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NAACP has long history in community



HERALD PHOTO/Karen Hornyak

Mr. and Mrs. Shorter Griffin share a moment in the spotlight with State Rep. Tavia Galonski.

Karen Hornyak
Herald Staff Writer

While most people have heard of the NAACP, many may not be aware that Barberton has its own chapter.

Founded Feb. 12, 1909, the NAACP is the nation's largest and most widely

recognized civil rights organization, with over a half million members. Its mission is "To ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination."

The Barberton branch has a roster of approx-

Practice saves lives

Rich Muller
Herald Staff Writer

In an abandoned quarry near South Van Buren Avenue, Barberton firefighters trained to rescue people who fall into ice-covered lakes and streams.

An inflatable rescue raft is carried toward two firefighters playing the parts of people who have fallen through ice into freezing water.



HERALD PHOTO/Rich Muller

The training was Jan. 17 and 18.

Firefighters go through classroom training yearly. Every three years they don dry suits and enter the freezing water to put that training into practice.

imately 90 worldwide, though 35 active members comprise the core of the group. Its goals, according to President Kevin Hill, are the same as the parent organization. However, he notes, there has been a shift in recent years from civil rights to human rights. No longer advocating solely for people of color, the NAACP now aligns with and assists other minorities including immigrants, the impoverished and the

LGBT community. Social advocacy for the homeless is a major focus this year. Health care, criminal justice reform and voter turnout are also areas of concern. Regarding the latter, Hill says a voter empowerment drive is planned to register new voters and encourage those already on the rolls to make their voices heard.

BNAACP also promotes education and will hold a Scholarship Luncheon (See NAACP, Page 2)

Commission considers zoning for tattoo parlors

Rich Muller
Herald Staff Writer

The Barberton Planning Commission is considering if any changes are needed to allow tattoo and body piercing businesses downtown.

Erin Myenes operates a tattoo shop on Eagon Street. She had asked in September to open a shop

on Second Street in the downtown commercial district. The city's development code does not allow a tattoo business in that area.

At the Jan. 16 commission meeting, Planning Director Joe Stefan said a recommendation to city council is expected for the Feb. 20 commission meeting. The planning department has not determined if any changes are needed. Barber shops, laundromats, coffee houses, popcorn and yogurt shops are described as businesses similar to tattoo shops.

The commission also elected its officers for the year. Ron Mollric will continue as chair with Don Wood as vice chair.

A request to allow renting of single rooms in a house at 252 First St. NW was withdrawn. According to Stefan, the house can only be multi-family apartments.

Do you think tattoo and piercing shops should be allowed to operate in the downtown district? Vote now on The Barberton Herald Online Poll at www.barbertonherald.com or send your opinions to publisher@barbertonherald.com.

Goodrich tunnel tours uncover spirits of history

Karla Tipton
Herald Staff Writer

About 230 people interested in the paranormal or local history, or both, converged upon a former rubber factory during a snowstorm Saturday, Jan. 12, for three tours exploring tunnels beneath the BF Goodrich complex on Canal Place in downtown Akron.

In use for 140 years, the tunnels provided a throughway beneath the sprawling factory for moving raw materials, supplies and food. Where 41 buildings once stood, there are now only 10, but the tunnels beneath the remaining buildings are intact.

The factory workers who once traversed the tunnels "were some of the hardest working, happiest family-oriented cheerful people. Where you have history, you have spirituality, where you have spirituality, you have



HERALD PHOTO/Karla Tipton

Psychic Laura Lyn leads a tour through the B.F. Goodrich tunnels. This picture captured a magenta-colored anomaly called an orb by paranormal investigators.

energy. Where you have energy, it stays, it moves, it communicates," said Tim Dimoff, owner of SACS Consulting Investigative Security Services, who helped organize the event.

Dimoff has owned and operated SACS for 10 years at the Canal Place complex, which also houses several (See TUNNEL, Page 2)

McKenney visits Barberton

Seventh District Summit County Councilwoman Bethany McKenney will conduct office hours, Thursday, Jan. 31, from 5-6:30 p.m. at the Green Diamond Grille & Pub, 125 Second St. NW in Barberton.

