

**SUPER SAVER**  
**INSIDE**



# The Barberton Herald



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## 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.

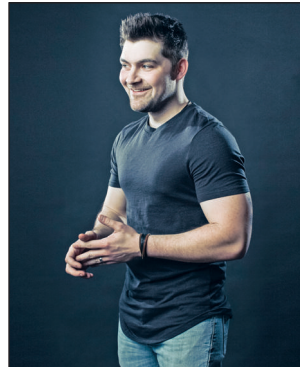
### Let the reader beware

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.

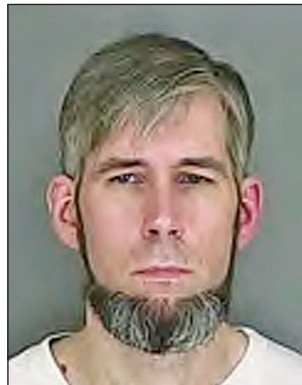
Leach draws songwriting inspiration from his hometown upbringing. This can be heard in the first song he wrote as a Nashville resident, "If There's a Bar in Heaven."

"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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# Herald, Muller anticipate recognition



**Rich Muller**  
rich@barbertonherald.com

**Cierra Thompson**  
Herald Staff Writer

The Herald’s Rich Muller was chosen as one of the winners in the 2019 Osman C. Hooper Newspaper contest.

Muller submitted samples of his work and will receive either first, second, third or fourth place in both the Best News Photo and

## Property values can be disputed

The Summit County Fiscal Office Board of Revision is accepting complaints against the valuation of their real estate as of Jan. 1. The deadline to file a complaint form (Form DTE 1) is Monday, April 1.

When a complaint is filed, the Board of Revision will conduct a hearing, consider testimony or evidence provided and issue a decision on whether an adjustment should be made. The board does not hear complaints regarding real estate taxes.

Complaint forms can be filed by the owner and must be signed, dated and notarized. Submissions are required to be postmarked before Monday, April 1. Complaint forms can be hand delivered or mailed to the Summit County Fiscal Office, 175 S. Main Street, Room 302, Akron or to the satellite location at Summit County Board of Revision, 1180 S. Main St., Suite 250, Akron.

Forms can also be submitted electronically on the website <http://FiscalOffice.summitoh.net>. Electronic submissions are not subject to the notary requirement, but must be submitted by April 1.

Property owners may obtain a complaint form by calling 330-643-2631 or by visiting the website at <http://fiscaloffice.summitoh.net> and choosing the Board of Revision Complaint link on our home page.

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Original Columns categories. His placements will be announced Thursday, Feb. 7 as part of the Ohio News Media Association Convention.

The Barberton Herald also received an award for overall news coverage.

Muller explained he won’t know specifically which photo or column placed until the convention. He said he was surprised to see one of

## News

(Continued from Front)

it, without even knowing it was fake.

While most people know that being active online opens them up to data breaches, cyber bullying, identity theft, trolls and bots, they are also not willing to give up their social media habits.

That’s the situation, so what should we do about it?

### Punishable by law

On Dec. 17, Barberton Municipal Judge David Fish sentenced a Coventry woman to three days in Glenwood Jail, a month of house arrest, and a year without social media for “inducing panic” by using Facebook to repeat an unfounded rumor about a pellet gun found at a local school. Inducing panic is a first-degree misdemeanor in Ohio.

Whether you agree with the sentence or not, is addressing the problem through legal means really the best way? There’s a good reason the Founding Fathers protected free speech in the First Amendment. In 1951, Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas reiterated, “Restriction of free thought and free speech is the most dangerous of all subversions. It is the one un-American act that could most easily defeat us.”

Blame it on future shock, a term coined by futurist and author Alvin Toffler to

One man’s trash is another man’s treasure.



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**The Barberton Herald**

his columns will receive recognition because he tries to avoid controversial topics.

“For us, it’s recognition for the work the staff does. Someone appreciates and recognizes the hard work that we do here,” said Muller.

When taking photos, he says experience plays a big part in what he does. He likes to capture unique images and said

define what happens when change happens too fast. We are inundated with overwhelming amounts of information per day, some that is not fact-checked because news agencies are trying to keep up. We are targets of malicious software and other forms of new technology created to fool us into believing something that’s not true.

Even if the government steps in to regulate social media, the problem will likely not go away. But should we expect companies to hire scores of editors to police every piece of data that is posted?

## Police yourself

There are steps that social media users can take to stem the tide of disinformation. Develop a skill called news literacy, by learning to evaluate information through analysis, and to recognize a false story that might be mistaken for journalism.

The next time you are on Facebook, Twitter or any of the others, restrain that finger poised over the Share button and do the following:

- Check whether other news agencies have also reported this news, and if the facts correspond between sources.
- Follow up by vetting the links cited as sources

Barberton gives him the unique stories to report on and photograph.

“Barberton is a unique town, it’s got its own identity,” said Muller.

He said he’s always been interested in photography and got his first camera when he was 8. He worked as a yearbook photographer in high school and when he graduated he joined the military and worked as a photo journalist.

for the information. Are the news agencies credible or do they specialize in conspiracy theories? Check [snopes.com](http://snopes.com), a website that debunks urban myths and fake news.

- Do articles cite the authors’ names? If so, see what else have they written. Verify credentials.
- Does the information feel to be eliciting an emotional response by pushing buttons on controversial issues? Are you reacting to and passing on, information that supports your pre-existing beliefs, without verifying its accuracy?
- Be critical. If the news seems especially outrageous, it might not be based in fact. If it offers something of value for free, or seems too good to be true, these are also red flags for disinformation.

It’s just like recycling: it took a while for the concept to take hold, but now everybody does it.

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## FROM THE FRONT

### Leyh

(Continued from Front)

protection order after contacting the girl again.

Leyh was sentenced by Judge Christine Croce to four one-year jail terms on the felony gross sexual imposition, to be served consecutively for a total of four years. He was also sentenced to two 60-day terms for the misdemeanor sexual imposition charges. Leyh was again taken to the county jail.

The Barberton court found him guilty of violating the protection order, sentencing him to a fine and court costs.

## Suspect returns for keys

**Rich Muller**  
Herald Staff Writer

A woman leaving the Fifth Street Giant Eagle with a cart full of merchandise ran off when confronted by a store employee.

The store manager stated Rhiannon M. Momchilov was in a checkout line and tried to pay with a blank check containing a name not associated with her Giant Eagle card. She was directed to customer service and the check was again denied. After failing to push the loaded cart by the manager and other employees, Momchilov fled.

Officers arrived to find she had returned to retrieve her keys which she left on the counter. Momchilov, 35, of New Franklin, denied stealing anything and boasted she has \$8,000 in checks and her boyfriend is a millionaire. She tried to leave the store saying she had lost her phone and other property. An officer escorted her outside where her belongings were found.

She was arrested and booked at the Barberton jail. Found in her possession were 13 blank checks and one made out to her for \$5,000. The checks had the same name as the one she tried to use at Giant Eagle. Police are continuing to investigate.

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