

FREE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 233

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

00000

SUPER LOTTO PLUS

2-19-31-33-24

Megamember: 19

Jackpot: \$7 million

FANTASY 5

13, 14, 1, 32, 31

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 7, 7, 7

Evening picks: 2, 2, 9

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 11, Money Bags

2nd Place: 08, Gorgeous George

3rd Place: 02, Lucky Star

Race Time: 1:46.35



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
by Chuck Shepard

A labor tribunal in Denmark concluded in May that the rule about not drinking alcoholic beverages on the job, issued by management of MJ Mason Co. (Broenderslev, Denmark), was illegal and could not be enforced. The Mason owner had issued a no-drinking rule, but since he did not follow the procedure in the union contract, it was declared void, at least as to employees' break times.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Hell is a half-filled auditorium."

— Robert Frost



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Homeless shelter location approved

But council members heed resident concerns and alter the project

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

A homeless shelter will be built at Cloverfield Boulevard and Michigan Avenue, though it won't feature all the components originally envisioned by the area's largest provider of social services.

After a marathon, seven-hour meeting that stretched into the early morning hours Wednesday, the City Council voted 5-1 to give \$7.4 million to the Ocean Park Community Center to buy and renovate the building that will become the shelter.

However, council members decided to spend the \$1.8 million that the Big Blue Bus will pay for displacing OPCC to separate the

center's daytime services from its nighttime services by moving them to a new location near the spot of the current shelter.

The deal represents a compromise over an earlier city proposal that drew fire from a handful of neighborhood groups and failed to attain the endorsement of the city's Social Services Commission, which oversees homeless issues.

That proposal called for using the 33,700-square-foot property, located at 1751 Cloverfield Blvd., to house 55 homeless people per night and provide services to 250 more during the day.

Under the compromise, the Cloverfield shelter will only be used to house people at night. Council members asked city staff to examine a different location on the Big Blue Bus site where the daytime facilities could be housed

See SHELTER, page 5

Woman's case against Blue Bus sent to jurors

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Lawyers made their closing arguments Wednesday in the case of an elderly woman who blames City Hall for a spill she took last year while riding on a Big Blue Bus.

Jurors will resume deliberations today. They must decide if City Hall is responsible for nearly \$300,000 in medical bills and an unspecified amount of pain and suffering.

Olive Karony, 85, broke her hip last July while riding the No. 3 bus from the local YMCA to her Montana Avenue home. Gloria Keeling, one of her daughters, sat beside her in the courtroom Wednesday as lawyers made their final arguments.

"The issue in this case is whether a driver has a duty to wait for an elderly passenger to be seated or secured before the bus moves," said Catherine Lerer, one of Karony's lawyers. "That is the only issue."

Lerer said bus driver Victor Sanchez of Palmdale, accelerated too quickly before Karony had a chance to sit down. She and fellow attorney Daniel McGee argued in the week-long trial that City Hall is responsible for the accident because it failed to properly train its driver.

"This is about the loss of Mrs. Karony's golden years."

— DANIEL MCGEE
Plaintiff's attorney

But Deputy City Attorney Norman Hirata told jurors that City Hall has no responsibility for the unfortunate accident. He argued that Karony was seated when the bus went into motion

See BIG BLUE BUS, page 5

Go fly a kite!



Del Pastrana/Daily Press
Santa Monica resident Jim Guercio took some time Wednesday afternoon to fly his kite on the beach.

Latin flavored tunes featured on pier tonight

By Daily Press staff

Tonight's free concert at the Santa Monica Pier features cutting-edge, Latin-inspired music.

Presented in association with the Latin Alternative Music Conference taking place this year in Los Angeles, the concert features Latin-leaning bands from around the world.

Acida, a musical partnership between two of Argentina's most talented Latin pop artists, Alina Gandini and Tweety Gonzalez, fuses tango, jazz, rock and bossa nova.

Their music is electronic, though both insist they are not an electropop band, but rather a duo who uses technology to create good songs.

The group Sidestepper is headed by Richard Blair, a producer from England who blends the urban cool sounds of Europe with salsa's seductive rhythms. Blair

employs a full band of horns, vocals and percussion. He perfected the merging of hi-tech, beat-heavy drum and bass with traditional Latino percussion and horns to create a new progressive style of Latin dance music.

Los Amigos Invisibles, a lounge party band from Venezuela, will close the event with their fusion of French house music and tropical swing.

The band has been together since 1991 and recently released "Arepa 3000," described by critics as the consummate party CD.

The Los Amigos include Mauricio Arcas on the percussion, Julio Briceno on vocals Armando Figueredo on keyboards, Jose Luis Parado on guitar and Juan Manuel Roura on drums.

Tonight's concert runs from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the parking deck of the Santa Monica Pier.

