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Eats, sleeps, lives business

People say Jim Smail has 'got his hands in a bit of everything.'

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Sports U.S. Open plays on

Still nothing decided as rain-soaked U.S. Open heads to a fifth day of action, with Barnes, Glover, leading at 7-under.

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Region Cutting back

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MOSTLY SUNNY

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Happy tears at finish line

Eskridge sisters win Masters, Stock divisions

By LINDA HALL Staff Writer

WOOSTER — When Emily Eskridge climbed out of her car, she was crying. She quickly embraced her mother, Karen, who was also crying.

Winning the Masters Division of the Wayne-Holmes Soap Box Derby just minutes after her sister, Abby, clinched the championship in the Stock Division, Emily, 16, of Doylestown, said, "What a perfect way to end my racing career."

Abby's reaction to her own win was "Awesome!" Asked before Emily's last race how she would feel if her sister won as well, she exclaimed, "That would be awesome."

Karen Eskridge called Emily's win a miracle.

"She (had) some catching up to do" against her opponent, Shell Rich, a Loudonville High School senior, Karen Eskridge said, referring to the .370 second differential between the two racers. Emily Eskridge edged past Rich in their final race by just .391 seconds.

The sisters will advance to the All-American Soap Box Derby international race in Akron on July 25, announcer John Strock said.

Abby Eskridge, a Chippewa Middle School sixth-grader, just edged out her final competitor, Wes Schaad, a Northwestern Elementary School third-grader in his first year of racing.

When Wes's mom, Brandy Schaad, congratulated Abby and her mother, Abby told her, "He's tough competition."

The competition was tough all day on Sunday for the Masters and Stock Divisions.

Stock Division competitors Alec Larson, a Triway Junior High School seventh-grader, and Garrett Dever, a fourth-grade student at Northwestern Elementary School, "raced two consecutive dead heats," Strock said. "They had to race each other six times to determine a winner." Dever ultimately pulled ahead of Larson.

Maryann Frantz, assisting in the electronic timing procedure, pointed out their ties were "identical to the thousandth (place)."

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Sisters Emily and Abby Eskridge won the two divisions of Sunday's derby. Emily took first in Masters and Abby won in the Stock division.

Joel Troyer photos/www.buydrphotos.com



Abby Eskridge, in blue car positioned in lane two, and Wes Schaad compete in one of the four trips down the hill it took to determine the winner in the stock division. Eskridge was the eventual winner and Schaad was the runner-up.

Foreclosure advice

Don't ignore notice

Home could be saved

By BOBBY WARREN Staff Writer

WOOSTER — For homeowners who might face foreclosure, an attorney has this message: Don't hide from the legal paperwork, because the problem is not going away.

Tim Kozlowski Jr., an attorney with Community Legal Aid in Akron, which serves Wayne County, went through the foreclosure process step-by-step with members of the Wayne County Housing Coalition Wednesday.

He estimated 80 percent-85 percent of foreclosures are granted through a motion for summary judgment because homeowners do not file an answer with the court.

"As a community, we should try to avoid this," Kozlowski said. "Most default because the defendant does not respond."

When lenders file paperwork with the courts, homeowners have 28 days to answer the complaints. If an answer is not filed in a timely manner, the foreclosure process is typically accelerated through the motion for a summary judgment.

Martha Junkin of Habitat for Humanity agreed it is the worst thing for a homeowner not to respond. She said people should reach out by calling Community Action of Wayne/Medina or the housing coalition.

"Some people think if they don't pick up certified mail or if they do not open the door, then they can't foreclose," Kozlowski said. "Not opening the mail does not help. There is a lot of free help."

The reason Kozlowski encourages submitting an answer to the court is because it allows the matter to enter into a mediation phase where the parties might be able to resolve the matter.

"Many homes are saved in the foreclosure process, but it

See Pg. A5 — HOME

GOP calls Obama timid as he seeks footing on Iran

By ANNE GEARAN AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON — In his first major test of international leadership, President Barack Obama is struggling for the right response to Iran's postelection upheaval as political opponents at home accuse him of inaction.

"The last thing that I want to do is to have the United States be a foil for those forces inside Iran who would love nothing better than to make this an argument about the United States," Obama said in an interview released Sunday. "We shouldn't be playing into that."

The president spoke Friday during an interview with CBS News' Harry Smith. It will be broadcast Monday on "The Early Show."

Obama's measured statements so far attempt to speak up for human rights while pre-

servicing U.S. options and lessening the chance that he becomes a scapegoat for the cleric-led government, which has blamed the West for starting trouble.

Obama kept a public silence Sunday, although a spokesman said he discussed Iran with foreign policy advisers in the Oval Office for more than 30 minutes. He later went golfing in Virginia.

Protesters in Iran again defied the government and held a large rally in the capital, Tehran.

The White House did not book any surrogates on the Sunday talk shows to defend or explain the administration's approach. Republicans used their broadcast appearances to call the president timid or feckless, while the Democrat who leads the Senate Intelligence Committee said the U.S. had no hand in the disputed election.

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Sheely crowned Quota Idol 2009

By LYDIA GEHRING Living Editor

WOOSTER — Cassie Sheely couldn't believe she made the top four.

So when her name was called as the winner of "Quota Idol" on Saturday during the finals of the competition at Wooster High School's Performing Arts Center, she was in utter disbelief.

"I am just so totally surprised right now that I can't really even get any words out," Sheely said, just minutes after she was announced the winner. "I'm just totally shocked and so thankful to all my family and friends who are here. I really just appreciate all of their love and support."

Sheely, who also auditioned for the competition last year and made it into the final four then too, said this year's group of competitors was one of great talent.

"We had a more varied group of talent this year," she said. "It was so much fun to sit backstage and listen to each one of them perform."

The field of 15 finalists was narrowed down to half that at the start of Saturday's show. Sheely; Bethany Howell, 17, of Smithville; Erin McCamley, 20, of Cincinnati; Felicia Rojas, 20, of Parma Heights; Curtis Roth, 17, of Marshallville; Keith Sharier, 23, of Wooster; Christina Stripe, Barberton; and Cory Tuck, 21, of Berea; then each sang a song of their choice from the Motown era.

Stripe, who was also a top four finalist in last year's competition and sings karaoke regularly with friends from home, sang "Downtown" during "Quota Idol's" first round of performances on June 13, after her dad had been asking her to sing the classic hit for some time.

"He was pretty surprised and amazed by it,"

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Joel Troyer photos/www.buydrphotos.com Cassie Sheely of Millersburg, one of the final four contestants, was named winner of Quota Idol Saturday.