

2019  
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# The Barberton Herald



See Ballot - Page 10

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## Ambassador Tracy leads force in dangerous times



COURTESY PHOTO

Ambassador Lynne Tracy, a Barberton native, was sworn in as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Republic of Armenia, after U.S. Senate confirmation in January.

**Karla Tipton**  
Herald Staff Writer

Lynne M. Tracy graduated from Barberton High School in 1982 already sure of what she wanted to be: a foreign service officer for the U.S. State Department.

While attending U.L. Light Junior High, she learned about the career field. "There was an article in the paper about the foreign service, and working abroad, and I can't tell you what exactly about that caught my attention,

but when I read it, I just got very interested," she said in a phone interview from Washington, D.C. "I've always been interested in keeping up with current affairs, international affairs."

On Jan. 2, after a more than two decades with the department, Tracy was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Republic of Armenia. In late February, she arrived at her post at the U.S. Embassy in Yerevan, Republic of Armenia.

### Barberton roots

Tracy was born in Barberton, one of three daughters of the late Albert Tracy and Carol Pontius Tracy, who resides in Alliance.

After high school, Tracy earned a bachelor of arts in Soviet Studies from the University of Georgia and a law degree from the University of Akron.

She went on to serve as deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow; deputy assistant secretary for Central Asia in the Bureau of South

and Central Asian Affairs at the Department of State; deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan; and principal officer at the U.S. Embassy branch office in Astana, Kazakhstan.

Once passing the foreign service exam, there are several career paths a person can be matched with, she said. These include Consular Affairs, Economic Affairs, Management Affairs, Political Affairs and Public Diplomacy. From the diplomatic field, career (See TRACY, Page 2)

## Norton suspends speed cameras

**Jim Eritano**  
Herald Staff Writer

Norton began using the Manned Photo LIDAR Speed Enforcement System Sept. 10, 2018, when construction on Interstate 76 restricted eastbound and westbound lanes and closed the shoulders, which made it dangerous for law enforcement to pull over speeders and other (See SPEED, Page 2)

## Tensions high as part-time fire positions are proposed 6 Barberton firefighters work part-time elsewhere

**Cierra Thompson**  
Herald Staff Writer

"People move to communities, and safety forces are a major component of where people move, but I find it ironic that 72 percent of our firefighters live outside of the city in communities that allow part-timers.

You're trusting your family, yourself, your property to your safety forces in your community," said Mayor William Judge in response to remarks by Firefighter Local 329 President Richard Schwenning.

At the opening of council, Schwenning stated "Scheduling part-time firefighters is an issue in communities all around us

because they don't remain on the job long, they call off frequently to respond to their full-time jobs or they simply don't schedule enough hours to cover shift openings."

"In my opinion, this legislation is not good for the city. It is not good for our citizens who value a quality service," said Schwenning.

Schwenning described part-time firefighters as a revolving door and asked council not to pass the legislation. He said his union does not condone members working part-time. He said they have three firefighters who work part-time somewhere else.

Judge noted that when he checked last week, there

were six full time Barberton firefighters also working part-time jobs at other fire departments.

"Currently we are in the active process of hiring two full-time positions," said Judge.

He said they have a short list of applicants because they've had a decrease in people taking the test. He said the ordinance passing through council is the first step.

The legislation was brought using emergency wording but councilwoman Carla Debevec said she wants it to go through three readings.

"I think there's a lot of tension tonight but I don't mind letting you know that the real reason you're in any

of these troubles is because of the state," said State Rep. Tavia Galonski.

Council then reviewed the draft amending another ordinance in regards to adding part-time positions for firefighters, paramedics and EMTs in the pay scale.

At the April 1 meeting, the Director of Human Resources Elizabeth Daugherty said they are looking to hire an additional two full time firefighters as long as the budget can withhold the cost.

Councilwoman Carol Frey said Barberton and Akron joined to apply for an Ohio Public Works Commission grant for the Romig Road project and Barberton's portion of the bill is estimated to cost \$133,000.

The project would make improvements to portions of Romig Road that are within the Barberton city limits. She said the city will gain \$530,000 worth of improvements.

