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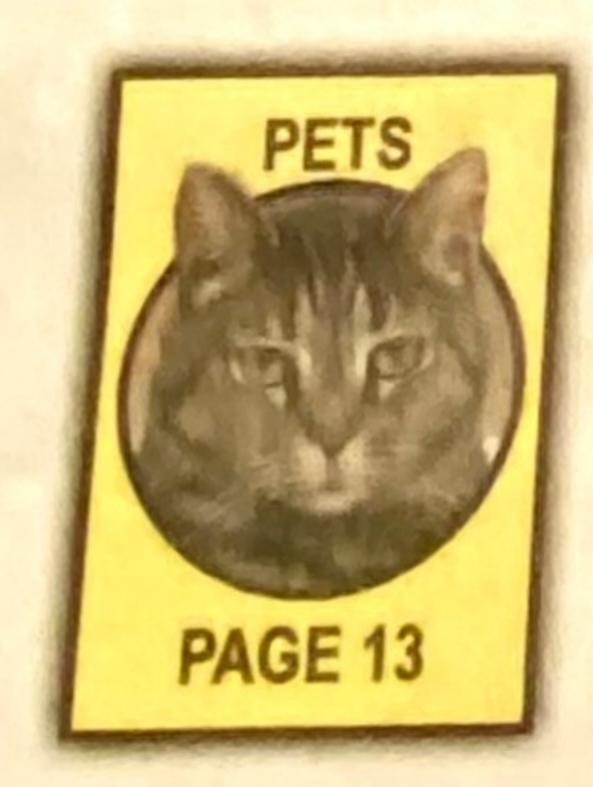
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of Sgt. Elijah P. Willette, local veteran and hero was honored with a memorial service held at the Mechanicville Stillwater Elks. This celebration of life honored the 10-year anniversary of Sgt. Elijah's Pe. Willett's passing.

Sgt. Elijah Willette passed away on February 18, 2013 at the age of 25. He enlisted in the Army national Guard at the age of 18 and was stationed in Latham. He deployed with the 10th Mountain Division to Iraq. Elijah was always modest about what he did as a soldier for his country and did it all with a big heart and heroic action. He is greatly missed by his family, many friends and his military family who take every opportunity to honor his memory by celebrating him and his love for life and love for his country. Today the sun was shining and we just knew Elijah was here with us, said his mother Janet Grey. She was happy with the turnout for the event which was filled with family, friends and community members who came out to honor Elijah's memory.

In addition to honoring the memory of Elijah this memorial fundraiser offered a 50/50 raffle, a silent auction, a bake sale with all of the proceeds going to support IBi Semper Training. IBi Semper Training



dogs to become service dogs for veterans and first responders. The organization was present at the event to answer any questions, let the community meet some of the service dogs and to offer an explanation of the work that they do for veterans and the community.

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