

MARKET SUMMARY: DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE 1,234.56; NYSE COMPOSITE 1,234.56; NASDAQ 1,234.56

What's News... Business Bulletin... Fall From Grace... Long-Term Treasury... Off-Whisker Toppled

Steppingtons... City Hall... A New Power Center... All Over Latin America... In Part of a Big... At the... Afternoon... How a... The... In...

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about 40% this summer. COAL FLY ASH, a low-tech byproduct, may find some high-tech uses. Falcon Racing Services Ltd., a Wilkes-Barre, Pa., outfit that owns and races Formula-series racecars, tries out heat shields made from coal fly ash, a residue from burning coal. It is also testing nose cones and "wings" that attach to the cars to create downdraft for better traction. The tests are being done under a research program from UGI Corp.'s UGI Utilities Inc. unit and Wilkes University, both also in Wilkes-Barre.

About 59 million tons of fly ash are generated annually in the U.S.; about 28% of the ash is used commercially in construction and such, and much of the rest ends up in landfills, says the American Coal Ash Association, Alexandria, Va. Wilkes University researcher Francisco Torres-Aranda hopes the research will, among other things, help reduce disposal costs, conserve resources and create building products, such as tile and insulation blocks.

Researchers have also grown barley seeds in pelletized coal fly ash.

BRIEFS: In a back-to-school lunchbox promotion, Pepperidge Farm makes its Goldfish crackers with "smiley" faces. . . . The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office issues its 10,000th plant patent to David Lemon, a plant-breeder at Oglevee Ltd., Connellsville, Pa., for his purple-and-pink geranium named "Lois."

-PAMELA SEBASTIAN

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