



It's Girl Scout Cookie time
Page 12

SCRIPPS RANCH NEWS

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Xander Schauffele
at the Farmers
Insurance Open.

photo by
Ralph LoVuolo

XANDER

*A very bright,
shining star*

Xander Schauffele, a former golf standout at Scripps Ranch High School, is a rising star on the Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) Tour, and the PGA did its best to show him off at the recent Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines Golf Course held Jan. 24-27.

Schauffele was assigned to golf with Tiger Woods and Tony Finau in what was being termed a "power group" during the tournament. A huge crowd of fans followed the group throughout the week. It was an impressive trio, with the legendary Tiger Woods, the up-

See **XANDER**, Page 19



Michael Campbell positions his camera in front of a humming bird feeder and uses high-speed photography to capture stunning images of the tiny birds frozen in flight. (photo by Michael Campbell)

Photographer's life takes many twists and turns

By Ken David

A Scripps Ranch resident combined his technical knowledge with his artistic gifts to develop a lifelong career including portrait, nature and fine art photography.

Michael Campbell is a professional photographer with a dazzling portfolio of portraits, travel and nature scenes, aerial shots of ancient castles and high-speed photographs of hummingbirds in flight. His interesting life and career have included a number of fortuitous turns of fate and along the way, he has worked, studied and socialized with some of photography's all-time greats and other luminaries.

An expert in dye transfer printing who wrote the Kodak manual on the subject, he taught photography at London's Kodak Photo School, was a lecturer at the

FASCINATING JOURNEY

Part one of a two-part series

Salisbury College of Art and was a professor at Cal Poly State University before running a portrait studio in San Diego.

Born and raised in Britain, Campbell took a year off between high school and college to earn money for his education. It turns out he lived about five miles from the Kodak film company's London research laboratory. Someone told him about a job opportunity there, so he went to apply. But he was just out of high school and didn't notice that the job required him to have a degree, preferably a master's, in chemistry and physics.

"On paper, I had not a chance," Campbell said. "There were all these graduates there who were 10 years older than me. But fools rush in where angels fear to tread!"



Scripps Ranch resident and professional photographer Michael Campbell. (courtesy photo)

Athletic prowess would end up landing him the job. His father, a cricket fanatic, started training Campbell for the sport early in his life. He later rose to be captain of his school's cricket team and also played for England's under 21 team as a fast bowler (along the lines of a baseball pitcher skilled at making the ball move while in flight). He was about to be disqualified for the Kodak position he applied for

See **PHOTOGRAPHER**, Page 13

Gaggle Girls group nurtures female friendships

By Daniela Alvarez

Scripps Ranch resident Christina Erdey returned to San Diego after having moved away for 13 years, only to find that her old friends were no longer in

the area, and she was left with a sense of loneliness and isolation.

After two years of living back in San Diego, Erdey decided it was time to make local friends, and also help other women find friends as well.

In July 2018, Erdey started Gaggle Girls, a social group for women of Scripps Ranch and Poway to meet, connect and engage in conversation. In just seven months, Gaggle Girls has attracted about 140 local women.

"Many people who live in San Diego are not originally from here," Erdey said. "That, combined with the rise of primarily communicat-



Christina Erdey

ing through social media channels and the virtual digital world, people are losing the in-person connection that is important to socializing. 'Non-digital' socialization is needed to cultivate authentic

See **GAGGLE GIRLS**, Page 2

GAGGLE GIRLS

Continued from Page 1

friendships.”

Erdey has organized meet ups such as monthly outings to Yanni’s Bar & Grill, and monthly gatherings at the Scripps Poway Parkway Starbucks she calls “Coffee and Conversation.” Saturdays at 9 a.m. (except the third Saturday of each month), she also invites women to join Gaggle Girls on a walk at Miramar Lake. It was during one of these walks that Erdey came up with the name for the group, inspired by the geese at the lake.

“A gaggle is a flock of geese and they were gag-gling away, just like we were, so I thought it made sense,” Erdey said.

While she leads in the or-

ganization of larger group events, Erdey still encourages all women who join Gaggle Girls to connect with each other individually, to engage outside of the group activities and to cultivate meaningful personal relationships.

“My ultimate goal is to just create a positive, nurturing environment that is all-inclusive and supportive,” Erdey said.

Gaggle Girls is varied in its members, but is made up of mostly single women, women with and without kids, and mostly women between the ages of 35 and 70. Erdey wants to encourage younger women to participate in Gaggle Girls and take advantage of the wisdom and advice the diverse group possesses.

“Right now, I am completely focused on creating the baby steps that it takes for women to build authentic relationships with each other inside of this group,” Erdey said. “We women are too hard on ourselves and tend to have a negative voice in our head telling us that we don’t measure up in so many ways, so we need to create positive relationships with others to encourage each other.”

Gaggle Girls is a passion project for Erdey. While she earns no income from it, puts in several hours organizing events and maintains the Facebook page, Erdey feels tremendous satisfaction putting it all together and seeing the joy in the participants’ faces.

“People saying thank you



Members of the Gaggle Girls on a walk at Miramar Lake. (courtesy of Christina Erdey)

to me is payment enough,” she said.

When she’s not helping cultivate relationships among women, Erdey spends time with her husband Jacques, who she said is just as adventurous and young at

heart as she is. Jacques is a software engineer who is dedicating his free time to building the future Gaggle Girls website. Erdey is a self-employed information technology instructor.

To learn more about Gaggle Girls and upcoming events, visit facebook.com/GaggleGirls.

Garden Club learns about flying friends

By Denise Stewart

The Scripps-Mesa Garden Club will meet on March 26 at 5:45 p.m. in the Scripps Ranch Library Community Room to hear a presentation about birds and their role in the environment. Residents are invited to enjoy the timely talk along with club members.

In February, a group traveled to Swami’s Meditation Garden in Encinitas. It was the first of this year’s planned outings to natural and inspiring sites around the county.

The Garden Club’s February regular monthly meeting was focused on seeds. Since the planting season is upon us, members learned what to value in their selection of seeds and the qualities they should look for.

In April, when Daylight Savings Time is in effect, the meeting time of the Garden Club will be moved back to 6 in the evening. A garden tour is planned for members to enjoy the spring blooms in President Bob Gale’s lushly planted garden.




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Essence of Life event supports local seniors

By Laura Hogan

For Scripps Ranch seniors, home is where the heart is.

More than 7,000 senior citizens throughout San Diego and in Scripps Ranch benefit from the non-profit ElderHelp, which helps the aging receive personalized services to assist them in their own home. Services include medical advocacy, friendly visits and caregiver resources.

ElderHelp will hold its annual fundraising event, Essence of Life, on March 10 at the Southwestern Yacht Club. Scripps Ranch resident Kristen Chazaud has chaired the Essence of Life event for three years, served as a member of the board of directors and remains an ambassador for the program. This year, Chazaud is hosting the pre-event coined "Spread the Love" to help promote and support the cause.

Chazaud, a native San Diegan, said starting her family life and putting down roots in Scripps Ranch was a very deliberate choice in no small part because of the elderly community.

"Scripps Ranch had all of

the wonders of nature, the conveniences of the city, intergenerational residents, beautiful walking trails, impressive schools and active and engaged elders that were still contributing to its charm," she said.

Chazaud works to protect these elders and their desire to age in their own homes through her role as CEO of Keepsake Companions Franchises and as an ambassador to ElderHelp. She has served the elderly community in several capacities through advocacy, program development, consulting and home care and placement.

"I have been passionate about initiatives that support aging in place and dream of a time when institutionalized care is no longer an option," Chazaud said. "Realizing that dream has been my life's work."

ElderHelp's Essence of Life event, according to its website, financially supports the mission to assist seniors live healthier and more independent lives while aging with dignity in their own homes.

"Aging in place is important for several reasons: our



Kristen Chazaud (center) is pictured with Scripps Ranch residents and honorees Col. Bob Dingeman (a.k.a. Mr. Scripps Ranch) and Gaye Dingeman. Chazaud is an ambassador and former committee chair for the Essence of Life event. (courtesy of Kristen Chazaud)

elders prefer to age at home, they built the communities we benefit from, and our elders contribute so much to our community," Chazaud said.

The Essence of Life event is billed as an afternoon by the bay with hors d'oeuvres, cocktails and a charity auction in which all proceeds

serve local seniors. The event honors ElderHelp clients, volunteers and community partners. An inspirational senior nominated by the public will also be honored at the event. Essence of Life is open to the public and tickets can be purchased online at bit.ly/2WRa4xT.

NEWS

Hendrix Park renovation is on meeting agenda

The possibility of a dog park in Scripps Ranch continues to be a passion project for citizens of a committee called "Bark at the Park," comprised of about 40 dog owners. Committee members hope to make Hendrix Park the location of a dog park where funds have been secured for design renovations.

The subject is on the agenda of the Scripps Ranch Recreation Council for March 14, at 7 p.m. in the Scripps Ranch Library Community Room. According to Marc Sorensen, chairman of the Rec Council, this meeting is to lay the groundwork for possible renovations at Hendrix Park. The park project will be an informational item on the agenda as the council will seek to gain further insights into the City's plan. A representative from the City will attend, and Sorensen hopes they will answer some foundational questions.

"This will likely be a slow process where we need to have more information from the City before we move forward. What is the exact area we are looking at? How much money do we have to build it? And what are the acceptable uses for that area?" Sorensen said.

The March 14 meeting should provide further insight but may not provide the forum for debate or idea presentations for residents.

