

LIFE NOTES

Change benefits library

The next Change for Change Fundraiser will be Friday, Feb. 22 from 4:30-7 p.m. to benefit the Friends of the Barberton Public Library. It will be at Casa Del Ranchero, 562 W. Tuscarawas Ave.

Breakfast offered for seniors

The Barber Dairy Master Home and Creamery announces its senior citizens breakfast dates Saturday, Feb. 23, March 30 and April 27 at 10 a.m.

Breakfast will be a beautiful buffet prepared by the 60 plus seniors group of Apostolic Church. If you are 60 or older, come for a wonderful meal, fellowship and experiencing the Barber Farm Dairy Master Home and Creamery.

The Creamery is at 365 Portsmouth Ave. in Barberton. Parking will be available next door at Aris.

Take this opportunity to experience history and to build strong relationships with other members of our community. Sometimes life's difficulties can be overwhelming but a meal with friends and encouraging conversation can bring hope to our hearts. Please call 330-256-3042 for information and reservations.

Donate to baby shower

Help St. Augustine collect baby items to be donated to the Embrace Care Center, formerly the Community Pregnancy Center, a place for women and their families to receive help. The collection will be Sunday, Feb. 4, following 10:30 a.m. Mass in the school cafeteria.

Items need are Similac Advanced Powder Formula (12 ounce cans), socks, underwear, layette items (receiving blankets, baby bottles, footed slippers, outfits, etc.), winter clothing, outfits (new or gently used) and diapers. All items should be size newborn to 4T.

New cribs and new car seats (convertible infant-toddler) are also needed.

Sponsored by St. Augustine Culture of Life Committee, call with questions at 330-472-9452.

Middle school creates pathway to IT careers



Zippy and Magic Man join the cybersecurity program during the open house at Barberton Middle School.

Karla Tipton
Herald Staff Writer

Cybersecurity may be the most important career field of the future. In recognition of this, the University of Akron and the Barberton City School District have partnered to encompass middle school students in a learning pathway to the university's computer information systems degree programs. In the future, cybersecurity training may be introduced even earlier, at the elementary school level.

"Our goal is to create a more responsible digital citizen in all aspects, from using the computer, to email, to social media, to anti-bullying," said Rich Mehok, an instructor for the Network Systems and Cybersecurity program at Barberton High School and an adjunct professor at the University of Akron. According to Mehok, there are currently 7,000 open positions in Ohio requiring cybersecurity skills.

The U.S. Department of Labor predicts the market for cybersecurity experts will grow 18 percent between 2014 and 2024, faster than most occupations.

The partnership, announced by representatives of the schools at a kick-off event held at Barberton Middle School last week, introduced a new after-school program at the school, the Cyber Club. The club, administered by sixth grade science teacher Timothy Stults and overseen by Mehok, preps students for the cybersecurity learning pathway.

"We're always looking for pathways for our students," said Barberton Superintendent Jeff Ramnytz at the event. "The University of Akron has always been a great partner with our schools."

Local cybersecurity jobs "The Akron area is in the top 15 in the country for mid-level tech jobs, which

don't need a four-year degree," said Mehok. Those who do earn the degree, can expect "a salary of \$70,000 as a starting point."

The University of Akron was the first college in Ohio to offer a bachelor's degree in Computer Information Systems (CIS) Cybersecurity. The CIS Cybersecurity degree is part of the university's College of Applied Science and Technology, and an extension of its Computer Information Systems Networking bachelor's degree.

Since 2008, Mehok has been awarding college credit to Barberton High School networking class students, transferable to the University of Akron's two- or four-year degree programs.

So what exactly is cybersecurity? It's the defense of computers, servers, mobile devices, electronic systems, networks and data from malicious attacks. Its skillset is based upon settings and actions taken within servers, networks and applications to prevent hackers from accessing, stealing, and potentially selling your personal information or using it for illegal purposes. On a larger scale, applying these practices might prevent foreign adversarial countries from tampering with election results or shutting down our power grid.

Developing digital literacy

Timothy Stults, a sixth-grade science teacher at Barberton Middle School and the head of the Cyber Club, said it begins with developing digital literacy in students early on. "We live in a digital age, and our young people are so saturated with social media and gaming, that when you say to a boy or girl, 'Have you ever designed your own video game or do you spend time on the internet?,' they get super excited."

