

The Crescent-News

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Defiance, Ohio



SECTIONAL BASEBALL
Defiance tops Van Wert 4-3
for 12th straight title. | **B1**



PANICKY POOCH
Help is available for pets
with fears | **C1**



Coach Doug Merrill of Bowling Green crossing the finish line after 1,921 miles — a journey from Boston to Key West for the country's youth. NAMI of Middle Keys president Beverley Gottschalk was at the finish line and provided Power UP with media assistance and local support.

Area Civil War legacy revealed

Local events to highlight involvement

By LISA NICELY
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Ohio is gearing up to celebrate the Civil War's 150 anniversary from 2011-2015, and events throughout the region and state are already underway to give individuals a fresh perspective of the state's history in the war. Many events are being planned throughout the state. Ohio Civil War 150, a project of the Ohio Historical Society, Ohio Humanities Council and Cleveland State University's Center for Public History and Digital Humanities, is keeping track of projects as well as having forums on how every county in the state

was affected by the war. Ohio Civil War 150's website is www.ohiocivilwar150.org. According to Ohio Civil War 150, "Although most of the American Civil War was fought outside of Ohio's borders, the Buckeye State played a huge role in determining the outcome. ...A total of 310,654 Ohioans served in the Northern army for varying lengths of time. Ohio men fought in every major battle in the war." In fact, the last surviving Civil War veteran in Ohio was from the six-county area. Daniel Clingamon of Wauseon was the last Ohio Civil War veteran.

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'Power UP' mental health

Coach pushes power of fitness

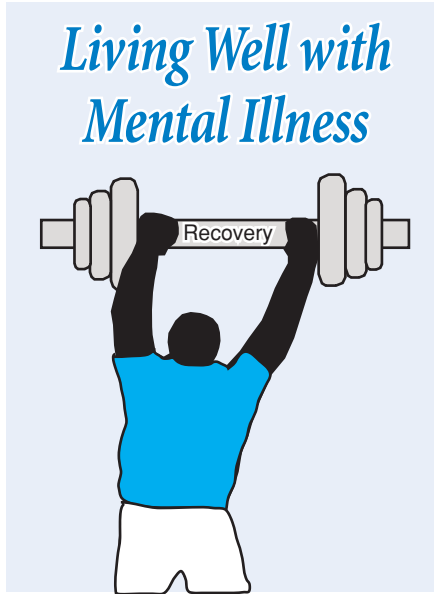
Editor's note: This story is part two of a four part series based on a broad gathering of perspectives from consumers, family members, advocates and mental health professionals on living well with mental illness.

By ANGELA ASSAF
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BOWLING GREEN — If someone would have told Doug Merrill five years ago that he would author a book about suicide, trade his coaching and teaching career to "live life to help others", and start his own nonprofit foundation, he would have smirked and said, "You are completely nuts and I want a bottle of whatever it is you're drinking."
"I was mad at my kids and wife all the time and the smallest thing set me off," admitted Bowling Green's Merrill. On the other side of the coin, he was absolutely convinced that his life could not get any better. "I had a family, a house and a nice car in the garage — what more could I want?"
Being a coach, he considered himself to be in fairly good shape, until a student chided him for having "packed on a few," sparking his com-

petitive spirit. He cut his daily intake of soda, fast food and sweets down to nothing. Soon the pounds began to "melt off."
Then one day while perched on the couch watching sports with one hand in a bag of chips, he jumped up and went out for a run. By the time he reached the stop sign at the end of his street he was nearly out of breath.
"That day I took Coach Merrill out of the dugout and put Coach Merrill up on the stage and made America my team," said the former Bowling Green High School baseball coach.
He founded the Power UP Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion of mental wellness through improved physical fitness.
"Everyone knows what depression is and what the signs are ...We get it! I wanted something more than awareness, something that is solvable," he said about starting the foundation.

EARLY EXPOSURE
At one point in his life a rash of teen suicides in Merrill's hometown literally drove him to the edge where he said he was taunted for hours by



the "suicide demon" to end his life at the bottom of a cliff. He said the combination of shock and deep sense of mourning about the past hurled him into a deep depression. "It's not the fall that you remember, it's the landing, when you realize that you can't get out, that the hole is deep, and you're in a dark place." He had placed a suicide note on the car seat. "A man came up to me and said,

• POWER, Page A11



Lisa Nicely/C-N Photo

U.S. Fifth District Congressman Bob Latta (right) speak with Brian and Barb Rohrs on Friday afternoon at a conference room at Defiance County East. Latta held random meetings with constituents Friday in Napoleon and Defiance.

Voicing concerns

Latta meets with constituents

By TODD HELBERG
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Good turnouts were reported for U.S. Fifth District Congressman Bob Latta, R-Bowling Green, courthouse conferences Friday in Napoleon and Defiance. Latta randomly met

with constituents who showed up for his event in Napoleon Friday morning, then held another three-hour session at Defiance County East in the afternoon. "We were steady for three straight hours," said

• LATTI, Page A12

Honoring law officers killed in line of duty

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama paid tribute Saturday on behalf of a grateful nation to law enforcement officers who made the ultimate sacrifice while safeguarding their communities.
Americans "rely on a certain order in our lives, a certain sense of security that lets us sleep safely in our beds and walk around our neighborhoods free from fear and go about our daily lives without being the victims of crime. That sense of security doesn't come on its own," he said in brief remarks on the west front lawn of the Capitol during Peace Officers Memorial Day, which honors officers killed in the line of duty.
"What makes it possible, what



Lisa Nicely/C-N Photo

Ceremonies honoring the nation's fallen law enforcement officers were held throughout the nation on Saturday. In Defiance, an honor guard stood by the veterans memorial at the courthouse. Taking part in the honor guard were, from

left: Patrolman Steven Delaney of the Defiance Police Department, Sgt. George Jutze of the Ohio Highway Patrol, Sgt. Steven Flory of the Defiance County Sheriff's Office and Patrolman Scott Nicholson of the Defiance Police Department.

makes freedom possible, are the law enforcement officials that we honor today," he said. The event is part of National

Police Week, an annual tribute to

• OFFICERS, Page A11

Oakwood man dies in crash

CHARLOE — An Oakwood man was killed in a one-vehicle crash Friday evening just north of here.
According to the Paulding County Sheriff's Office, Michael Kaiser, 57, died in the 10:13 p.m. crash on Paulding County Road 171, south of Brown Township Road 146.
Kaiser was southbound on County Road 171 when his GMC truck went left of center and into a ditch, according to deputies.
Assisting at the scene were the Auglaize Fire Department, Oakwood Fire and EMS, and Paulding EMS.
This is the second fatal traffic crash in Paulding County this year.

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Ram Relay
More than \$9,000 was raised by Tinora students during their mini Relay for Life event. | A5



TOMORROW

While the Paulding County Sheriff is suing the county commissioners for more funding, is his office really underfunded compared to other similarly-sized counties? Find out.

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