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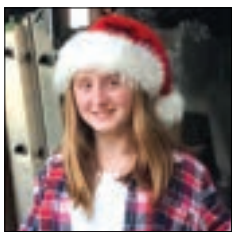
SCRIPPS RANCH
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A dream come true

*Savannah Philyaw finds
success with her first
full length album*

By Laura Hogan

Savannah Philyaw, local Scripps Ranch resident and recording artist, followed her gut instinct to pursue her dream of making music full time, and it's paying off. Philyaw recently released her debut full length album "A Whisper in the Wind." It has gained more than 64,000 streams on the music sharing platform Spotify.

The album can best be described as easy listening, nostalgic and uplifting indie-folk music. Philyaw said she
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Savannah Philyaw during a live performance. She recently released the album "A Whisper in the Wind." (photo by Justin Higuchi)

Alliant celebrates life of Flight PS752 victim

Alliant International University scheduled a memorial event on campus Jan. 21 for student Sara Saadat, a passenger on Ukraine International Airlines Flight PS752, which was shot down and crashed in Iran on Jan. 8.

The flight took off from Tehran and was headed to Kiev. All 176 aboard the airliner perished, according to reports. It appears Saadat visited family in Iran and was on her way back to begin the spring 2020 term in the university's clinical psychology program, according to Alliant.

News reports indicate Saadat's sister, Saba, and mother were also on the flight.

By all accounts, this tragedy was an unintended result of international hostilities between Iran and the U.S. A U.S. drone strike killed top Iranian general Qasem Soleimani on Jan. 3. Iran retaliated Jan. 7 by firing ballistic missiles at two bases housing U.S. military per-

sonnel in Iraq. Iranian anti-aircraft defenses were on high alert following Iran's missile attacks, expecting the U.S. to answer with air strikes on Iranian targets. The downing of Flight PS752 came just hours after Iran executed its missile attacks. Iranian leaders initially stated the jetliner crash was not related, but days later admitted it fired at and hit the Ukrainian airliner, mistaking it for a U.S. cruise missile. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani issued a statement saying an investigation found that "missiles fired due to human error."

Plans for the private Jan. 21 celebration of life included a slide show; poems; and students, faculty and local members of Saadat's family sharing memories, according to Cielo Villasenor, Alliant communications director.



Sara Saadat (Facebook)

New start time set for SRHS fall classes

Beginning this fall, Scripps Ranch High School (SRHS) classes will start at 8:45 a.m., according to a message e-mailed to parents from Principal Nicole DeWitt on Jan. 15.

The San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) Board approved Healthy Start Times which are now mandated by California Senate Bill 328 requiring all California high schools start classes after 8:30 a.m. Middle schools may not start before 8 a.m. under the new state law. A new start time for Marshall Middle School had not been announced as of press time.

SRHS is not the only high school affected by this ruling. SDUSD requires Healthy Start Times to begin at all high schools for the 2020-21 academic year.

The law was passed based on scientific research on teens and sleep. Studies indicated that later start times are linked to increased student attendance, improved academic performance and health. Insufficient sleep among teens has been associated with a wide variety of adverse outcomes, according to DeWitt's message.

The memo from Principal DeWitt requested that parents of students who will attend SRHS next year

HEALTHY START TIMES

SB 328
bit.ly/2FZl8Sq

Research
bit.ly/2FZ4gLI

SDUSD description
bit.ly/2FZh3hf

start planning for the change by coordinating carpools and considering before- and after-school arrangements. The adjustments families must make range from minimal to substantial. Families in which both parents are employed may have to make considerable adjustments to ensure their students arrive to school for the new class starting time. Initial reaction from SRHS parents filled local social media pages with comments and questions.

Principal DeWitt's message indicated that she and her staff will work with school committees to determine the end time for the school day and any altered bell schedules for the 2020-21 school year. She stated that more information will be announced in upcoming weeks.

Parker's Pick Up helps Build a Miracle

By Bella Ross

Mother-son duo Parker and Alexandra Langenberg have spent part of January taking to the streets in a pick-up truck visiting neighbors who've asked for their help disposing of their Christmas trees. In exchange for the service, they accept donations that are then given to the charity Build a Miracle, which works to build homes and fund education for families in Mexico.

The homegrown project is called Parker's Pick Up.

"We just decided that lots of people don't really want the hassle of taking their tree out just because maybe they don't have the right vehicle and they just don't want to put it on the top of their car and go through all that work," Parker said.

The idea came to fruition last year as part of a larger effort by 14 Scripps Ranch High School and Cathedral Catholic High School boys to help Build a Miracle construct a state-of-the-art playground in Tijuana, a project that would require them to raise \$50,000, according to Alexandra. She



Parker Langenberg picks up old Christmas trees in exchange for donations that are given to the charity Build a Miracle. (courtesy photo)

raise \$2,000 over the combination of the two different pick-up years, so we're getting very close and I think we're going to meet that goal," Alexandra said.

Thanks to word-of-mouth and numerous Facebook posts, Alexandra said, the community response to the program this year has been "overwhelming." Some neighbors who don't have Christmas trees to get rid of will donate money just to support the cause, she said.

With the project's success coming more into the light, Alexandra said she is proud of her son's efforts to commit himself to charity work.

"He's been real entrepreneurial about how he wanted to raise money for a charity and it kind of just shows how industrious he is, and he's pretty business-minded for someone his age," Alexandra said. "The fact that he's willing to work so hard and give it all away I think really says a lot about his character and who he is."

Anyone looking to have a tree picked up or to make a donation to Parker's project may contact Alexandra directly by texting (858) 344-6541.

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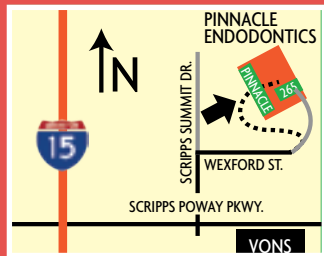
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Resident runs for Superior Court Judge

By Ken David

Roberta Winston, an experienced lawyer, law firm partner and a Scripps Ranch resident for more than 30 years, is hoping to win election to San Diego Superior Court Judge, Seat 18 on March 3.

The election will fill a seat being vacated by retiring judge Jacqueline Stern. Winston's opponent in the race is CJ Moody, a deputy district attorney for the last 17 years, including the last 15 in the San Diego District Attorney's office. Since there are only two candidates running for the seat, the winner takes all on March 3.

Originally from Michigan, Winston earned a bachelor's degree in social science from Michigan State University in 1983, then headed west where she earned a juris doctorate from University of San Diego School of Law in 1986.

"I came out to thaw out," she said. She lived in various parts of San Diego during law school but discovered Scripps Ranch through a friend who bought a house here.

"That was in the late '80s. At that time, Scripps Ranch was like the end of the earth, it was so far. There were deer everywhere," she remembered. "I spent enough time here and fell in love with the area. I bought a place here in '92 and never left."

Her family, which includes her husband, two daughters, one son and



Roberta Winston is running for Superior Court Judge, Seat 18. (courtesy photo)

two dogs, lost their home in the wildfire of 2003. Winston said the experience strengthened her appreciation of Scripps Ranch.

"There's always silver linings, that's kind of the way I look at things, and there were lots of them. Not the least of which was what it did in terms of bringing the community together," she said. "It was extraordinary. It was a very bonding kind of experience that so many of us shared. My street looked like a war zone. We rebuilt in the same lot and we're still there."

According to Ballotpedia, the California Superior Courts are the trial courts of the California court system. Each of California's 58 counties has

JUDICIAL CANDIDATE EVALUATIONS AVAILABLE

The San Diego County Bar Association offers evaluations of judicial candidates online. Candidates are reviewed by a 21-member Judicial Election Evaluation Committee representing a cross section of San Diego's legal community. To access this resource, visit sdcba.org and search for "judicial evaluations."

a superior court, which handles civil and criminal cases, as well as family, probate and juvenile cases. To qualify as a superior court judge, a candidate must have been an attorney admitted to practice law (a member of the State Bar of California) or have served as a judge of a court of record in the state for at least 10 years immediately preceding election or appointment.

