

Ventura County Star, Calif., Business Briefs Column.

By Ventura County Star, Calif.

638 words

4 April 2003

KRTBN Knight-Ridder Tribune Business News: Ventura County Star, Ventura, California

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English

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Apr. 4-REGIONAL STOCKS

- The Ryland Group Inc. (NYSE: RYL) in Calabasas rose 30 cents to \$46.90. The homebuilder and mortgage-finance company announced that new orders for the quarter ended March 31 were a record 4,260, a 13.4 percent increase over the 3,757 orders reported for the same period a year ago.

- 3D Systems Corp. (Nasdaq: TDSC) in Valencia rose 78 cents, or 17 percent, to \$5.30. The imaging systems maker announced this week that expects to file its fiscal 2002 annual report with regulators on April 15 while awaiting completion of an audit. Shares had been trading as high as \$10 in January before the company delayed its earnings report.

- Pacific Capital Bancorp dividend announced Santa Barbara-based Pacific Capital Bancorp announced a fourth-quarter dividend this week of 20 cents per share, an increase of 2 cents a share, or 11 percent, over its 2002 third-quarter dividend.

The company, the corporate parent of Santa Barbara Bank & Trust and three other multi-branch banks along California's Central Coast, will pay the dividend on May 15 to shareholders of record as of April 21, officials said.

The new dividend rate represents 37 percent of 2002 earnings, said David Spainhour, the company's chairman. He said the company has a longstanding policy of paying dividends that equal 35 percent to 40 percent of annual earnings.

Pacific Capital Bancorp's (Nasdaq: PCBC) 2002 net income was a record \$74.9 million, Spainhour said, up 35 percent from 2001. Besides Santa Barbara Bank & Trust, the company operates First National Bank of Central California, South Valley National Bank and San Benito Bank. The banks' 41 branches are located from Morgan Hill to Thousand Oaks.

STRAW BALE BUILDING PROJECT ANNOUNCED: The Ojai Foundation and the Ventura County Environmental & Energy Resources Department are inviting the public to help build the county's first fully permitted straw bale building.

Under the guidance of experts, attendees will learn about, and participate in, construction of The Ojai Foundation's new straw bale "Gateway Building," and receive information about other sustainable building materials and techniques.

There will be a "Meet the Architects Discussion/Q&A" from 2 to 4 p.m. April 18. The suggested donation is \$5 to \$20. This is one of several events planned for this project.

To register, call The Ojai Foundation at 646-8343, ext. 111.

NEW REALTOR.COM WEB SITE LAUNCHED: Realtor.com, the official Web site of the National Association of Realtors, launched an improved design that makes it easier for potential homebuyers and sellers to browse properties and more quickly connect with real estate agents and offices.

Streamlined in time for the peak of the home-buying and selling season, the site now features easier navigation, a faster home search path and cleaner, faster-loading pages.

Realtor.com's redesign centers primarily on how consumers search and find a home and optimizes that experience to be more productive on the site. The redesign represents the culmination of more than a year of Realtor and consumer feedback and Realtor.com visitor behavior analysis.

Realtor.com is operated by Homestore Inc. (Nasdaq: HOMS).

- The Ventura County Star publishes information on real estate news trends in Ventura County and the surrounding region. Mail submissions to Maria de la Torre at the Ventura County Star, P.O. Box 6711, Ventura, CA 93006, fax to 650-2950 or e-mail to mdelatorre@insidevc.com. Please include contact information. Call 645-1049 with questions.

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