

FREE

TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 137

# Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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## FANTASY 5

02, 16, 23, 29, 39

## DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 3, 4, 2

Evening picks: 7, 4, 5

## DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 07, Eureka

2nd Place: 01, Gold Rush

3rd Place: 09, Winning Spirit

Race Time: 1:49.34



## NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Two American Legion posts and two other veterans' groups in Pleasanton, Calif., sponsored a class on dowsing in March to study whether domestic terrorists could be identified by pointing sticks at suspicious people to see if the sticks move. One of the veterans' leaders (who vouched that "the government" and oil and mining companies regularly use dowsing) told the local Tri-Valley Herald, "You can't wait for the FBI and police to come up with solutions when you have the bad guys living among us." Following the 9-11 attacks, some Pleasanton veterans received training in so-called "remote (psychic) viewing" and are now reportedly bringing local families up to speed on their missing-in-action relatives from past wars.



## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Smoking is one of the leading causes of statistics."

— Fletcher Knebel



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## Apartments worth \$8 million to city

Unregistered units could generate much needed revenue

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Bootlegged, rent-control housing units in Santa Monica could help plug the gaping, \$12 million hole in the city's budget.

Landlords who own the roughly 1,000 unregistered units are ducking nearly \$8 million in permit revenues and various fees, according to city documents.

The City Council tonight is scheduled to consider amending the city's Municipal Code to allow some types of bootlegged units to be recognized by the city.

While some of the units pose safety concerns, most lack registration because they don't meet parking, density and set-back requirements, officials said. Waiving those restrictions would make the units eligible for inspection and therefore subject to standard fees and permitting requirements, said Tim McCormick, the city's building officer.

"If the unit is made legal it certainly raises the value of the property," he said. "And it's appropriate that the landlord pay their fair share" for the city's services.

If the code were changed, building officials would send a notice to landlords to register their units with the city.

See UNITS, page 6

## Money transferred, but question is where?

Owner took thousands and dodged their calls, customers say

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

When Heidi Amiri handed over \$88,000 to the Iran House of Exchange nearly two years ago, she thought it would show up in her brother's bank account within five days.

But 19 months later, Amiri said her brother still hasn't received the money and Reza Torkamani, who owned the money-transfer business, refused to refund it. Amiri filed a complaint with the Better Business Bureau of the Southland.

She wasn't alone.

It turned out that five patrons of Torkamani's West-L.A. based money transfer outfit lodged complaints with the bureau in 2001 and 2002, alleging \$135,000 in lost funds, officials said.

None of the complaints have

See TRANSFER, page 5

## Bureau keeping track of local merchants

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

The Better Business Bureau is keeping tabs on local merchants.

When consumers complain, the bureau contacts shopkeepers and gives them a chance to

See BUREAU, page 6

## Wipe out!



John Wood/Daily Press

A surfer ends his ride south of the Santa Monica Pier recently.

## Man shot in neck in gang-related shooting off PCH

By The Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES** — A man was shot in the neck Sunday outside a gas station along Pacific Coast Highway in an apparently gang-related shooting, police said.

The man, whose name was not released, was in critical condition at a local hospital, said Lt. Michael Menza of the Los Angeles Police Department. No other injuries were reported.

The shooting occurred about 2:10 p.m. outside the Union 76 station at Sunset Boulevard and Pacific Coast Highway near Will Rogers State Beach.

Four males drove up in a light brown Honda and exchanged gang

signs with the victim. One of the four in the vehicle allegedly opened fire, hitting the victim in the neck, and then the vehicle fled away, Menza said.

People started running and screaming when shots rang out, said witness Andrew McKenzie, who was pumping gas into his vehicle when gunfire erupted. After paramedics arrived and began treating the victim, McKenzie said he was surprised to see other motorists drive up and pump gas as if nothing was amiss.

"It looked like people were more concerned about getting gas than their own safety or their concern for somebody who had just been shot," McKenzie said.

## Chemical weapons building blocks discovered in Iraq

BY DAFNA LINZER

Associated Press Writer

U.S. weapons experts in Iraq have discovered ingredients and equipment that can be used to

make a chemical weapon, U.S. military officials confirmed Monday.

The discovery south of Baghdad was made several days ago with the help of an Iraqi sci-

entist who claimed to have worked in Saddam Hussein's chemical weapons program.

The military officials, involved in the weapons hunt and based at Camp Doha in Kuwait, refused to

name the scientist or identify the material that had been buried in the ground. Many chemical weapons ingredients have nonmilitary purposes and officials cau-

See WAR, page 10

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## HOROSCOPE

# Tonight it's your treat, Sag



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average  
★★-So-so ★-Difficult

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, April 22, 2003:**

You often understand a lot more than you let on. Consider expressing your creativity more frequently in your personal and professional lives. Your sense of humor and perspective help many see the other side of an issue. Be willing to explore other ideas and gather new information. Travel and education play strong roles in your year. Your goals transform. For many, your circle of friends change. Be willing to head down a new path. If you are single, a relationship will knock on your door by the end of 2003. This person could be quite exciting and invigorating to your love life. If you're attached, allow feelings to flourish. CAPRICORN opens doors.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)**

★★★★ You might surprise yourself with your reaction to a boss or higher-up. Unexpected developments help you make money and gain. Others see the wisdom of your logic. Consider what could be possible if you gain a consensus of opinion. Tonight: A must show.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**

★★★★ If you use your ability to read between the lines, you will gain both financially and emotionally. Express your deeper thoughts and consider what might be possible if you relax and loosen up. A friend does the unexpected, or perhaps something you want could become a reality. Tonight: Rent a movie.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**

★★★★ Work with others. Great ideas come to those who spend time really reflecting on the issues that surround their life or work. Others could be reactive and do something strange or off the wall. Your instincts help you go in the right direction. Tonight: Make time for that special person.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**

★★★★ You might want to see or understand more of what makes a loved one tick. The unexpected developments and resulting insights take you in a new direction. A meeting proves instrumental in your dealings. Think carefully about an associate's ideas. Tonight: Let someone else make plans.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**

★★★★ You make a difference at work. Others seek you out for answers. Understand what would make a work situation better. Do any negotiating in the daytime, because in the next few weeks, you could find that others are far more difficult. A partner could be full of surprises. Tonight: Get some exercise.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**

★★★★ Remain more playful in your dealings. You could find an associate or loved one to be unpredictable or different. Realize more of what you want. Get used to this behavior. You will need to become more independent and forthright. Listen to feedback. Tonight: So what if it is Tuesday?

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**

★★★★ Deal with the basics, and you might be quite happy with the end results. A loved one or child could challenge the living daylights out of you. Understand this person's need for attention. A discussion with a partner takes you in a new direction. Tonight: Order in.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**

★★★★ You might want to take a second look at a loved one or someone who might be more dominating than you realize. This person could become quirky, in your opinion. An associate takes a stronger lead than in the past. Allow this to happen. Tonight: Out at a favorite spot.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**

★★★★ Indulge someone you normally wouldn't. Schedule lunch together or dinner later. Your perspective could change a lot as a result. A co-worker releases important information. Others appreciate your high performance and ability to get the job done. Tonight: Your treat.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**

★★★★ Your strong personality breaks barriers and takes you to a new level. Carefully think through a decision that involves a loved one or friend. Investigate what might be happening with an unpredictable but well-intentioned friend. Tonight: Avoid the unpredictable.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**

★★★★ In order to get to the bottom of a problem, bone up on your observation skills. You might not be comfortable with what happens otherwise. Use special care with your finances. You pull the wild card right now, which means anything can happen. Tonight: Listen to a family member.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**

★★★★ Keep your focus, and you won't be uncomfortable. Think through a decision with more care. Your vision can happen, though you might want to hear different ideas. Others find you to be unpredictable. Use that as a strength as opposed to a liability. Tonight: Follow your pals.

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## LOCAL



## SM firefighters take part in Jimmy Stewart marathon

By Daily Press staff

On Sunday, April 13, two relay teams from the Santa Monica Fire Department participated in the 22nd Annual Jimmy Stewart Relay Marathon and Family Expo in Griffith Park. Each team was comprised of 5 runners, who each ran 5.2 miles, for a total of 26.2 miles per team.

The teams placed 2nd and 4th in the firefighter category.

Hosted annually by Robert Wagner, the Jimmy Stewart Relay Marathon is one of the most popular and successful relay races in the country.

The Jimmy Stewart Relay Marathon benefits St. John's Health Center's Child and Family Development Center in Santa Monica. In the past 22 years, the race has raised more than \$7 million dollars for the center.

Other race day activities included a family expo area, celebrity race, children's



Photo courtesy

Santa Monica firefighter Chris Stradtner hands water to fellow firefighter Sarah Billman during the Jimmy Stewart Relay Marathon held earlier this month.

race, live music, clowns and a petting zoo.

The Santa Monica Fire Department runners included Capt. Mike McElvaney, Bruce Davis, Sarah Billman, Justin Crossan, Matt Norris, Sam Ruiz, Todd Garvey and Chris Stradtner.

## A few hundred thousand to be spent tonight at City Hall

*(Editor's note: This is part of an ongoing series that tracks city expenditures that appear on the upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agenda. Consent agenda items are routinely passed by the city council with little or no discussion from elected officials or the public. Many of the items, however, have been part of public discussion in the past.)*

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON  
Daily Press Staff Writer

The Santa Monica City Council is expected to spend \$320,000 tonight for maintenance of the pier and to build a new street connecting Main and Fourth streets behind City Hall.

City Hall has accumulated \$140,000 in earned interest on the city's capital reserve for the construction of Olympic Drive. By law, the money must be used by June 30.

Los Angeles County voters approved Proposition C in 1990, authorizing a .5 percent sales tax increase to fund transportation projects. Money generated by the tax is distributed to Santa Monica and to Los Angeles County every month by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, officials said. Under the MTA guidelines, Proposition C funds must be spent within

three years of being collected.

In 1995, the city received approval to use the funds on the Olympic Drive Extension project, which will provide drive-thru transit access to the Civic Center by building a new street between Main and Fourth streets.

The project is one of the final phases in the multi-million dollar Public Safety Building that is currently under construction and is expected to be completed by June 30.

The council also is being asked by city staff to spend \$180,000 for one year of maintenance on the Santa Monica Pier. The council is expected to approve a two-year contract with Roth Management to operate and maintain the Santa Monica Pier carousel.

The annual management fee of \$82,000, plus the reimbursement of estimated staff salaries and maintenance costs of \$98,000 are predicated on a six-day per week operation from mid-March through the end of August, and a five-day week operation from September through the first part of March.

