

Minster Legion names delegates

MINSTER — Minster American Legion Post 387, along with the Minster Machine Co., Precision Strip Inc., Bernhold Insurance Agency, Minster Bank, Larger Networks Ltd. and the Journeymen of Minster, have announced that they will sponsor six juniors from Minster High School's to attend the 2013 Buckeye Boys State program beginning June 9, at Bowling



Boehlein Conkle Heuker Schmitmeyer Sekas

Green State University. Each participant will become a part of the operation of a local, county or state government. Andy Albers, son of Mike and Jill Albers, Christian Boehlein, son of Jim and Myra Boehlein, Trey Conkle, son of Mark and Barb Conkle, Jonathan Heuker, son of Paul and Shelly Heuker, Jared Schmitmeyer, son of Rick and Pam Schmitmeyer, and Scott Sekas, son of Tim and Diane Sekas, will be attending with approximately 1,240 other young men from Ohio's high schools.

SCARF to take donations Saturday at Jack's Pets

Hits 105.5, along with Jack's Pets and the Shelby County Animal Rescue Foundation (SCARF) will run Operation Shelter Supplies Saturday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Jack's Pets, 2244 W. Michigan St. Hits 105.5 will broadcast live from Jack's Pets and accept donations of supplies needed by the Shelby County Animal Shelter. Those include Capstar Flea Treatment, dog collars, dog leashes, dog litter, liquid laundry detergent and bleach. People who donate items will receive coupons for free haircuts at The Styling Company. Jack's Pets will donate

10 percent of all sales during Operation Shelter Supplies to SCARF. SCARF has announced the total amounts collected in its coin banks during the fundraising drive that ended April 30. A total of \$1,910.08 was raised. The business collecting the most money was Rolling Hills Skate, who added \$288.36 to SCARF coffers. The Sidney High School National Honor Society managed three coin banks and donated \$353.24. The totals donated by other businesses are as follows: Brower, \$205.01; Culvers, \$116.87; Sidney Body Carstar, \$101.49; The Spot, \$82.28; Flinn Vet, \$74.93; Hits 105.5, \$67.28; Clancy's, \$64.37; Shear Creative, \$53; CR Designs, \$52.61; Helman Bros., \$45.82; and 4 Paws, \$44.62. Also Cassano's, \$41.27; Minster Vet, \$40.94; Jack's Pets, \$40.24; Ron & Nita's, \$34.11; Wagmore Pet Salon, \$33.53; Davis Meats, \$29.15; Power Station, \$22.11; Al's Pizza, \$22.09; Panache, \$20.02; NK Telco, \$20.01; Styling Company, \$15.62; Schultze, \$12.92; Sidney Daily News, \$11.30; Alcove, \$9.62; and Lee's, \$7.27.

Mental health group offers training at Edison One-day session for attorneys, social workers, veterans

PIQUA — The Mental Health Coalition will offer a one-of-a-kind training to attorneys, social workers and veterans, titled "When Trauma Doesn't Bleed — How to Serve the Veterans Who Have Served Us," Thursday from 1 to 5 p.m. in the Edison Community College theater. The training has been approved by the Ohio Supreme Court Commission on Continuing Legal Education for 3.5 hours of general instruction credit and approved for 3.5 hours of counselor CPE, social worker CPE and Marriage and Family Therapist Board.

The cost is \$40 and limited scholarships for veterans are available at www.mhcoho.org. Participants will learn about traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress and survival mode triggers that are hard to turn off that may lead some of veterans to civil or criminal court. The right understanding and guidance at such times of crisis can make a significant difference for their future success. More information is available on-line at www.mhcoho.org, or contact Karen Dickey at (937) 332-9293 or Karen@mhcoho.org. Limited seating is available. According to the Army, only 40 percent of veterans who screen positive for serious

emotional problems seek help from a mental health professional. Statistics from the RAND Corp. find that only 30 percent of veterans with PTSD or depression seek help from the VA health system, indicating that 70 percent of veterans with PTSD or depression are fending for themselves with no help or are seeking assistance from community mental health centers, pastors or social service providers. Suicide rates are increasing for returning service members. Preliminary data from the VA shows that the suicide rate for 18- to 29-year-old male veterans who have left the military rose 26 percent

from 2005 to 2007, and the rate climbed to record highs by 2010. Carolyn Givens, executive director of the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation, will provide opening remarks and the remainder of the training has been formulated by Col. Kathy Platoni, Psy.D.; clinical psychologist, COL/MS/US Army Reserve, Army Reserve psychology consultant to the chief, Medical Service Corp. Making the transition back to civilian life and civilian work environments after serving in the field can be a difficult challenge, especially for the newer and younger generation of service men and women who were deployed sev-

eral times to Iraq and Afghanistan. Most soldiers return from war and resume a somewhat normal life, but many do not. All too frequently, the trauma of combat leads to post traumatic stress, struggles with drug addiction or alcohol abuse, to outbursts of anger and violence at home or work, and even to petty crime or other reckless behavior that ends up in a confrontation with flashing lights and handcuffs or in divorce court. "I am out in the community a lot and started hearing about specific behaviors in addition to mental health and substance abuse issues that some veterans suffer from that go

untreated until a true crisis point since about 2008", said Dickey, executive director of the Mental Health Coalition. "Skills effective in a war zone may be highly ineffective at home, work and in relationships and can lead to serious problems that end up causing job loss, homelessness, and even jail time for our veterans. This is a brand new, one-of-a-kind training that we asked Dr. Kathy to develop that is practical and truly necessary to help veterans in our community thrive. This will be the very first offering of this type of training that I know of in the state of Ohio, or the midwest for that matter."

