

Ventura County Star to move to Camarillo

The Ventura County Star will leave its hometown of 78 years when it moves its headquarters from Ventura to Camarillo next year, the newspaper announced May 26.

About 400 employees will move to the new facility, Publisher Tim Gallagher said. The move should take place in the fourth quarter of 2006.

The new headquarters will be adjacent to the Star's printing facility, near the Camarillo Premium Outlets mall, on land the company already owns.

The Star, which is owned by The E.W. Scripps Co., will sell its Ralston street headquarters. The 8-acre property could fetch \$5 million to \$6 million, a commercial real estate broker told the Star.

LNG questioned

Only one or two of the six liquefied natural gas terminals proposed for the California coast will probably be built, given the state's demand for natural gas, California Energy Commission Chairman Joe Desmond said June 6 at a conference in Australia.

Two of those LNG proposals are for the waters off the coast of Oxnard.

"The market will likely support one or two LNG import terminals here to support California's needs," he said at the East Asia Australia Offshore Conference. "Beyond that, it's difficult to see, given the average demand and how these are being sized, how that might fit."

WEEK IN REVIEW

BHP Billiton's Cabrillo Port, one of the two LNG terminals proposed for Ventura County, is probably ahead of the other California projects in terms of getting approval, Australian Industry Minister Ian Macfarlane said at a media briefing during the conference.

LNG is natural gas that's been cooled to minus 259 degrees Fahrenheit, turning it into a liquid. It can be shipped across the ocean in liquid form, heated back into gas form at an LNG terminal, then piped onto shore.

Diodes names CEO

Diodes, a Westlake Village-based semiconductor company, hired Keshew Lu as its president and chief executive officer on June 1.

He replaces C.H. Chen, who served as president since March 2000. Chen will remain vice chairman of Diodes' board of directors.

Lu has been a director at Diodes since 2001, and has held a number of senior management positions during a 27-year career with Texas Instruments, including president of TI Asia.

Janu sentenced in Slatkin case

The bookkeeper for Hope Ranch con-man Reed Slatkin was sentenced May 31 to 21 months in federal prison for

obstructing the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's investigation into Slatkin's scheme.

Jean Janu, 58, of Santa Fe, N.M., pleaded guilty in January 2004 to obstruction of justice. Slatkin's office assistant, Richard McMullin, served five months in federal prison and paid \$1.55 million in restitution for his part in obstructing the SEC investigation.

Slatkin, 56, is serving a 14-year sentence after pleading guilty to charges of fraud, money laundering and conspiracy to obstruct the SEC.

From 1986 to 2001, he ran a Ponzi scheme that took in more than \$93 million from about 800 investors, according to a statement from the U.S. Department of Justice.

When Slatkin declared bankruptcy in 2001, it was revealed that most of his investments were fictitious, and investors' money went to enrich Slatkin and to pay back his early investors. Slatkin was a founder of Earthlink and a prominent Scientologist, and his victims included church members and Hollywood figures.

Northrop Grumman opens new office

Rep. Lois Capps was on hand as Northrop Grumman opened a new facility in Goleta on June 3.

The facility is part of Northrop Grum-

man's Surface Electronic Warfare Systems division. The division's Goleta office was previously located at a smaller facility on the other side of Hollister Avenue.

The new, 14,000-square-foot building gives Northrop Grumman room to grow and to manufacture some of its Electronic Warfare systems in Goleta.

EU investigates Dole

Westlake Village-based Dole Food Co.'s European offices were searched June 3 by authorities investigating possible violations of European Union antitrust laws, Dole announced.

The company is cooperating with the investigation, which targets its practices in the banana and pineapple industries.

Camarillo firm gets \$10M contract

Camarillo-based S.L. Leonard & Associates announced June 1 that it was awarded a \$10 million contract to manage the design and construction of a new library and chapel at the University of Judaism in Bel Air.

The University of Judaism trains aspiring rabbis and other Jews and non-Jews in understanding Judaism and its history, traditions and languages. It is planning a 25,000-square-foot expansion and renovation of Ostrow Library, and a new chapel.

■ *Bloomberg News also contributed.*