

TOM SHATEL:

The new sheriff is enforcing his brand of discipline — Bo Law.

SEEN AND HEARD:

Notes and quotes from the Huskers' first day of fall practice.

'I'M NOT A PSYCHOLOGIST'

Bo Pelini looks ahead, not behind, and will let ghosts of coaches past fade away.

COVERAGE IN SPORTS



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Video of the press conference

Big Red Today: We update NU football news as it happens.

Omaha World-Herald

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2008 MIDLANDS EDITION

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER OWNED BY EMPLOYEES

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Hard job, hard times

Volunteer firefighters struggle with declining membership, rising costs and changing attitudes toward the vocation.

Midlands

Great views inside, out

A contemporary home in Omaha incorporates a treehouse room, concrete floors and an interior catwalk.

Money

She works; others play

Meet a teenager who has traded a summer of relaxation for responsibility as a pool's head lifeguard.

Slice in Living

A runner's dream

Alice Schmidt will be only the second woman from Nebraska to compete in an Olympic track and field meet.

Sports

COMING WEDNESDAY

Math homework

Is it cheaper to pack your kids' lunch or have them buy it at school?

Nebraska weather



A storm. High: 86 Low: 66

Full weather report: Page 5B

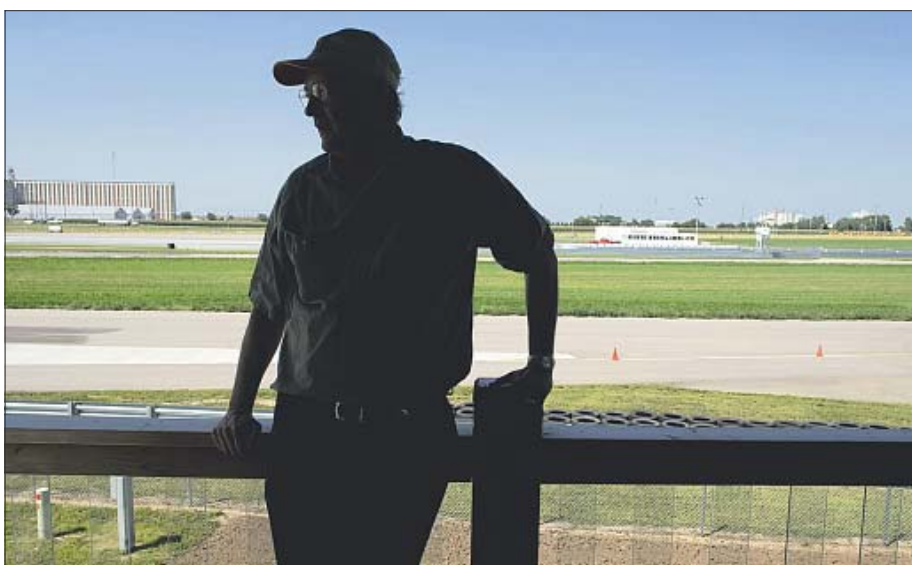
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HIGH-SPEED HAVEN NEAR HASTINGS



Condos overlook the 2.15-mile track at Motorsport Park east of Hastings. The buildings include space for storing racing enthusiasts' vehicles.



George Anderson on the deck of one of the condos overlooking the track at Motorsport Park.

JEFF BEIERMANN/THE WORLD-HERALD

Motorsport Park has been developed as auto enthusiasts' multimillion-dollar playground

By PAUL HAMMEL
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

HASTINGS, Neb. — As he roared down the straightaway at 100 mph in an \$80,000 canary-yellow Corvette, George Anderson had a thought: "It just doesn't get any better than this."

Then he downshifted into a gravity-bending corner, the car's 650-horsepower engine growling under the hood.

Anderson, 59, owner of a high-performance machine shop and sports car dealership in Hastings, has turned a passion for fast cars and high speeds into a multimillion-dollar playground for auto enthusiasts. Motorsport Park is east of town, amid cornfields and ethanol plants.

It's a country club for big boys with big, fast toys. It draws members, car clubs and motorcycle racing groups from around the region.

Some car owners have purchased \$300,000 condominiums at the track to store their Porsches, Corvettes and Mustangs so they're ready to race when they can get away.



DAVE CROY/THE WORLD-HERALD

There are \$1,000 initiation and \$500 annual membership fees to join the Guardrail Club, which provides "T-times" (track times) to cars zooming up to 140 mph on the 2.15-mile asphalt road course.

Members are primarily middle-aged folks who have disposable in-

come and crave the adrenaline rush of pushing the pedal to the metal in souped-up autos. They range from a local cattle feeder to an Internet millionaire.

