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GROUP LOOKS INTO BULLYING CLAIMS AFTER STUDENT'S DEATH. A5



MISSED CHANCES, LATE HR END DRAGONS' TITLE HOPES. D1

STATES, CITIES SUE OVER RULE SEEKING TO DENY GREEN CARDS. B1

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Becca Rogers was recognized during Fairfield's Leads the Fight event on Monday, Sept. 14, before the Indians girls volleyball program played host to Badin at Fairfield Arena. CHRIS VOGT / CONTRIBUTED

Coach finds strength in community amid cancer

Rogers says Fairfield recognizing her carries much significance.

Chris Vogt
Contributing Writer

FAIRFIELD – Becca Rogers found out she had cancer on a Wednesday. She went to work Thursday. For the 28-year-old Creekside Middle School teacher and Fairfield volleyball coach, staying home to contemplate a diagnosis she never imagined receiving didn't seem like much of an option. "What am I supposed to do? You want me to sit at home and just sit by myself and soak in this?" Rogers recalled thinking. "That's just how I cope and it's just how I am and how I was raised to be. You show up for what you are responsible for." Rogers kept showing up. For her students. For her volleyball players. For her colleagues. On Monday night, Sept. 14, they showed up for her. Rogers was recognized during Fairfield's girls volleyball match against Badin as part of the annual Fairfield Leads the Fight event, which raises money and awareness for someone in the Fairfield community affected by cancer. This year, that person was Rogers. "It was such an honor," she said. "A really crazy, crazy thing. I was not imagining that this would be a part of my story, but I'm really blessed with the community that has surrounded me since the diagnosis back in April." The event included raffle baskets, food and drinks, T-shirt sales and volleyball, but its significance to Rogers went beyond the fundraiser. It represented the people who have helped carry her through one of the most unexpected

Strength continued on A6

TOP LOCAL STORY

Fairfield mayor resigns during meeting

Vice mayor elected by council to serve in Miller's stead while replacement sought.

Sue Kieseewetter
Contributing Writer

In a surprise move, Steve Miller on Monday resigned as Fairfield's mayor – effective immediately. His resignation came 36 minutes into city council meeting Monday, Sept. 14, following public comments and reports from individual council members. Calling the move "the hardest thing I've ever done in my life," Miller said "my time here has come to an end. I've been here too long." Saying he loved the city, Miller explained that over the last few months he wasn't living up to his own expectations for the job. "I'm starting to lose some of the passion and fire I've always had ... This time I really need to retire for good ..."

Steve Miller

Tim Meyers

Resigns continued on A6

CONTINUING COVERAGE

Murder trial begins today in Miami County

Caleb Flynn faces charges in the death of his wife in February.

Jen Balduf
Staff Writer

The trial starts today, Sept. 17, in the historic Miami County courthouse with jury selection in the case against a Tipp City man accused of killing his wife and staging the scene to look like a home invasion. Caleb Flynn, 40, a former worship pastor and "American Idol" contestant, is charged with aggravated murder, two counts of felonious assault, three counts of tampering with evidence and two misdemeanor counts of intimidation of an attorney, victim or witness in a criminal case. His wife of 15 years, 37-year-old Ashley Flynn, was a beloved coach, educator and mother of two daughters killed a week before what would have been her 38th birthday. Lead defense attorney L. Patrick Mulligan has said he "looks forward to defending the case." "Somebody broke into my home and shot my wife" Tipp City police and medics were dispatched at 2:30 a.m. Monday, Feb. 16, to 932 Cunningham Court for a reported burglary with a resident inside who had been shot in the head. "Oh my God, somebody broke into my home," began the call to the Miami County Communications Center. "Somebody broke into my home and shot my wife." Caleb Flynn called 911 to report his wife was shot and unresponsive. He also told dispatchers he was unsure whether an intruder was still inside the house, according to an affidavit filed in Miami County Municipal Court. When police arrived, the side door to the garage was open. Flynn continued on A6



Caleb Flynn (center) talks with his lead defense attorney L. Patrick Mulligan on Monday, Sept. 14. JEN BALDUF / STAFF

THE LATEST

FBI chief Patel defends hiring standards changes. B2

Green burials are a natural alternative to traditional funerals. C1

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