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Pain Spreads as Credit Vise Grows Tighter

Lenders have become even less willing to part with their money, further crimping budgets and family spending.

For Rivals, Finance Crisis Is Posing on-the-Fly Tests

The presidential race has turned into an audition for who could best handle a national economic emergency.

Drug Label, Maimed Patient and Test for Court

At issue is whether plaintiffs have the right to sue when the products that hurt them had met federal standards.

After Impasse, New California Budget Agreement

California legislative leaders and the governor have come to an agreement on the state budget, which is now roughly three months late.

California Bans Texting by Operators of Trains

After investigators said an engineer in last week's collision had been texting on the job, regulators temporarily banned the use of all cellular devices by anyone at the controls of a moving train.

Political Memo: Given G.O.P. Predicament, Rangel Opts to Ride Out the Storm

Democrats believe that a long list of Republican lawmakers with legal troubles makes it impossible for Republicans to gain much ground on the issues of ethics and good government.

Panel Proposes Broad Changes in Federal Financial Aid for College

The recommendations included a simpler application, Pell grant maximums linked to the consumer price index and federally financed college savings accounts for children in low-income families.

Chicago Unveils Multifaceted Plan to Curb Emissions of Heat-Trapping Gases

The blueprint would change the city's building codes to promote energy efficiency, and it calls for installing huge solar panels at municipal properties and building alternative fueling stations.

Vast Bailout by U.S. Proposed in Bid to Stem Financial Crisis

Treasury and Fed officials were discussing with leaders in Congress a plan for the government to buy up distressed mortgages.

A Bid to Curb Profit Gambit as Banks Fall

A backlash against short sellers has begun, with regulators in the U.S. and Britain tightening rules and authorities in New York intensifying investigations.

Bush Emerges After Days of Financial Crisis

The president spoke briefly on Thursday after remaining largely out of sight as Wall Street has become engulfed by a financial crisis.

The New McCain: More Aggressive and Scripted on the Campaign Trail

Senator John McCain's once easygoing if irreverent campaign presence "endearing to crowds, though often resulting in gaffes" has been put out to pasture.

Alaska Star May Add Luster to Tarnished Senator

As Gov. Sarah Palin has moved to the national stage, Senator Ted Stevens, who goes on trial next week, has risen in some opinion polls in Alaska.

Husband of Alaska Governor Refuses to Testify in Legislature's Trooper Inquiry

Todd Palin was one of 13 people subpoenaed in the inquiry into whether Gov. Sarah Palin or members of her administration abused their power in the dismissal of a top state administrator.

The Ad Campaign: Obama Attacks McCain in a Bid to Attract Hispanic Voters

A Spanish-language Obama ad misrepresents John McCain's record on the immigration issue and his relationship with Rush Limbaugh.

Agency and Bush Are Sued Over Domestic Surveillance

A privacy group filed a class-action lawsuit on Thursday seeking to halt what it describes as illegal surveillance of Americans' telephone and Internet traffic.

Power Still Not Restored to Many in the Midwest

Remnants of Hurricane Ike swept through the region on Sunday, bringing torrential downpours and strong winds.

Action Is Sought to Ensure Timely Financing for V.A.

As the veterans' health system strains to handle a growing caseload, a move is under way in Congress to avoid yearly delays in financing that can hamper the medical care of the nation's veterans.

Simpson Defense Alleges Police Glee in His Arrest

O. J. Simpson's legal team began Thursday to mount a defense that will sound familiar to anyone who followed his 1995 murder trial.

National Briefing | Midwest: Minnesota: Rebuilt Bridge Opens

Flashing headlights and honking horns penetrated the early-morning sky as police officers and first responders led drivers in a slow procession across the new Interstate 35W bridge in Minneapolis.

National Briefing | South: Mississippi: Rearranging the Ballot

Gov. Haley Barbour agreed to move a special election for Trent Lott'sTM former Senate seat to near the top of the November ballot, ending a dispute that had threatened to delay the start of absentee voting.

National Briefing | Northwest: Alaska: Concession in House Race

Lt. Gov. Sean Parnell of Alaska conceded to Representative Don Young in the Republican primary for Alaska's only House seat.

National Briefing | Immigration: Meat Plant Names Top Executive

Agriprocessors Inc., an embattled kosher meatpacker with a plant in Postville, Iowa, named a corporate lawyer from New York to be its chief executive, responding to an ultimatum from the leading kosher certifying organization.

National Briefing | Religion: Pittsburgh Bishop Is Ousted

An Episcopal bishop, whose diocese is moving toward splitting from the national church, was ousted from ministry.

National Briefing | Midwest: Illinois: 4 More Murder Charges

A man charged in the killings of four people who died during a June killing spree in Illinois and Missouri has been charged with murder in four more bludgeoning deaths.

Bread Stays on Menu for Carp at Pennsylvania Lake

Every year, an estimated 500,000 people trek to a lake to see a veritable carpet of carp, and the state has temporarily called off a plan to force people to stop feeding bread to the fish.



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