

Colorado-based Blue Knights Drum and Bugle Corps rolls to competition tonight
Front Range, A3



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Business, E1



REPORTER-HERALD

Saturday July 15, 2006 Loveland, Colorado www.lovelandfyi.com 50 Cents No. 196

Oil prices pass \$78 per barrel

Mideast turmoil means totals at gas pumps may climb even more

WASHINGTON (AP) — The price of oil briefly surpassed \$78 a barrel Friday and finished 4 percent higher for the week after Israeli attacks against militants in Lebanon stoked fears of a wider Middle East conflict and possible oil-supply disruption.

The run-up in oil raised concerns about inflation and the economy at large, sending stock prices tumbling. OPEC tried to reassure the market by stressing its commitment to "order and stability," but at the same time said it "has no influence" over the geopolitical turmoil underlying today's volatility.

Because oil accounts for more than 50 percent of the cost of gasoline, U.S. pump prices, now averaging \$2.96 a gallon nationwide, are likely to climb some more, analysts said.

On Friday, light sweet crude for August delivery on the New York Mercantile Exchange soared as high as a record \$78.40 a barrel in electronic trading before settling at a record \$77.03, an increase of 33 cents from Thursday's record close.

Gasoline futures rose by 2.36 cents to settle at \$2.3249 a gallon — the highest level since late September of last year, when U.S. refinery output was sharply curtailed by hurricane damage.

In London, Brent crude futures gained 58 cents to settle at \$77.27 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

"We've reached a level where we've put all the scare premium into the market that we can," said James Cordier, president of Liberty Trading in Tampa, Fla. "At this point, we have to have a disruption to move smartly higher from here."

Cordier said that while fuel demand in the U.S.



NUDE ART RAISES HACKLES



A 7-foot-tall bronze sculpture titled "Triangle" by artist Kirsten Kokkin sits at the Art Casting of Colorado foundry Thursday as Erich Menzel welds a sculpture in the background.

Residents go rounds over 'Triangle'

Some say the city's latest sculpture explores themes of cooperation. Others say it's just 'X-rated' and shouldn't be put on display

BY RACHEL CARTER
REPORTER-HERALD STAFF WRITER

In Loveland, a city known for its sculptors and sculptures, controversy over the art pieces themselves is bound to brew.

And when it does, it's usually about bronze breasts and buttocks.

The loincloth on Fritz White's sculpture "Winning The Iron Shirt" covers the American Indian's loins but not enough of his cheeks (in some people's opinion).

Denny Haskew's piece "Moulding Our Future" drew attention — some good, some bad — because it depicts a nude woman holding a nude child.

In 2001, Jack Kreutzer's sculpture "Spanish Dancers," of a nude dancer standing on her tiptoes, arms stretched high above her head, prompted an anonymous donor to give the woman a thigh-length, button-down red shirt.

The latest nude piece to irk residents is Loveland artist Kirsten Kokkin's sculpture "Triangle." The 7-foot-tall bronze sculpture shows a nude woman and a nude man

RH ART IN PUBLIC PLACES

Loveland leaders created the city's Art in Public Places program in 1985 — the first city in Colorado to do so.

The program puts 1 percent of the cost of city construction projects over \$50,000 into a reserve fund to buy artwork for city-owned buildings and property.

The Visual Arts Commission was formed the same year to oversee the Art in Public Places program, including the placement of art.

Loveland now has 283 pieces of publicly owned art in its collection.

holding another nude woman high in the air, forming a sort of inverted equilateral triangle of torsos and limbs.

"Triangle" was commissioned by the city's Visual Arts Commission and paid for with \$67,150 from Loveland's Art in Public Places fund.

Crews plan to install "Triangle" by the end of the month in the middle of the roundabout at Sculptor Drive and First Street — much to the dismay of some members of the Abiding Love Lutheran congregation, which is building a church at 2825 E. First St.

Suzanne Janssen, museum business ser-

SEE SCULPTURE, PAGE A2

FDA panel votes against approval for vision-improving 'bionic eye'

WASHINGTON — In the 1970s TV show "The Six Million Dollar Man," the strapping young astronaut got a bionic eye. A U.S. company had hoped that next year that might be your grandmother.

Not so fast, a federal advisory panel said Friday.

A tiny telescope designed to be implanted in the eyes of some elderly patients should not receive Food and Drug Administration approval, the panel recommended on a 10-3 vote.

