



The Barberton Herald



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Stabbing shakes neighborhood

Sophia Senderak
Herald Staff Writer

Barberton native Brandon Joe James Churchill, 19, was arrested for the murder of his father-in-law.

Police responded to a house in the 200 block of 17th Street NW for a call about an unwanted person in the home, and after entering, officers found the body of Mark T. Miller, 64, from Brighton Drive

in Akron. Miller had been stabbed multiple times, and was pronounced dead at the scene around 9:30 a.m. Dec. 18.

Around the same time, officers were responding to a one-car crash near Rally's on Wooster Road. The driver fled the scene on foot, but with the help of witnesses police found the driver hiding behind a dumpster of a Downtown restaurant. The driver was

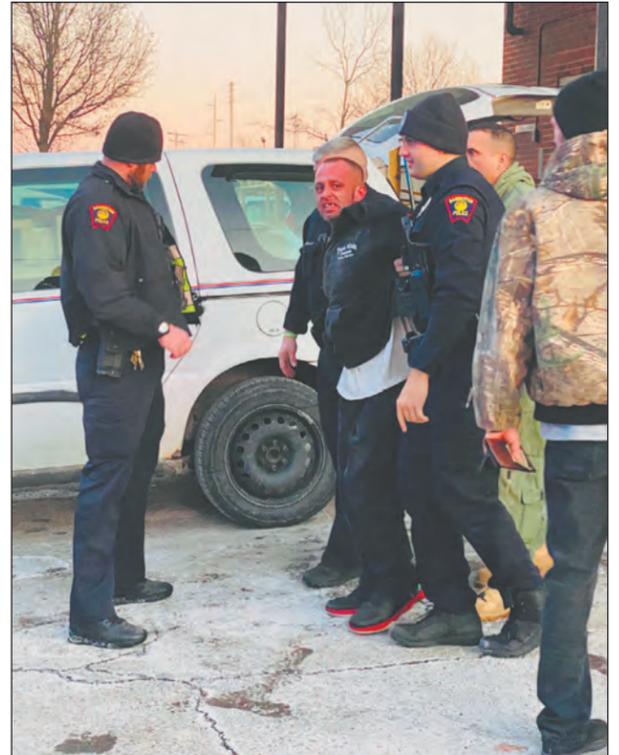
identified as Churchill, and after questioning officers determined that he was responsible for the stabbing and death of Miller. Churchill was charged with murder, arrested with a \$1 million cash bond set by Judge Todd McKenney, and transported to the Summit County Jail.

Churchill has had the following past incidents with law enforcement:
(See MURDER, Page 16)



Brandon Churchill

Bad boys, bad boys...



HERALD PHOTO/Hannah Predojev

Brasiel appears angry and in a state of utter shock after being caught by the police.

Hannah Predojev
Herald Staff Writer

drugs and soliciting, among other offenses, over the years.

Albert Brasiel, 37, was arrested on Wooster Road West for an outstanding warrant out of Summit County. He was found hiding behind the post office, after fleeing from officers.

His criminal history dates back as early as 2002, where he was convicted of aggravated menacing, criminal trespassing, possession of

According to the official incident report, he was charged with obstructing official business and resisting arrest. Barberton Police arrested Brasiel Dec. 19, 5 p.m. An officer was injured during the incident, but the details remain unknown.

More information will be published as it becomes available.

Red Wanting Blue celebrates roots



COURTESY PHOTO

Red Wanting Blue, a melodic alternative rock band based in Columbus, performs at the Goodyear Theater, Saturday, Dec. 28. Pictured from left are guitarist and keyboardist Greg Rahm, drummer Dean Anshutz, bassist Mark McCullough (back row) and guitarist Eric Hall and vocalist Scott Terry (front row).

Karla Tipton
Herald Staff Writer

Red Wanting Blue taps into something Ohio has in abundance: energy.

"It's got a very industrial energy, and at the same time, it has a very middle America country energy to it, too," said lead vocalist Scott Terry, who will be performing with the band Red Wanting Blue at the Goodyear Theater, Saturday, Dec. 28.

You can hear it in Terry's vocals: a little bit country, a little bit rock 'n' roll. He's happy to admit it.

"When I moved there 20-some odd years ago, I was a kid who was interested in wearing black boots and black jeans," he said. "Over the years, the black turned into a little more dusty brown boots, and denim jeans."

