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MARKET WATCH

TORONTO — The Toronto stock market closed little changed Thursday as earlier strong gains melted away in the face of a tumble in the price of oil.

However, the market got a boost from gold stocks as the price of gold hit an 18-year high.

New York markets put in a positive finish thanks to lower oil prices and data that eased concerns that September's hurricanes did lasting damage to the U.S. economy.

In Toronto, the S&P/TSX composite index closed up 6.04 points at 10,733.08 while the TSX Venture Exchange moved 18.79 points higher to 2,020.77.

The Canadian dollar was up 0.5 of a cent at 84.29 cents US.

New York's Dow industrial average moved up 45.46 points to 10,720.22.

The Nasdaq advanced 32.53 points to 2,220.46 and the S&P 500 moved up 11.59 points to 1,242.8.

Crude oil prices faltered as traders weighed the effects of a cold front descending on the United States against a build in U.S. heating oil inventory figures and rising U.S. natural-gas inventories.

Light sweet crude for December moved down \$1.54 to \$56.34 US a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange after rising almost \$1 on Wednesday.

The TSX energy sector backed away 0.85 per cent as EnCana Corp. lost earlier strong gains to move down \$1.25 to \$52.60.

But Talisman Energy shares advanced \$2 to \$55.59 on a report that a major oil company made an informal proposal for the Calgary-based company but the proposal was rejected as inadequate.

Elsewhere in the sector, units in Petrofund Energy Trust were off 83 cents to \$20.24 after it signed a deal to acquire Kaiser Energy Ltd., a private Canadian company, for \$485 million.

Shell Canada Ltd. shares added 17 cents to \$34.77 on its plans to boost capital spending plans by 60 per cent to \$2.7 billion next year to develop its oil and natural gas operations.

The Toronto gold sector moved ahead 1.2 per cent as the December contract for bullion on the Nymex hit an 18-year high, gaining \$7.80 to \$486.90 US an ounce. /CP

CORRECTION

RWM Towing manager Ralph Roberts was incorrectly identified in yesterday's newspaper. The owner of RWM Towing is Richard McCullagh.

LOTTERIES

PICK 3 8, 4, 6
EXTRA 1250184

DEATHS

ARDE, Phylis, beloved wife of Ben. KENDRICK, William A. "Bill," of Brandon.
SMITH, Mrs. Mary H., (nee Taylor) of Brandon.
TRELOR, Leslie Douglas, beloved husband of Therese.

Reeve says RMs need money for roads

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

Smith said yesterday that he expected the prime minister to sign a deal as soon as possible.

Lise Jolicoeur, a spokesperson for Treasury Board President Reg Alcock — Manitoba's senior federal cabinet minister — would only say there "has been movement on the file" but that Alcock wouldn't be available to comment.

Bell also couldn't be reached for comment.

Smith said he wasn't pleased that Bell and the AMM decided to wait to agree to the deal.

"It's not acceptable to have someone not accept their own deal," he said.

The rush for everyone is that the government could fall as early as Nov. 28, which is when the opposition can introduce a vote of non-confidence in

the House of Commons and trigger an election.

Rural municipalities, meanwhile, are anxious for a deal to be signed.

RM of Morton Reeve Bob McCallum is annoyed at the big cities for holding up a decision because he said RMs like his, which is near Boissevain, need the money to fix their roads.

"They should look at what's going on in the country before they start

making demands. These people have to take a vehicle. We have no options," McCallum said.

"We're a little upset with the attitude of the city people thinking they need a big bunch of money."

Brandon Mayor Dave Burgess could not be reached for comment by press time.

—with files from Matt Goerzen

cbrown@brandonsun.com

The nature of strings



CHRISTOPHER PIKE/BRANDON SUN

The Brandon University Orchestra performs at The Town Centre on Thursday evening.

Schuler says 'science' must play role in casino decision

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

While the province has only added machines on the two existing First Nations-run casinos in the past six years, net income from VLTs went up more than 60 per cent between 2004 and 2005 and the number of problem gamblers has shot up 11.9 per cent since 1999.

"If you're going to have a casino in Brandon, you want to make that decision with science," Schuler said.

Smith said the province won't commission a study and has increased the amount it puts into responsible gaming programs.

As well, he noted a \$2-million, five-year program where professionals are hired to look at ways to stop problem gambling.

cbrown@brandonsun.com

Aleaha More, whose hometown is Virden, has been crowned Miss Rodeo Canada 2006 and will serve as the first lady of Canadian Professional Rodeo and make appearances throughout Western Canada and the United States.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Virden native named Miss Rodeo Canada

The song may say Mama don't let your babies grow up to be cowboys, but it says nothing about a kid becoming Queen of Canadian rodeo.

Aleaha More, who was born and raised in Manitoba — her hometown is Virden — has been crowned Miss Rodeo Canada 2006.

The 22-year-old More's honour came last Friday during the Canadian Finals Rodeo in Edmonton.

It means that for the next year, More will serve as the first lady of Canadian Professional Rodeo and make appearances throughout Western Canada and the United States, including the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas.

"I've been riding since I was a little girl," More said from her home in Medicine Hat, where she is enrolled in college.

"It was a pretty good contest, but it hasn't sunk in yet. It's pretty big to think I'm Miss Rodeo Canada. I haven't got used to it yet."