Winston noted that the decision of where in the San Diego County system the newly elected judges will be assigned and what type of cases they will work on is decided by the county's presiding judge.

Winston feels that anyone qualified to run for judge can learn the rules and procedures required by the job, but factors like experience, discipline, discretion and fairness are critical for the position.

"I have 32 years of legal practice, experience. With that comes wisdom and

See **JUDGE**, Page 4

NEWS

Rummage Sale set for Feb. 22

St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church will hold its 13th annual Rummage Sale fundraiser to benefit its sister parish Our Lady of Angels on Saturday, Feb. 22, 7 a.m.-noon at 11451 Blue Cypress Drive. Items for sale will include art; antiques; collectibles; sporting goods; tools; clothing for adults and children; jewelry; kitchen items; china; glasses; furniture; appliances; bedding; toys; bikes; games; books; and DVDs. Shoppers will find good prices and bargains. Come early for the best selection. For more information, contact Angie McAllister, (858) 395-5916.

Rotary Club has been active

The Rotary Club of Poway-Scripps inducted two new members at a recent meeting. Assistant Area Governor Don Glover had the honor of inducting Judy Stephens and Robert Valdez. The club also held a holiday drive to collect supplies for Corazon de Vida, an organization that funds more than 10 orphanages in Baja, Mexico. With the support of the Scripps Ranch and Poway communities, along with members of the club, a pallet of much needed items was secured. Walter Andersen Nursery stored the donations and the store manager, Chuck Carpenter, helped Corazon de Vida board member George Perez load them for transport. This holiday season, the Rotary Club of Poway-Scripps adopted a family and helped make their Christmas merry. The club didn't just buy presents on the family's wish list, it asked Santa to make a special trip to the family's home to deliver them.

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JUDGE

Continued from Page 3

some humility. I think both characteristics are essential for judges to have," she said. "Because a judge that's not humble is not serving their community in the way it needs to be served, in my opinion. And wisdom just comes from time. There's no substitute. I have almost double the experience of my opponent."

Since judges can be assigned to hear different types of cases than they may have practiced, Winston said the kind of law a candidate has practiced as an attorney isn't as important as getting a sense of how a candidate will act as judge.

"People think, 'Oh, you've got no criminal experience.' Yeah, OK, and my opponent has no civil experience," she said. "It's more about what kind of sense do you have about (a candidate's) sense of judgement, how that person will exercise discretion. We're obligated to follow the law that exists, we don't get to make it up. We're not legislators. The evidence is the evidence, although judges have the discretion about what evidence will be admitted and what can't be admitted. So, impartiality is critical; fairness is critical."

For the last 20 years, Winston's legal practice has focused on uncovering property insurance fraud and helping consumers battle fraud in the water restoration industry. As she explained, when an insurance company has identified red flags or suspicious circumstances in a claim, she talks to people under oath and renders a recommendation to the client as to how to proceed.

"They look to me to talk to that person under oath, listen to what they have to say, make a judgement on the facts, apply the law, and literally write an opinion and give it to them to tell them what to do," she said. "Every day, I'm doing more judging than advocating. It's exactly what I do – all the time. So, I have mastered the ability to talk to people under oath."

She noted that clients count on her to give good advice. Bad advice could end up costing the client a lot of money.

"They are counting on me to be fair; they're counting on me to be objective," she said. "I've been practicing fairness for the last 20 years in an active way, so I feel like I have a leg up on that front, too."

For more information, visit voterobertawinston.com.

Holiday season toy drive

By Dave Kensler

The kids at Lillian J. Rice Elementary School in Chula Vista are more than likely still experiencing the joy of the holiday season, thanks to the efforts of a youth baseball organization in North County that includes Scripps Ranch residents.

The San Diego Longhorns organization is a collection of youth travel baseball teams for ages 8 to 17. One of the founders, Bob Bafia, and Joe Henderson, director of coaching, approached Scripps Ranch resident Valerie Chuang in November about coordinating a holiday season toy drive for kids in lower income areas of San Diego.

Chuang, whose son plays on the 11-year old team, accepted the offer based more on the goal than understanding the process.

"This was the first time I have ever been in charge of a fundraiser," she said. "I had no idea of what to expect. Each of the eight teams had a parent in charge of their



San Diego Longhorns members (from left) Cooper Cote, Chase Hamilton, Emerson Hamilton and Ethan Chuang helped with a toy drive for less fortunate kids in San Diego County. (courtesy photo)

team and those parents all reported to me as to their progress."

The beneficiary of the efforts was the organization Care House, which serves homeless and at-risk kids throughout San Diego. The idea of the toy drive was launched with Care House providing a list of the toys desired by kids at schools they service.

The holiday season can be a challenging one for many organizations and Care House is no exception. However, it is not just about securing

food and basic necessities, but also finding ways to help the kids have fun.

"The message from Bob and Joe was we (San Diego Longhorns) are not just about baseball," Chuang explained. "We are part of the community and when you are part of a community you give back to it. It was a valuable message for both the parents and kids."

Coupled with Chuang's challenge of never having coordinated a fundraiser was this being a first-time effort of the San Diego Longhorns

working with Care House. Expectations were neither high nor low, but rather uncertain.

It was determined that the Lillian J. Rice Elementary School would be the recipient of whatever toys could be collected for distribution.

A flyer accompanied with email blasts fueled the initial efforts. Parents from other teams began to deliver the toys to Chuang's residence.

A delivery date was set when Care House representatives, some parents and kids who participated in the toy drive, and others convened at Lillian J. Rice Elementary School.

"It exceeded everyone's expectations," Chuang said. "Care House and the school were overwhelmed with the response to the efforts. There were far more toys than anticipated. Soccer is a popular sport and we had over 30 soccer balls to donate."

The toys purchased were all brand new, which added to the excitement for the kids at the school.

"The day we delivered the

See **TOY DRIVE**, Page 6

Scripps Theatre Arts holds new auditions

Scripps Theatre Arts will hold auditions for its spring production of "Beauty and the Beast." Everyone that auditions will be cast in the show. Beauty and the Beast will be performed at the Poway Center for the Performing Arts the weekend of May 1-3. Scripps Theatre Arts provides opportunities for youth ages 4-19 to directly participate in live theater productions.

Auditions will be held Feb. 11 and 12, 5-8:30 p.m. each day at Miramar Hourglass Recreation Center, Building

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Past SRWC scholarship winners are succeeding

By Barbara Wesser

Scripps Ranch Women's Club (SRWC) has been awarding scholarships to young women graduating from Scripps Ranch High School (SRHS) since its beginning. Members often wonder how their recipients are doing. We decided to find out by reaching out to three of them in various stages of their careers.

A 2014 SRHS grad, **Angela Hampton** has graduated from UC Davis where she majored in animal science and is now in veterinary school at the University of Illinois. As a high school senior, Angela knew she wanted to major in animal science with an interest in equine medicine. While in college, she developed an interest in veterinary pathology instead as animal science majors focus on agricultural species. Armed with a USDA scholarship, she is solidly on a path to her veterinary career. Winning a scholarship

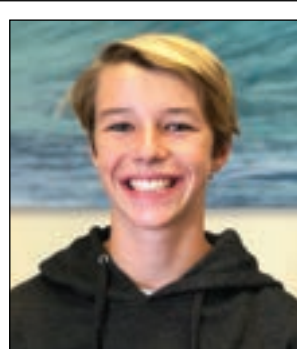
as a senior allowed her to help with the financial costs of college and encouraged her to maintain good grades and internship experiences.

Ashley Garcia was inspired to apply for scholarships by her mom, who came from a low-income family and had to apply for scholarships to fund her schooling. She graduated from SRHS in 2017 and followed her long-time goal of becoming a nurse by enrolling in UCLA's nursing program. That program only has less than a 2 percent acceptance rate and she feels very proud to have been selected. She is currently in her third year and, after taking her nursing boards and working in the field, she plans to get a master's in nursing and become a pediatric nurse practitioner. As her field of study requires extensive and expensive equipment, scholarships have helped ease that financial obligation.

