

# The Millen News

VOL. 104, NO. 8, AUGUST 29, 2007

LEGAL ORGAN OF JENKINS COUNTY

MILLEN, GEORGIA • 50 CENTS

## FREAK ACCIDENT



A FedEx driver was injured in an accident with a Cavalier Home Builders' forklift around 1 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 21, in the Millen Industrial Park. Witnesses reported that the FedEx truck collided with steel beams being transported by the forklift on a side street between Cavalier and M. I. Home Products. The driver was transported to the Jenkins County Hospital for treatment of injuries. (Staff photos by Deborah Bennett)



## Teachers oppose payroll change

By Deborah Bennett  
Millen News Editor

A previously approved payroll change drew a large group of teachers to the Monday, Aug. 20, meeting of the Jenkins County Board of Education (BOE) to voice their opposition to the measure.

“*Eighty-two percent of teachers are asking you to reconsider.*”  
— Lela Dickens

At a previous meeting, the BOE approved the payment of local supplements to educators over a 12-month period. The supplements had been paid in January of each year as lump sum payments.

Lela Dickens presented a petition on behalf of the group requesting that the BOE continue the lump sum payment of supplements. Of the 245 teachers employed by the school system, 201 had signed the document.

“Eighty-two percent of the teachers are asking you to reconsider,” said Dickens.

J.C. Paulk also spoke for the group, stating, “We are thankful we are getting a local supplement but would like for it to continue to be paid in a lump sum in January. We are able to see it better that way.”

Chairman Carroll Gay responded that the BOE would consider the request and render a decision at a later date, as is the policy of the BOE.

Jenkins County School Superintendent Joan Blackwood reported school enrollment as of Aug. 14 as follows: Jenkins County High School (JCHS), 456 students; Jenkins County Middle School, 325 students; and Jenkins County Elementary School, 817 students.

Although enrollment was down from the May figures, it was noted that additional students were usually enrolled after Labor Day.

Blackwood reported that three students had passed the High School Graduation Tests given during the summer, possibly increasing the graduation rate of JCHS to what was needed for the facility to make Annual Yearly Progress (AYP). In addition, four other students who had graduated (walked) three years earlier passed the tests.

Two board policies concerning personal leave and absences placed on the table for consideration at the previous meeting were approved. Blackwood explained that the changes in the policies were needed to bring the system in line with the Teacher Retirement System as it related to sick leave.

JCHS Principal Dr. Joseph Kirkland reported that 91 students were participating in the JROTC program which began the new school term. He further noted that the JROTC after school program had 20 students on the “Raiders” team and 15 students were participating in the Color Guard.

“This means that one out of every five students at JCHS are participating in the program,” Dr. Kirkland commented.

### OTHER ACTIONS TAKEN:

- Approved a Spending Resolution for the month of September;
- Approved a class size resolution;
- Approved Student Handbooks;
- Approved the nomination of *The Millen News* for the Georgia School Board Association (GSBA) Beacon Award and Planters Electric Membership Corporation as a nominee for the GSBA Partnership Award;
- Approved the draft of a policy on extended day/extended year pay to be placed on the table for review; and
- Appointed Roderick Campbell as legislative liaison.

## Citizen donates land for dumpster site

By Deborah Bennett  
Millen News Editor

The Jenkins County Commissioners found themselves in an unusual position during the group's Tuesday, Aug. 21, meeting — the receivers of a gift, on behalf of the county.

The group was informed that Jenkins County resident Euda Lee Deer had offered to give the county, free of charge, a parcel of land located on Hiltonia Road, provided the county agreed to demolish a building located on the approximately 50 sq. ft. property. The site could then be used for the placement of county dumpsters.

A motion to accept the property and contact local fire departments concerning the demolition of the building as a training exercise was approved.

The purchase of a motor grader from Yancey Brothers was approved in the amount of \$208,679. The only other bid received was from Tractor and Equipment Company in the amount of \$168,100.

