

SIX-PAGE SPECIAL SECTION. AA

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Akron girl rolls to title

Hometown racer has historic finish on exciting day at 70th All-American Soap Box Derby

By Stephanie Warsmith
Beacon Journal staff writer

When 13-year-old Tyler Shoff became the first racer from Akron to win the All-American Soap Box Derby in more than 65 years Saturday, she burst into tears.

So did her mother. And her little sister.

There have been other recent champs from the Akron area, but all of them lived in the suburbs. The last winner to actually live in Akron was Claude Smith in 1941, according to derby General Manager Jeff Iula.

"We were just hoping to win one heat," said Shawna Roach, Tyler's mother. "Being a champion was some-

thing we never expected."

The 70th All-American Soap Box Derby was an emotional event for many people. No one had a more trying time than Kacie Rader, who won in the masters division.

Kacie, 16, had to wait more than an hour and a half while inspectors pored over her car after the race. Inspections

are a routine step after races but hers took much longer than most.

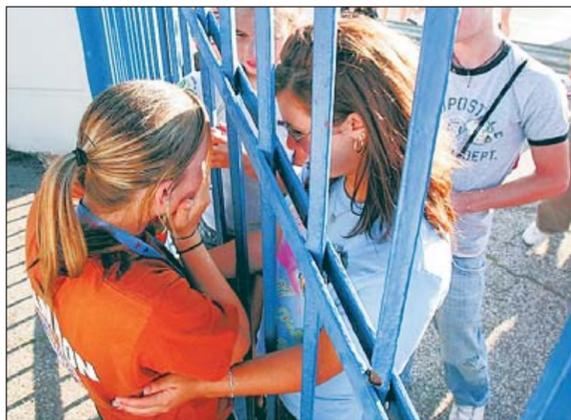
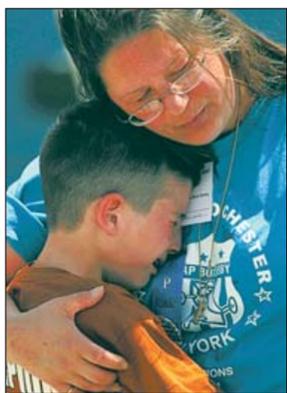
When derby officials told Kacie and her family that her car had checked out, they cried and embraced.

"That was the longest hour of my life," said Kacie, who lives in Mechan-

Please see **Derby, A10**



Kathleen Quinn, 15, hugs friend Scott Miesse, 14, of Strongsville, as he wins the rally masters championship Saturday at the All-American Soap Box Derby. Below left, Tina Russo comforts her son, Joe Russo, 11, of Rochester, N.Y., after a loss in a rally stock heat. Below right, masters champion Kacie Rader (left), 16, of Mechanicsville, Md., greets friends.



Three friends remember girl whose days in race lanes were cut short

By Jewell Cardwell
Beacon Journal staff writer

Paula McVey said her heart was racing as she learned about the wonderful gift three of this year's All-American Soap Box Derby hopefuls bestowed on her family.

The racers - Tara Curry, 12, of Meriden, Conn., Shelby McQueston, 12, of Haydenville, Mass., and Matthew Vespoli, 13, of Candiac, Canada - took it upon themselves to race Saturday not in cars bearing their names but in memory of the Stow woman's daughter, Katherine McVey, who died March 18 from complications from a rare brain tumor. She was 12.

The trio's decision to replicate the car she would have driven - complete with the same stickers and these words: *Life one mile at a time* - is a testament to how much Katherine was loved in the Soap Box Derby community.

Please see **McVey, A10**



Tara Curry, 12, of Meriden, Conn., carries in her soap box car this photo of Katherine McVey, who died March 18.

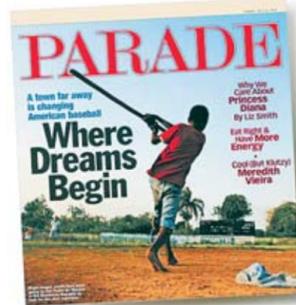
TRAINING CAMP PREVIEW
What's in store? Schedule and more.
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BURGER LOVERS COME HUNGRY.

LOCAL, B1

Some of America's best baseball players come from a place faraway. Today's Parade magazine goes to San Pedro de Macoris, where American baseball scouts are wondering the sandlots and parks, looking for the next superstar.



Today's weather

Mostly sunny and comfortable
79° High 58° Low
NewsChannel 5 forecast, Page B8

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Cleveland physician in national limelight as drug-safety crusader



Nissen

Some praise his work; others view motivation as political or financial

By Stephanie Saul
New York Times

Back in the '60s, when University of Michigan students were holding protests over civil rights and the Vietnam War, an undergraduate named Steven E. Nissen was at the center of the political dissent.

Four decades later, that former campus activist is a Cleveland Clinic doctor who is shaking up the nation's pharmaceutical industry, emerging as a Ralph Nader-like figure and America's unofficial arbiter of drug safety.

Nissen's questioning of the safety of the Avandia diabetes medication in late May, for example, prompted a federal safety warning and led to a sales decline of about 30 percent for

the drug, which brought in \$3.2 billion for GlaxoSmithKline last year. A federal panel is soon to decide whether Avandia can remain on the market.

Admirers laud Nissen not only for raising safety questions about Avandia, but also for sounding early warnings about the painkiller Vioxx as well as other drugs. By digging deeply into companies' clinical trial data - information that used to be available only to federal drug regulators, who did not always mine it as aggressively - Nissen is among a new cadre of activist scientists demanding greater vigilance on drug safety.

But Nissen also has critics, who say he seeks the spotlight as much as the safety of medicine. Others see a conflict of interest in his self-appointed role as the drug industry watchdog while he also presides over industry-financed research worth millions. "I'm

Please see **Safety, A12**

Detroit's Big Three, UAW to square off

A look at union contracts with Delphi gives idea what future may hold for autoworkers in Ohio and elsewhere

By Jim Mackinnon
Beacon Journal business writer

To get an idea of where the United Auto Workers' negotiations with Detroit's Big Three might be headed, look at the UAW's new contract with bankrupt auto industry supplier Delphi:

The multiyear pact with Delphi cuts pay in some cases nearly in half, from \$27 an hour to \$14 to \$18.50 an hour, while ensuring thousands of workers keep jobs when the company emerges from bankruptcy under new ownership.

Basically, the union is agreeing to major concessions as the domestic auto industry shuts down plants, buys out tens of thousands of hourly and salaried workers and makes other changes to stop hemorrhaging money

(they lost a combined \$15 billion last year) and off aggressive, cash-flush foreign competitors.

Now all eyes are on the national talks that start in earnest this week in Detroit between the UAW and General Motors, Ford and Chrysler, with the current four-year contract expiring in mid-September. The talks, which some in the industry have said will be historic in scope, have major implications for the thousands of UAW workers at factories in Twinsburg, Cleveland, Lordstown and other Ohio locations.

In addition, many local plants have been undergoing their own specific bargaining. Lordstown's talks, for instance, will determine whether Gen-

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