

FREE

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

FANTASY 5

6 15 31 32 35

DAILY 3

Daytime: 5 4 5

Evening: 1 2 2

DAILY DERBY

1st: 03 Hot Shot

2nd: 09 Winning Spirit

3rd: 06 Whirl Win

RACE TIME: 1:44.21



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Ms. India Scott of Detroit dated both Darryl Fletcher and Brandon Ventimeglia starting in 1993 and the next year gave birth to a boy. Neither man knew about the other, and she told each he was the father. For two years, Scott managed to juggle the men's visitation rights, but in March 1997 when she announced she was marrying a new boyfriend and leaving the area, both Fletcher and Ventimeglia separately filed for custody of "his" son. Only then did the men find out about each other. In May 1997, they took blood tests to settle the paternity once and for all. (Of course, the test revealed that the actual father was yet another man.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

On August 18, 1983, Hurricane Alicia slammed into the Texas coast, leaving 22 dead and causing more than \$1 billion worth of damage.

■ In 1587, Virginia Dare became the first child of English parents to be born on American soil, on what is now Roanoke Island, N.C.

■ In 1846, U.S. forces led by Gen. Stephen W. Kearney captured Santa Fe, N.M.

■ In 1894, Congress established the Bureau of Immigration.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"When I'm no longer rapping I want to open up an ice cream parlor and call myself Scoop Dogg"

SNOOP DOGG
AMERICAN RAPPER

INDEX

Horoscopes

Listen to a partner, Pisces 2

Local

Mud in your eye 3

Surf Report

Water temperature: 68° 3

Opinion

Waxing political 4

State

Learned behavior 7

Real Estate

Pleasant exchange 10-13

National

Phoenix falling 14

Comics

Hardy har har 16

Classifieds

Personal space 17-19

Service Directory

Fix it fast 19

Wrench in the works



John Wood/Daily Press

Mechanic Abdul Khan, 52, inspects a city dump truck on Tuesday evening at the city yards in eastern Santa Monica.

School district reeling in wake of sex scandals

BY GENEVA WHITMARSH

Daily Press Staff Writer

SAMOH — In the last two months, the Santa Monica High School community has seen both its assistant band director and an assistant coach face allegations of sexual misconduct with minors. Now, with some students scheduled to return to campus next week, officials are searching for ways to field questions and alleviate concerns.

Carl Hammer, the assistant band director at Samohi, was arrested Aug. 6 on two felony counts of allegedly performing "lewd and lascivious" sex acts upon a child. Police said the alleged victim is a 14-year-old girl, but would not divulge whether or not she is enrolled in the district.

Hammer turned himself into authorities after the local police

department and the California Department of Children and Family Services investigated the allegations and issued an arrest warrant for him. The 37-year-old has worked for the school district for nine years — at Samohi, and Lincoln and John Adams middle schools.

Hammer has been placed on administrative leave and is not allowed to participate in school activities, be on school property or have contact with any students until the matter is legally resolved, said school superintendent John Deasy.

Mike Hearn, also 37, worked at Samohi as a "walk-on" assistant football and basketball coach, meaning he was employed during the school's sports seasons. Hearn was arrested June 2 and charged with six counts of unlawful sex with a 17-year-old girl, two more counts for allegedly having oral

See SCANDALS, page 5

And they're off! Candidate list finalized

Voters to sift through dozens of choices for local office

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Santa Monica residents will have to pick from a pool of nearly 30 names on the ballot this November, as a diverse group of candidates will vie for a total of 12 open seats on four local boards.

Officials this week verified the last of 29 candidates running for

one of four open seats on the City Council, two on the Rent Control Board, and three each on the local school and college boards. Hopefuls had until last week to turn in signatures and other nomination papers, which took several days to verify.

Three candidates fell out of the race for City Council after failing to meet county requirements —

systems analyst Brian Andrus, businessman Stephen Silberkraus and engineer Mike Smith. Their departure leaves 16 people competing for council seats, including all four incumbents.

