

NEWS AS IT BREAKS

The talk of the town? T-shirts. Check in with reporter Robert Rogers as he blogs about what's buzzing in San Bernardino.



tainted toy troubles

House members berate Mattel for shoddy oversight, obstruction

<< ROBERT ECKERT | Mattel chairman and CEO INSIDE | A5

ANGELS

take 2-1 victory over Devil Rays

SPORTS | C1



Today's forecast:



MAINLY CLOUDY AND COOL | 70/52
More weather on Page B6

Blogs and more on SBSUN.COM
News updates throughout the day.

THE SUN

San Bernardino County's Newspaper

THURSDAY | SEPTEMBER 20, 2007

50¢

the SCOOP

NATION



The Juice is loose

O.J. Simpson was released from jail Wednesday after posting \$125,000 bail in connection with an armed robbery in Las Vegas.

Read more on Page A3

WORLD

Explosion kills 7

A bomb killed an anti-Syria lawmaker and six others Wednesday in a Christian neighborhood in Beirut, Lebanon.

Read more on Page A3

WORLD



Did meteorite cause sickness?

Officials confirm a meteorite struck Peru but question whether it sickened people.

Read more on Page A3

City honors 'Mrs. Fontana'

To honor the memory of longtime Fontana city clerk, councilwoman and community worker Bea Watson, Rep. Joe Baca, D-Rialto, has introduced a bill to name a branch post office in the city for her.

Watson, who died Aug. 5 at age 83, was known as "Mrs. Fontana" by many in the community.

Baca's bill would designate the post office at 16731 Santa Ana Ave. as the Beatrice E. Watson Post Office Building.

Read more of The Buzz on Page B1

BUSINESS

Oil at record high

Oil prices closed at a record high again Wednesday, but that didn't stop stocks from climbing as the Dow Jones Industrial Average closed a little more than 1 percent below its all-time high.

Read more on Page A9

Cold storm coming our way from Canada

By Andrew Silva
Staff Writer

Snow in summer?

That's a real possibility Friday night in the local mountains as an unusual September storm blows through the area.

Temperatures could be as much as 20 degrees below average today through Saturday thanks to a rare low-pressure system that slid down the West Coast from Canada.

"Usually when you get rain this time of year, it's a tropical system, not cold air from Canada," said

Steve Vanderburg, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in San Diego.

A wind advisory is in effect through 11 a.m. Friday as the system is expected to push gusts out of the west and southwest up to 35 mph in the mountains and deserts.

By late Friday, the chance of rain is at more than 60 percent with showers likely into Saturday morning.

Rain totals could be as high as 1.5 inches to 2.5 inches on slopes that face southwest, posing a major threat in areas burned by the Butler II fire near Big Bear Lake.

What the weather has in store

Temperatures (Today and Friday)

Valley highs in the 60s, overnight lows in the upper 40s and lower 50s.

Mountain highs in the 40s and lower 50s, overnight lows in the 20s and lower 30s.

Winds

Gusting up to 35 mph in mountains and deserts through late Friday morning.



Precipitation

Chance of rain 60 percent late Friday into Saturday morning. Chance of snow above 6,000 feet Friday night.

"This is where we live, where our children go to school, where we worship. We know our customers better than anyone else. ... You never hunt a grizzly bear in its own woods."

JACK BROWN | Stater Bros. Markets chairman and CEO

He knows the territory



Gabriel Luis Acosta/Staff Photographer

Stater Bros. Markets Chairman and CEO Jack Brown smiles at the new Stater Bros. Markets corporate headquarters in San Bernardino last week. Under Brown's leadership, Stater Bros. has continued to thrive as an independent regional company competing against big national grocery chains.

Jack Brown makes Stater Bros. stand out

By Michael Rappaport
Staff Writer

SAN BERNARDINO — Stater Bros. Markets Chairman and CEO Jack Brown loves musicals.

One of Brown's favorites is that classic of small-town Americana, "The Music Man," and one of his favorite songs is the back-and-forth between traveling salesmen that opens the play.

"Ya can talk, talk, talk, talk, bicker, bicker,

bicker; ya can talk all ya want but it's different than it was."

"No it ain't, no it ain't, but you gotta know the territory."

If 50 years in the grocery business has taught the local grocery icon anything, it's that it ain't any different than it was.

You've still gotta know the territory.

"I know Southern California," Brown said from his new corner office at the Stater Bros.

See BROWN | Page A4

INSIDE | A4
Stater Bros. to put up a fight

Tesco plans move into Stater Bros. territory.

SBSUN.COM

Watch a video featuring Jack Brown in a Web extra SixQuestions.

Butler blaze nearly over

Advancing storm may add new risks

By Stacia Glenn and Melissa Pinion-Whitt
Staff Writers

FAWNSKIN — Hundreds of weary firefighters waved farewell to the Butler II fire Wednesday after the flames died, leaving just an eerie, smoldering ruin of a landscape.

INSIDE | A5

More danger ahead

As the fire battle ceases, residents brace for more natural disasters in the blaze's wake.

SBSUN.COM

Go online for continual updates on firefighters' progress, photo galleries and video coverage of Butler II.

Officials lifted the mandatory evacuation of Fawnskin at 6 p.m. Wednesday, allowing residents only to return to their homes.

"Even if we get a black ring around the whole fire, there's still a lot to do," said Lee Bentley of the California Interagency Incident Management Team, which is supervising fighting the fire.

Hand crews had dug containment lines — or a black ring — around 93 percent of the blaze by late Wednesday and held the fire at 14,039 acres.

But there is a huge difference between dubbing a fire contained or controlled, fire officials said.

See FIRE | Page A5

Renaissance Rialto project might get radical face-lift

By Jason Pesick
Staff Writer

RIALTO — The project this city has pinned its hopes on for a better future will not only be delayed, but could also be in for a complete overhaul.

The weak housing market — August home sales in the region were 37 percent below average — has delayed the Renais-

sance Rialto project and could alter the character of Rialto's 210 Freeway corridor.

"We may be considering some more radical changes," said Robb Steel, the city's economic development director.

Recently, the project's developers, a partnership between the Lewis Group and Texas-based Hillwood, have considered replacing some or all of the housing in the 1,500-acre mixed-use development with

industrial facilities. The commercial portion of the project would remain.

The Renaissance Rialto project, which will replace Rialto's airport and other available land along the 210 extension, is at the heart of the city's plans to improve its image and its economic base.

But the project's housing component would not be the only Rialto housing development to be scratched or altered because

of the slow market. Only a few weeks ago, Young Homes sold property on Rialto's south end to an industrial developer instead of building more than 720 homes there.

The original Renaissance plans called for almost 4,000 homes. Now ideas ranging from no homes to 1,000 homes to the full 4,000 are floating around, Steel said.

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