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HOROSCOPE

Sort through invites, Pisces



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2003

Others seek you out. You might want to take your time making decisions, especially if you feel confused. Juggling your personal relationships with your must relationships could take unusual effort this year. Your creativity will come forward if you allow your imagination to flourish. Don't hold back, especially with stream-of-consciousness discussions. You also seem to be able to gain financially. If you are single, you will have many people around you. Be careful whom you choose to have close, as not everyone is as trustworthy as you would like. Get to know a suitor very well, as the wool could easily be pulled over your eyes. If you are attached, don't always expect to agree, especially about finances. Juggle your different needs. PISCES helps you make money.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Read between the lines. You see a situation differently. You might want to think through a decision before launching into action. In essence, your perspective might be quite unique and a source of debate. Encourage discussions rather than misunderstandings. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Aim for exactly what you want, knowing full well the implications of what is on your mind. You can be sure others have different views, which might not be reconcilable. Keep your long-term goals in mind before doing or deciding on anything. Tonight: Where the action is.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Keep reaching out, making what you want happen. Your ability to realize what you want from others could make a big difference. Laugh and play along with someone who might be too serious and needs to lighten up. You also might need a dose of lightening up. Tonight: A must show.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ You seem able to handle extremes well. Your sense of what might be workable could change once you get others' feedback. Surprisingly enough, your perspective evolves through discussion, creating a stronger idea or package. Tonight: Do needed research.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ When you cannot come up with an idea, know that someone else will. You might find out that someone who really cares will go out of his or her way for you. You cannot tell someone how to express his or her caring. Accept a gesture. Tonight: Sort out your finances.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ If you want, go out of your way to find out what might be going on with a child or loved one. What someone offers might be too good to say "no" to. A friend makes suggestions that help bring others together. Don't fuss. Tonight: Where the action is.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You might want to mellow out and do some thinking about your work. Investigate the possibilities that surround a friendship or someone you care about. A boss could be very serious about what he or she wants. Tonight: Think work.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Try visualizing more of what you want. Think through a decision that involves a child or loved one. Many people have different opinions. Know that everyone could be right, but the solution lies elsewhere. Tonight: Tap into your creativity.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Stick with your priorities. Your family could be demanding, but you certainly know how to handle the pressure. In some ways, you might feel as if you're in a pressure cooker — everyone wants something different. Tonight: Focus on family and friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ You could be overwhelmed by what comes down. Think carefully about what you want. You might be juggling two different interests and not sure exactly what will work. Do more listening. A partner needs your ear. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Investigate what you need to do to balance your budget. Matters seem a bit off-kilter, though you might not be sure what to do. A friend could mean well but direct you in the wrong direction. Tonight: Your treat.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You should think carefully about your different options. A boss could be unusually difficult or touchy. Realize what you want and what needs to happen. A partner might enjoy playing devil's advocate! Tonight: Sort through your invitations.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Prostate Cancer Climb to take on Mt. Kilimanjaro

By Daily Press staff

The Prostate Cancer Research Institute, one of the leading educational support organizations in America, announced that preparations are in full swing for the Second Hap Weyman Memorial Prostate Cancer Climb to Mt. Kilimanjaro, Tanzania.

Santa Monica resident Randy Williams, whose father climbed to the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro when he was 60, will join a team of 28 international climbers to scale the highest mountain in Africa in early September 2003. Randy wants to duplicate his father's feat, while also raising awareness and funds for prostate cancer research and public education.

"With 30,000 annual deaths, prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among men," Williams said. "200,000 new patients diagnosed with prostate cancer each year. That's in America alone. Sickening numbers especially considering it's highly treatable if detected early. If we can help save one life by drawing public awareness about being pro-active in matters of health, this considerable physical undertaking will be worth it all."

Williams is a veteran journalist and has worked in television broadcasting and event management for sporting events including the Olympics and World Cup Soccer in Russia, China, Japan, Mexico, Australia, Spain and Korea.

Mt. Kilimanjaro, the fabled 19,400-foot peak in Tanzania, will be the second high-altitude target for a team of climbers, including prostate cancer survivors, to raise \$ 1 million for prostate cancer research and education. The first PCRI-led team climbed Mt. Aconcagua, Argentina in 2001, the highest mountain in the Western Hemisphere. It was the start of a unique fundraising and awareness movement known as the Prostate Cancer Climb.

The Prostate Cancer Climb was established by Dr. Terry Weyman, a Los Angeles chiropractor whose father, Hollywood television director Hap Weyman, died of the disease in 1990. Weyman's goal is to show that prostate cancer needn't be a death sentence and that through proper awareness and education, prevention can be possible.

The Kilimanjaro team includes climbers from Ireland, Canada, South Africa, and the United States. Four of the climbers are women. For more information about the Prostate Cancer Research Institute, log on to www.pcri.org or www.pcri.org. For more information on the Prostate Cancer Climb, log on to www.prostatecancerclimb.com.

Seeing stars: SMC's astronomy series continues

By Daily Press Staff

"California Stars" — which examines how California has been the land of opportunity for astronomers — will be the feature show Sept. 5, 12 and 19 at Santa Monica College's Friday night astronomy series.

The guest lecture in September will be "Surveying the Sky." Schuyler Van Dyk of NASA will talk about his agency's Two Micron All Sky Survey project at CalTech, which is designed to close the gap between our current technical capability and our knowledge of the near-infrared sky. The guest lecture will be Friday, Sept. 26.

The feature show and guest lecture are at 8 p.m. Each is preceded by "The Night Sky Show" at 7 p.m., which re-creates the night sky and provides the latest information on space exploration.

"The Night Sky Show" and "California Stars" will be held in the John Drescher Planetarium, which features the state-of-the-art Digistar projection system. It is located on the second floor of Drescher Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd. "Surveying the Sky" will be in Room 140 of the Science Complex, 1900 Pico Blvd.

Tickets are \$5 each or \$9 for the double bill, with discounts for children and senior citizens. For information, call (310) 434-4223 or (310) 434-3000.

SMC faculty art show starts Sept. 2

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica College Annual Faculty Art Show, featuring a wide range of works in various media, will be at the college's Pete and Susan Barrett Art Gallery on Sept. 2-Oct. 4.

The opening reception is scheduled from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 5. Gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday. The gallery is located at SMC's Madison campus on Santa Monica Boulevard at 11th Street.

For information, call (310) 434-3434.

surf report

All swells — the SW, tropical S and NW wind swell — begin to back down today. Expect some knee-waist high sets with South-facing breaks the best.

OUTLOOK: NW wind swell is on the rise for the next few days. A new SSW starts to arrive Friday and brings some waist-high sets. Expect a better swell next week.

Get stoked on an epic sesh? Get burned by a bad report? Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

Today the water is:

65°

Sunrise - 6:17 a.m.
Sunset - 7:54 p.m.

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	2:32	-0.8	1:39	2.5	9:11	4.0	7:55	6.7
SUNDAY	3:14	-1.1	2:29	2.3	9:48	4.3	8:41	6.8
MONDAY	3:53	-1.1	3:15	2.0	10:22	4.4	9:24	6.8
TUESDAY	4:29	-1.0	3:58	1.9	10:55	4.5	10:05	6.5
WEDNESDAY	5:03	-0.7	4:40	1.8	11:27	4.6	10:44	6.1
THURSDAY	5:34	-0.2	5:23	1.8	11:58	4.7	11:22	5.6
FRIDAY	6:04	0.3	6:08	1.9	N/A	N/A	12:30	4.7

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The Q Line

A proposed homeless shelter at Cloverfield Boulevard and Michigan Avenue has many residents upset because they think transients will loiter, panhandle and engage in other anti-social behavior in their neighborhoods.

