

Local teens hope you get their 'Goat'

By **GINGER CHRIST**
T-G Staff Writer

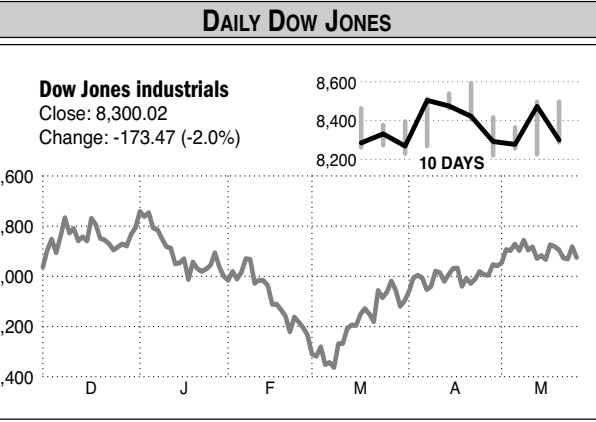
Three local teenagers are making a name for themselves — on T-shirts and in the community.
Devon Brabenec, 19, Jeff Ritz, 16, and Krystal Sanders, 16, of Ashland, the owners of Goat Denim Clothing Co., are preparing to open their own store Friday in downtown Ashland to showcase their independent clothing line.
Goat Denim Clothing features the trio's original designs on a variety of clothing options, ranging from T-shirts to hoodies to sweat pants.
"I think people like supporting a local clothing brand," Sanders said. "It's not very often that something unique comes along."

"Especially in Ashland," Ritz added.
Brabenec, a 2008 Ashland High School graduate and a former Career Center graphic design student, started the brand two years ago as a small project. He modeled the line after other successful clothing brands, using an animal — the goat — as his trademark logo.
Ritz and Sanders became involved in the company in early 2008, after meeting Brabenec through friends. Together, the three make, market and sell all of their own products.
As the company has grown, largely through word of mouth, the owners have been surprised at its success. Ritz said opening a store was something they used to talk about, but not something he envisioned

would become a reality.
"I don't think I ever really knew we'd get a store," Sanders said.
What started out as primarily a men's line now has expanded to offer women's clothing. And jeans are an option in the works.
"It's pretty cool seeing people walking around wearing your shirts," Brabenec said.
"It's really awesome to see it all come together," Sanders said.
Eventually, the friends hope to create a chain of stores from the clothing line and possibly secure their future as entrepreneurs.
Currently, Brabenec works in the composing department at the Ashland Times-Gazette and Ritz and Sanders are

sophomores at Ashland High School.
The store's grand opening will be 3 to 9 p.m. Friday at 150 Luther St. and 25 percent of first-day sales will be donated to the American Cancer Society. The Jeff Ritz Band will perform and refreshments will be offered.
"It's not going to be a normal grand opening," Sanders said.
Goat Denim will be open 3 to 9 p.m. weekdays and noon to 9 p.m. Saturdays. For more information, call Ritz at 567-203-2311 or visit the company's Web site at www.goatdenimclothing.com.
Ginger Christ can be reached at 419-281-0581 ext. 239 or at gchrist@times-gazette.com.

THE MARKET IN REVIEW



STOCK MARKET INDEXES								
	52-Week High	52-Week Low	Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	YTD %Chg	12-mo %Chg
12,726.66	6,469.95	Dow Industrials	8,300.02	-173.47	-2.05	-5.43	-34.10	
5,492.95	2,134.21	Dow Transportation	3,041.00	-86.81	-2.78	-14.03	-42.75	
5,282.07	2,888.66	Dow Utilities	331.36	-6.91	-2.04	-10.63	-36.18	
9,421.63	4,181.75	NYSX Composite	5,823.56	-113.02	-1.90	+1.16	-37.81	
2,379.19	1,130.47	Amex Market Value	1,562.66	-18.07	-1.14	+11.82	-33.75	
2,549.94	1,265.52	Nasdaq Composite	1,731.08	-19.35	-1.11	+9.77	-30.39	
1,406.32	666.79	S&P 500	893.06	-17.27	-1.90	+1.11	-35.79	
897.37	397.97	S&P MidCap	561.90	-10.27	-1.79	+4.39	-35.64	
14,339.97	6,772.29	Wilshire 5000	9,154.64	-168.65	-1.81	+7.4	-35.22	
764.38	342.59	Russell 2000	489.86	-10.45	-2.09	-1.92	-33.66	