Revenue generated from the carousel's ticket sales, special event rental and filming are anticipated to be \$136,000, offsetting in part the projected costs of management costs.

## surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

Strong south swells continue to build through the day as peak approaches, which is predicted for sometime Tuesday morning. Size gets a slight boost and consistency improves. Some west-facing breaks hit head-high and even a foot or two-plus on good sets.

Water is back to at least B ratings at most beaches, which is considerably cleaner than last week.



### Today's Tides:

High- 12:40 a.m. 5.29'  
Low- 8:38 a.m. -0.49'  
High- 3:55 p.m. 3.07'  
Low- 7:28 p.m. 2.71'

| Location | Tuesday   | Wednesday | Water Quality |
|----------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| County   | 3-4'/Fair | 3-4'/Fair | A             |
| Zuma     | 3-4'/Fair | 3-4'/Fair | A             |
| Surf     | 2-4'/Fair | 3-4'/Fair | C             |
| Topanga  | 2-3'/Poor | 2-4'/Fair | A             |
| Break    | 3-4'/Poor | 3-4'/Fair | B             |
| Porto    | 3-4'/Fair | 3-4'/Fair | A             |

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## The Q-Line

The Santa Monica Police Department recently released crime statistics for 2002. The results show that crime is down overall, although incidents of serious and violent crime increased, including rapes, homicides and burglaries.

As Santa Monica continues to grow, so do concerns about safety in the city.

So, this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Do you think Santa Monica is a safe place to live? Why or why not?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Friday's paper. Please limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think about the wording of your response before calling.

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## OPINION



## Do your part for Earth Day, environment



Evelyn Jerome

■ Take a deep breath. Remember the '70s, when the smog layer over the Los Angeles basin looked like the lint you remove from your dryer?

We've made tremendous progress in the past three decades and our lungs are pinker for it. Literally. But we're on the brink of backpedaling for a very simple reason.

Take a look down the streets where you live and work. Look at the license plates on the cars. Count the number of out-of-state license plates you see.

Did you know that more than 25 percent of the cars on California's roads —

that's one out of every four — are not registered with the DMV?

What does this mean in the context of Earth Day and the environment? Your car has been smog-tested within the past two years. My car was smog-tested six months ago. Old or new, from Acura to Yugo, we must get our cars smog-tested every other year to register them.

But what about those out-of-state cars? People who have just moved to California are supposed to re-register their cars within 30 days of moving here. And the unregistered cars? How does the state keep track of them? (They don't.) How can we assure that these cars are not re-polluting the air that we have worked so hard to clean? (We aren't even trying.)

We need some political courage from Sacramento, some solid enforcement of our registration and smog-test laws. It's called environmental justice, right?

We all have a right to clean air. We ALL have the responsibility to participate in the smog check program. The DMV should track private used car sales to ensure that older "hand-me-down" cars aren't allowed to drive by different rules than the rest of us. Environmental justice.

Here's what you can do: Call our state legislators, Assemblymember Fran Pavley and Sen. Sheila Kuehl. Tell them you want them to make out-of-state cars pay the same registration fees and get the same smog tests that we get every other year and that you want more effort — and

funding — spent on enforcing the laws on currently unregistered cars. The program would pay for itself many times over, and with every car getting smog tested, we'll all breathe easier.

And the next time you see a car spewing stuff into the air that you don't want to breathe, call the Southern California Air Quality Management District (800-CUT-SMOG) and report the car's license plate.

Cleaning up our air is something we can all take responsibility for, every day of the year. Happy Earth Day.

*(Evelyn Jerome is a past president of the Los Angeles County Young Democrats and a member of the New Democrat Network. To respond to or reach Jerome, e-mail her at [evelyn\\_thinktwice@yahoo.com](mailto:evelyn_thinktwice@yahoo.com).)*



Todd Flora

■ We celebrated the first Earth Day in 1970, when President Richard Nixon occupied the White House. This is the same Richard Nixon that signed the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act and under whom the Environmental Protection Agency was created.

I see environmentalism as an extension of faith. As an active volunteer, I consider myself an "Earth Day Everyday" guy, though I'm glad Earth Day itself is becoming more and more a legitimate national holiday.

Celebrations of this annual event include fairs with music, information booths, and assorted "Eco-fun." It has

educated a generation about the threats to our planet, renewable energy, and local ecology. Earth Day should be as nonpartisan a day as it gets — one whose message should unite us and serve the dual role of annual check-up and wake-up call.

Unfortunately, somewhere along the line the environment became a partisan issue.

Can you imagine President Bush signing into law the acts President Nixon did more than 30 years ago?

It would be difficult outside your most pleasant dreams, especially when he and his frightening administration spend considerable amounts of time and tax dollars waging war on the Clean Air and Water Acts, and other mainstream energy and environmental legislation.

I don't pretend to know the minds of people like Bush and why they feel such

a desire to actively ruin our environment for future generations. It's comparable to the psychology of child abuse, with several parts denial mixed with rationalization, a mean streak and a bully's view of the world's priorities. But it IS a sickness.

I am confident the average Republican cares about the environment just as much as anyone else. But they have let their party's elected leaders collectively ignore the fact that environmentalism has practical applications, like protecting public health, creating new industries and leaving a stronger infrastructure for long-term growth.

The Democratic Party is hardly immune from criticism, as plenty of its elected members and commission appointees have given only faint lip service — and certainly not major priority — to the environmental crises that face us.

One thing is clear: Regardless of our respective politics, Earth Day and environmentalism are concepts we must all embrace. It is in our self-interest to protect our oceans, the water we drink and the air we breathe.

Check out one of the following Websites today and get involved! ([www.nrdc.org](http://www.nrdc.org); [www.healthebay.org](http://www.healthebay.org); [www.coalitionforcleanair.org](http://www.coalitionforcleanair.org); [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org); [www.treepeople.org](http://www.treepeople.org).)

*(Todd Flora is a professional issues manager who serves as a Speakers Bureau member with Heal the Bay. He is a member of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club, TreePeople and a supporter of the Coalition for Clean Air. To respond to or reach Todd, email him at [junkfood6@aol.com](mailto:junkfood6@aol.com).)*

## Path from addiction to resolution — one man's story



## INCITES

By Ed Silverstein

*(Editor's note: This is the first installment of a three-part series that tracks how a man lifted himself off the streets of Santa Monica with the help of California's social services. On Wednesday, how social services worked for James McCord.)*

James McCord is a 32-year-old black man, well built with handsome expressive features.

He is a recovering drug addict who had been homeless in Santa Monica. Though he never finished high school, James is articulate and insightful with deep convictions about his life, experiences and his belief in God. His story is fascinating and his experiences give us a true glimpse of everything right and a few things wrong with California's social services.

James was born and raised in Mobile, Ala., which he still considers his home. He grew up around drug and alcohol use, although he is the only one in his family who admits to having a problem. James told me what led to his own drug use.

"I wasn't good in school academically. I chose to gravitate to lower companionship. I liked to hang out in the ghetto and the projects. In the projects they were doing

things I was raised not to do — shoplift, curse, fight. There, I didn't have to be smart in school. I don't got to know books. They say if you just show up, you one of us. And I liked that. It became a part of me. So I started cursing and I started stealing and smoking marijuana and drinking beer."

James' actions frequently landed him in jail. During this time, he graduated to his drug of choice: crack. Eventually crack took over his life. Yet, despite his drug use, he was never homeless until he came to California.

"Alabama is family orientated and they will shelter you before you become homeless," James said.

While this might seem a blessing, James admits that it may have been more of a pitfall. By preventing him from hitting bottom, James' family forestalled his need to seek help and enabled him to continue using drugs.

But eventually he could no longer ignore his problem. He was committing crimes and going to jail. He was hurting his family. He was not capable of being a father to his son. But most of all, James was unable to be the man he wanted to be.

When James finally realized he needed help, he made the decision to come to California.

I asked him why California rather than Alabama? He told me that it was common knowledge on the streets that California had the best programs and many services not available in his home state. He had also heard that California offered food stamps and a provided a few hundred dol-

lars a month to people on the street.

I asked James if he would have sought help in Alabama had these same programs been available. He thought about it for a moment, then said, "I probably would still have come out. Because you see in Alabama it's almost a flaw to go to a facility for help. You're not a man. You can't do it on your own. Most people in Alabama that struggle with drug and alcohol and domestic violence like I have go to the penitentiary as a reform. They think, 'I'm bad off on drugs, I'll commit a crime and I'll go back to the joint.'"

James got on a Greyhound bus and headed for California.

"I knew that I had no one to fall back on and I would be homeless, but I also knew anything would be better than the way I was living then," he said.

James' first destination was Venice, where he slept outside on the beach and continued drinking and using crack. Although he had not been homeless before California, his experiences in jail and hanging out in the Mobile ghetto had taught him how to get along on the street.

"You ask your associates who are in the same predicament," he said. "You could find where the shelter is, where the free food feedings are, how I can apply for food stamps, where's a good place to put my head at night."

James continued his homeless, substance-abusing lifestyle for several weeks. Then an incident occurred that reminded him why he had come to California. James was approached by a man involved

in Alcoholics Anonymous. The man started giving him the standard spiel. James had heard it all before and the man must have sensed this. As James tells it:

"... the guy, he stopped (talking) and looked at me and he said, 'I know what you're going to do, but I'm gonna do it for you anyway.' And he gave me \$10 and he walked off and he left. And I took that \$10 and I did, I went to the dope man and got me a hit ... crack. But something inside cried out in me. Here's a man who's really tried to help you. You need to do something to try to help yourself. The next day I went to an AA meeting. I didn't immediately get sober, but eventually my conscience just wouldn't let me continue, knowing that someone offered their help like that to me. That kind of started it."

James was introduced to the Adult Rehabilitation Center in Santa Monica, which is run by the Salvation Army.

There, he went into a 12-step drug and rehabilitation program. His goal was to complete the six-month program, but after a month, because of a misunderstanding with the staff, James left. Though he was forced to go back to living on the streets, James utilized what he had learned and stayed off drugs and alcohol. A short time later, he joined a program that would start the process of turning his life around.

*(Ed Silverstein is a freelance writer living in Santa Monica. All comments e-mailed to [edsincites@aol.com](mailto:edsincites@aol.com) will be treated humanely.)*

## LOCAL



# Money never made it to bank accounts overseas

TRANSFER, from page 1

been answered.

And despite his clients' allegations, Torkamani said he's paid back everybody but one person.