The daytime shelter, which is operated by the Ocean Park Community Center, currently is located at Sixth Street and Colorado Avenue. But OPCC wants to move to a larger facility on the east side.

The agency may have a tough time

getting approval from City Hall since opposition to the idea seems to grow each day.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know: "Should the homeless shelter be moved to the city's eastside? If not, where is the best place to put it?"

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 first about the wording of your response.

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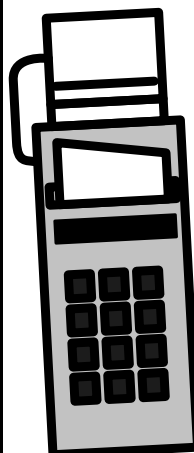
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LETTERS

Betting man should 'stick to his day job'

Editor:

In his letter, (SMDP, Aug. 6., page 4) Bellomo upbraided me for blaming the Reagans for the homeless problems, i.e., "Was it really fair to place all the blame on President and Mrs. Reagan?" I guess as fair as Bellomo in Oregon making erroneous "bets" about me in his letter. Everyone is entitled to express their opinion.

I am not simplistic (or "simple minded" as he put it) in my thinking as to affix the entire homeless problems to the Reagans. If Mr. Bellomo understood that from my letter then let me clarify. I firmly believe that the homeless, mentally ill and substance addicted are a direct result of the closing of the mental health programs and hospitals that took place during Reagan's administration and began there.

And I am fully aware of the secession to the presidency of the Bushes and President Clinton, none of whom seriously addressed this growing problem. And if Nancy Reagan's "Just Say No" campaign would have worked it would have been wonderful. However, the birth rate would also go down if folks just said no, but we know this is unrealistic — and it's even more unrealistic to ask an alcoholic or drug user to "Just Say No." To reiterate, the Reagans alone did not cause the problem, nor did I intend to say so.

Mr. Bellomo also would lose every "bet" he made in this letter. Since he made his "bets" based one letter to the editor, I can tell you that reading that letter did not give him any in-depth knowledge of me, my beliefs or my associations.

I am not a member of the ACLU nor would I blindly support any group. I have been a fighter for human rights all my life and I would never advocate any system that forced anyone anywhere.

Had Mr. Bellomo made these simple minded assumptions or "bets" with any accuracy (not likely as he is wrong on all his "bets") I would suggest to him that he has a career ahead of him as a psychic. As it is, he better stick to his day job up there in Oregon.

Marilyn Brennan
Santa Monica

Reasons why OPCC site is no good

Editor:

The Los Angeles Times on May 11 called Sunset Park "The last Ozzie and Harriet area on the westside." Sunset Magazine calls us "Sweet Sunset Park." We call it home.

Shortly after we came to Santa Monica in 1989, we encountered a problem in Palisades Park caused by a well-meaning effort to feed homeless persons in the park. The program was eminently successful in attracting homeless people from afar, but Santa Monica taxpayers no longer enjoyed their park. It took years and lots of taxpayer dollars to restore Palisades Park to its role as a restful area for its own citizens.

Now Santa Monica is being asked a bus garaging problem by lending/granting \$7 million plus to OPCC to acquire a facility at Michigan and Cloverfield, and vacating their downtown presence. According to the Aug. 1 SMDP, already 95 percent of Santa Monica's homeless are from elsewhere. This is not a local issue.

Why the OPCC proposal is a bad idea:

1. Downtown doesn't eliminate its homeless problems by closing 612 Colorado and moving this unsightly vagrant magnet 1.5 miles to the east.

2. Santa Monica doesn't need to attract at least 200 more homeless transients.

3. Sunset Park and the Pico neighborhood residents don't want to add to problems we are already having with gangs, graffiti and ally pickers.

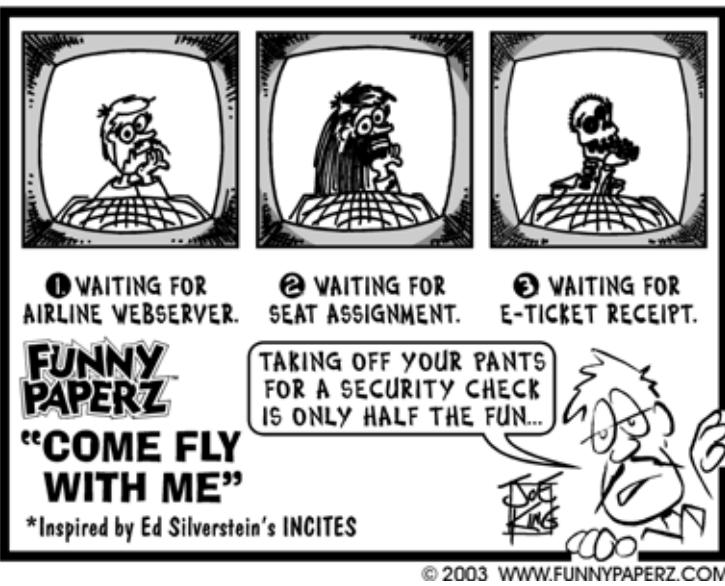
4. Santa Monica City Council and administrative people are elected or appointed to serve Santa Monicans — not unfortunates from miles around.

5. If Big Blue Bus needs to grow, merge the operation with MTA, consolidate facilities, use the proceeds for needed services and reduce Santa Monica's city payroll.

6. A lot of us wonder how Santa Monica finances have suddenly improved from earlier this year, when budget cuts were imposed left and right and voters had to pass a special school tax just to keep educating out own kids.

Arguing that 23 other locations would cost more than 1751 Cloverfield is specious — the real issue is where the undertaking is right for Santa Monica residents.

Frank and Eileen Fraser
Santa Monica



Total Recall: Californians paying price for sideshow



TITTINGER'S TAKE

By Michael J. Tittinger

Being that it's been a few years since a really good scandal made Los Angeles the focus of the nation's attention (I mean, I actually saw a teen wearing a Buffalo Bills #32 jersey the other day. O.J. nostalgia already?), thank God Arnold Schwarzenegger decided to run for governor, crashing through the capital door to save the day and kick-start the most surreal election season since the Florida ballot debacle in 2000.