The Cyber Club currently has 37 students, its numbers divided equally between boys and girls. These younger students are mentored by the high (See CAREERS, Page 12)

A tale of two churches

Part 1

Nan Pamer
Herald Contributor

In October 2018, Barberton residents Rod and Nan Pamer and Doug and Kathy Elkins, along with former residents Richard and Debbie Price of Arkadelphia, Arkansas, traveled to Europe to see Hungary, the ancestral country of our grandparents, Paul and Rose (Leidel) Pamer. (Richard, Rod, and Kathy are grandchildren of the Pamers.) Because many of our neighbors have a similar history of family coming from Eastern Europe, we thought our community would want to hear our story.

Our trip to Hungary was an experience of a lifetime; childhood stories of the Old Country became a reality. Both of our grandparents had come to the Akron/Kenmore area from Hungary at the turn of the 20th century but did not know each other until they met here.

Paul Pamer came from Paks, Hungary and Rose Liedel lived in Bikacs, Hungary. Their journey to the Akron area began when the rubber companies placed posters all over Eastern Europe promising good-paying jobs for men agreeing to come to the USA. Both of their families made the voyage a few years apart. It wasn't long after arriving that our grandparents met and got married.

Paul and Rose lived in the Kenmore area for several years, but then purchased Barber Farm Barn No. 1 and the Dairy Master Home/



Grammie was born in a small village in the Scottish Highlands. It's still there and the family still lives there. I've visited them often. My cousin Bella told me that all the boys in the village had a trade. Grammie's father was a blacksmith. There were others, and the village was small, so he brought his wife and child to live in Ottawa, Canada, thinking that there he might find more work.

He and a younger brother had married sisters, very likely arranged marriages. The brother moved to Cleveland, Ohio with his wife. In Canada, Grammie became the

oldest sibling in a family of four. But there were too many blacksmiths in Ottawa. Great-grandpa decided to join his brother in America.

They did much better after they made the move. The family was close together. Blacksmiths were needed in Cleveland. The children grew and went to school. Grammie had finished the fourth grade when her aunt, her mother, and the youngest child all died of the flu.

Grammie had to raise the family. She did her best to keep them together. But it wasn't enough. Eventually, all the children, except (See GRAMMIE, Page 13)



COURTESY PHOTO

Paul and Rose Pamer are married in 1915.

Creamery in Barberton in 1943. Thus, the Pamer family became part of Barberton's history. The Dairy Master Home/Creamery is still owned by the Pamer family.

Grandma had said that her village, Bikacs, was close to Paks where Grandpa was from, thus, we knew the places were near each other. Also, we knew the towns had Lutheran churches because both had been baptized into the Lutheran Church at their birth.

Budapest, Hungary We arrived in Budapest, Hungary, October 15. We rented a large, comfortable van in order to visit our ancestral homes approximately an hour away. We learned of a famous Hungarian restaurant, the Halaszcsarda, overlooking the Danube River. We stopped there first. The famous Barberton chicken dinner restaurants have their roots in this area. We ordered several different items. Their fried chicken tasted

very similar to Barberton chicken, as well as the cole slaw. That was exciting for Barbertonians!

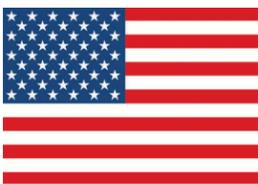
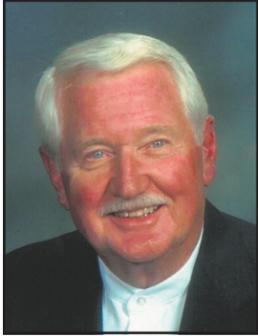
Our hotel was on the Danube River in downtown Budapest. We arrived there after dark and were stunned at the beauty of that city. There were no pressing crowds, and everywhere we looked were magnificent buildings. Our view of the Danube River, as well as the lighted historic buildings, was enchanting. Lighted riverboats and river cruise boats slowly floated past. We had rooms 244, 245 and 211 at the Budapest Marriott. One entire wall of our rooms was glass facing the Danube, so we were able to see the land of our fathers as we drifted off to sleep that night.

We knew our ancestors must have walked those streets and traveled down the Danube. We truly felt a spiritual connection to those generations of Leidels and Pamers. (See NEXT WEEK, Part 2)

The Barberton Herald

OBITUARIES

Robert "Bob" Preston Gainer Sr.



Robert "Bob" Preston Gainer Sr., 85, passed away peacefully Sunday, Feb. 10, with his family by his side. He suffered with dementia for the past few years. He was born to Betty and Vernon Gainer Jan. 15, 1934 in Joker, West Virginia. The family moved to the Norton, Barberton area in 1939. Bob, a Barber for 56 years, spent 52 of those years at the Norton Plaza where he owned and operated Gainer's Barber Shop. His day began with coffee at McDonald's then lunch at Sweet Henrie's. He enjoyed the conversations with his loyal customers, and in some families cut three generations of hair. For over 30 years his shop sponsored Norton Little League teams. An avid golfer who belonged to many leagues over the years; if he wasn't at the barber shop, he could be found on the golf course!

