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ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

MASTER SHIPWRIGHT Dennis Holland looks out over his neighborhood from the bow of the 72-foot Shawnee, parked between his home and workshop in Newport Beach. Holland, 66, is restoring the historic wooden boat built in 1916. A judge has ordered it removed.

COLUMN ONE

Choppy seas for sailboat savior

A Newport Beach man says his effort to restore the Shawnee saved his life. But his neighbors don't share his passion.

By MIKE ANTON

She is 96 years old, all bones and little skin. Her ribs are split and rotted in places and stained by rust. Nonetheless, she is a slightly fearless presence, commanding her surroundings like a *T. rex* in a natural history museum.

When the Shawnee first hit the water in 1916, she was a striking beauty — a 72-foot sailboat made of old-growth oak and Douglas fir, African mahogany, naturally curved hackmatack and gleaming teak. Her hull had the seductive curve of a wineglass. Her keel was 37,000 pounds of lead capped by a single slab of carved oak stretching stem to stern.

Now the Shawnee sits partly dismantled in Newport Beach, where master shipwright Dennis Holland is working to restore the boat to her original glory. It's a project six years in the making, with no end in sight.

"I'm a slave to her," says [See Shawnee, A9]

A big donor despite dementia

Trustee may have helped steer widow's gift to spiritual group

By HARRIET RYAN

Susan Strong Davis, an 87-year-old widow, spends the day inside her Palos Verdes Estates home, tended round-the-clock by nurse's aides. For company, relatives say, she has her dog, the television and, on increasingly rare occasions, memories of the glamorous socialite's life she once lived.

"She definitely has some

sort of dementia," said Viki Brushwood, a niece who visited from Texas in December. "I don't know if it's Alzheimer's or what. She is somebody who is not making decisions anymore."

But decisions involving large amounts of money are being made in Davis' name. In recent years, she has borrowed millions to build a four-bedroom house in Beverly Hills featuring three fireplaces and a pool, ac-

ording to property records, court filings and interviews. She has also given at least \$600,000 to a charity to which relatives say she has no ties and which is run by the controversial Kabbalah Centre, the Westside spiritual organization now under investigation by the Internal Revenue Service.

Public records and interviews show Davis' longtime financial advisor, John E. Larkin, has been instrumen-

tal in these expenditures. A veteran entertainment industry money manager, Larkin has been a devout student of the Kabbalah Centre's brand of Jewish mysticism for nearly a decade and is a key figure in the oversight of its substantial financial assets. He was handling his elderly client's personal finances when she made the donation. And Davis' Beverly Hills home is being built on a lot Larkin previously owned and sold to her at a substantial personal profit.

Larkin, 64, did not return messages seeking comment. Although the IRS' criminal division has been investigating the center and its controlling family, the Bergs, for tax evasion for more than a year, Larkin has not been [See Kabbalah, A8]

Status of Afghan women threatens Clinton legacy

The secretary of State has devoted herself to the issue, but gains may be reversed.

By PAUL RICHTER

WASHINGTON — In the final months of her tenure as secretary of State, Hillary Rodham Clinton is fighting a long retreat on a cause close to her heart, and to her legacy — the status of Afghan women.

Clinton embraced the cause long before the first U.S. troops landed in the country, and as secretary of State she has brought Afghan women worldwide attention, political power and unbending promises of American support.

"We will not abandon

you," she pledged.

But now, with U.S. officials laying plans to remove most troops in two years, the Afghan government and other institutions appear to be adjusting their positions on women's rights to accommodate conservative factions. Restrictions on women have made a comeback.

"Most of women's important achievements over the last decade are likely to be reversed," predicted a bleak report issued last month by the Afghan Human Rights and Democracy Organization, a nonprofit in Kabul

Afghans take over nighttime raids

The unpopular missions at private homes require authorization from a special panel. **WORLD, A3**

funded by Western governments and private groups.

