



Joel Troyer photo/www.buydrphotos.com  
Wes Schaad and Madison Snyder race down the hill in the Stock Division Sunday on the second day of the Wayne-Holmes Soap Box Derby.

## Sisters

(Continued From Page A1)

The Masters Division also experienced a dead heat between Keyonte Legette, a Wooster High School freshman, and Tori Plough, an Orrville High School sophomore.

"This is the third dead heat," Strook said, calling it "Groundhog Day, deja vu."

Keeping up tension and anticipation until the very end, each of the Eskridge sisters had to win a run-off to earn her championship.

Many of the racers got pep talks at the top of the Benden Drive hill on Sunday.

Gary Miller told his Wooster Christian School fifth-grader, Alexia, just to "have fun.

That's the only thing I worry about," he said. "(They're) too young to win or lose."

"She has a blast," Miller said of his daughter.

Greg Hensel, Orrville Middle School eighth-grade student Matt Hensel's dad, rubbed his hands in anticipation before one of his son's trips down the hill.

"He has been in (the Derby) for five years now," Greg Hensel said. "His mother, Karen, and I are really proud of him."

Hensel, who shook hands with a competitor's father at the top of the hill, said his advice to his son, ending up in third place in the Masters Division, was, "Keep your head down, stay over to the

right and take it across the finish line."

Chris Green, whose daughter, Madalyn, a Greene Middle School seventh-grade student, and Jensen Green, an eighth-grader, said the Derby is comprised of "a lot of family, generation after generation."

As a boy, he always wanted to participate, so the next best thing was getting his children into it, including his "little one, (who) is a future racer."

His son was one of the two racers who crashed yesterday — a fairly rare occurrence in the local Derby, onlookers said.

"It was unfortunate because he was really running good," his father said, but "He was a good sport. It's a friendly competition."

## Idol

(Continued From Page A1)

she said. "I have about 45 people coming tonight and I'm pretty excited. I think there's quite a bit of talent here. It's a pretty tough competition. This is a great chance for young people to show off their talents."

Over the past week, Howell said she's been voting online, courtesy of The Daily Record's Web site (www.the-daily-record.com) "24/7." Family and friends also voted for her via phone lines set up by Embarq.

"My family got a kick out of hearing my voice on the phone when they called to vote for me," Howell said. "I think this competition is really a great way to get your voice out there, and I love that the money raised goes to charity. It's also a great way to get to know people with the same interests as you."

For the past 13 years, Rojas has been channeling her musical talents, beginning

with violin lessons at age 13. Her former violin and voice teachers, who are married, did a lot of "click, click, clicking" this past week, voting many times for their talented student.

"I think this is pretty cool; I really like the fundraising aspect of it," Rojas said. "It's been a great experience, especially for those who may have less experience performing in front of a crowd."

Tuck, who said he was excited to be a part of "Quota Idol" even if he didn't get chosen as the winner because it was a "fun charity event," said the competition has been a fun and exciting experience for him.

"I have just really enjoyed myself and made a lot of friends," Tuck said.

After the top eight belted out their songs, the crowd was excused to vote for their favorite four. At the conclusion of intermission, Roth, Stripe, Tuck and Sheely per-

formed a country song and one of their choice. Then it was time for the audience to decide who would be the 2009 Quota Idol.

Wooster Quota President Tammy Cruise said "Quota Idol" provides the community with two main purposes — "it helps people understand what Quota's mission is and it gives young people the opportunity to perform and win money or pursue their singing by trying out for 'American Idol.' Overall, I really think this is the most talented group of contestants we've had thus far," Cruise said.

All funds raised during "Quota Idol" will go toward the local work of Wooster Quota, which helps to provide service to the deaf, hard of hearing, speech impaired and disadvantaged women and children, Cruise said.

"Quota Club of Wooster raises money to further our international mission," she said. "With the dollars raised each year, Quota is

able to purchase hearing aids for people, provide amplification systems in school classrooms and provide scholarships for individuals pursuing a career in hearing and speech."

And the organization is also able to make the dreams of some talented young singers

come true. Sheely now has the choice of taking \$2,000 cash or an all-expense-paid trip to the closest "American Idol" audition. She will also receive \$1,000 in studio recording time from Audio Thrills Recording Studio in Wooster.