"Golf costs money, and bass boats are expensive, too, but this has a lot more thrills than most of those hobbies," said Randy Hablitzel, a 60-year-old self-employed businessman who was out testing his 1989 Ford Mustang on a recent afternoon.

"This is go-carts for big kids," he added.

The track, which opened in 2006, is similar to Mid America Motorplex, the 2.23-mile track south of Omaha near Pacific Junction, Iowa, that opened in 2002.

The Hastings track has 75 lots that can be developed for luxury condo-



Anderson

Anderson puts his Corvette through its paces on the Motorsport Park track.



#1 CONCERN: GAS PRICES

Recess shuts off energy talks

Lawmakers hope to revisit proposals when Congress reconvenes.

By JOSEPH MORTON
WORLD-HERALD BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Senators and House members know that one issue burns brighter than all others in constituents' minds right now.

"It's gas prices," said Rep. Jeff Fortenberry, R-Neb.

Pain at the pump has dominated the teleconferences that Fortenberry holds with residents of the 1st Congressional District.

Other Nebraska and Iowa lawmakers say that they have had the same experience and that the volume of letters and e-mails they get on the subject has been high. Rep. Lee Terry, R-Neb., received nearly 2,000 pieces of mail related to energy in a recent two-week period.

"There's no question it's the No. 1 issue," said Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa.

King said he represents thousands of rural constituents who use a gallon or more of gas every day to get to and from work. Their monthly gasoline costs threaten to surpass their rent payments, he said.

Despite the clamoring for relief and the fact that Capitol Hill has been buzzing with talk of boosting energy supplies, Congress headed off for its August recess on Friday without enacting any major energy legislation.

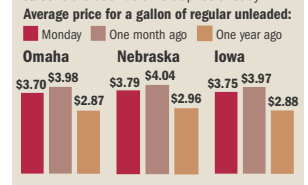
Congress has deadlocked repeatedly on how to increase U.S. energy production. Republicans have favored lifting a moratorium on off-shore drilling and granting oil and gas companies leases to explore new areas. Democrats talk about pressuring oil companies to produce more supplies from areas they already control.

Energy also has become one of the top issues in the presidential campaign. The two major party candidates have sparred over the best direction for the country's energy

See Energy: Page 2

A break at the pump

Gas prices continue to decline based on oil prices, said Rose White with AAA Nebraska. The average price statewide could get down to about \$3.60 a gallon in coming weeks, she said. Some Omaha stations are at or below that price already.



Pick 5 winner strikes gold yet again, joins perfect 10 club

By MARTHA STODDARD
WORLD-HERALD BUREAU

LINCOLN — When Wanda Sargent of Grand Island won a \$66,000 Nebraska Pick 5 jackpot last year, her husband wanted to build a workshop in the backyard.

She kept putting him off. "If I win again, you'll have your workshop," she told him.

Looks like John Sargent is going to get his puttering-around space after all. Lightning struck twice for Wanda

Sargent when one of her Pick 5 tickets matched all five of Friday's winning numbers.

The feat won her a second jackpot — \$62,000 this time — and made her the fourth repeat winner in Nebraska Pick 5 lottery history. It was her second jackpot in about 15 months.

"I couldn't believe it right at first," Sargent said. "I thought, it couldn't be happening again."

But a quick check on the computer confirmed it. She had indeed beaten the odds a second time with one of her

weekly Pick 5 tickets.

Lottery officials calculate the odds of winning the Pick 5 jackpot at 1 in 501,942.

Brian Rockey, marketing and communications director for the Nebraska Lottery, said the number of variables involved — including how often someone plays — makes it very difficult to calculate the odds of winning twice.

Stephen Kachman, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln statistics professor, said it would take more than one after-



Sargent

The dandy double

Four Nebraskans have hit the jackpot twice playing Nebraska Pick 5:

- Kathi Wiley of Lincoln, \$30,000, Feb. 20, 1997; \$60,000, Aug. 29, 1997
- Carrol Tetschner of Burwell, \$30,450, Dec. 18, 1995; \$30,000, June 26, 1998
- Joe Schauf of Emmet, \$74,900, May 24, 2004; \$30,900, Dec. 21, 1995
- Wanda Sargent of Grand Island, \$66,000, May 11, 2007; \$62,000, Aug. 1, 2008



For the record

Acquisition: Omaha-based HDM Benefit Solutions is being acquired by Cypress Benefits Administrators. Other facets of HDM Corp. were not part of the sale. A headline in Monday's Money section was incorrect.