## American Roadway Logistics moving to Red Pepper site

**Jim Eritano**  
Herald Staff Writer

Plans are underway to revamp the former site of the Red Pepper Steakhouse.

American Roadway Logistics (ARL), based in Richfield, OH, is planning to convert the triangular area between Barber, Summit and Clark Mill roads to office and storage space.

Gilbert O'Neill, of Gib O'Neill Construction, said that ARL has outgrown its present location and is leasing adjacent properties.

Plans for the location include a large warehouse-type building for

preparing materials and equipment to be loaded onto flatbed trucks.

According to its website, ARL specializes in maintenance of traffic (MOT) and provides MOT for private and public projects in the state of Ohio.

The company provides services such as detour signing, rolling road blocks and work zone marking signs and raised pavement markers.

Other services include parking lot striping, airport/runway striping, playground and bike path marking, as well as removal of pavement markings by grinding and bead blasting.

## Sweep at high school leads to charges

**Jim Eritano**  
Herald Staff Writer

Norton police and nine K-9s from surrounding agencies conducted narcotics checks in the high school and middle school. Officers and K-9s from Barberton, Cuyahoga Falls, Garrettsville, Hiram, Kent, Monroe Falls, Ravenna and Stow participated.

The checks took place at the same time and lasted less than 30 minutes. Vehicles were included in the high school check, where one

student was charged with drug possession.

Shortly before, three students were seen walking onto the middle school property using a vaping device. Two of the three were identified as middle school students; the third was identified as 18-year old Nathan Reese of Norton.

According to police, Reese was carrying THC oil and a large fixed-blade knife.

Reese was charged with minor misdemeanor drug abuse and fourth-degree misdemeanor criminal

trespass. He was further charged with possession of a weapon on school property, a fifth-degree felony.

### Sections:

POLICE & FIRE REPORT ..	3
OPINION .....	5
LIFE .....	7
OBITUARIES .....	11
SPORTS .....	13
ENTERTAINMENT.....	18

### Features:

Classifieds.....	19
Letters .....	5
Real Estate .....	19
Service Guide .....	19
Views Line .....	5

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# Educator rewarded for creativity



**COURTESY PHOTO**  
Samantha Coldwell receives an award for Woman of the Year - Creativity.

**Karen Hornyak**  
Herald Staff Writer

A Barberton City Schools educator received recognition for the methods she uses to prepare students for entrepreneurship.

On March 13, Samantha Coldwell was awarded The Women's History Project Woman of the Year honors by the Summit County Historical Society.

Seven other women, including BHS graduate Dr. Leia Love, also received awards. Recipients were selected from nominations submitted by the public in a number. Coldwell could easily have qualified in

energy and enthusiasm as well, had they been included. It is difficult to believe her assertion that she is not a morning person.

From the first class of the day, she is in near-constant motion, aiming questions and firing out information in a way that commands attention, even from students who are still wiping the remnants of sleep from their eyes... and that is just the start.

Coldwell earned a Bachelor of Arts in Career and Technical Marketing Technology at Kent State, and later a Master of Arts in Instructional Technology from the University of Akron. The wellspring of her inspiration, however, was her experience in the DECA program during her junior and senior years at Cuyahoga Falls High School.

Coldwell knew, from the time she began her teaching career at BHS, that she wanted to offer her students the same experience. DECA prepares emerging leaders in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe by integrating classroom instruction with practical application.

For Coldwell's students, this means researching an area of special interest, creating a business model and entering one or more competitions throughout the school year. DECA is technically a club, but Coldwell has merged it so seamlessly with classroom studies that participation is mandatory and graded. Although she was pleased and honored to receive the WOTY award, Coldwell's greatest satisfaction is seeing students benefit from the program.

In addition to her work within the school district, Coldwell is president of the Akron Torchbearers (which she describes as "DECA for adults") and provides public marketing consultant services. She enjoys spending time with family and is a seasoned world traveler. "Truth in advertising is much more prevalent in other countries," she observes. Coldwell encourages students to learn about other cultures.

"It's important to go outside your comfort zone," she says. Thanks to Coldwell, however, the comfort zone is already wider for young BHS entrepreneurs.