"This is truly the best thing I've ever been involved in,"

Sheely said. "It's more than just going up on stage and singing — this organization does so much good. What Quota is trying to accomplish is just great. They are willing to help you no matter what. And I will be back next year to help them with this competition."

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## World brief

### Power struggle bursts into the open

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — A backstage struggle among Iran's ruling clerics burst into the open Sunday when the government said it had arrested the daughter and other relatives of an ayatollah who is one of the country's most powerful men.

Tehran's streets fell mostly quiet for the first time since a bitterly disputed June 12 presidential election, but cries of "God is great!" echoed again from rooftops after dark, a sign of seething

anger at a government crackdown that peaked with at least 10 protesters' deaths Saturday.

The killings drove the official death toll to at least 17 after a week of massive street demonstrations by protesters who say hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad stole his re-election win.

But searing images posted online — including gruesome video purporting to show the fatal shooting of a teenage girl — hinted the true toll may be higher.

Police and the feared Basij militia swarmed the streets

of Tehran to prevent more protests and the government intensified a crackdown on independent media — expelling a BBC correspondent, suspending the Dubai-based network Al-Arabiya and detaining at least two local journalists for U.S. magazines.

English-language state television said an exile group known as the People's Mujahedeen had a hand in street violence and broadcast what it said were confessions of British-controlled agents in an indication of the government's readiness to crack down even harder.

## Home

(Continued From Page A1)

is more expensive because of attorney fees," Kozlowski said.

Kozlowski also encouraged homeowners who might be headed toward foreclosure to speak with housing counselors from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Meredith Watts, of Community Legal Aid, said sometimes those counselors can be of more help than attorneys because of the contacts they

have made with lenders. They will likely know who to call to get information or answers.

Homeowners who are current with loans backed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac but facing imminent default automatically qualify for the Home Affordable Modification Program, Kozlowski said, noting people do not have to pay for the service. The goal is to get the mortgage between 30-38 percent of a family's monthly income.

Legal Aid has a toll-free number for people to get free

legal advice before a foreclosure is filed. People can learn about their options by calling 1-866-584-2350, Ext. 2532.

HUD counselors can be reached by calling Empowering & Strengthening Ohio's People at 1-877-731-3767; Mustard Seed Development Center, 330-631-0350; or ABCD Inc., 330-455-6385.

Reporter Bobby Warren can be reached at 330-287-1639 or bwarren@the-daily-record.com. He's robwar0100 on Twitter.



Joel Troyer photo/www.buydrphotos.com  
Awaiting announcement of the winner of Quota Idol 2009 are Cory Tuck (left), Curtis Roth, Cassie Sheely and Christina Stripe. Sheely won the event.

## GOP

(Continued From Page A1)

A day earlier, Obama invoked the American civil rights struggle to condemn violence against demonstrators, some of whom have carried signs in English asking, "Where is My Vote?"

It was his strongest statement on what has become the most significant challenge to Iran's ruling structure since the Islamic revolution 30 years ago,

but it stopped short of demanding a recount or new election, as many of the demonstrators seek. He avoided mentioning either incumbent President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad or his principal challenger by name, and said nothing about his oft-repeated campaign promise of a fresh start in diplomatic talks with the main U.S. adversary in the Middle East.

Both the House and Senate voted overwhelmingly last

week to condemn an official crackdown on the mostly peaceful demonstrations, a stronger action than the White House has yet taken.

"The president of the United States is supposed to lead the free world, not follow it," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C. "He's been timid and passive more than I would like."

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and others noted that West-

ern leaders, including French President Nicolas Sarkozy and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, have demanded a recount or more forcefully condemned the government crackdown.

"I'd like to see the president be stronger than he has been, although I appreciate the comments that he made yesterday," McCain said. "I think we ought to have America lead."

Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-

Iowa, said a slow or muted U.S. response risks undermining the aspirations of Iranian voters to change or question their government.

"If America stands for democracy and all of these demonstrations are going on in Tehran and other cities over there, and people don't think that we really care, then obviously they're going to question, 'do we really believe in our principles?'" Grassley said.

Obama has tried to hold a middle ground as the crisis unfolds, and found the ground shifting by the day.

His advisers say any thunderous denunciation of Iran's rulers would invite them to blame Western interference and might worsen the violence instead of end it. The death toll has neared 20 as shadowy militias and other forces have shot and attacked demonstrators.

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