

# Bluffton Today

BLUFFTON'S ONLY DAILY HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER



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## BLUFFTON TEEN TO BOX IN BEIJING?

Golden Gloves champ Jeremy Gongora is aiming for the U.S. Olympic team. **Page 18**

Volume 3, Number 359 • **COMING TOMORROW:** Columnist Ric Bertsch focuses on the insurance needs of newlyweds.

## Christmas in March

Moss Creek Marines send boxes of Xboxes (and footballs and beef jerky) to Marines overseas. **Pages 16-17**



### NEWS

## Sheriff: No foul play in Gerwing's death

Investigation into the disappearance of John and Elizabeth Calvert continues.

BY AREK SARKISSIAN II  
BLUFFTON TODAY

Dennis Gerwing bled to death after mutilating himself in a bathtub, according to an autopsy report dated March 12 and released Wednesday.

Another report said a steak knife was found next to Gerwing's body on March 11 in a blood-splattered bathroom in a time-share villa in Sea Pines Resort.

"There's no murder mystery

**SEE 'SUICIDE' ON PAGE 24**

### NEWS

## Mayor: We will pay off full debt on BHS stadium

BY TIM WOOD  
BLUFFTON TODAY

The man behind a \$183,000 loan to build the high school baseball stadium has a new plan to pay off the debt.

Meanwhile, the high school's principal says the school and the community need to help with

the fundraising.

Bluffton Mayor Hank Johnston negotiated an interest-free loan with the Beaufort County School Board in 2003 to pay off the \$305,000 needed for the 1,000-seat baseball stadium at Bluffton High School.

**SEE 'STADIUM' ON PAGE 4**

Scott Salisbury/Bluffton Today



# DIFFERENT ERAS, SAME CORPS

## Former Marines help their active-duty descendents with some downtime overseas.

### HELP (AND CELL PHONES) WANTED

The Moss Creek Marines have now "adopted" five units of active-duty Marines, and are basically sending troops overseas anything they ask for. But that requires money – both to buy the goodies and to pay for postage. Much of the Moss Creek Marines' money comes from a golf tournament fundraiser held each fall. The rest comes from donations. And, yes, you can help.

Call commanding officer Alan Calderon at 837-2176 or e-mail him at [acalderon@hargray.com](mailto:acalderon@hargray.com). As for the cell phones, the Moss Creek Marines have partnered with Cell Phones for Soldiers, a national group that trades 60-minute phone cards for used cell phones from donors.

Bring your old phone by the Moss Creek administration building. Each phone donated will mean another 60-minute phone card goes to a Marine overseas.

For more information on the cell phone program, visit [www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com](http://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com)

Some things Marines want when they're serving overseas are timeless – food, baseballs, razors. Food.

But Xboxes? Roger Garreau had to look that one up. Thank God for Google.



STORY BY  
**ROB DEWIG**  
BLUFFTON TODAY



PHOTOS BY  
**SCOTT SALISBURY**  
BLUFFTON TODAY

Garreau and a handful of other Moss Creek Marines got together Tuesday to package and mail boxes of stuff – timeless and trendy alike – to the fifth company of active-duty Marines they've "adopted" since the war in Iraq began. Each adopted company has had direct ties to the Moss Creek community, and the latest is no exception. Gunnery Sgt. Jon Bryant's mom is Moss Creek's Charlotte Seltzer.

Bryant explained in an e-mail to Garreau that his company of 180 Marines serves in three "remote bases, forward" in Iraq, where they handle "big box communications" for air wings in the theater. They're isolated, bored and in a war zone. Garreau asked Bryant what his company needed. Bryant replied that his fellow Marines needed a lot. And wanted a few things, too.



Alan Calderon and his wife, Dee, tell Edie Mott what is being packed into a box as Mott writes the items down.

They wanted PlayStation 2 games and sports equipment, plus something called Xbox Rockband. Garreau had to look that one up, too.

They needed – Bryant capitalized the word NEED several times in his e-mail – shampoo, razors, shaving cream and deodorant. They got everything they asked for.

"Some of it was fun to get," MCM commander Alan Calderon said. "Some of it we had no clue what we were buying, like Rockband and PlayStations. We had no clue."

Garreau just grinned. "We're from different eras. So we went to the manager at Best Buy and he gave us some technical advice."

He also gave them a PlaySta-

tion 2. No charge. Just tell those Marines to have fun.

Moss Creek Marines Garreau, Calderon (and his wife Dee), Hank Parker and Bill Mott (and his wife Edie) spent much of Tuesday morning wrapping basketballs and beef jerky to send to Bryant's Marines.

They spent \$2,164 to buy everything. It cost slightly more than \$442 to ship everything.

The latter was unexpected. In the past, overseas Marines have asked for smaller things – calling cards, movies and tuna fish, of all things.

The post office said the group could ship things overseas using the domestic fee schedule, but it was still expensive, Calderon said.

"We're just trying to help the troops," he said. "These are the things they asked for."

It cost \$12.95 to ship a PS2. For 30 pounds of shaving cream, it's \$63. It added up.

"We're going to pack all of it and do the best we can," Mott said.

That just means the next fundraiser needs to be really successful.

"And we'll just have to limit what we do in the future," Calderon said. "We're going to send what we can. We have the money; we just didn't want to spend it (on shipping) instead of supporting more troops."

The Moss Creek Marines are already planning to adopt two more overseas units, including one from the Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort. The other – the Bluffton group's first adopted unit heading to Afghanistan – includes the son of Gen. Paul Lefebvre, Parris Island's commander.

"We want to do this because, besides the fact that this is why we came together as a group, when I was in Vietnam we got nothing," Calderon said. "We don't want to be that way. We want to show our appreciation. Our primary function (as a group) is to support the troops."

► **Bill Mott of the Moss Creek Marines labels boxes that are filled with items that will be sent to a Marine unit serving in Iraq.**



The Moss Creek Marines bought a variety of items, such as athletic equipment, video games and beef jerky, to send to an "adopted" Marine unit in Iraq.

### WHAT MARINES WANT, WHAT MARINES GET

The Moss Creek Marines packed box after box of games and snacks Tuesday for a company of Marines stationed at three forward military bases in Iraq. The goal of the group of former Marines is to provide their active-duty comrades with whatever they want.

So here's what the California-based Marine Wing Communications Squadron 38 wanted – and got:

- 3 basketballs
- 3 soccer balls
- 8 softballs
- 6 baseball gloves (including one lefty)
- 12 baseballs
- 3 footballs
- 3 Frisbees

- 3 PlayStation 2 game consoles (one donated by Best Buy)
- 3 extra PS2 controllers
- PS2 games, including "Madden NFL '08," "Need for Speed Pro Street," "NBA Live '09," "American Idol," "NCAA '08 March Madness," "CSI: 3 Dimensions of Murder," "FIFA '08 Soccer," "MLB '08 The Show," "NHL 2K8" and "Tiger Wood PGA Tour '08"
- 240 Bic razors
- 48 Oldspice deodorant sticks
- 36 cans of shaving cream
- 120 bags of Jack Link's teriyaki beef jerky
- 192 Nutri-Grain cereal bars
- 175 Trail Mix bars
- 30 shampoo bottles (various brands)
- Planters' mixed nuts
- Powdered Gatorade