

MLB draft

NU's Dorn picked in 15th round by Florida Marlins.

Page B1

Tribune *Weekend*

SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR MORE THAN 100 YEARS

Not suicidal

G.I. woman responds to Rossen's accusations.

Page A5

44 pages <http://www.hastingstribune.com>

Saturday, June 7, 2008

Home delivered 29 cents Newsstands \$1

Oil prices soar pass \$138; Dow plummets

ANALYSTS PREDICT \$150 PER BARREL BY JULY 4

ADAM SCHRECK
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Oil prices made their biggest single-day leap ever Friday, dragging the Dow Jones industrials down nearly 400 points and raising the once-unthinkable prospect of \$150 oil and more record gas prices by the Fourth of July.

The meteoric rise of nearly \$11 for the day piled atop an increase of almost \$5.50 the day before, taking oil futures more than 13 percent higher in just two days, easily a record on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

And those weren't the only stunning numbers of the day: The government also reported the nation's unemployment rate zoomed to 5.5 percent in May, a monthly rise of half a percentage point, the biggest in 22 years.

Oil settled at \$138.54, a rise of more than 8 percent. The surge came after Morgan Stanley analyst Ole Slorer predicted strong demand in Asia and tight supplies in the Western Hemisphere could drive prices to \$150 by Independence Day, when millions of Americans take to the roads.

That means no end in sight for spiraling gas prices, already above \$4 per gallon in much of the country.

Even longtime market observers

were shocked by the magnitude and speed of oil's rally.

"We're into uncharted territory, and somewhat off the map as far as historical precedents are concerned," said Jim Ritterbusch, president of energy consultancy Ritterbusch and Associates in Galena, Ill.

Besides the jump in the unemployment rate, the Labor Department said employers had cut 49,000 jobs in May, the fifth straight month of nationwide

losses. Job losses for the year reached 324,000.

The White House said President Bush was considering further plans to help energize the economy, already teetering on the edge of recession and crippled by a tumbling housing market and other factors.

On Wall Street, the Dow plunged 394.64 points, more than 3 percent, to close at 12,209.81, the biggest drop in

Please see OIL/page A8

High speeds & High style



ANNA MOSTEK/Tribune

Above: Motorsport Park Hastings developer George Anderson stands on the deck of one of the garages and points to the new lots along the track. Anderson's plan is to build 60 garages of varying sizes along the inside of the track. **Top:** Owners are able to customize their garages to their own personal style. These lights hang over the counter.

GARAGE LIVING SPACES MAKE MPH HOME AWAY FROM HOME FOR RACERS

SHAY BURK

sburk@hastingstribune.com

Among the dirt, grass and various vehicles at Motorsport Park Hastings, stands a series of square metal buildings. From the outside, they look like basic tan-colored garages or storage units. The only thing that would seem out of the ordinary is the deck attached to the back of the building.

But, inside, these buildings look nothing

like your typical garage.

"When you look at these buildings from the outside, you'd never expect what you see on the inside," said George Anderson, the track's developer. "We want people to feel like they're staying in the Four Seasons for the look of the Super 8 on the outside."

The Garages, as these buildings are known, are actually garage spaces with living quarters that Anderson is selling to race participants to live in while they are at the track.

The first Garages were built in 2007.

Now, some are occupied by their owners who are coming from as far away as Georgia.

Each of The Garages comes with stainless steel appliances and granite countertops. From there, Anderson said the design is really up to the individual owner.

The Garages include everything from one to five bedrooms with multiple bathrooms and laundry closets. A few even have elevators.

Please see GARAGES/page A8

AG: Petition circulators can be kicked off private property

SOME SAY THERE ARE STILL GRAY AREAS WHEN IT COMES TO SIDEWALKS, STREETS

ANNA JO BRATTON

The Associated Press

OMAHA — Petition circulators don't have a right to remain on private property if they're asked to leave, the Nebraska attorney general said in a legal opinion Friday.

But those involved in past and present petition efforts say there are gray areas, and they worry about what they see as a trend to restrict petitioners' rights.

The problem, said Mike Groene of North Platte, is that many businesses aren't on public sidewalks any more.

Groene worked with a 2006 drive to limit state spending that got enough signatures but failed in the vote.

Fifty years ago, old-fashioned downtown sidewalks provided plenty of space for circulators to get the signatures they needed. The businesses were on private property, but the sidewalk out front was public.

But now, with the advent of strip malls, Groene said it can be tough to find a spot to stand.

"Who owns that sidewalk? Who funded that sidewalk?" asked Groene, who's not working with any petition groups this year.

His group, Stop OverSpending Nebraska, won a federal lawsuit in 2006 alleging that some Nebraska cities were hampering their ability to gather signatures.

U.S. District Judge Richard Kopf ruled that the cities of Omaha, Lincoln and Grand Island must allow circulators on most public property.

Kopf stressed that his order included sidewalks that carry traffic to private businesses.

Kopf also said circulators must be allowed access to areas just outside satellite offices that the Douglas County Treasurer leases in shopping malls — even though they are private property.

The ruling made some cities nervous about enforcing trespassing laws against petition circulators and so-called blockers — petition opponents who try to keep people from signing a petition.

