

NASDAQ

Table of NASDAQ stock market data with columns for stock name, price, change, and volume. Includes sections for S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z.

AMEX

Table of AMEX stock market data with columns for stock name, price, change, and volume. Includes sections for A-B, C-D, G-H, K-L, M-N, P-Q, R-S, T-U, V-W, X-Y, Z.

Treasuries

Table of Treasury bond data with columns for maturity, yield, and bid/ask prices.

FRIDAY DIVIDENDS DECLARED

Table listing companies and their dividend amounts for Friday, including BP Prudhoe Bay, Amgen, and others.

Advertisement for 'Rock, rhythm & blues, country.' featuring a large image of a hand holding a guitar and the text 'In your Beacon Journal.' with a logo for 'Tune in for the Top 10 singles.'

Bush applauds news of growing economy

Lacing expected to be completed next week

Administration prods Congress to extend tax cuts

By Jennifer Loven

CHICAGO: President Bush shrugged off a report showing weaker-than-expected job growth on Friday and declared that "the American economy heads into 2006 with a full head of steam." Bush rattled off recent government reports suggesting a growing U.S. economy, and he used his speech to the Chicago Economic Club to prod Congress to extend his administration's tax cuts, which are due to expire. "In 2005, the American economy turned in a performance that is the envy of the industrialized world," Bush said. Bush, who also visited the Chicago Board of Trade, spoke as he and his economic team trumpeted recent improvements in the economy, despite Friday's mixed jobs report showing a slowdown in monthly hiring. U.S. payrolls expanded by 108,000 jobs during December, about half of expectations. But hiring in November was revised sharply upward, to 305,000 new jobs instead of the 215,000 reported earlier. And the unemploy-

blimp-building experience has been coming in three times a week to work on the lacing.

Lacing expected to be completed next week

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All that keeps these critical metal pieces connected to the envelope is the lacing. "There's a certain lace pattern to it," explained Jared Haren, airship construction supervisor. "There are certain things you have to watch for. It has to do with structural integrity. In case a lace breaks, you don't lose the whole thing." On this day, 10 of the 16 battens had been attached. "It's a time-consuming process," Haren said. "We're moving ahead pretty good." To help with the lacing, the blimp envelope must be kept at a certain pressure, he said. That involves carefully inflating the two ballonets, or large air-filled balloons that sit fore and aft inside the helium-filled envelope. Haren figures lacing the battens to the envelope will be completed next week. "We have a drawing that says you do it this way," he said. "There's rules to it. You try to make it so the lacing is flat. After (the batten is) laced, you have to hand tighten it. . . . This is all a refinement of airships we've done before."

Advertisement for 'We've got 20, 25 years of experience working with guys with 50 years of experience.' featuring a large image of a blimp under construction and the text 'Crew members attach the last of 16 rigid battens around the nose of the new Goodyear blimp. The metal tubes are affixed with a special kind of rope lacing.' with a logo for 'Tune in for the Top 10 singles.'