

Spring HOME IMPROVEMENT

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The Barberton Herald



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Westside Steve takes on Southside persona



COURTESY PHOTO

Westside Steve Simmons channels the persona of Southside Johnny Lyon in a familiar downtown Barberton location.

Karla Tipton
Herald Staff Writer

If you know the band Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes, you probably came of age in Northeastern Ohio in the 1970s or '80s.

"Whenever I'm walking around in my day-to-day life, I ask people, 'So, have you heard of Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes?'" said Westside Steve Simmons, best known for decades as lead vocalist of the the Easy Street Band, whose members primarily hail from the 44203 ZIP code.

The reply, he said, depends upon age demographic. "Younger guys will say, 'Never heard of them.' The ones my age or a little younger said, 'Yeah, we love 'em!'"

This question has lately been on Simmons' mind for a good reason: The band Asbury All Stars, made up of Easy Street musicians, will be channeling Southside Johnny's New Jersey sound Saturday, April 27 at The Tangier, 532 W. Market St., Akron. Rocky Mountain Way, a Joe Walsh tribute band

which shares some Easy Street members, will open the show, starting at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20, \$25 and \$30 and available at The Tangier box office, by phone at 330-376-7171, and at www.thetangier.com.

"The band was actually (bassist) Bob Martin's idea because he thinks I have such a good Southside voice," said Simmons.

It doesn't hurt that Easy Street members have positive memories opening

for the Jukes several times during the band's heyday. "When we were opening for them, we were 26 and Johnny was only four years older than I was, but we thought they were huge stars," remembered Simmons. "They were really nice to us, very gracious."

Because of Simmons' ability to mimic Southside Johnny's vocals, Easy Street has performed several Asbury Jukes songs over the

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Cities host cleanup day

Norton's Green Up Norton work day will be Saturday, April 27, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Volunteers will meet at City Hall for coffee and doughnuts at 8:30 a.m. and travel to their clean-up locations.

The Barberton Beautification Program's "Take Pride in Barberton Day," is Saturday, April 27. 300 volunteers are needed. Following organized cleanups, volunteers will be treated to a picnic lunch at Tuscora Park. For information call 330-848-6653.

Firefighter kills fiancée in murder suicide

Cierra Thompson
Herald Staff Writer

Akron Police Officers responded to the 600 block of Brittain Road in Akron for the shooting of a 35-year-old woman. They found Olivia Hamey.

The incident happened April 11 shortly before 2 a.m. Hamey had two children; an 11-year-old daughter and a 7-year-old son. Her son was asleep upstairs as her daughter called 911 for help after hearing an argument between her mother and her 35-year-old fiancé

Demetrius T'Juan Butler. She told dispatchers she heard gunshots and found her mother unresponsive in the basement.

When officers arrived they found Hamey in the basement dead.

Shortly after 2 a.m., officers were dispatched to the 1400 block of Virginia Avenue.

Butler's mother called 911 to say her son told her he killed his fiancée. She begged them not to kill her son. Butler showed up to her house while she was on the phone and was asked to put him on the line.

He cried as he told the dispatcher he wasn't doing well and said he was going to kill himself.

When officers arrived at his mother's home, they found him standing in the driveway with a handgun. As police approached, he pointed the gun to his chest and pulled the trigger.

He was transported to Summa Akron City Hospital where he did not survive.

Butler worked full-time at the Twinsburg Fire Department for about a year, and also part time at the Norton Fire Department for 12 years.

Hamey and Butler were 2002 graduates of Barberton High School. She graduated from the University of Akron and was employed as a social worker at Aultman Hospital in Canton. He got a Bachelor of Science degree in emergency management from the University of Akron.

After the incident, the children were placed in

(See DEATHS, Page 13)

Tax relief available to storm victims

Summit County Fiscal Officer Kristen M. Scalise CPA, CFE has announced that real estate tax relief will be available to residents who have sustained damage to their property in the wake of the recent storm.

Form DTE 26 can be downloaded from our website. Visit FiscalOffice.summitoh.net and click on the link titled "Damaged Property" listed in the "Real Estate and Appraisal" column. Mail the form to 175 S. Main St., Room 304, Akron, OH 44308. You may call 330-643-2704 to request a form in the mail. The filing deadline is Dec. 31.

The Fiscal Office tracks the repairs based on building permits from the areas affected.

Wintergreen Ledges church 'Mugs' the BPD



COURTESY PHOTO

Pastor David DeWitt and Randy Eppinger 'Mug' the Barberton Police second shift

Wintergreen Ledges Church of God is doing its first ever "Mug Your Neighbor" campaign.

Mug Your Neighbor is a campaign of simple kindness to our friends and neighbors in the community.

