



# SIMI VALLEY

## Inside

Woman assaulted— B2

Store helps students — B3

Milestones/obituaries— B5

Simi spawns stars — B8

USO Nights return — B8

## Grant for Bottle Village possible

### BEHAVIOR?

*Williamson says serious money is in the works, but others deny knowing anything about it.*

**By Dana Bartholomew**  
*Staff writer*

Grandma Prisbrey assembled a dream home from the dregs of the dump.

Today, her landmark Bottle Village has fallen into ruin. But her bottles may have a benefactor.

City Councilwoman Barbara Williamson said there is some "very serious grant money" in the works to repair "the eyesore" created by Tressa "Grandma" Prisbrey before her death 10 years ago at the age of 92.

"That's some people's cup of tea, and for some people it isn't,"

Williamson told council members Monday. "So the quicker we can get that cleaned up, the better.

"I hope it gels."

"This is really on the qt," Williamson said, and would not name the benefactor, the price nor the timing of the gift.

Bottle Village proponents emphatically deny knowing anything about it.

"There's nothing right now, there's nothing at all," said Daniel Paul, 25, an art lover from Anaheim who has worked to save the landmark.

"There's no grant whatsoever."

Prisbrey, who bore seven children,

built Bottle Village at 4595 Cochran St. between 1956 and 1972 from discarded junk she collected at the local dump. Registered nationally and by the county and state as a folk art landmark, it has been closed to the public — except for special events — since 1984.

The village was severely damaged by time and the Northridge earthquake and lost a \$455,000 federal grant to restore it after Councilwoman Sandi Webb and Rep. Elton Gallegly, R-Simi Valley, opposed it. Gallegly offered to raise \$5,000 to tear it down.

Paul said the village estate owes \$11,000 in property taxes and would require \$100,000 to stabilize and \$1 million to fully renovate.

Nonetheless, Prisbrey's fantasy creation has garnered a worldwide following and has been featured in films and a spread last summer in People magazine.

"Bottle Village really is something amazing, something special," said Paul, who was attracted by the elderly woman's work in a Japanese publication.

"Art students from around the world can attest to that."