STOCK EXCHANGE HIGHLIGHTS

NYSE	AMEX	NASDAQ
5,823.56 -113.02	1,562.66 -18.07	1,731.08 -19.35

GAINERS (\$2 OR MORE)			
Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
KeyCap pA	16.27	+3.67	+29.1
GM d03ZB	2.03	+3.39	+23.8
AviSbugd	4.99	+7.77	+15.2
NoAMenG	6.72	+1.03	+18.1
ChinaMM	3.50	+4.44	+14.4
ScrippsEW	2.32	+2.9	+14.3
MLQwst31	15.01	+1.81	+13.7
AlntGr pA	8.60	+1.01	+13.3
DmRSBW	19.95	+2.25	+12.7
Revlon rs	5.95	+6.7	+12.7

LOSERS (\$2 OR MORE)			
Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
TorchEn If	2.94	-1.21	-29.2
ZaleCP	4.01	-1.03	-20.4
CogdSpen	3.65	-68	-15.7
MLSelf10	11.45	-79	-14.9
InterOil g	32.20	-4.33	-11.9
WimthR s	9.13	-1.23	-11.9
BioMediR	9.65	-1.24	-11.4
DeltaAir	5.56	-69	-11.0
FstInRT	3.95	-47	-10.6
CTS	5.54	-65	-10.5

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)			
Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
BkoAm	5114771	10.91	-0.7
DirxFinBear	2886652	5.40	+4.4
SPDR	2242756	89.67	-1.63
DirxFinBull	2223804	8.84	-8.7
SPDR FncI	1694732	11.68	-3.6
Citigrp	1676904	3.70	-0.7
GnMotr	1522934	1.15	-2.9
Wells Fargo	1065523	24.08	-1.57
GenElec	1057414	12.99	-4.0
SHNEKt s	984176	31.76	-3.7

Sales sidelined



Associated Press photo

A foreclosure sign blows in the wind in front of a home under foreclosure. Investors and first-time buyers, often in bidding wars over foreclosed properties, continue to drive home sales in the Midwest, according to two reports released Wednesday.

Midwest home markets post 10 percent annual decline

By **DAVID TWIDDY**
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Sales of existing homes in the Midwest fell 10 percent in April from a year ago as the uncertain economy kept all but first-time home buyers and steady investors on the sidelines.
The median sales price of an existing home in the 12-state region declined almost 12 percent to \$138,800, the National Association of Realtors said Wednesday. The numbers show the twin effects of a customer pool dominated by low-cost buyers and distressed property sales that continue to drag down prices.
On a national, non-seasonally adjusted basis, existing home sales dropped 4.6 percent from April of last year, while the median sales price slid more than 15 percent to \$170,200, the Realtors reported.
The Midwest didn't see the ballooning home prices during the real estate boom, but the region is being hammered by layoffs in the auto industry. Sales of previously occupied homes fell in 10 of 12 major Midwestern tracked in the Associated Press-Re/Max Monthly Housing Report, also released Wednesday.
The survey includes all home sales recorded in the metropolitan statistical area by all local agents, regardless of company affiliation.
Median sale prices sagged in 11 of the 12 markets with only Fargo, N.D., busting the trend. There, the median price rose 1.4 percent to \$140,500 while sales dropped about 26 percent, according to the AP-Re/Max report.
Wichita, Kan., experienced the biggest sales drop of the region, declining 26 percent, the AP-Re/Max report showed,

