

Bluffton

BLUFFTON'S ONLY DAILY HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

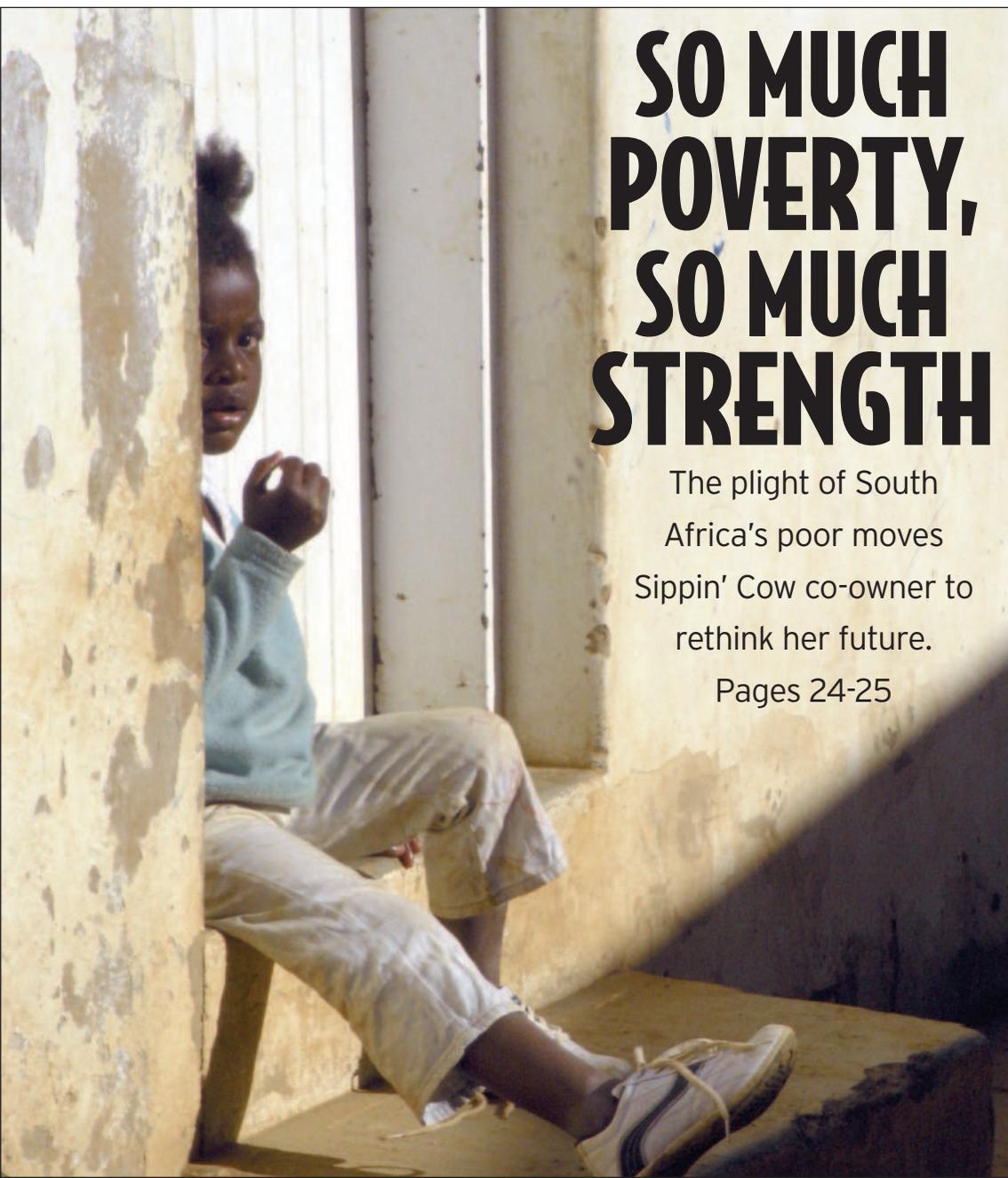
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FISH AND FINS

Bluffton's swim teams went for the gold – and yellow and pink – at a swim-a-thon Saturday. **Page 26**

Volume 5, Number 87 • **COMING TOMORROW:** A peek into the town's plan to renovate the old Garvin House.



