

MONEY WRAP

Video phone maker sells controlling stake

WorldGate Communications Inc. of Bensalem, maker of the Ojo personal video phone, has sold a controlling stake in the company to an investment fund owned by a telecommunications company.

The investment fund, WGI Investor, purchased \$5 million in corporate bonds on behalf of WorldGate in exchange for 63 percent of the company. WGI's ownership includes ACN Inc., a direct-selling telecommunications company that provides services in 19 countries.

In a separate transaction, ACN said it would purchase more than \$50 million in video phones from WorldGate.

Earlier this year, WorldGate ran out of cash and came dangerously close to shutting down. A deal with its largest client, Snap!VRS, allowed it to stay in business.

Bush administration assures Detroit

The White House gave troubled Detroit automakers public reassurances Monday that short-term government help was in the works as a key senator suggested the aid package could reach \$15 billion for two companies.

President George W. Bush said the bankruptcy of a domestic car company would undermine the nation's economy as it grapples with a financial meltdown. General Motors Corp. and Chrysler LLC have said they could run out of cash within weeks without support from the government.

In Detroit, Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., said he expects GM to get \$8 billion and Chrysler \$7 billion under the Bush administration's plan. He said the Treasury secretary likely would be tapped as a "car czar" to oversee restructuring of the companies.

Court allows lawsuits over 'light' cigarettes

The Supreme Court on Monday handed a surprising defeat to tobacco companies counting on it to put an end to lawsuits alleging deceptive marketing of "light" cigarettes.

In a 5-4 split won by the court's liberals, it ruled that smokers may use state consumer protection laws to sue cigarette makers for the way they promote "light" and "low tar" brands.

The decision was at odds with recent anti-consumer rulings that limited state regulation of business in favor of federal power.

Russia flirts with OPEC on production cuts

As OPEC ministers gather in Algeria this week, attention has turned to Russia and whether the world's second-largest energy producer has the willingness, or the ability, to help the cartel stop tumbling prices.

Unprecedented price declines have severely strained the economies of oil producing nations, including Russia's. A high-ranking government economics official said Friday that the Russia had entered a recession, a stunning turnaround for a nation that has enjoyed an average of 7 percent growth over the past eight years.

That growth has been driven by soaring oil prices.

OPEC, which accounts for about 40 percent of global crude supply, is expected to announce substantial output cuts Wednesday when it meets in Oran, Algeria. The group has already announced 2 million barrels in daily production cuts with little effect and is lobbying Russia to help take more crude off the market.

GO FIGURE

\$25 million

Amount of capital **Discovery Laboratories Inc.** of Warrington will get through a new financing agreement with a private investment group. The money will be provided over two years through purchases of the biotechnology company's common stock.

\$12 million

Amount that **Mattel and Fisher-Price** will pay 39 states in a consumer protection agreement over recalled toys. Pennsylvania will receive \$540,874 to support consumer protection and enforcement activities and enhance toy safety education programs. The multi-state investigation began last year, after the two toy companies announced voluntary recalls for Chinese-made toys that contained excessive lead.

Wary investors send stocks lower

NEW YORK (AP) — Investors sent stocks lower Monday as anxiety over the growing list of firms affected by investment manager Bernard Madoff magnified Wall Street's concerns about the health of the financial sector.

Stocks had traded mixed early on as investors were relieved to hear that President George W. Bush was working on providing short-term government help for the auto industry. The Senate's rejection of a \$14 billion bailout for automakers last week had raised the possibility of a major bankruptcy, which some analysts say would result in as many as 3 million U.S.

job losses next year.

But as that fear eased somewhat, it gave way to concerns about companies' exposure to Madoff's fund. Well respected in the investment community after serving as chairman of the Nasdaq Stock Market, Madoff was arrested Thursday for orchestrating what prosecutors say was a \$50 billion Ponzi scheme to defraud investors.