Speaker of the Legislature Mike Flood said that's why he asked Attorney General Jon Bruning for an opinion on Wednesday. People had called with concerns and were confused about what the law said.

Bruning said it's clear private property owners have a right to restrict who comes on their property.

"The initiative process is an important tool for Nebraskans, but both sides need to act within the confines of the law," he said.

Bruning said that as the July deadlines approach to turn in signatures for November ballot issues, circulators may become more aggressive.

Please see AG/page A7

Survivors take first lap during Relay for Life

MORE THAN 320 TAKE PART IN EVENT

TONY HERRMAN

therman@hastingstribune.com

Relay for Life took on a personal significance for Hastings residents Bob and Judy Finnigsmeir when she was diagnosed with breast cancer 10 years ago.

Since then, they lost their

daughter, Susan Wissing, six years ago to cancer, and then Bob was diagnosed with prostate cancer 2 1/2 years ago.

"What this Relay for Life does is it recognizes that it's a problem an awful lot of people have," Bob said. "You meet them on the street, or shopping at Wal-Mart or whatever — they're all over. It's just a problem that is very relevant in our society and in our lives."

The Finnigsmeirs are two of about 120 cancer survivors who participated in Relay for Life, which began at 6 p.m., Friday and concluded at 6 a.m., this morning at the Hastings High School track.

Relay for Life began Friday with a survivor lap, during which survivors' names were read. That was followed by a caregiver lap.

"The beginning of the night

symbolizes being healthy — not having cancer — and as the night goes on and it gets darker and it gets colder and you get tired and you're exhausted, it represents the lowest part of cancer treatment with chemo and radiation," said Suellen Hupf, who is co-chairing the event with Tracy Palmer. "As we go into the morning, that's our renewing

Please see RELAY/page A7



AMY ROH/Tribune

Cancer survivor Roger Rader receives a balloon from Mariah Stec, 8, during the Adams County Relay for Life Friday at Hastings High.

Weather

Hi: 90
Lo: 65

A 20 percent chance of showers and storms this afternoon.



Art by Evey Kryzsko, 8, St. Michael Elementary

GAS HOARDING

DARTMOUTH, Mass. —

Authorities say a couple trying to beat the high cost of gasoline accidentally caused a fire that burned their apartment complex.

Fire Chief Richard Arruda says

Nation

the couple had about 45 gallons of gasoline in nine plastic jugs stacked in a closet that also housed an air conditioning unit.

The gasoline fumes apparently set off Wednesday's fire, which was quickly put out by a sprinkler system.

No one was seriously hurt, but

residents of eight units were displaced.

Investigators believe the couple were storing the gas because of rising prices. Officials say they might face civil penalties for violating the fire code.

The Associated Press

Inside

Agri/Business	E 1	Entertainment	AA 2
Bridge	AA 3	Obituaries	A 2
Classified	B 5	Religion	E 4
Comics	E 3	Society	E 6

VOL. 103, No. 212 ©2008, THE SEATON PUBLISHING CO., INC. HASTINGS, NEBRASKA

Garages: MPH offers high style living quarters

Continued from page A1

A few of the occupied Garages feature leather furniture, designer sinks and bathroom designs with flat screen televisions in every room.

There are others that are more relaxed with checker board floors and simple floor plans.

To go with the flat-screen TVs, there is a sound system in each Garage to allow the radio or TV to be played throughout the house.

Each Garage also has a two-story deck with a spiral staircase, giving the owners a birds-eye view of the track and surrounding area.

"I want people to come and have a nice, private getaway," Anderson said. "I want them to be able to focus on the track. It's all about the track here — not about having fancy-looking buildings."

Anderson expects to have about 60 Garages built in all, ranging in size and design, including one already built with five bedrooms. Eighteen lots have been sold so far and eight Garages have been completed. Construction should begin later this summer on another seven units.

Anderson said he knows that these homes are sort of a retreat for the drivers, and he wants it to feel that way.

As one added bonus, Anderson built a road that gives Garage owners the ability to get onto the track for practice without having to go around to the paddock. Also, all Garage owners are automatically made members of the Guardrail Club, an elite clubhouse with refreshments that is open during race weekends.

The club, which will be just north of Turn 14 on the track, will have a parking area, club room and deck for members to watch events.

Anderson said the idea for the clubhouse came from the



MPH Track developer George Anderson rides from the garage to the upper apartment level in an elevator. Elevators were a special addition added to some garages at the owner's request.

people who were interested in coming to the track but could not buy a Garage.

"So now they'll have a place they can come and watch the race," he said.

Members can visit the clubhouse any time it's open and also get a total of six free times on the track during unscheduled times throughout the season.

Anderson said he expects construction to start soon on the clubhouse so that it can be open in July.

Hoping to have 30 to 40 members, Anderson said he is already up to more than 60 members from Nebraska, Colorado, Iowa and other states.

As for the drag strip that he hopes to have at MPH in the future, Anderson said that project is still in the works. It depends on the result of ongoing negotiations with the Union Pacific Railroad to purchase 20 acres of land to the east of the track, he said.



