

# Circleville Herald

MONDAY  
June 27, 2011

75 cents

## 1 killed in motorcycle crash

By TRISH BENNETT  
EDITOR

JACKSON TOWNSHIP - A Columbus man was killed Sunday evening after losing control of his motorcycle in a sharp curve on state Route 104 between Commercial Point Road and Van Meter Road, according to the Pickaway County Sheriff's Office.

Brian R. Kocher, 46, of Columbus, was pronounced dead at the scene by Dr. Michael Geron, Pickaway County Coroner.

The accident occurred about 8:13 p.m. Sunday.

According to reports, the rider and sole occupant of the motorcycle was traveling northbound on Route 104 when his motorcycle went off the right side of the road, striking a guardrail and ejecting him from the bike.

"We have one witness who saw the bike sliding, but no



Sgt. Troy Rine (left) and Deputy Matt Lane, Pickaway County Sheriff's Office, investigate the scene of a fatal accident Sunday on state Route 104.

one could say exactly what caused him to crash," said Sgt. Troy Rine. "We do know no

helmet was worn, and alcohol is believed to be a factor in it." Emergency crews from

Harrison Township Fire Department assisted at the scene.

The accident remains under investigation by the sheriff's office.



84/70

For weather details turn to A2.



### County fair winners

4-H members become junior fair winners at the 2011 Pickaway County Fair. Check out the results.

Pages A6, A7, A8, A9

### Post 134 splits weekend slate

The Panthers' 18-and-under team beat district-leading Portsmouth Post 23, but fell in a DH to Hillsboro Post 129.

Sports, B10

### Deaths

- Evelyn A. Wood, 91
- Edward D. Huston, 87

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Good Day,  
Robert Trimble  
Thank you for  
subscribing to the  
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Jason McGowan (left), chief probation officer, arrests Roger Gentry Friday during a probation crack-down.

## Probation cracks down

By REGGIE ALLISON  
STAFF REPORTER

The Pickaway County probation officers were out in force Friday night, serving warrants, checking homes of individuals on probation and stopping at bars throughout the county in an attempt to locate probation violators.

"When we check homes, we are primarily looking for any alcohol or drugs," said Jason McGowan, chief probation officer. "When we go to the bars, we are just checking to see if anyone is violating terms of probation by drinking."

The officers began the night's events by trying to locate three individuals on arrest warrants. Of the three, the officers were able to locate and arrest only Wade Frazier, who was on probation for allowing pitbulls to run free around his home and the countryside around Kingston.

Arriving at Frazier's home just after dark, the officers surrounded the house in case Frazier attempted to exit by another means than the front

door. Making their presence known, the officers repeatedly asked Frazier to open the door and let them enter, giving him a number of warnings before finally entering the residence forcibly, weapons drawn.

Once inside, the officers located Frazier and escorted him outside, where they arrested him for violating the terms of his probation, which called for Frazier to have no dogs within the premises. The officers said that Frazier had another pitbull in his house, as well as alcohol and some weapons, also violations of the terms of probation.

Craig Stevens, another probation officer, said that some individuals on probation are on a specialized program called "Intensive Supervision Probation," or ISP.

"This program is more structured, with daily check-ins," said Stevens.

According to McGowan, people on ISP also have a 9 p.m. curfew, which the officers do their best to enforce with repeated phone calls and check-ins to make sure that the individuals are following prop-

er procedure.

"We do checks on people on a weekly basis," said McGowan. "We are out every day trying to make sure that our people are following the rules. We do one of these big 'out in force' nights once every three or four months."

McGowan also said Pickaway County's probation department is more aggressive than most other departments.

"Probation isn't a joke," said McGowan.

With a number of repeat offenders that the officers have to deal with, McGowan and the other officers agreed that generally there is a good rapport between their department and the people they deal with.

"Some give us harder times than others," said Jason Williams, probation officer, "But we generally get along pretty well with the folks we work with."

This fact was evident at one point when the officers pulled over and interacted with a past offender. Though maybe not true friendship, there was a mutual respect in the interac-

See Probation, A3

## Army band set to perform at Ashville 4th of July

By REGGIE ALLISON  
STAFF REPORTER

The United States Army Field Band known as the "Volunteers" will be performing on the main stage at 8 pm on Sunday July 3 at this year's annual Ashville 4th of July Festival.

"The Volunteers are a touring band," said Dave Rainey, Ashville Community Men's Club Member. "They perform in different areas of different states all across the nation throughout the year."

According to their Web site, the Volunteers is the United States Army's premier touring show band. Originally founded in 1981, this group has performed in all 50 states as well as a number of other countries, and are said to be equally at home performing before an outdoor crowd of 100,000, or at a hospital bedside.

According to Rainey, the Volunteers were planning on being in the central Ohio area around the weekend of the 4th of July, so they contacted the Ohio State Visitors Bureau about any festivals that might be going on around that time. The bureau gave them contact information for Ashville's annual celebration, so they contacted Rainey.

Acting as a Free Outreach Service through the United States Army, the Volunteers travel and perform at no cost to the festivals or places they visit.

"These guys mean business," said Rainey. "They bring their own lighting and sound equipment, and they do a formal flag raising ceremony before beginning

their performances."

Rainey also said that the band will probably be bringing a recruiting officer with them, to disseminate information.

According to their Web site, the Volunteers play all types of music from rock 'n' roll, standards, country, jazz, and patriotic.

When asked what types of music to expect at the 4th of July celebration, Rainey said "They play all different kinds of music. They sort of choose the type of music they play based on the venue though, so they will probably be playing a number of patriotic selections for our festival, and maybe some country music as well."

Other types of entertainment to look for at this year's festival include the annual Ashville Idol, which Rainey says is open to the public and takes place at 2 p.m. on July 3. The festival decided to change their fireworks provider this year, going with the American Fireworks Company, based out of Hudson.

"There is entertainment every night," said Rainey. "We have three parades planned out, and a big fish fry."

Folks will still find the same attractions as in previous years as well, for those people who enjoy some stability and familiar sights and foods mixed into the chaos of any festival.

"We are tickled to have the Volunteers coming to the celebration this year," said Rainey. "We plan on drawing a big crowd to come out and support them."



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