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LABJ Poll

When will you do your holiday shopping?

Already done.

Waiting for Thanksgiving weekend.

First half of December.

I work better under pressure, after Dec. 15

The best sales are on Christmas Eve.

Posted date: 11/20/2006

Regional Report

By SARAH FILUS

Los Angeles Business Journal Staff

TRI-CITIES

Glendale

Hispanic-Targeted Bank: Americas United Bank, a Hispanic-owned and managed business bank, opened at 801 N. Brand Blvd. in Glendale. AUB will serve small- to medium-sized companies, entrepreneurs, and professionals with an emphasis on serving Hispanic businesses in Southern California. Services offered by the new bank include business and real estate loans, corporate credit and debit cards, international trade solutions, lines of credit, Small Business Administration loans, and treasury management.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

Agoura Hills

Insurance Education: L.A.-based Farmers Insurance Group opened a 120,000-square-foot training facility in Agoura Hills called the University of Farmers. It is an extension of a training facility that started in March 2004 at the LAX Hilton. The facility will be the national training center for more than 15,000 Farmers agents and 1,500 new agents as well as other Farmers employees. The facility contains 20 classrooms and the Martin D. Feinstein Center for Professional Development.

Woodland Hills

E-mail Partnership: Woodland Hills-based Nexsan Technologies partnered with Waterford Technologies of Irvine to create an integrated solution for e-mail and file archiving that allows users to capture and pre-index emails in real-time for an unalterable archive. The combined technology is used for backup, disaster recovery, and security and compliance needs.

WESTSIDE

Bel Air

Realty Relocation: Rodeo Realty, a residential real estate firm with 10 branch offices in Southern California, is moving its corporate

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Shopping?
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headquarters from Calabasas to Bel Air. The company will occupy a building at 600 N. Sepulveda Drive to accommodate the corporate staff as well as Rodeo Realty's Marketing Solutions, a department composed of designers, copywriters, public relations specialists and a print shop.



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Santa Monica

Perfume Scoop: Becker Eshaya Inc., a Santa Monica-based fragrance company founded by Kristen Becker and John Eshaya created a perfume for Scoop NYC, a clothing store with locations in New York and six other states. Scoop NYC Fragrances, which are for women and children, are available only in the company's stores and through its Web site.

CENTRAL AREA

Downtown

Hispanic-Owned Bank: Promerica Bank, a majority Latino-owned business bank, opened on Figueroa between Eighth and Ninth streets in Los Angeles with a vision of becoming a gateway to facilitate business relations between Latino and non-Latino businesses. The bank was formed by a group of Latino families from Southern California. The executive team includes Maria Contreras-Sweet, executive chairwoman, Ed Roski Jr., vice-chairman, and Eloy Ortega, president and chief executive.

Los Angeles

Health Food: Eaturna, an L.A.-based company offering fresh food and is free of added hormones, trans fats, additives and the like, has expanded into five grocery stores in Southern California. Eaturna's eats – such as Moroccan Honey Glazed Chicken and Edamame to vanilla cheesecake and Southern corn pudding – will be available at select Vons and Pavilions in Santa Monica, Hermosa Beach, and Redondo Beach. The food is prepared fresh daily at Eaturna Culinary Center, a 10,000-square-foot kitchen in Los Angeles, and delivered daily to distributors.

Business Incentives: Los Angeles City Council members unanimously approved the Colorado Boulevard Specific Plan, which will create a pilot parking program to improve commercial area parking in the Eagle Rock area. It emulates the pilot program implemented by the City of Pasadena to revitalize the Old Town area along Colorado Blvd. The Colorado Blvd. Specific Plan will provide incentives to small business owners who operate successfully in the Eagle Rock community.

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