One of SRWC's most recent graduates is **Selena Martinez**. Applying and receiving

scholarships enabled her to pursue a college degree as her family needed that financial boost. She was accepted at Yale University where she is a sophomore majoring in geology and geophysics with a concentration on vertebrate paleontology. In addition to her studies, she joined a comedy group, joined a club for ASL and worked in her college office. After a freshman summer in France, she returned to a lab research position at Yale's Geology and Geophysics department where she was awarded a \$5,000 fellowship. Being awarded a scholarship has contributed to her confidence in school with the knowledge that other people had faith in her ability to compete with and join her peers.

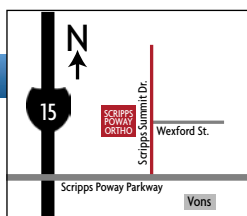
If you know a current senior at SRHS heading to college, be sure to encourage her to apply for a SRWC scholarship by the deadline of March 30. She can find an application in the school counseling office or online at srwomensclub.org.



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TOY DRIVE

Continued from Page 5

toys, the principal at the school told me that earlier in the day a parent had inquired if there were going to be any extra toys for other kids," Chuang said. "We had so many donations that Care House and the school were able to expand the list of recipients. It was incredible."

Chuang, who works remotely as a vice president for the Leo Burnett advertising company based out of Chicago, is not sure what kind of effort will happen for the 2020 holiday season. Nor does she know if she will be the coordinator again, but this challenge gave her satisfaction beyond her imagination.

Chuang mentioned that Longhorns parent Rachel Hamilton was a huge help to her.

"The kindness and generosity of parents and kids, some who I had never met previously because they are associated with different teams within Longhorns, was incredible," she said. "It was overwhelming and honestly, I think I benefited the most from this experience."

For more information on Care House, visit carehouse-kids.org.

Recycling efforts help horses and veterans

By Dave Kensler

Thanks to an idea for a school community service project, recycling can help a local organization that focuses on horse or equine therapy and military veterans.

“We are required to do a community service project at my school,” explained 11-year old Rachael Tanzer. “Since I own a horse and come from a military family, I thought this was the perfect project for me.”

The horse therapy is part of the Pegasus Rising organization whose website notes one of its primary efforts is “Partnering horses with humans to heal our U.S. military personnel who are reintegrating back into their civilian lives.”

“The recyclables pay for the feed for the horses and any extra help to pay for vet bills,” Tanzer said. “The horses are then used for therapy whereby veterans and military personnel can pet and comb them or give them treats. These are veterans who have suf-

‘The horses are then used for therapy whereby veterans and military personnel can pet and comb them or give them treats.’

—Rachael Tanzer

fered traumatic brain injuries (TBI) or suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).”

The project is a win-win for everyone.

“Every can and bottle counts,” said Rachael’s mother, Wendy Tanzer, who served six-years in the military (her husband served 23-years). “They provide food and care for the horses who in turn help our veterans heal.”

Rachael began riding horses at an early age and sees that passion as possibly leading to a career. She is a regular competitor in the Poway Rodeo in junior bar-



Rachael Tanzer gathers recyclables to help fund the Pegasus Rising organization that partners horses with military veterans as therapy. (courtesy photo)

rel racing.

“I have been riding horses for over half my life,” she said. “One day I would like to be an equine veterinarian and if that doesn’t work out, then perhaps a medical doctor.”

While the project is intended to last the entire school year, Rachael is planning to keep it going into the summer months and possibly beyond.

“Our goal this year is to break last year’s dollar amount which was \$3,000

and I think we are going to do it,” she said. “I also plan to get my dad more involved by crushing cans.”

Local residents can help. Only those recyclables that have a California CRV label can be accepted. Typically, this means soda and beer cans along with bottles which held water.

“Lots of people want to give us wine bottles, but they cannot be redeemed for cash,” Wendy said. “We are not a recycling center ourselves so we do not accept

items like cardboard, paper and other materials that people may associate with recycling itself.”

Recycling is labor intensive, and this project is no exception. At the moment, the primary collection point is the Tanzer family garage. However, they also do pickups and have people in the Scripps Ranch community who help with the collection process, too.

When enough recycled items have been received, they are loaded into the Tanzer Dodge Ram pickup and taken to Pegasus Rising where the Director, President and CEO Gary Adler takes them to a recycling center and redeems them for cash.

“Sometimes people feel guilty because they may only have a few soda cans to donate but again, every can and bottle helps and makes a difference,” Wendy explained.

Anyone wishing to make a donation or help with the effort may email Wendy Tanzer, warossirn@yahoo.com. For more information on Pegasus Rising, visit pegasusrising.org.



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Picture Purrfect: calendar features felines

By Terry L. Wilson

The adventures of a stray cat named Harley who roams Scripps Ranch, and deposited a kindle (litter) of kittens along the way, are well known.

Harley's escapades were chronicled daily in "The Real House Cats of Scripps Ranch" Facebook page by Jamelee Nuss. Her 24/7 coverage to corral the elusive queening (pregnant cat) by a small army of volunteer amateur cat wranglers was the cyber-talk of the town.

Before you could say, "What's new pussycat?" Harley became a celebrity with a cat-cult of human fans following her every adventure as if she were the star of a local soap opera.

Eventually, Harley was wrangled, spayed and brought back to health. All of Harley's offsprings (dams) were rescued from various backyards, adopted and now have forever homes in Scripps Ranch.

However, that isn't the end of Harley's tale.

"So many people followed Harley's adventures through your article (in Scripps Ranch News) and my posts that our website snowballed into a very



"The Real House Cats of Scripps Ranch" Facebook group will soon publish a cat calendar.

big deal," Nuss said. "The Real House Cats of Scripps Ranch is absolutely thriving. It brought the cat community together as a team and not just a bunch of individuals that own cats.

"A lot of people on the cat site have now become friends, and because of that, we're doing things as a group. For example, during Christmas we had our first annual cat-themed gift exchange which was an absolute hit that really bonded the cat community together."

While brainstorming for future projects, Nuss came up with the idea of doing a cat calendar, which was something the creator of the Facebook page also wanted to do. The concept was approved paws-down by the club. It sounded like a picture purrrfect project for this particular clowder (group of cats).

According to Nuss, the "Real House Cats of Scripps Ranch" Facebook group has grown to 388 members, and every proud cat parent wanted their best friend to be featured on the calendar.

With only 12 months in a year, and more than several years worth of cat snaps submitted, Nuss, in a Solomon-like moment of wisdom, compromised by creating a cat-collage.

"In order to fit everybody's cat into the calendar, we've put together a different grouping of cats for each month," Nuss said. "We have other cat events coming up ... and in February we're having a birthday party for the famous Harley's kittens."

The calendars are for House Cats members only, but all cat lovers are invited to Harley's kittens' first annual birthday celebration.

As for mom, Harley hasn't responded to her RSVP as of yet. After all, with her newly found fame, Harley has people to meet and things to do. Unlike the old days, she is seldom without a place to crash for the night and no matter where she roams, there is always a friendly bowl of cat chow to be had at the end of her journey.



Public invited to celebration

The Collins family of Scripps Ranch will hold a Chinese New Year celebration at their business, Collins Family Jewelers, 8220-A Mira Mesa Blvd., on Saturday, Jan. 25, from 9:15 to 10 a.m. The public is invited.

The Collins family provides this celebration annually for the community. This is the Year of the Rat.

The event will include traditional lion dancers, martial arts demonstrations and firecrackers. Bring dollars to feed lucky money envelopes to the dancing lions as a donation for the youth performance troupe.



This is a fraction of the towels that were donated to the Real House Cats of Scripps Ranch and Real House Dogs of Scripps Ranch towel drive. (courtesy photo)

Facebook pet groups had successful towel drive

The popular Facebook groups Real House Cats of Scripps Ranch and Real House Dogs of Scripps Ranch held a used towel drive to benefit the Humane Society.