Firms with exposure include HSBC Holdings PLC, Banco Santander, BNP Paribas, Royal Bank of Scotland Group PLC and hedge fund Man Group PLC. And the list of prominent investors keeps growing.

Industrial output fell slightly less than expected in November as manufacturers continued to suffer from weakness in autos and many other areas that is not expected to ease anytime soon.

The Federal Reserve reported Monday that industrial activity dropped by 0.6 percent in November. Economists expected a decline of 0.8 percent.

Investors also were nervous ahead of earnings reports later this week from the country's two largest investment banks, Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and Morgan Stanley.

Analysts are expecting Goldman Sachs

to report a loss of \$3.50 per share on Tuesday, according to a poll by Thomson Reuters. It would be the investment bank's first quarterly loss since it went public in 1999. Morgan Stanley reports results on Wednesday.

The Dow Jones industrial average finished down 65.15, or 0.75 percent, to 8,564.53. The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 11.16, or 1.27 percent, to 868.57, while the Nasdaq composite index fell 32.38, or 2.10 percent, to 1,508.34.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies fell 15.86, or 3.39 percent, to 452.57.

Making a Living



Rick Kintzel/Staff Photographer

Debbie Oser was inspired by her sons, Justin (left), 4, and Zachary, 7, to develop the Pleasant Dreamz line of pillow cases decorated with positive affirmations. The cases are sold through her company, Keeping it Positive.

Pillow talk

Debbie Oser said she chose pillowcases because positive affirmations are most effective when said before bed and upon waking.

BY **CRISSA SHOEMAKER DEBREE**
STAFF WRITER

Debbie Oser firmly believes in the power of positive thinking.

Repeating positive sayings to herself helped her cope with her father's death 17 years ago. They've helped her achieve goals and instill self-confidence in her two sons.

Now, the 39-year-old Oser wants to share her positive affirmations with the world.

The Montgomery Township mother has created Pleasant Dreamz, a line of pillowcases with positive sayings on them.

"I feel like I'm helping — or, at

ON THE WEB

www.keepingitpositive.net



Oser put the affirmations on pillow cases after she found her sons were taking the sayings she told them each night to heart.

least, providing some good karma to help children succeed," she said.

The pillowcases are covered with affirmations like "I am a good friend, and I share well with others," "I am loved and supported" and "I believe in myself."

"Whatever you tell yourself, you believe," said Oser, a former sign language interpreter who's now a stay-at-home mom.

Oser said she learned of the power of positive affirmations after reading Joseph Murphy's "The Power of Your Subconscious Mind" shortly after her father died.

"It changed my life," she said. "I was miserable. When I changed things I said to myself, it made me feel differently."

Last summer, she started repeating positive sayings to sons Zachary, 7, and Justin, 4, every night before bed.

She wasn't entirely sure her messages were getting through, until one summer afternoon on the playground. Zachary was heading to the

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Industrial output tumbles

WASHINGTON (AP) — Industrial output fell for the third time in four months in November as automakers and other manufacturers suffered from pervasive weakness that is not expected to ease for months even if the Detroit Three receive a government bailout.

The Federal Reserve reported Monday that total industrial output was down 0.6 percent last month. Output at manufacturing plants suffered an even bigger drop, falling 1.4 percent as American factories suffer through a recession that is already the longest in a quarter-century.

Economists, who are predicting the current recession is likely to end up being the longest since World War II, said they do not see any quick turnaround for manufacturing companies. Manufacturers are being hit by falling consumer demand in the U.S. and spreading weakness overseas.

Brian Bethune, an economist at IHS Global Insight, predicted that industrial production will fall by 10 percent in the current October-December quarter, which would be the sharpest decline since the country was in a severe recession in 1980.

"The recessionary forces in the U.S. economy are gathering further momentum in the fourth quarter and we are likely to see manufacturing capacity utilization collapse in the next few months to levels not seen since the early 1980s," Bethune said.