Originally from New Jersey, Terry formed Red Wanting Blue (also known

as RWB) in 1996, while attending Ohio University in Athens. The band's members- Greg Rahm, Dean Anshutz, Mark McCullough and Eric Hall-all have roots in Ohio.

Drummer Anshutz grew up in Creston, about 20 miles west of Barberton. "He introduced me to Barberton chicken," Terry

said with a laugh. "Hopocan Gardens Chicken and Paprikash, which I happen to think is the best chicken in the country, as far as I'm concerned."

After college, Terry relocated the band to Columbus, "because it's the state capitol, largest city in the state, so it just seemed

(See BAND, Page 2)

Broken school zone lights cause concern



COURTESY PHOTO

A sign is posted below broken school zone lights at Barberton East Elementary in efforts to prevent speeding during restricted times.

Taylor Thompson
Herald Staff Writer

Since early November, parents have been concerned about the broken school zone lights in front of Barberton Elementary East. Allyson Hought, a mother of a student at the school, posted a video on social media that quickly went

viral showing several cars speeding through the school zone during the restricted hours. She asked several times throughout the video, "Do you think this person is going 20 miles per hour?"

Hought stated that she's contacted the city several times, yet the only solution thus far is the sign posted on the pole, showing the school zone hours. She stated in the video, "Is it going to take a kid getting killed here in Barberton for someone to come out and fix these lights that have not worked since Nov. 3? Somebody needs to do something and I'm tired of it!"

According to former Service Director Mike Vinay, the school zone lights are handled by an outside contractor, not the city. He said they have been working together on a solution and hopes to have them repaired by the time the students return to school after break in January.

Can you believe that?

If you observed Christmas alongside every country in the world, you'd end up with a lot more time for festivities.

Germany and many Nordic countries have three days of Christmas, starting Dec. 24 and ending Dec. 26. Those in Denmark have most of their celebrating Dec. 24, which is considered "true" Christmas.

The Apostolic Church in Armenia and Lebanon have Christmas Jan. 6, and those observing any form

(See BELIEVE, Page 2)

Holiday closings announced

The following are the holiday closings for Barberton and Norton city offices.

Both cities will be closed Wednesday, Jan. 1 for New Year's Day. Trash pickup for holiday weeks will be normal before the holiday and delayed one day starting with the holiday.

The Barberton Herald offices will also be closed for New Year's Day.

The Clerk and Courts will be closed Saturday, Dec. 28 and Wednesday, Jan. 1.

Clerk of Courts will close at 4:30 p.m. (as opposed to 6 p.m.) Thursday and Friday, Dec. 26 and 27.

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YMCA provides breakfast and a show



HERALD PHOTO/Sophia Senderak

The Lake Anna Y singers perform Christmas songs at the YMCA Members Appreciation Breakfast.

Sophia Senderak
Herald Staff Writer

The member appreciation breakfast at the Lake Anna YMCA provided more than just pancakes.

Guests were treated to an entertaining morning of sing-alongs and familiar Christmas tunes, led by the talented members of the Lake Anna Y choir.

It may be a volunteer choir, but that didn't stop the piano accompanied Lake Anna singers from giving it their all. The roughly 45 minute performance covered sing-alongs like "Deck the Halls" and "Jingle Bells" as well as classics such as "White Christmas" for those in the YMCA lobby to enjoy.

"We perform a couple times a year, for Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day-every season," says Choir Director Pat Cooper, "and we also go to area nursing homes and sing for the people there."

The choir is made up of 12 singers as well as a guitar player and pianist, although the number of performers varies.

The choir is open to anyone interested in sharing their talents and having past musical experience is not required.

"If anybody wants to sing, they can come and join the Y choir," says Cooper, "and if anyone has an instrument they want to use to play along, that would be wonderful." The group rehearses at the Y Tuesdays at 11 a.m.

The Dec. 19 Christmas concert was their last of the year and their 2020 rehearsals will begin Tuesday, Jan. 14.

"One [song] we're about to start learning is 'Piano Man,'" says Cooper, "it's just a fun thing to do with each other." Those interested in joining can speak with a staff member at the YMCA front desk or show up to a rehearsal.

Uncovering bottomless myths in Lake Anna

Hannah Predojev
Herald Staff Writer

From the Loch Ness Monster, mermaids and other bizarre sea creatures, tales of innocent folklore have been shared for centuries. One particular individual decided to look deep into the unknown for answers, not for mysterious beings, but to pursue the depth of Lake Anna.

