

Mr. B
Clothing
Means Local

DOW
30 INDUSTRIALS
12,044.40
+59.79

NASDAQ
COMPOSITE
2,715.61
+14.59

S&P
500
1,304.28
+9.17

BONDS
10-YEAR TREASURIES
3.39%
-0.01

GOLD
\$1,421.50
+\$9.30

CRUDE OIL
\$101.16
-\$1.54

Quake rattles corn, livestock markets

Nervous traders are fearful that shipping to Japan will be disrupted.

By DAN PILLER
dpiller@dmreg.com

Grain and livestock markets turned sharply lower Friday on news of the devastation in Japan, the No. 1 customer for U.S. corn and pork and the third-largest customer for beef.

Corn for March delivery fell 17 cents per bushel to \$6.59. Soybeans dropped 21 cents per bushel for the May contract to \$13.34. April hogs lost \$1.82 per hundredweight to \$88.

Live cattle were down 37 cents per hundredweight to \$117.27, and feeder cattle dropped 25 cents per hundredweight to \$131.55.

Traders worried that the earthquake and tsunami will disrupt shipping to Japan, which is currently neck-and-neck with Mexico as the largest buyer of U.S. corn.

Japan customarily has been the third-largest purchaser of U.S. beef but in the current market.

CORN, PAGE 7B



RICHARD DREW/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Traders watch developments of the earthquake in Japan on a television screen at the New York Stock Exchange.

Impact on insurers could hit \$50 billion

'The sheer devastation is a shock,' Aflac's CEO says after the quake.

Associated Press

Japan's massive earthquake has led to untold damage to life and property. Early estimates for the losses for insurers and reinsurers around the globe are ranging from \$10 billion to \$50 billion.

Aflac Inc., which sells health and life insurance to one out of every four people in Japan, says it is monitoring the situa-

tion closely.

"The sheer devastation is a shock," said Aflac CEO Dan Amos. "This will probably impact 3 to 4 million out of the 100 million people in Japan."

Amos says the number of deaths is small compared to the size of the earthquake, but he expects a lot of people to be treated for injuries. Though he expects the number of claims to be high, Amos said the company is well prepared to cover them.

QUAKE, PAGE 7B

Anytime you have new development in an area that hasn't seen construction in a while, it's good. And development tends to attract more investment."

—Christine Hensley, Des Moines City Council member



JOHN GAPS III/THE REGISTER

Developer Jack Hatch, right, talks with Ryan Galloway, who is partnering on the proposed Des Moines Greystone Homes, as they stand on one of the sites, at 1100 Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway, in Des Moines on Thursday.

Development features 26 rent-to-own homes

Low-income Des Moines families would benefit from the proposal.

By DONNELLE ELLER
deller@dmreg.com

Developer Jack Hatch plans to invest nearly \$7 million in building homes in north-central Des Moines in hopes of helping stabilize neighborhoods that have recently struggled with violence.

Hatch, a state senator, proposes building 26 homes with a unique rent-to-own feature for low-income families in the area just north of Interstate Highway 235 along Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway as well as in the King Irving, Drake Park and Sherman Hill neighborhoods.

The plan is similar to one that he has proposed in Cedar Rapids.

"Anytime you have new development in an

area that hasn't seen construction in a while, it's good," said Christine Hensley, a Des Moines City Council member. "And development tends to attract more investment. People start fixing up their homes."

Hatch, along with Greystone Homes partner Ryan Galloway, plans to build the homes on mostly empty lots scattered across north-central Des Moines.

Hatch's group is asking for tax credits from the Iowa Finance Authority that would provide nearly \$5.3 million to the project. The Iowa Finance Authority Board is expected to consider requests for the federal tax credits this summer.

