work.

I spent about 20 minutes the other night lying on the floor, striking a match and trying to "sweet talk" the thing back into the service. It didn't work.

Fortunately, we have a back up heater, but it doesn't heat the house as well. So, we've added some extra blankets to the bed. However, that doesn't help much when you're sleeping in a warm spot and then roll over onto a cold-as-ice spot. It is kind of like getting in the shower and discovering there is not any hot water.

It also reminds me of the times I spent at my Granddaddy's house. He heated his whole house with fireplaces, and, of course, there was no fire in them at night, so we piled the quilts high and tried not to move.

Granddaddy would get up early every morning and start the fire in the fireplaces so that the house would be warm when it was time for everyone else to get up. I can still recall jumping out of bed and huddling up to the fireplace to get dressed. It is a nice memory.

I guess the heater dying is not so bad after all.

\*\*\*\*\*

Happy birthday this week to: **Kyler Pierce Cook**, **Megan Frye**, **Brett Burke**, **Hank Joyner**, **Jeremy Dailey**, **Tyler Troisi**, **Blais Chance**, **Rhett Smith**, **Bob Dwelle**, **Burdell Frison**, **Carol Frison**, **Patricia Mincey**, **Randall L. Gay Sr.**, **David P. Owens**, **Brooke Peel**, **Demarius Baldwin**, **Tim Clark**, **Cori Brinson**, **Ray Roberts**, **Sujata Sardar**, **Tyiese Cooper**, **Sam Sardar**, **Willie Baldwin** and **Marshella Herrington**.

\*\*\*\*\*

Celebrating wedding anniversaries are: **Mr. and Mrs. Randall L. Gay Sr.**

\*\*\*\*\*

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**, 48<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 118<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, Ft. Stewart; **Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division Combat Service Support Group II Security Element, ArRamadi, Iraq; **Jimmy Cooper**, U.S. Army National Guard, 878<sup>th</sup> Engineering Battalion-Augusta, Persian Gulf; **1<sup>st</sup> Lt. J.R. Taylor**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Iraq; **SPC. Daniel Stuart**, 18<sup>th</sup> MEDCOM, 121 General Hospital, Seoul, Korea; **Capt. Andrew P. Thomas**, U.S. Marines, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division, F.A.S.T. Company, Yorktown, VA; **Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Steven Yager**, 362<sup>nd</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 118<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, 48<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team; **Arnold R. Mosley**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt., U.S. Air Force, Randolph AFB, Texas; and **Debra A. Mosley**, Tech. Sgt., U.S. Air Force, Randolph AFB, Texas.



## Jim Hite

"BUT I JUST GOTTA HAVE IT!"

I imagine that all of us, sometime in our life, have heard that statement. Oh, it may not have been in those exact words, but then again, maybe it was. We may have heard them from our children, our friends, or even ourselves, not said out loud but from within as we pondered the purchase of something we just could not do without.

This phenomenon was on display these past weeks as Super Bowl Sunday approached. Manufacturers and sellers of TV sets regaled us with the idea that to enjoy the game, we just had to have the latest wide-screen, high-definition, theater-sound television set.

And this is just one example. We are bombarded day-in, day-out with the pull of advertising telling us we can't live without (insert item here). And it's not just young people, although marketers have found a soft target there. The right name brand, the right style, the latest technological marvel, all purchased not because I need a shirt, coat, jacket, pair of shoes, pair of pants, but because I "just gotta have" that brand and style of shirt, coat, jacket, shoes, pants.

But I digress. Advances in technology, such as the above mentioned television, are seen throughout various areas of our lives. Technology has led to medical care that prolongs life, vehicles that can transport us thousands of miles, hand-held marvels that allow us to talk to anyone in the world from where we sit or stand. It marvelous!

But has prolonged life led to a better quality of life, has travel helped us develop understanding and appreciation of other places and cultures, has the ability to talk around the world led us to ignore those around us, to be so rude as to talk on a cell phone

while sitting around a table with friends and even family?

How about your home computer and the system through which it operates? Do you still have a VHS player? Is your cell phone still used only for talking? Talk about advances in technology!

Let's apply this to the world of sport. As a runner, I am extremely thankful that shoes are now made that allow my feet to survive my pounding the pavement. As a cyclist, I am extremely thankful that a bike is available that can provide a reasonable return in speed for the amount of effort I put on the pedals.

But it is also true that the shoes that work perfectly can be replaced with a newer model, that my bike can become a heavy-weight that needs replacing by the latest carbon fiber frame.

Fortunately, all of us have the power to choose. While the marketing world operates in a system of planned obsolescence, selling us on the fact that we can't live without this or that, and marketing executives are required to know and play on human emotion for products to be sold, we control our wallets.

This is not written so I can be an old sour curmudgeon complaining that the world is going . . . in a hand basket. Technology is wonderful. Believe me! Without it, I would not be writing this column. My heart would have stopped beating on that September day in 2002.