A proud Marine Corps veteran, he helped organize and attended its yearly Nov. 10 birthday party where local Marine veterans gathered. Semper Fi. Bob was a member of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Doylestown where he served on its church council for many years. He was a member of National Lodge 568 F&AM and 32 Degree Scottish Rite Valley of Akron, President of the Norton Merchants' Association for 22 years, and a past president of the Norton Alumni Association.

A 1953 Norton High School graduate, he valued the friendships kept with classmates over these 65 years and especially enjoyed the monthly "Lunch-Bunch" gatherings with the men; the couples' yearly Christmas Party at the Gandee's and the summer fish fries at the Culp's. Good times; good friends.

Some of our fondest memories of Bob are him flipping burgers on the grill at our annual Gainer July 4th picnic (the only time he ever cooked) and seeing the delighted faces on the little nieces, nephews, grandchildren when he appeared as Santa Claus of Christmas Eve. Bob and Edna met on a blind date arranged by his sister. It was love at first sight and their marriage lasted for over 57 years. His heart was broken twice with the death of daughter Karen in 1988 and daughter Susan in 2016, both from brain tumors. Parents should never have to bury their children, he said so many times. The family would like to thank Pleasant View and Rose Lane Nursing Homes and Crossroads Hospice for the wonderful care they gave Bob. Preceded by his parents; daughters, Karen and Susan and sister, Kathryn; he is survived by his wife, Edna; son, Robert "Bob" P. Jr. and daughter-in-law, Dawn, the grandchildren he loved so much, Rachel and Grant; brothers, Everett "Bill" and James (Janice); along with many loved nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends. A memorial service was Feb. 15 at Zion Lutheran Church, 65 W. Clinton St., Doylestown, OH 44230 with Pastor Chris Bartholomew officiating. Bob will be laid to rest by his daughters at Chestnut Hill Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Norton Alumni Association, P.O. Box 1333, Norton, OH 44203 for scholarships.

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Elizabeth A. "Betty" Herold



Elizabeth A. "Betty" Herold, 83, passed away Feb. 17. Betty was born in Barberton where she was a life resident and retired from the Babcock and Wilcox Co. after 37 years of service. She was a member of St. Augustine Catholic Church where she was a founding member of the Holy Hour Program, a member of the Legion of Mary for 55 years and active with the Altar and Rosary Society. Betty will be remembered for her smile and laugh, her love of children and for her care of others.

Preceded in death by her sisters Mary, Barbara and Rita; and brothers Joseph and Tom; She is survived by her sister Catherine Herold; sister-in-law Anne Herold; and numerous nieces and nephews and great-nieces and nephews. The family would like to thank all of Betty's caregivers at The Village of St. Edward. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 21, at St. Augustine Catholic Church, 204 Sixth St. NW., Barberton. (Please meet at the Church) Fr. David McCarthy celebrant. Interment at Holy Cross Cemetery. Calling Hours Wednesday from 5-8 p.m. at the Silva Hostetler Funeral Home, 1199 Wooster Rd. West, Barberton. Memorials may be made to the St. Augustine Endowment Fund. To share a memory or send a condolence, please visit www.silva-hostetler.com.

SILVA-HOSTETLER
330-825-8700

Kaylyn McAlister



Kaylyn McAlister, age 67, passed away peacefully at home Feb. 9. Born June 3, 1951, in Barberton, she was a resident of Barberton for 41 years, previously of Doylestown. A 1969 graduate of Chippewa High School, Kaylyn retired from Babcock and Wilcox after 27 years as an engineering analyst and was previously with Viking Tool for four years. She was a member of Zion Lutheran Church. Kaylyn had an energetic personality and loved the ocean and going to the beach. She also enjoyed spending time gardening and making memories with her nieces and nephews. Preceded in death by her father, George L. Henry; mother and step-father, Eldred and Pauline (Starcher) Combs, she is survived by her husband of 36 years, John; daughter, Nerissa "Noelle" Leaf of Cape Coral, Florida; sisters, Cheryl Shephard of Barberton, Kandis (Don) Frisby of Doylestown; brother, Gary (Betsy) Henry of Medina, many nieces and nephews. A private service will be held at the convenience of the family with inurnment at Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery. Memorials may be made on Kaylyn's behalf to a Humane Society of your choice or to support the Lakota Children at St. Joseph's Indian School, P.O. Box 100, Chamberlain, SD 57325-0100. Online obituary and guest registry are available at www.zakmonbarrenfh.com.