## OWNER PROVIDES TWO STORIES

Torkamani, who closed the business last year to focus on his Santa Monica Boulevard restaurant and separate kebab shop, gave two different explanations of where the missing money went.

Torkamani said last week that business in Iran dried up and he couldn't get the transfers through. Because of the way the business is structured, Torkamani said there must be money going in both directions at once.

"There is a delay," he said. "Some of (the transfers) got delayed for a month or two months because of the contacts in Iran. It is a complicated business."

But Torkamani changed his story on Monday.

He blamed his Iran-based contact for disappearing with bundles of cash and said he is the one who is owed money.

"I can't find these people," he said, adding that he is still owed more than \$100,000.

## COMPLAINTS LEAD TO FBI INVESTIGATION

Torkamani's change in story is consistent with the experiences of his customers. They describe Torkamani as evasive and say he still hasn't paid up on thousands of dollars in debts.

They claim Torkamani took their money and promised it would be transferred to relatives in Iran in three to four days.

When the money didn't register in their relative's accounts, House of Iran customers said they tried to reach Torkamani but he wouldn't return their telephone calls.

Once they did reach him, customers said Torkamani came up with a variety of excuses to stall them and finally promised the cash would arrive soon.

Realizing the money wasn't coming, customers eventually contacted the Better Business Bureau, said Lona Luckett, senior trade practices consultant for the bureau.

The bureau then initiated its own investigation, sending letters and placing calls to the business. (See related story.)

When the Iran House of Exchange refused to respond, the bureau notified the FBI, which is investigating the allegations.

## HOUNDING FOR REFUNDS

Customers who have been repaid by Torkamani said they were forced to pester him for refunds after their cash transfers failed to make it to Iran.

"He was very calm on the phone," said Ameneh Breest, who hired Torkamani to wire \$1,600 to her brother. "Every time I

called he said he sent the money yesterday."

When the cash didn't make it overseas, Breest said she and her husband spent months calling and writing letters to Torkamani. Eventually, the couple threatened him with legal action. Weeks later, a refund check arrived at her home.

Another customer said he demanded a refund after his \$40,000 transfer didn't go through. When Torkamani finally wrote him a check, it bounced because of non-sufficient funds, the customer said.

Torkamani had an answer for that, too.

**"He stalled, and stalled and stalled. Finally, after three months, I realized he doesn't intend to send my money or give it back."**

— HEIDI AMIRI  
Customer

"We told him to hold onto the check," he said. "I told him 'You have to wait two to three days because it's Christmastime.'"

## STILL WAITING ON CASH

While some customers say they were finally paid back by Torkamani, others say they're still waiting for him to pay up.

"He stalled, and stalled and stalled," said Amiri, who spotted Torkamani's ad in an Iranian newspaper. "Finally, after three months, I realized he doesn't intend to send my money or give it back."

Amiri said the \$88,000 was to be used by her brother for an apartment in Tehran, Iran.

After confronting Torkamani, Amiri said she agreed to accept repayment of the debt in installments. But after \$37,000 had been repaid, she said the payments dried up.

As of last week, Amiri said Torkamani still owes her \$51,000, plus the interest she's paying on her \$88,000 loan.

Asked why she hasn't pursued Torkamani legally, Amiri said she's been persuaded that "the legal system in this country does not work" by relatives and by her experience as a landlord.

If Torkamani doesn't pay up soon, Amiri said she will be forced to hire a lawyer.

Last week, Torkamani denied having any outstanding debts at all.

"They've all been taken care of," he said. "Everybody got their money back."

But confronted with Amiri's story Monday, Torkamani changed his tune and admitted he still owes Amiri about \$9,000.

He said he plans to pay her back in full.



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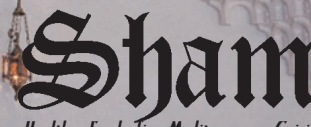
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## LOCAL

# Amending SM city code could bring in \$8 million

UNITS, from page 1

Landlords would then have to go through the usual registration process before their properties would be considered legal, McCormick said.

The total average cost for bringing an 800-square foot, one-bedroom apartment up to code is \$7,840.

City Attorney Marsha Moutrie said it makes sense to give the units waivers because they have been on the market at least since rent control passed in 1979 and therefore the neighborhoods have largely adjusted to the impacts.

“These aren’t new units,” she said.

The 1,000 bootlegged units were discovered by comparing records from the L.A. County Assessor with documents from the Santa Monica Rent Control Board, officials said.

Moutrie said the suggested amendment would allow safety officials to keep track of the buildings. She described the current situation as a standoff between rent control requirements and building and safety concerns.

Even units not registered with the county are protected by rent-control law, she said.

Beyond the legal aspects, officials said there is a safety issue that would be addressed by amending the law.

If the units are monitored by building officials, they would keep a record of potential violations relating to heat and hot water,

bad wiring, gas and waste connections, entrances, exits and other safety issues.

“We don’t want to wait until a disaster happens,” McCormick said. “We want to go in and make sure they’re safe.”

Judy Rambeau, assistant city manager, said that relaxing restrictions on the bootlegged units would also help to ensure

**“If the unit is made legal it certainly raises the value of the property. And it’s appropriate that the landlord pay their fair share.”**

—TIM MCCORMICK  
Building officer

they aren’t shut down.

“We’re trying to maintain as much rent-controlled affordable housing in the city as we can,” she said.

City officials have been strategizing on how to close a \$12 million gap for this year. A proposed budget is expected to land in front of the Santa Monica City Council within the next two months, with final adoption slated for June.

## Bureau rates businesses on relations with customers

BUREAU, from page 1

respond to the allegations.

Over the last three years, complaints have been filed against 56 businesses that operate in Santa Monica, according to a report this year from the Better Business Bureau of the Southland.

The complaints allege a variety of shortcomings, from poor service to shoddy products and delivery problems.

To check the history of a merchant, log onto the bureau’s regional Web site ([www.bbbouthland.org](http://www.bbbouthland.org)).

Many businesses offer to make up for lapses with discounts or other freebies, said Lona Luckett, senior trade practices consultant for the bureau.

“We try to provide a forum for mediation,” Luckett said. “We’re a neutral party, not pro-business or pro-consumer.”

Over 60 percent of the complaints are ultimately resolved to the customer’s satisfaction, she added.

But 30 percent of the complaints aren’t answered by the businesses at all. Those businesses automatically receive “unsatisfactory” ratings from the bureau, Luckett said.

The other 10 percent of complaints go unresolved.

“As you know, there are two sides to

every story,” Luckett said.

Though an occasional unresolved complaint does not spell the end for merchants wishing to keep a favorable rating, a pattern of complaints without resolution does, she said.

“That’s the leverage we have,” said Luckett. “We can’t go shut anybody down.”

When a merchant appears to be acting illegally, Luckett said the bureau refers complaints to law officers. (See related story.)

As well as resolving disputes, Luckett said the Better Business Bureau is used by shoppers who want to check out items and companies before they buy. Consumers can call the bureau or view the history of the bureau’s 20,000 members online.

Before a company is admitted to the bureau, Luckett said her organization checks the background of the principals of the business and verifies that all the proper licenses are in place.

The bureau is a privately owned non-profit organization that was created more than 75 years ago.

“We were formed as a vigil committee to protest false advertising by the snake oils salesmen that went around and sold their tonics,” Luckett said.

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Santa Monica Daily Press



## STATE

# Apartment rents weaken in most markets outside SoCal

BY MICHAEL LIEDTKE  
AP Business Writer

**SAN FRANCISCO** — The economic malaise is driving down apartment rents in most Western markets outside Southern California, according to a quarterly survey released Monday.

The study by the Novato research firm RealFacts found the biggest discounts continued to occur in the Silicon Valley and the San Francisco metropolitan area, where rents have been shriveling since the dot-com bust.

But there are signs the feeble economy is starting to depress rents in major Western markets outside Northern California. As of March, the average rents in Seattle, Denver and Salt Lake City had declined by 1 percent to 2 percent from the previous year.

Rents in other places, such as Portland, Ore. and Phoenix, edged up by less than 1 percent, RealFacts said.

Southern California represented a significant exception to the trend. Rents in all the region's major markets continued their steady ascent of the past few years — an indication that Southern California is weathering the inclement economic conditions better than most parts of the West.

In the Los Angeles area, apartment rents averaged \$1,304 in March, a 5.8 percent increase from the previous year. In Orange County, the average rent rose 2.6 percent to \$1,234. In the San Diego metropolitan area, the average rent climbed 5.7 percent to \$1,153, RealFacts said.

Southern Californians looking for more affordable homes helped make Riverside and San Bernardino counties the West's hottest rental market. The average rent in the two-county area — an arid expanse known as the "Inland Empire" — stood at \$903 in March, a 7.6 percent increase from the previous year.

In Northern California, the Sacramento metropolitan area was the only rental market where prices rose. The average Sacramento-area rent in March was \$875, a 3.2 percent increase.

The story was much different in San Francisco, less than 100 miles from Sacramento.

Rents in the three-county San

Francisco metropolitan area averaged \$1,563 in March, a 7.6 percent drop from last year. Since peaking at \$2,034 in December 2000, the San Francisco metro area's rents have plunged by 23 percent, translating into an annual savings of more than \$5,600.

A similar trend has occurred in the Silicon Valley hub of San Jose, where March rents averaged \$1,351, an annual decrease of 6.8 percent. San Jose rents are now 31 percent below their peak of \$1,952 two years ago. The decline represents an annual rent decrease of \$7,200.

Some renters may be enjoying other benefits that aren't showing up in the price surveys, said Gerald Cox, who supervises RealFacts' analysis of nearly 9,000 apartment complexes in 11 states.

To entice tenants, many landlords are offering concessions, such as a free month's rent in return for signing a one-year lease, Cox said. Other apartment complexes are offering gifts, such as free DVD players, or other amenities, like new carpets.

## Average apartment rents in major Western markets

By The Associated Press

Metropolitan area Average March 31 rent % change from previous year:

San Francisco \$1,563 -7.6%  
San Jose, Calif. \$1,351 -6.8%  
Los Angeles \$1,304 +5.8%  
Orange County, Calif. \$1,234 +2.6%  
Oakland, Calif. \$1,207 -2.8%  
San Diego \$1,153 +5.7%  
Riverside/San Bernardino \$903 +7.6%  
Sacramento, Calif. \$875 +3.2%  
Seattle \$854 -1.2%  
Denver \$850 -1.6%  
Portland, Ore. \$745 +0.5%  
Las Vegas \$743 +1.4%  
Reno, Nev. \$739 -0.7%  
Phoenix \$712 +0.3%  
Boise, Idaho \$698 -1.7%  
Colorado Springs, Colo. \$697 -0.3%  
Salt Lake City \$658 -2.4%  
Albuquerque, N.M. \$629 +1.3%  
Tucson, Ariz. \$609 +2.0%

Source: RealFacts

# Canine survives car accident, shot to head, freezer storage

By The Associated Press

**CLEARLAKE** — A dog named Doshia may have as many lives as a cat.

She was hit by a car, shot in the head and kept in a freezer for two hours, but she survived and is now doing well under a veterinarian's care.