This donation event featured a friendly competition at the unofficial dog park on Meanley Park on Jan. 12. The two groups donated to their preferred truck, cat or dog, to see which of the two trucks received the most donations. The competition resulted in a tie, ending in two full trucks worth of tow-

els. Donations were also accepted privately prior to the event and over the weekend.

Group admin JL Nuss was thrilled with the coming together of the community.

"It was a great success in such a short amount of time. This community is so generous, with some big hearts," she said.

One woman named Claudia even made blankets.

At least 10 trips with two rolling carts were required to deliver towels from the trucks to the donation site.

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Christmas mitzvah brightens year for homeless

By Hoyt Smith

A Scripps Ranch family's unique blend of Jewish and Christmas holiday traditions has helped to make this a brighter New Year for dozens of homeless people while teaching important lessons about unity, community and charity.

The Balastrieris, who celebrate both Hanukkah and Christmas, do more than exchange gifts among each other. For the second year now, they have engaged their children in a mitzvah – a good deed that emphasizes good will toward men while honoring the “candle of righteousness,” the sixth light on the menorah – the sacred candelabra of Hanukkah.

Lit on the sixth night, the sixth candle (also known as Ner Shel Tzedakah) offers an opportunity to engage in tikkun olam, a tenet of Judaism that calls for the repair of a broken world. This practice typically involves assistance to the poor and sharing gifts with the less fortunate.

Adding a Christmas touch to their mitzvah, Kimberly Balastrieri and her two boys decided to stuff stockings for those currently living on the streets.

“We thought Christmas stockings would be more festive and reflect more of the holiday spirit we were striving for,” Balastrieri said.

The family searched their own holiday cache and found several surplus stockings they could fill with gifts and present to those in need. Then they purchased several more. But knowing from the previous year's experience that “30 stockings wouldn't be enough,” the Balastrieris decided to solicit their neighbors' support via social media to dramatically multiply the quantity of stockings they could give away.



The Balastrieri brothers of Scripps Ranch collected and distributed 100 stockings filled with gifts for homeless people this past Christmas as part of their Hanukkah celebration. The Balastrieri family celebrates both holidays. (courtesy photo)

“We put it out there on the Scripps Ranch ‘Buy Nothing Project’ page, saying, ‘This is what our kids want to do,’ and not surprisingly the Scripps Ranch community stepped up,” she said. “We collected almost double the number stockings over a few days.”

Residents also donated toothbrushes, toothpaste, little soaps and other items. One generous resident contributed several packs of hand warmers. The Balastrieris added water and food items like trail mix packs, Trader Joe's apple sauces and peanut butter crackers.

“We separated the stockings that had the warmers into a separate bag to be distributed to homeless that were elderly or disabled,” the mother said. “Last, we decided to grab some blankets and hats we no longer are using and distributed those as well.”

On Christmas morning, after the Balastrieris opened their presents, they loaded the stockings stuffed with all the donated items into three large boxes and drove from Scripps Ranch to downtown San Diego, in the vicinity of St. Vincent de Paul and Father Joe's Villages where a large number of San Diego's homeless community reside during the winter months.

“We pulled over in several different spots,” Balastrieri said. “We would roll down the

window, say ‘Merry Christmas’ and ask if they would be interested in a small gift.”

There were moments when 15 people or more approached the family's vehicle requesting a stocking or blankets. Occasionally, Kimberly Balastrieri got out of the car to present gifts directly to those who struggled or were unable to approach her.

“It was definitely a teaching moment for my boys,” she said. “I'm a teacher, so I'm always looking for teachable moments. I asked my sons what they were thinking. I wanted them to see how others live, to appreciate what is going on in the world beyond Scripps Ranch. The expression on their faces validated for me that they understood the issue and severity of homelessness.”

Balastrieri's nine-year-old son told her it made him sad that people lived in such conditions, and that he truly appreciates what he has. Her five-year-old son said it made him happy to give away food, water and Christmas stockings on Christmas to those who so desperately needed it.

“They both felt the goodness in their hearts when making others happy and demonstrating kindness, our mitzvah,” Balastrieri said. “We all wished we had another 100 stockings to give away.”



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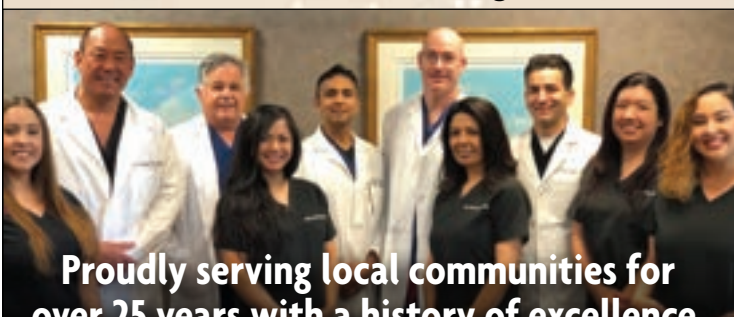
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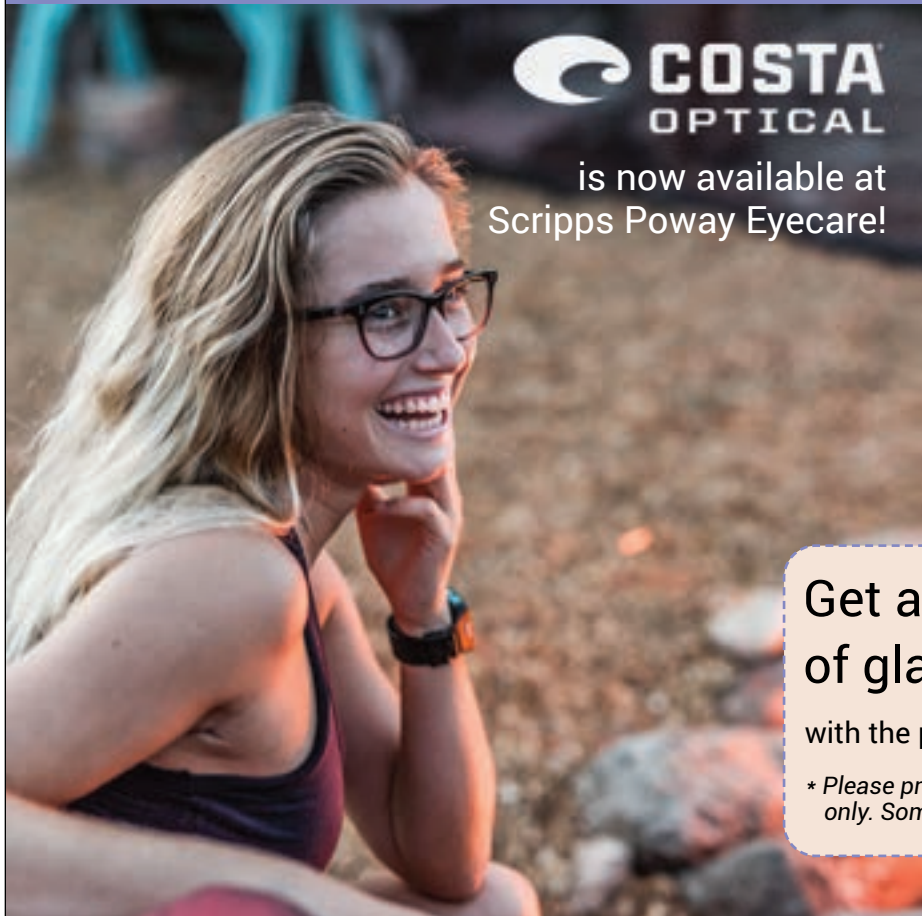


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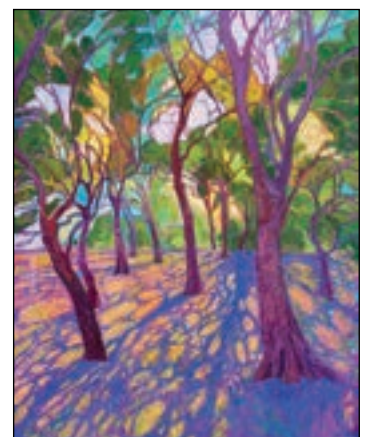
Pearl co-chairs annual event

Lisa Pearl, a long-time Scripps Ranch resident, is co-chair of Options: The Women's Event. Each year, The Jewish Federation of San Diego County hosts a gathering of women in support of their work to provide humanitarian relief and sustain Jewish community for generations to come.