Connect today

IN MIDLANDS, Page 3B

A Westside High student who won a graphic design award in the Boys & Girls Clubs of America Digital Festival is among Midlanders honored in **Noteworthy**.

IN MONEY, Page 1D

What's happening at 27th and Douglas Streets?

IN LIVING, Page 1E

Tips for helping your kids make the transition back to school in **For the Family**.

Lotteries

POWERBALL
Saturday, Aug. 2: 2-5-28-33-54. **Powerball:** 30. **Power Play:** 5. One winning ticket worth \$86.3 million sold in Pennsylvania.
Estimated jackpot for Wednesday, Aug. 6: \$15 million.

NEBRASKA
Pick 5 — Saturday, Aug. 2: 3-7-29-33-36. No jackpot winner. **Jackpot for Monday, Aug. 4:** \$54,000.
2by2 — Sunday, Aug. 3: red: 4-20; white: 20-26.
Pick 3 — Saturday, Aug. 2: 6-3-1.

IOWA
Cash Game — Saturday, Aug. 2: 2-8-12-17-30.
Hot Lotto — Saturday, Aug. 2: 8-9-10-11-22. **Hot Ball:** 3.
Pick 3 — Sunday, Aug. 3: evening 6-2-7.
Pick 4 — Sunday, Aug. 3: evening 6-9-7-2.
 Lottery results from other states are on Omaha.com.

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Energy: Lawmakers hope their proposed solutions get noticed

Continued from Page 1 policies.

Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama both say they oppose opening up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska to drilling, a move called for by many congressional Republicans.

Obama seems open to what's billed as a compromise energy proposal by the so-called "Gang of 10," which includes Sen. Ben Nelson, D-Neb. The proposal calls for some new off-shore drilling, tax credits and other incentives for more efficient motor vehicles, and funding for alternative energy sources.

Obama said Monday in Michigan that he could support limited new offshore drilling if it were needed to enact the compromise.

"I am not interested in making the perfect the enemy of the good," he said, "particularly since there is so much good in this compromise that would actually reduce our dependence on foreign oil."

McCain, speaking in Pennsylvania, again advocated more oil drilling off the U.S. coast.

"Anybody who says that we

can achieve energy independence without using and increasing these existing energy resources either doesn't have the experience to understand the challenge that we face or isn't giving the American people some straight talk," he said.

Nebraska and Iowa lawmakers will have to hope the people they represent in this election year are satisfied that they've proposed ideas for confronting the country's energy needs, even if they haven't become law.

Nelson and nine other senators formed the bipartisan group that worked for weeks to break the logjam. The senators outlined their proposal last week, saying they hope it will be the basis for a new, broader debate when Congress returns in September.

The energy debate has been so contentious that many frustrated Republican House members refused to leave after the session officially ended at midday Friday. The microphones and cameras were turned off, but GOP members lingered on the floor giving speeches on energy in a kind of impromptu rally.

Gang of 10 Energy Plan

A bipartisan group of 10 senators, including Ben Nelson, D-Neb., has outlined an \$84 billion proposal to tackle the country's energy problems:

Adopt policies that will encourage use of motor vehicles that run on nonpetroleum fuels. Invest in technologies such as advanced batteries, helping automakers retool their operations to produce alternative-fuel vehicles and provide tax credits to consumers who purchase advanced-fuel vehicles.

Create incentives for conservation. Give tax credits to consumers who purchase fuel-efficient vehicles and funding for research on advanced biofuels.

Allow for new off-shore drilling. Open areas in the eastern portion of the Gulf of Mexico and allow Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia to opt into off-shore leasing to oil companies. The plan retains an environmental buffer zone that would extend 50 miles offshore, where new production would be prohibited.

energy production.

A small group of House members, including King, returned to the floor Monday to continue the faux session. Terry said he would fly back to Washington on Thursday to join them for a day.

Terry plans to hold an "energy relief" rally today in Omaha. He has previously advocated drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, using oil shale on federal lands and increasing the production of ethanol.

Smith has called on House

Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., to meet with him and other House freshmen who traveled to the wildlife refuge to investigate the drilling potential there. He favors opening the area to drilling.

King said he wants to see energy come from wherever it can be found, although he opposes a Democratic proposal, endorsed Monday by Obama, to draw down from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. He said the reserve would be critical in the case of a serious national emergency, such as Iran cutting off oil supplies.

All of the lawmakers will keep their fingers crossed that when they're back home, their constituents will view them as laboring on the problem and not just producing hot air.