Local animal groups and the Humane Society of the United States have begun fund-raising efforts to pay for her care.

Last Tuesday, Doshia was hit by a car. A Clearlake police officer reported to the scene and no one could tell him who owned the dog.

Officer Bob MacDonald shot the dog, apparently to save her the pain of her injuries. Doshia, presumed dead, was taken to Animal Control, where she was put in a freezer.

About two hours later, Denise Johnson, Animal Control's interim director, was at the impound facility and was told of the incident.

"Apparently, it was assumed dead," Johnson said. "I went to the freezer and found that she was alive and cold."

She had hypothermia and a gunshot wound, but no broken bones from the car accident, Johnson said.

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## NATIONAL

# Supreme Court to revisit scope of Miranda warning

BY ANNE GEARAN  
Associated Press Writer

**WASHINGTON** — The Supreme Court will re-examine the familiar legal warning beginning, "You have the right to remain silent," to answer whether police always must read suspects their rights before seizing drugs or other evidence they plan to use at trial.

At issue is a potential loophole that arises when a suspect tells police not to bother with the warning, or when a suspect owns up to a crime before police have a chance to read all the "Miranda rights."

The court's eventual ruling also could address arrests in which an officer fails to read the rights but a suspect talks anyway.

A lower court concluded that if police find physical evidence after such an encounter it cannot be used against the suspect in court.

The case is a follow-up to a major ruling three years ago in which the high court underscored that police must warn suspects that they do not have to cooperate or answer questions. That ruling reaffirmed the 1966 *Miranda v. Arizona* decision that gave the warnings their name.

The Bush administration asked the high court to look at the case of a Colorado man arrested in 2001 for violating a domestic restraining order. Samuel Patane cut off a detective who started to read him his rights, and then voluntarily directed police to a Glock pistol in his bedroom. Patane, who had a felony record, was charged with illegal possession of a gun.

Patane's lawyer argued the lower court

got it right, and there is no reason for the Supreme Court to get involved.

Solicitor General Theodore Olson, the administration's top Supreme Court lawyer, said officers should not be penalized for taking Patane at his word that he already knew his rights, or in other cases where "warnings may be omitted during a fast-moving investigation."

"The question whether *Miranda* requires exclusion not only of the suspect's unwarned statement but also its tangible fruits thus arises with some frequency," Olson wrote in asking the Supreme Court to hear the case.

Deanne Maynard, a Washington lawyer who wrote a friend of the court brief for criminal defense lawyers in the 2000 police warnings case, said the court has touched on the issue with earlier rulings but never squarely ruled on it.

The case the court agreed to hear next fall partly turns on how lower courts have applied earlier Supreme Court rulings. A federal appeals court found that the 2000 ruling undermined two earlier decisions in which the Supreme Court allowed evidence to be used at trial.

The Denver-based 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled last year that the gun could not be used as evidence against Patane because it was the tainted "fruit" of a statement made without a *Miranda* warning.

Olson said the lower court ruling threatens to hamstring prosecutors.

The high court should step in "because the suppression of probative physical evidence in such cases imposes serious costs on the administration of justice," Olson wrote.

## Mont. Legislature rebuffs bill to outlaw drinking and driving

BY CURT WOODWARD  
Associated Press Writer

**HELENA, Mont.** — Montana lawmakers have voted down efforts to pass a ban on open containers of alcohol in vehicles, a decision an activist against drunken driving attributes to the state's "cowboy culture."

Bill Muhs, president of a local chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, said fears of state intrusion into what some consider a private right to imbibe trumped lawmakers' good judgment.

"I think there's still perhaps some carry-over from people whose view is their individual rights are being trampled on," Muhs said.

While advocates for tougher laws say attitudes toward drunken driving are changing here, they remain frustrated at the state's reluctance to enact an open-container law.

According to figures from the National Conference of State Legislatures, Montana is one of 13 states without an open-container ban that would meet federal standards.

Muhs said an open-container ban, already used by most cities, is a cheap and extremely effective way to reduce drunken driving in the state. But legislative opponents have effectively stalled such measures by raising the specter of increasing police power.

Republican state Rep. Jim Shockley,

who has led the effort to stop all attempts at an open-container ban, said such a law is mostly a feel-good measure that does less to curb drunken driving than would greater enforcement of laws already on the books.

Shockley also said lawmakers and advocates of tougher restrictions won't be able to change Montanans' attitudes about drinking and driving by enacting new laws, and shouldn't try to.

"It's not their business to change our culture," Shockley said. "If they don't like our culture, they should go somewhere else."

Montana's rebellious streak has always been more visible when it comes to conforming with federal highway safety demands. More than two decades ago, legislators railed against the federally imposed energy-conservation speed limit of 55 mph by making violations punishable by a \$5 fine.

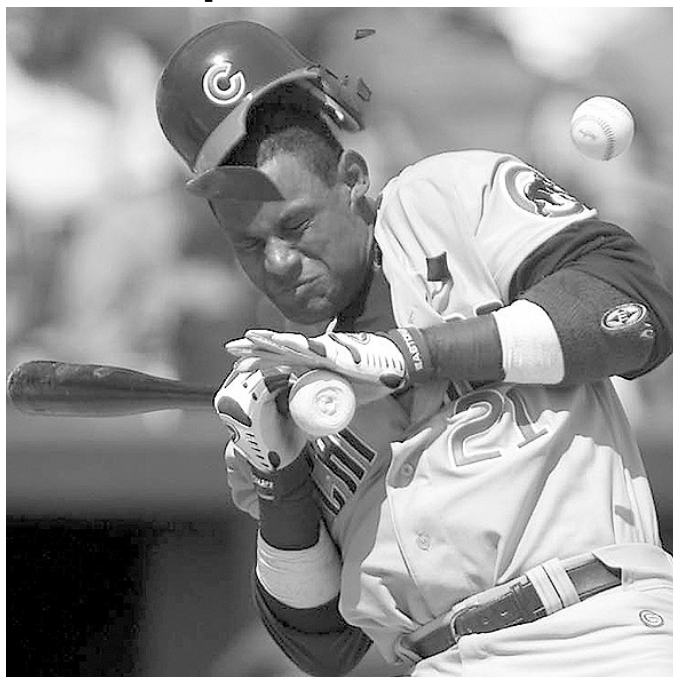
And for three years after the 55 mph speed limit disappeared, Montana drivers were allowed to go as fast as they wanted on most highways, as long as it was "reasonable and proper" based on traffic, road conditions and weather.

The Legislature has taken some action this year. It lowered the blood-alcohol limit from 0.10 percent to 0.08 percent, and made alcohol tests mandatory for drivers after serious accidents. It also increased fines and jail time for drunken driving convictions.

## SPORTS



## Battered up



Chicago Cubs' Sammy Sosa recoils as a fast ball from Pittsburgh Pirates' Salomon Torres shatters his helmet in the fourth inning on Sunday in Pittsburgh. Sosa left the game.

Mike Longo/Associated Press

## Kenyan Robert Cheruiyot wins 107th Boston Marathon

BY JIMMY GOLEN

AP Sports Writer

**BOSTON** — Robert Cheruiyot won the Boston Marathon by 23 seconds Monday to give Kenya its 12th victory in 13 years. Russia's Svetlana Zakharova won the women's race to prevent a second consecutive Kenyan sweep.

Cheruiyot (pronounced cheh-REE-yot) finished in 2 hours, 10 minutes, 11 seconds to earn \$80,000, an olive wreath and a bowl of beef stew. It was just his second career marathon, having won his debut in Milan in December.

In Milan, he finished with the same time as two others but was declared the winner by an edge. This time, he wasn't challenged over the final five miles to win by more than two city blocks.

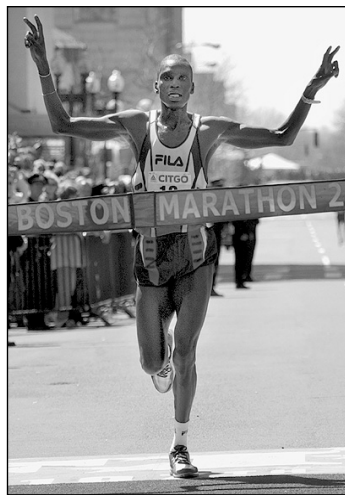
"I was ready to face anything," said Cheruiyot, who felt he had a chance to win at about 15 1/2 miles. "I said, 'OK, I'll win this.'"

Cheruiyot is the eighth Kenyan to win Boston since his country began its domination in 1991. Kenyans swept the first five spots in the race, and eight of the top nine. Benjamin Kimutai was second, Martin Lel third.

Russian Fedor Ryzhov was the first non-Kenyan, in sixth, and defending champion Rodgers Rop of Kenya was seventh. Eddy Hellebuyck was the first American, finishing in 2:17:18 for 10th place.

"It's disappointing," Hellebuyck said. "I'm representing the U.S. and I'm 42 years old. Where is everybody?"

Zakharova finished in 2:25:20 to beat fellow Russian Lyubov Denisova by 91 seconds. Her biggest challenge was staying on the course when the television



Elise Amendola/Associated Press

Robert Cheruiyot of Kenya raises his arms as he crosses the finish line at the 107th running of the Boston Marathon in Boston on Monday.

truck turned away before the Back Bay finish line; she is the first Russian to win since 1993.

American Marla Runyan was fifth — the best finish for a U.S. runner since 1993. Runyan, who is legally blind, trailed a bicyclist who provided her with her times at the checkpoints and guided her to her water bottles.

She traded positions with defending champion Margaret Okayo of Kenya and the two Russians until Zakharova pulled ahead at the 13.1-mile mark. Kenya's Joyce Chepchumba was third and Okayo, who set

## Lakers expect O'Neal back and focused for Game 2

BY ANDRES YBARRA

Associated Press Writer

**MINNEAPOLIS** — The birth of his son and the death of his grandfather made it a week of joy and sorrow for Shaquille O'Neal.

Through it all, he's trying to stay focused on the task at hand: leading the Los Angeles Lakers to a fourth straight NBA title. O'Neal had a solid Game 1 against the Minnesota Timberwolves, and his team has no doubt he'll be ready for Game 2 on Tuesday night.

