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MARKETS
TUESDAY

Dow 137.63 ▼ 7,920.18 S&P 17.23 ▼ 841.50 NASDAQ 27.59 ▼ 1,625.72 AMEX 36.52 ▼ 1,365.51 NYSE 108.78 ▼ 5,301.50 U.S. \$ = 13.16 pesos

Area business

Taylor Publishing to lay off 50 workers

EL PASO — Taylor Publishing plans to lay off about 50 people from its school yearbooks production plant in Northeast El Paso beginning Friday and through the next three months, the company recently reported to the Texas Workforce Commission.

The layoffs are due to more pre-press production work being shifted online to customers and to its Dallas plant, said Bill Homan, general manager of the El Paso plant, 10365 Railroad Drive. The El Paso plant will do work for 2010 yearbooks, Homan said. He did not know how many people would be employed for that.

Vic Kolenc

Sales dip shows economy unstable

By Jeannine Aversa
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The recession is easing? Not so fast. An unexpected drop in sales of just about everything from cars to clothes sent a sobering message Tuesday: The economy is still vulnerable.

That cautionary guidance was seconded by President Barack Obama and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, though they also had encouraging words. Bernanke spoke of "tentative signs" that at least the econ-

omy is declining more slowly, and Obama repeated his recent analysis that he sees "glimmers of hope."

Because Americans are still losing jobs by the thousands, a major fear is that people will cut back even further on their spending, and that could plunge the economy into a sharper tailspin.

Tuesday's report that retail sales fell 1.1 percent in March deepened concern.

Gains in a string of other reports during the past few weeks — including home and auto sales and other con-

sumer-spending barometers — had raised optimism that the economy's fall may be slowing.

Obama and Bernanke cited those improvements in speeches Tuesday. But they also made clear that the economy was not out of danger and that potential pitfalls lie ahead.

"By no means are we out of the woods just yet," Obama warned in a speech at Georgetown University. "The severity of this recession will cause more job loss, more foreclosures and more pain before it ends. Credit is still not flowing

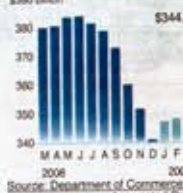
nearly as easily as it should."

Bernanke, speaking at Morehouse College in Atlanta, said, "Recently, we have seen tentative signs that the sharp decline in economic activity may be slowing." But he, too, cautioned that hopes for a lasting recovery hinge on how soon the government succeeds in bolstering the financial markets and stimulating more normal borrowing by consumers and businesses.

"We will not have a sustainable recovery without a stabilization of our financial system and credit markets," he said.

Retail sales dip

Total monthly retail sales, seasonally adjusted



Spotlight | SBA award winners

El Paso gas price average inches up

EL PASO — El Paso's average price for a gallon of unleaded regular gasoline in-

creased a penny overnight to \$1.962 Tuesday, according to AAA's Fuel Gauge Report Web site.

The Las Cruces average rose a half cent overnight to \$1.98. The Texas average increased a half cent to \$1.978, while the New Mexico average increased six-tenths of a cent to \$2.072. The national average increased a tenth of a cent to \$2.05.

David Burge

U.S. retail industry reports sales losses

EL PASO — The U.S. retail industry continues to struggle, according to a National Retail Federation report.

The federation, which uses U.S. Commerce Department sales figures but subtracts sales at gas stations, restaurants and automobile dealerships, reported March sales were down 3.2 percent from last year and 0.6 percent from February 2009.

Total retail sales were down 10.6 percent compared with last year and 1.1 percent from the previous month.

The International Council of Shopping Centers, which tracks chain-store sales, reported that U.S. sales were up 0.8 percent for the week ended April 12 compared with the previous week but were down 0.4 percent compared with 2008.

David Burge

PostalAnnex offers tax-return delivery

EL PASO — Anyone bringing their tax return to the PostalAnnex franchise, 910 E. Redd Road, by 7 p.m. on Wednesday will have it delivered to the main post office free, owner Pete Armendariz said.

Armendariz started this service on tax deadline day 10 years ago and decided to keep it as an annual convenience.

The main post office, 8401 Boeing, is the only El Paso-area post office that will have extended pickup service and will collect mail until midnight so you can get the April 15 postmark on your return.

"Anyone here on the West Side, Sunland Park or Castil-



Mark Lambie / El Paso Times

Susan Eisen of Susan Eisen Fine Jewelry & Watches was named the SBA's El Paso District Small Business Person of the Year.

A passion for business

Jewelry CEO Eisen is among 8 honored

By David Burge
El Paso Times

EL PASO — If you want to succeed in business, it helps if you love what you do, said Susan Eisen, chief executive officer and chief designer for Susan Eisen Fine Jewelry & Watches in West El Paso.

"I work 60 to 80 hours a week, but it doesn't seem like work," said

Eisen, one of eight El Paso business owners or small-business advocates who will be honored during the U.S. Small Business Administration's annual Small Business Week celebration in May.

Eisen, an El Paso native, was announced Tuesday as the SBA's El Paso District Small Business Person of the Year.

"I can honestly say I love every

minute of it," Eisen said. "There has never been a day when I get up and don't want to go to work."

Having that passion is the biggest reason for her success, she said.

She also said her father, former Marine Jack Eisenberg, instilled many life lessons that influenced the way she does business.

"We went out to dinner one night and I asked him about all the things

Make plans

- **What:** Small Business Week luncheon and awards ceremony, organized by the SBA, SCORE and the El Paso Small Business Consortium.
- **When, where:** 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 14, Wyndham Hotel, 2027 Airway.
- **Cost:** \$30 per person, \$350 for a table of 10.
- **Information:** 534-0511.

► List of local winners 4F

he learned as a Marine," Eisen said. "I wrote them down, and I couldn't believe that it was exactly how I run my business."

"When I was little, he told us all those things, and they sank in."

Those lessons, Eisen said, include accepting responsibility; being the best you can be; having respect for tradition; having pride in everything you do; and putting pride, commitment and integrity above all else.

Award winners were nominated by community and business groups and were selected by a committee established and headed by the local SCORE chapter. Winners will be

Please see **Winners 4F**

Summer gas prices should



Goldman results sharpen focus on financial stocks