This year's Options: The Women's Event will be held on Feb. 2 at the Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines at 10 a.m.

The featured entertainer for 2020 is award-winning comedy writer, best-selling author and Jewish philanthropist Carol Leifer. Leifer's observational style humor won her four Emmy nominations for writing on such acclaimed television shows as "Seinfeld," "The Larry Sanders Show" and "Saturday Night Live." Leifer was dubbed "the real Elaine" because the series' character, Elaine Benes, was partially based on her. Leifer has written for the "Oscars" telecast eight times, more than any other female writer to date. Leifer has also written two best-sellers based on her life.

Tickets to Options are \$50. Purchase tickets online at jewishinsandiego.org/options.



"Crystal Arbor" by Erin Hanson

Gallery hosts art reception

The public is invited as Erin Hanson Gallery hosts Erin Hanson: The Crystal Light Show on Feb. 22, 4-8 p.m. at 9705 Carroll Centre Road. The evening will be filled with live music, wine tasting and art.



Members of Girl Scout Troop 3140 working on their Silver Award promoting literacy are (from left) Ava D., Maggie A., Abbey L. and Alise P. (courtesy of Troop 3140)

Scouts promote literacy

By Girl Scout Troop 3140

For our silver award project, our troop decided to promote literacy in our community and beyond.

Little Lending Library

As part of our Silver Award, we have made a Little Lending Library. The library is a part of the sustainability portion of our project and will hopefully be placed at Hoyt Park to promote literacy in our close community and neighborhood. The Library will be filled with books collected from our book drive which we conducted earlier this year. It will include mostly children's books with a few books for adults as well. A Little Lending Library is a free library that anyone can use by simply taking a book you want out of the library and replacing it with one of your own. This way the Library has a constantly shifting inventory that encourages people to read and explore new books or genres.

Message to the community

Hello Friends,
We are Cadette Girl Scout Troop 3140. In 2018, we started our Silver Award with the hopes of supporting and increasing literacy in our community. As part of our Silver Award we wanted to directly increase exposure to books in our community. To do so, we decided to build a Little Lending Library. This structure is a hope to expand a love of learning throughout the neighborhood.

What is a Silver Award?

A Silver Award is an award that Cadette Girl Scouts (Girl Scouts in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades) can earn by completing a project. The goal of the project is to improve one aspect of your community and create a lasting effect on it.

Little Lending Library etiquette

A Lending Library is built on the "take one, leave one" philosophy. Our library is full of books that you might not have seen or read before. We encourage you to take one of our books and leave one of your own. We hope you enjoy your reading!

Book of the Month

As part of our Silver Award project we want to promote literacy in our local community. To do this we reached out to the Scripps Ranch Public Library and are now creating a book of
See **LENDING LIBRARY**, Page 12

Welcome Club calendar off to a fun start

By Denise Stewart

Starting off the new decade with a full calendar of events, the Scripps Ranch Welcome Club is staying on a fun path. By offering lots of activities slated for February and on through the spring, the group is energized.

In February, the book clubs, bridge, bunco, pitch, craft groups, Coffee Klatchers and theater-goers will continue to meet regularly. Dorothy Mildice has a pair of off the ranch hikes in mind, and the Gadabouts will be off to another ladies' day out event, according to Pam Savelsberg. Janelle Boustany's walk-about group will be back on the local trails.

February's second Monday General Meeting at the Community Center will feature Liza Pille, a financial advisor, who will address the issues facing both retirees and those hoping to get there comfortably someday.

Pille's talk will be followed by a celebration of Welcome Club's 39th birthday. The club, founded by Becky McDonald, is more active than ever and growing in mem-



Welcome Club members enjoyed their circle of friends along with food and music at their holiday party. (Welcome Club photo)

bership, so there is lots to cheer about.

Program chairs Cindy Marshall and Angela Piccillo have lined up a varied array of presentations for the monthly meetings from now until summer's annual July Salad Supper. In March, a representative of the Kumeyaay Nation will share the story, culture and artifacts of her Native American tribe. The Kumeyaay Museum is in Poway and is expanding its efforts to acquaint their neighbors with their tribe's rich traditions and role in local history. In April, guitarist and singer Elliott Lawrence will entertain the club members and guests. May's meeting is the annual Installation of Officers and the official

welcoming of new members. This year, these special occasions will be celebrated with a pizza party. June's meeting will feature local choral group Bella Voce at an encore performance for the Welcome Club.

One gathering which has gone on for all 39 summers of the Welcome Club's existence is extremely popular and looked forward to is the July Salad Supper. The evening event traditionally brings members together under the trees, sharing delicious food and winning fabulous prizes.

As the year goes on, plans for festivities will be scheduled during the warmer evenings. Welcome Clubbers call these festivities TGIs. That means Thank Goodness It's
See **WELCOME CLUB**, Page 12



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WELCOME CLUB

Continued from Page 11

... whatever day of the week and whoever will host the delightful gatherings.

Welcome Club's purpose is to cultivate a circle of friends for local women. However, the club recognizes its role in the betterment of the Scripps Ranch community as a whole. Recently, the Board of Directors approved donations to the Scripps Ranch Civic Association, the local library, the Scripps Ranch Theatre, and Symphony in the Park. If the Welcome Club and its calendar of enjoyable events appeals to you, check out the website scrippsranchwelcomeclub.com. You will find contact information and a warm welcome.

LENDING LIBRARY

Continued from Page 11

the month poster for the children's section. We have been creating a new poster each month since in hopes of encouraging kids to read and introducing them to new genres. The poster includes information about the recommended book, as well as a coloring page and crossword or word search. These activities will hopefully interest younger kids to embark on the journey that is reading.

The Little Free Library is located on the north side of Scripps Ranch Boulevard near Aviary Drive. Across from old Vons.

AUDITIONS

Continued from Page 5

J-Field House, 10440 Black Mountain Road. Those auditioning are asked to arrive on time for their audition during the time slot chosen, and expect to spend about 30 minutes for sign-in, registration, audition and callback notification. Callbacks will be by invitation, and conducted on Feb. 16, noon-3 p.m. at the Scripps Ranch Recreation Center, 11454 Blue Cypress Drive.

Rehearsals will be Tuesdays, 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Miramar Hourglass Recreation Center; Wednesdays 5:30-8:30 p.m. and Sundays noon-3 p.m. at the Scripps Ranch Recreation Center (individual schedule will be dependent on role). Mandatory rehearsals will be every day April 26-30 at Poway Center for the Performing Arts.

Sign up for an audition slot at bit.ly/2NvuSrK. Audition forms are available at scrippstheatrearts.com/auditions. Participants are advised to print the forms at home and bring with you for quicker service at the audition.

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Experts are on 2020 Garden Club agenda

By Denise Stewart

Garden Club Program Coordinators Helen Plutner and Lynnell Hallock are bringing an outstanding lineup of gardening experts to the Scripps-Mesa Garden Club.

Farmer Roy of the Sunshine Garden in Poway leads off the new year schedule for the club. Roy will present his extensive knowledge and experience in cool season vegetable gardening at the January 28 meeting. Club member Susan Castellana will present her plans for outings and tours of local gardens that will take place later in the growing season. Helen Plutner will share the news about the innovative program for a Seed Library now underway at the local city library. Plutner will explain how this program to share seeds among local gardeners will work. Garden Club members will also be electing a slate of new officers for 2020 at this first meeting of the year.

In February, author Kevin Espiritu is scheduled to share information from his book "Urban Gardening." Growing plants in small spaces and in containers are his specialty. Those of us who live in apartments and condos will especially appreciate his expertise.