However, we surely need to understand the difference between needs and wants. Whether fashions or gadgets, we don't "gotta have" so much of what we think we do. Granted, sometimes it is tough to say "no" to demands of children, to their felt need to have what they "gotta have." And face it, it's tough on us as adults to withstand the pressure to want and have the latest and best.

But in the end, the choice is ours.

## 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](mailto:deborah@eastga.net).

## Library News

By Wilma Gaaney  
Branch Manager

On Tuesday, February 13 at 9:30 Barbara Cheeseboro will share tales drawn from her African-American heritage with us. She's a wonderful storyteller and she loves to get the kids involved, so bring your whole family to enjoy the show!

Don't forget!! We have 2006 Income Tax forms, both Federal and Georgia here at the Jenkins County Memorial Library. We have all the basic forms on hand, but for those few very specialized forms that we may not carry, we will be more than pleased to copy any form you may need from the internet and print it out for only 20 cents a page. If you prefer and if you have a computer at home you can log on to [www.irs.com](http://www.irs.com) to find any forms and print them yourself.

*New Books at JCML*  
**THE ALEXANDRIA LINK** by Steve Berry. A menacing email – and his son's sudden disappearance – has dragged Cotton Malone out of retirement. Powerful forces want the ancient Library of Alexandria, and Cotton is the only one who can find it. Information is power...  
**THE BANCROFT STRATEGY** by Robert Ludlum. A special-ops agent and a funds analyst sound like an odd combination... but this pair are the only ones who stand a chance to save the world.

**THE MR. & MRS. HAPPY HANDBOOK: EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT LOVE AND MARRIAGE** by Steve and Kathy Doocy. "Men believe they

understand women and vice versa, but really men know as much about women as a cocker spaniel knows about assembling a Weber grill." Think that's funny? That's just the beginning of the laughs in this marriage guide.

**EVERYDAY GREATNESS: INSPIRATION FOR A MEANINGFUL LIFE** by Stephen R. Covey. There is greatness in a heroic feat or an extraordinary talent – but there is another kind of greatness, as well. The greatness of strong character, of deeds done because they were right and kind, of life lived for a reason.

**THINGS WE ONCE HELD DEAR** by Ann Tatlock ~ Returning to Mason, Ohio, Neil Sadler's past creeps up behind him and is mirrored in the present. Neil discovers the truth of a childhood love and his childhood faith.

**REKINDLED: FOUNTAIN CREEK CHRONICLES** Book One by Tamera Alexander ~ A compelling novel of God's grace and the hope of love rekindled.

**IN PLAIN SIGHT** by C. J. Box ~ This suspenseful novel is from one of today's best mystery writers. Box writes about land as if the grit of Wyoming is still under his nails.

**WEB OF EVIL** by J. A. Jance ~ Jance brings a tale of suspense that brings back familiar characters and reveals the darkness at the heart of promises unfulfilled and danger unrelenting.

**THE LAST SPYMASTER** by Gayle Lynds ~ the chief of the CIA's elite Clandestine Services, both spy and traitor, has disap-

peared without a trace from the jail cell he has been occupying. Will Elaine Cunningham, a CIA agent who specializes in finding people he is able to find him before he disappears forever...

*Websites available online at JCML*

Monster Librarian

Collection of horror fiction reading lists for adults and teens. Topics include vampires, werewolves, zombies, horror-themed romance, and more. Also includes suggestions for scary books for children, and reviews

of horror podcasts. From librarian Dylan Kowalewski.

URL: <http://www.monsterlibrarian.com>  
Kiplinger.com: Taxes

This compilation of articles addresses topics related to U.S. income taxes, such as tax filing, changes to tax laws, and tax breaks. Includes a withholding calculator and state tax profiles. From the website of Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine.

URL: <http://www.kiplinger.com/money/taxes/>

### The Millen News

**Chartered 1903**

The Millen News is published weekly by Chalker Publishing Company, 601 E. 6th St., Waynesboro, Ga.

**The Millen News**  
856 East Cotton Ave. • Millen, Ga. 30442  
Phone: (478) 982-5460 • FAX: (478) 982-1785  
Periodical postage paid at Millen, Georgia.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

**The Millen News**  
P.O. Box 909  
Millen, GA 30442  
USPS No. 349-660

Walter Harrison Editor 1946-1985	Frank M. Edenfield Publisher Emeritus
-------------------------------------	--

Roy F. Chalker Jr. .... Publisher  
Bonnie K. Taylor ..... General Manager  
Deborah Bennett ..... Editor  
Lavonna Drawdy ..... Advertising Composition  
Amy Keldie ..... Office Assistant  
Kathy Vause ..... Sales

Subscription Rates (Includes tax):  
In Jenkins County ..... \$17.06  
Elsewhere in Georgia ..... \$19.74  
Outside of Georgia ..... \$22.47

### 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*