—Laura Hogan

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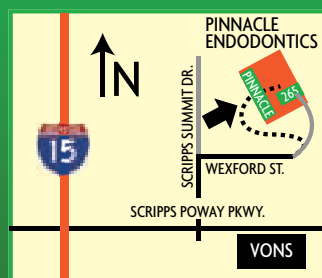
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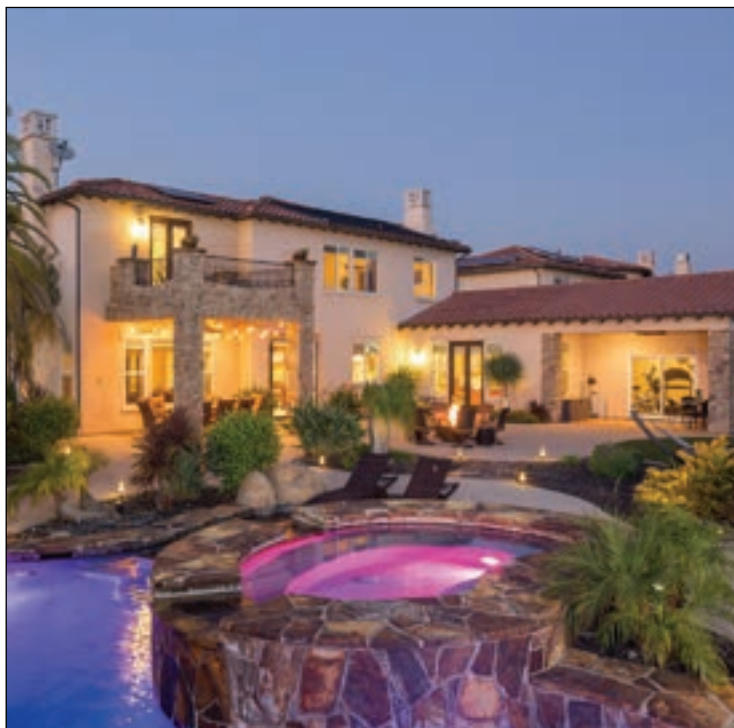


This is the master bedroom of the home being raffled to benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities. (courtesy photo)



The cabana opens to a view of the pool and tropical backyard. (courtesy photo)

Scripps Ranch home stars in dream raffle



The resort-inspired backyard includes a private beach-entry pool, grotto, waterslide and poolside cabana. (courtesy photo)

A multimillion-dollar Scripps Ranch dream house is the center of the 15th annual San Diego Dream House Raffle fundraiser benefiting Ronald McDonald House Charities of San Diego.

The Dream House Raffle raises funds for San Diego's Ronald McDonald House, which provides a "home away from home" for families with a critically ill or injured child in a local hospital. Proceeds from the Dream House Raffle help the organization provide services, including lodging, meals and other programs that provide support to families as they care for their hospitalized child.

This year's 6,200-square-foot dream home in Scripps Ranch features five bedrooms, five bathrooms, two half-baths and a resort-inspired backyard complete with a private beach-entry pool, grotto, waterslide, poolside cabana and in-ground trampoline. Built in 2009, the home is smart and energy-efficient. It's custom-built with rich features and luxurious upgrades throughout. It features a traditional interior with a spacious layout that opens to a tropical backyard, ideal for entertaining.

More than 1,000 total prizes are available through the raffle, including luxury cars, vacations and high-end technology. Tickets are available for purchase until April 12. A list of all available prizes and ticket options is available at SDRaffle.com.

Single ticket prices are \$150, but there are also discounted multi-ticket packages, as well as add-on tickets available. By purchasing an add-on ticket with a single raffle ticket, the ticket purchaser is entered for a chance to win a weekly prize of \$25,000 or one of eight premium prize packages such as a 2019 MINI Cooper Convertible and a trip to London.

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Teens provide 1,200 service hours to the community

By Laura Hogan

A group of young men from Scripps Ranch have been giving back to the community with remarkable dedication.

The local chapter of Lion's Heart, a national service group organization, boasts an incredible 1,223 service hours so far. Each chapter of Lion's Heart is organized by gender, class year and location. Melanie Durkin became the class coordinator for the Scripps Ranch 2021 young men's group after going through the training when her eldest son was in eighth grade.

In a span of just three years, Durkin has grown the group to the maximum number allowed in a local chapter with the 2021 class reaching 20 young men this year. Durkin said each member typically exceeds the 30-service-hour goal set by the members.

"They are all athletes and are busy kids with packed schedules. They are finding whatever time they have to accomplish their service

'My favorite project has been volunteering at Father Joe's Village with my mom and other Lion's Heart members because I really feel like I am making a difference.'

—Riley Merrigan

hours for the group," Durkin said.

The group meets six times a year to discuss, plan and organize the service opportunities throughout the year. Durkin said the opportunities are shared among the group on a continual basis.

"There are so many different types of opportunities. They will participate in the elementary school festivals such as the Miramar Ranch Halloween carnival, Becky's House Do-



Members of the Lion's Heart 2021 chapter serve lunch at the Ronald McDonald House on a regular basis. (courtesy of Lion's Heart)

mestic Violence Program, Christmas shopping for the elderly and Ronald McDonald House, to list a few," Durkin said.

She said it is helpful to have Lion's Heart as a motivation for volunteering in the community.

"Lion's Heart gets the members into the service mindset of giving back to our community," Durkin said.

Many of the members, including original members Riley Merrigan and Luke Durkin, have grown

to find an appreciation for service work through the Lion's Heart organization. Luke volunteered with the Challenged Athlete Foundation triathlon, noting, "It was very empowering and showed how people are able to persevere through their challenges."

Members are encouraged to participate in the opportunities both with members of the Lion's Heart group and with their family members.

"My favorite project has been volunteering at Father Joe's Village with my mom and other Lion's Heart members because I really feel like I am making a difference," Merrigan said. "I can see the result right in front of my eyes."

Melanie Durkin said the group's next big project is volunteering with the Build A Miracle non-profit. The teens will help build and furnish a home in Mexico for a family in need and will receive 12 service hours for participating.

For more information about Lion's Heart, visit lionsheartservice.org.

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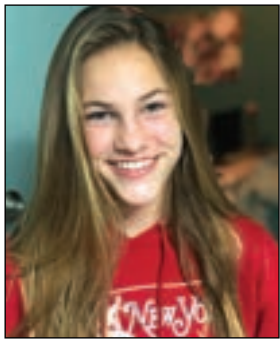
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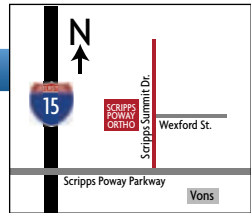
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NEWS UPDATES



Dr. Karen Kurowski of Scripps Ranch Veterinary Hospital accepts donations from Malie Stephens and Sofia Nocella. (courtesy photo)

Youngsters create fund for ailing pets

Scripps Ranch residents Malie Stephens and Sofia Nocella, both age 7, wanted to ensure that any pet in need that came to the Scripps Ranch Veterinary Hospital would get the medicine and care it needed, no matter the cost. In November 2018, they came up with the idea to raise money to start a "Kids Care fund" at the hospital. In December and January, the girls sold hot chocolate, and painted and sold shells and rocks. Together, they raised \$200 to kick off their "caring fund" at the hospital.

"After school one day they told me about their plan," said Laura Stephens,

mother of Malie Stephens. "It was 100 percent the girls' ideas that made this happen."

The girls pitched their idea to Dr. Karen Kurowski at the Scripps Ranch Veterinary Hospital. In January, armed with an overflowing bin of new dog and cat toys, the girls presented a check for \$200 to the clinic. They plan to continue fundraising throughout the year, and encourage any kid or family to join in this effort. Contact Laura Stephens: laurakays-tephens@gmail.com.

Project nets 845 bags of hygiene items

A local project to collect hygiene items to donate to San Diego's Monarch School gathered enough supplies to fill 845 bags which will be used by Monarch School students. Scripps Ranch resident Victoria Muschek and her family again spearheaded this annual effort, which was in its seventh year of collecting and packaging the hygiene items for the school for San Diego's homeless youth. Muschek stated that she is extremely proud of Jerabek Elementary School, which was very involved in the project, and the entire Scripps Ranch community for making this effort possible. The items – enough to supply the students for the next 13 months – were recently delivered to the Monarch School. Muschek encourages the community to continue donating items throughout the year

for this project. Contact her for more information: bmuschek@san.rr.com.



Volunteers deliver gifts to the UCSF Moores Cancer Center. (courtesy photo)

Becky's Gift project surpasses goal

The Becky's Gift toy drive, based in Scripps Ranch, was an overwhelming success, collecting more than its goal of 1,000 toys. In fact, close to 2,000 toys were collected. The project's purpose is to provide toys and other help during the holiday season to families affected by cancer. Volunteers delivered the toys to UCSF Moores Cancer Center, Oncology Associates of San Diego (Sharp Outpatient), South County Hematology, and the Sharp Reese Steely Kevin H. Cook Infusion and Oncology Center. Becky Walton and Christie Jackson, and their children Elle Jackson, Kailey Walton and Carly Walton each volunteered. They made weekly deliveries from Thanksgiving to Christmas Eve.

Becky's Gift coordinators thank their friends, family and the Scripps Ranch community for supporting the project for the last nine years. Thanks go out to these major contributors: Scripps Rock Dental, UCSF NICU, UCSF SICU/Sandy Petty, Scripps Ranch South Tennis Team, Transamerican Mailing, Kelly Marshall's Birthday Party, San Diego Family Magazine, Polly Hickle, Rancho Penasquitos Realtor Caravan, St. Gregory the Great Catholic School, Dingeman Elementary School, American Public Works Association, Betty Torano Realtor, Signature Dance Academy, Ariel Achievements, Scripps Ranch/Poway Rotary Club, Barbara Kuzara, Avery Alfonso, T.Y. Lin International, Scripps Ranch Fieldstone Summit BUNCO Party, Torano Family Thanksgiving Party, Dingman Bunco Babes, Cub Scout Pack 614, Play Station Rancho Bernardo, and All Ivy Cornell Club.

S.T.E.P. earns 4-star rating

Support The Enlisted Project (S.T.E.P.), based in Scripps Ranch, received a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator for the second consecutive year. Charity Navigator awards the coveted 4-star rating to organizations with a strong commitment to accountability and financial health. S.T.E.P.'s mission is to aid military families through financially conscious metrics and credibility. S.T.E.P. has assisted more than 3,000 military and veteran families through financial counseling and \$1.3 million in grants.

