

Midwest gas prices remain volatile

The national average price for regular unleaded gasoline on July 23 was \$3.67 per gallon. This price is four cents more than a week ago, 10 cents more than one month ago and 20 cents more than the same day last year. South Dakota's statewide average sits today at \$3.697 a gallon. This is just five cents higher than a week ago, four cents higher than a month ago, and 12 cents higher than a year ago.

While the national price at the pump has now technically fallen for five straight days, it has dropped just fractions of a penny and likely represents a temporary respite rather than the start of a return to lower prices.

Midwestern motorists have faced historically volatile gas prices in recent months. Prices spiked in May and early June because of refinery maintenance, tumbled back to earth at the end of June as refineries resumed production, and have raced higher again in July amid new refinery issues, continued tight supplies and oil prices that are at their highest level in more than a year.

As noted, higher crude oil prices have meant a rising tide for gasoline prices across the country.

Entering July, West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil had not settled above the \$100 per barrel threshold for more than a year. That streak ended on July 3 and WTI has settled above \$100 each trading day since, including a 16-month high of \$108.05 per barrel last Friday.

Continued unrest in Egypt has contributed to higher crude oil prices globally, but the increase in WTI (the traditional U.S. benchmark) has dramatically outpaced Brent crude (the traditional European benchmark) in recent months.

A barrel of Brent was priced as much as \$20 above a barrel of WTI as recently as February, but this spread has narrowed to near parity in recent weeks. While a number of factors have contributed to this closing price gap, many point to the increased capacity to bring crude oil from the Midcontinent to the Gulf Coast, most notably the mid-May reversal of the Seaway pipeline, which is now bringing 400,000 barrels per day of crude oil from Cushing to refineries on the Gulf Coast where they can be sold at global prices.

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QUESTIONS ABOUT AIDS?

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2000 Notices

Al-Anon meets Monday night at 7:30 p.m. in St. Paul's Church, 10 Linden Ave. Call 605-624-4166 for information.

Do you have a desire to stop drinking? Join us at the Vermillion Unity AA Meetings held at Trinity Lutheran Church in the Sletwold Room (north entrance). Soaring Spirits group is Tuesdays at 7:30p.m., Steps Meeting is Wednesday at 7:30p.m., Happy Hour Group is Saturday at 7:30p.m., and Big Book Study group is Sunday at 7:30p.m. All meetings are non-smoking and handicapped accessible.

Driver Licensing Schedules:

Vermillion 7a.m.-5p.m. Thursday & Friday; Yankton 7a.m.-5:30p.m. Tuesday, Thursday & Friday; Elk Point 8:30a.m.-4:30p.m. 1st & 3rd Wednesday; North Sioux City 8:45a.m.-4:30p.m. 2nd, 4th & 5th Wednesday. Call 1-800-952-3696 or visit www.state.sd.us/dps/dl for more information.

EMPOWERING YOU to take back your life. The Women Rising Support Group meeting weekly. Childcare is available upon request. Call 624-5311 for details.

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Sioux City
Convention Center
801 4th Street
Sioux City, IA
Friday, 8/2, 5pm-9pm
Saturday, 8/3, 9am-5pm
Sunday, 8/4, 9am-3pm
Information (563)608-4401

Horse Sale: Belle Plaine

Western Exchange, Belle Plaine, IA. Next Scheduled Sale: Saturday, August 10, 2013. Tack 10:00 a.m., Horses immediately following. Sale 2nd Saturday of every month. Upcoming Sale: September 14, 2013. Check out our website for details and sale results: www.westernexchange.com; Info/To Consign: 319-444-2320; email: bpwe@netins.net (MCN)

2000 Notices

Is food a problem for you? Does weight affect the way you live? Overeaters Anonymous meeting in Vermillion, Saturdays at 9:00am. Sanford Vermillion Hospital, 20 South Plum. (Administration door south of hospital entrance in board room.)

The Alzheimer & Memory

Loss Caregiver Support Group sponsored by the South Dakota Alzheimer's Association, will meet the 4th Monday of each month, 7pm, at The Vermillion Public Library. Caregivers of memory loss persons are welcome to attend. Contact persons: Fern Kaufman, (605)624-4898, or Marilyn Abraham, (605)934-2534.

Vermillion Food Pantry

is located at 816 E. Clark Street. Check our website to see if your family would be eligible for food assistance this month. www.vermillionfoodpantry.org

VISUALLY IMPAIRED

meeting, 1:00 every second Monday of the month. For information 605-624-4063 or 605-653-1000.

Town Square I & II

Apartments 505-507 W. Main St. Vermillion, SD 57069. 1 BR apartments for anyone 55 years of age or older, or persons with disabilities. Please call 605-624-5218 or visit www.oakleafpm.com. Utilities are included and we are pet friendly. Rental assistance available to those who qualify.

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