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May Alter the Brain**  
CURRENTS A10



**Oil's Golden Profits  
Mask Instability**  
MARKETPLACE B1



**Horse Racing's  
Royal Bloodline**  
WEEKEND JOURNAL W1

# THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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W8 Friday, May 2, 2008

## THE HOME FRONT

### PRIVATE PROPERTIES



By SARA LIN AND  
CHRISTINA S.N. LEWIS

#### Andie MacDowell Plans 'Green' House

Actress **Andie MacDowell** has bought land in an environmentally focused mountain community in western North Carolina and plans to build an eco-friendly house there.

Ms. MacDowell, 50 years old, starred in "Groundhog Day" and "Four Weddings and a Funeral." A year ago, she paid about \$1 million for a vacant lot of just

under two acres in the Blue Ridge Mountains, part of the Balsam Mountain Preserve, a 4,400-acre development of 3,000 acres of protected land and 354 home sites. The houses, at elevations from 3,000 to 4,700 feet, can't

be larger than 4,500 square feet and must use materials that blend the building into the environment, according to a design-review board.

Three months ago, the actress swapped her property for one of the community's largest lots, which at 3.5 acres can accommodate a pasture and small barn, says a person familiar with the deal. Ms. MacDowell's new lot is connected to the community's equestrian center via trails.

The community, about 38 miles west of Asheville, has 50 miles of trails and an 18-hole golf course designed by **Arnold Palmer**.



Andie MacDowell

