

Gas Price Index

Down 1 cent
\$2.56
AAA compiles its Daily Fuel Gauge Report from a survey of self-serve gas stations from throughout the region.

McFall will join O'Reilly as CFO

Tom McFall has been named chief financial officer for O'Reilly Automotive Inc.

McFall, 36, will join the auto parts company in Springfield on Wednesday from CSK Auto, where he served as CFO for its Midwest operation, said a news release from O'Reilly Automotive.

McFall will succeed Jim Batten, who will remain with O'Reilly as its treasurer and assist McFall in his transition. Batten will eventually have a less-than-full-time role with O'Reilly.

McFall, a graduate of Michigan State University, was an audit manager with Ernst & Young LLP in Detroit before joining Murray's Discount Auto Stores in Belleville, Mich. CSK recently acquired Murray's.

Economy grows 5.3% in first quarter of '06

WASHINGTON — The economy showed even more pep than initially thought in the first quarter, zipping ahead at a 5.3 percent pace. But a less energetic housing market and high energy prices are now taking out some of the oomph.

The figure released by the Commerce Department Thursday showed gross domestic product during the January-to-March quarter surpassing the 4.8 percent annual rate estimated a month ago. It marked the strongest growth spurt in 2 1/2 years. The upgrade mostly reflected stronger U.S. exports and better inventory building by businesses.

GDP, which measures the value of all goods and services produced within the United States, totaled \$11.39 trillion in the first quarter.

AWARDS & ACHIEVERS

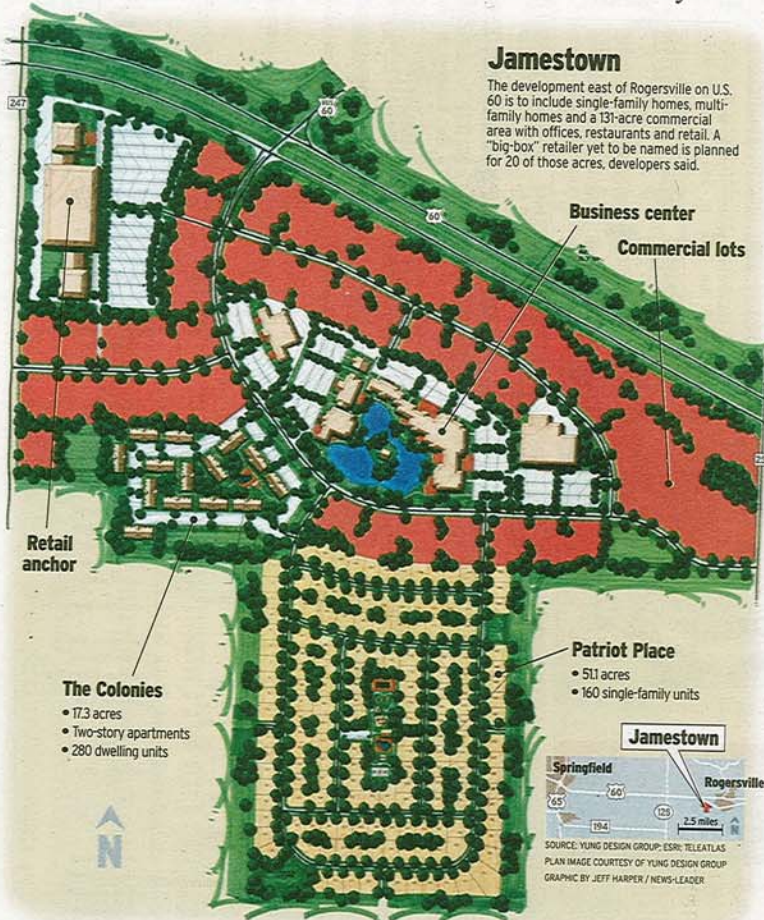
Ozarks Technical Community College students **Nycole King** and **Patrick Piekarski** were recently named Phi Theta Kappa 2006 All-American students.

Three OTC students have received scholarships from the Datatel Scholars Foundation. They are **Brent M. Bevis**, Springfield; **Victoria F. Sweeten**, Springfield; and **Melanie L. Thurston**, Eldridge.

Sue Eudy has been named branch manager of Arvest Bank's newest location, at Branson Landing. She has more than 35 years of experience in the banking industry, including 12 years as a senior vice president and lender.