Church attendees will be going out into the community armed with mugs filled with candy and invitations to the church Easter service. The hope is to make genuine connections with people in

the extended community surrounding the church.

Pastor Dave launched the campaign by "mugging" the Barberton Police Department. The church gave candy-filled mugs to the officers in appreciation of their service.

Wintergreen Ledges Church of God is at 1889 Vernon Odom Blvd., just inside Akron.

The Easter Celebration is Sunday, April 21 and starts with breakfast at 9:45 a.m. in the gym, followed by worship at 10:45 a.m.

Join as they celebrate the victory of Christ over the grave. For information call 330-753-3027.

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Rehab center opens Tuesday at Lake Anna Y



COURTESY PHOTO

Crystal Clinic's new rehab center at the Lake Anna YMCA will feature an aquatic therapy pool.

Kids hop into Easter fun

Ward 1 Councilwoman Shannon Wokojanec organized an Easter Egg Hunt at Newton Park for children 12 and under. In addition to candy, prizes included gardening tools, books, gift baskets and toys. The April 13 gathering had a successful turnout.



HERALD PHOTO/Cierra Thompson

Siblings Hazel Barrett and Chandler Barrett join Summer the therapy dog as they eagerly wait for the Easter Egg Hunt to begin.

Crystal Clinic Orthopaedic Center will be hosting an open house Tuesday, April 23, 6- 8 p.m., at Lake Anna YMCA, 500 West Hopocan Ave., to showcase the new rehabilitation facility.

The public will be able to tour the therapy gym and aquatic therapy pool, meet with therapy and outpatient office staff and learn about Crystal Clinic Plastic Surgeons. Free screenings for osteoporosis, carpal tunnel syndrome, grip strength, and full body strength and flexibility will also be offered. Enter to win one of four, one-month YMCA memberships and a gift basket, including a free month's membership. "We've been open since last fall and we wanted the community to see everything that we have to offer here at the Lake Anna YMCA," said Danielle Johnson, lead physical therapist at Crystal Clinic. To learn more, call 330-670-4216.

Affordable health screenings coming

Residents living in and around Barberton can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening. Barberton Active Adult Center, 500 West Hopocan Ave., will host this community event May 14.

Screenings can check for the level of plaque buildup in your arteries, related to risk for heart disease, stroke and overall vascular health; HDL and LDL cholesterol levels; diabetes risk; bone density as a risk for possible osteoporosis; kidney and thyroid function, and more. Screenings are affordable, convenient and accessible for wheelchairs and those with trouble walking. Free parking is also available.

Packages start at \$149, but consultants will work with you to create a package that is right for you based on your age and risk factors. Also ask about our Wellness Gold Membership Program, which allows customers to get all the screenings they need now, for \$19.95 per month. Call 877-237-1287 or visit our website at www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.

FROM THE FRONT

Steve

(Continued from Front Page)

years, including "Trapped Again," "I Don't Want to Go Home" and "Having a Party," among others.

But to build an entire show as a tribute required that band members learn many more songs, putting younger musicians into new musical territory. "To some of the new guys, this is music they've never heard before, so they're learning it from scratch," Simmons added.

In the 1970s, many Asbury Jukes songs were on continuous rotation on WMMS-FM, the region's most popular radio station.

Listeners from that era have long musical memories.

When Simmons attended a Southside Johnny show April 5 in Northfield, he recalled how the band launched into "The Fever." "Johnny stopped singing. The entire audience knew every word. He said, 'Man, not even back in New Jersey do people do that. This is the only place in the world that they do that.'"

Will the show attract concertgoers younger than the target age demographic?

Judging by the audience attending the annual Easy Street reunions, Simmons

believes it just might: "When we do the reunion shows, we've got that target audience of people who came to see us back in the old days, but, and it's weird, because I look out into the audience and there are guys like 25 or 30 -- what the heck are they doing here? -- but they're having a great time, too. So I guess we're getting the next generation on board."

Deaths

(Continued from Front Page)

the custody of the Summit County Children's Services, then placed with their biological father. A GoFundMe account was set up by the family to provide support for the children involved. Donations can be made at gofundme.com/liv-hameys-kid-fund.

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wins a 1 year Herald subscription

Marcia Frank of Norton Avenue
wins a \$20 Gift Certificate from the Green Diamond

Helen Simko of Azalea Boulevard
wins a \$25 Gift Certificate from Snowball Bookshop

Toni Knopp of Maple Street
wins two Herald T-shirts from The Barberton Herald

Helen Middour of Lullaby Lane
wins a Manorcare Gift Pack

Larry Abrams of Wesleyan Avenue
wins four tickets to The Akron RubberDucks

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