Analysts said the report painted a picture of a manufacturing sector that is adjusting to a deepening recession by sharply cutting production plans in an effort to keep inventory levels under control. The figures for November would have been even worse had it not been for a big rebound in aircraft manufacturing reflecting the end of an eight-week strike at Boeing Co.

The 0.6 percent drop last month in total industrial production, while slightly better than the 0.8 percent decline economists expected, followed a revised 1.5 percent increase in October. However, that gain occurred after a 4.1 percent plunge in September, which represented the biggest one-month drop since a 5 percent decline in February 1946.

"The manufacturing sector is flat on its back," said Joel Naroff, chief economist at Naroff Economic Advisors. "It didn't matter whether it was consumer goods or business products, output fell."

Stocks ended the day lower as investors remained anxious about the auto industry bailout and the growing list of firms affected by investment manager Bernard Madoff. The Dow Jones industrial average fell more than 65 points to the 8,564 level.

Meanwhile, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues opened a two-day meeting to take a fresh pulse on the ailing economy and decide their next move on interest rates.

For tax cheats, meltdown prompts amnesty offers

BY **GLEN JOHNSON**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON — Turns out it's a pretty good time to be a tax cheat.

Desperate to bring in revenue in the middle of a recession, states across the country are adopting tax amnesty programs, offering to let people pay their past-due tax bills with little or no penalties or interest.

"Something is better than nothing," said Dino DiCianno, executive director of the Nevada Taxation Department. DiCianno said Nevada gave up more than \$14 million in penalties and interest to collect nearly \$41 million between July and October.

Oklahoma, like Nevada, generated about twice as much as it expected from its offer of amnesty, raising \$82 million through its 90-day Clean Slate program for businesses and individuals. New York has a program under way, and Connecticut and Massachusetts are drawing up theirs. California debated one before rejecting it in favor of stiffer penalties. Delaware's incoming governor campaigned on the idea. A similar program is being considered for Louisiana when its lawmakers return in April.

State after state is facing a disastrous drop-off in tax revenue because of the stock market collapse and the recession. Many states have already cut their budgets and

started laying off employees.

"Anything you can do to speed up cash flow is cheaper than your alternatives, like borrowing," said Verenda Smith, spokeswoman for the Federation of Tax Administrators.

Many states are reluctant to offer amnesty, arguing that its rewards cheaters, discourages honest taxpayers and poaches revenue the states will collect in the future — especially as they improve the databases they use to catch delinquents. They worry, too, that people will hold back on their taxes and simply wait for the next amnesty.

"If the attitude is we're going to hand out get-out-of-jail-free cards, people's attitudes can change," said Paul Warren of the

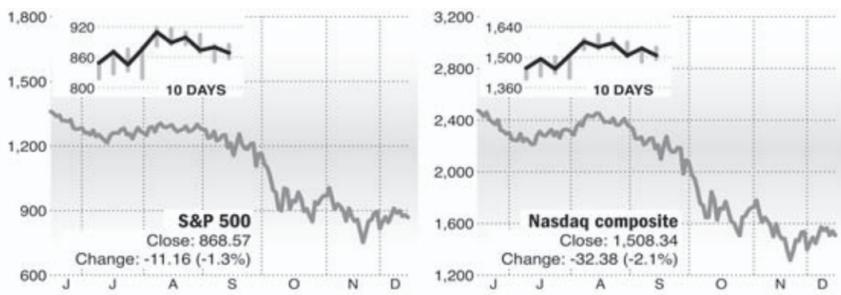
California Legislative Analyst's Office. "You can have a breakdown in compliance."

An Oklahoma City lawyer challenged his state's amnesty program all the way to the state Supreme Court, arguing that the Oklahoma Constitution prohibits forgiving a state debt. The court rejected his claim in a one-sentence ruling.

