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MOSTLY SUNNY

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Obama to Iran's leaders: Stop 'unjust' actions

By BEN FELLER
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama on Saturday challenged Iran's government to halt a "violent and unjust" crackdown on dissenters, using his bluntest language yet to condemn Tehran's postelection response.

Obama has sought a measured reaction to avoid being drawn in as a meddler in Iranian affairs. Yet his comments have grown more pointed as the clashes intensified, and his latest remarks took direct aim at Iranian leaders.

"We call on the Iranian government to stop all violent and unjust actions against its own people," Obama said in a written

statement. "The universal rights to assembly and free speech must be respected, and the United States stands with all who seek to exercise those rights."

Obama has searched for the right tone in light of political pressures on all sides. On Capitol Hill, Congress pressed him to condemn the Iranian government's response. In Iran, the leadership was poised to blame the U.S. for interference and draw Obama in more directly.

Obama met with advisers at the White House as developments in Iran grew more ominous, with police seen beating protesters. "Suppressing ideas never succeeds in

See Pg. A7 — OBAMA



WINNER — Cassie Sheely, 23, of Ashland, reacts to being named Quota Idol 2009, as final four contestant Curtis Roth of Marshallville shows his support. Sheely, a native of Millersburg, won the annual Wooster Quota fundraiser Saturday with her renditions of Aretha Franklin's "Natural Woman," "Sin Wagon" by the Dixie Chicks and "I Know You Won't" by Carrie Underwood. For a complete story on "Quota Idol" see Monday's edition of The Daily Record. Joel Troyer photo/www.buydrphotos.com

'Set' for a memory



Mike Schenk photo/www.buydrphotos.com
Gunnar Sigrist (left) and his father, Mark, are traveling across the nation in a military convoy that made a stop in Wayne County last week. Mark, originally from Holmes and Wayne counties, is using the trip as a special way to spend time with his son and remember the family's extensive military service.

Father and son travel country together in old Army truck

By CHRIS KICK
Staff Writer
WOOSTER — For many years, Mark Sigrist's job as a firefighter for the U.S. Forest Service kept him away from home and his family.

But now that he's retired, Sigrist is catching up on family time, and in creative ways.

On June 10, Mark and his son, Gunnar, 13, embarked on a journey that will take the father and son duo across the nation in military style.

Mark, a Vietnam War veteran who collects and restores military vehicles, is driving a 1943 WC 52 — an open-cab Dodge military truck designed to carry

weapons — from Washington, D.C., to San Francisco, Calif.

Their trip is part of the Military Vehicle Preservation Association Transcontinental Motor Convoy, which will travel the country via the Lincoln Highway.

"I spent most of the summers gone and so my boy and I didn't have a lot of time together in the summers to do the traditional father-and-son thing," Mark Sigrist said.

The vehicle is less than flashy, with dull brown paint, a canvas top, a boxy iron body and large rubber tires. And it makes a lot of noise. It operates from a standard transmission named a "crank-box" because of the amount of noise it makes.

But it's the same conditions as what was experienced during the war, and that's what the two want.

"There's engine noise and there's gear noise, but that's the way they made them," Mark Sigrist said.

There's no seat belts and the top speed, at least in the convoy, will be about 32 mph, a slow enough commute to allow them to observe the many people and sites they'll pass.

When it rains hard, the rain blows into the cab, but the two have extra changes of clothes and an attitude of determination.

See Pg. A7 — TRUCK

Groups look to help more as need for grows

By BOBBY WARREN
Staff Writer

WOOSTER — Layoffs and job losses have led to more people seeking assistance from government agencies, non-profit organizations and faith-based groups.

As the number of people need help rises and the amount of available money dwindles, community leaders are searching for ways to marshal all of those helping agencies, volunteers and programs in a coordinated way to reach more.

To that end, the United Way of Wayne & Holmes Counties and the Wooster Area Interfaith Partnership invited clergy, congregants and those interested in social justice to attend a "Serving Our Community" public discussion Tuesday.

"More people are coming for help, and programs are being cut and destroyed," said Brenda Linnick, executive director of the United Way. "The need has grown, resources are shrinking and no one entity can do it alone."

Faith-based organizations are an important part of delivering services, Linnick said, and she wanted to "figure out how we do this without using and abusing churches."

Part of the discussion included a presentation from Daniel Flowers and Teresa LeGrair of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank.

While it is not a faith-based organization, the emergency food network

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Hooser wins big in her first year

By LINDA HALL
Staff Writer

WOOSTER — Ten-year-old Brooke Hooser accomplished two rather startling feats on Saturday.

Hooser, a fifth-grader at Rittman Elementary School, captured the 2009 Super Stock championship in her first year of racing, and she became the first champion from Rittman since 1955, the Wayne-Holmes Soap Box Derby's inaugural year.

How did she do it? Her answer was to throw up her arms in amazement, but her mother Brandy Hooser chimed in, "She had lucky shorts," given to her by her 6-year-old brother, Hunter.

Brooke's dad, Troy, coached her, Brandy Hooser said, and her aunt and uncle, Tracie and Roger Bowes, helped her prepare as well.

And an untold number of relatives came to watch her win and take part in the celebration. "Probably 20," Brooke Hooser estimated.

Runner-up was A.J. Varnes, a freshman at Triway High School.

Winner of the Challenger Division was Stacey Yutzy, a Hiland eighth-grade student; and runner-up was Tammy Franks, a Triway eighth-grader.

Ten-year-old Super Stock champ a first from Rittman since 1955

Brooke's win wasn't the only surprise of the day.

"Today was one of the most eventful race days we've had in awhile," said Emily Eskridge, a contestant in the Masters Division, referring to two cars that spun out of control — no one was hurt — and a racer's mother who fainted from dehydration.

A rainstorm delayed the Challenger Division, but the weather dried out by mid-morning on Saturday.

"We're about an hour behind," Director Dennis Wertz said as lunchtime approached.

The 17 Challenger racers and their co-drivers appeared oblivious to the time glitch.

"We've got to make sure they're good and comfortable in the car," Wertz said, adding, Derby officials "spend a little more time on these children."

The number of race cars able to accommodate special needs children has increased to eight; a Boy Scout seeking to earn the rank of

Eagle Scout made two of them, Wertz said.

Adding new features is a process of trial and error, Wertz said, but it is aimed at a single-minded goal. "Every child in Wayne and Holmes should have the ability to race," Wertz said.

Tim Hertman, who will be a senior at Rittman High School next year, fashioned his project with the help of plans from the National Super Kids' Classic.

Special features include "an easy access so the (top of the) car lifts up," he said, also pointing out seat belts and bolted doors.

Hertman watched the competition on Saturday "to see how they do," he said.

Katrina Lemon was one of a number of Derby racers on hand to serve as a co-driver. A Northwestern Middle School eighth-grade student, Lemon said she "loves kids and loves helping them."

See Pg. A7 — HOOSER

Joel Troyer photo/www.buydrphotos.com
Winner, Brooke Hooser, got a hug from her mother, Brandy. Hooser's win in the Super Stock Division was the first for a competitor from Rittman since 1955, the year the local Derby began.