Zak-Thacker & Monbarren
330-658-2211

Steve Mihocka

Steve Mihocka, 89 of Hendersonville, passed away Jan. 21, at Pardee Hospital of cardiac arrest.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 48 years, J. Christine Mihocka and his son, Stephen Edward Mihocka. He attended Barberton High School, received his bachelor's degree from the University of Akron and his master's degree in Education Administration from the University of Wisconsin.

Steve's entire professional career was with the YMCA. In retirement, he was a consultant in risk management for the National YMCA Board. He was the Director of Annual Support Campaigns for the YMCA of Greater New York. He was the Executive Director for the following: Staten Island YMCA of Greater New York, Central Branch YMCA of Greater Kansas City, Missouri, YMCA of Siouxland, Sioux City, Iowa, South Shore Branch, YMCA of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Adult Education Director of Akron Central Branch, Akron Ohio. Steve was a Captain in the U.S. Army and a Commander in the Ohio National Guard. His community activities included: Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis, Jaycee "Outstanding Man of the Year", Meals on

Wheels, 32nd Degree Mason, Shrine Foot Patrol Unit in Sioux City, Iowa and Kansas City, Missouri, Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church and the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Service to others was the cornerstone of Steve's life. His relationships with family and friends, in the U.S. and abroad were very important to him. He will be missed. He is survived by his daughter, Elizabeth Christine Mihocka; three nephews, John Mihocka, James Mihocka, and David Mihocka along with their mother Christine Seely Mihocka; and several cousins in Slovakia. The Memorial Service was Feb. 8, in the theatre at Lake Pointe Landing, Hendersonville, North Carolina. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that contributions be made to Disabled American Veterans, www.dav.org or Shriners Hospitals for Children, www.shrinershospitalforchildren.org. An online register book is available for family and friends by visiting www.thosshepherd.com. Thos. Shepherd & Son Funeral Directors and Cremation Memorial Center is in charge of arrangements.



828-693-3435

Peter J. Tholt



Peter J. Tholt, 100, Feb. 13, passed away peacefully at Pleasant View Health Care Center. Pete was born in Barberton where he was a life resident and retired from Seiberling Tire and Rubber after 30 years of service. He was a member of Prince of Peace Catholic Church, 1263 Shannon Ave., Norton. Fr. Robert Jackson celebrant. Interment at Holy Cross Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Assoc. To share a memory or send a condolence, please visit www.silva-hostetler.com.

survived by his daughters Jean (Dick) Schellhase of Barberton and Delores "Dee" (Dr. Thomas) Collins of Canton; grandchildren Jennifer (Steve Truxell) Ligas, Jason (Lindsay) Ligas, Erin (Matt) DiRuzza, Christopher Collins, Meghan (James) Neary and Kevin and Tommy Collins; great-grandchildren Olivia, Vinny, Louie and Benny DiRuzza, Henry and Arden Ligas and James Neary; niece and goddaughter Betty Naswadi; and numerous other nieces and nephews. Mass of Christian Burial was Feb. 19, at Prince of Peace Catholic Church, 1263 Shannon Ave., Norton. Fr. Robert Jackson celebrant. Interment at Holy Cross Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Assoc. To share a memory or send a condolence, please visit www.silva-hostetler.com.

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Careers

(Continued from Page 7)

school students already in the program, which results in benefits for both. Club activities include the development of strong passwords, learning the dangers of the internet and cyber-bullying, deciphering cyphers, breaking encryption, developing games, and constructing computer cables. "The students are amazing, willing, and eager learners," said Stults.

Students attracted to the club may already have an interest in computers, "but a good portion of students who come actually just want to find out what it's all about," said Stults. Through the Cyber Club, the kids are exposed to career fields they might not have previously considered.

Ready for the job market
By the time the students complete Mehok's courses at the high school, they have earned CompTIA's A+ and Network+ certifications. Because Mehok is a

CompTIA trainer, the exams are given on-site at the high school at a 60 percent cost reduction. This is significant, considering the normal rate for an A+ exam is \$219.

Mehok said, "That's a real benefit, because when you send a student by themselves to a 90-minute, 90-question, very intense exam, in a foreign environment, where they've never been before, it's very intimidating. But because it's with me, they're more comfortable, more relaxed." The reduced exam costs are

incorporated into the class material fees paid when the students sign-up for their junior and senior classes.

High school graduates who decide not to go to college already have an advantage in the job market because they are certified. "I've had seniors apply right out of high school and get jobs and work in IT," said Mehok. "So now the doors starting to open because there's such a demand for entry level IT stuff, that they're willing to look at these high school kids."