although the median home price stayed virtually flat, declining just 2 percent to \$120,000.
Tim Holt, a real estate agent with Realty Executives of Wichita, said he's seen an increase in calls from potential buyers, many attracted by an \$8,000 federal tax credit for first-time buyers.
"That's going to have a trickle-down effect because people selling their homes to (first-time buyers) will be buying other homes," Holt said.
Kansas City real estate agent Dan Vick said he believes the influence of first-time homebuyers will strengthen later this summer as renters begin getting out from their leases and will be ready to buy.
Home sales in Kansas City declined almost 22 percent in April from a year ago while the median sale price dipped 5 percent to \$138,000.
"In my opinion, we probably bottomed out three months ago and didn't know it because we're cranking right along now, and I see every month us getting stronger," said Vick with Re/Max of K.C.
He said financing continues to be a problem as stiffer loan requirements are tripping up even otherwise sterling customers. For example, he pointed to a doctor who is moving into town to buy a successful practice.
"It used to be, you had a guy coming out of med school, you could get him a loan in a heartbeat," Vick said. "Today, because he doesn't have a two-year history of owning his own business, we've been having difficulty getting him financed."
In Des Moines, home sales fell 25 percent last month and the median home price declined almost 13 percent to \$150,630.

Susan Webster with Coldwell Banker Mid-America Group said the path toward recovery is going slower but she's still fielding more calls from new buyers and investors who think the worst of the economic slowdown has passed.
She said, however, that some buyers are making low-ball offers on distressed properties with visions of a quick turnaround.
"I call it the HDTV syndrome," Webster said. "They watch (home improvement shows) and think it's a dance in the park and you're an idiot if you don't buy a fixer-upper, spray paint it, put in a new carpet and then make a quick \$100,000. So you have these really unreasonable expectations."
Detroit and Minneapolis were the two gainers in the region for sales, increasing about 6 percent and 3 percent, respectively, in April, according to the AP-Re/Max report.
But those extra sales were fueled mostly by plunging prices. The median sales price in Minneapolis fell by almost one quarter to \$154,449 last month, while the sales price in Detroit fell 52 percent to \$42,000 — the largest drop in the nation.
Real estate agent John Marker with Keller Williams in Detroit said he doesn't think the market has hit bottom yet, especially with automaker Chrysler in bankruptcy and General Motors likely headed in the same direction.
"Once we do hit bottom, we will ride along without much appreciation for awhile," Marker said. "It could be a few years before we see prices start to go back up. But a lot rides on what happens with our auto industry."

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

MONEY RATES									
	Last	Pvs Week							
Prime Rate	3.25	3.25							
Discount Rate	0.50	0.50							
Federal Funds Rate	0.00-25	0.00-25							
Treasuries									
3-month	0.16	0.18							
6-month	0.29	0.27							
5-year	2.39	2.03							
10-year	3.69	3.20							
30-year	4.60	4.16							

CURRENCIES									
	Last	Pvs Day							
Australia	1.2768	1.2742							
Britain	1.6043	1.5925							
Canada	1.1145	1.1179							
Euro	0.7184	0.7150							
Japan	95.20	94.96							
Mexico	13.1925	13.1830							
Switzerland	1.0869	1.0840							

British pound expressed in U.S. dollars. All others show dollar in foreign currency.

MARKET REPORTS

Precious metals

Gold, oz.	953.20
Silver, oz.	14.83
Platinum, oz.	1,133.20
Palladium, oz.	226.45

Cash corn

May/June corn	3.96
July corn	3.99
O/N	3.95
Jan. 2010	4.06

Cash beans

May	11.75
June	11.75
S/O/N	9.68
Jan. 2010	9.75

Cash wheat

May	4.91
July/Aug.	4.71

Cash oats

Cash oats	2.50
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BRIEFLY

From staff report

Local

Atlas Bolt & Screw VP earns APICS certification as chain professional

Jim Gerhart of Atlas Bolt & Screw was recently recognized as an APICS Certified Supply Chain Professional. APICS CSCP is a program offered by APICS The Association for Operations Management.
Gerhart is vice president of operations for Atlas Bolt & Screw in Ashland. His responsibilities include strategic management of the company's supply chain of products.
The APICS CSCP program

takes a broad view of the supply chain field, extending beyond internal operations to encompass all the steps throughout the supply chain — from the supplier, through the company, to the end consumer — and provides the candidate with the knowledge to manage the integration of these activities to maximize a company's value chain.
The program was introduced in 2005.