With Kobe Bryant laying low and taking his show to Colorado, the man who would be governor has the nation's spotlights focused squarely on the Golden State, and more specifically, his home base of Santa Monica.

Inevitably facing comparisons to the state's last actor-turned-governor — Ronald Reagan — Schwarzenegger has already coined some standard media answers for when a political question might indeed call into question his issues acumen.

"Can you repeat the question?"

"I didn't hear the question."

"I'm having trouble hearing you."

It really harkens back to his childhood, most likely, when kids pretend not to hear something they don't want to hear. Yet, these are replies Schwarzenegger has been employing in his television interviews, especially when the topic turns to such personal issues such as financial disclosure. Sure, they work with tenuous satellite hookups, but it might get a little tricky should Arnold actually engage in a televised debate.

"Um, I can't hear you. My earpiece is not working."

Or maybe we should be concerned about his hearing, though he claims to hear all the cries and frustrations of his 34 million potential constituents. As long as we don't ask how much money he's banked we should be okay.

"Well, it is California," a co-worker remarked with a shrug the other day, trying to put the whole recall election circus into some sort of neat little box of perspective. "I mean, Arnold doesn't know the issues, but he'll probably win."

As much by default.

Gray Davis continues to insult the 8 million voters he boasts picked him as their governor last November, as well as the rest of us. First, he acts like a Catholic school nun and attempts to straddle voters with a sense of guilt because the recall election will cost the state in excess of \$60

million. Of course, most people blame him for the financial wasteland the state seems to be mired in, not to mention the necessity to have a recall election in the first place.

Second, he insults our intelligence by lobbying to have his name added to the list of more than 240 candidates vying to replace him. So, in effect, if we manage to actually comprehend the ballot put before us and deliberately vote him out of office, he thought he might trip us up by getting his name on the list and getting us to replace Davis with ... well, Davis.

That's right, more than 240 candidates have officially declared their intentions to run to replace Davis as governor of California. And while the lame-duck governor grasps at straws in attempts to stay put and not wind up becoming the answer to a subsequent trivia question, there is a point at which the costs of the election should be of some concern to Californians.

The election is going forward and we've all pretty much come to grips with that, but the added costs of the circus-like atmosphere now surrounding this special election is beginning to hit the state in the checkbook unnecessarily.

Consider that an expanded ballot, including the name of serious contenders and playful pretenders alike — "Diff'rent Strokes" child star Gary Coleman, irrelevant watermelon-smashing comedian

Gallagher and porn king and "Hustler" magazine publisher Larry Flynt — translates into higher costs for the special election, now estimated at up to \$66 million.

In addition, the state will spend an estimated \$11 million on postage and services because of the short time available to deliver millions of sample ballots, as well as the abnormal size of the accompanying information pamphlet. With each of the declared candidates permitted to make a 250-word statement, the pamphlet could swell to 50 pages as Gallagher and company eat up space and tax dollars espousing their deficit-reducing platforms and making light of how they will lead the state's wayward 34 million residents.

So in the end, it's not only the likes of Schwarzenegger and Arianna Huffington and Tom McClintock's campaigns that are costing us money, it's also the campaigns of forgotten sitcom leads and porn star Mary Carey who have no real designs on the governor's chair, just another 15 minutes of fame. This at a time when the state can ill-afford extraneous expenditures for curiosity and sideshow sake.

Hell, even Gary Coleman admits he's voting for Arnold.

Well, this is California.

(Mike Tittinger is a freelance writer living in Santa Monica. To reach him, e-mail to TooRoam@aol.com).

LOCAL



Affordable housing may be built at homeless shelter

SHELTER, from page 1

and explore the possibility of building affordable housing on the Cloverfield Boulevard site.

OPCC must move from its current location at 612 Colorado Ave. because the Big Blue Bus, which is housed in the same building, is expanding. In July, OPCC entered into escrow on the \$5 million Cloverfield property, which needs several million dollars more in upgrades.

Hundreds of people packed the council chambers and spilled out into City Hall's corridors on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, waiting to comment on the proposal.

"This is not about anti-homeless sentiments or being against needed services," said Anna Hara, who lives at 1925 Cloverfield Blvd. "It is not against OPCC. This is not an issue about in my back yard or in your back yard."

"This is about decades of a strategic pattern that has affected thousands of families, including mine."

Hara echoed the sentiments of many nearby residents, homeowners, landlords and businesses who said putting the shelter in the Pico neighborhood is unfair because it already has more than its share of social service agencies.

Dozens of OPCC counselors, clients and supporters also addressed council members. They urged the council to provide the funding and said OPCC does an excellent job at providing a much-needed service.

"I'm concerned tonight for the residents of Santa Monica, the ones who are housed and the ones who are not," said the Rev. Sandie Richards, minister of the Church in Ocean Park. "Those who are housed have concerns about safety and hygiene. Those who are not have the very same concerns though perhaps from a different perspective."

"Change is hard, precisely because we can't see into the future and say with absolute certainty what will happen," she added. "So I'm asking my fellow Santa Monicans to take a calculated risk."

As another part of the new compromise, City Hall will hold onto the deed and lease it to the social services agency instead of OPCC owning the property. Bob Moncrief, the city's housing manager, said lease payments may not be made in monetary form.

"We'll work backwards from what they can afford," he said. "For example, if their rent payments could be better used to purchase a van to do outreach, that might be of more value to us than rent."

The financing of the deal was also tweaked by council members, though the final bill to City Hall will be the same — about \$9.2 million. OPCC has attained \$400,000 from LA County mental health and housing funds and has applied for \$900,000 in state and federal housing money. In addition, OPCC director John Maceri said the shelter will still have to raise \$800,000 on its own.

"We're looking forward to working with the community and figuring out what's going to be developed on that site," Maceri said. "I'm happy that the smear campaign that was launched against the project in the end didn't win out."

City staff are expected to return on Sept. 23 with information about a new site for the daytime services, as well as a proposed lease agreement with OPCC.