At March's meeting, many people's favorite flowers will be Chuck McClung's topic. He is author of "How Orchids Rebloom."

Scripps-Mesa Garden Club meets most months at the Community Room of the Scripps Miramar Ranch Library at 6 in the evening on the fourth Tuesday. Local gardeners are welcome to come by and join the group as they have a short social time, a brief business meeting, an informative presentation on gardening skills, a plant share and a drawing for a useful garden tool. Membership dues are only \$30 for the year. Contact Bob Gale at rgale1943@gmail.com for more information about the club.



John DeCarlo (left) and Lynnina Shanley are among the stars of the romantic comedy "Italian American Reconciliation," running through Feb. 16 at Scripps Ranch Theatre. (photo by Ken Jacques)



Actors Gina Marie Cioffi (left) and Marco Kengott enjoy a moment in "Italian American Reconciliation," playing at Scripps Ranch Theatre. (photo by Ken Jacques)

Colorful characters highlight performance

By Ken David

Friendship, family, and the trials and tribulations of romantic entanglements set the stage for a night of laughs when Scripps Ranch Theatre (SRT) presents the romantic comedy "Italian American Reconciliation," now through Feb. 16 at Scripps Ranch Theatre on the campus of Alliant International University, 9783 Avenue of Nations.

Written by the award-winning John Patrick Shanley in 1988, "Reconciliation" tells the story of Huey, divorced from the shrewish Janice, who shot his dog and even took a bead on him.

Huey feels he must woo Janice one more time, if only to regain his "manhood" and move on in his life. He enlists his lifelong friend, Aldo, to help, even though Aldo thinks Huey should stick with his new lady friend Teresa, a usually calm person who gets fired up once she learns what Huey is up to.

"It all takes place in Little Italy in New York and it's full of very colorful characters and colorful language," director Charles Peters said while talking about the show before its opening.



John DeCarlo (Aldo) and Lynnina Shanley (Janice) during the balcony scene in "Italian American Reconciliation." (photo by Ken Jacques)

"Although there's no foul language!"

Playwright Shanley wrote the 1998 movie "Moonstruck," winning an Oscar for Best Original Screenplay. Peters said the story of "Reconciliation" is different from that movie, but people who enjoyed the film will likely also enjoy the play.

"The feel of it and the elements and the relationship ideas are in there," Peters said. "That's really what ul-

timately this show is about."

As part of the committee that selects what plays SRT produces, Peters said he was impressed with the play's personalities and the dialogue.

"I read it and was struck with the language and the characters and the way they spoke and communicated deep ideas," he said. "These characters are – in their own way – very eloquent and very romantic and very

poetic and they talk about these deep emotional subjects but in a very entertaining way. I was struck by the strength of the characters and the simplicity of the story."

The play includes a balcony scene humorously reminiscent of Cyrano de Bergerac.

"It's an entertaining story, it's nothing hard and heavy," Peters said. "(Audiences) are going to have fun

See **PERFORMANCE**, Page 14

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SAVANNAH

Continued from Page 1

draws inspiration from her environment right here in Scripps Ranch and San Diego: the collaborative music environment and consistent sunshine provide her the ability to write happy, upbeat music.

“The title comes from a lyric from the song ‘Go Alone’ that is the first track on the album. That song is all about following your intuition and your inner truth in order to live the life that you came here to live,” she said. “The line a whisper in the wind is all about noticing the subtle signs and nudges that are around us that are pointing us in the direction of where we really want to go. Those are the same signs that are easy to ignore. A whisper in the wind is about paying attention to those feelings and those signs.”

Born and raised in Scripps Ranch, Philyaw said she started writing songs when she was in eighth grade after looking up to her older brother who played acoustic guitar. She said she kept her songs to herself for a couple of years, eventually playing some of her music for her

‘This album is a little snapshot of time of how I write and what’s going on in my world.’

—Savannah Philyaw



Savannah Philyaw said her album “A Whisper in the Wind” has gained more than 64,000 streams on Spotify. (courtesy of Savannah Philyaw)

family. While away at college in Virginia, she focused her studies on education. However, she said she felt like her passion and heart were telling her to pursue music. Philyaw transferred to Berklee College of Music online and graduated with her degree in music business. In addition to her music business courses, she also enrolled in songwriting and other music classes.

“When I was 16, I started recording songs, but I had only released a single or little EPs of three to five songs. I had never done a full length album. I had gotten to the point that I was writing so much and

writing with other songwriters that I decided I would love to put these into a project. This album is a little snapshot of time of how I write and what’s going on in my world and the world of those around me,” Philyaw said.

Philyaw has collaborated with notable songwriters on her debut album including the Eagles’ songwriter Jack Tempchin. Philyaw and Tempchin co-wrote the song “Somehow You Were There for Me.” Philyaw said she is extremely proud of this album and all of the work that she and her collaborators put into the music.

“I’d say my highlight on this album and a great introduction to my music is ‘Running to You.’ It’s the most freeing and joyful and falling in love type of song,” Philyaw said.

For more information about Savannah Philyaw and to listen to samples of “A Whisper in the Wind,” visit savannahphilyaw.com.

PERFORMANCE

Continued from Page 13

and the cast is fun to watch and the dialogue is witty and entertaining.”

In the play, Marco Kengott, plays “Huey,” SRT newcomer Lynnina Shanley plays “Janice,” Gina Maria Cioffi plays “Teresa,” John DeCarlo plays “Aldo” and Rhiannon McAfee plays “Aunt May.”

“All the actors are tremendously talented,” Peters said. “And, as it turns out, a good handful of them are Italian.”

Scripps Ranch Theatre is on the campus of Alliant International University, 9783 Avenue of Nations. “Italian American Reconciliation” is playing now through Feb. 16, with showings Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. To reserve seats, call (858) 578-7728. For ticket price information, visit scrippsranchtheatre.org.

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Program educates, provides healthy options

By **Rachelle Sparks**

Five Scripps Ranch schools grow and maintain gardens as part of San Diego Unified School District's (SDUSD) Farm to School Program, which started 10 years ago and has become one of the most progressive Farm to School programs in the nation.

"This is a program that connects schools and local farms with the objective of serving healthy meals in school cafeterias," said the district's Food and Nutrition Marketing Coordinator Tara McNamara, adding that the intent is to "improve student nutrition, provide agriculture, health and nutrition education opportunities."

Throughout SDUSD, 104 schools have gardens, and 38 of those schools participate in the Garden to Café program, which allows the

district to work closely with the San Diego County Department of Environmental Health to help schools establish and maintain gardens.

"School gardens are an important component of our Farm to School Program," McNamara said. "The Garden to Café program helps increase school meal participation because students are more excited to take from the salad bar, and actually eat what they grew."

In Scripps Ranch, Dingenman, Jerabek, Miramar Ranch elementary schools, as well as Marshall Middle School and Scripps Ranch High School, have school gardens.

Growing, harvesting, preparing and eating their own food allows students to connect with local farmers and have a deeper appreciation of where food originates.

"At its core, this program is about establishing relationships between local foods and school children by way of including local products in school meals, incorporating food-related curriculum in the classroom and providing development and experien-

tial learning opportunities through school gardens, farm tours, virtual farm field trip videos and nutrition education," McNamara said.

According to Farm to School Program Educator and Specialist Janelle Manzano, there is also a YouTube channel "where most of our consistent Harvest of the Month produce have a featured virtual field trip video that showcases the farm and interviews the farmer. Teachers are encouraged to show this to their students in the classroom."

Manzano believes that the resources available to students participating in this program will develop a healthy curiosity for food.

"Our nutrition education program benefits students by giving them the basic tools and knowledge to better connect their food to their health – not only in the school café – but wherever and whenever they make food choices," Manzano added.

Since 2010, nearly 4 million pounds of produce has been purchased from San Diego farms, and last year



San Diego Unified School District's Farm to School Program allows students to become excited about healthy foods, eat what they grow and have a deeper appreciation of where food originates.

alone, SDUSD purchased more than \$128,000 worth of local produce and an additional \$1,575,963 of California produce outside of San Diego, McNamara said.

