

At a standstill

'Mannequins' raise money for groups **LOCAL, 3A**

Bank on it

First Michigan recognized as Freddie Mac lender **BUSINESS, 8A**



TIMES HERALD

Friday, July 16, 2010

75 CENTS

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Boat goes the distance

Hong Kong's Beau Geste ready for Mac race debut

By JASON ALEXANDER
Times Herald

There are several cots aboard the Beau Geste, an 80-foot sailboat.

Most fold down from the side of the vessel — and aren't too cozy.

That's all right with the Hong Kong boat's crew, however, as they know the Beau Geste is built for speed, not comfort.

The Beau Geste's owner, Karl Kwok, and the vessel's crew will attempt to be the first to reach Mackinac Island this weekend during the Port Huron-to-Mackinac race.

While the boat did participate in the Chicago-to-Mackinac race in 2005, this is the first time it has been in the Blue Water Area.

"We are one of the bigger boats and the name of the game for the bigger boats is for line honors," Kwok said. "We surely will try our best to take a crack at it. I understand that doing both, this and the Chicago-Mackinac, is the complete experience."

The boat and its crew are competitors, symbolized by the red dragon painted on the boat's side.

The crew is an international bunch, hailing from the United States, Australia, New Zealand and England. They have been completing a checklist all week to get the vessel race-ready.

"It's just a lot of little things," said boat captain Cameron Ward of Edgewater, Md.

The boat just completed the Bermuda Ocean Race and finished first in record time, then finished second in the Newport Bermuda Race.



GETTING READY: Andrew Wilkinson leans over the stern Thursday afternoon to joke with Ron Huston and Guy Endein as they wash down the 80-foot Beau Geste at the Seaway Terminal in Port Huron.

The crew cruised from Bermuda to Quebec, pulled the vessel's mast and trucked it to Buffalo, N.Y., then motored Saturday into Port Huron, where the boat has been docked at the Seaway Terminal.

"We've basically been going since the 11th of last month," Ward said.

The crew has 17 members, eight of whom are full time. Kwok, a third-generation owner of a Hong Kong department store, Wing On, plans to come to Port Huron today from Hong Kong.

The Beau Geste likely will challenge Doug and Dick Devos' Windquest out of

See **BEAU GESTE, 2A**



By WENDY TORELLO, Times Herald

COMING CLEAN: Andrew Wilkinson scrubs the hull of the Beau Geste as David Brooke follows with a hose Thursday afternoon at the Seaway Terminal. This will be the first Port Huron-to-Mackinac race for the 80-foot boat from Hong Kong.



INSIDE



Capturing Boat Week

Take a look at Thursday's Boat Week activities, which included the start of Blue Water Fest, through the lenses of our photographers, Photos, 4A-5A



Competitors sail into town

Check out which boats are in town, such as Eliminator (above), and where they're docked, Map 4A-5A

Storm soaks fest's debut

By JASON ALEXANDER
Times Herald

Just as the Blue Water Fest was about to go into full gear Thursday night, a line of storms rolled across the area, knocking down tents and sending people searching for cover.



By WENDY TORELLO, Times Herald

SOAKED: Eugene Tetreault empties the water from a destroyed tent Thursday night during Blue Water Fest in Port Huron.

For more on the first night of Blue Water Fest, check out Melissa Wawzysko's video.

The first storms struck about 6 p.m., with heavy rain and wind that gusted

up to 60 mph.

The wind knocked over the Operation Transformation tent, putting an end to the free family activities for the evening.

About 1,700 people in St. Clair County were left without power, DTE Energy

See **FEST, 2A**

'Mixologist' to return to Rail

By CRYSTAL GARCIA
Times Herald

Tony Abou-Ganim remembers the first drink Helen David taught him to make was a B&B.

The classic cocktail is made with brandy and Benedictine, which is why those components are featured in one of Abou-Ganim's signature drinks, "The Brass Rail" — a way to honor the Port Huron native's old stomping grounds.

Abou-Ganim, 50, will be back at the Brass Rail today to work the one shift a year for which



Tony Abou-Ganim

he's on the schedule — Boat Night — and for a book signing Saturday.

The signing event will be from 5 to 7 p.m. for his first book, "The Modern Mixologist: Contemporary Classic Cocktails." All proceeds from the signing are to go to the Helen David Memorial Bartenders Relief Fund,

See **RAIL, 2A**

SPORTS



Hoy's dream comes true

As a child, Patrick Hoy always dreamed of becoming the Port Huron Yacht Club commodore, 1B

ONLINE

Faces of Mackinac

Check out our online gallery for someone you might know enjoying Boat Week activities, www.thetimesherald.com

Look online for more

Check out our website for dockside video updates, photo galleries, an interactive guide to Blue Water Fest and more.

Espinoza, Alexander up for Croswell job



Doug Alexander John Espinoza

Lawmaker, former EDA chief among finalists for city administrator

By LIZ SHEPARD
Times Herald

The Croswell City Council has narrowed its search for a new city administrator to three — including a state representative and the former

head of the Economic Development Alliance of St. Clair County.

The council has narrowed the field to Doug Alexander, John Espinoza and Jeff Thornton, said Sue Dobson, the city's clerk and interim

administrator.

Mayor Mike McMillan said a decision will be made by late July or early August. The council will discuss the position at a meeting Monday.

Dobson said nearly 60 people applied for the position

and the finalists have gone through two rounds of interviews. The position became vacant in April after Dave Tait, the city administrator for six years, resigned and entered the private sector.

See **JOB, 2A**

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COMING SATURDAY
Why do you believe in God? For Mike Stechschulte, the reasons are plenty