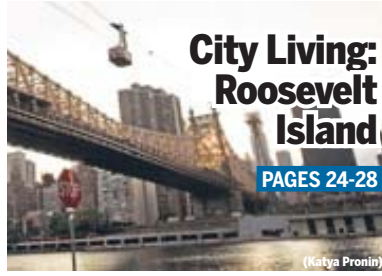


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City Living: Roosevelt Island
 PAGES 24-28
 (Katya Pronin)



Liz Edwards almost split over affair
 PAGE 2
 (Getty)



Report: Madonna to adopt another baby from Malawi
 PAGE 12
 (Getty)



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Riders face off with brazen rodents on subway platforms
 PAGE 3

(amNY illustration)



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THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2008

Best Buy scores iPhone

Best Buy will start selling the iPhone on Sept. 7, becoming first U.S. chain to do so outside of Apple and AT&T's own stores.

Yesterday's announcement by Best Buy expands the availability of Apple's vaunted phone to 970 full-size stores and 16 smaller Best Buy Mobile stores.

It's also a coup for the Minneapolis-based chain, which has been upgrading its cell-phone departments.

"We had a lot of work to do, obviously, to get in a position where Apple and AT&T would feel good about Best Buy Mobile carrying it, and that's what we've done in the last 18 months," said Shawn Score, president of Best Buy Mobile.

Score said Best Buy Mobile, which resells phone service under the carriers' brands, now has a 3.6 percent share of the cell-phone market, up from 2 percent last year. (AP)

APPLE APPS

New program helps foodies

A new app for the iPhone points New York foodies to the closest restaurant. The program called LocalEats can be downloaded at the Apple App Store on iTunes for 99 cents. The program features a hundred restaurants that the creator, MagellanPress, considered tops in the city. The app directs you to nearby restaurants using the iPhone's GPS technology and it provides reviews. (amNY)




Julio Pimentel is struggling to pay the rent at his East Harlem bodega. (Jennifer S. Altman/Los Angeles Times)

Bodega troubles

Corner stores falling off the block

By Erika Hayasaki
Los Angeles Times

The 7 a.m. sun gleams off the windows of an East Harlem "bodega," as owner Julio Pimentel unlocks the door and steps behind the counter. He switches on a fan and tunes the radio to a Spanish station.

It is Friday. Rent is due, and Pimentel does not know if he can pay. When he took over the small grocery eight years ago, his monthly rent was \$1,500. Now it's \$3,300.

Food prices have gone up, and his customers don't spend like they used to. Pimentel pays more for goods, but won't raise his prices. His clientele can't afford to pay more. They are mostly poor residents from housing projects, shelters and run-down apartments in the neighborhood.

Nearly everyone is struggling.

Across the city, a food crisis is unfolding in low-income neighborhoods as one-third of New York's supermarkets have closed over the last five years, according to a recent city report.

Many New Yorkers don't own cars, so a nearby store is important when grocery shopping means traveling by foot, cab or subway.

"The sales have been down for the last nine months," says Jose Fernandez, president of the Bodega Association of the United States, which claims membership of

7,800 of New York's 11,400 bodegas.

A weakening economy and rising rents and food prices have decreased the number of bodegas in New York by nearly 1,000 from two years ago, according to his organization's most recent tally.

In the last decade, many Hispanic shop owners have left to open bodegas in Pennsylvania, Rhode Island or Connecticut, or moved on to bigger businesses, passing their shops to other immigrants, including Koreans and Middle Easterners.

Pimentel, an immigrant from the Dominican Re-

public, is hanging on.

"It's hard. I think it's going to be worse for New York," Pimentel says. "People are looking for special prices. Sometimes bodegas can't give special prices."

His shop, Lexington Avenue Food and Deli, sits at a crossroads where condo developments and pricey outdoor cafes end and low-income housing projects and check-cashing businesses begin.

Pimentel, 50, owes \$1,400 to the power company and \$1,300 in rent for the Bronx apartment he shares with his wife. He has saved money to pay for some bills, but it's not enough to cover the bodega rent, too. To pay on time, he'll need to earn \$3,300 today. If he keeps falling behind, the debt could swallow him.

"I will have to close. I have no option. I lose all the money that I have."

Briefs

Computers can now wake when phone calls come in
Intel is unveiling new technology that will let computers wake up from their power-saving sleep state when they receive a phone call over the Internet. Current computers have to be fully on to receive a call, making them impractical and energy-wasters as replacements for the telephone.

Street ends lower after poor retail report, oil spike
Wall Street ended an erratic day yesterday with a lopsided loss, as blue chip stocks bore the brunt of investors' concerns over the health of the financial sector. The market started the day disappointed by the government's retail sales report, and a jump in oil prices further dampened the market's mood, but many stocks managed to finish above their session lows. Oil rose \$2.99 to \$116 a barrel.

Dollar retreats against euro, but beats pound
The dollar was back down a

\$1.50: The Euro fell below this level last week for the first time since February.
bit against the euro, but the rout of the British pound continued yesterday in the face of England's economic woes. The 15-nation euro climbed

to \$1.4934 in late New York trading from \$1.4916 late Tuesday. The British pound sank to \$1.8730 from \$1.8997 the night before.

Ford exec: Company can survive the downturn
Despite the headwinds of a slumping U.S. economy, tight credit, high gasoline prices and declining home values, Ford Motor's top American executive said he is confident the company has enough cash to weather losses and make a profit again. But Mark Fields, Ford's president of the Americas, told reporters at a dinner Tuesday night that there will be a lag time before the company can start making profits on the small cars U.S. drivers are now craving.

Air-bag concerns lead BMW to recall 200K autos
BMW AG said yesterday it was recalling 200,000 vehicles over concerns that the front passenger air bag may not deploy in a crash. The German automaker said the recall involves the 2006 3 Series, the 2004-2006 5 Series, and the 2004-2006 X3 compact sport utility vehicles in the United States. (AP)

Text to self: Never forget anything again

It happens to everyone: A friend recommends a good book or movie, but by the time you get around to Googling it — assuming you get that far — you can't remember what it's called.

A San Francisco-based startup called kwiry (pronounced "query") aims to help you remember such snippets of information with a free service that

lets you text these tidbits from your cell phone to its site.

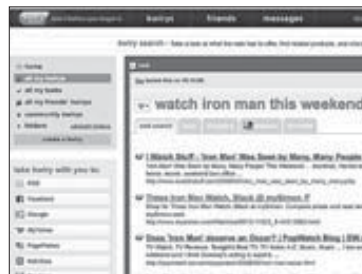
"What we want to do is make the experience of remembering as simple as possible," said kwiry Chief Executive and co-founder Ron Feldman.

After signing up on kwiry's Web site, you can start sending text messages to "kwiry," or "59479" on a phone's keypad.

When you're back at a com-

puter, you can visit kwiry's Web site to see items displayed as links that can be clicked for related search results. Kwiry can also automatically send that information to your e-mail address.

Kwiry isn't making money yet, but Feldman said the company will explore ad, revenue-sharing partnerships and other fee-based services. (AP)



The new site kwiry allows users to text reminders and check them later online.