

MONEY WISE

Business Editor
Kevin Smith
626-962-8811 ext. 2701
GOT NEWS? WE WANT IT
E-mail us at kevin.smith@sgvn.com
or call (626) 962-8811 ext. 2720

ONLINE FROM WALL STREET TO MAIN STREET, KEEP UP WITH THE LATEST ECONOMIC HEADLINES

THE LOCAL BUZZ

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Edison offers free energy upgrades

Southern California Edison is offering small businesses in Los Angeles, Kern, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura counties up to \$10,000 in free energy upgrades through SCE's Direct Install program through December. The program will continue in different cities throughout 2011.

The Direct Install survey, equipment and installation are available for qualifying small businesses that use less than 100 kilowatts. SCE-approved professional contractors will visit the businesses, conduct a brief energy-use survey and make recommendations for free upgrades.

The free installation of energy-efficient equipment will be scheduled at the business owner's convenience. To learn more about schedules and qualifications, call 800-736-4777 or visit www.sce.com/directinstall.

LA VERNE

Haynes Center receives donation

Representatives of the Federated East Valley Women's Club recently presented a check for \$600 to the LeRoy Haynes Center in La Verne to cover the cost of uniform polo shirts for LeRoy Haynes "model residents" participating in the Elite Work Force, a jobs-training program for kids.

The women's club is "adopting" the LeRoy Haynes Center and plans on participating in upcoming holiday gift giving, volunteer gift wrapping and a book collection program to help fill the library at the Haynes Education Center on campus.

"We wanted to do something to better the community," said Mary Matson, of Diamond Bar, co-chair of the women's club's LeRoy Haynes Center support program.

SANTA FE SPRINGS

Express to open local office

Express Employment Professionals franchisee Anne Woods will hold a grand opening Dec. 8 for her new office at 11823 E. Slauson Ave., Unit 8 in Santa Fe Springs.

Express Employment Professionals offers a full range of employment solutions, including evaluation hire, temporary staffing, professional search and human resources.

For more information about Express Employment, call 562-693-5111, or visit <http://santafespringsca.expresspros.com/>.

From staff and wire reports

LOCAL STOCKS

Company Name	Price	Change(%)
AEROVIRONMENT	23.68	+0.06 (0.25%)
AMERICAN STATES	37.28	-0.85 (2.23%)
AMERIGON	11.06	-0.29 (2.56%)

FOCUS ON PERSONAL FINANCE



Leo Jarzomb Staff Photographer

Pasadena family law attorney Mark Baer says divorce insurance doesn't make financial sense because it motivates couples to seek a return on investment instead of trying to work through their problems.

Think carefully

Local attorney leery of divorce insurance

By Kevin Smith Staff Writer

PASADENA — The concept of insurance is nothing new.

Companies offer everything from life insurance, health insurance and homeowner's insurance to income-protection insurance, travel insurance and war-risk insurance.

But divorce insurance?

Well, that's something new. And Pasadena family law attorney Mark Baer's not exactly sold on the concept. In fact, Baer is cautioning "would-be" insureds to think carefully before investing in this novel kind of insurance.

Baer says the consequences may well outweigh the benefits and destroy the sanctity of marriage.

Divorce insurance first became available in the U.S. on Aug. 5 with the launch of the website www.WedLockDivorceinsurance.com.

Offered through North Carolina-based Safeguard Guaranty Corp., the coverage is described as a form of casualty insurance. In this case, the "casualty" being the potential of an unrecoverable financial loss as a result of a divorce proceeding.

The company sells individual policies which can be purchased in units with coverage ranging from \$1,250 per unit to a maximum of 200 units or \$250,000 in coverage.

Each unit of a WedLock Divorce Insurance premium is sold for \$15.99 per month.

The policies mature after four years, but insureds can purchase additional riders at \$30 per unit to reduce the waiting period to three years. If a marriage should fail after the policy matures, the couples walk away with a cash payment equivalent to the amount of coverage purchased.

There is a downside, however.

"If you divorce in less than three years, you lose your rider and also lose your premium payment ... you get nothing," Baer said.

But money aside, Baer said divorce insurance puts a negative taint on a marriage. In essence, a couple would be paying monthly premiums for coverage that rewards them in the event their marriage fails.

"When couples hit hard times, instead of working to correct these problems, divorce insurance will motivate them to seek an ending to their marriage to get a return on investment, ultimately promoting divorce," he said.

