

# Opinions, yours and ours

## The Chatter Box

By **Deborah Bennett**

We welcome Melodye Williams back to our office staff this week.

Melodye has been working at *The True Citizen* for awhile, and we are delighted to get her back at *The Millen News*. Thanks, Bonnie Taylor, and, Roy Chalker, for sending her "home."

Unfortunately, she came home to a hot house. It is early Monday morning, and the thermostat in our hallway at the news office reads "87" degrees.

You guessed it – the air conditioning has lain down and died. Hopefully, by the time you read this it will have been resuscitated. Otherwise, I may have also lain down and died - or melted. My hair did both about 10 minutes ago! That "mega hold" hairspray is just no match for our area's heat and humidity this time of the year.

Unfortunately, my creativity is also no match for the heat. The "overload" warning has just gone off in my brain. So, I'm shutting it down before it "crashes." Tune in next week to see if it will re-boot.

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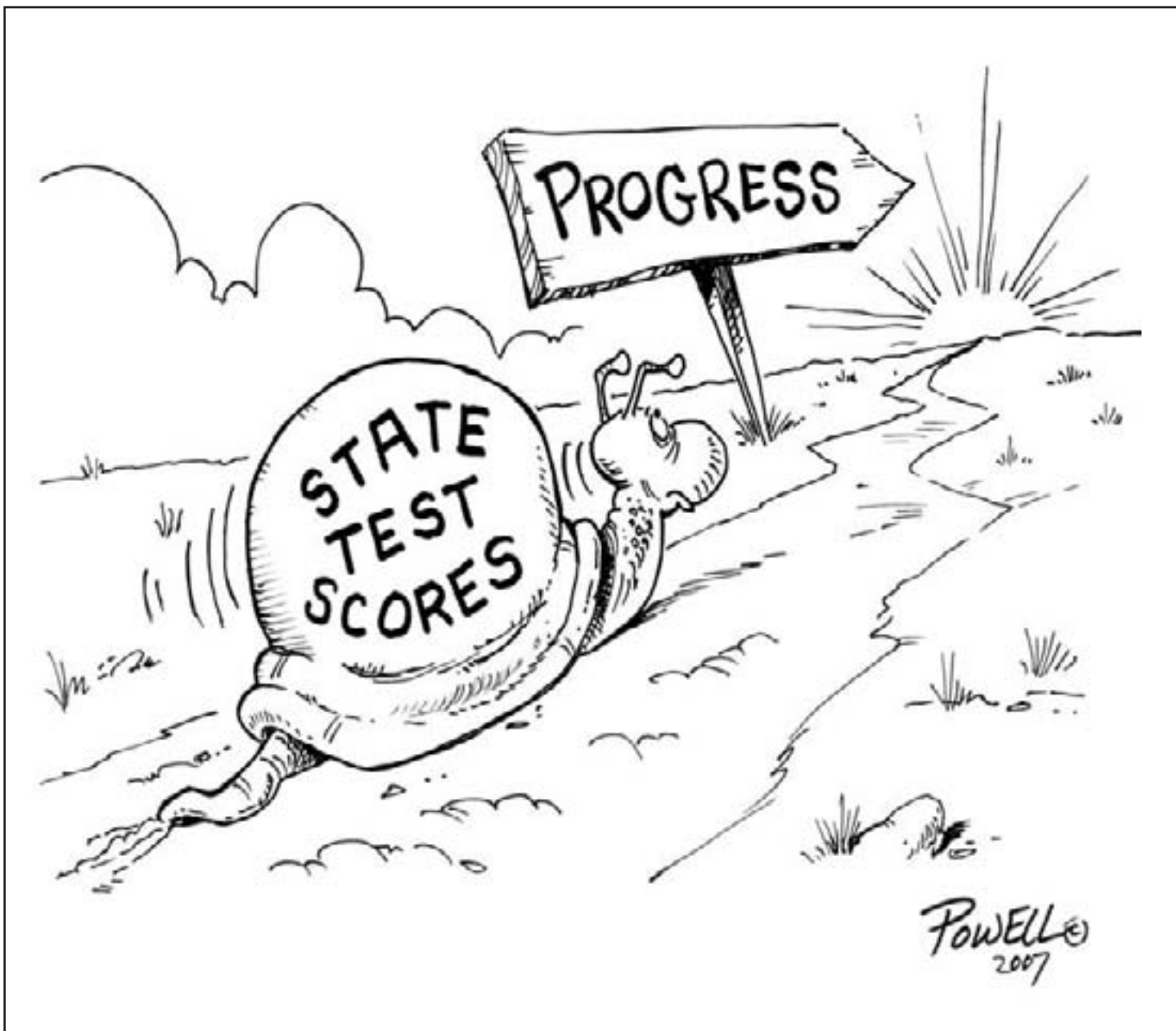
Happy birthday this week to: Otis Becton, Rudine Becton, Bryan Weatherford, Brian Richards, Rew Herrmann, Chuck Richardson, Ray Boynton, Bryce Cranshaw, Vincent Troisi, Karla Gay, Susan W. Godbee and Brittany Morris.