To qualify for the APICS CSCP designation, a candidate must complete a rigorous course of study and a comprehensive examination.
"I am proud to have earned the APICS CSCP designation. This has added to my knowledge and experience of successfully competing in a highly competitive business environment," Gerhart said.

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	Last	Pvs Week							
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Discount Rate	0.50	0.50							
Federal Funds Rate	0.00-25	0.00-25							
Treasuries									
3-month	0.16	0.18							
6-month	0.29	0.27							
5-year	2.39	2.03							
10-year	3.69	3.20							
30-year	4.60	4.16							

MUTUAL FUNDS								
Name	Total Assets (\$M)	NAV	4-wk	Total Return/12-mo	5-year	Pct Min	Invt	Load
PIMCO TotRet	CI	89,590	10.29	+1.1	+5.6/A	+6.0/A	NL	5,000,000
American Funds GrthAm	m LG	53,882	22.38	+5.6	-32.5/C	+0.3/A	5.75	250
American Funds CapIncBuA	m IH	49,468	41.62	+6.7	-26.8/C	+3.3/C	5.75	250
Fidelity Contra	LG	44,280	46.55	+4.7	-32.0/C	+2.2/A	NL	2,500
American Funds CpvWldGrA	m WS	43,783	27.85	+10.6	-33.1/B	+4.7/A	5.75	250
Vanguard TotStk	LB	41,529	21.90	+4.6	-33.5/C	-1.9/B	NL	3,000
American Funds InvCoAm	m LV	40,833	21.33	+5.4	-29.4/A	-0.7/B	5.75	250
American Funds AmerA	m MA	40,734	12.94	+4.9	-25.2/D	+1.0/B	5.75	250
Vanguard 500Inv	LB	38,045	82.56	+4.5	-33.7/C	-2.6/C	NL	3,000
American Funds WAMultInvA	m LV	34,017	20.28	+3.5	-32.8/B	-2.4/C	5.75	250
Vanguard Intldx	LB	32,430	82.04	+4.5	-33.7/C	-2.5/C	NL	5,000,000
Dodge & Cox Stock	LV	31,218	75.47	+7.9	-38.2/E	-2.8/D	NL	2,500
American Funds EurPacGrA	m FB	30,956	31.28	+12.7	-31.3/A	+6.1/A	5.75	250

CA - Conservative Allocation, CI - Intermediate-Term Bond, ES - Europe Stock, FB - Foreign Large Blend, FG - Foreign Large Growth, FV - Foreign Large Value, IH - World Allocation, LB - Large Blend, LG - Large Growth, LV - Large Value, MA - Moderate Allocation, MB - Mid-Cap Blend, Mid-Cap Value, SH - Specialty-Health, WS - World Stock, Total Return: Chg in NAV with dividends reinvested. Rank: How fund performed vs. others with same objective. A is in top 20%, E in bottom 20%. Min Invt: Minimum \$ needed to invest in fund. Source: Morningstar.
Stock Footnotes: g = Dividends and earnings in Canadian dollars. h = Does not meet continued-listing standards. i = Late filing with SEC. n = New in past 52 weeks. p = Preferred. rs = Stock has undergone a reverse stock split of at least 50 percent within the past year. r = Right to buy security at a specified price. s = Stock has split by at least 20 percent within the last year. un = Units. vj = In bankruptcy or receivership. wd = When distributed. wf = When issued. wl = Warrants.
Load: l = Full load (sales charges). m = Multiple loads are charged. Na = Not available. p = previous day's net asset value. s = fund split shares during the week. x = fund paid a distribution during the week. Gainers and Losers must be worth at least \$2 to be listed in tables above.
Most Actives must be worth at least \$1. Volume in hundreds of shares. Source: The Associated Press. Sales figures are unofficial.