



Ladies Man
ADAM BRODY finds himself 'In the Land of Women'
ENTERTAINMENT | U1

WORLD | A3
BILLIONAIRE RETURNS FROM SPACE

SPORTS | C1

NBA PLAYOFFS TIP OFF
Lakers need Brown to step up

SBSUN.COM
24/7
Breaking news, video and podcasts.

THE SUN

San Bernardino County's Newspaper

Today's forecast:



OVERCAST | 66/47
More weather on Page B8

SUNDAY | APRIL 22, 2007

50¢

Wanted: More officers

I.E. agencies compete for recruits

By Leonor Vivanco
Staff Writer

FONTANA — From freeway billboards and job fairs to the Web and the airwaves, they're trying to get your attention.

Various law-enforcement agencies are competing against one another for one hot commodity — new officers to fill their vacancies. It seems every police department is looking to hire officers.

Some police departments are getting more creative in attracting potential candidates to serve and protect.

The Fontana City Council on Tuesday evening will be asked to pay a marketing company, Epic Productions, \$49,750 to design and produce DVDs, public-service announcements and pamphlets, and develop

a Web site for the Police Department's recruiting program.

"What this marketing program is designed to do is create an interest in the Police Department," said Capt. Rodney Jones.

Recruiting new officers is a national problem, said Larry Gaines, chairman of Cal State San Bernardino's criminal justice department.

"All departments right now are having a great deal of difficulty in meeting their demands," he said.

With the unemployment rate fairly low, there are fewer people out there competing for jobs, reducing the applicant pool, he said.

See RECRUITS | Page A5

All departments right now are having a great deal of difficulty in meeting their demands."

LARRY GAINES
Chairman, Cal State San Bernardino's criminal justice department

New home puts Old Fire to rest

Family has open house

By Mike Cruz
Staff Writer

SAN BERNARDINO — An Old Fire survivor, Charlotte Crandall has seen the devastating effects caused by the tremendous blaze come nearly full circle.

From the paved walkway in front of her newly rebuilt home on Modesto Drive, Crandall recalled the October day in 2003 when the windswept wildfire jumped from palm tree to palm tree and reduced her home to ashes.

But while many other Del Rosa-area homeowners still have empty lots and have grown weary from haggling with insurance companies and contractors, Crandall has reached the light at the end of tunnel.

The spirited woman traversed from room to room of her three-bedroom home with its new slate floors, granite countertops and fresh coats of paint during an open house Saturday afternoon for family and friends, fellow survivors and those that made it all possible.

It's been a three-year journey — from

losing her home, to living out of an RV, to moving back into her home in February.

"It has been a struggle," Crandall said. "It's been a real emotional roller-coaster."

Crandall credits her family for helping with the reconstruction. Her three sons, Travis, Michael and David, helped with planning and installing, she said from her new kitchen.

Her daughter, Lila Hayes, coordinated with the city and contractors and worked with her husband, an architect, on the planning and design.

"The whole family worked on it," Crandall said.

But the family also reached out to others through a disaster-recovery group to share knowledge, experiences and advice — a move they believe was key to successfully rebuilding.

"We were going to have a house here, no matter what happened," Hayes said.

The group would meet weekly and bring together players, such as the city, utility companies and contractors, to

See RECOVERY | Page A6

Ups & downs

Keeping tabs on the housing market

By Michael Rappaport
Staff Writer

The Southern California housing market is a lot like the weather: Everybody talks about it, nobody can do anything about it.

To carry the analogy a little further, sometimes it seems as if the folks trying to analyze and predict what's coming in housing are about as accurate as the weatherman who tells you there's no way it's going to rain. Don't forget your umbrella.

For the past two or three years, people with a lot of initials after their names have been disagreeing on the direction housing prices will be taking.

There's a bubble; prices are bound to fall.

There's no bubble; prices will keep rising.

Add in the burgeoning subprime lending debacle and the rise in foreclosures as the adjustable-rate mortgages of the past few years reset and you've got a veritable Rubik's Cube to solve.

In February, the California Association of Realtors reported that the median price of a single-family detached home in California was \$564,700, more than 2½ times the national median of \$212,800.