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'Byte Sized Falcons' make Cyber Cup finals

By Ken David

A local team of tech-talented students represented Scripps Ranch High School Feb. 16 in the finals of the 10th annual SoCal Cyber Cup Challenge, a competitive event designed to encourage and support student interest in the field of cybersecurity.

The event is produced by the San Diego Chapter of the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA).

The SoCal Cyber Cup Challenge gave students a chance to apply theories and practical skills they have learned, while also fostering a spirit of teamwork, ethical behavior and effective communication both within and across teams. Open to all high school and middle school students in San Diego, Imperial, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, nearly 400 students participated in the Cup's qualification round this year. Scripps Ranch High's team, the "Byte Sized Falcons," is one of eight high school finalists and seven middle school finalists that competed for



Scripps Ranch High School's Byte Sized Falcons include (from left) Evan Dicker, Valerie Ho, Shane Donahue, Brandon Nguyen and Alex Roh. (courtesy photo)

the title, a trophy and prize money for their school. According to the NDIA website, since the cup began, the organization has awarded more than \$100,000 to help schools build their cyber programs.

The Byte Sized Falcons are all seniors and all members of the Scripps Ranch High School Air Force

JROTC program, led by Air Force Master Sergeant Ferdinand Toledo. Team members include Evan Dicker, Shane Donahue, Valerie Ho, Brandon Nguyen and Alex Roh. For the last seven years, the team has competed in CyberPatriots, a youth cyber education program created by the Air Force Association to inspire K-12

students toward cybersecurity or other science, technology, education and math (STEM) fields.

"We've qualified for nationals in CyberPatriots two years in a row," Donahue said.

This is the first time, however, that the Falcons have competed in the SoCal Cyber Cup.

Speaking before the event, Donahue said he expected the finals to be a "capture the flag" type of competition, with clues contained in questions offered like in the game show "Jeopardy."

"Flags are hidden (throughout) the system, and you follow clues and answer the questions to find the flags," he said.

"Every time we answer a question correctly, we get a flag and the team with the most flags wins," Nguyen explained.

"For instance, someone puts a malicious program on the computer, and you have to find out who owns (the program)," Donahue said. "If you look at who owns it, you can find the flag."

Donahue and Nguyen ex-
See **CYBER CUP**, Page 8

SCRIPPS



Scripps Ranch Chess Tournament

Ellen Browning Scripps Elementary School is hosting a community-wide chess tournament for youngsters on Thursday, Feb. 28.

All students in Scripps Ranch in kindergarten to sixth grade are welcome to enter this informal tournament. Cost is \$20 per competitor, and a sibling discount is available.

The event is open to players of all skill levels.

The Scripps Ranch Chess Tournament will be held at Ellen Browning Scripps Elementary, 11778 Cypress Canyon Road, in the Multi-purpose room starting at 6 p.m. and ending at 8:45 p.m.

Pizza and Refreshments will be on sale. Trophies will be awarded to the top four players in each age group.

Doors open at 6 p.m. Games begin at 6:30 p.m. and the awards will be presented at 8:45 p.m.

Pre-register online at ebsenrichments.com.

For more information, email info@afterschool-chessclub.com or call (858) 461-8616.



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SRHS Playhouse presents 'Anything Goes'

By Ken David

Fans of song and dance are in for a treat when the students of the Scripps Ranch High School's Falcon Playhouse present their staging of the classic American musical "Anything Goes," beginning Feb. 28 at the school theater.

The timeless story of the play follows nightclub singer and evangelist Reno Sweeney and her friend Billy Crocker as they travel onboard the SS American. Billy is in love with Hope Harcourt, who is engaged to the wealthy Lord Evelyn Oakleigh. With the help of

'I give these students, with guidance, full control of the production.'

—Patrick Garcia

a hapless gangster and the girlfriend of a man regarded as public enemy no. 1, Billy sneaks aboard hoping — with the help of elaborate disguises, tap-dancing sailors and good old-fashioned blackmail — to stop the wedding and sweep Hope away for himself.

A classic play that has remained popular throughout the country, "Anything Goes" premiered on Broadway in 1934. It has been made into a film and has been reproduced on stage both on and off-Broadway, including as part of a national tour, and at high school and community theaters.

SRHS Theatre Director Patrick Garcia noted that



Members of the Falcon Playhouse present the classic American musical "Anything Goes" at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 28, and March 1, 2, 7, 8 and 9. Matinee shows will be at 1 p.m. on March 2 and 9.

students will be presenting the 1987 version of the production, which features extended musical sections.

"The 'Anything Goes' number is a little longer, and several of the other numbers have longer dance breaks," he said.

Lead actors in the play will be Mackenzie Cain as Reno Sweeney; Luke Lima as Billy Crocker; Maia Fram as Hope Harcourt; Griffin Herring as Lord Evelyn Oakleigh; Dylan Darwish as Moonface Martin; Genevieve Flores as Erma Latour; and Shayan Nowzari as Elisha Whitney.

Garcia said "Anything Goes" is one of the student playhouse's biggest productions. The play has a cast of 45, including the leads, another 35-40 people working as crew and 12 musicians to provide the live music. And

it's all student-run.

"I give these students, with guidance, full control of the production," Garcia said. "What people see on stage — from the sets, lights, costumes and, obviously, the acting — is brought onstage by (students). The biggest thing is that they're given freedom to express themselves in a creative and positive way, on a large scale, and hopefully a real-world experience where they get community members coming in to see their work."

Showtimes and dates for "Anything Goes" will be 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 28, and March 1, 2, 7, 8 and 9. Matinee shows will be at 1 p.m. on March 2 and 9. Tickets can be purchased at the Falcon Playhouse box office after school hours, at the door prior to each showing or online at bit.ly/2GhNUQo.

CYBER CUP

Continued from Page 7

plained that the team would set up a board containing each challenge they are faced with, and each team member will pick one to go after. If someone had trouble with their question, others pitched in to help.

Throughout the competition students utilized the Haiku Cyber Range, a cloud-based technology provided with support from Amazon Web Services, to defend simulated systems that were under cyber-attack. Working in the cloud, teams from all over Southern California could access the cyber range and compete in prac-

tice, qualification and final rounds from any location. For the finals, the students got to work at the San Diego Supercomputer Center located at the University of California, San Diego.

Donahue feels the competition helps him and his teammates sharpen skills they'll use in their future cyber careers.

"Its digital forensics work, so it helps you with system administration work," he said. "There's a lot of digging around in system files and services. Essentially, forensics and some administration, which are both highly valued job skills, I believe."

Master Sergeant Toledo

gives all credit for the Byte Sized Falcons' success to the students.

"These guys are amazing, they're all self-taught in their field of knowledge," he said. "These (students) have competed against the best teams across the country, and they've had very little coaching at all. I'm their advisor. I wouldn't say 'coach' because I don't coach them. I have no idea what they're doing, honestly. These guys are the experts, not me."

The Feb. 16 finals of the SoCal Cyber Cup Challenge were beyond deadline. Check the Schools page of ScrippsRanchNews.com for results.



Marshall students dazzle at Science Olympiad

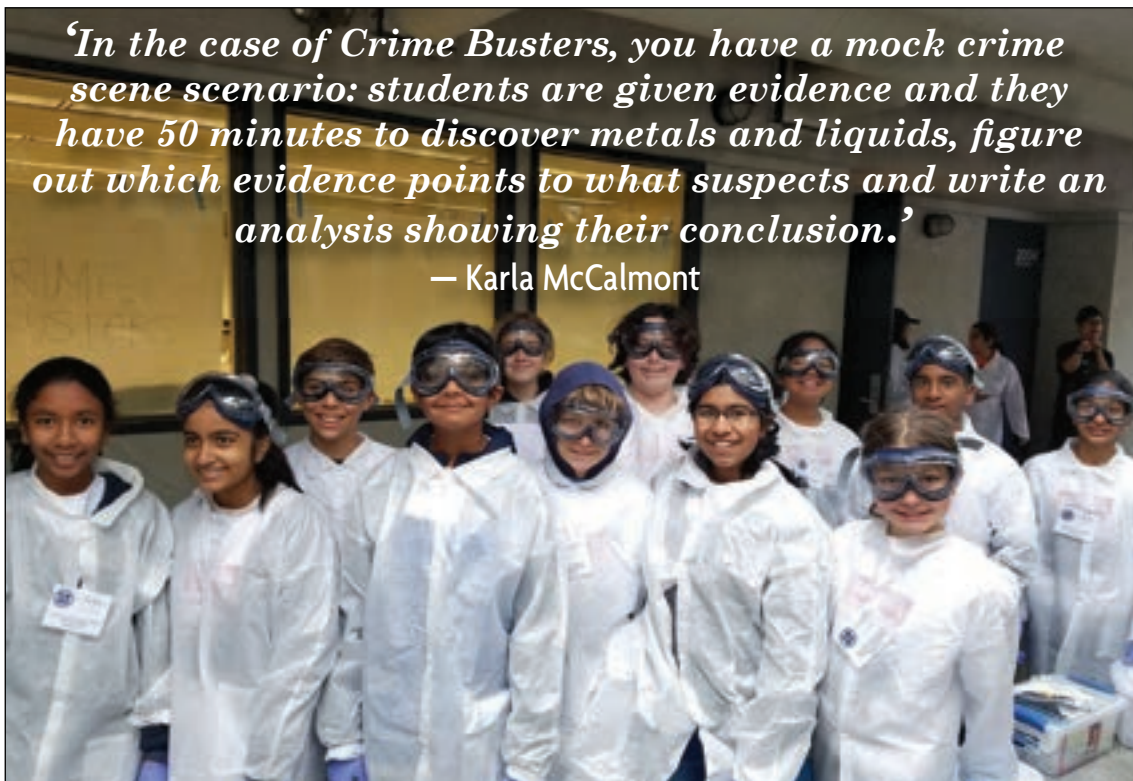
By Laura Hogan

Imagine solving a who-done-it, building a battery-operated robot or proving your knowledge in a specialized area of science. Now imagine being able to do that in middle school. Ninety students of Thurgood Marshall Middle School do just that when they compete annually in the Science Olympiad.

