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GARDEN TIP

Collect branches of March-blooming shrubs for forcing into flower indoors. Early-flowering plants such as quince, Japanese apricot, winter jasmine and pussy willows can be harvested now, but wait until buds have swollen before cutting others, including saucer magnolias, forsythia and, later, apple and cherry blossoms. Open a bud to see if petals have fully formed. Place stems in warm water and keep the vase in a cool room for a longer display.
— *The Washington Post*

HOMES & LIVING

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REAL ESTATE LISTINGS INSIDE

COMING MONDAY IN LIVING:

Lisa Barker's column, "Jelly Mom"



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Families can find out what happens when a "short little boy with a long name" falls into a well and must be rescued as ARIEL Theatrical children's theater stages a play version of the Chinese fable about a boy named Tikki Tikki Tembo No So Rembo Icka Na Noo Na Konna Ron Tombo.
► **What:** "Tikki Tikki Tembo."
► **When:** 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. today
► **Where:** Wilson Children's Theatre, 320 Main St., Salinas.
► **Tickets:** \$3 per person.
► **Information:** Call 775-0976 or visit www.arieltheatrical.org.

Sunny outlook for solid waste authority

The end of this month marks the end of an era. After 75 years of operation, the Crazy Horse Canyon Landfill, 11 miles north of Salinas at 350 Crazy Horse Canyon Road, has reached its capacity and will be permanently closing Feb. 28.
If you've been taking your loads to the Crazy Horse Canyon Landfill, you still have nearby options for waste disposal and recycling, the closest



ALAN STYLES
Recycling

being the Sun Street Transfer Station in Salinas. The Sun Street Transfer and Household Hazardous Waste

Facility station at 139 Sun St. in Salinas is a convenient drop-off location for the Johnson Canyon Landfill.
When you visit the Sun Street Transfer Station, look for some changes taking place to improve your drop-off experience. To make the most of these changes, separate recyclables from your trash and save.
Recycling saves resources and saves you money. As with most landfills, The Sun Street Transfer

Station charges by the ton for drop-offs. When you sort and separate your recyclable materials from your trash before it is weighed, you'll pay less for your loads. Sun Street will soon feature "Resource Recovery Road" on the way to the weigh station, with stops along the way to drop off your sorted recyclables, including glass, e-waste, cardboard and more. It will also have a

See RECYCLE, 2C

Style & savings



ALAIN JARAMILLO/THE WASHINGTON POST

The firm Case Design/Remodeling reports that in remodeling the kitchen still ranks as No. 1, whether a homeowner is adding a new one or just a cosmetic cleanup.

In a recession, remodeling on a smaller scale

BY JURA KONCIUS
The Washington Post

HOME REMODELING TIPS

WASHINGTON — Frugal is fashionable when it comes to remodeling, according to William Millholland, executive vice president of Case Design/Remodeling.
The effects of the economic downturn have trickled down to the Bethesda, Md.-based home improvement company, where business has slowed and 20 employees have been laid

Here are three smart ideas from William Millholland of Case Design/Remodeling:
► **Facelift on the front of the house.** Making a house more attractive from the street is an often overlooked project. Add a portico, shingled roof and columns (\$8,000 to \$15,000). Put slate or brick on top of your basic walkway (\$3,000 to \$5,000). Replace a front door and embellish it with new hardware and new chimes (\$1,500 to \$3,000).
► **Cosmetic makeover of the kitchen.** Remove laminate coun-

tertops and put in granite or quartz, install a stainless undermount sink and add a modern faucet (\$5,000 to \$8,000). Replace an existing floor with hardwood or tile (\$3,000 to \$4,000 for wood, \$5,000 to \$10,000 for ceramic or porcelain tile).
► **Closet upgrade.** Most people will trade some bathroom space for a closet. Outfitting an existing six-foot closet with shelves, hanging space and shoe racks is something that adds to the quality of daily life (\$1,500 and up).

See REMODEL, 2C

Navigate the maze of home loans

BY BRODERICK PERKINS
For The Salinas Californian

For homeowners struggling to keep their homes, a loan modification can help avoid foreclosure, a short sale or other option that could cost them their home.
However, the creative financing strategy isn't for everyone and for those who can benefit, getting it right means traversing a different kind of mortgage maze.
"A mortgage is one of the most complex transactions there is. A loan modification is also a gray area for a lot

See LOANS, 3C

INSIDE, 3C

Find out how to know if a loan modification is right for you.