A total of seven contenders qualified for the ballot in the race to fill one of three open seats on the Santa Monica College board of trustees, including incumbent Margaret Quinones. She will be challenged by professor Susan

Aminoff, retired professor Charles Donaldson, Malibu businesswoman Tonja McCoy, studio attorney Rob Rader, economist Susanne Trimbath and accountant Doug Willis.

Four residents have qualified to run for one of three open seats on the board of education for the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District this November. Incumbents Jose Escarce and

See BALLOT, page 6

Republicans can't afford to rest on recall laurels

BY BETH FOUHY

AP Political Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Memo to California Republicans: The recall is over. It's time to move on.

Nearly a year after the historic recall election that bounced Democratic Gov. Gray Davis and installed Arnold Schwarzenegger

in Sacramento, Republicans in the state have plenty of good reasons to feel giddy. Schwarzenegger's popularity, combined with the smart efforts of state GOP chairman Duf Sundheim and others to raise money and register new voters, have restored credibility to the once-moribund California Republican Party.

But if the recall is supposed to be a predictor of Republican political success in California in 2004, we haven't seen it yet. President Bush's campaign strategists have effectively ceded the state's 55 electoral votes to Democrat John Kerry. A recent Field Poll shows GOP Senate candidate Bill Jones running 17 points behind Demo-

crat Barbara Boxer, whom Republicans have tried unsuccessfully to knock off for years.

And yet to hear them talk, Republicans are banking on political alchemy — seeking to transform the recall into magic dust they can sprinkle on struggling campaigns.

See RECALL, page 6

Jacque Banks

310.586.0342

Your local Realtor since 1987



COLDWELL BANKER
PREMIERS
INTERNATIONAL

Acadie
HAND CRAFTED FRENCH CREPES

★ CREPES ★ COFFEE ★ SOUPS ★ SALADS ★

Between the Promenade & the Beach on Arizona Ave
www.crepescompany.com ★ Telephone: (310)395-1120

TAXES

ALL FORMS • ALL TYPES • ALL STATES

AUDITS • BACK TAXES • BOOKKEEPING • SMALL BUSINESS

SAMUEL B. MOSES, CPA
(310) 395-9922
429 Santa Monica Blvd. Ste. 710
Santa Monica 90401

LOCAL



Samohi to answer bell after summer of scandal

SCANDALS, from page 1

sex and performing a lewd act upon a 15-year-old girl, and one last count for sharing pornographic materials with a third girl, also 15.

District leaders maintained that the 17-year-old girl wasn't a Samohi student, but said, to the best of their knowledge, the other two alleged victims were. Hearn pleaded not guilty. His contract was not renewed for the upcoming year, Deasy said.

School officials have not filled the vacant assistant coach position, but have tapped part-time band consultant Abel Ramirez to fill in as assistant band director. Ramirez currently works as an instructor at Cal State Los Angeles.

Other music faculty will pick up classes left vacant by Hammer's absence, according to Samohi principal Ilene Straus.

"This is a short-term arrangement, because, obviously, this whole thing was sudden, and we weren't expecting it at all," said Straus, adding that Ramirez's post is temporary, pending the outcome of the investigation.

"We don't know how the investigation will play out and what the outcome will be, and we have to protect (Hammer's) rights, but at the same time, we have to give our kids a good, solid education," she said. "I've watched (Ramirez) with the band in the past, and he's talented, strong and very respected by the music faculty."

School officials said the district is letting the police handle the investigation, but preparing for questions from concerned students and parents.

"It's hard to say" what the campus atmosphere will be when school resumes on Sept. 8, Deasy acknowledged.

"(The alleged incidents involving Hammer and Hearn) were neither at the school or on school property," he said. "It's important people know that."

The high school's annual band camp will begin Aug. 23, and school officials say they have worked out a detailed plan to alleviate the concerns of students, parents and teachers.

Trained psychologists and counselors will be available Monday to meet with students and provide support, listen to their concerns and answer questions. Straus said she and other administrators will also be on hand and will meet with the Band Parents Association to answer questions.