Councilman Bob Holbrook, the lone dissenting vote, said he felt the project was stamped through City Hall without giving neighbors and businesses a chance to discuss it in depth. He said he found out about the project at the last minute, despite the fact that staff had been in negotiations for months.

Holbrook added that he would have liked to see the money be used to purchase apartment buildings for low-income use, rather than go toward a homeless shelter.

"What really saddened me was this really was a stealth mission," Holbrook said. "I never thought I had to look over my shoulder as a council member. It's a strange deal."

Jurors to decide if City Hall is to blame for bus accident

BIG BLUE BUS, from page 1

and fell because she was not holding onto a railing or handle.

"Once the bus moves, a passenger moves at her own peril," Hirata said.

Even if Sanchez had pulled away before Karony sat down, Hirata said Big Blue Bus drivers are only required to wait for passengers to sit before driving if they have disabilities or other special needs.

"Mrs. Karony on the day of the accident was not a special needs person," said Hirata, who added that Karony was an active elderly woman who worked out three times a week and appeared healthy. "She was a senior citizen, but that's not enough."

Twelve experts and eyewitnesses testified in the trial, which is being heard by Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Lorna Parnell.

An Australian couple who was on the bus at the time of the accident testified via satellite that they never saw Karony sit down and that the bus took off with an unexpected lurch.

But Hirata pointed to a report filed by emergency response workers that indicat-

ed the accident happened as a result of the bus stopping, not starting. He further argued that it was impossible that Karony fell during the vehicle's take-off from the intersection of Sixth Street and Wilshire Boulevard because the bus didn't come to a stop for another half block.

After the accident, Karony was taken to St. John's Hospital where she underwent surgery to install a permanent plate and screws in her hip. One week later, she was transferred to the nearby convalescent home where she spent three weeks being rehabilitated.

Karony spent a total of \$70,000 in medical expenses and now requires full-time medical care, McGee argued. The cost of employing a full-time caretaker for the rest of her expected life will be \$205,920.

In addition to the medical expenses, McGee hinted that jurors could arrive at anywhere from \$250,000 to \$1 million for compensation for the loss of freedom, frustration and sadness caused by the accident.

"This is about the loss of Mrs. Karony's golden years," he said.



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FACE-to-FACE with the Women & Children of Iraq

Local resident Kelly Hayes-Raitt just returned from her second trip to Iraq, where she found some of the children and women who touched her so deeply during her first visit in February. She also saw firsthand the impact of the bombings and invasion on innocent people's lives, homes and hearts. The trip revealed much devastation — and much inspiration.

She will be speaking about the people she met — and remet — in Baghdad, Hillah, Babylon, Fallouja, Basra and Umm Qasr.

Friday, August 15
5:30 pm at Marriot Hotel
1001 Broadway in Oakland

Since February, Kelly has addressed over 60 audiences, including religious congregations, state women's conferences, school classes, community clubs, large peace rallies and small neighborhood meetings. If you would like her to address your group, please call (310) 581-4421 or e-mail C2CCampaigns@aol.com.

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STATE

CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

Schwarzenegger movies to be kept off airwaves

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Films and television shows featuring Arnold Schwarzenegger and other celebrity candidates in California's gubernatorial recall election will likely not be broadcast in the state for the next few months so that stations can avoid having to give rival candidates equal time.

The airing of "Total Recall" or another Schwarzenegger film, or a repeat of a "Diff'rent Strokes" episode with Gary Coleman on broadcast television in California would trigger the Federal Communications Commission's equal time provision, allowing other candidates to demand the same amount of time.

Cable channels are not covered by the FCC rule, which in the past kept reruns of "Death Valley Days" off the air while Ronald Reagan ran for president. A repeat of a "Saturday Night Live" episode featuring Don Novello, aka Father Guido Sarducci, on cable, for instance, would not trigger the provision.

Novello, Schwarzenegger, Coleman and more than 240 other candidates, have filed to run in the Oct. 7 election to recall incumbent Gov. Gray Davis. The equal time rules was to kick in on Wednesday, when the state was expected to officially certify the list of candidates.

The major networks do not have a Schwarzenegger movie scheduled over the next two months. The National Association of Broadcasters has sent an alert to its California members reminding them about the consequences of the equal time provision.

Davis to try and run above recall fray

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — Although his past races earned Gov. Gray Davis a reputation as an aggressive campaigner, his advisers said he'll fight the Oct. 7 recall election with a strategy based on trying to fly above the circus swirling below him.

If he is to survive the first recall election in California history, his advisers said, he must also show voters the Republican-led recall will not solve California's problems but merely aggravate them by costing \$66 million dollars and possibly leaving a small, fringe group in control of nation's most populous state and the world's fifth-largest economy.

"He's the only guy in the campaign that has the office and the only one who really understands how destabilizing this is," said Davis media consultant David Doak. "He's determined to project an image of stability, that things are under control and at the same time, fight for his job."

Although facing more than 240 challengers, Davis will avoid taking on any of the other candidates directly, insiders say, including Republican front-runner and actor Arnold Schwarzenegger — at least for now.

Davis, one adviser said, "has only one enemy, the recall itself."

Davis fills slew of appointments

By The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — After not filling a judicial vacancy in months, Gov. Gray Davis began churning them out the day the election to recall him was certified, records show.

Davis has churned out 15 appointments since July 23, the day the secretary of state announced the recall question would go to voters. Along with one other appointment made two days before the special election became official, the crop of appointments were the governor's first since April 3.

Davis, a Democrat, named another three judges Tuesday, a prelude to what legal experts speculate is the governor's drive to fill all remaining judicial vacancies ahead of the Oct. 7 recall vote.

There are currently 48 vacancies on the state's 1,600-member bench, a number that is not unusually high. But Gerald Uelmen, a Santa Clara University School of Law scholar, said filling judicial vacancies is common among governors ahead of elections, and expects all of California's judgeships to be occupied soon.

"It's a standard practice," Uelmen said. "Every outgoing governor attempts to achieve that, even if this departure is somewhat premature."

Amber Pasricha, a Davis spokeswoman, said the timing of the recent slew of appointments is a coincidence.

