

► People in the News

Journalist files for bankruptcy after suit

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A freelance journalist who lost a slander lawsuit brought by Michael Jackson has filed for bankruptcy protection.

The move automatically put on hold a trial to determine how much Victor Gutierrez owes Jackson in damages.



Jackson

Jackson contended Gutierrez lied in a 1995 appearance on TV's "Hard Copy" when he claimed he saw a 27-minute videotape that purportedly showed the singer having sex with a 13-year-old boy.

Gutierrez refused to reveal the source of the tape, and a judge found the writer liable for damages. A jury was to determine the amount.

Pavarotti honored for charity work in Bosnia

LONDON (AP) — Luciano Pavarotti was honored Monday for helping raise \$8 million for the

orphans in Bosnia.

The tenor received a special achievement trophy at the Gramophone Awards.

Cellist Mstislav Rostropovich received the lifetime achievement award for his outstanding contribution to classical music.

The young artist of the year award went to Germany's Isabelle Faust for her debut recording of Bartok's violin sonatas. The award was presented by Paul McCartney, whose symphonic poem "Standing Stone" had its premiere recently.



Pavarotti

The Gramophone Awards are sponsored by Gramophone magazine, a leading classical music magazine.

Former sportscaster returns for TV shows

NEW YORK (AP) — He's not a sportscaster anymore, but Pat O'Brien keeps playing one on TV.

Since O'Brien gave up sports on CBS less than two months ago, he has appeared as a sportscaster on two of the network's shows, "Everybody Loves Raymond" and "Early Edition."

VOLUNTEERS

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Rodriguez said she did the benefits of this program with only her child.

"I wanted to do my part to provide other students with opportunity to have a positive role in their lives," Rodriguez said. "This has had a great effect on the students. Some watch the program for their buddy to come."

Volunteering for the program only requires half an hour.

"We understand that students have difficult schedules, especially during exams," Busch said. "But the program has had a great effect on the students. This is something (the children) look forward to."

GOD

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Angelina Jolie is angling for the role of Claire. She draws the attention without saying a word.

Director Andy Wilson says he did a good job bringing fast-paced action to the screen. Action movies think a jerky camera feel means good direction. Luckily, Wilson avoids that.

"Playing God is brisk, but there is enough good writing and acting to avoid making it feel like one long music video."

—By Tim

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