"Basically, we'll tell them that (the alleged incident is under investigation), he's innocent until proven guilty, by contract he's continuing on administrative leave, and we're cooperating with the police in any way we can," she said.

Deasy said the school will notify parents of the alleged incidents when the school year resumes, again refraining from specifics. And, finally, they will brief faculty on the matter.

"We have 4,000 students, and many of them won't know who (Hammer) is,"

Deasy said. "But there will be those students who definitely had a working relationship with him, so we want to be sure we can be there for them."

"It's going to be a very extensive outreach," he added. "Obviously, something like this is not common, but as with any traumatic event, we want to provide counseling, outreach and support. But we're not going to discuss the specifics of the (alleged incident) at all, because it's a police matter. We're not in the legal loop, and nor should we be."

Cheri Orgel, co-president of Samohi's PTSA, said she and other parents she's spoken to are "concerned with the individuals' rights and are, therefore, not jumping to any conclusions."

"At the same time," she said, "everyone wants to make sure that our students' best interests are always concerned."

The school district requires job candidates to submit to fingerprinting, reference checks and criminal background checks, Deasy said. The background checks are run through a database maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and will only cull the individuals who have arrests and convictions behind them.

Hearn did not have a sexual offender record, but had apparently been in trouble with the law years before. A Michael David Hearn with the same birth date and physical characteristics was convicted of grand theft auto 15 years ago, said Sandi Gibbons, a spokeswoman for the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office.

"I wasn't aware of that," Deasy said, regarding Hearn's apparent grand theft auto conviction. "There is a statute of limitations."

Roy Einreinhofer, executive director of the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification, said he doesn't believe the actual number of teacher sex-related crimes are rising dramatically, but that more victims are coming forward to report them. His Massachusetts-based organization maintains a database of teacher license revocations. All 50 states report and have access to the information.

One of the main reasons for revoking a teacher's license is some type of criminal conviction, Einreinhofer said. In recent years, the number of revocations reported has remained fairly steady. The nation has about 2.7 million teachers, and about 2,200 revocations are reported each year.

The database was created to keep bad teachers from leaving one state and going to another where officials have not been notified of past offenses.

California is one of 44 states that performs in-depth background checks on school employees. There are computerized versions of the FBI fingerprint background check available. Once a print is obtained, results are available within an hour. In some cases, however, it can take up to 30 days to receive results on an FBI background check.

GERMAN CAR SERVICE

Specialist in Repair of **Porsche • VW • Audi • BMW**

- Best alternative to high dealer prices
- Complete service and repair
- All work guaranteed
- Locally owned and operated since 1965



2202 OLYMPIC BLVD., SANTA MONICA • (310) 829-2563

at GrabTakeout.com, you'll find menus, prices and specials to all your favorite local restaurants. Search and find a restaurant that has the cuisine your in the mood for. Takeout, dine-in or delivery, we've got it all!



great local restaurants, a click away...



SANTA MONICA SUMMER GUIDE 2004

AVAILABLE IN NEWSTANDS ACROSS SANTA MONICA



YOUR SANTA MONICA HOME FOR ALL COLLEGE & NFL GAMES SUNDAY NFL BEER SPECIALS

- 10 TVs • 2 Big Screens
- Authentic Philly Cheese Steaks
- Burgers • Pop-a-shot
- 3 Pool Tables and more!

(310) 899-0076

1333 Santa Monica Blvd. (corner of 14th and Santa Monica) Lunch-Time Delivery Available

SUB SANDWICH
Buy One at Regular Price & Get the 2nd of equal or lesser value for **FREE!**
With Coupon. Expires 10/31/04

ALL MLB GAMES
WEAR YOUR TEAMS LOGO
DRINK \$3⁰⁰ BEERS DURING THAT GAME



Next door to Over/Under
(310) 451-5040
www.14below.com

Upcoming Headliners

FRIDAY 20

- Cubensis
- 7TH DIRECTION
- Grandpa's Grass

SATURDAY 21

- Go Betty Go
- Valentine
- Off Limits



WHEN
will you get the power of email working for your business?
greatbignoise www.greatbignoise.com