Poorest tribes to receive extra money

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — Each of California's poorest tribes will get an additional \$680,000 this year under legislation that shifts the money from some of the long-term gambling tribes.

The tribes were supposed to get up to \$1.1 million under the 1999 tribal gambling compacts, but were paid only about \$410,000 because the fund fell short.

To make up the difference, the legislation Gov. Gray Davis signed Monday but announced Tuesday will shift \$51 million from a separate fund from tribes that operated casinos before the compacts were signed.

Another \$3 million from the fund will go to establish an Office of Problem and Pathological Gambling, which will conduct public awareness and prevention campaigns, operate a toll-free help line for problem gamblers, and train casino and health care workers.

Legislators are negotiating over two other bills that would shift some of the remaining tribal money to local governments to cover their costs from casinos within their jurisdiction.

NATIONAL □ INTERNATIONAL



WORLD BRIEFLY

Suicide bombings threaten truce

By The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli troops demolished the West Bank home of a teenage suicide bomber early Wednesday and rounded up Palestinian terrorist suspects in the wake of two bombing attacks that shook a fragile truce.

However, both sides indicated they wanted the cease-fire to continue despite the bombings on Tuesday.

Israeli police said they were on nationwide alert Wednesday, setting up roadblocks on key roads and at the entrances to Israeli towns in an attempt to head off any further attacks.

The blasts, in an Israeli town and at a West Bank bus stop used by Jewish settlers, killed two Israelis and wounded 11. The two attacks were 11 miles apart and occurred within an hour of one another but were not related, police and army officers said.

In response, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said, "There can be no peace with terror."

The army blew up the family home of the Rosh Haayin bomber, 17-year-old Khamis Gerwan, in the Askar refugee camp on the edge of the city of Nablus, obliging its 11 remaining occupants to move in with relatives nearby, camp residents said.

More chaos in Liberian capital

By The Associated Press

MONROVIA, Liberia — Uncertainty engulfed Liberia's capital one day after Charles Taylor's resignation, with one rebel group agreeing to loosen its siege even as another group launched ferocious new assaults.

The attacks raised fears that the rebels may be fighting for a share of power a day after warlord-turned-president Taylor went into exile.

Liberia's main rebel group, Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy, signed an accord Tuesday promising to pull back completely from the capital by noon Thursday and surrender control to peacekeepers.

The accord was "extremely important for the delivery of humanitarian relief," said U.S. Ambassador John Blaney, — who along with military commanders of a West African peacekeeping force and a 2,300-member U.S. Marine expeditionary force secured the pledge in a meeting with rebel leaders.

But a second rebel group began a push toward Monrovia from their stronghold in the country's southeast Tuesday.

The Movement for Democracy in Liberia confirmed it was advancing toward Liberia's main airport, a 45-minute drive from Monrovia.

Wildfire grows in Glacier National Park

By The Associated Press

WEST GLACIER, Mont. — Glacier National Park's popular Lake McDonald area remained closed to visitors Tuesday as crews battled to control a fire that had grown to more than 38,600 acres.

Firefighters hoped to set more backfires to keep flames from getting any closer to already evacuated park attractions, campgrounds and private homes along the lake's west shore.

"They've got to (complete the backfires) before the park can do any changes to evacuations," said park spokesman Tony Clark.

Pushed by hot and windy conditions, the fire jumped a park road that was used as a fire break and threatened the park's Apgar Village on Sunday, prompting a second round of evacuations in the park in two weeks.

The village, Lake McDonald Lodge, a dozen private homes and several campgrounds near the lake were evacuated. On Monday, the park closed the Going-to-the-Sun road from the west entrance to Logan Pass for the second time in two weeks.

Terrorist sting nets arms dealer

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A suspected arms dealer who

thought he was selling a shoulder-fired missile to a Muslim terrorist bent on shooting down an airliner was actually the target of an international sting operation that resulted in three arrests, officials say.

Authorities in the United States, Britain and Russia cooperated in the investigation, which began months ago with a tip that the dealer was seeking weapons to buy in St. Petersburg, Russia, said several U.S. law enforcement officials speaking on condition of anonymity.

The probe culminated Tuesday in the arrest of an alleged British arms dealer at a hotel in Newark, N.J., where, officials said, he had flown from London to close the deal on a sophisticated Russian SA-18 Igla missile capable of bringing down commercial airliners.

The terrorist buyer turned out to be an undercover FBI agent and the weapon was an inoperable copy brought from Russia to the United States aboard a ship to make the deal seem real, officials said.

Two other men, believed to be involved in money laundering, were apprehended about the same time New York City.

Bush: Policies improving economy

By The Associated Press

CRAWFORD, Texas — President Bush and his advisers say the economy's recovery is gaining strength, largely due to their policies of cutting taxes and holding down spending.

But critics say budget deficits building up under the administration's policy are perilous for the long term. And a new poll suggests three-fourths of the public considers the current national deficit a problem.

The Bush economic team was updating the president on the state of economy Wednesday in a session that was to include Treasury Secretary John Snow, Commerce Secretary Don Evans, Labor Secretary Elaine Chao and other advisers.

"The effects of the president's tax cut proposal that was proposed earlier this year and just enacted into law are beginning to be felt," Bush spokeswoman Claire Buchan said in advance of the meeting. "They'll be reviewing the current state of the economy, talking about how the tax cuts are taking effect, what effect they are having."

She said the Bush administration wants to take other steps to strengthen the economy, including tort reform, an energy plan and restraining spending. And she said

Bush was keeping a close eye on growing deficits. Republicans threaten to fine Democrats

By The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — The walkout by 11 state Senate Democrats may soon hit them in the wallet — with the threat of thousands of dollars in daily fines looming if they continue to stymie GOP redistricting plans by staying out of the state.

The mostly Democrat-less Senate approved a resolution Tuesday to fine each missing lawmaker \$1,000 a day, with the fine doubling for each missed session, but not to exceed \$5,000 a day. Fines would begin Thursday.

The missing Democrats, who have brought the Senate to a standstill by denying it a quorum, fired back from their self-imposed exile in New Mexico.

"I won't pay it," said state Sen. Rodney Ellis.