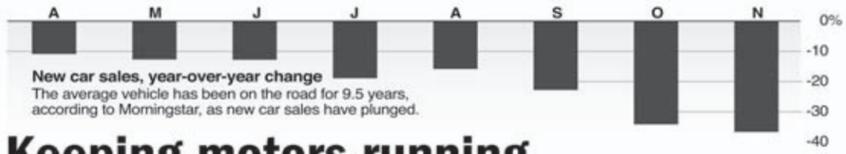
"It is a slap in the face to all law-abiding Oklahomans who pay their taxes as required by law," said lawyer Jerry F. Fent.

New York, which has a \$1.5 billion deficit, began a limited amnesty last January that covers income, corporate and sales taxes. The state has collected \$11 million so far and hopes to take in \$30 million.

MONEY & MARKETS



Stocks Recap		HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	WK	MO	QTR	YTD	
NYSE	NASD	DOW	8676.28	8469.03	8564.53	-65.15	-0.76%	▼	▲	▼	-35.43%
Vol. (in mil.)	1,641	DOW Trans.	3291.99	3167.24	3206.11	-39.33	-1.21%	▼	▼	▼	-29.85%
Pvs. Volume	1,866	DOW Util.	367.36	355.39	359.83	-5.82	-1.59%	▼	▼	▼	-32.43%
Advanced	824	NYSE Comp.	5591.10	5429.65	5497.90	-46.06	-0.83%	▼	▲	▼	-43.56%
Declined	2329	NASDAQ	1544.16	1491.36	1508.34	-32.38	-2.10%	▼	▲	▼	-43.13%
New Highs	1	S&P 500	884.63	857.72	868.57	-11.16	-1.27%	▼	▲	▼	-40.85%
New Lows	71	S&P 400	511.78	486.80	494.33	-13.19	-2.60%	▼	▲	▼	-42.40%
		Russell 2000	470.94	445.80	452.57	-15.86	-3.39%	▼	▲	▼	-40.92%
		Wilshire 5000	6846.05	6557.65	6664.33	-135.85	-1.54%	▼	▲	▼	-41.54%



Keeping motors running

Fewer people are buying new cars. But they do need parts to maintain their old clunkers. That's one reason AutoZone Inc. (AZO) has met or exceeded profit expectations for eight straight quarters. While its revenue growth skidded in the latest quarter, margins improved. Thomas Weisel Partners analyst Matt Nemer says the company could benefit as driving picks up due to lower gas prices. He rates the company "neutral," however, worrying that sales from commercial customers could further stall. Credit Suisse analyst Gary Balter rates AutoZone "outperform" and says the whole sector is a defensive play in a slow economy. AutoZone shares are up more than 10 percent this year. While O'Reilly Automotive (ORLY) and Advance Auto Parts (AAP) have fallen a bit more than 10 percent each, they've handily outperformed the S&P 500, which is down 35 percent. There's a "perfect storm" that is brewing with gas prices and age of cars," Balter writes. He also likes AutoZone because it has maintained its share-buyback plan. Buybacks reduce shares outstanding, boosting per-share earnings.

Chris Bain • AP

Interestrates



Treasury prices gained as more grim economic news poured in and another auction of government debt garnered unprecedented demand.

TREASURIES	YEST	PVS	NET CHG	WK MO	QTR	1YR	AGO
3-month T-bill	.02	0.01	+0.01	▲	▼	▼	2.87
6-month T-bill	.20	0.20	...	▼	▼	▼	3.25
1-year T-note	.37	0.38	-0.01	▼	▼	▼	3.35
2-year T-note	.72	0.77	-0.05	▼	▼	▼	3.26
5-year T-note	1.48	1.54	-0.06	▼	▼	▼	3.61
10-year T-note	2.53	2.59	-0.06	▼	▼	▼	4.23
30-year T-bond	3.00	3.06	-0.06	▼	▼	▼	4.65