Karla McCalmont, one of Thurgood Marshall Middle School's 46 Science Olympiad assistant coaches, is a chemist by trade. She serves as the coach for the Crime Busters event in the competition. Science Olympiad, McCalmont explained, is comprised of 23 events that fall into three distinct categories: study events, lab events and build events. Crime Busters falls into the lab events category with much to accomplish in a short amount of time.

"In the case of Crime Busters, you have a mock crime scene scenario: students are given evidence and they have 50 minutes to discover metals and liquids, figure out which evidence points to what suspects and write an analysis showing their conclusion," McCalmont said.

The topics range from life science, earth science and physical science to technology and experimental



Thurgood Marshall Middle School's Science Olympiad team placed fifth in the regional competition. Pictured here are the members competing in the event Crime Busters. (courtesy of Karla McCalmont)

'In the case of Crime Busters, you have a mock crime scene scenario: students are given evidence and they have 50 minutes to discover metals and liquids, figure out which evidence points to what suspects and write an analysis showing their conclusion.'

— Karla McCalmont

design. Marshall Middle School students participating each compete in three or four separate events. For the majority of the events, the participants are placed into teams based on their application which denotes their preference for particular events.

According to McCalmont,

the participants meet weekly with their coaches for each of their assigned events from October through February. While there were some smaller invitational events that helped the participants gain their competition sea legs, the main event of the year is the annual San Diego Regional Tour-

nament. Thurgood Marshall Middle School has placed in the top 10 schools for the past 12 years, and this year was no different. Competing on Feb. 9, Thurgood Marshall Middle School placed fifth out of 32 schools and 112 teams. This remarkable finish solidifies their spot at the California State Science

Olympiad competition to be held on April 6.

McCalmont said participating in Science Olympiad gives participants the opportunity to take a deep dive on a topic they really enjoy.

"Science Olympiad provides a chance for students to try out an area mentioned maybe once or twice in class work with much more detail. It also provides a venue for better communication skills and working with a partner. The kids learn how to delegate each task to their strong suits," she said.

Only 15 students from the 90 Marshall Middle School participants will be selected for state competition and, according to McCalmont, they may face events for which they have never prepared. This year, however, their self-selected team names should at least make them feel battle ready: Hela, Killmonger, Loki, Thanos, Ultron and Venom are all monikers shared with powerful villains from the Marvel universe. For more information, visit scilympiad.com/san-diego-so.



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SCHOOL NEWS



Many students wore colorful garb representing cultures from around the globe at Ellen Browning Scripps Elementary School's annual International Night. (photo by John Gregory)

A vast array of culture

A large crowd gathered on a rainy night at Ellen Browning Scripps Elementary School for the school's second annual International Night, held Jan. 31. About 200 attendees packed the multi-purpose room to sample food and learn about the cultures presented at tables representing 15 different countries. Parents of students provided the displays and staffed the tables.

Those responsible for chairing this event include Gail Faber, president of the EBS Academic Fundraising Partnership; Arwa Saif; Raquel Frutos; and Vann Tran.

Many students and parents

were adorned in colorful international garb as the aroma of delicious food wafted through the room.

A handful of performers, including vivid dragon dancers, entertained the crowd, some dancing on stage and around the room.



Students celebrate Kindness Week at Jerabek Elementary School. (courtesy of Laura Stephens)

Jerabek Elementary makes kindness cool

Jerabek Elementary School celebrated Kindness Week Jan. 14-18 with the goal of creating and sustaining a culture of kindness in which students treat themselves, peers, teachers, their families and the environment with kindness, care and compassion.

Teachers provide tools for classroom activities stressing the theme of kindness. "Get Caught Being Kind Cards"

were available around campus and students could be caught being kind and given a card. The cards could be redeemed for items such as Kindness Jelly bracelets, a kindness coin or temporary tattoos.

The week culminated with a Kindness Rally with a DJ and also special guest Greg Camarillo, a retired NFL player, who spoke with the kids about the importance and impact of kindness.

MRE's Spring Social scheduled for April 27

The Miramar Ranch Elementary Family Faculty Association (FFA) invites parents to join in an evening of Greek decadence at the annual Spring Social and Fundraiser. Enjoy dinner and dancing with parents, faculty and friends of the school at Mission Trails Regional Park, 1 Father Junipero Serra Trail. All proceeds will benefit the students of Miramar Ranch Elementary School. Adults only. The Spring Social is scheduled for Saturday, April 27, 7-10 p.m. Visit mrespringsocial.com for more information and to buy tickets.

Bees were buzzing at St. Gregory's

St. Gregory the Great Catholic School welcomed many visitors to its recent Open House, which kicked-off the school's annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week. Students showed their Guardian spirit and hospitality, welcoming more than 200 guests to Lunch with a Loved One; demonstrated their creativity in designing and painting a tile for the 10th Anniversary Legacy Tile Project; celebrated diversity by sharing their heritage and traditions during Cultural Heritage Day; and supported the American Heart Association by raising funds through the Kids Heart Challenge.

In addition, "bees" were buzzing as students participated in the school-level Scripps National Spelling Bee. Eighth grader Patrick O'Leary won by spelling the word "gondolier" correctly. Other winners include National Geographic GeoBee, fifth-grader Luke Parker; and the school's Religion Bee, sixth-grader Adriel Reomales.

Congratulations go to Patrick O'Leary who also won the Chapter, and beat out 10 other chapters, to win the District XIV level in the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) essay contest with his essay based on "The Women's Suffrage Campaign." O'Leary has also been busy as captain of the Academic Decathlon team.

Congratulations also go to kindergartener Isabella Coombs, who placed first in the Diocese of San Diego's Catholic Schools Week Coloring Contest.

Enrollment in all grades, preschool through grade 8, for the 2019-2020 school year has begun. For information about preschool, call (858) 397-1291. For K-8 school, call (858) 397-1290.



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Outstanding Teen heads to state competition

By Bella Ross

She's a junior at Scripps Ranch High School. She spends 23 hours a week training as a competitive gymnast, is greatly involved with her local church and enjoys forensic science and art courses at school. Oh, and she's Miss San Diego's Outstanding Teen.

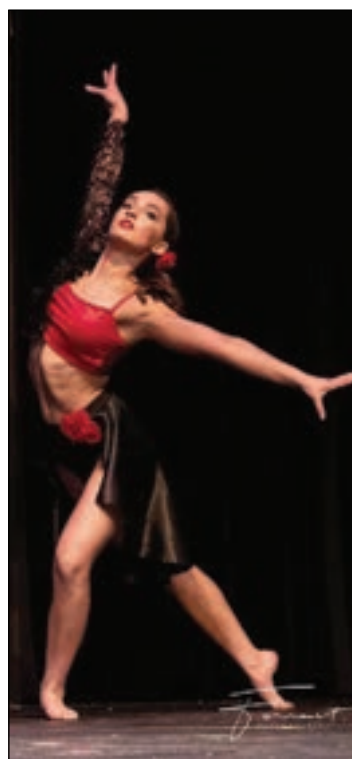
Katherine Chicca, or "Katie" for short, took home the title on Jan. 19 at the 2019 Miss San Diego Competition. The competition required her to display a talent, do a personal interview with the judges, answer an on-stage question and show a certain level of fitness.

"It was really amazing to win," Katie said. "I don't really know how to describe it."

While the competition's winners are granted scholarship money, their title also includes a responsibility to progress a charity platform throughout the year. For Katie, the cause at hand is the United Nations International Children's Education Fund (UNICEF), an international organization focused on children's rights.



Katherine Chicca glides across the stage in a stunning gown. (courtesy of Barbara Chicca)



Katherine Chicca performs her routine in competition. (courtesy of Barbara Chicca)

Katie's mother, Barbara Chicca, said this year-long service commitment will include work with UNICEF as well as contributions to other service efforts in San Diego.

A year of service atop the high schooler's already hectic schedule certainly keeps Katie busy. However, her mom said she's hardly concerned.

"I think, in a lot of ways, they're good life skills for her," Barbara said. "Our lives don't really change much as we age. We get busy, so you have to learn how to juggle your time and manage your priorities. This is good training for that."

As a junior in high school, Katie will be gear-

ing up for graduation soon enough. Her aspirations are big, as she said she is hoping to attend college on the East Coast, possibly in Boston.

'We get busy, so you have to learn how to juggle your time.'

-Barbara Chicca

However, the Miss California competition in June comes much sooner on Katie's agenda, and preparation is already in full swing.

"I'm working with some of my coaches from gymnastics and pageant directors to choreograph a routine to fit the stage at (the state competition) and I'm working on interview practice with other girls who have done pageants," Katie said.

In the meantime, Barbara said she is a proud mom and that she's happy to keep up with the hustle.

"I do a lot of driving," she joked.

FAMILY

AUDITIONS

'The Lion King Jr.' auditions underway

Scripps Theatre Arts, the local non-profit theater group for children, announced auditions for "The Lion King Jr." Youth ages 4-15 are invited to audition, but those interested better hurry. Auditions are Feb. 19 and 20, 5-8:30 p.m. at the Scripps Ranch Recreation Center, 11454 Blue Cypress Drive.

Callbacks will be Feb. 23 at the Scripps Miramar Branch Library. Callbacks are scheduled by invitation only and notice will be provided after each audition is finished. There is a \$225 fee to participate, due at auditions. Parents are expected to volunteer in various capacities.

Rehearsals will be held every Tuesday and Wednesday, 5:30-8:30 p.m., and Sundays noon-3 p.m.

Performances will be May 17 at 7 p.m.; May 18 at 2 and 7 p.m.; and May 19 at 5 p.m.