Hatch also has received housing grants totaling \$1.1 million through the state and city of Des Moines. Additionally, he received \$74,000 in enterprise zone tax credits, de-

HATCH, PAGE 7B

How rent-to-own works

Developer Jack Hatch said the development group will put \$50 monthly into an escrow account from the rent it receives. Renters can tap the money that accumulates during their tenure as a down payment in purchasing their own home. Renters can only use the money as a down payment on conventional loans. It won't be available for contract purchases, Hatch said. The group plans to sell the Greystone Homes after 15 years, when tax credit restrictions on the property end. The group will only be able to sell the properties to low-income families at prices that are affordable to them. Whatever money has accumulated in escrow goes to the family buying the Greystone Homes as a down payment.

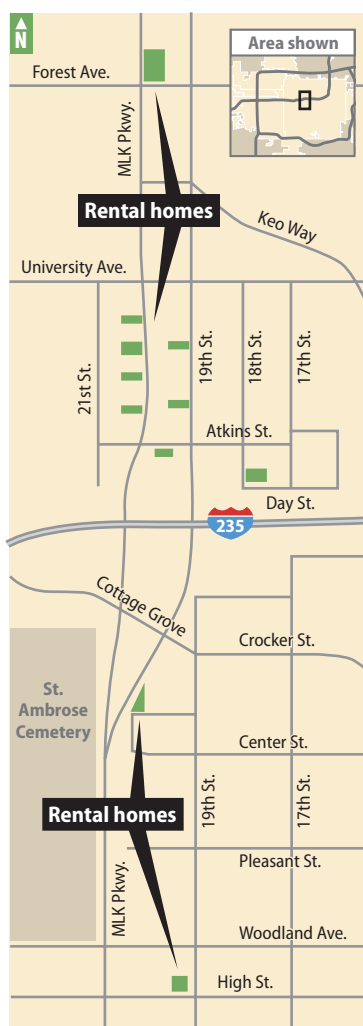


SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Architectural renderings show the proposed homes that would be built and rented to families meeting low-income requirements.

Rental homes

Des Moines developer Jack Hatch proposes building 26 homes that will be rented just north of downtown Des Moines. Hatch said the \$6.6 million project will help revitalize older neighborhoods and give low-income residents an option other than apartments. Hatch's proposal also would give renters an option to buy the homes after 15 years.



Source: Hatch Development THE REGISTER

Fort Dodge bank agrees to tighter regulation

First American Bank must submit progress reports as it recovers from last year's loss of \$55 million.

By ADAM BELZ
abelz@dmreg.com

First American Bank of Fort Dodge, which lost \$55 million in 2010, has agreed with regulators to put together a plan to clean up its books and improve its lending procedures.

The agreement prohibits the bank from restructuring troubled loans without approval from the bank's board of directors. The agreement requires written reports whenever a loan over \$500,000 becomes more than 90 days past due. The bank must also submit written progress reports at the end of every quarter.

First American is the fifth-largest bank based in Iowa, with assets of \$1.55 billion at the end of 2010.

The bank's losses last year were the result of having to set aside \$34.8 million for anticipated loan losses and a \$34.4 million non-cash write-off. That write-off resulted from eliminating all of the good will carried on its books from acquisitions during the past decade of three Des Moines-area Brenton Bank branches, Waukee State Bank and Pelican National Bank in Naples, Fla.

First American has 14 branches

BANK, PAGE 7B

EMC donation helps Iowans learn about Civil War

By DAVID ELBERT
delbert@dmreg.com

The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs will roll out a traveling Civil War exhibit on April 12, the 150th anniversary of the outbreak of the war.

The EMC Insurance Foundation is the prime sponsor of the exhibit, which is called "The Fiery Trial: Iowa and the Civil War," said Iowa Cultural Affairs Director Mary Tiffany Cownie. EMC's gift of \$60,000 will be used to create the exhibit from Civil War artifacts and memorabilia that the state already has.

The new exhibit will be similar to the traveling "Lincoln and Iowa" exhibit created two years ago by the Iowa Abraham Lincoln

CIVIL WAR, PAGE 7B