BONDS	YEST	PVS	NET CHG	WK MO	QTR	1YR	AGO
Lehman Long T-Bd Idx	3.23	3.26	-0.03	▼	▼	▼	4.63
Bond Buyer Muni Idx	6.60	6.57	+0.03	▲	▲	▲	4.85
Lehman US Aggregate	4.36	4.38	-0.02	▼	▼	▼	5.07
Lehman US High Yield 22.97	22.59	+0.38	▲	▲	▲	▲	9.46
Moody's AAA Corp Idx	5.35	5.37	-0.02	▼	▼	▼	5.59
Lehman Comp T-Bd Idx	1.70	1.71	-0.01	▼	▼	▼	3.76
Lehman US Corp	8.18	8.21	-0.03	▼	▼	▼	5.95

Commodities

Crude oil futures dropped on continued worries about weakening global economies and falling demand. OPEC is expected to cut production quotas at a Wednesday meeting. Gold prices rose.



FUELS	CLOSE	PVS.	%CH.	%YTD
Crude Oil (bbl)	44.51	46.28	-3.82	-53.6
Ethanol (gal)	1.55	1.55	...	-34.6
Heating Oil (gal)	1.46	1.49	-2.01	-44.7
Natural Gas (mm btu)	5.65	5.49	+2.91	-24.5
Unleaded Gas (gal)	1.04	1.08	-3.70	-58.1

METALS	CLOSE	PVS.	%CH.	%YTD
Aluminum (lb)	0.68	0.69	-1.45	-36.5
Copper (lb)	1.39	1.41	-1.42	-54.1
Gold (oz)	835.40	818.90	+2.01	+0.1
Platinum (oz)	839.20	822.10	+2.08	-45.1
Silver (oz)	10.59	10.20	+3.82	-28.5

AGRICULTURE	CLOSE	PVS.	%CH.	%YTD
Cattle (lb)	0.84	0.83	+1.20	-12.5
Corn (lb)	1.08	1.10	-1.82	-20.6
Corn (bu)	3.75	3.60	+4.17	-17.8
Cotton (lb)	0.44	0.43	+2.33	-35.3
Lumber (1,000 bd ft)	166.80	173.10	-3.64	-28.9
Orange Juice (lb)	0.77	0.77	...	-46.5
Soybeans (bu)	8.46	8.54	-0.94	-29.4
Wheat (bu)	5.20	5.07	+2.56	-41.2

Story Stocks

Stocks fell as anxiety over the growing list of firms affected by Bernard Madoff's alleged Ponzi scheme took center stage. The Dow industrials fell 65.15, or 0.75 percent, to 8,564.53. The Standard & Poor's 500 lost 1.27 percent, while the Nasdaq composite fell 2.10 percent.

General Motors Corp. GM

Close: \$4.06 ▲ 0.14 or 3.6%
Detroit automakers got reassurance from the White House that short-term government help could come soon.

Vol.: \$2.1m (0.7x avg.) PE: ...
Mkt. Cap: \$2.49 b Yield: 18.4%

Mattel Inc. MAT

Close: \$14.53 ▼ 0.07 or -0.5%
The toy maker will pay \$12 million to 39 states to settle a probe over Chinese-made lead-tainted toys shipped to the U.S.

Vol.: \$3.0m (0.7x avg.) PE: 10.2
Mkt. Cap: \$5.21 b Yield: 5.2%

Altria Group Inc. MO

Close: \$15.21 ▼ 0.13 or -0.8%
The high court ruled smokers may use state laws to sue cigarette makers for how they promote "light" and "low tar" brands.

Vol.: \$25.4m (1.1x avg.) PE: 3.5
Mkt. Cap: \$31.34 b Yield: 8.4%

Aetna Inc. AET

Close: \$23.33 ▲ 2.32 or 11.0%
The health insurer affirmed its full-year and 2009 profit goals, but Wall Street worries about the impact of investment losses.