Secure an audition slot at bit.ly/2tldxr5.



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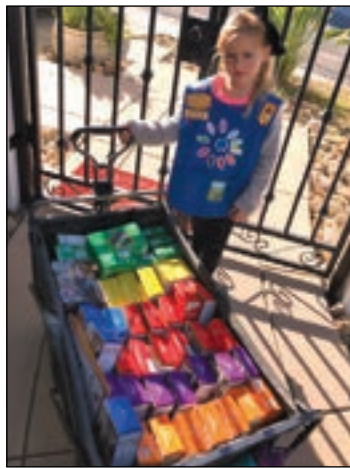
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Charlotte Stepien, from Troop 3817, has a wagon full of cookies for her customers. (by Courtney Stepien)



Sofia Nocella, from Troop 3962, has her cookie boxes ready to roll. Sofia sold 500 boxes in the first five days! (by Kimberly Nocella)



Elise Gaudreau (left) and Regan Cox, members of Brownie Troop 3985 from Miramar Ranch Elementary School, sell cookies beneath an awning in a front yard after school on Red Cedar Drive. (photo by John Gregory)

A CAVALCADE OF COOKIES

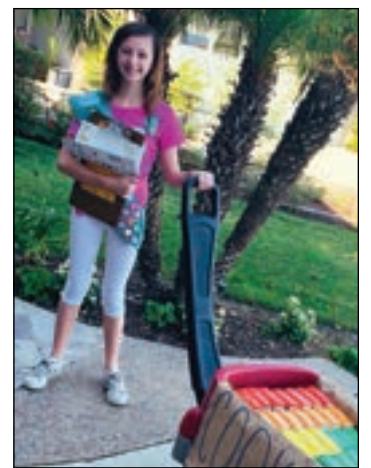
The 2019 Girl Scout cookie sales season is underway. Girl Scouts in Scripps Ranch began the season by going door-to-door in their neighborhoods, contacting family, friends and relatives and setting up tables in their front yards to conduct sales. This popular fundraiser for Girl Scouts will continue through March 10. This year's selection includes Thin Mints, Samoas, Tagalongs, Trefoils, Do-si-dos and Savannah Smiles; each box for \$5. Specialty cookies at \$6 per box are Toffee-tastics (gluten-free) and Girl Scout S'mores.



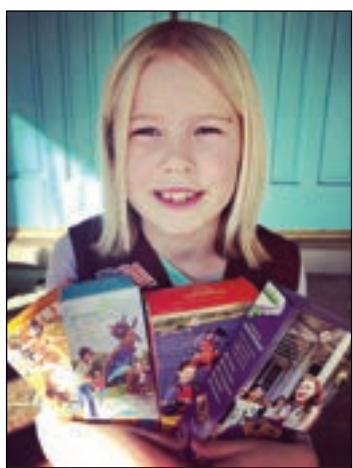
Siena (left), from Troop 3958, age 7, and Lorelei, from Troop 3828, age 5, are two professional-looking Girl Scout saleswomen with a load of cookies ready for customers. (by Marisa Fleizach)



Alice Thompson, a Brownie in Troop 3836, arranged boxes of Girl Scout Cookies in a tidy display. (by Ale Thompson)



Girl Scout Kara Malcangio, a Miramar Ranch Elementary School fifth-grader, has her Girl Scout Cookies arranged in rainbow colors, ready for hungry customers. (by Jen Malcangio)



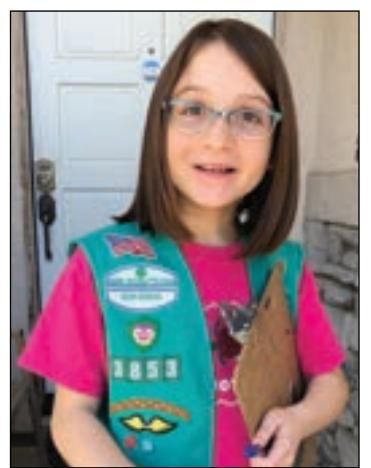
Isabella Detchemendy, a member of Troop 3836, has her arms around a delicious selection of Girl Scout Cookies. (by Tara Detchemendy)



Laura Richmond, from Troop 3836, shows her cheerful smile as she prepares to sell cookies. (by Jennifer Richmond)



Crystal Hooi, from Troop 3853, holds a selection of Girl Scout Cookies for her customers. (by Efina Hooi)



Megan Richmond, from Troop 3853, sells cookies door-to-door. (by Jennifer Richmond)



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PHOTOGRAPHER

Continued from Page 1

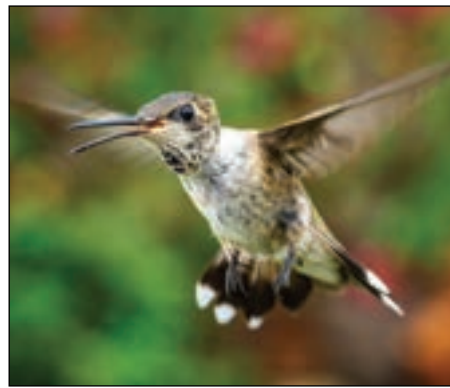
when one of the executives called him into his office. Turns out Kodak had a cricket team and they had an upcoming match against Ilford, a business competitor whom Kodak had never beaten. Campbell was asked if he was available for the date of the match. When he said yes, he was told he had the job. And Kodak finally beat Ilford.

“That was how I got into photography,” Campbell laughed.

Assigned to be a research assistant for renowned Kodak color specialist Robert Hunt, Campbell was put into a darkroom where he was given half a morning’s demonstration of the equipment and a color wheel before being put to work with orders not to come out until he made the world’s best dye-transfer print (a color printing system used from the 1920s to 1960s).

“I spent six months in a darkroom with 200 dyes, experimenting with different combinations of color,” Campbell recalled. “That’s how I learned how to make separation negatives.”

College was always in his plans, and he ended up at the University of Leicester, choosing to study geology with the thought that it would get him outside. Given the opportunity to go anywhere in the world in 1966 to make a geological map for his thesis, he chose the Scottish isle of Iona, where he had spent much time during family trips when he



Michael Campbell's photos of hummingbirds in flight are very popular. (photo by Michael Campbell)



(photo by Michael Campbell)

was a child. He was there for two years, living in and helping to refurbish the Abbey of Iona, a sixth-century abbey owned for 300 years by the Clan Campbell (distant relatives of the photographer’s family). He would return in 1987 to photograph castles on the isle for one of the three photography books he has published.

Ansel Adams, drones and a princess; look for Part 2 in the March issue.



Michael Campbell's past work has included books filled with ground level shots and aerial photos of ancient castles, like this one of Inveraray Castle in Argyll, Scotland. (photo by Michael Campbell)

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Life after retirement can be a bestseller

By Terry L. Wilson

Scripps Ranch resident Cliff Huckleberry devoted his career to making semi-conductors for 21-years. Upon retiring, he decided to write a book. A year-and-a-half later, he had a 600-page novel on his desk.

“I retired three years ago and just started writing,” Huckleberry said. “My wife and I are empty nesters; our kids are on their own. So, I got up one rainy day, poured a cup of coffee and had an idea for a fiction adventure story; and now it’s a published book titled ‘Indomitable.’”

began writing, he was advised to focus on a subject he was familiar with. Since he and his wife, Cathie, frequently traveled to exotic locations such as Spain, Italy, Slovenia and Croatia, this became the perfect backdrop for his novel.

In his book, an average family is torn apart when a rogue European country stages attacks on the United States and Europe, plunging the world into chaos. The father in the book had to find a way to rescue his scattered family – stranded in different parts of the world.

“Since I’m a father, hus-



Cliff Huckleberry

band and a son, I took a regular person, a tech guy – not a Rambo – and put him and

his family into an extremely dangerous situation. He had to do things he normally wouldn’t do to protect his family and get them out of harm’s way,” Huckleberry explained. “I think people will relate because not everybody is a Rambo type guy, and this is about what a regular guy would do in an extreme situation to protect his family. It’s a story that has characters that people can relate to.”

Page Publishing in New York accepted the first-time author and now “Indomitable” is available on Apple iTunes, Amazon, Google Play and Barnes & Noble.

‘Based on my background, writing a book was not a normal thing to do, but it stretched me, and I needed that.’

–Cliff Huckleberry

The first thing any publisher will tell a fledging storyteller is to write about something they know about, so writing about the exciting world of computer chips seemed to be the perfect topic for Huckleberry. However, this mild-mannered widget maker morphed his story into that of a family man caught in the chaos of a worldwide terrorist plot.

“Because I was in technology, a lot of people were surprised when I came out with a fiction adventure book,” Huckleberry said. “Based on my background, writing a book was not a normal thing to do, but it stretched me, and I needed that.”

When this father of four

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Welcome Club: Adventures and celebrations

By Denise Stewart

Without leaving their cozy meeting room at the local Community Center, Welcome Club members took a visual adventure to scenic Native American ruins of Arizona. Co-President Dorothy Mildice shared her award-winning photography of historic desert sites built from around 1100-1425 AD.

The first North Americans thrived there until an uncertain disaster sent them away from their arid metropolis. Only the ruins of the Sinagua Indians multi-story dwellings remain today.

Following the presentation, Welcome Club members enjoyed birthday cake to celebrate the anniversary of the club founding. In 1981, Becky McDonald formed the club to gather local women together to enjoy their time in Scripps Ranch. She is still very active in the organization.

At the March 11 meeting, the women will share a return visit from Carole Banka, PhD, presenting “Timing is everything: thoughts on healthy aging in women.” Dr. Banka has enlightened the Welcome Club during previous visits.



Welcome Club Co-President Dorothy Mildice shared her award-winning photography of Native American ruins. (photo by Dorothy Mildice)

Valentine’s Day Coffee and a celebration of friendship was held at the home of JoAnn Farman. She and her co-hosts wowed the crowd with their culinary delights at the monthly Coffee Klatch.