Nelson said that when constituents confront him about the energy crisis, he's going to point to the proposals outlined by the Gang of 10.

"They're not going to get mad at me, because I'm trying to get something done," Nelson said.

This report includes material from the Associated Press.

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Track: Car clubs from Omaha, Denver come to Hastings facility

Continued from Page 1

miniums. The condos, each of which can store up to six cars, have two bedrooms, decks that overlook the race course and hot tubs.

Fifteen lots have been sold, and nearly a dozen condos are completed.

"They like their freaking privacy, and that's what we provide here," Anderson said of the guests.

But Motorsport Park is also bringing economic development to Hastings.

Besides additional business for Anderson and his machine shop and dealership, there have been purchases of Corvettes and other fast cars in the area.

And when 140 car club members drive in from Denver or Omaha for a private weekend of racing, there's more business for local motels and restaurants.

"It's an economic plus," said Tom Hastings, president of the Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce, who credits Anderson for fulfilling an ambitious dream.

David Balingit, director of the National Auto Sports Association's Rocky Mountain region, said the Hastings track is the best such racing complex in his eight-state region.

That's because the track, designed by widely known course designer Alan Wilson, is safe, smooth and fun to drive, Balingit said. The hospitality from Anderson and the community of



George Anderson drives his Corvette around the 2.15-mile track at Motorsport Park. He said his hometown was ideal for a motor sports venue.

25,000 is unmatched, he added.

Some drivers refer to Motorsport Park as the "racetrack with the homemade cinnamon rolls," which are among the pastries Anderson delivers each morning.

After driving time is over, members quaff beers in the soon-to-be-completed clubhouse.

"When we come to Hastings, they roll out the red carpet for us," Balingit said.

Anderson, a Hastings native whose family owned an irrigation-pump business there, said his hometown was ideal for a motor sports venue — just as Nebraska's Sand Hills have become an ideal spot for private golf courses.

Land is reasonably priced, and there are fewer neighbors and zoning restrictions to deal with in building a racetrack, Anderson said.

Despite higher fuel costs, the vast majority of racing car owners are willing to shell out the additional dollars to drive fast on a controlled course, he said.

There have been a couple of

crashes at the track since it opened.

But the cars have such safety features as fire-extinguishing systems and roll cages, drivers wear safety suits and the track has tire barriers and car-slowing gravel traps to minimize injuries, said Dusty Kohl, the track manager.

Anderson has plans for the future, including a motocross track and drag strip with grandstand seating for 6,000 to 8,000.

On a recent steamy weekday afternoon, the track was a buzz of activity, with a racing team sponsored by Hastings businessman Terry Klatt, a member of the Nebraska auto racing hall of fame, stopping by to work on its cars between races at McCool Junction, Neb., and Belleville, Kan.

Klatt's spacious garage here has a front that looks like a 1940s Mobil Oil service station.

Landscapers were working on some of the condos while Anderson was revving up the Corvette. One of his mechanics drove out one of the \$225,000 Shelybs that Anderson's shop, Gessford Machine, sells and modifies for customers as far away as New Zealand.

"This is what a \$51,000 engine looks like," Anderson said, raising the hood on the brushed aluminum, two-seat sports car. "This is the real deal. This is a pretty keen job I have."

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Double: Pick 5 player defies odds, wins twice over 15 months

Continued from Page 1

noon to calculate the odds of repeating as a lottery winner.

"That would make a nice little (academic) paper for someone," Kachman said.

Sargent has purchased two Pick 5 tickets every week for years — paying \$6 per ticket, good for six days' worth of drawings. Until last May, she hadn't been especially lucky. The most

she had won was a free game here and there and a few dollars, she said.

She kept at it, ignoring the teasing from her family. Nor did she stop after winning the first jackpot.

"I like a game of chance," Sargent said. "I like to gamble a little bit. I kind of look forward to it."

Mostly she buys the lottery

tickets at the Skagway grocery store on South Locust Street in Grand Island. That's where she purchased both of her winning tickets.

The first time around, she won with a set of numbers based on the birthdays of her four children. This time, she won with computer-generated numbers.

After Friday, her family is changing its tune.

"I'm thinking I should just give her my money to buy tickets," said daughter JoAnne Hoatson of North Platte. "Somebody's looking over her shoulder."

Sargent said she plans to pick up her winnings today.

She put most of the first jackpot in the bank and took a trip to the West Coast, Yellowstone and

a granddaughter's home in Idaho.

She said she may use some of her latest winnings for a trip east and will probably put the rest in the bank.

All except the money for that workshop, of course.

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