This puts Clinton in a tough spot. Among senior U.S. officials, none is more closely associated with women's rights: When prominent Afghan women are alarmed by developments at home, they often fire off emails to Clinton's staff.

"She has been a very strong conscience of the world on this issue," said Wazhma Frogh, director of the Research Institute for Women, Peace and Security in the Afghan capital, Kabul. "We have leaned on her help in the past, and we are looking to her help for our future."

Clinton insists that the United States views women's rights as a nonnegotiable "red line." At a recent meeting of the U.S.-Afghan [See Clinton, A4]

CAMPAIGN 2012

It's do or die in GOP primary

Santorum hopes Pennsylvania voters recall what they like about him and not why they voted him out.

By PAUL WEST

MECHANICSBURG, Pa. — Rick Santorum is back on familiar ground, seeking redemption and a lifeline for his presidential candidacy in the state that rejected him almost six years ago.

The former senator from Pennsylvania has resurrected his career after a shattering 2006 reelection defeat. Dismissed as a hopeless long shot when his presidential run began, he'll finish no worse than second for the Republican nomination. At 53, he's one of the nation's leading social conservatives, and his long-range future has never looked brighter.

But as he resumes a do-or-die Pennsylvania primary effort this week, he'll need all his local connections and considerable campaign talents to survive what could be the final showdown of the 2012 GOP contest. Polls show him with a small lead over Mitt Romney, who'd like nothing more than to finish off his main rival in the April 24 election.

After a day spent traversing the state's steeply eroded ridges, studded with redbud blossoms and trees just greening up, Santorum expressed satisfaction at returning to "familiar territory, where I can say, 'No, no, there's a shorter way to get there' to the drivers."

He's all but said that a primary loss would end his candidacy. "We have to win here," he told reporters during a stop at Bob's Diner in Carnegie, a Pittsburgh suburb. [See Santorum, A13]



BEBETO MATTHEWS Associated Press

A PROBING INTERVIEWER

Wallace, known for his rigorous questioning, said his guests always knew what they were in for.

MIKE WALLACE, 1918 - 2012

The tough guy of '60 Minutes'

By MYRNA OLIVER AND VALERIE J. NELSON

As the self-described "black hat" of television's premier newsmagazine "60 Minutes," Mike Wallace crafted a persona of a probing reporter known for his often caustic questioning of sometimes reluctant guests on the program.

Beginning in 1968, as one of the first hosts of the enduringly popular news show, he circled the globe, displaying his charm and wit and asking sometimes barbed, always penetrating questions of kings and presidents, business magnates and bureaucrats, entertainers and cultural personalities.

Wallace, who had triple bypass heart surgery in early 2008, died Saturday at a care facility in New Canaan, Conn., the CBS network announced. He was 93.

Of the roughly 800 pieces the pioneering correspondent did for "60 Minutes," two stood out the most for him, Wallace told the Associated Press in 2006.

One showed his tender side as Wallace persuaded piano virtuoso Vladimir Horowitz to pound out "Stars and Stripes Forever" in 1977. The other, in 1979, showed Wallace's tough side as he became the first Western reporter to interview Iran's Ayatollah [See Wallace, A10]

The end of an era

With Mike Wallace's death goes a particularly hard-hitting style of journalism. **CALENDAR, D1**

Bullet train consultant's ties criticized

An expert hired to review ridership forecasts worked for the firm that did the study. **LATEXTRA**

Ups and downs at small airports

Long Beach has seen more fliers as others in the region have reported declines. **BUSINESS, A12**

Weather

Partly sunny. Los Angeles Basin: 75/56. **AA8**

World **A3**

Nation **A6**

Complete Index **AA2**

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STREETER LECKA Getty Images

Bubba Watson triumphs in Masters playoff

The golfer, left, celebrates with his caddie, Ted Scott, after his win, beating Louis Oosthuizen, who has his own memorable moment, a double eagle. **SPORTS, C1**