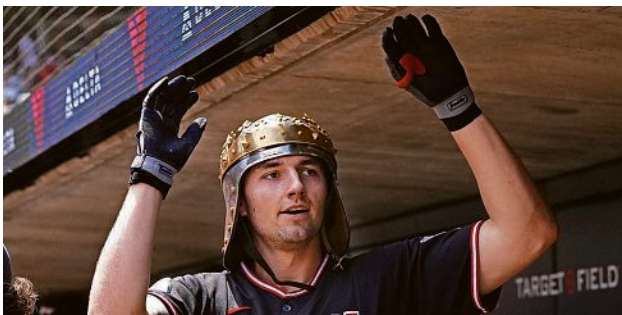




Pitching gem, 3 homers help Guardians snap skid

SPORTS, 1B

THE CANTON REPOSITORY

SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2026 | CANTONREP.COM

MOVING OUR COMMUNITY FORWARD SINCE 1815 | PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Digging dangers



Contractors hit a gas line in Twinsburg Township on June 25. The gas line rupture and explosion destroyed three homes and damaged 36 others. PHOTOS BY MIKE CARDEW/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

High-speed internet expansion raises risk for more calamities

Amanda Garrett
Akron Beacon Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Many of us may not think much about the tangles of pipes and conduits carrying water, electricity and other modern necessities beneath the ground we live and play on.

But a recent boom in businesses bringing high-speed internet cables across the country has also led to booms of another kind: Explosions after digging crews inadvertently slice through gas lines.

Locally, three Twinsburg Township homes were decimated and 36 others damaged when contractors struck a gas line June 25 on Hiram Lane in the Woodlands neighborhood.

Nationally, Common Ground Alliance – a nonprofit trade association dedicated to protecting underground infrastructure – reported that water and sewer projects were the leading type of work involved in damages, followed by telecom/CATV, construction/development and natural gas work.

Common Ground is still working on its 2025 report, but industry watchers expect telecom work to overtake the top spot, driven in part by a massive rollout of fiber optic lines, some of which will soon be government funded.

Northeast Ohio is amid the first wave of that work, said Roger Lipscomb, CEO of Ohio811, a nonprofit public safety organization dedicated to protecting both people digging in Ohio and the underground utilities they could hit.

A second wave of installation work is

See DIGGING, Page 4A



After the Twinsburg gas explosion last month, residents and officials are questioning how fiber optic cable is being installed underground. Here, the siding on a home on Hiram Lane in Twinsburg Township melted from the heat of the explosion.

What each of the tiny utility flags, paint markings represent

Amanda Garrett
Akron Beacon Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Ever wonder what's happening when you see a bunch of tiny utility flags sprout up overnight in your neighborhood?

The colors are not random. Buried utilities in Ohio are marked with flags, paint or stakes in accordance with the Ohio universal marking standards, according to Ohio811.

Ohio811 – a nonprofit public safety service based just outside of Youngstown that serves the entire state through satellite offices – aims to connect homeowners and professional contractors with local utility companies to prevent damage to buried lines

See FLAGS, Page 4A



Orange flags signal the upcoming installation of an underground communication line. Different color flags have different universal meanings in excavating and utility world. Learn them and you'll know what kind of project is happening in your neighborhood.

SHUTTERSTOCK - PROVIDED BY SUNSHINE 811

OHIO ELECTIONS

\$749M in ad spending expected in 2026 races

Alex Perry
USA TODAY NETWORK

Political ad spending in Ohio is soaring to record levels, a new report shows, as tight Senate and governor races become some of the most competitive in the country ahead of the 2026 midterms.

Ohio is one of the biggest political advertising battlegrounds of the 2026 cycle, according to AdImpact's 2026 Political Ad Spending Report. The increase in spending is due in part to a competitive U.S. Senate race, a tighter-than-expected governor's race and heavy outside-group spending.

Here's how that spending breaks down.

Ohio ad spending projected at \$749 million, among highest in U.S.

Ohio saw the largest increase in spending from the report's initial projection, rising from \$440 million to \$749 million (a 70% increase), making

See AD SPENDING, Page 6A



Mourners gather July 9 in Mashhad, Iran, for the burial of Iran's late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was killed Feb. 28 in Israeli and U.S. strikes.

OFFICE OF THE IRANIAN SUPREME LEADER/HANDOUT VIA REUTERS

Ceasefire falls apart as Iran buries slain leader

Michael Loria and Rachel Barber
USA TODAY

The fragile ceasefire between the United States and Iran appeared to have fallen apart over continued strife over the Strait of Hormuz as Iranians buried their supreme leader, killed by U.S.-Israel forces at the outset of the war.

There were no new U.S. strikes on Iran overnight into July 10. But the United States previously struck Iran's southern coastal and eastern provinces, after which Iranian armed

See CEASEFIRE, Page 6A

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to cantonrep.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 211 | No. 88
To subscribe 330-580-8500
©2026 \$2.99



6 41936 11268 1