

# Bluffton Today



BLUFFTON'S ONLY DAILY HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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## TRY THEM, TRY THEM, SAM I AM

Amazing Creations' kids had their fill of some yummy green eggs and ham for Dr. Seuss' birthday. **Page 7**

Volume 4, Number 334 • COMING TOMORROW: John David Rose says universal health care will save our flagging economy, not kill it.



## BOXES OF LOVE

Scott Salisbury/Bluffton Today

Ten or so First Baptist Church members take time each month to send everything from candy and sport drinks to shampoo and socks to military personnel overseas.

Bluffton faithful adopt soldiers and Marines in war zones.

**Pages 12-13**

### REGIONAL NEWS

## One year later...

The Calverts are still missing, and only a spoonful of dirt provides hope they'll someday be found. **Page 6**



### LOCAL NEWS

## A Heritage of success

People still love our golf tournament, even during this crippling recession.

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### NEWS

## County buys land to build its own crime lab

Deal to lease space from BJWSA was moving too slowly, sheriff says.

BY STEPHANIE INGERSOLL  
BLUFFTON TODAY

Beaufort County has scrapped plans to partner with BJWSA to build a crime lab in Okatie and is spending \$650,000 to buy land for its own facility instead.

Beaufort County Sheriff P.J. Tanner said the county will build the forensics lab for DNA, rug and other evidence testing on 2.39 acres in the Camp St. Mary's area in central Beaufort County.

The Beaufort County Council approved the land purchase last week following an executive session after its regular meeting. The move marks the end of an agreement to lease space from Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority, which was supposed to build the lab but had not yet started construction.

"The contract was still being negotiated but it had never been signed," Tanner said Monday. "Things were moving at a turtle's pace and it was time to do something different."

SEE 'LAB' ON PAGE 3

THERE'S AN INSECT ARMY OUT THERE  
PLANNING TO INVADe YOUR HOME.

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Special to Bluffton Today

Members of the Moss Creek Marines pose around a van they stuffed last week with 87 boxes of goodies for a battalion of Marines in Afghanistan.

## Moss Creek Marines do it again

But they aimed higher this time, "adopting" 1,200 overseas

Leathernecks at once.

BY ROB DEWIG  
BLUFFTON TODAY

The Moss Creek Marines are nothing if not ambitious. The veterans' group has "adopted" 12 Marine units overseas, but most were company-sized, 100 or 200 men and women eating grit in the deserts of Iraq or Afghanistan and eager for a taste of home.

This time, though, they aimed high and adopted the entire 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment (Reinforced), serving with Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force Afghanistan. That's 1,200 men and women.

That's a lot of Xboxes. Eight, to be precise. A dozen Moss Creek Marines spent a day last week packing 87 boxes packed with stuff for the battalion, including 1,000 phone cards, toiletries, candy and snacks, DVDs and letters from

children to whom members of the Moss Creek group spoke over the holidays.

The Marines who receive the boxes, according to an e-mail from the Moss Creek group's overseas contact, are stationed at forward bases and don't have access to typical off-duty items.

"On a larger scale, if you were able to donate a gaming system and games, such as (an) Xbox 360, the Marines at the forward operating locations would use the heck out of them in their sparsely outfitted morale and welfare tents," said Master Sgt. Charles F. Albrecht, the battalion's public affairs officer.

Done. The Xboxes are in the mail.

"Once again, on behalf of all the Moss Creek Marines and all of the others who have donated to our cause, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all that you do for our Country and our Corps," said Alan Calderon, the Moss Creek Marines' commanding officer, closing his e-mail, fittingly, with the words "Semper Fidelis."

That's Latin for "always faithful." Get it?



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