The Senate passed the vote as the Democrats marked their 16th day in Albuquerque to protest GOP plans to take up congressional redistricting, an issue that has failed to pass twice this year.

"We want our members and our colleagues back so that we can take up these issues before us and get on with our lives," said Republican Lt. Gov. David



briefs

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ACROSS

- 1 Stepped down
- 5 Friend of Phoebe and Rachel
- 11 Tardy
- 12 Worshipful one
- 13 Different
- 14 Expiate
- 15 Music buy
- 17 Owned by us
- 18 Bistro unit
- 22 Flight makeup
- 24 Permit
- 25 Spy org.
- 26 Exploit
- 27 Beginning
- 30 Helps
- 32 "Halari" star
- 33 Yank's foe
- 34 Action film staple
- 38 Stand against
- 41 Ogled
- 42 Came down in buckets
- 43 Protracted
- 44 Beliefs
- 45 Slacker address

DOWN

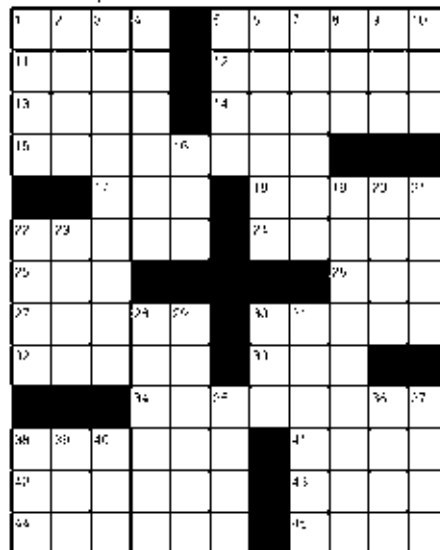
- 1 Guinness, for one
- 2 Refrain bit
- 3 Linda Ronstadt song
- 4 Prepares to drive
- 5 Emporium
- 6 Folk-blues singer
- 7 "Forget it!"
- 8 Anger
- 9 Middling grade
- 10 Sloppy filler
- 16 Hosp. areas
- 19 Linda Ronstadt song
- 20 Misplaced
- 21 Lamb watchers
- 22 Garbage carrier
- 23 Ike's ex
- 28 Concert bonus
- 29 Serving need



Yesterday's answer

- 19 Linda Ronstadt song
- 20 Misplaced
- 21 Lamb watchers
- 22 Garbage carrier
- 23 Ike's ex
- 28 Concert bonus
- 29 Serving need
- 30 Circle section
- 31 Looked upon
- 35 Ohio team
- 36 Transmittal
- 37 Advantage
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- 40 Groan cause

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Obituaries

JANET LOUISE LESCOULIE

A resident of the Santa Monica, Venice and Culver City areas for 88 years, she passed away August 4, 2003 at age 89 in Culver City. Beloved wife of Joseph E. Lescoulie for 66 years. A graduate of Venice High School, Janet was a community leader in the Culver City Rotary, Ann's, Child Guidance Clinic, and Culver-Palms YMCA Board of Managers. She was a member of the Bel-Aire Pres. Church Woman's Bible Studies. She leaves behind her devoted son Joseph Lescoulie Jr., and daughter-in-law Donna, along with her three loving grandchildren Jonathan, Justin and James; sister Ora Marsh and family and niece Jeanne Hughes and family. Donations may be made in her name to the USC/Norris Cancer Research Center (323)865-3000. Gates, Kingsley-Gates (310)837-7121

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SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION

Compiled by Natalia Aivazova

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2003

EVENTS

Twilight Dance Festival

Enjoy a night of dancing under the stars as Santa Monica continues its tradition of weekly concerts on Thursday nights. *The Sidestepper* and *Los Amigos Invisibles* performs tonight on the Santa Monica Pier's parking decks. You can come by car or ride the Tide shuttle from selected beach lots and from Downtown. A trip by shuttle costs only 25 cents and admission to the festival is FREE!!!

Event takes place 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Parking is available in all beach lots.

For more information call: (310) 458-8900

CULTURE

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Founded in 1984 this museum of historic dolls offers a great place to take the whole family and experience a little bit of Santa Monica History. The museum reflects the growing popularity of doll and miniature collection in the last 400 years. The house itself was built in 1895 and has been restored to the

period, making it one of the few remaining victorian houses in Santa Monica. Current exhibits include: Dolls (English, American, French, and German), including Bru, Jumeau, Dionnes, and Shirley Temple and 516 Colorado Avenue, Santa Monica, CA 90401 (310) 394-8331 Fax: 310-656-6865 Museum is open 12:30-4:30Thu.-Sun Adults \$6.50, Children under 12 \$3.50 and Seniors over 65 4.50

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2030 Wilshire Blvd. Santa Monica, CA 90403

(310) 829-2382

Club Sugar

A fun place for those who enjoy the night life. Tonight DJs Daz (UK), Terry "TJ" Newsom and the Red Devils spin everything electronic on Vice night. You can go dancing or just enjoy drinks at the bar. All persons must be 21 and over.

9:30pm - 2:00am

Admission is \$5

814 Broadway (@ Lincoln)

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Harvelle's

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MOVIE °GUIDE

LAEMMLE'S MONICA 4-PLEX

1332 2nd Street
Whale Rider PG-13 — 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15,
The Magdalene Sisters — 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00,
I Captured the Castle — 1:50, 7:00
The Holy Land — 4:25, 9:30
The Secret Lives of Dentists — 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
Shockproof and Zus & Zo — Sat&Sun only 11:00 a.m

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd
Le Divorce PG-13 — 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
Swimming Pool R — 4:15, 7:30, 10:00

LOEWS CINEPLEX BROADWAY CINEMAS

1441 Third Street Promenade
28 Days Later R — 7:20, 10:00
Terminator 3 R — 1:15, 10:45
Bend It Like Beckham PG-13 — 11:00, 1:45, 4:30
Seabiscuit PG-13 — 11:30, 2:45, 6:05, 9:15, also 12:15, 3:30, 4:00, 7:00, 7:45, 10:10

