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The Barberton Herald



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Weekend walks present history with a twist



HERALD PHOTO/Karla Tipton

Norton High School 11th-grader Luke Kepler dons a Revolutionary War costume for the Historic Cemetery Walk at the Loyal Oak Cemetery.

Karla Tipton
Herald Staff Writer

Two Saturday events in two different communities took attendees on short walks through history, with a twist.

The first event, the Historic Cemetery Walk at the Loyal Oak Cemetery of Cleveland Massillon Road in Norton, featured narratives read by members of the

Norton Historical Society, some in vintage costume.

The Trinity Lutheran church set against the backdrop of dark clouds threatening rain, created a dramatic setting for the stories about Norton founding families, such as Miller, Knecht and Reimer. The event fell under the auspices of the Norton Bicentennial, but may occur as a regular event in

the future, said historical society member and curator Patsy Snyder.

The Loyal Oak Cemetery is notable because veterans from every American conflict, as far back as the Revolutionary War, are buried there. Norton High School 11th-grader Luke Kepler donned a Revolutionary War costume to speak of the veterans.

(See WALK, Page 13)

Trick or Treat this weekend

Barberton and Norton will conduct trick or treat, Saturday, Oct. 27, from 5-7 p.m. Please leave your porch light on if you plan on participating.



Resident wins Mayor for a Day



HERALD PHOTO/Cierra Thompson
Mayor Judge and Olivia Blanton visit On Point Nutrition downtown discussing opportunities for growth.

Cierra Thompson
Herald Staff Writer

Olivia Blanton, lifelong resident of Barberton, redeemed her Barberton Herald prize she won during the Millionaire Money Auction.

Her prize gave her the opportunity to be Mayor for a Day.

On Oct. 17 Mayor William Judge welcomed Blanton to his office where he presented her with a special certificate. He sat down with her and they talked about the many duties he has as a mayor. In doing so, he learned about what Blanton does for a

living, her hobbies and what she is passionate about.

Blanton explained her interest in supporting Barberton businesses. "I grew up in Barberton and it is nice to see how much this city has changed for the better," Blanton mentioned. She enjoys visiting different shops, restaurants, bars, breweries and theaters.

"We're always open to suggestions," said Judge. He then explained how the idea to bring a coffee shop to the Magic City was from high schoolers. He hopes to collaborate with younger generations for more inspiration.

Blanton came prepared with questions to ask about the city. "As a normal resident you don't really think about all the things that go into running a city," said Blanton. She was able to get a behind the scenes look on what goes on.

Judge took Blanton on a tour around the downtown city building and explained the parts each employee takes to ensure things run smoothly. After touring the

city building, Judge showed Blanton around the Water Treatment Plant, Streets Department and other city facilities.

Throughout the day, employees joked with Blanton about receiving raises while passing through the facilities.

They stopped by Green Diamond Grille and Pub for a quick lunch where they discussed strategies to

(See MAYOR, Page 13)

Termination confirmed

Rich Muller
Herald Staff Writer

The termination of Jim Stonkus as executive director of the Barberton Community Foundation was confirmed by the board of directors at a meeting which included an executive session.

Board chair Michael Chisnell stated the Oct. 18 vote was taken "to ensure it is clear that the foundation made the decision to end Mr. Stonkus' employment on Sept. 7, 2018."

"All board members present and voting were aware that one of the staff transitions discussed (at the Sept. 7 meeting) was the termination of Mr. Stonkus and the offering of a termination package in connection with that termination," Chisnell read from a statement to the board at the Oct. 18 meeting.

"So, today we're here to clarify and validate those actions taken on Sept. 7

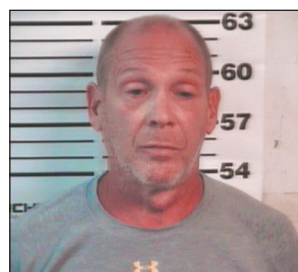
special meeting," Chisnell stated, "not because our code of regulations requires it, but because of a threat made to the Foundation and the board's desire to protect the Foundation."

According to Chisnell, under the code of regulations the person holding the position of executive director is an employee of the organization. He noted that while at times the CEO and president have been used to describe the position Stonkus held although that is not an accurate depiction of the position according to the code of regulations.

