

YESTERDAY'S CLOSING: DOW 11,893.79 ▲112.85 NASDAQ 2,625.15 ▲3.50 S&P 500 1,239.67 ▲10.57 OIL 97.44 ▼0.33 GOLD 1,754.90 ▼4.00

HOT OFF THE TICKER

Work at home expo set for weekend

A Work at Home Business Expo will be held Saturday and Sunday at the Fairplex at Pomona. It will feature more than 100 home business models, resources and workshops designed to give the necessary tools on starting and running a successful home-based business. Admission is \$10 at the door, \$8 advance online, \$6 for students with an ID and children 12 and under and military with ID are free. www.wahbexpo.com.

October deficit lower than a year ago

The federal government started the budget year with a smaller October deficit than a year ago, modest progress after three straight years of \$1 trillion-plus deficits. The deficit for October, the first month of the 2012 budget year, totaled \$98.5 billion, the Treasury Department said Thursday. That's down from \$140.4 billion in October 2010. But the deficit still remains high by historical standards.

Facebook nears deal with regulators

Facebook is nearing a settlement with federal regulators that would require the world's most popular online hangout to obtain approval from its users before making changes that expose their profiles and activities to a wider audience, according to a report published Thursday. Facebook has agreed to make the changes to resolve a nearly two-year-old investigation by the Federal Trade Commission.

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

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY Companies take part in recycling

On Tuesday a pilot battery-recycling project will celebrate America Recycles Day. Aiming to drive battery recycling by increasing convenience, the pilot-project has received support from local businesses.

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The take-back program is organized by the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments and funded by a \$395,966 grant from the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery.

For more information, call Nick Conway at 626-457-1800 or Heidi Sanborn at 916-480-9010.

AZUSA

Yamamoto joins Cardinal Pet Care

Norman Yamamoto has joined Azusa-based Cardinal Pet Care as senior brand manager for Pet Botanics. He will oversee the growing dog food and treat brand for both U.S. and International markets.

He will also direct new product development for the brand. Yamamoto was a graduate of Cal State Los Angeles and got his MBA at USC. He's worked in brand management for Nestle, Heinz Pet, ConAgra and Avery-Dennison.

PASADENA

Tetra Tech lands Army Corps work

Tetra Tech Inc. has been awarded a \$21.4 million contract to provide architect-engineering services for hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste projects for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District.

The majority of the work will be performed within the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 2, which includes New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the corps' Northwestern Division, including the Kansas City, Omaha, and Seattle Districts.

GLENDORA

Jersey Mike's to hold fundraiser

Jersey Mike's Subs will officially open its doors in Glendora next week.

To commemorate the event, the new restaurant, at 865 W. Route 66, is hosting a five-day fundraiser that will run from Wednesday through Nov. 20, with proceeds supporting the athletic departments of Glendora High School, Gladstone High School, Azusa High School and Charter Oak High School.

From staff and wire reports

LOCAL STOCKS

Company Name	Price	Change(%)
AEROVIRONMENT	31.60	+0.26 (0.83%)
AMERICAN STATES	34.99	+0.19 (0.55%)
AMERIGON	15.43	+0.43 (2.87%)
AVERY DENNISON	25.63	+0.20 (0.79%)
BREITBURN ENERGY	17.90	+0.17 (0.96%)
CON-WAY, Inc.	28.53	+0.76 (2.74%)
EAST-WEST BANK	19.36	+0.35 (1.84%)
EDISON INT	40.47	+0.48 (1.20%)
HOT TOPIC	6.77	+0.04 (0.59%)
JACOBS ENGINEERING	37.89	+0.12 (0.32%)
SPORT CHALET-B	2.34	+0.09 (4.00%)
STAAR SURGICAL	8.66	+0.03 (0.35%)
TETRA TECH	22.19	+0.88 (4.13%)

Economic outlook brighter

Jobless aid hits 7-month low while trade gap falls

By Derek Kravitz and Martin Crutsinger
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The outlook for American jobs and trade looked a little brighter Thursday, despite growing uncertainty overseas.

The number of people who applied for unemployment benefits last week fell to a seasonally adjusted 390,000,

the Labor Department said Thursday. That's the fewest since April.

The U.S. trade deficit narrowed to \$43.1 billion in September, its lowest point of the year, the Commerce Department said. Foreign sales of American-made autos, airplanes and heavy machinery pushed exports to an all-time high.

The data suggest layoffs

are easing and the economy grew slightly better over the summer than the government had estimated a month ago.

Stocks rose in early-morning trading, one day after the market tumbled over concerns that Europe's debt crisis could worsen.

The Dow Jones industrial average gained more than 46 points.

The reports "are modestly strong relative to expectations — encouraging confidence that the economy is gaining a bit of momentum,"

said Pierre Ellis, an analyst at Decision Economics.

Weekly applications for unemployment benefits have declined in three of the past four weeks, the Labor Department said. The four-week average, a less volatile measure, fell to 400,000, also the lowest point since April.

The downward trend in applications suggests businesses are laying off fewer workers.

Still, applications need to consistently drop below 375,000 to signal sustained job gains. They haven't been at that level since February.

"The labor market is still weak and quite stagnant but there are hopeful signs of some modest improvement," said Steve Wood, chief economist at Insight Economics.

In September, exports increased 1.4 percent to a record \$180.4 billion, reflecting a big increase in shipments of U.S. made autos and auto parts, the Commerce Department said.

Imports were up a smaller 0.4 percent to \$223.5 billion. Oil imports slowed after huge gains earlier in the year.