Ann Schiebelhut, who has hosted the quarterly Birthday Babes fiestas for years, brought the celebrants together again at her home. Lunch and birthday cake trimmed up the party.

The rainy weather modified the weekly Trailwalkers calendar, but the sky cleared long enough for the group to follow their leader to Santee Lakes for a hike. It is not decided yet where they will amble in March.

It was lunch and a mov-

ie for the Gadabouts group this month. Next month’s outing is yet to be slated, according to Pam Savelsberg. But that’s no problem because it will be fun among friends no matter where the group goes or what they do.

A night at the Scripps Ranch Theatre to enjoy “Dancing Lessons” followed a light dinner potluck at Cathy and Alan Binks home. The Welcome Club has enjoyed the plays as a group for many years and continues its support of the local theater.

Should the vitality and activity of the Welcome Club appeal to you, check the website scrippsranchnewelcomeclub.com for contact information.

ADVERTORIAL

Three home remedies for toothaches

Work has been stressful, traffic bad, and you were looking forward to the weekend, but you developed a terrible toothache.

A toothache can completely derail you plans.

Toothaches can be a sign of several issues. Cavities, a cracked tooth or a loose filling are a few of the causes. These three home remedies can provide needed relief until you can see a dentist.

Salt water rinse

Salt water naturally brings down inflammation to provide temporary pain relief. Add four to five teaspoons of salt to one cup of water, swish around your mouth for a minute before spitting it out. Although the results are temporary, a salt water rinse can be done many times.

Clove oil

Clove oil is a natural pain reliever due to its high concentration of eugenol, an anesthetic and antibacterial agent. Eugenol reduces inflammation and has effective analgesic qualities, according to a study published in the British Association of



Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. Dip a cotton ball in clove oil and gently apply to the affected tooth and gum.

Ice pack or cold compress

Ice can temporarily relieve pain and swelling. Freeze an ice pack and place it on the affected side of the mouth for up to 30 minutes to reduce swelling and numb your mouth.

When to see an emergency dentist

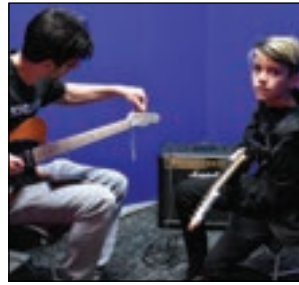
It can be difficult to determine when an emergency dentist visit is needed. If the pain persists, or is unbearable or reoccurs, then research whether your dentist has an emergency line and try to schedule an appointment. Other times to see

an emergency dentist may include, but not limited to, symptoms such as bleeding, swelling, pus, redness, foul smell, sensitivity to temperature or if you feel ill.

Unfortunately, home remedies only provide temporary relief and should not be used as a substitute for proper dental care. Toothaches are a symptom of a larger problem that needs to be addressed.

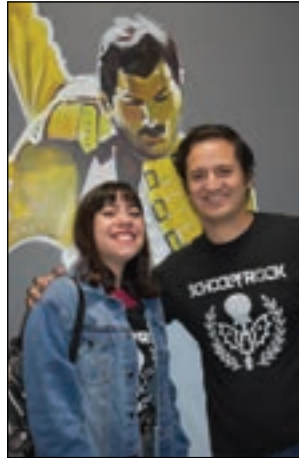
If you are looking for a general dentist in Scripps Ranch, or need an emergency dental visit, call (858) 271-1010 now and we’ll get back to you in less than half an hour.

Oasis Dental Arts
www.oasisdentalarts.com
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GRAND OPENING

School of Rock Scripps Ranch, 12090 Scripps Summit Drive, held a big grand opening Feb. 9. Owner Steve Peterson greeted guests before introducing the first of the young rockers who performed live. The studio space was nothing short of impressive. (photos by John Gregory)



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Scripps Ranch residents Bill and Cynthia Collins provided a Chinese New Year celebration for the public at their business, Collins Family Jewelers, 8220-A Mira Mesa Blvd., on Feb. 2. Performers donned colorful lion costumes and danced in front of the store and through the crowd.



Koto Pines by Erin Hanson

GALLERY ANNIVERSARY

Guests chatted, listened to live music and viewed the colorful paintings of Scripps Ranch artist Erin Hanson during a Feb. 9 anniversary celebration at Erin Hanson Gallery, 9705 Carroll Centre Road.

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Sarah Nakahara goes high to defend against a shot on goal in a 4-7 quarterfinal loss to University City High in CIF San Diego Section Girls Water Polo playoffs.



Andy Manso draws a crowd as he heads to the hoop against Mira Mesa High during a heartbreaking 51-52 loss on Feb. 8.

FALCONS IN ACTION

Winter sports teams at Scripps Ranch High School are rounding out their 2018-2019 seasons. Regular season play concluded with plenty of excitement overall, and post-season play has gotten underway. Photos here provide a small sample of the intense play provided by Falcons athletes.



Sara Reed launches the ball against University City.



Baha Keskin drives past a Mira Mesa defender.



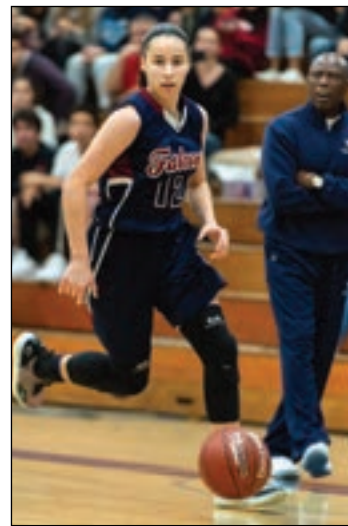
Joshua Cox takes the ball to the hole against Mira Mesa.



Amanda Kramer looks for an open player during a 62-57 victory over Serra High School on Feb. 5.



Arabella Norriss brings the ball forward against the Mira Mesa defense.



Macie Kinne pushes the ball down the court during a 42-47 loss to Mira Mesa on Feb. 8.



Kayla Williams floats a shot over a defender in a 67-51 loss to Christian High on Feb. 1

Photos by Ralph LoVuolo



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Tiger Woods, Tony Finau and Xander Schauffele (photo by Ralph LoVuolo)

XANDER

Continued from Page 1

and-coming Schauffele and the 6-foot, 4-inch Finau all together. Last week the PGA ranked Schauffele seventh on the Tour, Finau 12th and Woods was 13th.

Schauffele played his freshman year at Long Beach State before transferring and finishing his college career at San Diego State. Xander's father, Stefan Schauffele, who played a major role in Xander's development as a top golfer, attended the tournament, of course, as did Xander's former SDSU coach, Ryan Donovan.

Brian Finley and Dave Hodapp, two of Schauffele's former teachers at Marshall Middle School, were in the crowd cheering for their former student during round 3.

Just a few weeks earlier, Xander Schauffele completed a late-round victory at the Sentry Tournament of Champions on Jan. 6 in Maui. At Torrey Pines, he appeared to have taken to the routine of the PGA Tour. He explained what it was like to play in front of his home town fans alongside Tiger Woods.

"I thought I got more cheers than he did ... I'm just kidding," Schauffele joked.

Was it intimidating playing with such a legend?

"Yeah, on the first tee, you know. It was like, we're going to tee it," Schauffele said. "But he's a cool dude. We were just chatting and hanging out. ... We were just talking about everything but golf. We had a good time."

Did he watch Tiger or try to learn from him?

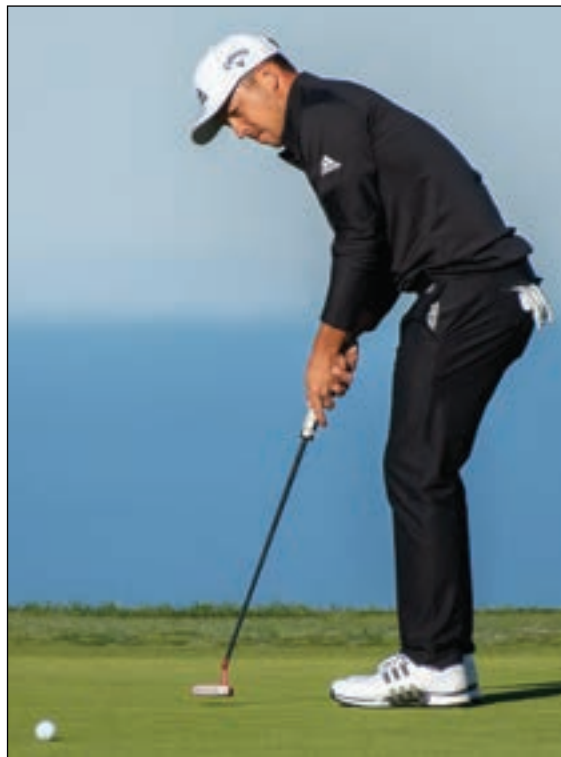
"I always check out my competitors and see what they do well," Schauffele explained. "Obviously, Tiger's tempo and his iron play is incredibly smooth and consistent. He doesn't miss too many iron shots, so that's a beautiful thing to see. Besides that, yeah, he rolls it well, he does everything good. He's Tiger Woods, so come on."

Schauffele found himself ailing as the last two rounds began.

"I caught a little bit of a bug. I had a rough go on Saturday, wasn't feeling great, but my caddie and my whole family and everyone was keeping me kind of alive for today and I'm feeling much better. Looking forward to moving on," he said.

Schauffele said he hopes to return to the Farmers Open next year.

