

- Browns not focused on making Frye epicenter of team; their plan is to build around him.
- And don't miss the Browns' roster, tips for fans and more.

High estimates of home value can saddle owners with debt.  
**BUSINESS, D1**

# Sunday AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

SUNDAY, July 23, 2006 A B C

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**SOAP BOX DERBY SPECIAL SECTION.**  
Race coverage, heat results and more. SECTION AA



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# They reign in rain



Earning championship trophies in Saturday's All-American are (from left) Scott Reed, 16, of Fredericksburg, Va., rally masters; Olivia Murphy, 12, of Lafayette, Ind., rally super stock; and Mike Bridges, 11, of Scottsdale, Ariz., rally stock. At right is derby general manager Jeff Iula.

JOCELYN WILLIAMS/Akron Beacon Journal

## Stark teen in Dale Jr.-themed car among All-American derby winners

By Sandra M. Klepach  
Beacon Journal staff writer

As he heard himself called a world champion, NASCAR fan Michael Neely triumphantly raised his arms, even though he was still tucked into his Dale Earnhardt Jr.-themed car. The stone-faced North Canton teen hardly noticed the congratulations he received from NASCAR racer Jimmie Johnson. "I like Dale Earnhardt Jr.," Michael, 14, said with a shrug. "But that's OK. I knew that I won; it just hasn't sunk in yet."

Michael remained stoic until locked by parents Michael and Beth into a hug too emotional for words. "Awesome job, bud," the senior Neely said under his breath. "Awesome job." The light-blue, knee-high socks the younger Michael wore in his local race, pulled up to his light-blue shorts, provided more than luck at the 69th annual All-American Soap Box Derby on Saturday. Drawing racers from 42 states and six countries, complemented with a live broadcast on ESPN, the race gave the world a taste of Ak-

ron's finest variations on weather as 518 racers faced Derby Downs in the rain, wind, heat and humidity. Only two bouts of heavy rain stalled the derby; other delays were a result of ESPN not carrying the race until 4 p.m. Overall, general manager Jeff Iula estimated that 12,000 people watched the unique buzz of plastic tires hitting 30 mph against wet asphalt.

Please see **Derby, A8**

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT NEW CONTAINERS. PAGE A10



Cesar Bravo of Cart Men Inc. puts lids on Akron's new curbside trash carts at a city building on Triplett Boulevard. Deliveries begin next month.

MIKE CARDEW/Akron Beacon Journal

## Akron to automate to reduce injuries

Worker's comp claims expected to shrink as city shifts to trucks with robotic arms to collect trash

By John Higgins  
Beacon Journal staff writer

Akron's city trash haulers lift up to 7 tons each on the heaviest days. That's 14,000 pounds - more than twice the curb weight of an H2 Hummer. Even on light days, they're still hefting 5 tons each, which contributes to injuries to the lower back and shoulders. They also get bleach splashed in their eyes from tossing bags that homeowners have doused to

keep away dogs and varmints. And they get stuck by carelessly discarded insulin needles. Sanitation workers are just 3 percent of the city's work force but account for 25 percent of its workers' compensation claims. Of those who retire, 44 percent do so under a disability, according to the city. That's the main reason Akron is switching to automated trash collection next month.

Please see **Trash, A10**

Full-page guide to global hot spots: Middle East, North Korea, Africa and other areas. PAGE A6



# Israelis cross border in raid

Military calls it limited attack at Hezbollah stronghold, not invasion; air attacks go on

By Greg Myre and Jad Mouawad  
New York Times

**JERUSALEM:** Israel's air force on Saturday pressed ahead with punishing bombing raids on Lebanon, and Israeli soldiers moved into a village just across the Lebanese border in what the military described as a limited operation against a Hezbollah stronghold. In northern Lebanon, Israeli jets bombed television and mobile phone transmission towers, disrupting service. Israeli military officials said the towers had been hit because they were being used by Hezbollah for communications. Northern Israel again came under attack from Hezbollah rockets, with 132 falling on the region and wounding more than 20 Israelis as of Saturday night.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is scheduled to leave for Israel tonight in the most significant diplomatic visit since the fighting began July 12. But her stop is expected to be relatively brief and there is no sign the hostilities are about to end. Rice, in remarks on Friday in Washington, said any settlement must address the root causes, which she described as the Hezbollah attacks coming out of south Lebanon. With Israeli tanks and armored personnel carriers lining the roads of northern Israel, there is increased speculation that a major ground offensive could be in the works. But Israeli military officials say that only small numbers of troops are being sent into villages and other areas near the border to clear out Hezbollah posts.

Please see **Lebanon, A7**

■ Profiles of Israeli prime minister and Hezbollah leader rise during conflict in Middle East.



Prime Minister Ehud Olmert

■ Ordinary Israeli civilians respond to call to arms at moment's notice, serving as military's backbone.

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- Patrons, artists adapt to wet weather at Akron Arts Expo. **B1**
- Tiger Woods on top by a shot heading into British Open finale. **C1**
- Do you wanna rock? Listen, we've got the school for you! **E1**

INDIANS 11 Sports, C1  
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### Today's weather

Partly sunny and nice

79° High 61° Low  
NewsChannel 5 forecast, Page B10



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