

Bluffton Today

BLUFFTON'S ONLY DAILY HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2009 • blufftontoday.com • 25 CENTS

YES, THIS IS SANTA CLAUS. ALREADY.

Today's the deadline to sign up for Bluffton's Christmas parade. So hurry. **Page 3**

Volume 5, Number 127 • **COMING TOMORROW:** Black Friday. Depending on whether you're a shopper or a business owner, feel free to weep or cheer.



SUNSHINE ON A CLOUDY DAY



Erinn McGuire/Bluffton Today

NEWS

Board says Truesdale has district on right path

Evaluation says superintendent "exceeded expectations."

BY SARA WRIGHT
BLUFFTON TODAY

The Beaufort County School Board agreed that Superintendent Valerie Truesdale exceeded expectations during the 2008-09 school year.

Tuesday's was the first of a two-part evaluation of Truesdale, said Board Chairman Fred Washington Jr.

The board met behind closed doors from 4:30 to 6 p.m., pouring over pages of reports to evaluate Truesdale in 12 categories.

SEE 'TRUESDALE' ON PAGE 6

Brownie Troop 247 earns community service badges by visiting the Carolina House. **PAGES 16-17**

Group continues 'adoptions' of overseas Marines



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO BLUFFTON TODAY

The Moss Creek Marines can do no wrong.

On Nov. 12 and 13, the group of retired Marines, Navy corpsmen and surviving spouses held a combination golf (on the 12th) and tennis (on the 13th) tournament to raise money to continue its longstanding tradition of "adopting" overseas Marine units, showering them with virtually everything they ask for.

"The only thing people complained about was the weather during the golf tournament," said the group's commanding officer, Alan Calderon.

"I think it went extremely well, even though I'm not old enough to play golf yet. I play tennis," he said with a laugh, taking a break from Thanksgiving Thursday. "Unfortunately, the Marines didn't win (the tennis tournament) this year. The Navy did. We came in third. The Army was second."

The tennis tournament had four teams, each representing one of the major branches

of the military (sorry, Coast Guard). Thirty-two people played tennis.

The golf tournament had 132 participants, including eight active-duty Marines. One foursome was sponsored by Moss Creek golf pro Heidi Wright. Two female Marine colonels were sponsored by Stu and Joyce Overton.

"We actually raised \$10,700, which is \$1,400 better than last year, but the interesting thing is we had an anonymous donor — and he wants to remain anonymous — but like he did last year he matched it, and he doesn't live down here, either," Calderon said.

In four years, the Moss Creek Marines have raised \$70,000 to send gifts overseas.

"That's unbelievable," Calderon said. "We have a lot of money to spend and we're out there looking for units to spend it on."

In the past, the group has sponsored overseas units as small as 40 members (the all-women Lionesses) and as large as 1,500. The amount of money spent on gifts per

unit depends obviously upon the number of Marines in the unit. For the large battalion, the Moss Creek Marines spent \$10,000.

"We ask (units) what they want," Calderon said. "Afghanistan is really tough terrain. What the (battalion chaplain) said is that they had eight 'morale tents' and they'd love it if we gave them one (Xbox) video game. They'd try to share it, but that would be tough because they (the bases) are so far apart. So we sent them eight."

Plus three or four games per system.

"They were thrilled," Calderon said. "We were all moaning and groaning because we had to pack all those boxes, but we got (Marines' thank-you) letters and decided it was all worth it."

Fred Will will take over as the group's commander in January. Calderon has held the position for two and a half years.

For more information or to donate, visit www.moss creek-marines.com online or call Calderon at 837-2176.