O'Neal left the Lakers on Monday to attend the wake for his grandfather, Sirlester O'Neal, in South Carolina. Coach Phil Jackson said his star center was expected to return late Monday night and attend the team's shootaround Tuesday morning.

"We're all praying for him and his family," Kobe Bryant said. "When he gets back, we're sure he's going to be looking forward to Game 2."

Said Jackson: "He'll be here."

That's bad news for the Timberwolves, who secured home-court advantage in the best-of-seven series, only to give it right back to the Lakers. A day after his wife, Shaunie, gave birth to the couple's third child, O'Neal had 32 points and 10 rebounds, and Bryant had 39 points in Los Angeles' 117-98 win Sunday.

The Wolves were routed despite doing everything they could to chase Bryant and bang around with O'Neal in the paint.

After watching video from Sunday's game, Minnesota coach Flip Saunders said he didn't think his team played as badly on defense as it looked.

"Defensively, we contested a lot of shots," Saunders said after practice Monday. "Unfortunately, they made a lot of them."

If O'Neal isn't able to perform at peak level, the Lakers are confident that the

rest of the team will pick up the slack, as it did Sunday.

Minnesota's plan to throw multiple defenders at Bryant and O'Neal backfired in more than one way: They still combined for 71 points, and L.A.'s uncovered role players contributed key baskets to help the Lakers pull away. Derek Fisher and Rick Fox each had three 3-pointers in the first half.

"I've been impressed with the focus of this basketball club on matching and tailoring the game to beat their opponents ... as opposed to the regular season, when I needed a drumbeat to get their attention," Jackson said.

On defense, Mark Madsen played well against Kevin Garnett, though Garnett still had 23 points, 14 rebounds and seven assists. But the Lakers slowed down Wally Szczerbiak as Minnesota's scoring option; he attempted only nine shots and scored 15 points, a week after scoring 44 against Chicago.

"We're going to have to get Wally off; he's our second main scorer," Wolves point guard Troy Hudson said.

Szczerbiak wore down trying to defend Bryant and couldn't muster much offense. Saunders said the Wolves might go with a smaller lineup for Game 2, with Anthony Peeler guarding Bryant to get Szczerbiak more shots.

Saunders also said the only way to beat the Lakers is to fluster them and put doubt in their minds — two things that haven't been done over the last three years. But Saunders said the Lakers already

flustering O'Neal will prove almost impossible, considering everything he's endured over the last few days. But Saunders said the Lakers already have some doubts.

"They doubt whether anyone will beat them," he said, drawing laughter from reporters.

## Carl Lewis arrested for DUI

By The Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES** — Nine-time Olympic gold medalist Carl Lewis was arrested for investigation of misdemeanor driving under the influence after a one-car accident early Monday.

The track star wasn't injured in the crash on Interstate 110 north of the 91 freeway in South Los Angeles shortly after 2:30 a.m.

The California Highway Patrol found Lewis alone in a 2004 Maserati and noticed symptoms of alcohol intoxication, Officer Joseph Pace said.

Lewis, 41, failed a series of field sobriety tests and was arrested, Pace said. A breath test given later at a police station showed Lewis' blood-alcohol level was .08 percent, the level at which a driver is considered intoxicated in California.

Pace said it's possible Lewis struck a sound wall next to the freeway because his car was damaged on the right side.

Lewis, who was carrying a Texas driver's license, was released to a friend.

the women's course record of 2:20:43 last year, finished fourth.

Rop was in a pack of a dozen that trailed leader Vincent Kipsos through much of the early race before Kipsos dropped out by Mile 14. Nine Kenyans ran together at the 15-mile mark before some began falling away from the pack.

South African Ernst Van Dyk earned his third consecutive victory in the men's wheelchair race, finishing in 1:28:32 without a competitor in sight. Second-place finisher Krige Schabot struck a girl who tried to cross the course at the 11th mile; police said the girl's injuries did not appear to be life-threatening, and

Schabot also was knocked over.

Christina Ripp of Savoy, Ill., who finished second last year, won the women's wheelchair race in 1:54:57.

A field of 20,260 left the starting line at noon after the traditional serenade of "Young at Heart" by 95-year-old Johnny "The Elder" Kelley, who started a record 61 races, winning twice. An F-15 flyover followed the national anthem to start the Patriots Day race.

Temperatures climbed to 70 and a slight breeze blew at the start, as runners filled Hopkinton Common, some stretching, others listening to music on earphones. Vendors offered everything from lemonade and fried dough to mutual funds.



## INTERNATIONAL

# Saddam Hussein 'thug' arrested by coalition forces

BY PAMELA SAMPSON  
Associated Press Writer

**DOHA, Qatar** — Muhammad Hamza al-Zubaydi, known as Saddam Hussein's "Shiite Thug" for his role in Iraq's bloody suppression of the Shiite Muslim uprising of 1991, was arrested Monday, the U.S. Central Command said.

Bush administration officials have identified al-Zubaydi as one of nine Iraqis — including Saddam himself — sought for trial on charges of war crimes or

crimes against humanity.

A nurse by training and former member of Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council and regional commander of the central Euphrates district, al-Zubaydi was No. 18 on a list of the 55 most-wanted figures from the Saddam's regime. Iraqi opposition groups have accused him of the 1999 assassination of top Shiite cleric.

"This is very significant — he is one of the most hated men in the former regime," said Haider Ahmad, a London-based spokesman for the Iraqi National Congress,

one of the numerous parties that, in exile, had opposed Saddam's government.

Al-Zubaydi was an associate of Saddam since the early 1960s and had been retired from a public role in the leadership for about two years.

Central Command gave no further details on his arrest. The Iraqi National Congress, the leading anti-Saddam organization, said its forces arrested al-Zubaydi in Hillah, about 60 miles south of Baghdad, and turned him over to U.S. forces.

Ahmad said local people tipped forces to where al-Zubaydi was hiding with his son, and that the two were caught together.

"He was hiding in an abandoned, derelict area, not a built-up area," he said.

With Monday's capture, eight of the 55 most wanted are now in custody, though none of them is from the very top of the list. A ninth figure, Ali Hassan al-Majid — a top adviser to Saddam and known as "Chemical Ali" for his use of poison gas against Iraq's Kurdish minority — is believed to have been killed in an airstrike in Basra.

Al-Zubaydi, a former prime minister and deputy prime minister, was one of the key figures in suppressing the uprising of Iraq's Shiite majority that followed Iraq's defeat in the 1991 Gulf War. Tens of thousands of people died.

Al-Zubaydi was considered one of the most brutal members of Saddam's regime and was listed in a U.S. State Department report "Iraq: Crimes against Humanity, Leaders as Executioners." He was once featured in an Iraqi videotape brutalizing Shiite dissidents as a display of authority and encouragement to soldiers to be tough.

A Shiite himself, al-Zubaydi also presided over the destruction of the southern marshes in the 1990s, an action aimed against Shiite "Marsh Arabs" living there.

The marshes — roughly 3,200 square

miles — had provided the necessities of life for tens of thousands of Arab marsh dwellers for at least 1,000 years. They were destroyed through a large-scale water diversion project aimed at removing the ability of insurgents to hide there.

Al-Zubaydi served as prime minister from 1991 to 1993; as deputy prime minister from 1994; and as commander of Central Euphrates Region from 1998 to 2000. He was dismissed in 2001 as deputy prime minister and from the Baath Party Regional Command.

Iraqi opposition groups have accused him of assassinating Grand Ayatollah Mohammed Sadeq al-Sadr and his two sons in the holy city of Najaf in 1999.

Al-Zubaydi himself escaped several assassination attempts in the years following 1991.

He is the queen of spades in the deck of Saddam's henchmen distributed to U.S. forces. Saddam tops the list and was designated the ace of spades.

It was the second time in as many days the Iraqi National Congress took credit for the capture of most-wanted figures.

On Sunday, the congress said Saddam's son-in-law, Jamal Mustafa Abdallah Sultan al-Tikriti, and one of Saddam's bodyguards, both hiding in Syria, surrendered to the group.

On Saturday, Iraq's minister of higher education and scientific research, Abd al-Khalik Abd al-Gafar, was apprehended.

Other top arrests by coalition forces include Watban and Barzan Ibrahim Hasan al-Tikriti, two of Saddam's three half brothers; Hikmat Mizban Ibrahim al-Azzawi, the finance minister and deputy prime minister; science adviser Lt. Gen. Amer al-Saadi; and Samir Abd al-Aziz al-Najim, a senior figure in Saddam's Baath Party.

## Trying not to breathe



Vincent Yu/Associated Press

A man wearing a surgical mask to protect against SARS tours the "Big Buddha" statue outside Po Lin Buddhist monastery on Hong Kong's Lantau Island on Monday. Six more people have died of severe acute respiratory syndrome in Hong Kong, raising the death toll in the territory to 94, the government said on Monday.

# Defense official 'highly skeptical' of information

WAR, from page 1

tioned that the findings, which are being analyzed, do not confirm the presence of chemical weapons at that site.

Officials also raised suspicions about some of the scientist's claims that couldn't be immediately verified.

According to the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, the scientist said Iraq destroyed and buried chemical weapons and biological warfare equipment days before the war began March 20.

A senior defense official in Washington said the Pentagon was "highly skeptical" of information the scientist provided alleging that Iraq recently began cooperating with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network.

The Bush administration has claimed that Saddam's regime had ties with al-Qaida but they've provided little conclusive evidence.

So far, no new discoveries have been made in Iraq that link Saddam to al-Qaida, the defense official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

In Washington, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld declined to confirm the discovery, which was first reported in Monday's edition of The New York Times.

He said inspections were continuing in a search for evidence of weapons of mass destruction and that the government would "obviously look with favor on" Iraqis who provide information on hidden materials.

Rumsfeld said last week that U.S.

troops would need to rely on the help of Iraqis to find the weaponry. The Pentagon is offering rewards of up to \$200,000 for information on the whereabouts of Iraqi leaders and any hidden weapons.

Chief U.N. weapons inspector Hans Blix cautioned the Americans to treat information with skepticism, noting that some Iraqis may be motivated to claim more than they know.

"They have to examine everything critically," Blix told The Associated Press on Monday.

Blix's inspectors, working in Iraq between November until mid-March, didn't find any evidence that Iraq had weapons it claimed to have destroyed years ago.

But the Bush administration was unconvinced and has said one of the main reasons for the war was to disarm the country of the chemical, biological and nuclear weapons programs it believes Saddam was concealing.

