

## Heating Costs to Soar

### Sharp increase in natural gas expected

If you use natural gas, brace yourself for an expected sharp rise in prices. That was the collective opinion shared last week in a briefing before the Oregon Public Utility Commission by natural gas providers in Oregon.

The Commission was told that natural gas prices this coming heating season will likely be significantly higher than a year ago due to growing demand, tight supplies and international pressures as Oregon's natural gas companies secure supplies for their customers for the next year and beyond.

NW Natural expects prices to be 35 to 40% higher.

"This is sobering news given the other economic pressures consumers are already facing on other fronts," Commission Chairman Lee Beyer said. "I can't urge strongly enough that customers should start thinking now about how they can use less natural gas this coming winter."

Residential and commercial customers are encouraged to request a free energy audit from the Energy Trust of Oregon. The trust also offers incentives for high-efficiency equipment.

Other energy efficient tips include fixing leaky ducts; setting your water heater to 120 degrees unless you have a dishwasher without a booster heater; turning down the thermostat 10 degrees when sleeping and while away from home; and weather stripping around windows and doors.



The Rev. Bernice King (from left), Dexter King, Martin Luther King III and Yolanda King gather in Atlanta on Feb. 4, 2006 for ceremonies marking the death of their mother, Coretta Scott King.

## King Children Rift in Court

### Lawsuit challenges estate affairs

(AP)—For years, they were the picture of solidarity: the four children of Martin Luther King Jr. carrying on the legacy of the civil rights icon.

But a lawsuit over how their father's estate is being run has left a rift in one of the world's most famous families. And it may now be up to a judge to get the King children in the same room.

The lawsuit filed July 10 claims that Dexter King, administrator of his father's estate, has failed to provide his surviving siblings with essential documents, including financial records and contracts.

It claims that he and the estate "converted substantial funds from the estate's financial account ... for their own use" on June 20 without

notifying his sister and brother.

Bernice and Martin Luther King III both declined to be interviewed for this story, but issued a statement Saturday through attorney Jock Smith.

"We love our brother, yet we cannot ignore our responsibility to ensure that the corporation we are all shareholders and directors of, is properly managed," the statement said.

"Our right to obtain corporate documents that we have personally requested in the past few years, and more recently in the lawsuit that we have filed, have been continuously ignored," it added. "Duty obligates us to preserve and protect the corporation and the legacy from arbitrary, singular, and seemingly self-serving

decision-making."

Dexter King did not respond to an interview request placed through The King Center.

A dispute involving that center in 2005 showed some chinks in the King children's armor. Bernice and Martin Luther King III took sides against the others when they opposed the sale of the center.

They argued the deal would compromise the center's independent voice. Their mother, Coretta Scott King, founded the center shortly after her husband's death in 1968, and it needed more than \$11 million in repairs.

Before the issue could be resolved, Coretta Scott King died in January 2006 of complications from a stroke and ovarian cancer at age 78.

In the year after their mother's

death, the eldest, Yolanda, held the family together. Then she died in May 2007 from a heart attack at age 52 in Malibu, Calif., where she and Dexter lived and were pursuing entertainment careers.

Dexter has since drifted further from his older siblings. He was conspicuously absent from the King holiday celebration in January and the 40th anniversary of his father's assassination in April.

The split is difficult for all three grieving siblings, said the Rev. Joseph Lowery, a King lieutenant and family friend. He said they had their differences even when their mother was alive.

"They talk; they just don't communicate," Lowery said. Yolanda King often served as a bridge between the other three, he said. "That bridge is no longer there."

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SPACE IS LIMITED

## Marion Jones Requests Presidential Pardon

(AP)—Olympic track star Marion Jones has asked President Bush to commute her six-month prison sentence for lying to federal agents about her use of performance-enhancing drugs and a check-fraud scam.

The Justice Department confirmed Monday that Jones is among hundreds of convicted felons who have applied for presidential pardons or sentence commutations, but would provide no further details. A pardon removes a conviction from someone's record, while a commutation only reduces or eliminates the person's sentence.

Such applications are reviewed by the Justice Department, which



Marion Jones is looking for forgiveness for lying about drug use.

makes a recommendation to the president.

Jones, who won three gold and two bronze medals at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, entered prison March 7 in Fort Worth, Texas.

After frequently denying that she ever used performance-enhancing drugs, she admitted last October she had lied to federal investigators in November 2003. Jones also admitted lying about her knowledge of the involvement of Tim Montgomery, the father of her older son and a former 100-meter world-record holder, in a scheme to cash millions of dollars worth of stolen or forged checks.

## Heroin Overdoses Raise Alarms

Overdose deaths in the last few weeks, along with a steady rise in heroin-related deaths over the past year, have raised concerns among Multnomah County health officials.

State heroin overdoses are up 32 percent from last year, increasing from 89 deaths to 118 deaths. Sixty-six of the 118 deaths were in Multnomah County.

Overdoses pose a threat to the lives and health of opiate users and are preventable. There are several factors that can increase a person's risk of

an overdose, including drug strength — heroin can vary in purity.

At this time it appears the heroin sold in Multnomah County is quite pure, and therefore potentially stronger, health officials said.

Combining drugs (heroin with fentanyl, methadone, morphine, or benzodiazepines, etc.) and using after a period of abstinence (including after time spent in jail, drug treatment, or voluntary abstinence, even after a short period of time) also increases risks.

## Bicycle Resources

### OMSI sponsors Saturday event

Take life by the handlebars and celebrate Portland's favorite form of transportation at Bicycle Day, a new event hosted by the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry and the Community Cycling Center.

Participants will learn about safety, maintenance, and cycling's health benefits during the Saturday, July 26 event at OMSI.

"We are excited to collaborate with OMSI to provide experiential bicycle education in a fun, interactive environment," said Breesa Culver, development and marketing specialist at the Community Cycling Center.

Bicycle Day will present several topics to help broaden knowledge and demystify cycling.

Featured areas will include bicycle experts answering questions about racing, commuting, and mountain biking; learning the 6-step safety check of hand signals and the necessary gear to carry.

There will also be discussion on how to fuel your body and the importance of stretching your muscles; and how to identify how a bike in good condition should feel and adjustments you can make.

The event is free with paid museum admission and visitors who ride their bikes to OMSI and show their helmet will receive a \$3 discount on museum admission.

The Community Cycling Center, founded in 1994, broadens access to bicycling and its benefits through our hands-on programs, volunteer projects, and neighborhood bike shop.

AUG. 28 – 31



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