

Junior Achievement wants you back in the classroom

Want to help prevent a future recession, as well as the general dumbing down of America?

Junior Achievement-Rocky Mountain has the answer: Volunteer to teach school kids about financial literacy, entrepreneurship and work force readiness through JA's in-school programs through the end of the school year. Among the topics: career options, how to make a budget, cash versus credit, key aspects of the global economy, business operations and economic issues in the United States, business history, business ethics and much more.

C'mon, you know you have nothing better to do while your company circles the drain.

JA and its ubër queen, **Robin Wise**, seek 200 volunteers in a hurry, for elementary, middle and high schools.

How many times have you said, "If I only knew then what I know now"?

So share that 20-20 expertise with the young 'uns.

The curriculum has interactive, hands-on components - and you'll be safe from any miscreants because a teacher must be in the classroom at the same time.

JA will train you, which takes 60-90 minutes, and provide you with a kit that includes curriculum, guidebook and materials. You can crowd your teaching into one day or spread the schedule as you see fit.

To volunteer, contact Iffie Graham at 303-628-7376 or igraham@jacolorado.org.

Remember, only YOU can prevent somebody from saying, "My checking account CAN'T be out of money; I still have checks left over."

GRAYAREA: "This patent is going to make a helluva lot of money and employ a lot of people," claims **Jack Gray**, 83, principal owner of **Gray Wolf Energy Services LLC**, a corrosion engineering consulting company in Golden.

His patent is for MetroShield. Stray current on electrified rail lines causes corrosion of the material in which rails are set, and also harms metal and nearby building foundations that have rebar. That "accelerates corrosion of the metal," Gray says. "Eventually, a pipe would split or break. Foundations would tend to deteriorate."

MetroShield, which is rubber insulation, is bonded to the rail to prevent stray current. Gray says MetroShield also stops water, grit and dirt from wedging between the rail and lining, preventing rail corrosion as well.

"It's a new idea, a new concept that's going to revolutionize the business of insulating electric rail," Gray says. "It's a brand-new concept and highly regarded by most of the engineers in the transit authority business."

Rocky Mountain Steel Mills in Pueblo produces about 80 percent of the railroad track made in the United States. If things go Gray's way, he'll lease land near the mills, build a MetroShield plant there, insulate rails with MetroShield and ship them worldwide. Another strategy is to work with **L.B. Foster Co.**, which sells rails from the mill to rapid transit systems, according to company attorney **Peter Keppler**.

"There's about a \$250 million market in the United States," Gray says, "and also about another \$250 million worldwide."

He's bidding to insulate electric rail on a massive light-rail project in Houston that Gray says is twice as large as T-REX, and claims inquiries from Dallas and the West Coast.

SOONER HAVE BOOMERS: The recession has one good side effect: more contract jobs for those of a certain age, according to **Stephanie Klein**, president, **The Boomer Group**, a Denver company that matches baby boomers with jobs.

"The trends that I am seeing is that though there are many companies in frozen mode, they feel they have cut as deep as they can cut," Klein says. "But they still have projects, and may not have the bench strength they need to take on clients, and need experienced people on contract."

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