

Bluffton Today

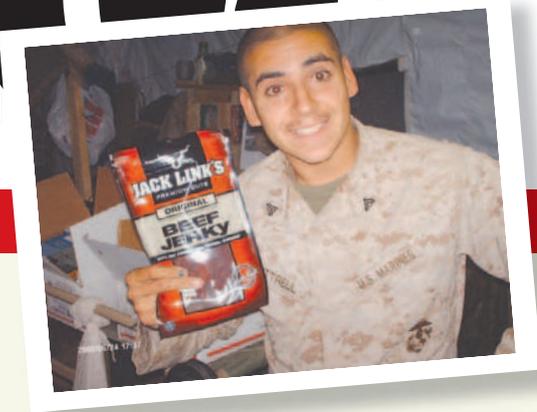


BLUFFTON'S ONLY DAILY HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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SMILE: YOU HAVE BEEF JERKY

The Moss Creek Marines adopt their 15th overseas squadron. **Page 4**



Volume 5, Number 86 • COMING TOMORROW: John David Rose hopes the country seizes the chance to patch our collective "safety net."

'AS HIGH AS I CAN HOPE'

NEWS

Sanford resolves to stay put

BY TAMARA LUSH
SPECIAL TO BLUFFTON TODAY

SULLIVANS ISLAND — Gov. Mark Sanford says he's not quitting — even though he considered it — despite intense scrutiny and criticism over his admitted affair with a woman from Argentina.

That woman, 41-year-old former television reporter Maria Belen Chapur, acknowledged Sunday that she had a relationship with Sanford and that the matter has been "very painful to me, my two children, my entire family and close friends."

Sanford chaired a state budget board meeting Monday, his second public meeting as governor after a state cabinet gathering Friday that drew live national television coverage and where he apologized to fellow state leaders.

SEE 'SANFORD' ON PAGE 5



Scott Salisbury/Bluffton Today

Sauveur Alexandre knows that his determination to pick up a book and start learning to read will help him bond with his newborn son Samuel.

One father cracks the code to be his son's first teacher.

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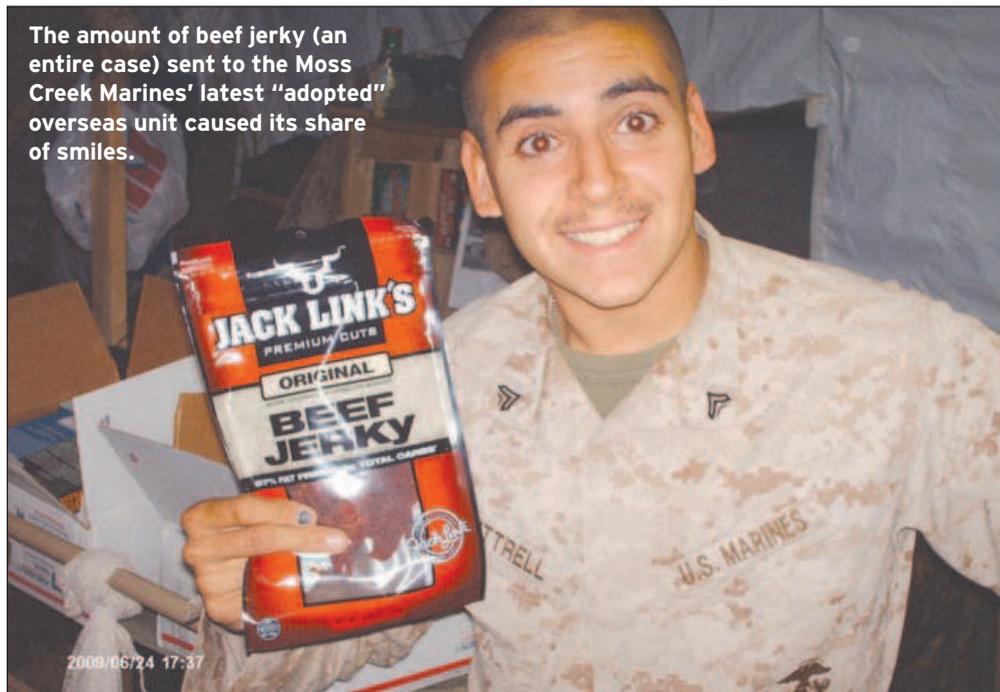
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The amount of beef jerky (an entire case) sent to the Moss Creek Marines' latest "adopted" overseas unit caused its share of smiles.



Special to Bluffton Today

Moss Creek Marines adopt 15th overseas unit

BY ROB DEWIG
BLUFFTON TODAY

The Moss Creek Marines, a group of Marines and a Navy corpsman who live in the Bluffton community, have "adopted" their 15th active-duty overseas Marine organization.

As with most of the earlier groups, they sent their overseas military descendents 26 boxes of goodies ranging from toothbrushes to Xbox gaming consoles.

"Most of us have been there," serving overseas, said Moss Creek Marines Commander Alan Calderon. "My own personal thing, we never got any thanks or recognition or anything as Vietnam veterans.

"Basically we want to show our appreciation for what they do. We know more than anyone that freedom is not free and we just want to help them keep their morale up and know that there are people here not out shopping at the mall who are actually thinking about them."

The latest group was Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron 28, based in Afghanistan,

where they've been for two months.

"I was surprised to see just how much you guys sent," MTACS-28 1st Lt. Shane Bladen wrote Calderon in an e-mail. "As the Marines opened each box there were smiles all around and I remember one Marine saying, 'Check this out, an entire box of beef jerky.' We laughed and joked as the Xbox games were opened and some Marines were immediately challenging their buddies to a game.

"The toothbrushes, toothpaste and soap didn't receive the cheerful welcome like the tuna fish, energy bars and beef jerky did but the Marines were glad to get those items just as well. Your cartons provided a morale boost and a break in the monotony of daily life here that I feel was needed.

"The Marines have been going hard for a little more than two months now and there is still a long way to go. I hope the hardest part of this deployment is behind us but tomorrow always brings new challenges.

"On behalf of the MTACS-28 Marines deployed to Afghanistan I would like to sincerely

thank you and all the folks who helped to put the cartons together. On a personal note, I can't thank you and the Moss Creek Marines enough for all the work that went into making up each carton. I know putting all of those cartons together and mailing them was time-consuming and expensive but your contributions are making life out here a little more bearable and it helps me to know that folks back home are thinking of us out here."

That's music to Calderon's ears.

"We have a couple more (such units) in the hopper. We're going to keep going with this," he said. "We're very proud of what we do. We're doing a good thing. As long as we have the funds and people serving around the world, we'll keep doing it."

The Moss Creek Marines' main fundraiser is a combination golf and tennis tournament in November, but donations are always welcome. Call Calderon at 837-2176 or mail a check made out to the Moss Creek Marines to 56 Royal Pointe Drive, Hilton Head Island, 29926.

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