

# Opinions, yours and ours

## Progress has been made

The Jenkins County Commissioners have worked diligently over the past several years to reduce the county's long-term debt and to operate within the finances available to the county. Their efforts have been successful.

The \$600,000 debt of several years ago has now been paid off, and the county is operating within its budgetary guidelines without having to borrow money or raise taxes for the past three years. The task was accomplished through the determination of the commissioners and the cooperation of elected officials, county department heads and county employees. It was a cooperative effort and no small accomplishment.

Many unpopular decisions and strategies were utilized in the quest for financial solvency, including hours of line-by-line budget reviews and budgetary cuts. It was a painful process and an accomplishment that should not go unnoticed and unappreciated by our local citizens.

There are still unsolved problems and issues facing the county, but the commissioners have set the "train on the tracks" again. Hopefully, it will continue to run in the right direction.

We encourage the commissioners to remain vigilant in their efforts and extend our appreciation for the job they, along with elected officials, department heads and employees, have done in getting the county's finances under control.

## The Chatter Box

By **Deborah Bennett**

It is hard to believe that school will be starting back in two weeks. It seems like everyone just got out for the summer. Of course, the summer vacation for students and teachers is a lot shorter now than when I was in school.

I can recall getting out the end of May and not having to return until the first of September. Those were the days! Summers were so-o-o long. By the time September rolled around, we were all bored to death and ready to go back to school.

I wonder if students still get excited about the first day of school, new classes and new teachers? Do parents still take their students "school clothes shopping?" Does the first football game of the season still ignite Eagle pride? I hope so.

Memories of school days remain with most of us a lifetime. All those silly little things we did when we didn't know any better provide lots of laughs and reminiscing in later years. So, students, enjoy your school days while you can for they will become just memories sooner than you realize.

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We have available at *The Millen News* office sets of postcards depicting the Jenkins County Courthouse, old train chute, Millen Baptist Church and Millen Methodist Church. Each set contains one of each card at a cost of \$2.50 per set and are a great way to promote our community when writing to your out-of-town friends. It is also a good, inexpensive gift. Come by and take a look.

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Congratulations to the Jenkins County Recreation Department Mite Girls on their first place win in the Sub-District Play-offs, second place win in the District I Play-offs and fifth place distinction at the State games.

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Happy birthday this week to: Kyleigh Fleming, Don Gay, Dwayne Herrington, Tiffany McTeer, Glennis Plair, Margaret Larisey, Jimmy Knight, Jerry Dailey, Felicia Dailey, Christian Chance, Dreta Kent and Frank Wilson.

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Celebrating wedding anniversaries this week are: Mr. and Mrs. Thomas (Pug) Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Smith and Dr. and Mrs. Joe Griffin.

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Military Active Duty List: **Airman First Class Charles S. Woods**, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas; **Capt. Andrew P. Thomas**, U.S. Marines, 2nd Marine Division, F.A.S.T. Company, Bahrain, Persian Gulf; **Stuart Burrus**, U.S. Air Force, BAFB, LA; **SPC 4 Travis D. Motes**, 1st 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**, 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, 878th 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; **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.



## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

The patriotic celebration Saturday, July 7, was a great event. Though rain threatened, the Millen/Jenkins County community came out in record numbers to visit, eat, listen to the music and see the spectacular fireworks show.

So many local citizens made this event possible. Clay Boulineau and his staff set up the stage, cut the grass and took care of numerous other details. Wade Parker and the Lions Club provided the flags for decorations. The county commission-

ers provided games and prizes for the children. Jenkins County 4-H department provided games, and Christy Walters did face painting. Horace Weathersby and the Jenkins County Recreation Department permitted us to use the facilities.

We also appreciate the contributions of our local elected officials to the program. Mayor King Rocker, county commission chairman Jerry Henry and the commissioner Pam Dwight. Other local citizens were generous with their time and talent. Hank Whitters was outstanding

singing "The Star Spangled Banner." Don Leonard represented the VFW Color Guard. Linda Jenkins presented a moving program of patriotic music. Joe Sasser provided the sound system and served as DJ and master of ceremonies for the evening.

The fireworks are always the big attraction. The financial contributors who made the show possible were: Millen Loan and Finance, Thompson's Corner, R.H. Reeves III, PC, Papa's Pizza, Planters EMC, Queensborough National Bank

and Trust, James L. Alfriend Foresters, Seth Benson, Christy Bandy, Parker Engineering, Metal Industries, Eagle Pharmacy, Regions Bank, Jenkins County Farm Bureau, Dairy Queen, City of Millen and Millen Better Hometown.

We sincerely appreciate the support and cooperation from everyone.

**Art Johnson,  
Miller Better Hometown  
Paula Herrington,  
Millen/Jenkins County  
Chamber of Commerce**

## Jim Hite

### A MATTER OF ATTITUDE

In searching for a topic, I often come across ideas that call for a lot of thought and even interpretation. Research into them often adds to their complexity and evokes emotions which are affected by many differing points of view. Other times, I come across items that bring about a response that can only be described as anger. American humorist Will Rogers is quoted as saying that he got most of his material from reading newspaper accounts of the activities in Congress. Today, I doubt he would find much humor in government activities.

The emotions brought out by the following person's outlook on life are, for me, gut-wrenching.

A couple of weeks ago, a television program devoted itself to Kay Yow, basketball coach for the North Carolina State women's team who is fighting cancer. She is a legend in North Carolina, having been in place at the beginning of collegiate women's basketball. My daughter, who lives and works in the Raleigh/Durham/Chapel Hill area, has attended numerous Wolfpack basketball games and is friends with several who played under Yow.

Coach Yow was the speaker at my daughter's graduation from East Carolina University, inspiring even then.

When Coach Yow discovered she had cancer, she stayed with her duties during treatment. She did have to leave the coaching to her assistant last season for several weeks, but Joyce and I watched when she returned to the bench for the game against top-rated rival North Carolina. For NC State, it was storybook time, as her young athletes took on the best and pulled off the upset.

Yow is still fighting the cancer. She is still inspiring those who know her and know of her.

In the television interview I watched, Yow made a statement that should be burned in all of our minds: "Attitude reveals character. It does not build character."

Look around, and/or look in the mirror. Each of us exudes an attitude. We can't hide it. Nor can those with whom we live and

work hide theirs.

Negative, cynical, selfish, self-righteous, self-satisfied, antagonistic, hateful, caring, open, positive, loving, giving, friendly — these and many other terms are used to describe one's character.

Nowadays, it seems that the task of building character is turned over to the school and/or church.

But if we look at Coach Yow's understanding of the human psyche, what is needed is an "attitude adjustment."

Looking at that list of terms describing character, we see that they are all "attitudinal." In fact, when you think about it, it's impossible to hide or fake one's character because attitude is so visible.

Our attitude toward life shows in all we do and say. A positive attitude is one that presses on and does not dwell on adversity. There is no "Woe is me!" in an attitude that takes on all that life deals and keeps on keeping on.

This is not "Pollyanna." This is reality. Life deals good and bad, most of it random and unexplainable. But our character is revealed in our attitude toward the life we have.

Again, look around.

Better, look inside.

## The Millen News

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## 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

## 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).