So far, U.S. teams haven't found any conclusive evidence of the kind of weapons Iraq was banned from having after the 1991 Gulf War. Tests are still being conducted, however, and officials have said it was possible the Iraqis may have moved materials out of the country before the war.

The scientist told military officials that several months before the war, he watched as Iraqi officials buried chemical precursors for weapons and other sensitive material to conceal and protect them for future use. He said stockpiles of deadly agents



Dusan Vranic/Associated Press

A U.S. Army soldier stands guard during a protest in front of Baghdad's Palestine hotel Monday in Baghdad. Thousands of Shiites protested against the U.S. military presence in their holy city of Najaf.

and weapons technology had been transferred to Syria in the mid-1990s.

Four days before President Bush gave Saddam an ultimatum in March, Iraqi officials set fire to a warehouse where biological weapons research was conducted, the scientist said.

The scientist reportedly gave a note to the Army's 101st Airborne Division. The note was then passed to the inspection team, which found the scientist at his home.

A handful of U.S. search teams are in Iraq now, each with about a dozen members from various government agencies including the CIA, Pentagon, FBI and the Defense Intelligence Agency.

The teams have visited some 50 sites, including those selected before the war and some discovered as Army and Marine units pushed through the country during fighting, officials said.

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A weekly look at events and programs for Santa Monica mothers and mothers to be

## Can hospitals handle newborn emergencies?

**QUESTION:** How can I be sure the hospital where my baby will be delivered is equipped to handle any emergencies?

**ANSWER:** Fortunately, many Southern California hospitals today feature neonatal intensive care facilities — more than in many other parts of the country. However, not all hospitals have such capabilities. Please check with your physician to find out what types of facilities and services are available at the hospital where you will be delivering.

Even after a normal pregnancy, babies can experience unexpected life-threatening medical conditions at birth that require specialized treatment and medical equipment. Some of these conditions may include severe breathing problems and cardiovascular crisis. These can be treated in the NICU. In the event of some other serious problems, such as congenital heart disease, for which full treatment might not be immediately available, the NICU staff can stabilize the newborn's condition until appropriate surgical facilities can be arranged.

Babies who are born prematurely can suffer from a number of specific medical problems as a result, especially breathing difficulties because of their undeveloped lungs. Babies are considered premature if they are born one month early or are less than 36 weeks old (from the date of conception). Babies born at 40 weeks old or more are considered full-term.

At Saint John's, the youngest newborns we've treated were 24 weeks old, weighing less than one pound. These "preemies" not only suffer from underdeveloped lungs, but the function of all of their

body organs is undeveloped. They are also at risk of infection because their immune system is weak. Brain hemorrhaging also is a significant complication in premature newborns and the prevention of this is a major concern in an NICU. Premies often cannot feed normally and must be fed intravenously until they grow larger.

Proper medical treatment for premature newborns is critical, because preemies who are not well cared for can suffer from long-term health complications throughout the rest of their lives.

Today's modern NICU facilities feature state-of-the-art equipment to treat pulmonary diseases, as well as equipment that monitors babies' physiological and body chemistry, and devices that can deliver precise levels of medication. At Saint John's, our NICU medical staff includes neonatal respiratory therapists and critical care nurses specially trained to handle the specific medical needs of newborns.

If you are concerned about proper emergency medical treatment for your baby, you should contact your hospital's obstetrical department and schedule a tour of the facilities well in advance of your baby's due date. At Saint John's we recommend parents make a reservation with our parent education office for a tour approximately three months prior to expected delivery.

*(George Franco, M.D., is head of the neonatology department at Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica. For more information about Saint John's, call (310) 829-5511 or visit Saint John's Web site at [www.stjohns.org](http://www.stjohns.org).)*

## Guest Commentary

By George Franco, M.D.

## SCHEDULES:

### TUESDAY

#### Storytelling

**Main Library** - Toddler Story Time at 10:00 and 10:45am - Reed Park/West Auditorium/7th and Wilshire - 2 y.o.s with parent, \$10-45-8922  
**Fairview Branch** - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443  
**Lap Time** - 11:00am, April 29 - June 3 for 0-24 month olds  
**Twilight Story Time** - 7pm - an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.  
**Cuentos Para Pequeños** - 10am - Mar 4, April 8 and April 29-June 3 - a 6-wk program of stories in Spanish for 2-3 year olds.  
**Montana Avenue Branch** - 1704 Montana Ave - 310-829-7081  
**Family Story Time** - 7pm - Stories for the entire family.  
**School Age Stories and Crafts** - 3:30pm - every other Tuesday thru May 27, ages 5-9 years  
**Ocean Park Branch** - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804  
**Toddler Story Time** - 10:00 & 10:30am, April 15-May 20, ages 2-3 years, registration required, call for info.

#### Breastfeeding Group

**The Pump Station**, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 - 2:30pm

#### Yoga

**Yoga Baby (Venice)** - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 7:00-8:15pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) - 10-11am, \$9  
**Yoga Works**, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15, Mommy and Me - 1:45-3pm, \$15

### WEDNESDAY

#### Storytelling

**Fairview Branch** - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443  
**Lap Time** - 10 and 10:30am - 6 wk series for 0 - 24 months, April 16 - May 21. No registration required.  
**Montana Avenue Branch** - 1704 Montana Ave - 310-829-7081  
**Lap Time** - 10 and 10:30am - 6 wk series for 0 - 24 months, April 16 - May 21. No registration required.  
**Ocean Park Branch** - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804  
**Twilight Story Time** - 7:00 to 7:30pm - for parents with 3-5 year olds.  
**Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion** - 2 pm - ages 2-5 - 310-475-4144  
**Border's, Westwood** - 11am - 310-475-3444

#### Breastfeeding Group

**The Pump Station**, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 - 2:30pm

#### Yoga

**Yoga Baby (Venice)** - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 11:15am - 12:30pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) - 10-11am, Mommy and Me (infants) 1-2pm, \$9  
**Yoga Works**, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15  
**Yoga Garden**, 310-450-0133, [www.yogagardenstudios.com](http://www.yogagardenstudios.com), Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal - 6:30pm  
**The Pump Station**, Jennifer Triggs - 310-451-9051 (call first), Prenatal - 6:30 - 7:30pm, \$10

#### Other

**Puppetello** - 1:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested  
**SING ALONG!** - Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 2:30 pm. Sing along with musical performer Jackie Breger, ages 4 and up.

### THURSDAY

#### Storytelling

**Preschool Story Time** - 10:15am - Reed Park/West Auditorium/7th and Wilshire, Stories for ages 3-5 able to be on their own. \$10-45-8922  
**Fairview Branch** - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443  
**Toddler Story Time** - 10:30am - March 6-April 10 and May 1 - June 5 - 6 week series for 2-3 year olds with adult.  
**La Brea Del Cuento** - 7:00pm - Stories in Spanish for all ages.  
**Montana Avenue Branch** - 1704 Montana Ave - 310-829-7081  
**Toddler Story Time** - 10:15am - April 17 - May 22 - 6 week series for 2 year olds with adult.  
**Preschool Story Time** - 11:15am - for 3-5 year olds.  
**Ocean Park Branch** - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804  
**Lap Time** - 5:20 and 10:20am - stories and songs for 0-2 year olds.

#### Breastfeeding Group

**The Pump Station**, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 4-8 months, 1:00-2:30pm

#### Yoga

**Yoga Baby (Venice)** - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 7:00-8:15pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) - 10-11am, \$9  
**Yoga Works**, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15, Mommy and Me - 1:45-3pm, \$15

### FRIDAY

#### Yoga

**Yoga Baby (Venice)** - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 11:15am - 12:30pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) - 10-11am, Mommy and Me (infants) 1-2pm, \$9  
**Yoga Works**, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15

### SATURDAY

#### Storytelling

**Children's Book World**, 10580 W. Pico Blvd, LA, 310-559-800K, 10:30 am, ages 3-8 (April 12, 19, 26)  
**Barnes and Noble**, 3rd St. Promenade - Kid's Story Time - 10am - 310-260-9110  
**Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion** - 10:30am - ages 2-5 - 310-475-4144

#### Yoga

**Yoga Baby (Venice)** - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 9:15 - 10:30am, and 10:45 - noon, \$13  
**Santa Monica Yoga** - 1640 Ocean Park Blvd. - 310-396 4040, Prenatal yoga - 12:30 - 2:00pm, \$14

#### Other

**Puppetello** - 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

### SUNDAY

**Puppetello** - 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

### MONDAY

#### Storytelling

**Main Library** (programs for the Main Library are being presented in off-site locations during renovation) Lap Time for parents and children up to 24 months, 9:30am, Joslyn Park/Craft Room/653 Kensington - 310-452-6132 (no lap time April 14 and April 21)  
**Ocean Park Branch** - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804 **Cuentos Para Pequeños** - 11:15 am, March 24 - April 28 - Stories in Spanish for toddlers and pre-schoolers. No registration required.  
**Barnes and Noble** - 3rd St. Promenade - Toddler Story Time - 10am - 310-260-9110

#### Breastfeeding Group

**The Pump Station**, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 8-12 months, 10am - 11:30pm  
Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 - 2:30pm

#### Yoga

**Yoga Baby (Venice)** - 310-306-9381 Prenatal yoga - 11:15am - 12:30pm, \$13 Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) - 10-11am, Mommy and Me (infants) 1-2pm, \$9  
**Yoga Works**, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15  
**Yoga Garden**, 310-450-0133, [www.yogagardenstudios.com](http://www.yogagardenstudios.com)  
Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal - 6:30pm



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## CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Hive dwellers
  - 5 Saloon orders
  - 10 Queen — lace
  - 12 May-flower name
  - 13 Stop being somber
  - 15 Deli choice
  - 16 Targets of sit-ups
  - 17 Brewed beverage
  - 18 Uneven
  - 20 Cowled one
  - 21 Forest makeup
  - 22 Bohemian
  - 23 Burning crime
  - 25 Annoying fellow
  - 28 Manner of speaking
  - 31 Writer Martin
  - 32 Approached
  - 34 Garden area
  - 35 Pop's daughter
  - 36 Genetic stuff
  - 37 Show signs of exertion
  - 40 Spry
  - 41 Saw
- DOWN**
- 42 Extend a subscription
  - 43 Toboggan's kin
  - 1 Family of German composers
  - 2 Absorbed
  - 3 Inflame with love
  - 4 Jiffy
  - 5 Deep voice
  - 6 Shade source
  - 7 Book worker
  - 8 Let up name
  - 9 Furtive
  - 25 Part of Kareem's name
  - 26 Appear

|        |         |
|--------|---------|
| BOAS   | TIMID   |
| ACME   | ADORED  |
| REBA   | REMOVE  |
| BALLET | NIX     |
| SNEER  | AT      |
| VAN    | MUTE    |
| TOMES  | TATER   |
| OPAL   | WON     |
| DUG    | MINIBAR |
| ALE    | INSTYLE |
| TENANT | ORES    |
| ENTICE | BORE    |
| TAMER  | ANTE    |

### Yesterday's answer

- 11 Rink user
- 14 Ancient African land
- 19 Hard woods
- 20 Craze
- 24 Texas city
- 25 Part of Kareem's name
- 26 Appear
- 27 Enter town, like a gun-slinger
- 29 Trial
- 30 Household
- 33 Passé
- 35 Distort
- 38 Brewed beverage
- 39 Dict. entries

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| 42 |    |    |    |    |    | 43 |    |    |

4-22

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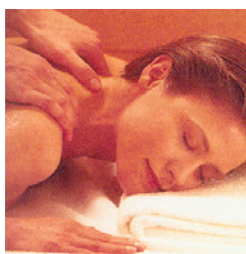
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**Furniture**

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**BEVERLY HILLS** ADJ. \$1550.00 Vintage 2 story 1920's duplex. Master Bedroom, entertainment center, 2bdm/1ba, living room, eat-in kitchen, bright, Mexican tile, faux fireplace, lots of architectural detail, hardwood floors. Permit street parking.