Ahrns interns, gains 'little brother'

Rachael Ahrns, 20, of Fort Loramie, is a busy college student at Rhodes State College, majoring in human service technology. As a requirement of her coursework, Ahrns had to intern at an agency specializing in her major. A former high school volunteer for Big Brothers Big Sisters and current core program volunteer, Ahrns chose to intern at the local agency over the winter semester. Ahrns is matched with 12-year-old Brandon Stotler, son of Tammy Farris, of Sidney. Ahrns and Brandon have been matched for nearly a year.



Photo provided

BRANDON STOTLER, 10, of Sidney, and Rachael Ahrns, 20, of Fort Loramie, enjoy a snack together at the bowling alley. They are little brother/big sister in the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Shelby & Darke County program.

"I decided to become a 'Big' because I enjoyed it during high school and heard an advertisement on the radio, which made me want to impact a child's life," Ahrns said. "I feel I'm giving him opportunities that he probably wouldn't have the opportunity to experience."

match with Brandon, Ahrns assisted the agency in many capacities during her assignment to the agency. "We were blessed to have Rachael working here during our busy season," said Executive Director Lisa Brown. "She was very instrumental in assisting with our daily operations."

"I learned that this field of work requires a great deal of patience and organization. I feel it will be a very rewarding line of work as well," Ahrns said. When asked if she would recommend being a "Big" to anyone else, she said, "I would. Anybody that believes they can make a difference in

a child's life in a positive way should volunteer. Children really enjoy getting out and having someone in their life that can make a difference." To learn more about Big Brothers Big Sisters or to volunteer, visit www.bigbrobigsis-shelbydarke.org or call 492-7611.

RECENT BIRTHS

JOHNSON
Amber Cash and Verdun Ray Johnson III, both of Sidney, have announced the birth of a daughter, Annabelle Jean Johnson, born April 30, 2013, at 2:10 p.m. in the Copeland-Emerson Family Birth Center at Wilson Memorial Hospital. She weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces, and was 20 inches long. She was welcomed home by her brother, Brenden James Vore, 5. Her maternal grandparents are Deborah Cash and Terry Chamberlin, of Sidney, and George Cash Sr., of Sidney. Her paternal grandparents are Gladys Lesko and Verdun Ray Johnson Jr., of Dayton. Her great-grandparents are Lewis and Helen Cash, of Franklin, Mary Ann Johnson, of Dayton, and Annabelle Price, of Huber Heights. Her mother is originally from Dayton.

ALIG
COLDWATER — Aaron and Jennifer Alig, of Coldwater, have announced the birth of a son, Aaron Jay Alig, born May 3, 2013, at 9:43 p.m. in the Mercer Health Center. He weighed 8 pounds, 15.5 ounces, and was 20 inches long. He was welcomed home by his sisters, Audrey, 4, and Abby, 2. His maternal grandparents are Richard and Joyce Platfoot, of Botkins. His paternal grandparents are Ralph and Diane Alig in Coldwater. His great-grandparents are Ray and Doris Bornhorst, of McCartyville, Richard and Jeanette Alig, of Coldwater, and Dennis and Carma Diller, of Coldwater. His mother is the former Jennifer Platfoot, of Botkins.

Fort Loramie Auxiliary authorizes grants

FORT LORAMIE — Members of the Fort Loramie American Legion Auxiliary No. 355 authorized donations during their recent meeting to Shelby Hills in Sidney, the retiring District No. 2 president, the Dayton Veterans Administration Hospital and for a birthday party on June 3.

It was reported that members contributed 24 pairs of eyeglasses, 16 pairs of sunglasses and 19 glasses cases to the Optometric Service to Humanity at Southern College of Optometry. Margie Iiams reported that she had made 25 ditty bags and six bibs for distribution at

various hospitals. It was also reported that Hope Ruhenkamp and Julie Hoying, both of Fort Loramie, and Rachel Pinchot, of Russia, will attend Buckeye Girls State in June. Hoying was selected as an alternate, but will attend because someone chosen by the New Bremen auxiliary is unable to go.

Members were reminded to save newspaper coupons, pop can tabs and greeting cards. Eileen Barhorst set up the POW/MIA table while members sang the national anthem. Joan Eilerman was remembered in prayer. President Hilda Siegel led the meeting.

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