ANNA MOSTEK/Tribune

Above: Of the seven garages built at Motorsport Park Hastings, six have already been sold. Plans have been made to build a total of 60 garages of varying sizes around the track. Plans are also in the works to build the Guardrail Club. **Right:** Each of the two-story garages features a two-story deck with a spiral staircase. The owners of this garage chose to put a hot tub on their deck.



ANNA MOSTEK/Tribune

Top: Track developer George Anderson walks around a Mini Cooper inside one of the new garages at MPH. **Center:** Owners of the garages can customize their apartments to their own personal styles. This garage featured stainless steel appliances and hardwood floors. **Above:** The Guardrail Club is a members only sports bar located along the track.

Oil: Prices hit \$138; Dow plummets 400-plus points

Continued from page A1

more than 15 months in both percentage and points terms.

Wall Street had managed to shrug off oil's advance on Thursday but succumbed to extreme anxiety Friday.

The stock market's great concern of late has been whether consumers would curb their spending on non-essentials as they were forced to pay more for gas and other staples.

The previously unthinkable idea of \$150 oil, and gasoline that will keep climbing above \$4, made it clear to investors that consumers would be forced to be even more conservative than they have been in recent months.

Before Thursday, oil had receded nearly \$13 a barrel from its highs, a respite from its nearly record-every-day march. But the end of the week sent it right back up again.

The burst in oil prices also raised the prospect of accelerating inflation by adding to already strained transportation costs — which will send prices higher throughout the economy.

Light, sweet crude for July delivery officially finished the day at \$138.54, up \$10.75 on the Nymex. But after the settlement, the contract jumped as high as \$139.12. Prices hit a previous record of \$135.09 a barrel on May 22, and settled Thursday at \$127.79.

Traders also zeroed in on remarks by an Israeli Cabinet minister who was quoted as saying his country will attack Iran if it doesn't abandon its nuclear program. Transportation Minister Shaul Mofaz added that Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad "will disappear before Israel does," the Yediot Ahronot daily reported.

Iran is the second-biggest oil producer in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, and traders worry that any conflict with Israel could disrupt global supplies.

A further weakening of the dollar also helped send oil prices higher by enticing overseas buyers armed with stronger currencies and others looking for a hedge against the greenback. But it also represented a stampede by bullish traders and optimistic computer models betting that prices still have further to rise.

"The bulls ... refuse to go away," said Stephen Schork, an analyst and trader in Villanova, Pa.

Meanwhile, U.S. gas prices at the pump continued to hover just shy of an average \$4 a gallon, easing only 0.3 cent from Thursday's record.

Drivers are now paying an average of \$3.99 for a gallon of regular gas nationwide, according to AAA and the Oil Price Information Service; in many parts of the country, consumers are already paying well over \$4. Retail diesel slipped a penny overnight to \$4.76.

Pump prices are bound to rise even further if oil sustains its advance. James Cordier, president of Tampa, Fla.-based trading firm Liberty Trading Group, predicted prices could rise to \$4.25 as early as the end of the month.

"Unfortunately, drivers cutting back isn't going to lower the price of gasoline anytime soon," he said.

The dramatic reversal in what had been a weakening oil market began Thursday after ECB President Jean-Claude Trichet suggested the bank could raise interest rates and the euro climbed against the dollar. When interest rates rise in Europe, or fall in the

U.S., the dollar tends to weaken against the euro.

Many traders buy commodities such as oil as a hedge against inflation when the dollar is falling, and a weaker dollar makes oil cheaper for investors dealing in other currencies. Analysts believe the dollar's protracted decline has been a major reason why oil prices have nearly doubled in the past year.

The euro strengthened further against the greenback Friday. A Labor Department report showing the U.S. unemployment rate jumped half a percentage point to 5.5 percent last month — its biggest monthly increase since 1986 — could drag the dollar even lower in the days ahead.

"Unemployment jumping as it did today will be in the market for a long time and will continue to pressure the U.S. dollar," Cordier said.

The influx of so much fresh money into the energy markets has caught the attention of federal watchdogs. The U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission recently said it was six months into a probe of U.S. oil markets focused on possible price manipulation.

Asked about Friday's surge, CFTC spokesman R. David Gary said: "People are aware of what's happening and are monitoring the markets closely, but beyond that there is no comment."

In other Nymex trading, heating oil futures jumped 29.32 cents to settle at \$3.974 a gallon, while gasoline prices rose 21.35 cents to settle at \$3.548 a gallon. Natural gas futures rose 17.4 cents to settle at \$12.693 per 1,000 cubic feet.

In London, July Brent crude shot up \$10.15 to settle at \$137.69 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

Tired of Leaky Basement Windows?



IS Your Solution!

- Non-blowoff lid keeps window well dry all year round and easily raises up from below
- Durable egress ladder integrated for easy escape during emergency
- High-quality integrated lid withstands weights of up to 250 lbs
- Ultra-durable fiberglass construction
- Up to 72" x 60" available
- Meets FMVSS 302 Fire Rating



Visit www.SunEgress.com today for more information or call (402) 463-0180 for pricing and to speak to a representative.