

OPINION

Editorial

More than happy to report good deeds

After making and mailing 2,000 packages – at the cost of \$18,000 – the Brookings-Harbor Red Shirts are still marching strong.

These dedicated residents, who, for the last two years have been mailing care packages to U.S. troops overseas, embody the spirit of generosity that is so prevalent in our community.

We know from letters and e-mails we've received and published from military folks that the packages are much-appreciated.

Now 2,000 packages may not sound like a lot to some people, but consider this: Each package contains six to a dozen items – food, clothing and hygiene products – all of which cost money. And then there are the postal expenses.

The Red Shirts, a local chapter of a national organization, started up their own packages-for-troops effort, and Brookings-Harbor organizations, businesses and individuals continue to support it.

This is just one example of the many good deeds happening in our community. Reporting on such efforts helps to offset the serious, often negative news that fills the pages of this newspaper.

While it's our journalistic responsibility to report serious issues, that doesn't, and won't, stop us from reporting the lighter side of the news. Doing so is a long-standing tradition; one we are proud to continue.

Positive stories do more than merely brighten our readers' day, they promote a sense of place and bring the community closer together.

Of course those stories need a subject. We applaud the Red Shirts and their supporters for their ongoing efforts. They are an example for us all.

We look forward to reporting on the Red Shirts' efforts and the good deeds of others throughout 2008.