More competed against six other Queens and Princesses from communities with professional rodeos.

Not surprisingly, unlike a beauty pageant, the ladies who compete to be Miss Rodeo Canada have to know their way around a horse and be able to ride in various patterns, including one where they carry a flag. /FPNS

WESTMAN WEATHER & MORE

Western Manitoba Forecast

TODAY	TONIGHT	TOMORROW
 Mainly cloudy with snow or rain showers (pop 60%). High 3.	 Mainly clear. Low -3.	 Variably cloudy. High -3. Low -8.
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
 Sunny. High 1. Low -4.	 Variably cloudy. High 1. Low -2.	 Mainly sunny with cloudy periods. High -1. Low -3.

www.theweathernetwork.com

Regional Temperatures

Dauphin 8/-2	Russell	Winnipeg 3/-2
Shoal Lake 3/3	Carberry 4/-2	Portage la Prairie 4/-1
Virden	Brandon 3/3	Killarney
Melita 3/3		

The Daily Skies

Sunrise: 7:57 a.m. Moonrise: 6:19 p.m.
Sunset: 4:52 p.m. Moonset: 11:22 a.m.

The World

Acapulco	p.cloudy 33/24	p.cloudy 32/26
Boston	sunny 4/-1	p.cloudy 6/1
Cancun	showers 27/23	showers 27/22
Chicago	p.cloudy 4/0	p.cloudy 7/1
Dallas	sunny 14/3	sunny 20/6
Denver	sunny 11/1	windy 10/0
Los Angeles	sunny 27/11	windy 26/10
Miami	showers 26/22	tshowers 26/20
Montego B	sunny 31/24	p.cloudy 31/24
New York	p.cloudy 6/0	sunny 8/1
Phoenix	sunny 26/10	sunny 24/10
Washington	p.cloudy 6/-1	sunny 8/-1

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<p>Canada Today</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>Calgary m.sunny 9/-1</td> <td>Prince Rupert rain 9/7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Charlottetown flurries 1/-2</td> <td>Quebec City p.cloudy -1/-10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Churhill p.sunny -11/-13</td> <td>Regina p.sunny 4/-4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Edmonton m.sunny 6/0</td> <td>Saint John p.cloudy 1/-6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Estevan p.sunny 3/-2</td> <td>Saskatoon p.sunny 6/-5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dauphin showers 6/-2</td> <td>St. John's p.sunny 10/-2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dryden snow -1/-5</td> <td>Sudbury flurries -4/-5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fredericton p.cloudy 1/-9</td> <td>Swift Current p.cloudy 4/-6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Halifax showers 3/-3</td> <td>Thompson cloud 6/-11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kapuskasing flurries -4/-6</td> <td>Thunder Bay p.cloudy 0/0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lethbridge m.sunny 10/0</td> <td>Toronto p.cloudy 1/-3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Moncton p.cloudy 0/-7</td> <td>Vancouver p.cloudy 9/5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Montreal p.cloudy -1/-4</td> <td>Victoria p.cloudy 10/6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>North Bay p.cloudy -3/-5</td> <td>Whitehorse p.cloudy 4/2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ottawa p.cloudy -2/-6</td> <td>Windsor flurries -1/-2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prince Albert p.sunny 5/3</td> <td>Winnipeg rain 3/-2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prince George cloudy 3/2</td> <td>Yellowknife p.sunny -11/-14</td> </tr> </table>	Calgary m.sunny 9/-1	Prince Rupert rain 9/7	Charlottetown flurries 1/-2	Quebec City p.cloudy -1/-10	Churhill p.sunny -11/-13	Regina p.sunny 4/-4	Edmonton m.sunny 6/0	Saint John p.cloudy 1/-6	Estevan p.sunny 3/-2	Saskatoon p.sunny 6/-5	Dauphin showers 6/-2	St. John's p.sunny 10/-2	Dryden snow -1/-5	Sudbury flurries -4/-5	Fredericton p.cloudy 1/-9	Swift Current p.cloudy 4/-6	Halifax showers 3/-3	Thompson cloud 6/-11	Kapuskasing flurries -4/-6	Thunder Bay p.cloudy 0/0	Lethbridge m.sunny 10/0	Toronto p.cloudy 1/-3	Moncton p.cloudy 0/-7	Vancouver p.cloudy 9/5	Montreal p.cloudy -1/-4	Victoria p.cloudy 10/6	North Bay p.cloudy -3/-5	Whitehorse p.cloudy 4/2	Ottawa p.cloudy -2/-6	Windsor flurries -1/-2	Prince Albert p.sunny 5/3	Winnipeg rain 3/-2	Prince George cloudy 3/2	Yellowknife p.sunny -11/-14	<p>Almanac</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>Temperature</td> <td>High</td> <td>Low</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Normal</td> <td>-1.9°</td> <td>-11.2°</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yesterday</td> <td>-4°</td> <td>-29°</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Precipitation</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Today's Normals</td> <td>0.6mm</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yesterday</td> <td>0.2 mm</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Temperature	High	Low	Normal	-1.9°	-11.2°	Yesterday	-4°	-29°	Precipitation			Today's Normals	0.6mm		Yesterday	0.2 mm		<p>Wind Chill</p> <p>This morning: -8 This afternoon: -2 This evening: -4</p>
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