The FDA's ophthalmic devices panel recommended against the pea-sized bionic device for safety reasons, spokeswoman Heidi Valetkevitch said.

The first-of-its-kind device is called the Implantable Miniature Telescope. The telephoto lens could enable some patients to do away with the special glasses and handheld telescopes they now use to compensate for the loss in central vision caused by age-related macular degeneration, according to VisionCare Ophthalmic Technologies Inc., its manufacturer.

— The Associated Press

More Nation news on D4

Despite the lure of Japan trade, many U.S. beef plants opt out

OMAHA, Neb. — When Japan banned U.S. beef in 2003 because of mad cow fears, the industry braced for a big financial hit, with job losses spilling into Midwest feedlots, supply companies and retail businesses.

So when Japan agreed to lift the ban — contingent on Japanese checks of U.S. beef plants — many assumed that the inspectors would be welcomed everywhere with open arms.

But while 35 American beef processing plants are submitting to the inspections, thousands of other plants have opted out, deciding not to bother with exporting.

Japanese inspectors began visiting U.S. beef processing plants on June 24 after an agreement was brokered to restore the once-lucrative beef trade with Japan that used to account for about \$1.4 billion a year and 10 percent of U.S. beef sales.

Greeley's Swift & Co. beef packing plant was to be included in Japan's inspections.

— The Associated Press

More Region news on C5

Today's weather forecast

Sizzling heat and dry **High: 101**
Low: 66

Full forecast on C6

JUST WEIRD

Teens arrested after posing as trolls, trying to collect bridge toll

BOULDER — Two teenagers who allegedly demanded money from bridge-crossers and shouted lines from the film "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" were arrested after threatening to stab an off-duty sheriff's deputy, authorities said.

Robert Hibbs, 19, and Bradley Boville, 18, were arrested July 6, Boulder police said. Hibbs was charged with menacing and possession of LSD, while Boville was charged with menacing and possession of less than an ounce of marijuana.

The two tried to charge a fee to people crossing a bridge in a city park. Sheriff's Sgt. Kevin Parker tried to cross the bridge on his bike when the two teens asked for a dollar. Witnesses said the two were shouting lines from the movie about how people "shall not pass."

When Parker refused, Hibbs allegedly told Boville to "go stab that guy" and charged the officer, authorities said.

When police arrived, the teens allegedly told officers that they were raising money to buy a lighter to smoke a "very large" marijuana joint made out of several dollar bills.

— The Associated Press

More Features on B1

Inside today's RH:

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SEE OIL, PAGE A2

County to vote on indoor football team

Lease for use of Budweiser Events Center under review

BY JON PILSNER
REPORTER-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Indoor football could be coming back to Northern Colorado, and this time for more than just one game.

A lease for an indoor football team to use the Budweiser Events Center will be reviewed Tuesday by Larimer County commissioners.

The deal, negotiated by The Ranch and Budweiser Events Center with the owners of the expansion team, is for a five-year lease of the facilities for eight to 10 games per season. The first season would be spring 2007.

If approved, the expansion team would be the second time an indoor football team has tried to make a home in Northern Colorado.

The Colorado Venom, launched in January 2004, folded in April of that year after the team failed to meet obligations to play at the Budweiser Events Center. It played only one game, on the road.

The owners of the new team have scheduled a press conference for Tuesday afternoon at the Budweiser Events Center, if the lease is approved, to unveil the ownership, as well as other details about the team.

The team would compete in the minor-professional United Indoor Football league, which has 10 teams in eight states. Team locations stretch

SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE A2

SCULPTURE: Artist defends piece at public meeting, while church members express their concerns

FROM PAGE A1

... coordinator, said the city received several e-mails and a few phone calls from people (mostly church members) who are upset the sculpture soon will be in their neighborhood.

Janssen invited each person to attend the Visual Arts Commission meeting Thursday night to discuss "Triangle" and its future home.

About 20 people showed up — three from the church; the

rest were mostly local sculptors — and Kokkin also attended to defend her piece.

During the meeting, church members Dan Mielke, Gigi Rud and DeAnn Duncan protested both the subject matter and the placement of "Triangle."

Mielke said the sculpture was "R-rated."

"When you see three nude people playing, I can imagine where that would end up," he said.

Duncan said when more development comes to the area, more people are going to complain about the sculpture.