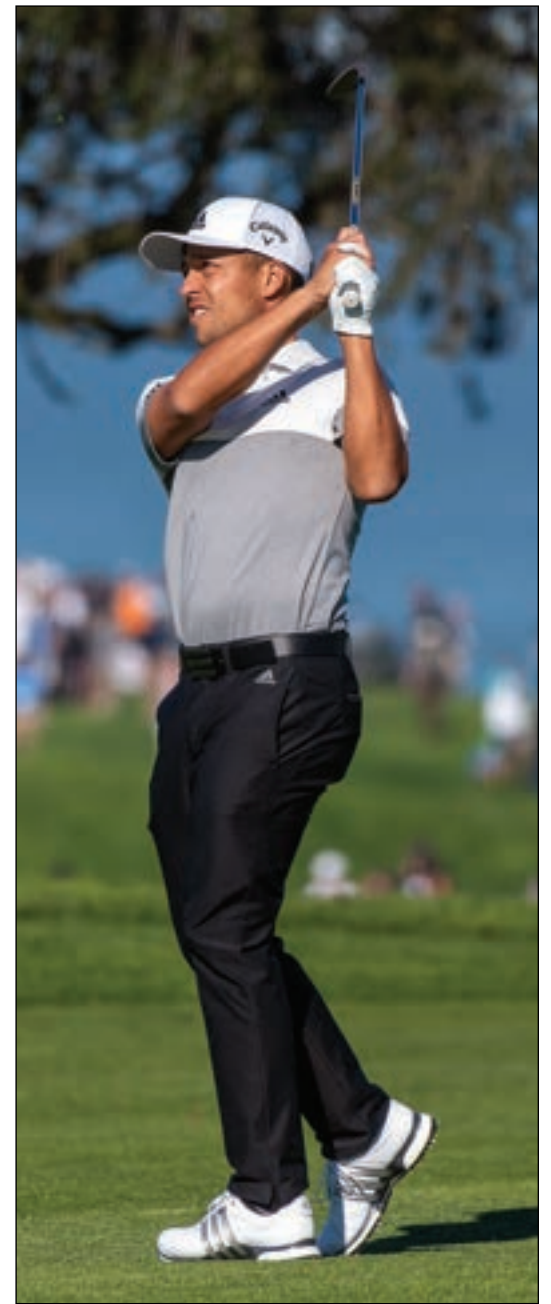
"Yeah, absolutely. It's San Diego, man, it's my hometown," he said. "It's always a great honor to try and win or even win in your hometown, which is something I'm looking forward to doing."



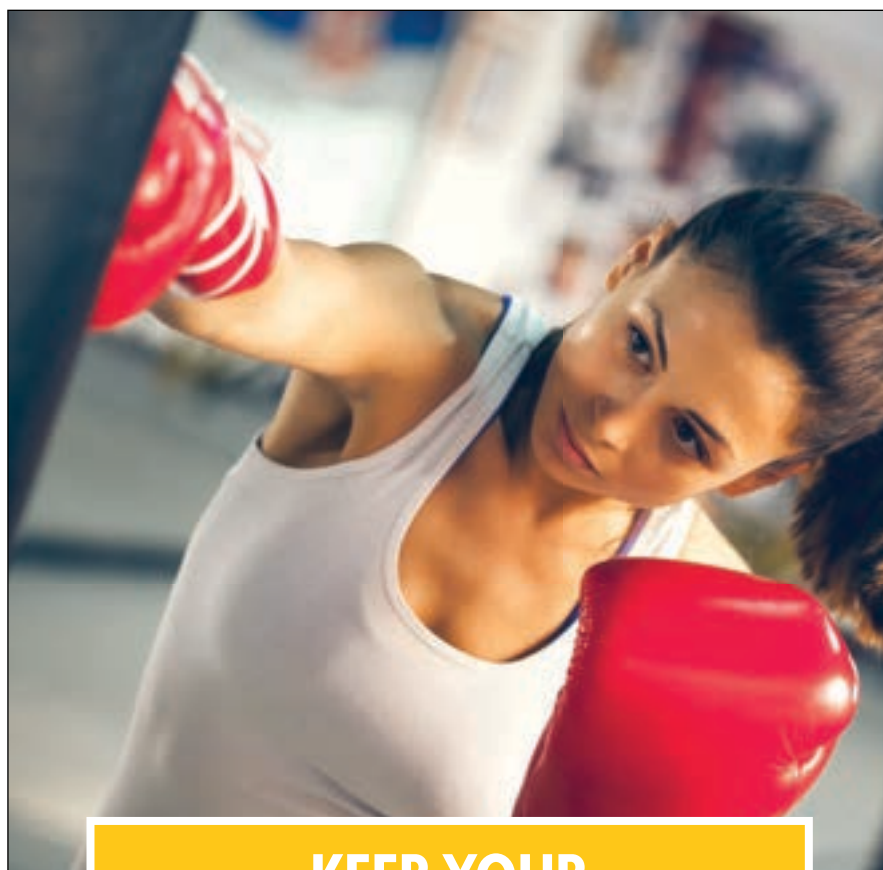
(photo by Ralph LoVuolo)



Brian Finley (left) and Dave Hodapp, two of Schauffele's former teachers at Marshall Middle School (photo by Ralph LoVuolo)



(photo by Ralph LoVuolo)



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INCREDIBLE SEASON

The Scripps Ranch High School roller hockey team doesn't get much attention, but it is quietly having an incredible season. In fact, it was undefeated as of Feb. 11 after defeating Westview 11-5. The team is looking forward to playoffs. See an earlier story on ScrippsRanchNews.com at bit.ly/2DDPybj. (photo by Ralph LoVuolo)

SPORTS UPDATES

Little League holds Opening Day Feb. 24

Scripps Ranch Little League will hold its Opening Day festivities on Sunday, Feb. 24 in Jerabek Park.

Team Pictures begin at 8:30 a.m. The line-up for the Parade of Teams begins at 9:30 a.m. The Parade of Teams begins at 10 a.m. The flag ceremony and National Anthem will be held at 10:30 a.m. The Opening Day Proclamation and ceremonial first pitch by Councilman Mark Kersey will follow, as will the Scripps Ranch Little League president's welcoming message. The first raffle ticket will be drawn at 10:45 a.m., and the Home Run Derby begins at 11 a.m.

The event will feature inflatables for the kids and food will be available at the snack bar, as well as from Yogurt Heaven and Flippin' Pizza.

SRSA schedules Opening Day

The Scripps Ranch Softball Association will hold its Opening Day on Saturday, Feb. 23, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Cypress Canyon Park, 11480 Cypress Canyon Road.

Teams will be taking pictures and games will be played throughout the day. All teams will participate in the parade to show off their banners and team names. In addition, there will be food trucks, raffles and loads of fun.

SRHS playoff teams

(NOTE: some scheduled games were beyond deadline.) The boys basketball team beat Army-Navy 42-39 in the first round of the CIFSDS D2 Playoffs and was scheduled to play at Rancho Buena Vista on Feb. 16 in the quarterfinals. The SRHS girls basketball team beat Eastlake 52-27 in the first round of the CIFSDS D1 Playoffs and was scheduled to play Serra in the quarterfinals on Feb. 15. The SRHS boys soccer team beat Cathedral Catholic in the CIFSDS Open Division quarterfinals and was scheduled to play Feb. 19 in the semifinals. The Scripps Ranch High School girls soccer team lost to Carlsbad 2-1 in a CIF quarterfinal game Feb. 13.

Falcons Baseball Golf Tourney set

The fifth annual Golf Tournament to benefit the Scripps Ranch High School baseball program will be held Saturday, March 9 at Miramar Memorial Golf Course. The tournament includes a shotgun start, dinner immediately following golf, with a raffle and silent auction. Contact Matt Silver for more information: Matt@MattSilverLoans.com.

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New ways to protect your home and family

(StatePoint) Unfortunately, when it comes to your home there is no shortage of things that can go wrong and no shortage of culprits, from wicked weather to electrical fires.

High winds, plumbing and appliance issues, hail, leaky roofs, frozen pipes and break-ins – these are some of the most frequent causes of property damage, according to Travelers, which analyzed eight years of its homeowner’s insurance claims.

But experts say there are steps you can take to help protect your home and family from situations beyond your control, particularly when it comes to some of the most common issues.

“Beyond investing in an insurance policy, integrated smart home technology can go a long way toward helping you protect your home,” said Pat Gee, senior vice president of Personal Insurance Claim at Travelers. “Some of the most common situations we see might be prevented or mitigated with the use of smart home technology.”

Gee points out that with a smart water sensor, for example, you could be alerted



There has never been a better time to explore smart home solutions that can enhance your home’s security. (copyright mangpor2004/stock.Adobe.com)

at the first sign of excess water where it doesn’t belong and take care of it before it’s too late. Or, with a smart motion sensor, you’ll know about unusual activity on your property in real time.

Travelers thinks that smart home technology is a game changer when it comes to protecting homes and property, so it has teamed up with Amazon to offer integrated smart home solutions at a discount to the insurer’s eligible customers. Customers can choose between a Smart Kit,

Smart Kit Plus and Smart Kit Premier, which include an Amazon Echo Dot, security cameras, water sensors, motion detectors and a smart home hub to centrally control these devices from one app. Travelers is also offering discounted kit installation, providing free Amazon Echo Dot devices to eligible customers, and has introduced new Alexa skills to help answer billing questions and provide property maintenance and home safety advice to all consumers, with more skills

planned for the future.

To learn more, visit the insurance industry’s first digital storefront at Amazon.com/Travelers.

“Traditional smoke alarms and home security systems are helpful, but there are new, proactive ways to monitor your home, including devices that are easier to use and more affordable than ever,” Gee said. “There has never been a better time to explore smart home solutions that can enhance your home’s security and help provide peace of mind.”

HOME NEWS

Sales fell countywide, prices unchanged

Resale home transactions in San Diego County fell significantly in January, according to housing statistics compiled through the San Diego Multiple Listing Service by the Greater San Diego Association of Realtors® (SDAR). “While January can be a sluggish month for home sales, the number of homes on the market is up by more than 30 percent from a year ago,” said SDAR President Kevin M. Burke, JD. Single-family homes countywide saw a drop of more than 20 percent last month compared to December, and nearly 17 percent for attached properties (condominiums and townhomes). The median price of homes barely moved in January, with single-family homes dipping by about one-and-a-half percent to \$615,000. Attached properties nudged up about a tenth of a percent to \$415,000.

