

PROGRAM HOPES TO TACKLE DIABETES IN LOW-INCOME, MINORITY COMMUNITIES

[Page C3]

CINCINNATI.COM

FACEBOOK.COM/ENQUIRER

@ENQUIRER

local

SECTION C » THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2013 KENTUCKY



WISH LIST

Ramp would make life better for 83-year-old

[Page C2]



CITY'S ADOPTED UNIT STOPS BY FOR A VISIT

Florence has supported group for over 10 years

Pfcs. Eli Weichest, left, and Chris Nobles of Florence's adopted military unit, part of the 101st Airborne Division, demonstrate hand-to-hand combat. THE ENQUIRER/PATRICK REDDY



MARK HANSEL
@hanselmark

I write stories that have an impact on the lives of residents and business owners in Boone County and other Northern Kentucky communities. mhansel@enquirer.com.

The city of Florence welcomed back some old friends for a holiday visit this week.

Members of the city's adopted military unit, B Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team 101st Airborne Division, stopped by before preparing for deployment to Afghanistan early next year.

The city adopted the unit, also known as "The Renegades," more than 10 years ago and has supported its members with letters and care packages during numerous overseas deployments.

"The city of Florence is very pleased to have had a longtime relationship with this unit as our adopted military troop," Florence Mayor Diane Whalen said at Tuesday's City

Council meeting. "These young men were kind enough to come up and visit with us before they take a leave for the holiday to spend time with their families and friends prior to their deployment."

The Renegades were last in Florence in May, when they were guests of honor at the city's annual Memorial

See UNIT, Page C4



Well wishes
from our family to yours.



COVER STORY



UNIT STOPS BY FOR SOME HOLIDAY VISITS IN FLORENCE

Continued from Page C1

Day celebration.

Capt. Benjamin Barnard, who took over as commander of The Renegades in September, said the city's support of the unit is well known at Fort Campbell, Ky., where the unit is based.

"The guys definitely like to brag to the other companies that they have a whole city supporting them," Barnard said. "When we are working long days and long hours outside the wire, doing a lot of sometimes scary stuff, to come home and to come home and have care packages waiting from an entire city means quite a bit."

Several members of Daisy Scouts Girl Scout Troop 7040 also attended Tuesday's council meeting.

The girls, who are 5 and 6 years old, sent pictures and cards to the soldiers as part of a badge-earning program.

Jennifer Strouse, co-leader of the troop, said the program included some education about the military and the girls welcomed the opportunity to meet the soldiers they had corresponded with.

"As part of the badge learning we talked about what the military does, very generally and what you all are doing, and they got as much as 5-year-olds can get from that," Strouse said.

Members of the unit had dinner with City Council members Tuesday



Eighth-graders Austin Kin and Hayden Dickman listen to the B Company.
PHOTOS BY PATRICK REDDY/THE ENQUIRER

prior to attending the meeting. Wednesday they visited students at elementary and middle schools in Florence before returning to Fort Campbell.

At Yealey Elementary the soldiers were treated to a presentation of "The Nutcracker" by students and at Erpenbeck Elementary they addressed children at an assembly.

History students at Ockerman Middle School, who are learning about the American Revolution, engaged them in a question-and-answer session.

Barnard said the visit allows the students to put a face to the address that they put on the boxes and the

letters they send.

"It gives us an opportunity to make that human connection," Barnard said. "We also get to answer the questions that they have about what we are doing."

Principal Mike Poiry said he hopes the children, who are in the eighth grade, recognize the commitment and the sense of civic duty the soldiers have.

"I also want them to have a clear understanding of what, as a nation, our armed forces are still doing in Afghanistan," Poiry said. "I thought that was even more poignant to hear from the troops as they are dealing with issues of independence and human struggles, I think there are obvious parallels between the American Revolution and what we are doing in Afghanistan."

The Ockerman students were also treated to a hand-to-hand combat display, which Ryan Nwaissier, 13, said was a highlight for him.

"That was really cool, but I enjoyed all of it," Nwaissier said. "I'm glad we got to meet them and learn about what they do, and I'm just glad they are protecting us."

The Renegades do not know the exact details of their mission yet, but they will leave in February and will be involved in the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the region.

They expect to be deployed for nine months. ■

Members of B Company listen as Sgt. Justin Higgason, right, speaks during a visit to Ockerman Middle School in Florence on Wednesday.

LAWRENCEBURG
CHEVROLET

NEVER PAY MORE THAN
\$49 over invoice on
any new Chevrolet

www.lawrenceburgchevrolet.com

Invoice price may not reflect dealer cost

BRYANT
HEATING & COOLING

(859) 904-4640

www.bryantvac.com

Tune-Up SPECIAL

\$64.95

26 POINT INSPECTION & SAFETY CHECK
OF YOUR HEATING or A/C SYSTEM

BRYANT
HEATING & COOLING

(859) 904-4640

*Offer expires 12/31/13. Some restrictions may apply. Call for details. Not valid with any other offers or promotion with existing customers.

CE-0000573197