Ward 1 Councilman Justin Greer is embarking on an exploration project to uncover how vast the lake is. His idea did not start in the Magic City.

Last year, he was kayaking in Nimisila Reservoir Metro Park, as law enforcement officers were testing their scanner for their underwater rescue retrieval. As a fisherman, he was intrigued.

Greer wanted to conduct underwater sonar experiments, so he built a device for his kayak for \$35. Additionally, he was inspired to investigate the lake due to a photoshopped bridge across Lake Anna, which created quite the buzz in the community.

He acknowledged that the water is a focal point for residents, and therefore, the project will generate a lot of attention.

With a budget of \$250, he plans on utilizing hardware, tools and old projects for research. He commented that he will not be going

out into the lake, but instead, using innovative technology to gauge the depth of the water.

"It is a two-part system; it is a wireless carrier on top of the water that floats and carries all of the batteries," Greer said. "We connect wireless to that, and a submersible attachment that has a camera on it, with floodlights and the sonar. We can lower and raise it however we need. It has motors on it, so it will pull the flotation device across the water."

It also includes a 4K camera, as well as a possible side scanner.

"The goal is to not go out and squash the myths; I am naturally curious, and I am sure everybody else is, too," Greer said. "We have this right in the middle of our town." The sponsored project will start in Spring of 2020, and everything will be documented on video, with the possibility of a filming crew as well.

There has been no communication with the city yet, as the entire concept is still fresh. Greer believes he will have to date back to the ice age to gather as much information as possible.

With an emphasis on providing factually accurate content, he hopes to piece together a video for the history section at the Barberton Public Library on his experience.

Believe

(Continued from Front)

of Orthodox Christmas, mainly in Georgia, Kazakhstan, Russia, Serbia, Ukraine, Egypt and Ethiopia celebrate Jan. 7.

Christmas wasn't celebrated at all for the first three centuries of Christianity, and instead the emphasis was placed on

the Jan. 6 Epiphany, which commemorated the arrival of the Magi after Jesus' birth.

The Roman Empire officially established Christmas at the end of the third century, placing it on Dec. 25 to coincide with existing festivals of the pagans Rome sought to convert.

In the early days of the U.S., celebrating Christmas was considered a British

custom and actually fell out of style after the American Revolution. Christmas was finally established as a U.S. federal holiday in 1870, and has been celebrated ever since.

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FROM THE FRONT Band

(Continued from Front)

it made the most sense to transplant the band there," he said.

Hailed as "Midwestern rock heroes" by American

Songwriter magazine, the indie band has spent most of its career outside of the traditional music industry, and has a do-it-yourself approach to recording.

"We're a grass roots band," said Terry. "We try to play for people who went out on the weekend, who only had a couple of days, Friday and Saturday, to blow off steam and live their lives."

Over the past two decades, RWB has attracted fans from all over the country, followers of the band's atmospheric sound, a pastiche of anthem rock, alternative angst and a twist of country, which can be heard on a dozen albums.

"The Wanting," released in 2018, includes the song "Hitchhiker's Lullaby," featuring on pedal steel, their Blue Elan Records label-mate Rusty Young of the venerable country-rock band Poco. The song is played regularly on The Summit (91.3 FM).

With a repertoire of self-penned songs formed of heartfelt lyrics and catchy melodies overlaid with Terry's gravely vocals, the band built a career on touring.

So it was a big deal to push the pause button on its perpetual cross-country schedule for nearly a year to write, record and mix the album with producer Will Hoge.

For the first time, the whole band took part. "It was the most collaborative record we've ever made, and we're really proud of that," said Terry. "Everyone plays their part. It's one of the beautiful bonuses of getting to know people as long as we've known each other."

Although he's lived in Brooklyn, New York, for the past several years, he thinks of Ohio as home.

"I fell in love with Ohio as soon as I got here," said Terry. "I'd like to think that I've rubbed off on the Midwest, but I'm certain that the Midwest has rubbed off on me."

Red Wanting Blue performs at the Goodyear Theater, 1201 E. Market St., Akron, 8 p.m. Sat., Dec. 28. Tickets start at \$35 and can be purchased in person, at the box office (330-690-2307) or at www.eventbrite.com.

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