Written by Staff Reports Thursday, May 02, 2013 11:50 PM - Last Updated Friday, May 03, 2013 12:00 AM



Staff reports

Three local students were selected as delegates at the 2013 American Legion Buckeye Boys State held June 9-16 at Bowling Green State University.

The Delphos American Legion Post 268 will sponsor delegates Kyle Pohlman and Dustin McConnahea.

Pohlman, a junior at St. John's High School, is the son of Russell and Laura Pohlman.

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McConnahea, a junior at Jefferson High School, is the son of Neal and Jennifer McConnahea.

Devin Coronado, son of Devonne Franks, a junior at Jefferson, will also attend, sponsored by the Spencerville American Legion Post 191.

Tadd Buckus of Kalida High School is sponsored by the Kalida Knights of Columbus.

American Legion Buckeye Boys State is an 8-day hands-on experience in the operation of the democratic form of government, the organization of political parties, and the relationship of one to the other in shaping Ohio government.

Founded in 1936, Buckeye Boys State is the largest Boys State program in the nation with an attendance of 1,200 young men annually. Boys State programs throughout the nation are sponsored by the American Legion, the nation's largest veterans organization.

At Boys State, young men learn about city, county and state government through a non-partisan objective education approach.

Two seniors-to-be from Jefferson and St. John's high schools will be among the 900 girls participating in the 67th annual session of Buckeye Girls State at University of Mount Union. The session begins June 16 and concludes on June 22.

Local delegates to Girls State are Megan Joseph from St. John's High School and Ashley Truesdale from Jefferson High School. The alternate is Hannah Vannett from Jefferson.

Joseph is the daughter of Kim and Norman Elwer of Delphos. She is active in cross country and track, band and choir. She is in the National Honor Society and 4-H, the Junior Optimist Club and is a volunteer for DARE camp and Bible School.

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Truesdale is the daughter of Mike and Sue Truesdale of Delphos. She is a FCCLA officer, active in varsity basketball and football cheer, softball, band, color guard and choir.

Justin Verhoff of Kalida High School is sponsored by Darlene and Denny Hanneman and will also attend the program.

Buckeye Girls State is a fast-paced program of mock government at the state, county and city levels. The main objective of the Girls State program is to train young women, who have completed their junior year in senior high school, in the duties, rights and privileges of citizenship by providing the attendee the opportunity to actively participate in a democratic form of government.

As the girls arrive at Girls State, they are assigned to one of two political parties. The residence hall in which they live during the program is their designated county and the floor on which they live is their city. The students will file petitions for candidacy for a variety of offices from governor to city council and participate in the election process. After elections and inaugurations, they will put government in action.