Vol.: \$9.3m (1.7x avg.) PE: 6.2
Mkt. Cap: \$10.76 b Yield: 0.2%

Honeywell Intl. HON

Close: \$30.78 ▲ 1.83 or 6.3%
The aerospace-products maker gave 2009 earnings guidance that met expectations, but its revenue outlook fell slightly short.

Vol.: \$15.2m (1.8x avg.) PE: 7.7
Mkt. Cap: \$22.36 b Yield: 3.6%

Local Stocks

Co. Name	Tckr	52Wk Range	Close	Last	Chg	%Chg	WK	MO	QTR	YTD	1Yr	Volume	PE	DIV
Aqua America Inc	WTR	12.20	22.00	19.32	+14	+0.7%	▲	▲	▲	-8.9%	-11.9%	985	26	0.54
Bio-Imaging Tech	BITI	2.15	9.44	2.58	+18	+7.5%	▲	▲	▲	-68.1%	-70.7%	29	10	...
Brist Myr Sqb	BMV	16.00	28.30	22.50	-01	...	▼	▼	▼	-14.2%	-17.8%	25111	12	1.24
C&D Technologies	CHP	1.01	9.52	2.85	-11	-3.7%	▼	▼	▼	-56.9%	-49.5%	264	dd	...
Charming Shop	CHRS	0.57	7.00	1.49	-17	-10.2%	▼	▼	▼	-72.5%	-67.8%	942	dd	...
Comcast Corp A	CMCSA	12.50	22.86	15.60	-05	-0.3%	▼	▼	▼	-14.6%	-10.2%	21428	17	0.25
Discovery Labs	DSCO	0.77	3.02	1.13	-08	-6.6%	▼	▼	▼	-47.4%	-52.0%	277	dd	...
Environ Tectonics	ETC	0.67	2.95	.83	-04	-4.6%	▼	▼	▼	-55.4%	-62.2%	1	dd	...
Exelon Corp	EXC	36.81	92.13	53.54	-17	-2.1%	▼	▼	▼	-34.4%	-31.2%	3110	14	2.10
Fox Chase Inc	FXCB	9.39	13.25	10.74	-25	-2.3%	▼	▼	▼	-5.8%	-6.5%	1	cc	...
Harleysville Gp	HGIC	24.75	66.95	32.82	-73	-2.2%	▼	▼	▼	-7.2%	-1.2%	43	16	1.20
Harleysville Natl Cp	HNBC	10.24	20.60	13.74	-79	-5.4%	▼	▼	▼	-5.7%	+3.7%	182	16	0.80
Harleysville Sav Fn	HARL	10.55	14.31	12.75	-26	-2.0%	▼	▼	▼	+2.0%	+9.7%	1	11	0.72
ICT Group Inc	ICTG	2.50	12.60	3.61	-68	-15.9%	▼	▼	▼	-69.8%	-61.3%	16	dd	...
Johnson & Johnson	JNJ	52.06	72.76	57.81	+56	+1.0%	▲	▲	▲	-13.3%	-12.8%	12807	13	1.84
Jones Apparel	JNY	2.34	22.12	5.05	-37	-6.8%	▼	▼	▼	-68.4%	-65.8%	1301	dd	0.56
Kulicke & Soffa	KLIC	1.11	7.95	1.55	-14	-8.3%	▼	▼	▼	-77.4%	-75.4%	286	26	...
Marathon Oil	MRO	19.34	63.22	24.71	-21	-0.8%	▼	▼	▼	-59.4%	-56.4%	8727	4	0.96
Merck & Co	MRK	22.82	61.18	26.60	-44	-1.6%	▼	▼	▼	-54.2%	-52.2%	12335	13	1.52
Natl Penn Bcs	NPBC	10.86	20.00	13.93	-30	-2.1%	▼	▼	▼	-8.0%	-2.8%	536	11	0.69
Nutri System	NTRI	10.01	30.62	13.01	-22	-1.7%	▼	▼	▼	-51.8%	-54.5%	289	7	0.70
Orleans Homebuild	OHB	1.27	6.65	1.39	-11	-7.3%	▼	▼	▼	-61.1%	-65.9%	11	dd	...
Prudential FncI	PRU	13.10	95.50	24.63	-217	-8.1%	▼	▼	▼	-73.5%	-71.1%	6776	8	0.58m
Pub Svc Ent Gp	PEG	22.09	52.30	29.23	-19	-0.6%	▼	▼	▼	-40.5%	-36.6%	2574	13	1.29
PSEG 4.08ptA	PEGpa	63.27	80.00	71.00	...	...	▼	▼	▼	-6.6%	...	...	...	4.08
Quigley Corporation	OGLY	2.85	5.85	3.24	-17	-5.0%	▼	▼	▼	-32.1%	-24.2%	1	dd	...
Rite Aid Corp	RAD	0.28	4.13	.47	+01	+2.2%	▲	▲	▲	-83.2%	-88.8%	2377	dd	...
Rohm Haas	ROH	44.13	76.50	67.69	-64	-0.9%	▼	▼	▼	+27.5%	+24.6%	1105	21	1.64
Sovereign Bcp	SOV	1.63	13.26	2.66	-10	-3.6%	▼	▼	▼	-76.7%	-78.0%	16542	dd	...
TF Financial	THRD	16.88	27.71	19.50	...	...	▼	▼	▼	-20.9%	-23.7%	1	11	0.80
Technitrol Inc	TNL	2.47	30.50	2.91	-21	-6.7%	▼	▼	▼	-89.8%	-87.1%	315	3	0.35
Teva Pharm	TEVA	35.89	50.00	41.94	-47	-1.1%	▼	▼	▼	-9.8%	-5.6%	7055	18	0.49e
Toil Bros	TOL	13.55	28.00	20.34	-62	-3.0%	▼	▼	▼	+1.4%	+0.2%	2551	dd	...
US Steel Corp	X	20.71	196.00	37.17	-186	-4.8%	▼	▼	▼	-69.3%	-64.6%	11559	2	1.20
Univest Corp of Penn	UVSP	19.09	38.99	26.77	-123	-4.4%	▼	▼	▼	+26.8%	+33.0%	20	15	0.80
Verizon Comm	VZ	23.07	45.25	32.30	-50	-1.5%	▼	▼	▼	-26.1%	-23.1%	20564	15	1.84

