



# The Barberton Herald



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www.barbertonherald.com

## All work and no play



HERALD PHOTO/Rich Muller

Work continues on the installation of artificial turf at Barberton High School's Rudy Sharkey Stadium. Barberton Tree Service employees are hauling away dirt Dec. 27 which was removed so the base, then turf can be installed.

## Develop news literacy to stem the spread of disinformation

**Karla Tipton**  
Herald Staff Writer

Mark Twain is quoted as saying, "If you don't read the newspaper you are uninformed; if you do read the newspaper you are misinformed."

Don't believe it. In a twist of irony, Twain never actually said it. According to the Quote Inspector website, the quote was first posted in a newsgroup back in 2000, just about the time internet usage exploded. This false quote has been relayed through the years in an e-version of "pass it on."

This is an example of misinformation, which is unintentionally false.

Disinformation, on the other hand, is intentionally inaccurate and meant to deceive.

Disinformation has spread exponentially since Facebook came online in 2004. The World Wide Web has become the go-to source for written information, through social media, blogs, online news sites and discussion forums. Whatever form it takes, follow the one rule that applies to all: caveat lector.

### Let the reader beware

Most people know the term caveat emptor, which is Latin for "let the buyer beware." Caveat lector is similar, warning against believing everything you read. It applies today more than ever.

According to Pew Research, a survey of 3,425 U.S. adults conducted over the summer found that 20 percent of U.S. adults say they "often" get news from social media while 16 percent "often" turn to print newspapers (although TV news is still king). Another report by Ericsson ConsumerLab, in a survey of 2,600 smartphone users from the U.S. and the UK, found that more than half

of social media users say they have read fake news on social media, and 25 percent have liked or shared (See NEWS, Page 2)

## Mark Leach brings Nashville sound home



COURTESY PHOTO

Mark Leach composed songs for his first album while making barbecue sauce at his family's store.

**Karla Tipton**  
Herald Staff Writer

As a teenager, Mark Leach wrote songs for his first album while working in his family's shop, Leach's Meats & Sweets on 31st Street. The album became a reality when he put down tracks for "With Love from Tennessee" in Nashville in 2013.

"There's a little building next to our family shop, if you drive by it, and I'd be

in there for hours by myself in the summertime," he said. "I wrote the majority of that album making barbecue sauce."

Leach will be performing at 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4, at Block 7 Bar & Grill, 524 W. Tuscarawas Ave., Barberton, accompanied by lead guitarist Joe Golden.

As an unsigned independent artist, Leach has self-funded two EPs, and most recently, another album, "Where I Want to Be," in fall 2018, which rose quickly on the iTunes Country Album Chart. "When it came out, and was No. 6 on iTunes, it just blew me away," he said. "Normally you're dealing with people who have hundreds of thousands of dollars (to put out an album). We don't have that."

Leach's voice is a smooth baritone that harkens back to the country sound of '90s artists such as Alan Jackson and Garth Brooks.

"I grew up listening to country at my family's shop because 94.9 (WQMX) was the only station that would come in."

When he and his brothers flew to Greensboro, North Carolina, to see country artist Eric Church perform, his path became clear. He began making monthly networking trips to Nashville to establish himself, work with other songwriters and learn the craft. He relocated there in 2015, and a year later, was invited to open for Church at the 2016 Country Music Fest in Canal Fulton. His 2017 song, "She Don't Go to Church," was a tip of the hat to his inspirer, and became a YouTube hit.

Other notable songs are "I Come from Ohio," always performed for hometown crowds, and a new one, "Back Porch Vacation," which has been going over well at shows.

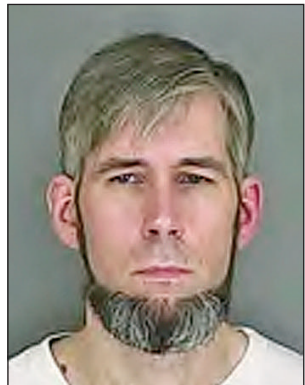
Leach draws songwriting inspiration from his hometown upbringing. This can be heard in the first song he wrote as a Nashville resident, "If There's a Bar in Heaven."

"It was the anniversary of when my grandpa passed, and I was sitting on a half-deflated air mattress and kind of singing that song." Cowritten with Doug Johnson, known for Randy Travis' "Three Wooden Crosses," the song's lyrics stirred controversy among more conservative listeners.

"I remember getting an email like, 'There wouldn't be a bar in heaven,'" said Leach, who replied, "Yeah, you're right, but Jesus also turned water into wine, so pretty sure he drank a little bit."

## Norton man gets prison for sexual assault

**Rich Muller**  
Herald Staff Writer



Clarence L. Leyh

Clarence L. Leyh of Jane Avenue in Norton has pleaded guilty to four counts of gross sexual imposition, fourth degree felonies, and two counts of sexual imposition, third degree misdemeanors.

According to Norton Police, they became aware in March that a

16-year-old girl had been sexually assaulted by the 39-year-old Leyh. After an investigation, Leyh was arrested and charged with two counts of gross sexual imposition. A protection order was also issued through Barberton Municipal Court prohibiting him from contacting the girl. The Summit County Grand Jury added two more counts of gross sexual imposition for a total of four.

Leyh was taken to jail after the arrest and after posting bail, he was released only to be charged again with violating a (See LEYH, Page 2)

## Sucker punch injures student

**Rich Muller**  
Herald Staff Writer

A 17-year-old boy was charged with felonious assault after he punched a Barberton High School student inside the Circle K across from the high school. An officer stopping at the convenience store Dec. 22 was alerted by witnesses that the suspect got into a car. He ran from the officer when asked to exit the vehicle. He was chased down and caught

by a second officer with the help of an ambulance crew that was driving by.

He admitted he punched the student for staring at his girlfriend and because he had jumped him on another occasion. The injured student, who was with a friend at the store said the didn't know why he was punched. The suspect was released to his mother.

The injured student was taken to the hospital with injuries that included a broken jaw.

## Donations needed

Anyone wishing to make a donation to the Magic City Kiwanis Shoe Fund should make checks payable to the Esther Ryan Shoe Fund and send them to Box 561, Barberton, OH 44203.

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