WELCOMING WARRIORS

Members of the community pitched in to welcome 25 members of the Wounded Warrior Regiment this past week. The event started with a motorcade including more than 400 motorcyclists, police and fire personnel who escorted the wounded Marines to Keowee Key where several days of rest and relaxation awaited them. Keowee Key residents housed them and, with the help of Greenville Hospital system and the Roger C. Peace Rehabilitation (RCP) Hospital, offered the Marines a change of scenery and a chance to try out some of the water sports on Lake Keowee.



Above left: Lake escort Casey Strickland, left and RCP Therapist David Grubb offer encouragement to Marine Jeremy Lyons, middle, during his first attempt at wake boarding.



Above: Marine Jeremy Lyons, front right, his sister Renee Lyons, Casey Strickland, front left and RCP therapist David Grubb chat during a boat ride on Lake Keowee.



Above ri... Participants in the Wounded Warriors motorcade wave to onlookers.



Left: Marine John Anderson, left, chats with Keowee Key resident Tom Brosnan in the shade after spending time on the Keowee Key golf course.

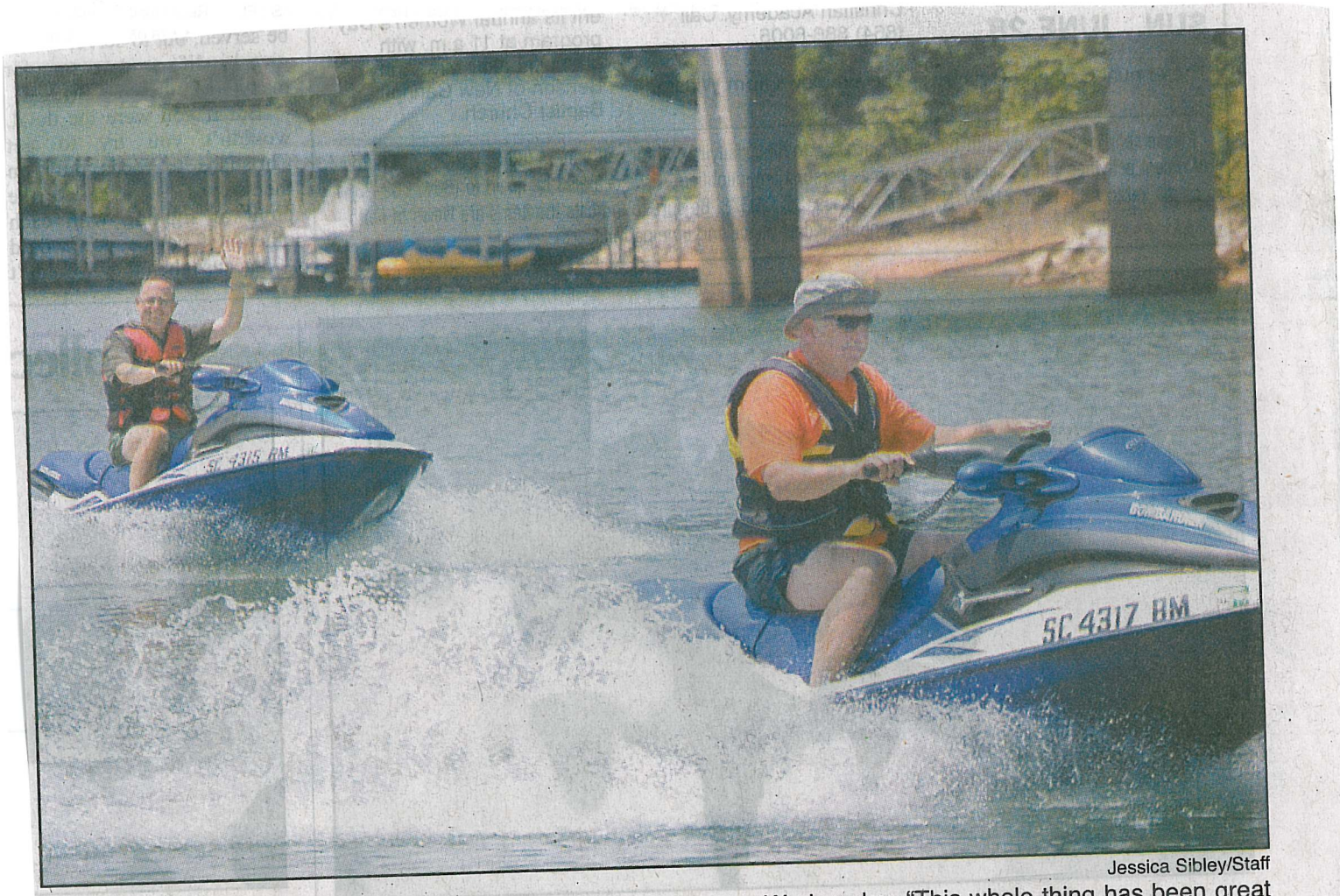


Jessica Nelms/Staff

Water skiing proved a favorite of the Marines who spent three days recouperating and making new friends in the Keowee Key community.



Above: Marine Nick Gomez, front left, and RCP therapist Kevin McBride enjoy lunch and conversation after spending the day on the lake.



Jessica Sibley/Staff

A Marine and his escort traveled up and down Lake Keowee on Wednesday. "This whole thing has been great for them," said Allen Funk, resident. "They've really opened up and felt comfortable with everyone."



Right: PFC Eric Sparks tries his hand at water skiing for the first time on Lake Keowee.

Story and Photos by Jessica Nelms

Check out upstatetoday.com for our Wounded Warriors video