AMC SANTA MONICA 7

1310 Third Street Promenade
American Wedding R 11:35, 2:05, 4:35, 7:20, 10:15
Johnny English PG — 12:00, 2:15, 4:35, 7:05, 9:30,
Bad Boys II R 12:20, 3:45, 7:10, 10:30
Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle PG-13 — 4:00, 10:00
Finding Nemo G — 12:40, 2:35, 5:00, 7:30, 9:55
Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life PG-13 — 11:45, 2:25, 4:00, 5:10, 7:55, 10:30
Spy Kids 3D: Game Over PG — 11:15, 1:20, 3:25, 5:30, 7:45, 9:50
Freaky Friday PG — 11:25, 1:50, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30
Gigli R — 1:00, 7:05

MANN CRITERION 6 THEATERS

1313 Third Street Promenade
Johnny English PG — 12:00, 2:15, 4:35, 7:05, 9:30,
The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen PG-13 — 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:40, 10:25
Pirates of the Caribbean PG-13 — 11:45, 12:20, 3:15, 3:45, 6:45, 7:15, 10:05, 10:35
S.W.A.T. PG-13 — 10:30, 11:00, 1:30, 2:45, 4:45, 7:30, 10, 12:45

If you know of an upcoming event which may be included in the calendar please send the information to calendar@smdp.com or fax it to (310) 576 9913

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"Recently I placed an advertisement for employment for my restaurant located on the Promenade. The response I received was tremendous. This was my first experience with Santa Monica Daily Press. Mitch Troy made my experience easy and pleasurable and I will not hesitate to call Mitch for any future advertisement needs. Thank you Daily Press for all your help."
— Jim Rickwalt, Johnnie's Italian Restaurant



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Ex-partner sues Alec Baldwin for TV movie earnings

By The Associated Press

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Alec Baldwin's former business partner is suing him, claiming the actor owes her \$125,000 of his earnings from a recent television movie.

Corrinne Mann and Baldwin formed El Dorado Pictures in 1995, agreeing to develop productions for film and television and split producer fees and profits from any joint projects, according to the lawsuit filed Tuesday in Los Angeles Superior Court.

The 45-year-old actor never paid Mann half of the \$250,000 he or the production company collected in fees from the movie "Second Nature," according to the lawsuit. Although the film aired on TNT in June, Mann had helped develop it before she and Baldwin severed their relationship in 1998, said her attorney, Ken Nathanson.

Baldwin's agent at Creative Artists Agency declined to comment.

Mann, who later formed her own production company, accuses Baldwin of fraud and breach of contract. Her lawsuit seeks unspecified damages.

Baldwin stars in "Second Nature" as a government assassin who struggles to recover from a plane crash that killed his family.

■ **JACKSON, Tenn.** — About 6,000 people braved the rain and lightning to hear country stars Vince Gill and Darryl Worley, along with Christian music singer Amy Grant, perform for a community still trying to recover from deadly weather in May.

Tuesday night's benefit concert, dubbed "Storm Aid," raised about \$600,000, organizers said. The money will help families devastated by tornadoes that killed 11 in Madison County and damaged or destroyed nearly 2,000 homes and businesses in Jackson on May 4.

The benefit was organized by the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation, a partner with the community-wide Disaster Recovery Services.

During Worley's performance, a storm system brought rain and lightning, delaying the performances of Gill, Grant and others for about an hour. Still, fans were excited that such big-name stars had come to Jackson to help.

"It shows they're committed to the cause," concert-goer Nick Pappas told The Jackson Sun.

After the rain stopped, the husband and wife team of Gill and Grant appeared, taking turns at center stage.

■ **NEW YORK** — Mary J. Blige is among the latest stars lined up to perform at the MTV Video Music Awards.

The queen of hip-hop soul joins previously announced performers 50 Cent, Coldplay, Christina Aguilera and Good Charlotte.

MTV also said Wednesday that the original five members of Duran Duran will be presenters at the ceremony, along with Drew Barrymore, Avril Lavigne, Ben Stiller, Nelly and Pamela Anderson.

The 20th annual awards show is scheduled to air live at 8 p.m. EDT Aug. 28 from Radio City Music Hall. Chris Rock is the host.

Missy Elliott has the most nominations — eight — for her "Work It" video. She's competing for video of the year honors against Justin Timberlake, who has seven nominations; Johnny Cash, who has six nominations for his cover of the Nine Inch Nails song "Hurt"; and 50 Cent and Eminem, who each have five.

■ **CINCINNATI** — When the star of NBC's "Who Wants to Marry My Dad?" first tried to slip an engagement ring on the finger of the woman his children selected for him, she kept pulling away.

It wasn't that Christena Ferran was rejecting Don Mueller's proposal. The suburban Glendale man just had the wrong hand.

But those watching the series finale Monday night saw something else. The proposal scene, taped in May,

was re-shot with Mueller on bended knee, putting the ring on Ferran's left — and correct — hand.

That was more than two months ago, and while the two are still engaged, Mueller says he isn't necessarily going to marry Ferran. Many obstacles and miles stand between Mueller and Ferran, who lives in San Diego.

"We're going to do our best to try to move the relationship further, but there are some serious things to talk about and consider," he said. "You get caught up in the moment and you do what's right, but it's an awkward situation."

The 48-year-old said the ring meant they were "technically" engaged, but he's tied to the map company he founded, and has yet to meet Ferran's two children.

■ **PRAGUE, Czech Republic** — Sean Connery returned to Prague for the European opening of his film "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen" — and to keep a promise.

Connery had been forced to leave his Prague hotel because of historic floods while shooting the movie last year.

At a brief ceremony, Connery said he had met with then-President Vaclav Havel during the floods "and on a handshake I said that if the film was any good that I would bring it to Prague" and support Havel's foundation.

"This is a check ... for 845,000 Czech koruna (\$59,500) that's going to the foundation," the 72-year-old actor said Tuesday when handing the check to Havel and his wife.

The money will be used to help those affected by the floods, Dagmar Havlova said. Prague Mayor Pavel Bem received a check for the same amount.

Hundreds gathered to watch Connery and other stars walk a red carpet into the Slovansky Dum theater in downtown Prague Tuesday night.

More than 1,000 others attended the opening, the proceeds of which go to the city of Prague and to Vize 97, the Havel's foundation.



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