The public is invited to learn more about county council, ask questions and discuss issues. Additional office hours are planned for different area businesses.

McKenney represents Barberton, Clinton New Franklin, Norton and the Kenmore area of Akron.

Welcome Jimmy John's

Rich Muller
Herald Staff Writer

The rumor has been confirmed. Jimmy John's will be moving in next to Chipotle in the Giant Eagle Plaza.

Barberton Planning Director Joe Stefan made the announcement at the Jan.

16 Planning Commission meeting. Stefan said interior work is expected to begin in February with a May opening.

"I'm excited," said David Kuntz of The Natelli Group, LLC, owners of the new Jimmy John's, "I think being paired with Chipotle (See JOHN'S, Page 2)

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Addis thanks board

Jim Eritano
Herald Staff Writer

January is Ohio Board of Education Recognition Month, and Norton Schools Superintendent Dana Addis spoke in appreciation of the work the Norton board does.

Addis said the job of a school board member is the toughest he's seen out of all the jobs he's had over the years, and one he's never coveted. He said people have different views of school boards: teachers often think that a school board doesn't care or doesn't think about things, and community members reach out for requests for particular things. "Not all of those things are able to be achieved," Addis said. "You have five people on this board who care about the kids in this district.

"This is a board who believes in its teachers, its families and its kids, but at the same time it's a good balance of the demand that they have that we do our jobs properly."

Addis called the board a great mixture of people who care deeply about Norton.

"I just wanted to take a few minutes," he said, "to

thank all of you for the work that you do on behalf of our kids, on behalf of our families and all of our employees in the Norton City Schools."

At the Jan. 14 meeting, the board made a few changes.

They will continue to meet the third Monday of the month, with committee of the whole at 6 p.m. Regular meetings will start at 7 p.m.

Jennifer Bennett was elected to another term as president, but Chris Inks replaces Patrick Santelli as vice-president.

Bennett said each of the committees have things they are working on, so committee assignments did not change. Santelli and Bennett continue on the community engagement committee, Cindy Webel and Inks on finance, Bennett and Santelli on information and technology, Louis Ule and Webel on operations, and Inks and Ule on policy.

Santelli remains the delegate to the Ohio School Board Association's annual conference, with Ule as an alternate in the event Santelli is unable to attend.

Medical marijuana dispensaries open

Cierra Thompson
Herald Staff Writer

Ohio medical marijuana dispensaries sold about \$75,000 in first-day sales, according to the Ohio Medical Marijuana Control Program (OMMCP). The total volume sold was 8.7 pounds.

The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy awarded four dispensary certificates Jan. 14 and by Jan. 16 they were opened for business. Locations opened in Canton, Wintersville, Wickliffe and Sandusky.

Patients can register by visiting a doctor who is certified to recommend medical marijuana with their valid ID. After a doctor evaluates if the patient has

one of the 21 qualifying conditions, they will create a profile in the patient registry. In registry, patients will complete their application and pay the \$50 fee.

Medical marijuana cards will then be issued in the mail or email. Different strengths and potencies of medical marijuana will be available in varying forms such as dry flower plant and vaporizers. A certified doctor can recommend up to a 90 day supply of medical marijuana with three refills. The OMMCP warns patients that limited inventory will be available during the beginning stages.

Medical marijuana was legalized in the State of Ohio after lawmakers passed a bill in 2016.

NAACP

(Continued from Front Page)

and social change for the world," says Hill. On Jan. 13, he and others assisted with a gala celebrating the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Mistress of Ceremonies was Ophelia Averett, whom Hill credits as a constant source of inspiration. Averett, a life-long member of NAACP, was president of the Akron chapter for 14 years and currently serves on the national board of directors. BNAACP honorees included Second Vice President Dr. Jerome Pecko, city council member Shorter Griffin and his wife Veronica. BNAACP Membership Chair Blanche Penn-Natney, former city council member Terry Avant and wife Sally, and Norton city council hopeful Judith Lynn Lee also attended.