In addition to daily salad bars filled with local produce, every Wednesday schools feature a special Harvest of the Month item

from a specific San Diego farmer – such as organic kumquats, persimmons and Minneola tangelos.

The district's Farm to School program is unique and progressive, McNamara said, adding that it allows local students of all ages to discover the "bounty of this region."

SCHOOL NEWS

SRHS Music E-Waste Recycling Fundraiser

Bring old and unwanted electronics, computers, video game consoles, cell phones, cables, old holiday light strands and paper shredding to the Scripps Ranch High School Theater/Math building parking lot between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Jan. 25 and 26 to help the SRHS Music Program earn funds. Waste products accepted for a small fee include paper shredding, microwaves, vacuums, small fridges, printers, alkaline batteries and light bulbs.

Enrichments365 spring camps open

Enrollment for Enrichments 365 Spring Break Camps is open for the community for all local students TK-grade 5. Camps will be March 30-April 3 at Ellen Browning Scripps Elementary School. A 10 percent Early Bird Special discount will apply if you sign up by March 1. Sibling discount is 15 percent off after first child. Sign up options will be for a half day (a.m. or p.m.), one full day or for the whole week. Multiple class choices will be available for each time slot. Sign up: www.enrichments365.com. Contact for questions: gail@enrichments365.com.

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Rashad Griffin, Jr. (photo by Ralph LoVuolo)



SRHS varsity girls soccer team vs. Granite Hills on Dec. 9. (photo by Justin Fine)

SPORTS



Connor Battaglia (photo by Ralph LoVuolo)

SRHS SPORTS

Falcons winter sports are underway. The varsity girls soccer team is pictured above and varsity boys basketball action is seen below. Meanwhile, Mekhi Shaw, Connor Battaglia, Troy Williams and Rashad Griffin, Jr. played in the Alex Spanos Football All-Star Classic (at left).



The varsity boys basketball team beat Mira Mesa on Jan. 7. (photo by Ralph LoVuolo)



(photo by Ralph LoVuolo)



(photo by Ralph LoVuolo)

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SRHS wrestlers place at tourney

Scripps Ranch High School wrestler Mitchell Hallmark won the 115-pound title during the 45th annual Jim Londos Invitational Wrestling Tournament at Orange Glen High School on Jan. 11. Falcons Ryan Bethel placed third place at 128-pounds, Jun Melchior placed sixth place at 140-pounds and Nathan Viramontes finished in ninth place at 106-pounds.

The tournament is named for the late Jim Londos, who moved from Greece to

Escondido and used to appear all over the country as a professional wrestler. The greatest thing about Londos is that he was very supportive of the wrestling teams in the Escondido area by helping out different wrestling programs and was a supporter of the sport. The "Golden Greek," as Londos was called, passed away in 1975 and the community named the tournament the Jim Londos Invitational.

—David A. Willauer



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SRHS JVs win Jubilee Tournament

The Scripps Ranch High School women's junior varsity soccer team won the gold bracket at the San Diego Holiday Jubilee High School Girls Soccer Tournament in mid-December. The Scripps Ranch JVs defeated Valhalla High 2-0 on Dec. 14 to capture the finals. To get to the top, the Lady JV Falcons topped Poway 1-0 on Dec. 9, and beat Granite Hills High 3-1 on Dec. 12. Next, the SRHS JVs are scheduled to play Academy of Our Lady of Peace at home on Thursday, Jan. 23 starting at 4 p.m., then travel to play Del Norte High JVs on Saturday, Jan. 25 at noon.



The SRHS women's JV soccer team won the San Diego Holiday Jubilee High School Girls Soccer Tournament gold bracket on Dec. 14. (courtesy photo)



Xander Schauffele at the 2019 Farmers Insurance Open. (photo by Ralph LoVuolo)

Xander returns to Torrey Pines

Former Scripps Ranch High School golfer Xander Schauffele is on the list of notable players committed to the 2020 Farmers Insurance Open, to be played Jan. 23-26 at Torrey Pines Golf Course in San Diego. The field includes 15 major championship winners accounting for 39 major victories, eight past Farmers Insurance Open winners, 20 players among the top 50 in the Official World Golf Rankings, and 19 players among the top 30 in the PGA Tour's 2019-20 FedEx-Cup points standings. Last year, huge crowds of golf fans followed the play of what was termed the "power group" of Tiger Woods, Tony Finau and Schauffele during the 2019 Farmers Insurance Open.

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12:00pm - 2:00pm	Private Lessons Professor D. Davis	Private Lessons Professor D. Davis	Private Lessons Professor D. Davis	Private Lessons Professor D. Davis	Private Lessons Professor D. Davis	
6:00pm - 7:00pm	American Jiu Jitsu Self Defense	No Gi Jiu Jitsu Boxing	American Jiu Jitsu Self Defense	No Gi Jiu Jitsu Boxing		
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TO HOMES

2020 interior design trends

(StatePoint) The beginning of the new year is a natural time to think about refreshing the look of your home, and in 2020, “cozy” and “warm” are trending keywords for interior design, according to experts – with luxurious textiles, inviting color palettes and warm mixed metals found across all design styles.

While a maximalism approach is on the horizon, clean and modern design schemes continue to reign.

“Use a minimalist approach, allowing patterned décor to add pops of color,” advises Eliza Alkire, trend expert and product designer for Progress Lighting. “Accent this with hanging planters and potted greenery to enhance the character of any room with an organic look.”

To make the most of your space this year, consider this design advice from Alkire and the experts at Progress Lighting:

Materials, shapes and finishes

While the neutral color schemes are tried-and-true,



To stay on-trend in the new year, think cozy, warm and inviting. (StatePoint)

in 2020, you’ll want to turn to an updated palette consisting of warm, earthen undertones. Choose lighting finished in mixed metals to accent the neutral scheme while adding visual interest and depth.

Recent years have seen lighting combine black

chrome and gold finishes. Now, warm tones of natural brass, bronze and copper mixed with silver and black will be found across lighting designs, cabinet pulls and plumbing hardware. Move over, stainless steel! Just remember to keep the look uncluttered by not mixing

more than two or three metals in one space.

Geometric shapes are dominating design trends. Adding lighting in triangle, diamond, hexagonal or combination of geometric shapes is one of the easiest ways to transform a

See **DESIGN TRENDS**, Page 21

December home sales rise year-over-year

Home sales in San Diego County for December 2019 were significantly higher than a year ago, despite inventory being at a two-year low, according to housing statistics compiled through the San Diego Multiple Listing Service by the Greater San Diego Association of Realtors®. Single-family resale home sales were nearly 7 percent higher in December compared to December 2018, while attached properties (condominiums and townhomes) were significantly higher – 34 percent – than a year ago. For the full year of 2019, resale home prices were up 2.5 percent over 2018. “Our San Diego housing market has been remarkably steady in 2019,” said SDAR President Carla Farley. “Buyer demand remains strong, but in 2020 we’re hoping sellers will be inspired to help balance the supply in the market.”

Scripps Ranch home sales for December 2019

Single family homes sold:
14

Average Days on the market (single-family homes):
43

Median price of single family homes sold:
\$1,132,500

Attached homes sold (condominiums or townhomes):
15

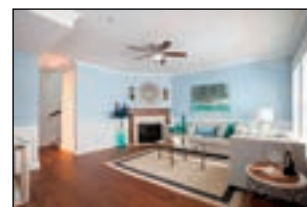
Average Days on the market (attached homes):
32

Median price of attached homes sold:
\$500,000

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With a few upgrades, you can roll out the red carpet for guests, making your home theater the go-to destination for must-watch events. (copyright Dangubic/iStock via Getty Images Plus)

Home theater ideas for the Big Game

(StatePoint) From the Big Game to awards shows, you'll want to ensure that you are prepared to host all the greatest television events of the season.