Scripps Ranch home sales for January 2019

Single family homes sold: **15**

Median price of single family homes sold: **\$905,000**

Attached homes sold (condominiums or townhomes): **11**

Median price of attached homes sold: **\$432,500**

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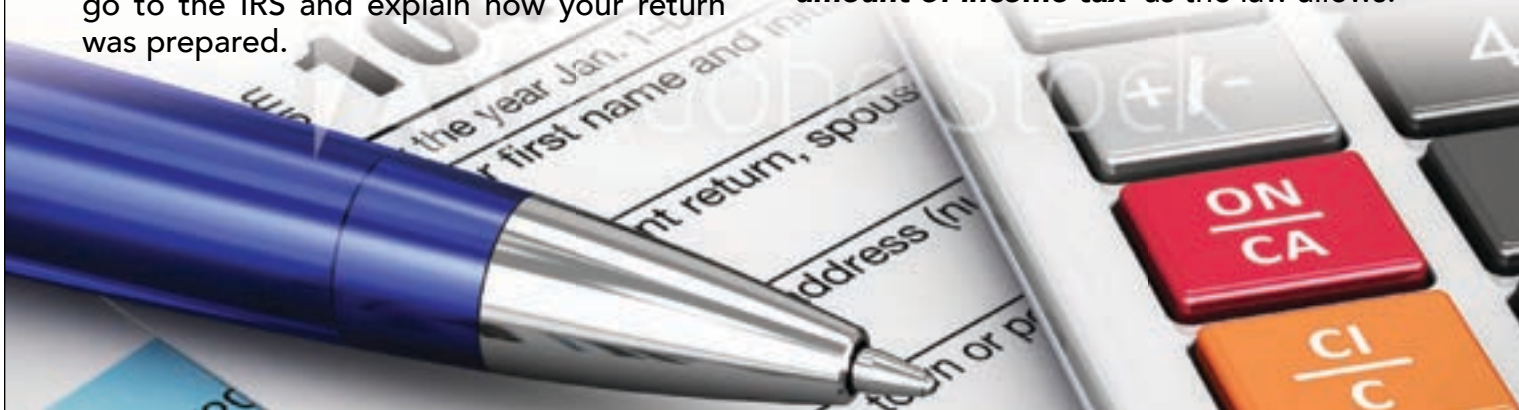
Making sense of the 2018 tax law changes



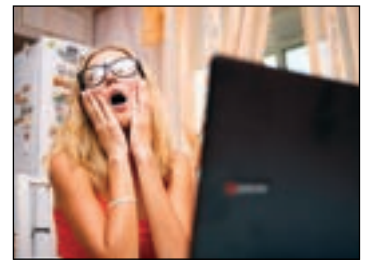
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Don't just live with the dead zones in your home. (Copyright nuclear_lilly/stock.Adobe.com)

Bring dead zones to life

(StatePoint) There are locations in many homes where Internet-connected devices and smartphones are unable to receive a steady Wi-Fi signal from the router. These are called "dead zones."

"Dead zones typically include bathrooms, second and third story bedrooms, attics, basements, garages and back patios – and they can drive everyone in the house absolutely crazy," said Jeff Parker, the "Wi-Fi Guru" and editor of the Milo Wi-Fi Blog, a source for practical advice, new product and leading-edge technology dedicated to enhancing the Wi-Fi experience. Parker offers these suggestions:

- 1. Keep your router away from metal.** Objects such as mirrors, televisions, appliances or anything large made primarily of metal have the potential to impair your network's signal strength.
- 2. Switch to a less crowded frequency.** Too many broadcasting networks can interfere with each other and impact Wi-Fi quality. Because routers broadcast across two wireless frequency bands, 2.4 and 5 GHz, when one is too crowded it acts like a highway packed with cars. Switch frequencies within your mobile device settings to use the less crowded channel.
- 3. Reboot regularly.** Routers asked to complete many requests can end up slowing down because of the heavy workload. Reboot your router to clear it.
- 4. Get the latest hardware.** Outfitting your home with a smarter and more advanced router could be the solution to your Wi-Fi woes. Internet service providers often provide router upgrades by request for no charge.
- 5. Consider a distributed mesh Wi-Fi system.** For Wi-Fi that reaches farther, consider a mesh Wi-Fi system, which consists of a main router connected to a modem and a series of satellite Wi-Fi distribution modules placed throughout the house. Those from Milo provide a strong uninterrupted signal to every Wi-Fi device in the home. Visit milowifi.com or call 1-877-426-6456.

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Attract songbirds to your yard

(StatePoint) Did you know that you can create a safe haven for wild song birds in your own backyard? By taking a few simple actions, you can provide birds with vital resources they need to thrive, as well as guard them from common flying hazards.

Feed them

Birds in transit expend a lot of energy, but you can ease their hunt for food. Avoid the temptation to feed birds yesterday's bread. Stale breads that have developed mold could be potentially harmful to birds. Instead, populate your garden with native flowering species and supply a bird feeder stocked with a variety of seeds. Strategic placement of a bird feeder is key in preventing bird strikes. Place your feeder either closer than three feet or farther than 30 feet from windows. Clean your feeder periodically to ensure its contents are fresh and free of potentially toxic mold.

Protect them

Before inviting birds to your yard and garden with food and habitat, first take measures to protect them. Millions of birds die annually by striking glass, making the windows and glass doors of your home a potential safety hazard. Reduce the risk of bird strikes by applying special decals that reflect ultraviolet sunlight from your home's windows, particularly those highly reflective of open sky. Virtually invisible to humans, they keep birds safe without affecting your view.

The ones offered by WindowAlert, for example, give



Want to beautify your backyard naturally? By taking a few simple measures, you will give birds an incentive to visit. (copyright Steve Byland/stock.Adobe.com)

the appearance of slightly frosted translucent glass, but glow like a stoplight for birds. For fuller protection, supplement the decals with WindowAlert UV Liquid, making marble-sized dots to create a "visual barrier" across glass surfaces. To learn more, visit WindowAlert.com.

Limit other hazards to birds by ensuring cats, dogs and other predatory (but otherwise adorable) pets are monitored while outside to prevent attacks. Dogs can be trained not to attack birds. If this proves to be an issue, consider consulting a professional dog trainer on how to break this habit.



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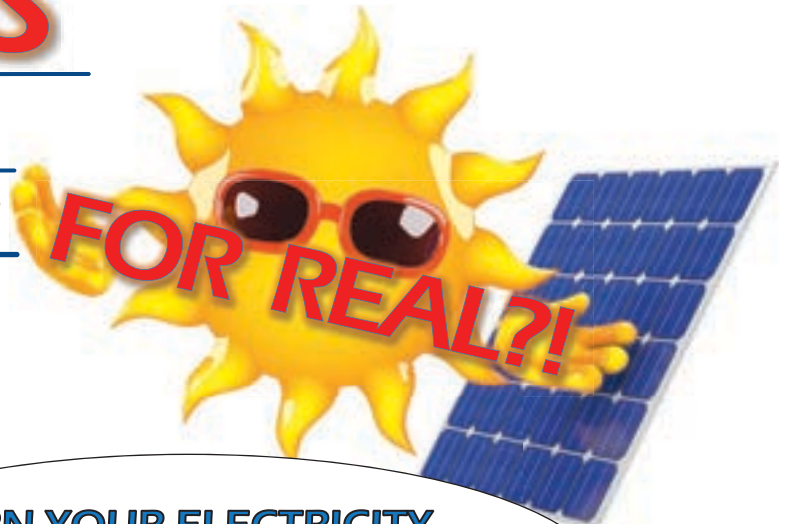
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Featured Home

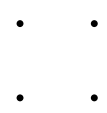


Hantemar | South of Pomerado

10350 Rue Mont Grenoble
 4 Bedrooms + Office | 4.5 Bath | 4073 Sq Ft
 Offered at \$1,499,000

One of only 4 homes located on large private cul-de-sac. Impeccable condition — fully remodeled throughout! Beautifully landscaped large wrap-around yard situated on over 1/2 acre flat lot. Relax or entertain with outdoor kitchen, spacious covered patio, 400 gallon waterfall pond, and putting green with astroturf — many areas to enjoy! Open, light and bright floor plan features downstairs en suite, downstairs office and another full size bathroom off laundry room. Enjoy spacious living areas such as formal living and dining rooms, family room and gourmet kitchen with top-of the-line stainless steel appliances.

2 Large secondary bedrooms located upstairs with master suite. Enjoy park-like views from master balcony and upgraded master bath with his and hers vanities, his and hers walk-in closets, soaking tub and large walk-in glass shower enclosure. Multiple windows, skylights and sliding glass doors from this home bring in lots of natural lighting! Fully owned solar system. Dual zoned central heating and air (2 years old), security system. 4 Car garage with cobblestone driveway. Private swim and tennis club nearby — exclusive to Chantemar residents only.



Additional Listings



Rancho Pacifica | Carmel Valley

4991 Rancho Del Mar Trail
 Asking \$6,995,000 – \$7,695,000
 7 Bed | 7 Full Bath | 2 Half Bath | 12,100 Sq Ft



Santaluz

7670 Iluminado
 Asking \$3,495,000
 4 Bed | 1 Office | 4.5 Bath | 4594 Sq Ft

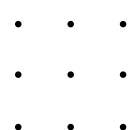


Escondido

1732 Fairdale
 Asking \$375,000
 2 Bed | 1 Bath | 827 Sq Ft

“Steve sold us our first house 10 years ago, and Johnny just helped us sell it a decade late for a significant profit from across the country, no less. Both are consummate professionals who know this business back-to-front. Our every question was answered immediately, and every unexpected situation handled quickly and smoothly. This was an absolutely pain-free process; we would not dream of looking anywhere else for our real estate needs. Thanks guys!”

— A. Poland, Homeowner



The Ferreira Group

With over 42 years of experience, call today for your free home analysis.



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