



## What to know about the Mount Union-John Carroll matchup

SPORTS, 1B

# THE CANTON REPOSITORY

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## Rents could go up, landlords warn

**Haley BeMiller**  
State Bureau  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A plan to provide homeowners with property tax relief could hurt another subset of Ohioans: renters. Housing providers say they'll be forced to raise rents if Gov. Mike De-

Wine approves House Bill 186, one of four property tax bills that lawmakers passed before Thanksgiving. The bill primarily aims to limit tax increases, but a last-minute addition would eliminate a tax break that benefits some landlords. "You're giving homeowners an infinitesimal, so small savings and you're

putting the whole burden on small housing providers who provide quality housing," said Scott Ellsworth, president of the Ohio Real Estate Investors Association. House Bill 186 deals with two property tax rollbacks, which are credits from

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## 31 fun holiday things to do around Stark County



ABOVE: The city of Canton kicked off the holiday season with Light Up Downtown on Dec. 3. Fun events are planned across Stark County all month. BELOW RIGHT: Rocky Thomas, 4, gets some help from Santa to pull down his scarf for pictures at the Light Up event. PHOTOS BY KEVIN WHITLOCK/MASSILLON INDEPENDENT

**Ed Balint**  
Canton Repository  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Christmas and the holiday season offer a gamut of entertainment options throughout the Canton area in December. Live theater, concerts, the local orchestra, shopping, movies and more. Entertainment writer Ed Balint runs down a list of activities coming to Stark County and Northeast Ohio:

### 1. 'The Nutcracker'

The Canton Ballet — celebrating its 60th anniversary this year — will present the full-length production of Tchaikovsky's holiday classic "The Nutcracker" at the Canton Palace Theatre. Performances are set for:

- Dec. 5 – 7 p.m.
- Dec. 6 – 2 and 7 p.m.
- Dec. 7 – 2 p.m.

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## Neon Nights announces 2026 lineup

**Ed Balint**  
Canton Repository  
USA TODAY NETWORK

LAWRENCE TWP. – Neon Nights will be all country music in 2026. Unlike recent summers, which showcased a mix of country and classic rock, the event will be pure country, featuring Rascal Flatts, Billy Currington, Joe Nichols, Craig Morgan, Darryl Worley, Neal McCoy, Shenandoah and Terri Clark. The two-day music festival is Aug. 14 and 15 at Clay's Resort Jellystone Park near Canal Fulton. The annual event — a companion to the popular Country Fest at the site — attracts thousands of concertgoers. Based on reaction via social media, fans love the 2026 lineup. Following the Dec. 2 announcement, reactions included: "This lineup is better than Country Fest!!!" Another commenter was equally pumped: "What. A. Line. Up. Hell Ya!" Fans also liked the country bent, with one opining: "All country again for 2 days. Yay!!!!"

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**KIDS! You're Invited!**

**FREE!**

**Donuts with Santa!**

**Tomorrow! All Locations!**

**Saturday, December 6 • 10am – 12pm**

**FREE Donut!**  
Kids 12 & Under • While Supplies Last

**FREE Photo with Santa!**  
Bring Your Camera!



**2 DAY SALE** Starts Tomorrow!

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY ONLY! December 6-7**

**Campbell's Condensed Soup**

10.5 to 10.75 oz. Selected Varieties

**88¢**

**Limit 8**

**SAVE UP TO \$1.51 WITH CARD**