ONLINE

Some resources for homeowners seeking to modify their home loans:
► **Housing Advocacy Council of Monterey County:** www.housingadvocacy.org
► **California Association of Realtors' Mortgage Workout Program:** www.car.org/legal/mortgage-workout-programs
► **Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. advice:** www.fdic.gov/consumers/loans/loanmod/loanmodguide.html

HOT PROPERTY

Los Angeles Times

Randolph Duke's home dressed to sell

LOS ANGELES — Designer Randolph Duke has dressed so many Hollywood starlets that he actually alphabetizes them on his Web site. And while we have no way of knowing whether his designs are lucky charms come awards season, the fact is that Angelina Jolie, Hilary Swank and Marcia Gay Harden all rose to the podium in Duke's designs.
Now Duke is turning his attention to selling his award-winning house. Listed at \$7.85 million, his home in the Hollywood Hills won the AIA award for best residential design in 2007 and was recently featured on the cover of Architectural Digest. It is also for lease at \$24,500 a month.
The modern home, designed by XTEN Architecture, is set on a promontory and seems to float above the city. The 4,800-square-foot house has three bedrooms and 3½ bathrooms. There are an additional 6,500 square feet of usable outdoor terraces, decks and gardens and hundreds of feet of electric glass walls that open to them: Push a button, the walls

See PROPERTY, 3C

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SATURDAY 1-3
22578 Toreador Dr., Hwy. 68 \$768,000
Tom Folliard • 831-262-9296

NEW LISTINGS
25220 Pine Hills Dr., Carmel... \$2,095,000
4BR/3BA, 3293 sf Linda Dorris
23572 Belmont Circle, Hwy 68 ... \$1,749,000
4BR/4.5BA, 4152 sf Lee Breshears
522 Santa Maria St., E. Salinas \$259,000
2BR/2BA & 1BR/1BA - 2 Units Linda Dorris
3078 Hermitage Rd., Pebble Beach \$799,999
3BR/2BA, 1414 sf Susan Lubin-Brownlie
492 Cuesta St., Soledad \$163,000
4BR/2BA, 1730 sf Tom Folliard
19290 Oak Ridge Dr., Aromas \$537,000
4BR/3.5BA, 2652 sf Amy Salmina
37 San Carlos Dr., S. Salinas \$559,000
4BR/2BA, 2200 sf Lee Breshears

OFFICE LISTINGS
1253 Los Olivos Dr., So. Salinas..... \$230,000
2BR/1BA, 1137 sf Lee Breshears
76 Robley Rd. - Hwy 68 \$1,159,000
3BR/3BA, 3152 sf Susan Lubin-Brownlie
10741 Haight St., Castroville \$184,000
3BR/2BA, 1196 sf Tina Daniel
987 Peverini St., Soledad \$215,000
4BR/2BA Tom Folliard
13280 Corte Lindo - Hwy 68 \$929,000
4BR/2BA, 2505 sf Linda McLaughlin-Harrod
22578 Toreador Dr. - Hwy 68 \$768,000
4BR/3BA, 2076 sf Kevin Spedalieri
532 Charolais Dr., Gonzales \$219,000
4BR/2.5BA Linda Dorris
18422 Meadow Ridge Rd. Prunedale .. \$825,000
4BR/3BA, 2755 sf Kevan Clarke
888 Entrada Dr., Soledad \$210,000
3BR/3BA, 2019 sf Tina Daniel
636 Ambrose Dr. - So. Salinas \$599,000
2units- 2BR/1.5BA & 3BR/2BA 2069 sf Linda McLaughlin-Harrod
841 Peaceful Cove Way, No. Salinas ... \$310,000
4BR/2.5BA, 1823 sf Jean Manner-Schwimmer
22487 Ferdinand Dr., Hwy. 68 \$739,000
3BR/3BA, 2840 sf Susan Brownlie
22 Wilgart Way, So. Salinas \$405,900
3BR/2BA, 1503 sf Tina Daniel
18 Railroad Spreckels \$239,900
2BR/1BA, 729 sf Susan Brownlie
1253 Los Olivos #39, So. Salinas \$230,000
2BR/1BA, 1137 sf Lee Breshears
1774 Laguna, Seaside \$305,000
2BR/2BA, 1025 sf Linda Dorris

Lee Breshears
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