

Bluffton

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GLOBE TROTTERS

Bluffton students travel the world via the Passport to Peace program. **Page 14**

Volume 4, Number 202 • **COMING TOMORROW:** Columnist Carl Lehmann scribbles on a used paper napkin.



FIGHTING BREAST CANCER:

'It's a privilege to be involved.'

Doctor/nurse team cares for the whole woman.

Inside



Dr. Virginia Herrmann speaks with a patient while performing a breast exam at Hilton Head Regional Medical Center.

Scott Salisbury/Bluffton Today

NEWS

Altamaha preserve opens near Callawassie

BY LOLITA HUCKABY
BLUFFTON TODAY

Southern Beaufort County's newest public park officially opened Tuesday on 100 acres that include archaeological evidence dating back to 1500 B.C.

The Altamaha Town Heritage Preserve was purchased by the county through its Rural and Critical Land Preservation Program in 2004 for \$3.1 million. The land, overlooking the Colleton River, was initially slated for development, but the owners of Heyward Point agreed to negotiate with the county on the purchase.

County Council Chairman Weston Newton described the site as one of the county's most historically significant properties, noting that it includes one of the original village sites of

SEE 'PRESERVE' ON PAGE 3

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We say ...

Remember our troops overseas

Three cheers — no, make that 12 cheers — for the Moss Creek Marines.

The group of former Marines and Navy corpsmen, widows and, in one case, the mother of an active-duty Marine, has “adopted” 12 units of overseas Marines since the war against terror began.

Each time, the Moss Creek Marines have sent whatever their younger, active-duty counterparts have asked for, which has ranged from the expected (video game consoles and snacks) to the unusual (cans of tuna and packs of beef jerky).

The latter, in fact, was requested by every group except the 11th — the Beaufort-based VMFA-122 “Werewolves,” who are eating wind-blown Iraqi sand as you read this.

The Werewolves didn't ask for beef jerky, but they got it anyway. The veterans' group uses it as an edible equivalent of packaging popcorn, squeezing in bags of jerky wherever space allows.

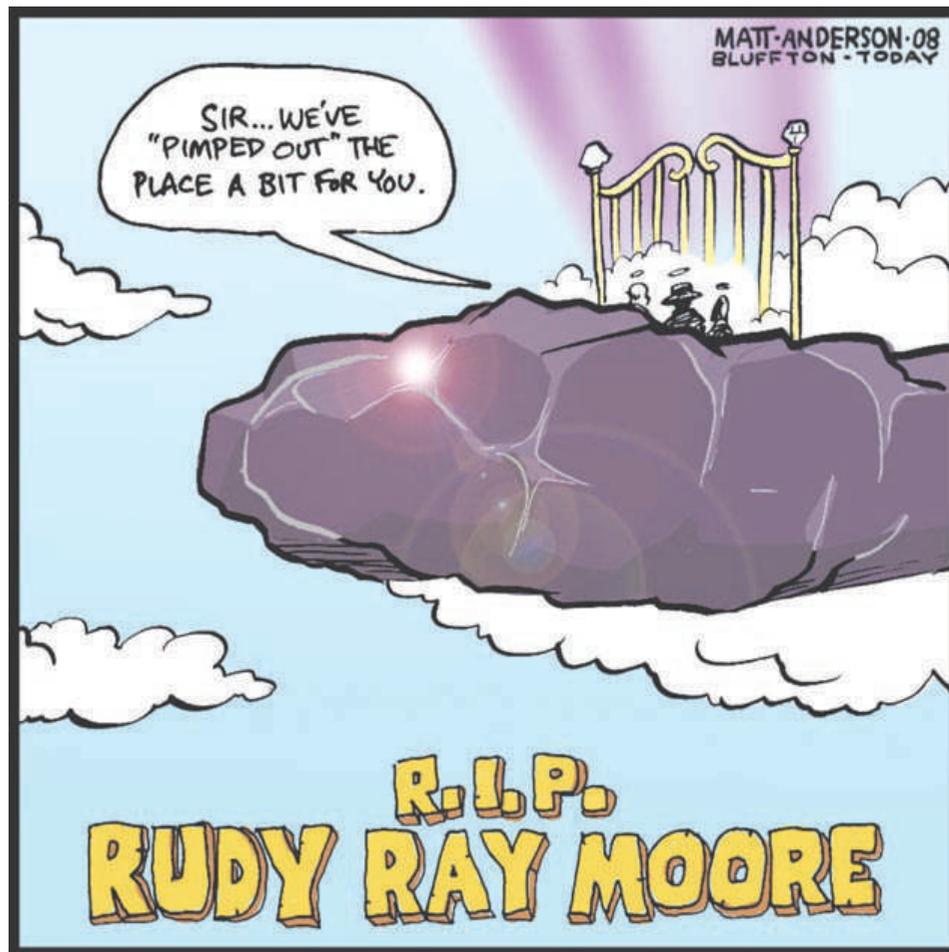
Each time the Moss Creek Marines have sent stuff, the overseas Marines have sent something back — pictures of young warriors happily opening gifts from home, celebrating 110-degree Christmases in a war zone.

“We just want to show our support and make sure they know that somebody from the home front understands what they're going through and we want to give them some motivation, some feeling that comes from home,” Moss Creek Marines commander Alan Calderon said.

“We want to let them know that although, as some general said, ‘America's at war and Americans are at the mall,’ we want them to know some of us remember them.”

The mall thing is too true. As bent out of shape as everyone is right now — with the economy tanking, with a presidential election days away, with the kids in school again — it's easy to forget our men and women overseas risking their lives for ours.

Good thing somebody remembers. Twelve cheers for the Moss Creek Marines.

**You say ...**

Letter to the editor

Begin oil drilling now

Congressman Joe Wilson's Democratic opponent has it all wrong in believing it will take years to retrieve American oil.

In 1975, construction began on the Trans Alaska Pipeline System. In just over two years, this extraordinary feat of American engineering was successfully completed covering 800 miles, crossing three mountain ranges, 800 rivers and streams, and bringing 15 billion barrels of oil to our nation.

Wilson's opponent is just another liberal naysayer. I believe we have the resolve,

ingenuity and capability to vastly increase domestic sources of oil and natural gas right here at home.

Congressman Wilson supports environmentally sound drilling for oil and natural gas at least 25 miles off our coast, which will preserve our tourism industry and give us energy independence from the Middle East.

It is high time we do what's best for our economy, families and for our future and begin drilling now.

Dawn Duff
Bluffton