Here is how to upgrade the viewing experience for you and your guests well before kickoff:

'Stadium' seating

When it comes to maximum visibility for all, nothing beats stadium seating. While you are unlikely able to build out levels in your living room or den, you can replicate the concept in any space by using chairs of differing heights. To create the "back row," use stools. The next row can consist of the couch, folding chairs or other seating of standard height. Finally, create a "first row" on the floor by adding comfortable seating options such as pillows and bean bags.

DESIGN TRENDS

Continued from Page 20

space and add wow-factor. Make sure to balance statement-making lighting with clean, classic patterns and colors on furnishings and accessories.

Create warmth with tactile elements. Luxurious, richly-textured fabrics like velvet, suede and leather work nicely with clean, contemporary interiors as well as rustic farmhouse spaces. Try vibrantly-colored velvet furnishings, pillows and throws.

Wallpaper is making a comeback: use it in small areas like powder room walls,

Consider a projector

Whether you are on a budget or you simply want the best viewing experience, consider a home theater projector. You can get a projector and 100-inch screen for under \$1,000, whereas an 80-inch TV is going to run you at least \$1,500, if not more.

The LampFree projectors from Casio's SLIM series are ideal for any home theater environment. Weighing in at five pounds, they are only 1.7 inches thick, making them the thinnest high-brightness projectors in the industry. Now in its eighth generation, the improved laser and LED hybrid light source offers a 30 percent increase in light output, in addition to an estimated 20,000 hours lifespan with minimal brightness degradation and continuous

or make a splash with a floral accent wall.

Style evolution

Overall design trends are evolving. Homes that were previously traditional are now termed "new traditional" as they take on fun, youthful elements that keep the design fresh. Lighting fixtures have mixed metal finishes or are designed in new takes on classic silhouettes, such as large lanterns and chandeliers done in linear shapes.

Mountain style goes beyond a rustic, cabin look to take on a modern form with clean lines, neutral color palettes and uncluttered in-

operation. Each model is fitted with a fully connectable interface, including three types of video and audio inputs, as well as HDMI, RGB and RS-232C terminals.

Better audio

There is no better way to experience your favorite televised events than with surround sound. For easy installation and versatility, consider a wireless speaker system.

Room Selection

For crisper images, you'll ideally create your home theater in a low-lit room. If that's not possible, there is good news. These days, high-quality projectors can produce sharp images using intelligent light control that perceives the rooms brightness and adjusts accordingly.

teriors. With open layouts and tall ceilings, sweeping views command attention. Lighting is oversized, with airy, open designs meant to cast light without obstructing views from the plentiful windows in the space.

For fans of farmhouse style, this look has taken a delightful turn, with fewer rustic details and more modern charm. Subtle hues go beyond a white and gray palette into the realm of soft greens and blush pinks. Lighting is inspired by historical design with industrial details like working pulleys, but is combined with clean lines for a relaxed, casual vibe.

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**SCRIPPS RANCH
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Decluttering play areas pays off, giving kids more opportunities to play and learn safely. (copyright AnnaNahabed/iStock via Getty Images Plus)

Declutter your child's room

Make way for play space

(StatePoint) While all the gear, clothes and toys your kids possess are signs of a joyful childhood, keeping it all organized is essential for health, safety and even fun.

"Too many toy choices that are unorganized can make it difficult to find a toy to play with at all," says Keri Wilmot, pediatric occupational therapist and an expert contributor to TheGeniusofPlay.org. "What's more, the chaos can pose various safety hazards."

Organization is more conducive to playtime, which is why Wilmot and The Genius of Play – an initiative whose mission is to raise awareness about the importance of play and help parents make it a critical part of raising kids – are offering eight tips to clean up the inevitable clutter:

'Color-coded or decorative bins are more visually appealing options for the playroom'

Provide bins

Use bins to help kids organize toys, art supplies and games, keeping size in mind – the bigger the bin, the harder it is to locate specific toys or objects. While clear bins are great for closets by making it easy for kids to identify their contents, color-coded or decorative bins are more visually appealing options for the playroom.

Make smart furniture choices

Shelving lets children see what's available to play with, however toys that require adult assistance are best stored in closed bins inside a cabinet or closet that's inaccessible to kids. Closed cabinets have the added benefit of reducing the appearance of clutter. Make sure to secure shelves or furniture to the wall for safety so they can't tip over.

'Closed cabinets have the added benefit of reducing the appearance of clutter.'

Rotate toys

Rotating toys' placement inside storage areas will remind kids of all the fun toys they have, and is an excellent boredom-prevention tool.

Donate

Before birthdays, holidays or other occasions when kids are showered with gifts, talk to your child about what toys are no longer used, and give them a second life by passing them on to a neighbor or friend with a younger child or by donating them to a charitable organization. Throw away any toys that are broken, hazardous or recalled.

Use space wisely

While big toys like kitchens and playhouses offer up fun, they can take up a lot of playroom real estate. Opt for alternatives that can be taken down when not in use, like pop-up tents, tunnels and playhouses.

Schedule clean-up

Set a clean-up schedule that gives kids a role in sorting and putting items back into their correct places. Make a game of it by turning on tunes and seeing who's the fastest.

Get toys off the floor

Stepping on certain toys can be painful. A child-sized table offers a stable surface for building brick structures and other creations, plus it gets small toys off the floor.

Use walls

Maximize space and creativity by installing a whiteboard or chalkboard to use as an art surface. Walls are also a good place to store shelving for books.

Parents searching for more play ideas and expert tips can visit TheGeniusofPlay.org or follow @GeniusofPlay on Facebook and Instagram.



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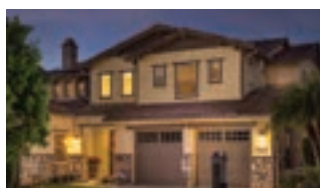
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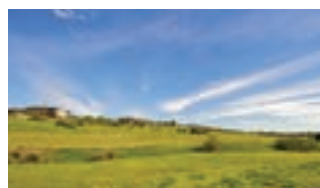
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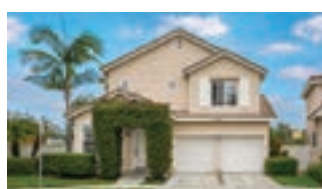
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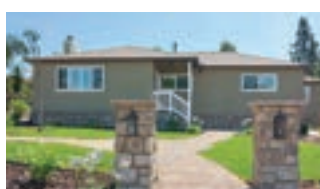
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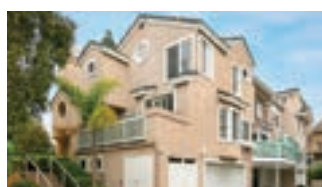
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21730 Deer Grass Drive
\$699,900



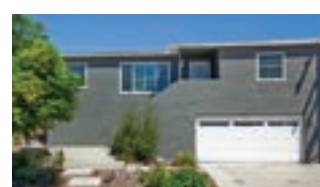
12914 Carmel Creek Drive
#16 | **\$665,000**



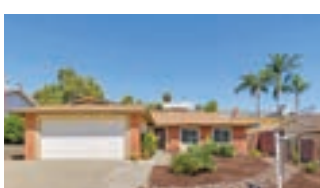
1856 Palisades Drive
\$650,000



7235 Volta Court
\$650,000



4245 58th Street
\$616,000



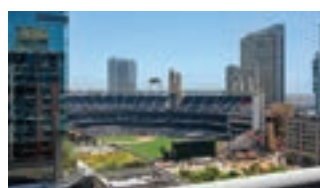
12215 Buckskin Trail
\$600,000



3705 Clairemont Mesa
\$517,000



2423 Longstaff Court
\$480,000



427 9th Avenue #1101
\$449,000



255 Salinas Drive #151
\$415,000



4201 Paseo De Paz
\$415,000



11016 Via Parma
\$330,000



1095 Shadowridge Dr #127
\$275,000



9255 North Magnolia Ave #279
\$214,000

Thinking of buying or selling in 2020? Make a SMART MOVE and call us today!



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