The deficit has narrowed for the last three months.



Watchara Phomicinda Staff Photographer

The new Lazy Dog Cafe in West Covina features a wide variety of dishes, ranging from wok-fired calamari to burgers, as well as its own in-house beer and lots of other drinks.

Cuisine unleashed

Lazy Dog Cafe opens at Westfield West Covina mall

By Kevin Smith Staff Writer

WEST COVINA — Chris Simms has fond memories of the vacations his family took in the rugged mountains of Jackson Hole, Wyo., when he was growing up.

After a day on the slopes they would often repair to the lodge to enjoy a warm fireplace and a good meal. The setting was comfortable, inviting and fun. And that's exactly what Simms strives to recreate at Lazy Dog Cafe.

The company officially opened its ninth Lazy Dog on Wednesday night in West Covina. And Simms, the company's founder and CEO, figures the eatery offers up an experience that will keep customers coming back.

"One of our goals is to take people away when they walk through the door," he said. "We want them to feel like they're on vacation or at a Rocky Mountain ski lodge. We've taken that traditional feel and updated it. It's a comfortable atmosphere but also fun and lively."

The restaurant, 1440 Plaza Drive, West Covina, features a broad menu, ranging from a hummus trio, wok-fired calamari and zucchini fries, to Hawaiian ahi poke, an inside-out quesadilla and chicken lettuce cups.

But it also offers plenty of comfort food for the more traditional diner, including burgers, pizza, pasta and noodles, soups and chili.

"Our restaurants do really well with a wide variety of demographics," Simms said. "On a typical day we'll see local business people for lunch, with office workers and all different folks from the area coming in. We're also popular with moms and kids."

But come evening, the place revs up with a younger crowd of 20- and 30-somethings.

"They'll come out for a beer, a late dinner or to watch the football game," Simms said.

The drink selections include Lazy Dogs' own in-house beer, as well as



Carmen and Larry Tait of Victorville were the first two customers to be served during the grand opening of the Lazy Dog Cafe at the Westfield West Covina shopping center on Wednesday.

margaritas, house-made sangria, "hand-muddled mojitos and straight-up martinis, among other choices.

Other Lazy Dog locations include Santa Clarita, Thousand Oaks, Huntington Beach/Westminster, Irvine, Orange, Torrance, Temecula and Cerritos.

The new West Covina location is in the Westfield West Covina mall near Nordstrom Rack.

"We have a friend who lives in the area who was constantly complaining that there wasn't enough of a great selection of restaurants," Simms said. "When I went out and took a look I felt like the market was underserved. So it's a great spot for a Lazy Dog for that reason."

Mayor Steve Herfert said he is excited to welcome Lazy Dog Café to West Covina.

"This restaurant is a perfect addition to the long list of great restaurant establishments in our community and further establishes the Westfield West Covina mall as a premier shopping and dining destination," Herfert said in a statement.

Most of the Lazy Dog Cafes are, according to Daniel Conway, a spokesman for the California Restaurant Association.

"As they say, it's all about location, location, location," Conway said. "In a mall you have a built-in base of traffic and good visibility, so even if they don't come in to eat during their trip to the mall they will remember your name."

For more information about Lazy Dog Cafe, call 626-480-8603.

kevin.smith@sgvn.com
626-962-8811, ext. 2701

Bernanke talks to vets about economy

By Martin Crutsinger
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke on Thursday tried to reassure U.S. soldiers, a group hit hard by high unemployment, that the Fed is working to strengthen the economy.

In a speech at a military base in El Paso, Texas, Bernanke told the soldiers and their families that the Fed is trying to lower unemployment. He talked about the Fed's policies of keeping short-term rates near zero and buying securities to try and lower longer-term rates, such as mortgages.

Many veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars are returning home to find few jobs and limited prospects. The unemployment rate for veterans of those wars was 12.1 percent in October. That's up from 10.6 percent a year ago and well above the national average of 9 percent.

"I'm here because the men and women in military service, like all Americans, are profoundly affected by the economic challenges our nation has faced these past several years," Bernanke said during the speech at Fort Bliss, the country's largest Army base.

The town hall meeting was the latest in a series of public outreach efforts Bernanke has made to underscore the efforts the central bank is pursuing to help ordinary Americans cope with the Great Recession. Over the past 2½ years, Bernanke has attended half a dozen informal gatherings in Kansas City, Atlanta, Cleveland and other cities.

Before the town hall meeting, Bernanke showed up at the base airport at 3 a.m. to greet a group of 250 returning soldiers from Iraq. It marked the first appearance by a Fed chairman at a military base in recent memory.

Fed officials say Bernanke chose the location because he wanted to highlight the base's successful financial literacy program.

It was also Bernanke first trip to Texas since Gov. Rick Perry warned that the Fed chairman would be treated "ugly" if he continued to pursue a policy of ever-lower interest rates. The Fed chairman has never responded to Perry's comments. But some Fed watchers say the trip was Bernanke's way of showing the Fed is independent.

Only one question during the hour-plus-long event touched on criticism of the Fed. One officer asked about Rep. Ron Paul's call to abolish the Fed. Paul, a congressman from Texas, is also seeking the Republican presidential nomination.



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The take-back program is organized by the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments and funded by a \$395,966 grant from the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery. Collection boxes are provided to the take-back locations by Call2Recycle, which is a national battery stewardship organization funded by battery producers.

For more information, call Nick Conway at 626-457-1800 or Heidi Sanborn at 916-480-9010.

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