



Why the Cavs aren't concerned with the 3 losses to Toronto

SPORTS, 1B

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Iran reopens Strait of Hormuz

Trump says naval blockade to continue

Zac Anderson, Christopher Cann, Andrea Riquier and Michael Loria

USA TODAY

Iran declared the Strait of Hormuz "completely open" to commercial vessels April 17 – then threatened to again close the global shipping lane if the

United States did not end its blockade on Iranian ports and ships.

It was the latest back-and-forth between the warring countries as the clock wound down on a delicate two-week ceasefire

Iran's foreign minister, Seyed Abbas Araghchi, declared the waterway open after a separate 10-day ceasefire between Lebanon and Israel went into effect April 16.

The United Nations' maritime transport agency said it was verifying wheth-

er the strait was open. U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres described the reopening as "a step in the right direction," writing on X, "I also hope that, together with the ceasefire, this measure will contribute to creating confidence between the parties and strengthen the ongoing dialogue."

President Donald Trump thanked Araghchi but said the blockade would remain in "full force" until Tehran makes a deal to end the war.

"THIS PROCESS SHOULD GO VERY

QUICKLY IN THAT MOST OF THE POINTS ARE ALREADY NEGOTIATED," he said on social media.

He also claimed that Iran had "agreed to never close the Strait of Hormuz again" and with the help of the United States, "has removed, or is removing, all sea mines!"

However, in a statement published by Iranian state media, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei then

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Jessica Truesdale of Perry Township, signs a petition against data centers for Susan Dazey, middle, and Samantha Moore, with Stark County Residents against Data Centers outside Perry High School. PHOTOS BY KEVIN WHITLOCK / MASSILLON INDEPENDENT

Stark leaders hold roundtable to address homelessness, service gaps

Abreanna Blöse

Canton Repository
USA TODAY NETWORK

CANTON – City officials and community leaders continue to discuss the issue of homelessness, gaps in services and what it will take to improve regional response.

Representatives from different organizations and governments were on hand April 15 for a roundtable talk at City Hall.

Mayor William V. Sherer II said the task force started over a year ago. He wanted to figure out how to address the crisis after witnessing poor conditions at an encampment in southwest Canton in 2024. That encampment and similar situations eventually led to a camping ban on city-owned property.

The camping ban, Sherer said, aimed to provide resources. But the ordinance has been a point of contention, with opponents arguing it criminalizes homelessness.

Similarly, Massillon passed a camping ban in public areas in December 2025.

Sherer welcomed Massillon Mayor Jamie Slutz, Alliance Mayor Andy Grove, Stark County Commissioner Alan Harold as well as a number of community leaders.

Groups represented included Refuge of Hope, Canton for all People, Crossroads United Methodist Church, Stark Mental Health and Addiction Recovery, ICAN Housing, Canton City Schools, Canton YMCA, Stark Housing Network, Sisters of Charity Foundation.

"Maybe other communities can start having conversations like we're having," Sherer said. "I know that I don't have all the answers... but we would not be able to address this head-on without the assistance of everybody in this room."

Every attendee had an opportunity to share their own organization's progress and discuss key concerns. Here's a look at some of what the roundtable covered:

Earlier this year, Stark County experienced a two week stretch of sub-freezing temperatures.

"Even though winter is over for us, we're already having conversations right now about how we're going to be handling next winter," Sherer said.

In late January, the city of Canton consolidated all shelter operations to

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Elected officials reveal who's behind data center

Kelly Byer

Canton Repository
USA TODAY NETWORK

PERRY TWP. – The data center at Faircrest Street SW and Kropf Avenue SW is expected to be 240 megawatts and the largest single taxpayer in Stark County, even with a planned tax break.

Adam Kramer, head of data centers for Panattoni Development Co., said the facility will support a single client but declined to share the specific user before an open house on April 15 at Perry High School.

"All data centers have the same purpose, which is to help run the internet," Kramer said. "So, there's not one type of data center over another, a data center is a data center, and this will be to support our client and their work."

Stark County Commissioner Richard Regula and Canton Mayor William V. Sherer II recently confirmed to The Canton Repository that it will be an Amazon facility.

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Sherry French shows her displeasure with the building of data centers at an informational meeting on data centers held at Perry High School.

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