The Missouri Economic Development Council has named **Ryan Mooney**, manager of business development at the Springfield Area Chamber of

Construction of community will take about seven years



Plans for Jamestown solidify

By Donna Baxter
FOR THE NEWS-LEADER

ROGERSVILLE — A 203-acre master-planned community — the largest single development in the Rogersville area to date — is taking shape nine miles east of Springfield on the southeast corner of U.S. 60 and Farm Road 247.

Jamestown — by American Equities of Missouri — is to include 131 acres zoned commercial, 17.3 acres for multi-family units and 51.1 for single-family homes.

"The time for Rogersville is now," said Stephen Cope, president and CEO of the company. "The foundation has been laid, and other builders ... are coming."

Cope and co-founder Preston Peterson said the business center, when completed, will contain about 50 commercial lots from one to 20 acres. It will feature a "big-box" retailer, an office complex, restaurants and a variety of establishments including grocery and clothing stores as well as 827 parking places.

"We are going after a movie theater chain to come in also," added Cope.



Cope



Peterson

For more information

For details about Jamestown, contact American Equities of Missouri, 4940 S. Farm Road 189, Suite 500-R, Rogersville, or call 888-0055.

Phase I is the northwest section of the development and includes the 20-acre super center site along with other stores and restaurants. The street that runs down the west side has 31 residential lots, Cope said.

The big question on everyone's mind — which super center — cannot be released yet, he said.

Peterson said Rogersville and southwest Webster County need more grocers and at least one clothing store as well as restaurants.

Cope and Peterson predict it will take about seven years to completely build out the development. Engineering is done and the infrastructure is scheduled to be completed in November, Peterson said.

"In four or five months, American Home builders will have about 10 homes under construction. We're excited to be here and to be getting started."

Rogersville Mayor Jack Cole said he is confident that the development will be an asset to the area.

"I know they worked hard to pull

this together, and I am certainly glad to see it worked out," Cole said. In the area set aside for residences, a patriotic theme will prevail.

The Colonies — the multi-family section of the new development — is owned and is being developed by co-founder Stephen Cope's father, Richard Cope. Each of 13 two-story apartment buildings will be named for one of the original Colonies and contain a total of 280 dwelling units. Amenities will include a pool, clubhouse and kids playground, Stephen Cope said.

Single-family residences — in Patriot Place — will be 160 all-brick homes on lots 85 to 95 feet by 100 feet. Prices will range from \$150,000 to \$200,000, he said.

The site is ideal, Peterson said, and the area is in a growth pattern not unlike Springfield's other bedroom communities.

"Once this gets going, the interest and involvement will grow, and it will feed on itself," he said.

Gary "Peanut" Boyd, owner of the Hungry Fisherman Restaurant in Rogersville, agreed.

"For any kind of growth, you need variety, and the more variety you have here, the less people will travel to Springfield. (Jamestown) will definitely be good for the growth of Rogersville, but I'll miss the small-town atmosphere ... but that's life."

Lay, Skilling symbolize fraud in

A half-decade into the case Enron executives are con

By Erin McClam
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — Enron was always the big fish.

Sure, there was Martha Stewart, whose celebrity and pitch-perfect home-making talents made a public spectacle of her trial and conviction for lying about a curiously timed stock trade.

And there was Bernard Ebbers, the folksy former chief executive of WorldCom Inc., who was convicted of presiding over an \$11 billion accounting fraud, the biggest in the scandal-pocked years since the dot-com boom went bust.

But make no mistake: All along there was one company, and two men, that came to symbolize an era of corporate fraud in America.

The company was Enron Corp., and the men were Kenneth Lay and Jeffrey Skilling, its former CEOs.

For prosecutors, and perhaps for a public eager for someone to pay the price for the business scandals,

Enron and Lay and Skilling loomed over all the rest. And on Thursday, they were snared: Lay and Skilling were convicted of federal fraud and conspiracy charges.

"Obviously, I'm disappointed. But that's the way the system works," said Skilling.

Enron's rise was a remarkable story: An energy trading company, the seventh-largest company in the country at one point. A glad-handing CEO pocketing hundreds of millions of dollars who was the toast of Houston and had the ear of President Bush.

Its fall was just as remarkable, too: Thousands of jobs and billions of investor dollars down the tubes.

Implode is precisely what Enron did in 2001. And in the age it came to define, Enron had some striking similarities to, and notable differences with, the other white-collar

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Skilling

Street performers to enliven Branson Landing ope

By Kathryn Buckstaff

Landing and charged with

only doing one evening

are winners of the Lewis