

BUSINESS JOURNAL

EL DORADO PLACER SACRAMENTO YOLO

Stakeholder sues builder for \$19.8M

Reynen & Bardis stopped payments, creditor contends

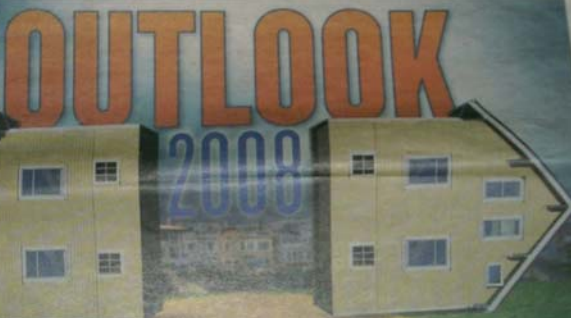
A stakeholder in Sacramento's Reynen & Bardis Communities Inc. has accused the builder of making

just two monthly payments before defaulting on \$19.8 million in obligations it took on this summer. The lawsuit brings the company among the ranks of other local builders struggling through the housing slump who have faced defaults and ended up in court as the market turns against them.

The stakeholder in this case is William Niemi, a former president of Dunsmuir Homes. How he ended up as a creditor of Reynen & Bardis — the region's 10th largest homebuilder by housing starts in 2006 and 2007 — is an elaborate tale that's only partially spelled out by a lawsuit filed in October in Sacramento.

Niemi could not be reached for comment, but several industry sources say the case involves 1,000 acres south of Elk Grove that were viewed as prime residential land. Niemi, an accountant and turnaround specialist, joined Dunsmuir

REYNER & BARDIS (PAGE 37)



Outlook 2008 gazes into the future, looks back | Page 9

The Business Journal's Executive of the Year | Page 10

ER patients tired of the wait, leave before getting treatment

Emergency room visits now total more than 8.5 million statewide, up from 8 million a decade ago, according to the California Hospital Association. As wait times to see the doctor grow, thousands of patients leave the hospital without getting proper care.

The logic is at the center of the health care reform debate because more of the 6.5 million California residents without insurance are showing up at emergency rooms for care.

Waiters are the norm because hospitals don't have the staff or beds to accommodate the swelling demand — or the money to provide growing

amounts of uncompensated care in the hospital unit where treatment is most expensive. All hospitals scramble to treat the sickest first, but wait times and success at seeing every body who shows up vary significantly across

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Utilities to test method of turning grease to energy

SMUD, sewer district team on pilot to make methane from kitchen waste

CELIA LAMB STAFF WRITER

Sacramento restaurants will approve the sheets of renewable energy production through a pilot project by local electric and sewer utilities.



The Sacramento Regional Council of Governments (SMUD) also has projects to produce methane from dairy cattle manure. It's studying ways to produce energy...

The utilities will dig down currently produced by the digesters to supplement natural gas that fuels the Carson Capital Project, a power plant near the wastewater treatment plant in Elk Grove.

SMUD also has projects to produce methane from dairy cattle manure. It's studying ways to produce energy...

Every one of these projects has challenges because they're all a little outside the box.

Similar technologies have caught on in Riverside, Redwood City and the East Bay. Chevron Energy Solutions, a subsidiary of Chevron (NYSE:CVX), is working on another intriguing use for biogas from foodservice grease...

Reh MacDevell senior project manager Sacramento Municipal Utility District

THERE'S STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

 Tom Wells Vice President Sales	 Jon King Vice President Sales	 Matt Lind Vice President Sales
 Chris Bennett Marketing Representative Sacramento	 Teri Brink Marketing Representative Sacramento	 Chris Binkoff Marketing Representative Sacramento

State's minimum wage hits \$8 an hour

California took the second step Tuesday in its two-year move to increase the minimum wage, bringing it to \$8 an hour. The 50-cent increase is on top of the 31.25-cent per-hour increase that took effect Jan. 1, 2007. The two-step process increased minimum wage in the state for the first time since 2002.

At \$8 an hour, California is tied with Massachusetts for the second-highest minimum wage in the nation. The highest

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At \$8 an hour, California is tied with Massachusetts for the second-highest minimum wage in the nation. The highest minimum wage would require it to be \$8.24 an hour in 2009.

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