Some gas stations break \$2.50 barrier in Tulsa Tulsa motorists have a lot to be thankful for this week. Gasoline pump prices have dropped everyday for four straight weeks. The city's average is around \$2.60 â€" probably lower by the time you read this â€" while some stations have broken the \$2.50 barrier for the first time in five years. The average price has dropped about a dollar just in the past seven months. The worldwide price collapse even has onetime global pacesetter OPEC worried, at least publicly. Good times in the U.S. of A. "The deep decline is incredible,― said Michael Thornbrugh, spokesman for Tulsa-based chain QuikTrip. "All things being equal, it looks like it's going to continue to fall.― The lowest price seemed to be \$2.49 for regular unleaded at a few Tulsa stations Tuesday, although some stops in the suburbs were down as far as \$2.40. AAA reported that Skiatook's average is at \$2.48 per gallon. The statewide average is at \$2.616, down 41 cents since Oct. 29. That was the last day Oklahomans saw a day-over-day increase at the pump. "The last time the Oklahoma average was this low was on Oct. 2, 2010,― said AAA Oklahoma spokesman Chuck Mai said in a statement. "On Thanksgiving Day, 2009, Oklahoma's average stood at \$2.49. We're on track now to see the lowest Thanksgiving gas prices since then, not only in Oklahoma but across the U.S.― Already, the global price of oil has fallen 30 percent since late June, to \$80 a barrel, from \$115, according to the Associated Press. This has been a boon for consumers, airlines and shippers. -- ROD WALTON, World Business Editor U.S. stocks continue record-setting climb The stock market eked out another record close Monday as investors remained confident that stimulus from central banks would revive global growth. Retail stocks rose ahead of the crucial Christmas season. Stocks have surged following a slump that lasted from mid-September to mid-October. The rally has been driven by optimism that central banks in Europe, China and Japan will invigorate economic growth outside the U.S. "You clearly have momentum favoring stocks right now,― said Russ Koesterich, chief investment strategist at Blackrock.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 5.91 points, or 0.3 percent, to 2,069.41. The index has climbed for seven of the last eight days and is at an all-time high, having gained almost 12 percent this year. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 7.84 points, less than 0.1 percent, to 17,817.90. The Nasdag composite gained 41.92 points, or 0.9 percent, to 4,754.89. On Monday, the gains were led by the so-called consumer discretionary sector, which includes retailers such as Coach, Urban Outfitters and Gap. These stocks should benefit most if the consumers go on a spending spree this Christmas season. Coach rose 95 cents, or 2.6 percent, to \$37.41 as analysts at Stifel reiterated their belief that the maker of luxury clothing and accessories is "doing the right things to reinvigorate the brand.― The analysts believe that the stock's price could climb as high as \$47. The stock is down 32 percent for the year. Telecommunications stocks were among the day's biggest losers. Verizon and AT&T slumped after analysts at Citigroup published a gloomy review of the sector and predicted a tough year ahead for the two phone giants. -- Associated Press Former Drillers owner's app helps in sales presentations After 30 years with the Tulsa Drillers, capped off with their move to ONEOK Field in downtown Tulsa, Chuck Lamson sold his share of the team and went into business for himself. Five years later, Lamson has stepped into a new field â€" an app. SpringDeck, co-founded by Lamson and Ryan Sullivan, owner of Blue Speed Audio Video, is designed as a system to streamline sales presentations among all members of an organization. Lamson said the key to making a successful pitch, whether it's for a company selling manufacturing parts, an organization recruiting new members or a sports team, lies in preparation. "lf you don't have all your information, it makes you look less professional,― he said. "The worst thing you can do as a salesperson is to go out on a call and not be prepared.― Lamson said what became SpringDeck began when Sullivan installed a home stereo

system at Lamson's house. "While he was doing the installation, he began talking with

my wife about the problems all small businesses face, and she encouraged him to talk to me,― he said. "He had worked to standardize his sales approach among his employees, since there's a lot of speakers and amps and other products.― Sullivan accomplished this by a private app that had doubled sales at Blue Speed, Lamson said. Though Sullivan sought an outside investor to launch a public app aimed for the audio visual industry, Lamson said he felt the app could have potential in a variety of industries. Launched in May, the full version of SpringDeck allows all employees to access product and service information at a touch, ensuring all employees have the same suite of information and prices, Lamson said. Furthermore, automatic updates can ensure the information is always up to date. -- ROBERT EVATT, World Business Writer Hydropontic farm grows, harvests fresh green daily The setup wasn't intentional, but launching production at Scissortail Farms shortly before the onset of cold weather is good timing, company CEO John Sulton said. Sulton and co-founder Rob Walenta have been running Scissortail Farms out of a 28,000-square-foot greenhouse in west Tulsa for about two months. Scissortail is a hydroponic farm, meaning that it grows its 40 varieties of leafy greens and herbs with nutrient-infused water and without soil. The method allows Scissortail to produce fresh greens daily without use of bio solids, pesticides or other chemicals. And at a time of year when farmer's markets have closed and it becomes more difficult to find fresh and affordable produce, Scissortail is still producing, the company boasts. Sulton and Walenta, the company's chief operations officer, became friends while attending high school at Cascia Hall Preparatory School. Sulton, part of the Class of '96, went on to earn an engineering degree from the University of Kansas and to work at NORDAM. Walenta, who graduated in 1997, went on to study construction science at the University of Oklahoma and to work for KMO Development Group Inc. It was the desire to start a business, not a specific interest in horticulture, that led to launching Scissortail Farms, Walenta said. While brainstorming business ideas, the friends came across hydroponic farming and the towers patented by Tim Blank, the man responsible for the hydroponic farm featured at

Walt Disney World Resort in Florida. They liked that the product they would be

producing would be sustainable, local and could provide consumers same-day freshness, they said. "One

of the great things this does is we use less than 10 percent of

the water and the land traditionally used for field crops,― Walenta said. -- CASEY

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