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Celebrating wedding anniversaries this week are: Mr. and Mrs. David Gay and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Law.

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Military Active Duty List: **Capt. Andrew P. Thomas**, U.S. Marines, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division, F.A.S.T. Company, Bahrain, Persian Gulf; **Stuart Burrus**, U.S. Air Force, BAFB, LA; **SPC 4 Travis D. Motes**, 1<sup>st</sup> Calvary Division, Camp Taji, Iraq; **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; **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, 118th 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

### PERKS

Very frequently, I bring up the idea of "perks," those special extras that come unexpectedly from something that I am doing and that often have no connection to that activity.

There is a "perk" that comes from a long flight, although when traveling in economy, I am not sure it outweighs the pure discomfort of hours stuck in a too-small seat with little knee room. On a long flight or waiting between flights, there is plenty of time to read. Usually, we take enough books for the flights, the waits and the down time in our destination cities. Joyce always takes plenty of crossword puzzles!

Not only do I read my books, but I enjoy reading British newspapers which can be found in lobbies and onboard European aircraft. Recently, I had the opportunity to read through a copy of the *Daily Standard*. A letter to the editor caught my attention.

In it, the writer noted all the marvelous creature comforts and technical advances we enjoy today. She listed many we now take for granted: cell phones, CD players, iPods, HDTV, large discount shopping centers, large grocery stores, money-saving self-service stores of all kinds, discount travel.

But she added that these advances have come at a price, that price being the loss of many items, places and even careers that made daily living pleasant. The writer provided several examples. Conductors on buses (remember, this is England), railway seating with attendants (available now only in first-class), butcher shops, bakeries, room for luggage when traveling, petrol pump attendants, cops walking the beat, phone operators who are much more pleasant than the recorded voice telling us we have the following seven options!

The list is almost endless, and you can add your own items at will. My dad, who managed an ice cream store during the 1930s and 40s with its attendant soda fountain and waiter service, despised the coming of self-service. While in high school, I had a job in a downtown department store selling shoes, a position which involved fitting each customer individually. Customers did not pull their shoes off a shelf, nor did they take clothes off shelves or racks on their own. Throughout the store were men and women who had made a career of fitting clothes to the individual.

That particular department store also had a full-time greeter, a very pleasant man in a suit, tie and boutonniere who greeted

each person entering the store. He even spoke to the customer by name if he was a regular client.

Of course, in some towns and in some parts of the country and world, all is not lost. For example, there are still small bakeries without plastic-wrapped goods and other smaller businesses that are very personal and care about serving the customer.

However, the letter writer has a point. I know each of you has horror stories of punching buttons on a telephone trying to find someone to talk to, often not succeeding. And frequently, when personal contact is finally made, the individual has no idea who you are, nor even where you are. I know you have experiences galore of being "served" by employees who couldn't care less that you are there, who are unpleasant, who find it more important to play and joke with fellow workers than properly take care of the customer.

I write all this not just in a spirit of nostalgia, because so often the good old days were not always all that good. However, almost all of us who have a few years under our respective belts can agree that many things which once helped to make daily living pleasant are gone.

I guess it's up to each of us individually to do what we can to make daily living pleasant for those around us. Such an attitude could go a long way toward making our own daily living pleasant as well.

## 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).

### 4-H Summer Activities

Students who have completed the 4<sup>th</sup> grade and up are able to participate in any of our 4-H Summer Activities unless it states an age limit. All fees must be paid in advance so we can order supplies. There are limits to the number of participants for some programs so you will want to sign up as soon as possible. To sign up for any of our activities, just stop by the 4-H Office across the street from the High School. You may call with any questions, 982-4408.

June 14: **4-Extreme**.....\$5  
11 a.m.-1 p.m. \*\* Please notice the date and time change on this event\*\* Bring a towel and change of clothes, you might get wet!

June 19: **Crazy Cuisines**.....\$5  
1-2:30 p.m.. Come prepared to travel to a foreign country!

June 21: **Fishing Rodeo**.....\$5  
9-11 p.m. Will be held at Magnolia and there will be prizes!!

June 26: **Wahsega Awaits**.....\$5  
1-3:00 pm. Anyone may come and make pillow cases and luggage tags!

June 28: **Safari Adventure**.....\$18  
8 a.m-4 p.m. Take a walk on the wild side as we tour Riverbanks Zoo in Columbia, S.C.

July 2: **Everyone Scream for Ice Cream**.....\$3  
2:00 to 4:00 pm. Learn how to make homemade ice cream equipped with all the right toppings.

July 31: **Junior/Senior Tailgate**.....FREE  
4-6 p.m. Come decked out in your Georgia best! There will be prizes, food, games and much more! \*For rising 7<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade only.

## 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

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Editor 1946-1985

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Publisher Emeritus

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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