SO MUCH POVERTY, SO MUCH STRENGTH

The plight of South
Africa's poor moves
Sippin' Cow co-owner to
rethink her future.

Pages 24-25

NEWS

Children's parade moves to Promenade

BY STEPHANIE INGERSOLL
BLUFFTON TODAY

This year's Bluffton Children's Fourth of July Parade has marching orders and is moving to the new Calhoun Street Promenade.

Organizer Babbie Guscio said she decided to move the parade after learning that she would have to pay two Bluffton police officers \$70 an hour each for three hours if she wanted to close Calhoun Street from the

SEE 'PARADE' ON PAGE 4

Jasper schools' superintendent steps down

BY ERINN MCGUIRE AND ANTHONY GARZILLI
BLUFFTON TODAY

RIDGELAND — The Jasper County School District's superintendent stepped down Monday night and will act as a consultant to the school district for the remainder of his contract.

The change in leadership was a mutual

SEE 'DOWN' ON PAGE 4

BLUFFTON TODAY

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Letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number. Letters are subject to editing. Preference will be given to letters with fewer than 200 words.

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We say ...

Remember our Marines overseas

Lost amidst a trio of high-profile obituaries this week and the scorn heaped on Gov. Mark Sanford are the American soldiers and Marines serving in the hot grit of Afghanistan and Iraq.

While we wonder what killed Michael Jackson and mourn Farah Fawcett and Billy Mays, they wonder when the next street-side bomb will go off.

When you're living with that much stress every day, a little home-grown beef jerky can go a long way.

Full credit yet again to the Moss Creek Marines, that group of steady former Marines (and a Navy corpsman) who have now "adopted" 15 overseas Marine detachments, showering them with gifts galore.

In 26 packages, the Moss Creek Marines recently sent everything from toothpaste to Xboxes to, yes, beef jerky to the Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron 28 in Afghanistan.

"Basically we want to show our appreciation for what they do," said Moss Creek Marines Commander Alan Calderon. "We know more than anyone that freedom is not free and we just want to help them keep their morale up..."

Judging by the thank-you e-mail sent by one of MTACS-28's officers, that particular mission has been accomplished.

"On a personal note, I can't thank you and the Moss Creek Marines enough for all the work that went into making up each carton," Lt. Shane Bladen wrote. "It helps me to know that folks back home are thinking of us out here."

That's the key. While the Moss Creek Marines are doing what they see as their duty, we're all a-Twitter about Jacko, forgetting just how many of our young men and women remain in harm's way in a pair of wars we'd just as soon collectively forget about.

We must remember our people. The Moss Creek Marines have set a precedent we should all follow. Call Calderon at 837-2176 to send a donation and keep the group adoptions coming.



You say ...

Letters to the editor

Thanks, Hargray, for a job well done

We just wanted to drop a line and commend the field repair staff at Hargray for a job well done with their handling of the recent outage in Mill Creek.

We understand that a lightning strike knocked out most of the service in our area. I understand that Hargray had to rebuild most of the system due to that strike. Although it took a little longer, we found the crews to be very professional and accommodating.

After all this was completed a contractor accidentally cut our line on Friday. Hargray was out in a matter of minutes of receiving the call and started running a new line to our home. They had us back on line in a short period of time.

Thanks for a job well done.

The John Miller family
Bluffton

Column showed editor's lack of judgment

The Saturday column written by Sara Wright on her opinion of abortion is not material for any newspaper to run anywhere other than the editorial page.

This issue is hotly debated and your decision to run this column as a news article shows a total lack of journalistic judgment. You place the responsibility of your readers to separate news from opinion.

The passion of Ms. Wright to attempt to change the views of her readers should not have been allowed by the editor. Objective and accurate reporting of news is what I expect. This publication seems to have a different mission.

Tom O'Brien
Bluffton

Editor's note: We weren't trying to trick anyone. We ran her column under the page header "Causes," which is what we label all opinion pieces. But you have a valid point. We should have made it even more obvious that it was a personal column and not a news article.