Instead, Baer recommends that couples forge a prenuptial agreement before getting married. The "prenup" clearly details the assets of each person and includes provisions for the division of those assets and property if the couple decides to divorce.

Baer provided an example of how divorce insurance doesn't make financial sense.

"If a standard policyholder, who purchased 10 units divorced after 10 years, they would have paid over \$19,188 in premiums," he said. "The insurance company would pay them \$27,500, which would be taxed over the amount of their premium payments. To receive this settlement, they would have to be divorced, which could cost \$30,000 on the average to well over \$100,000, per attorney, on the high end where there are issues of child custody, retirement, business or property ownership to resolve."

Baer strives to make his clients aware of all the ripple effects that occur when a divorce takes place. Children, even adult children, will often align themselves with one parent. That can make family gatherings difficult and awkward, he said.

Dave Althausen, a spokesman for the California Department of Insurance, said he'd recently heard of divorce insurance but didn't know any details about how it works.

"I would classify it as a niche market," he said.

kevin.smith@sgvn.com
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China: Money plan volatile

By Christopher Bodeen The Associated Press

BEIJING — The U.S. Federal Reserve's move to pump hundreds of billions of dollars into the financial system will bring greater volatility to markets worldwide, a Chinese official said Monday.

The step will create new waves of cash sloshing in and out of countries in search of short-term profits, vice finance minister Zhu Guangyao told reporters at a news conference to discuss the Group of 20 meeting of major advanced and developing nations in Seoul, South Korea later this week.

The U.S. decision "does not recognize, as a country that issues one of the world's major reserve currencies, its obligation to stabilize capital markets," Zhu said, referring to the global use of the dollar as the currency in which nations store the bulk of their foreign reserves.

The Fed last week announced plans to buy \$600 billion of long-term government bonds by mid-2011 in an attempt to boost lending. That will increase the supply of dollars held by banks, hopefully spurring more lending.

The move is also expected to force down bond yields, taking with them interest rates for homeowners, consumers and businesses. By weakening the U.S. dollar it should also help make U.S. goods more competitive overseas and keep alive a stock market rally that began in August.

Ontario center to offer Leaf training

Staff reports

ONTARIO — Nissan North America plans to launch its first all-electric vehicle by the end of the year, and a facility in Ontario will be responsible for showing people how the electric newcomer works.

In the weeks before the Nissan Leaf hits public roads in December, the automaker's technicians will gather in a new Ontario training center to learn about the vehicle's all-new, sophisticated systems, said Paul Mathias, technical training manager.

"The West Coast is the primary launching point of the new Leaf in December," he said. "Technicians will receive in-depth training on the overall features of the vehicle and how to service the lithium battery."

Technicians will come to the Ontario Training Center, which opened last month, for a four-day course on the electric car, he said.

It is one of two new technical centers that Nissan has opened in the western U.S. this year. The Leaf is expected to be launched in Southern California, among other specialized markets.

Wading through the financial jargon

JUST when you thought you'd mastered the lingo, here comes another wave of financial jargon to describe what's going on in the markets today. Here's a short glossary of some of the terms you might encounter.

Double dip

In economic parlance, this refers to the risk that the economy, not long after coming out of a recession, will slip back into another recession. In the current economic environment, some are raising the possibility that this could happen in the U.S. or elsewhere.

U-, V- or W-shaped recovery



CRISTINA FUENTES

sharp rise, followed again by a sharp decline then finishing with another sharp rise.

Deflation

Most of us are familiar with the concept of inflation, an increase in

When the stock market declines by a level of 5 percent or more, up to 20 percent (as measured by a broad market index such as the Dow Jones Industrial Average or S&P 500), professionals generally describe it as a correction in stock prices.

Bear market

The generally accepted standard to qualify for a bear market is when stocks (as measured by an index) drop 20 percent or more in a set period of time, perhaps within two months or less.

Bubble

In economic terms, a bubble occurs when the value of a particu-

tract between two parties that derives its price from an underlying asset. The value is based on changes in the prices of the underlying asset, which can range from hard assets like gold or agricultural products to interest rates and stocks. While they provide a way to hedge risk, more regulation may be placed on those that attract speculators, which some believe has caused problems in the markets.

High Frequency Trading Much of the market's recent volatility has been blamed on rapid trading strategies that large institutions execute through powerful computers. These machines can quickly crunch num-