Getting young people to join and actively support the organization is a major challenge, says Hill. Of the 64 seats on the national board, 14 are allocated for youth and young adults from 16 to 25. Barberton NAACP meets at 1:30 p.m. the second Saturday of every month at the library. Meetings are open to the public, and prospective members are encouraged to attend.

Tunnel

(Continued from Front Page)

with the Akron police and federal task forces, during which he became associated with Laura Lyn, who continues to lend psychic assistance with investigations.

The event was supported by Lyn, who led the tour through the tunnels, with assistance, volunteers and sponsorship of the Summit County Historical Society. Shawn Gilmore and the Ohio Metaphysics and Paranormal Research team were also on hand to lend expertise and equipment. Proceeds from ticket sales will benefit the homeless population in Summit and Stark counties.

After a slide show depicting the B.F. Goodrich company's history of manufacturing, presented by the Historical Society, attendees took a brisk walk through a snowy alley before descending to the subterranean level of the complex where the temperature increased to the point of discomfort. The brick walls of the tunnels were streaked with rust. Disused metal equipment, odd tools and widgets were stashed in shadowy vestibules. It took some nerve to enter these spaces alone, despite the presence of others.

Spirit conductors

Lining the ceilings were bundled electrical lines, many frayed and some hot with current. Metal piping carrying water for steam power ran along the floors and walls. The transport of electricity and water has significance for the spirit world, said Lyn.

The psychic and angel reader stood in the center of a circle of attendees, her hands pressed against a concrete column. "There is energy transference with the electrical wires and the pipes," she said. "The movement of water is a good conductor to get spirits moving. Feel the energy from the walls. Close your eyes and imagine what it was like back in the 1920s."

Photos taken during the tour and analyzed later showed orbs, as they are called in the paranormal community, floating near Lyn. The anomalies do not seem to originate from obvious light sources. Other pictures caught what appeared to be the translucent faces of factory workers with hardhats.

"About 100 years ago, they were building the bicycle tires, and they had a machine that took the rubber and stretched it," said Dimoff, drawing out a tale that was obviously going to turn gruesome. "A young kid, 19 years old, was running the machine, not paying attention, and he stuck his hand in between (the gears). It grabbed his hand and pulled in the rest of his body, and he was killed."

Ghostly antics

In that area of the tunnel, "when alone, we have encountered a kind spirit that loves to joke around and play pranks," he said. "You hear a sound, there's a hand on your shoulder or a breath of fresh air, or things will fall down and bounce. He died at an age when having fun is pretty normal. We firmly believe it's the 19-year-old."

Moments later, an attendee using dousing rods at that location, remarked upon how the divining tools moved without any intervention on her part. Another attendee using a spirit box ghost-hunting device, reportedly heard the word "stop" just before the device's battery power failed.

The event sold out to 70 attendees per tour when only 40 were expected, and 150 names were added to a waiting list in anticipation of the next tour, tentatively scheduled for spring. For updates on Summit County Historical Society events, visit <https://www.summithistory.org>.

other businesses, and his team supports security there. Before starting his company, he had a 20-year career in law enforcement

FROM THE FRONT



HERALD PHOTO/Rich Muller

Jimmy John's opens in May.

John's

(Continued from Front Page)

next to a Chipotle.

Kuntz noted when people are looking for lunch, even on the weekends, it will be a real benefit for Giant Eagle shoppers.

"We're excited to have Jimmy John's in the plaza," said Kurt Pollex of Giant Eagle Plaza leasing agent ShopOne Centers REIT, Inc.

Jimmy John's, founded in 1983, is a franchised sandwich chain with nearly 3,000 stores across the country, including nine around the Summit County area. They specialize in delivery.

is good for us." The mix has proved helpful for some of the company's six other Jimmy John's, although not all can be

Real estate tax bills due

Summit County property owners are reminded that first half 2018 real estate taxes are due Friday, Feb. 15, with the exception of military personnel.

Property taxes are deferred for military reservists who are on active duty. Applications

can be obtained by calling 330-643-2641 or visiting the website <http://fiscaloffice.summitoh.net>.

The fiscal office offers programs to assist homeowners with the payment of real estate taxes. If you have fallen delinquent call 330-643-2600 for information.

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