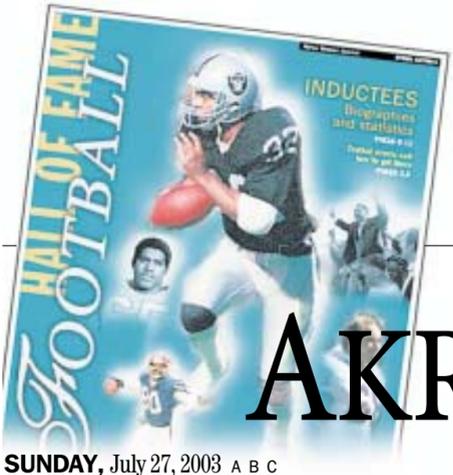


# Pro Football Hall of Fame

Your guide to the week's festivities, enshrinement of 5 of the game's legends  
Special section and C1



## Sunday AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

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# Derby champs bask in victory



Derby winners (from left) Nicholas Sibeto, Corey Harkins and Anthony Marulli celebrate at the awards ceremony Saturday.

6 young people join ranks of world's soap box derby winners. Rally super stock title goes to Stow's Zak Boll

By Paula Schleis and Kimberly Melton  
Beacon Journal staff writers

It was beginner's luck. It was the lucky socks. It was the right lane at the right time.

Whatever their secret, the winners of Saturday's All-American Soap Box Derby had little time to muse about what might have helped elevate them from town champs to world champs.

After easing out of their cars at the finish line, they were greeted by sportscasters wanting an interview, family members wanting hugs and police officers wanting to give them a police escort to the winners' circle.

Corey Harkins of Chicago, Ill., stepped away from his winning super stock car and was greeted by Jeff Hammond from the Speed Channel, who flung an arm around his shoulder as a videographer jockeyed for a good angle.

Corey was momentarily speechless at his sudden stardom, but finally found his voice. "I'm happy. It's all good," he managed to get out.

Corey shared the spotlight with Nicholas Sibeto of New Castle, Pa., winner of the stock division, and Anthony Marulli of Rochester, N.Y., the masters champ.

In the rally divisions, Wilton Blakely of Huntersville, N.C., won the stock, Zak Boll of Stow took the super stock, and Alexis Rhodes of Conneaut became the masters champ.

Beth Williams shook her head in disbelief as her son, Nicholas Sibeto, prepared to accept a trophy that was about as tall as he was.

"He's just a rookie," she said, holding her hand to her heart. "I guess that is what you call beginner's luck. It is just amazing."

Probably among the most surprised at Nicholas' stock car championship was his 17-year-old local derby director Rochelle Gallaher.

"I can't believe it. I'm sure I'm the youngest race director to ever have a champion," said Gallaher, who accepted the directorship as a part of her senior class project. "I told my mom I was going to use that trophy as a visual aid when I give my presentation."

Please see **Derby, A13**



A sea of super stock cars line up topside Saturday at Derby Downs, where an estimated crowd of 20,000 was gathered. The photo was taken aboard the Spirit of Goodyear blimp, which hovered overhead during six hours of racing events.

Complete heat-by-heat results on Page A12

# Flood deaths leave mark

Monday's disaster kills 2, spares others, leaves Hudson feeling helpless

By Stephen Dyer, Ed Meyer and Jim Carney  
Beacon Journal staff writers

"There's two people down there! We need pumps!" the man shouted.

Pati Cook heard the panic in the man's voice as he watched Brandywine Creek rise 2 feet every 10 minutes inside a building's hallway.

It was 8:56 p.m. Monday. Cook, Hudson's 911 dispatcher, was facing a citywide disaster.

Nowhere was the problem more dire than here - the three-story Versailles condominium complex off Atterbury Boulevard.

"I'm not worried about the pumps, I'm worried about the people. Where are the people at?" Cook asked.

"They're in the garage basement! There's no way to get to them without pumps!" he said.

In fact, by the time Cook got the phone call, June

Young Pak, 18, and Robert Chris Kirby, 53, were already dead, swallowed by 2 million gallons overflowing from Brandywine Creek.

'Better call FEMA'

"We've had a rain event." It was 7:30 p.m. Scott Schroyer, Hudson service director, heard the words over his home phone in Brimfield Township.

Please see **Raging, A5**



Columnist David Giffels wonders if flooding means change is necessary in the relationship between humans and nature.  
Page B1

IN PREMIER

## Arts groups ad libbing in lieu of funds

Akron-area arts and culture consumers will get a dose of reality this fall, when the results of declines in ticket sales, donations and endowment funds make their mark on the new season.

With smaller budgets, area organizations will spend less by relying more on local talent than on famous guests, shortening hours and even cutting the number of rehearsals for performers.

Fewer shows to choose from and more conservative choices that reduce financial risk will be the order of the day, according to organizations surveyed by the Akron Beacon Journal's features department.

The long economic slump has cut into endowments and weakened corporate enthusiasm for giving.

For a fuller picture of the state of the arts economy in the Akron area, turn to Premier, Page E1.

# Attacks in Iraq kill 4 soldiers

Fresh assaults on Americans dim hopes Hussein's sons' deaths would end violence

By Richard A. Opiel Jr.  
New York Times

**BAQUBA, IRAQ:** Three American soldiers with the 4th Infantry Division were killed and four were wounded Saturday after an assailant, who witnesses said was probably perched inside the children's hospital the troops were guarding, threw a grenade into a group of soldiers who were playing a game of cards next to the building.

Another American soldier was killed Saturday afternoon and two others were wounded in an attack on an Army convoy in Abu Ghraib, just west of Baghdad, military officials said.

The Baquba hospital was sealed off shortly after the 11 a.m. attack, and at 8 p.m. military officials were still refusing to allow anyone, with a few exceptions, to enter or leave. Inside, employees and patients were searched, interrogated and fingerprinted, according to people who were allowed to leave the hospital.

Saturday night, a military official at the scene, who asked that his name

Please see **Iraq, A11**

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### Inside

- Dave Barry E2
- Business D1
- Classified H1
- Community F1
- Crossword E2
- Dear Abby E2
- Deaths B10-11
- Editorials B2
- Horoscope H3
- Jumble H3

- Local News B1
- Lottery A2
- Movies E7
- Music E3
- People A2
- Premier E1
- Sports C1
- Travel G1
- Terry Pluto C1
- Weddings F2

### Other headlines:

- Liberian civilians in war zone. **World, Page A4**
- Copley Township depot nears completion. **Local, Page B1**
- Indians beat Twins 9-2 at Jacobs Field Saturday. **Sports, Page C1**

### Today's weather

Weather forecast: Showers and thunderstorms. 82° High 60° Low. NewsChannel 5 forecast, Page B12