"When the area is more developed, when there's a bus stop out there, when little kids go 'Oooh, Mom, ooh, Dad, what is that?' — That's not R-rated to you?" Duncan asked. "That's X-rated to me."

Duncan added, "It starts small, but where does it stop? The next thing you know, we have art of naked people having sex. As a parent, I don't want my

child to see that."

Kokkin said she created "Triangle" to show that humans must rely on one another to succeed, calling the sculpture a "rude" of humanity, eternally linked together.

"This sculpture has nothing to do with erotica at all," Kokkin said. "It has to do with humanity and the spirit of humanity."

Several local sculptors in the crowd defended Kokkin, her piece and — at times — art in general.

"Their kid might say, 'Mommy, what's that?' and if you don't know much about art, then you would say it's about sex because you don't know anything about art or form or content or metaphor," Loveland sculptor Philip Maior said. "You would say it's some nasty sex thing."

Mielke said the artists' opinions were going to be quite different from the general public's views.

"When you talk to artists,

they're going to have a different perception; I don't think their perception falls in line with what the general population thinks," Mielke said.

Kreutzer, whose nude sculptures have had their turn in the spotlight, said, "I don't think it's fair to say that the general public will look at that ('Triangle') and see sex."

Chairman Jim Baldwin said Visual Arts Commission members know Loveland has a diverse community with diverse opinions about art.

Although there are no set policies about nudity, Baldwin said the commission puts much thought into where to place sculptures.

He said the commission expected some controversy over "Triangle" but added the controversy isn't always just about nudity.

"There have been pieces brought into the collection over the years that were clothed, but weren't clothed

'enough,'" he said.

Baldwin added that reaction to art is both the dilemma and beauty of it: "Not to discount your concerns, but we cannot get a single work that everyone will like."

In the end, the commission decided not to find a different location for "Triangle."

After the meeting, Mielke, Duncan and Rud said most of the 130 people in their congregation are concerned about the sculpture and its future home at the Sculptor Drive roundabout.

Mielke contacted City Manager Don Williams in hopes the issue will come up at a future Loveland City Council meeting.

"I don't think it's out of the scope of the imagination that someone would look at that and come up with a dirty thought," Mielke said.

Rud added, "The subject matter is just not appropriate for the area."

FOOTBALL: Team would add to area's pro roster

FROM PAGE A1

from Omaha, Neb., to the eastern border of Ohio.

The Venom was part of the National Indoor Football League.

In 2005, the United Indoor Football League was created when teams from the arenafootball2 league and the National Indoor Football League broke off from their previous leagues and combined to create a new league.

Jay Hardy, general manager of The Ranch, said the Budweiser Events Center into a football arena won't be a big challenge.

"Five years ago when we started designing the building, this is one of the designs we put in there, so we were able to do that," Hardy said. "It's potentially great to bring in, and it's not a big capital investment."

The details of the lease will be released next Tuesday after the Larimer County commissioners vote whether to accept it. Hardy said the commissioners didn't raise any "yellow or red flags" when they went through the business aspects of the deal.

If approved, the deal would create the third professional sports team and the Northern Colorado and at the Bud Center.

The Colorado Eagles professional hockey team started play in 2003, but the Budweiser Events Center's first year. The Colorado Chill, a professional women's basketball team founded in 2003, ceased operations last month.

Most football games will fall near the end of or after the Eagles' season. The United Indoor Football League began its 2006 season March 24.

Because there will be little schedule overlap, it was optimal, Hardy said, to add a tenant when events are less frequent at the complex.

"If there is a slow time in the arena, it's in the summertime," Hardy said. "Anytime we get eight to 10 dates in the summertime with one client, it's a good thing."

Market watch

July 14, 2006

Dow Jones industrials	-106.94
Nasdaq composite	-16.76
Standard & Poor's 500	-6.09
Russell 2000	-6.05

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OIL: Israel continues Lebanon assault

FROM PAGE A1

is still strong, rising energy costs appear to be dampening consumer spending in other areas, and that could eventually slow the economy enough to help cool energy prices.

But there won't be any significant decline until at least the end of the summer, and that assumes that the Gulf Coast sustains no serious hurricane

damage this year.

Israel widened its offensive on Lebanon on Friday, with fighter bombers blasting the airport for a second day and cutting off the main highway to Syria. Hezbollah has fired more than 100 rockets into Israel. More than 80 people have died, most in Lebanon, in three days of violence sparked by the capture of two Israeli soldiers by Hezbollah.

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