According to Chisnell, the regulations at the time of the termination clearly state the chairman (of the board) is the CEO and president of the Foundation. Chisnell also said regulations state the executive director is an "at will" employee and can be terminated at any time, for

(See STONKUS, Page 13)

Driver is 7-time offender



Robert Thomas
Cierra Thompson
Herald staff Writer

arrived after the suspect, stopped in a driveway on 19th Street Northwest.

Officers identified the man as Robert Thomas, 54. Thomas was sitting in the driver's seat with the vehicle running. Officers witnessed him grab a bag of marijuana from the console and stick it in his pocket and they smelled alcohol in the vehicle.

Thomas admitted to driving and having arrived home just before they showed up. He admitted to drinking one beer and a Twisted Tea and admitted to smoking marijuana on the way home from the bar.

(See THOMAS Page 13)

Officers responded to a report of an intoxicated driver who was swerving and driving through stop signs. The caller followed the suspect and relayed messages to dispatch while on the phone. Officers

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Walk

(Continued from Front)

The second event, the Walk through the Hollow sponsored by the Chippewa-Rogues Hollow Historical Society, was one part history but more parts spooky fun, as ticket holders walked the Rogues Hollow Trail Loop where Halloween props lit the trail. The event is held annually for one night only in October, and always sells out.

According to Eric Pandrea, president of the historical society, “The interest was so strong” that the organization had to take down the Facebook event announcement. “We got 75,000 hits,” he said. After selling over 100 tickets for each of the three scheduled walks, “we thought we’d better stop.”

There were ghost stories told around the fire by society member Earl Kerr before each of three groups were released to walk the wooded trail.

The setting near the reconstruction of the 1828 Chidester Woolen Mill on Galehouse Road in Doylestown, was dark and spooky, and sometimes rainy. Displayed on the trail were illuminated jack-o-lanterns, ghosts, wraiths, and even the Stay Puft Marshmallow Man from the “Ghostbusters” movie.

Occasionally, while walking through the darkness, ghouls growled, howled and leapt from the darkness, but was designed to be “a little bit scary, but a bit tame and kid-friendly,” said Pandrea.

Stonkus

(Continued from Front)

any reason, with or without cause or notice.

A voice vote approved the motion to ratify the separation effective Sept. 7.

Changes to the BCF code of regulations are being considered by Barberton City Council. Chisnell stated that even with the proposed changes, the executive director is not a foundation officer.

Y instructor awarded



COURTESY PHOTO

Lake Anna YMCA swim instructor/lifeguard Frank Wood is awarded the Giving Tree Award Oct. 21.

This award is given out each year to a Lake Anna YMCA staff member that best exemplifies the Y’s mission. With Wood is Aquatics Director Leah Ferencak.

Thomas

(Continued from Front)

Thomas was asked to perform the Standard Field Sobriety Test. He performed the horizontal gaze nystagmus (HGN). He swayed while standing and he had a difficult time following the tip of the officers pen with just his eyes. He showed all signs for the HGN.

Officers asked him to perform the one leg stand, and the walk and turn. He struggled with balance during the instruction stage and he started the task too soon.

Officers notified him he performed poorly on the test and asked him once more how many alcoholic

beverages he consumed. This time he confessed to having two beers and a Twisted Tea.

Thomas was arrested for OVI and transported to the Barberton City Jail. He was booked in jail without incident. He was given the opportunity to give a breath sample and he blew a .142 on the BAC DataMaster. The legal limit is .08. Thomas also completed an interview from the Ohio Impaired Driver Report.

He was charged with an OVI, OVI prohibited concentrations, possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. He has been convicted of an OVI seven times prior which makes his recent charge a felony of the third degree.

Meet with Bethany McKenney

Barberton’s own Enchanted Cafe, 559 Norton Ave., will host a meet and greet for Summit County Council candidate Bethany McKenney, Wednesday, Oct. 31, from 9-11 a.m. Enjoy coffee and homemade baklava while learning more about the candidate. There is no cost to attend. County Council District 7 serves Barberton, Norton, New Franklin, Clinton and Kenmore.

Mayor

(Continued from Front)

get younger people involved with the city. Judge was able to give Blanton career advice and how she can become more involved with the city.

Blanton got a different look of the city because the mayor was able to explain the history of buildings, parks and homes which gave her a new perspective.

“After spending the day with Judge I have a new appreciation of what he does for our community.

He has a plethora of great ideas he would like to execute and I would love to be a part of them,” Blanton said. “Barberton has a variety of things to offer to its residents and I am proud of my city.”

“It was a pretty cool day and I was pleasantly surprised,” said Blanton.

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