The higher bid was accepted after it was noted that the lower bid was for a machine with a lower amount of horsepower and carried only a 12 months warranty. The higher bid was for a higher horsepower, carried a

five-year warranty, included the loan of a motor grader until the purchased one arrived, training for county employees and a buy-back guarantee after five years of use.

The equipment purchase will be funded with Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax revenue, as approved by local voters.

In other matters, R. M. Small presented the commissioners with packets of information concerning the City of Millen's natural gas lines and the “Call Before You Dig” Georgia law. He explained that his presence at the meeting was in accordance with federal regulations requir-

ing the city to initiate and participate in a public awareness campaign.

### OTHER ACTIONS TAKEN:

- Approved a \$600 salary increase for an employee who had completed a job-related course of training;
- Tabled action on replacing a member of the Airport Advisory Committee who recently resigned; and
- Agreed to consider and discuss at a later date an Animal Neutering Program for the county.

## Social Security warns seniors about scams

### Callers have been posing as Social Security employees to access personal information

Unfortunately, there always seem to be crooks who are trying “to put something over on us” and take our money. While anyone can be a target for such “scam artists,” seniors are often among the most vulnerable. Social Security recently has had to issue a warning about

several ‘scams’ that have resurfaced throughout the southeast. The agency has received many reports about telephone calls or visits from people who falsely claim to be Social Security employees. In each case, the person attempted to obtain personal information, such as a

Social Security or bank account number, from the Social Security recipient.

The scam artists who identify themselves as Social Security employees have used a variety of approaches to get personal information. In one case, a caller said that Social Security was experiencing a power outage and needed to verify the person's information. In another, the caller posed as an employee who needed to verify the person's direct deposit information.

In a third scam, Social Security recipients were told that their monthly benefit payments were being cut because they inherited a house from a relative — an event which, by the way, would not result in a reduction of Social Security benefits. To help make the fraud seem authentic, the caller then placed the person on hold and played the same on-hold recordings used by Social Security. When the caller got back on the line, the recipients were then told that proceeds from the sale of the house will be sent to them if they pay the back taxes.

The Social Security Administration advises you to always take precaution when giving out personal information. Never provide your social security number or other personal information over the telephone unless you initiated the contact, or are confident of the person to whom you are speaking. If in doubt, do not release the information without first verifying the validity of the call.

## Local schools to monitor behavior at sporting events

By Deborah Bennett  
Millen News Editor

As the local school sports season gets underway, a new school policy has been adopted by the Jenkins County Board of Education and will be strictly enforced at all school athletic events.

The Good Sportsmanship Policy sets guidelines for the behavior of not only students and athletes, but also coaches and spectators at all athletic events. Unacceptable behavior, as noted by the policy, includes fighting, verbal confrontations, profanity, degrading remarks and intimidating actions directed at officials, referees and competitors.

Those who participate in such activities may be removed from the event, suspended from attending any athletic events for the remainder of the school year or have any other consequence that the school principal feels is appropriate imposed upon them.

“We are going to enforce this policy, and there may be people who are banned from attending athletic events if they don't abide by the policy,” said Jenkins County High School Principal Dr. Joseph Kirkland.

Spectators should also be aware that they are not allowed to enter the competition area during warm-ups or while the event is being conducted. Also, no children under the age of six will be admitted to athletic events without being accompanied by a parent or guardian.

School officials are quick to point out that the purpose of the Good Sportsmanship Policy is to insure that the local school system will be represented in a positive manner and that everyone participating and attending school athletic events have an enjoyable and safe experience.

### WHAT TO DO IF YOU THINK A SCAM ARTIST HAS CONTACTED YOU:

If there is any doubt at all about someone who claims to be a Social Security representative, the agency recommends contacting your local Social Security office or calling Social Security's toll-free number at 1-800-772-1213 to verify legitimacy of the call.

In the meantime, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) is working closely with other Social Security officials to investigate all reports of suspicious activity, please call the OIG Hotline at 1-800-269-0271. A Public Fraud Reporting form is also available online at the OIG's website; <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/oig/>.