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**For Rent**

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**BRENTWOOD** \$1250.00 Traditional 2bdm/1ba. Upper, newer carpet, fridge, stove, laundry & parking. No pets.

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**HOLLYWOOD** Starting @ \$1025.00 to \$1050.00 Contemporary 1bdm/1ba. Pet ok, living room, new carpet & paint. Jacuzzi, gated underground parking Upper & lower units available, only some have fireplaces!

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**HOLLYWOOD** Starting @ \$1275.00 - \$1350.00. Contemporary 2bdm/2ba, pet ok, living room, new carpet & paint, jacuzzi, gated underground parking. Upper and lower units available, only some have fireplaces!

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**LOS FELIZ** \$1075.00 2+2, Courtyard sundeck, backyard w/lots of trees, exclusive professional building, A/C, carpets, D/W, fridge, stove, sauna, no eviction, bad credit OK.

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**MARINA DEL** Rey: Best value lease/option in Regatta. 9th floor, Marina views, 2 master suites, 2.5 baths, balcony, fireplace, full amenities building. \$3,950/mo. (310)880-0699/pg.

**SANTA MONICA** \$2650.00 Spacious 3 Bdrm/3 full bath. Top floor, high ceilings, sunny, bright, double patio, views of Santa Monica Mountains. Quiet neighborhood, North of Wilshire. Security parking available. (310)451-2178

**For Rent**

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**MDR PENINSULA** \$2150.00 2bdm/2ba w/parking. Great location. 1 building from beach. Private rooftop patio w/ocean view. 1 year lease. Will consider small pet w/extra deposit. (310)396-4443 ext.102.

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**N. HOLLYWOOD** \$985.00 2bdm/1ba, new carpet, new appliances, all new, gated parking, A/C, balcony, stove, large closets, pool, no pets, walk to shops.

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**N. HOLLYWOOD** \$985.00 2bdm/1ba, new carpet, new appliances, all new, gated parking, A/C, balcony, stove, large closets, pool, no pets, walk to shops.

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**PACIFIC PALISADES** \$1600.00 2bdm/1ba, hardwood floors, Townhouse style, laundry room, stove, refrigerator. (310)454-9045

**VENICE** \$1125 Spacious 1bdm/1ba w/large courtyard. 4 blocks to beach. Swimming pool, gated parking, new paint, new carpet, quiet neighborhood, laundry room. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 ext.102.

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**PALMS** \$925.00 2bdm/2ba Upper unit, beautiful tree lined street, quiet building, mint condition, light, carpet, covered parking.

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**SANTA MONICA** \$1261.00 2+1, cat ok, hardwood floors, laundry, prkn.

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**SANTA MONICA** \$1295.00/mo. Remodeled Apt. 2bdm/1ba 800 sq ft Near SMC & local hospital (310)229-5274

**SANTA MONICA** \$1395/mo. 2bdm/1ba. Near water garden. Contact Cy: (310)302-1961

**SANTA MONICA** \$1550.00 N. of Wilshire. Contemporary, spacious, 2bdm/2ba, stove, dishwasher, parking, pet OK, W/D in unit, mini-blinds, fridge.

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**SANTA MONICA** \$2150 3bdm/2ba. Apt. parking, laundry. Water. Close to SMC, Euclid, N. of Pico. No smoking, no pets. 1 year lease. Tel (310)319-1947 or (310)394-2324.

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**SANTA MONICA** \$650.00 Immaculate Unit, new carpet, original ceramic tile in kitchen and bath separate kitchen, laundry, facility, refrigerator, stove, street parking pets OK.

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**SANTA MONICA** \$750.00 Studio, cat ok, r/s, hardwood, prkn.

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**SANTA MONICA** \$795.00 Studio, pet ok, pool, quiet, month to month.

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**SANTA MONICA** \$895 1bdm/1ba, appliances, no pets, gas paid. 2535 Kansas Ave. #211, Santa Monica, CA. Manager in #101.

**SANTA MONICA** \$895.00 1+1, great location, r/s, prkn.

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## For Rent

SM \$2500 Gorgeous 2bdrm/2ba. Huge, balcony, facing the ocean, parking, hardwood floors, wooden ceiling (310)399-1273

SM 2BDRM/1.5BA \$2150.00 2 story, wood floors, newly remodeled, french doors, prking, no pets. (310)496-4900.

STUDIO CITY \$1000.00 1bdrm/1ba New w/d in each unit, new bbq and sun patio w/ fountain, central air & heat, mirrored wardrobe doors.

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STUDIO CITY \$850.00 Contemporary lower 1bdrm/1ba cat ok, D/W, gorgeous building, gated parking, patio, A/C, tiled kitchen, new linoleum bath.

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VALLEY VILLAGE \$750.00 1bdrm/1ba, super quiet bldg, BBQ, vertical blinds, new carpet very clean, parking laundry, gated entrance, stove, swimming pool.

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VENICE \$900 1bdrm/1ba Bungalow w/porch. Newly renovated w/lots of charm. 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. (310)396-4443 x102.

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WLA \$1100+utilities. 2bdrm/1 3/4 behind home. Very private. Partly furnished. (323)935-0666.

WeHo \$750.00 Classic New York style brick building hardwood floors, pet ok, stove, ceiling fan, crown molding. Close to shops and restaurants. Parking available.

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## For Rent

VENICE BEACH \$1150 Charming 1bdrm w/large balcony. Great location, 1 block to beach, paid parking available. New paint and carpet. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 x102.

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VENICE BEACH \$2,400 Residential loft, completely renovated. 1bdrm/2ba, oak wood floors, high ceilings, rooftop patio, balcony, 2 car parking, lots of windows, lots of storage. Great looking unit. Ask about lease incentives. 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. (310)466-7896.

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VENICE BEACH \$695.00 Very nice, studio w/fresh paint & carpet. 1/2 block from beach. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4437

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VENICE BEACH \$925.00 Single in historic brick building on the beach. Recently remodeled w/new kitchen and bathroom, exposed brick walls, new carpet and paint. 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. (310)450-1934

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VENICE BEACH Single \$850 Great location, very sunny, 1 block from beach, 1 year lease, no pets.

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VENICE BEACH Studio \$825 Tudor style building on walk street. Great 1/2 block to beach. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)401-0027.

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## For Rent

VENICE DUPLEX \$1525.00 2bdrm/1ba w/hardwood floors, W/D hookups, off street parking, fresh paint and lots of natural light. Close to beach, shops and restaurants. 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. (310)396-4443 ext. 102.

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W. HOLLYWOOD \$1450.00 Townhouse 2bdrm/1.5ba. Front unit, new paint, new blinds, lots of kitchen cabinets. Off street parking, laundry facilities on premises, dishwasher, hardwood floors, refrigerator, stove.

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WeHo \$750.00 Character, gas stove, fridge, carport, laundry, secure entry, new carpet new linoleum floors. Close to the Grove.

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WeHo \$795.00 Spanish 1bdrm/1ba, high ceilings, stove, fridge, crown moldings, w/c, cat, carpet.

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WLA \$1350 On Barrington near National. Very spacious, 2bdrm upper. Large closets, closed garage. New carpet, crown molding, appliances. Charming older building in attractive WLA area. Info/Owner (310)828-4481.

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## Houses For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$1050.00 Guest House, walk to beach, pet ok, w/d, on prvt walk street.

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## Houses For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$1125.000 Cottage, across from beach, hardwood flrs, eat-in kitchen.

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SANTA MONICA \$780.00 Guest House, pool, r/s, quiet, yard, utilities incld.

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SANTA MONICA \$895.00 Guest House, r/s, quiet, quiet, prking.

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SANTA MONICA \$950.00 Triplex, bungalow-style, pet ok, remodeled, patio.

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ROOMMATE WANTED Share 2bdrm/2ba apt. Nice area. Female preferred. On site laundry, pool, jacuzzi, gym. \$850/mo plus 1/2 utilities. MDR (310)305-3596.

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WESTWOOD S.M. Blvd/405 vicinity; approx. 170 sq ft, private 24 hr ground floor access, parking and utilities included. \$500/month. Call Bob (310)428-7376.

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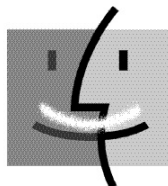
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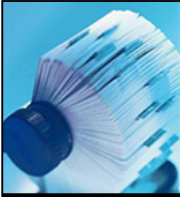
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## SANTA MONICA °SCENE your guide to dining, entertainment and events

# TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2003

**°EVENTS**

**RUSTY'S SURF RANCH.** 256 Santa Monica Pier. Walls and ceiling are lined with one of the area's largest collections of pre-1970s surfboards. Cover varies. Full bar. All ages. (310)393-7386, Saturday - Billy Vera & the Beaters, Pure.

**SENSA** (5 dolla' Fridays) at Sugar! Resident DJs Liza Richardson, Raul Campos, Valida, and Kasey Goto throwin' down it's-all-about-the-music-booty-shakin'-deep-bangin'-house-grooves. 10pm to 2am, 814 Broadway, cross street Lincoln Blvd. Only \$5. (310)899-1989.