In addition, the national median declined 1.3 percent from February 2006, while the California price marked a 5.7 percent increase for the same period.

If the conclusion you draw from this is that California is somehow through the looking glass, you might not be wrong.

The CAR changed its method of measuring affordability more than a year ago when the results kept showing that fewer than one of seven families could afford a median-priced house.

That's not the upbeat information people want from their Realtor.

The perceptions people have are

See HOUSING | Page A4

Calculation flaw may hide market decline

By Michael Rappaport
Staff Writer

Why is it that the market can feel like it's dropping — with homes for sale for longer stretches and the number of sold homes down significantly — yet published prices either remain the same or continue climbing?

At least one veteran observer says it might be a fatal flaw in the way we measure housing prices.

John Husing, a regional economist based in Redlands, says it's possible home prices — at least in part of the market — might actually be declining.

"We use the median to determine housing prices," Husing said. "There's a feeling that averaging prices would distort things because of the high end of the market."

The median is the middle number in a distribution; half the numbers are above it and half below.

Consider:

If three homes on the market are selling for \$500,000, \$450,000 and \$400,000, the average price is \$450,000, and so is the median.

If the same three homes are \$1 million, \$450,000 and \$400,000, the median is still \$450,000. The average, however, is \$616,667. In that case, the median is more reflective of what homes actually cost.

"But what we have now is a market where the bottom half of

See MATH | Page A4

Fuzzy math

Traditionally, housing prices are computed using medians rather than averages, because high-end homes can distort the average. As the top end of the housing market struggles, it can cause the average to fall while the median remains steady.

MEDIAN VS. AVERAGE

EXAMPLE 1

- 1 HOME @ \$500,000
- 1 HOME @ \$450,000
- 1 HOME @ \$400,000

Median = \$450,000
Average = \$450,000

EXAMPLE 2

- 1 HOME worth \$500,000 sells for \$470,000
- 1 HOME @ \$450,000
- 1 HOME @ \$400,000

Median = \$450,000
Average = \$440,000

The median in Example 2 hides a decline.

FACTS & FIGURES

■ California median price in February was \$564,700, up 5.7 percent in the last year.

■ The U.S. median price was \$212,800, down 1.3 percent

■ The last measure of affordability before it was discontinued was 14 percent.

■ 220,000 new units a year are needed to keep up with California's population growth, but 135,000 new units a year has been the average since the 1980s.

■ The San Bernardino-Riverside area median price in February was \$409,020, up 4.4 percent.

CBS sues KCAA over Imus re-broadcast

Network claims shows infringe on copyright

The Associated Press

SAN BERNARDINO — CBS Radio sued the small radio station that has aired past episodes of Don Imus' show since his firing for sexually and racially charged comments about a women's college basketball team.

CBS filed a federal lawsuit in Riverside last week claiming KCAA-AM (1050) and its license holder violated copyright protections. The suit seeks a

temporary restraining order and \$150,000 for each copyright violation.

The station, which has broadcast the shock jock's morning show since 2003, started airing reruns on Monday along with listener calls, mail and e-mails reacting to the controversy.

CBS Radio had asked the station to stop, to no avail.

The defendants "have made it clear ... that only a judicial decree will prevent

See LAWSUIT | Page A5

Dance, charity highlight annual Headdress Ball



By Joe Nelson
Staff Writer

SAN BERNARDINO — Carol Dixon-Cahill stood delicately balanced at the National Orange Show Events Center on Saturday afternoon, smiling proudly as spectators passed and snapped photographs of her elaborate headdress and red satin "China Doll" outfit.

The nearly four-foot headdress

See BALL | Page A6

Carol Dixon-Cahill models the headdress "China Doll," which features peacock and ostrich feathers, an antique fan and Chinese-style lanterns.

LaFonzo Rachal Carter/Staff Photographer

> See many more photos at
SBSUN.COM

INDEX	Business	A18	Local	B1	People	A16	Movies	U7
	Careers	G1	Lottery	A2	Sports	C1	Crossword	U10
	Classified	F1	Obituaries	B4	Annie's Mailbox	U10	Horoscope	U11

LA.COM FASHION ON PARADE
www.LA.com/metroshopping



To subscribe, call The Sun
(909) 889-8584
or (800) 922-0922