# Speed

(Continued from Front Page)

offenders. The speed limit was lowered to 55 mph.

The city suspended use of the system Nov. 5, when ODOT opened both eastbound and westbound lanes and shoulders, restoring a safe area for traffic stops.

The city has had several meetings with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), and has learned that the project is nearing its final phase, which will not involve lane or shoulder restrictions or a reduction in the 65-mph speed limit.

Police will continue to monitor the area with the added use of its Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP).

The department credits the camera system with a

significant reduction in the number of accidents in the construction zone.

From Jan. 1, 2018 to Sept. 10, before the camera system was put in place, police responded to 133 traffic crashes on I-76, an average of 15 per month.

After the cameras were in place there were only eight in October, three in November and five in December.

The LIDAR system used hand-held cameras, called Dragon Cams, to photograph license plates and measure vehicle speed. Officers operated the cameras at various parts of the day; no automatic or unmanned equipment was involved.

Registered owners of vehicles going 65 mph and faster through the construction zone received civil violations by first-class mail.

The system issued 11,496 civil speeding violations

from Sept. 10 until it was suspended when construction paused for the winter Nov. 5. Civil violations do not add points to a driver's record.

# Norton plans Arbor Day ceremony

Norton has once again been designated a Tree City as part of its involvement with the Arbor Day Foundation, the nation's largest non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and planting of trees throughout the U.S.

As part of its commitment to the organization, the city will have its annual Arbor Day commemoration ceremony April 27 with a tree planting and a proclamation.

This year's ceremony is in remembrance of the many Norton Panthers who have passed away but still hold a special place in our hearts.

"Once a Panther, Always a Panther."

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## FROM THE FRONT

# Tracy

(Continued from Front Page)

from outside, and are considered political appointments.

### Key qualities for a diplomat

The career field is demanding, and two key qualities prospective foreign service officers should possess are curiosity and flexibility. "We have some postings that are in places where the medical care is not what we're accustomed to in the United States. Some places have significant security issues."

Tracy has come against dangerous situations during her career. After one such incident occurring during her assignment in Peshawar, Pakistan, she received the Award for Heroism from the Secretary of State in December 2009.

According to the transcript of that ceremony, she was honored for "courage and performance under fire" after she became the target of violent extremists who launched an attack on her car as she was being driven to work... shooting out her two front tires and leaving the vehicle riddled with bullets. Thanks to her driver and her bodyguards, Lynne escaped. She returned to the post on the day she was attacked and completed her mission even after repeated threats against her life.

The award, presented by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, reads, "Despite a violent kidnapping attempt and threats against your life, you remained at this critical post to complete your mission with steadfast courage and gallant leadership."

### Family support

She said her family back at home have also learned to practice calm. "There have been some times where they have been concerned. They tell me later, when I'm done, please don't go back. They hold back until I'm finished."

Despite this, Tracy does not doubt their belief in her mission. "My parents, my sisters and their families, and my wider family, have all been very supportive and proud of my service, and recognized that of the places that I've needed to go, there are very good reasons for me to be there."

Through Facebook, Tracy keeps in contact with her sisters, family and friends in Barberton. Besides family, three of her classmates traveled to Washington, D.C., for her swearing in as ambassador.

Tracy said her success can be attributed to her upbringing in a small town, enabling her "to be very down to earth, very accessible... some people call it the 'midwestern nice'... that sense of just average life, ordinary people, that's what's really helped me."

"I don't consider where I've gotten to in life to be a solo act," she said. "I'm very grateful that I've had these opportunities. It's a big honor to be an ambassador, to represent our country abroad. I'm a very proud American. But I never forget where I came from."

ambassadors, such as Tracy, are chosen for appointments about 70 percent of the time. The remaining appointments are chosen

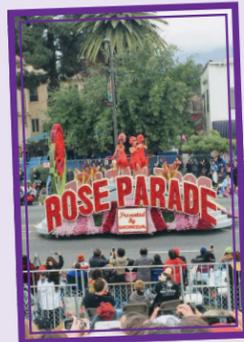
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