CONTACT US

Do you know anyone who's making a living as an entrepreneur of an interesting business or as an employee in an occupation he or she always had dreamed about? If so, e-mail cshoemaker@phillyburbs.com or call 215-345-3186.

Pillow

Continued from Page C8

monkey bars, and Oser followed to help him as she usually did.

But her son turned around and said he no longer needed her assistance.

"I can do anything I put my mind to," he said.

It was then that Oser realized she wanted to help others achieve their goals, too. Soon after, she launched her company, Keeping it Positive, and started the Pleasant Dreamz line. Oser said she chose pillowcases because positive affirmations are most effective when said before bed and upon waking.

The 100 percent cotton, 300-thread count Pleasant Dreamz pillowcases sell for \$14.95 on Oser's Web site, www.keepingitpositive.net. She also makes and sells keychains on the site.

The ever-positive Oser has big plans for her company. She wants to expand the Pleasant Dreamz line to include baby blankets and coffee mugs. The positive sayings also could be tailored for people who are ill, or who are grieving the loss of a loved one, she said.

Oser said her pillowcases have gotten positive responses from parents and others who've seen them. And she said she continues to notice changes in her sons' confidence levels.

"It makes me feel good that they feel that way," Oser said. "I don't know if I felt that way as a kid. I never felt as confident and self-assured as I wish I would have."

Crissa Shoemaker DeBree can be reached at 215-345-3186 or