**MAGICOPOLIS** presents HOCUS POCUS! (Fish Bones Choke Us). The stage explodes with a colorful mix of Magic, Special Effects, Sleight of Hand, Comedy and Music that's sure to delight audiences of all ages. At MAGICOPOLIS, 1418 Fourth Street, Santa Monica. Fridays & Saturdays at 8pm, \$20. Saturday & Sundays at 2pm, \$15. For tickets call 310-451-2241.

**SANTA MONICA STRUTTERS**, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Santa Monica Strutters meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8 a.m. To 10 a.m., at Santa Monica Place, Fourth St. and Broadway Ave. in Santa Monica.

**"WOMEN IN TRANSITION"** weekly support group forming for women 55 and older. Fridays, 2pm to 3:30pm. Learn to cope with life transitions and develop skills for living with change. Pre-registration required. Call (310)576-2550, ext. 217. Center for Healthy Aging, 1527 4th Street, Santa Monica.

**SENIOR SUPPERS** - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. To 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

**PULSE** - Through kinesthesia, sight, sound, touch, taste, and smell, pathways clear for your deeper embodiment and wider expression. Each session is supported by live music with Christo Pellani of Soundformation Music and/or by recorded music. Altars devoted to the senses, spirit and play enrich the environment and amplify your awareness. Third Friday of the month, 7:30 p.m. To 9:30 p.m., Continuum Studio, 1629 18th Street #7, (North of Olympic in Santa Monica) Cost \$12.00. For more information please call Kara Masters (310)455-2743.

**°DINING**

**EL CHOLO** - Famous for award-winning margaritas & green corn tamales. Enjoy our lively bar, comfy dining rooms or sunny patio for lunch and dinner daily. 1025 Wilshire Blvd., 310.889.1106

**LIBRARY ALEHOUSE** - A gathering place for great food, hand crafted beer and friendly service. Beautiful garden patio. Daily specials. 2911 Main St., 310.314.4855

**THE LOBSTER** - A legend redefined! A local favorite serving classic American seafood, specializing in live Main Lobster. Open 7 days serving lunch & dinner. 1602 Ocean Ave., Reservations recommended. 310.458.9294

**OMELETTE PARLOR** - Best breakfast in L.A. This is where the locals go! 2732 Main St., 310.399.7892

**PANINI GARDEN** - "The Locals Favorite" for

gourmet European breakfast, lunch & dinner. Featuring fresh crepe, panini grilled sandwiches and delightful salads. dine on our charming patio, or call for delivery. 2715 Main St., 310.399.9939

**THE SLICE** - New York style pizzeria also serving pasta, salads, subs and wings. Voted best pizza in Los Angeles by AOL. Sit on our beautiful patio for great pizza and movie star sightings. 915 Wilshire Blvd, for fast delivery call 310.351.7542

**WOLFGANG PUCK CAFE** - Enjoy Wolfgang's favorite entrees, famous wood-fired pizzas, pastas, fresh salads, sandwiches, and of course, unforgettable desserts! Fun Happy Hour: 1323 Montana Ave., 310.393.0290

**SONNY MCLEAN'S** - A perfect Irish pub that attracts a variety of people. It's the hotspot to kick back, enjoy a beer and watch a ball game. Good Happy Hour specials. 2615 Wilshire Blvd., 310.828.9839

**ORIGINAL THAI DISHES** - Best Thai food in Santa Monica! Family owned restaurant since 1980. A local favorite serving classic Pad Thai noodles, pineapple fried rice and seafood specialties. All dishes can be made vegetarian. 1910 Wilshire Blvd., 310.828.5634

**EARTH, WIND & FLOUR** - "Great Italian cooking. Just slightly west of Italy." This restaurant celebrates 22 years in the neighborhood for its friendliness and freshness. Pizza, pastas, salads, subs and more. Lunch and dinner specials and happy hour. 2222 Wilshire Blvd., 310.829.7829

**ACADIE'S** - Voila! Fresh from the south of France, Homemade Crepes have just arrived in Santa Monica! Located right off the 3rd St. Promenade, this authentic French storefront radiates charm and ambience with indoor seating and a quaint side patio for an outdoor experience. The menu offers a range of options to suit your individual mood. 213 Arizona Ave. (310)395-1120

**MOVIE °GUIDE**

### LOEWS CINIPLEX BROADWAY CINEMA

**1441 Third St. at Broadway**  
**Phone Booth (R)** 11:45, 12:55, 2:00, 3:05, 4:10, 5:15, 6:20, 7:20, 8:30, 9:35, 10:40, 11:45. **A Mighty Wind (PG-13)** 12:00, 1:10, 2:20, 3:30, 4:40, 5:50, 7:00, 8:10, 9:20, 10:30, 11:40.

**MANN CRITERION**

**1313 Third St.**  
**Bringing down the House (PG-13)** 11:30, 2:05, 4:50, 7:35, 10:20. **Basic (R)** 1:50, 7:10. **Chasing Papi (PG)** 11:45, 2:10, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30, 11:45. **Old School (R)** 11:20, 4:40, 9:40. **A Man Apart (R)** 11:35, 2:15, 5:05, 7:50, 10:30. **House of 1,000 Corpses (R)** 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:25, 10:00. **Malibu's Most Wanted (PG-13)** 11:15, 1:45, 4:15, 7:15, 9:45, 12:00.

**AMC THEATRE SM 7**

**1310 3rd Street**  
**Anger Management (PG-13)** 11:15, 1:55, 4:50, 7:45, 10:30. **Bulletproof Monk (PG-13)** 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:30, 10:10. **What a Girl Wants (PG)** 11:20, 1:45, 4:20, 7:10, 9:40. **Head of State (PG-13)** 1:45, 4:10, 7:05, 9:35. **The Pianist (R)** 12:10, 3:30, 7:05, 10:20. **Holes (PG)** 11:15, 1:55, 4:50, 7:45, 10:30.

**LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE**

**1314 Wilshire Blvd.**  
**Laurel Canyon (R)** 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45. **The Good Thief (R)** 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30.

**LAEMMLE MONICA**

**1332 2nd St.**  
**Bend it Like Beckham (PG-13)** 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20. **Assassination Tango (R)** 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45. **Chicago (PG-13)** 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45. **Talk to Her (R)** 2:00, 4:40, 7:15, 9:55.



## BACK PAGE

# Jazz great Nina Simone dies in France at age 70

BY NEKESA MUMBI MOODY

AP Music Writer

**NEW YORK** — Nina Simone, whose deep, raspy, forceful voice made her a unique figure in jazz and later helped chronicle the civil rights movement, died Monday at her home in France, according to her personal manager. She was 70.

Clifton Henderson, who was at Simone's bedside at her death, said she died of "natural causes" in her sleep after a long illness. He refused to provide the name of the town where she lived.

"She inspired other singers to do what they believed in," Henderson said, saying the musician would also be remembered for her activism. "She'll definitely be looked at as a civil rights movement leader."

Norah Jones, India.Arie, Peter Gabriel, Sade and Aretha Franklin, who rerecorded one of Simone's most famous songs, the anthem "To Be Young, Gifted and Black," were among the artists who cited her as an influence.

"She was ahead of her time as a concert-level piano player who sang, wrote and spoke her mind," India.Arie wrote in an email to The Associated Press. "I aspire to be more like her."

Born Eunice Kathleen Waymon in 1933 in North Carolina, Simone was one of eight children in a poor family. She began playing the piano at age 4 and was classically trained, attending the Juilliard School in New York for one year. She had hoped to attend the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, but was rejected — one of many disappointments she would attribute to racism.

She turned to singing jazz and popular music as a way to make money, performing in nightclubs in Philadelphia and Atlantic City, N.J. In the late 1950s Simone recorded her first tracks, including "Plain Gold Ring" and "Don't Smoke in Bed." But she gained fame in 1959 with her recording of "I Loves You Porgy," from the opera "Porgy & Bess."

Simone later wove the turbulent times of the 1960s into her music. In 1963, after the church bombing that killed four young black girls in Birmingham, Ala., and the slaying of Medgar Evers, she wrote "Mississippi Goddam," whose searing lyrics included the lines: "Oh but this whole country is full of lies, You're all gonna die and die like flies."

**"She was ahead of her time as a concert-level piano player who sang, wrote and spoke her mind. I aspire to be more like her."**

— INDIA.ARIE  
Singer

After the killing of The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., she recorded "Why? The King of Love Is Dead."

"That's what separated Nina from the other singers," friend and jazz concert promoter George Wein told the AP on Monday. "Nina took civil rights and the movement, the fight to another level, and made it part of her persona."

In a 1998 interview, Simone blamed racism in the United States for her decision to live abroad, saying that as a black person, she had "paid a heavy price for fighting the establishment."

She left the United States in 1973 and lived in the Caribbean and Africa before settling in Europe. She didn't return to the United States until 1985 for a series of concerts.

Wein said she was extremely bitter.

"She was a black woman who never could relate to the position of what it was to be black in America. She couldn't understand it," he said. "She was an unhappy person."

Simone enjoyed perhaps her greatest success in the 1960s and '70s, with songs such as "I Want a Little Sugar in My Bowl" and "Four Women," a song about four black women with varying skin colors and lifestyles. One of the verses reads, "My skin is brown-And my manner is tough-I'll kill the first mother I see ... What do they call me? My name is PEACHES."

Though she was a gifted songwriter, Simone also recorded songs from artists as diverse as Leonard Cohen and the Bee Gees and made them her own. Perhaps one of her more popular covers was her version of "House of the Rising Sun."

While she had a regal presence onstage, she could often be temperamental; she had a reputation for chewing out audience members who interrupted her performances with conversation or loud drinking or talking.

"As an entertainer, she had the world in her hands, but she never knew how to grab it," said Wein.

Sometimes called "High Priestess of Soul," she remained a top concert draw in her later years.

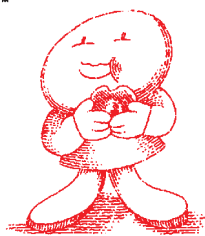
However, she was quite frail. At a 2001 concert at Carnegie Hall, she had to be helped to the stage, and was later seen sitting backstage in a wheelchair.

Yet Wein called the performance, which ran a little over an hour, one of her greatest. Fans wildly applauded every song, and demanded an encore after she left the stage — to which Simone responded by returning and shouting, "Go home!"

"This was one of the most amazing evenings I had ever seen in my years," he said.

Simone, who was divorced twice, is survived by a daughter, Lisa — a singer who goes by Simone. She's starring in Broadway's "Aida" and has recorded with the group Liquid Soul.

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