



Valedictorian  
Sophia Milanov



Valedictorian  
Shravya Sanigepalli

## SRHS valedictorians Top students get a chance to express themselves

By Ashley Shah

**T**his year's valedictorians at Scripps Ranch High School (SRHS) are Sophia Milanov and Shravya Sanigepalli, each ending their senior year with a 4.83 grade point average.

Following the unusual completion of their senior year which was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, these top students now have a chance to describe their futures and express their thoughts.

**Sophia Milanov:** Valedictorian Sophia Milanov will be attending UC Berkeley and plans to study business administration. At Berkeley, Milanov hopes to rush for a sorority as well as join clubs and acquire internships that are related to her major.

Throughout her time at SRHS, Milanov played junior varsity volleyball for two years and played varsity badminton for three years. In her junior year, Milanov joined Environmental Club and became secretary her senior year. She also started a club of her own during junior year for STEM tutoring and

See **VALEDICTORIANS**, Page 11

*Deer may be rare in Scripps Ranch, but some might be spotted passing through.*

## OH DEER!

By Bella Ross

**A**lthough deer sightings don't seem to be common among Scripps Ranchers, those deer crossing signs are there for a reason.

"I saw a dead deer on Scripps Poway Parkway maybe a month ago," said Scott Tremor, mammalogist at the San Diego Natural History Museum.

Tremor, who studies mammals in Southern California and Baja California, said the reason deer sightings tend to be rare in Scripps Ranch is because these animals generally prefer open canyon space as opposed to more developed areas.

This is unlike coyotes and skunks, which Tremor referred to as "urban adaptors." Deer tend to stick to wildlife corridors, residing in open spaces such as Carroll Canyon.

"Carroll Canyon does eventually connect to Penasquitos Canyon, so a lot of animals are able to move east to west through this wildlife corridor," Tremor said.

The southern mule deer, most common in Southern California, is also primarily active at dawn and dusk when people are less likely to be out and about.

A sighting would most likely feature a doe and a fawn, Tremor said, although mule deer tend to travel in groups led by females.

These deer like to settle in San Diego's canyons and in eastern parts of the county where there is more open space. East Miramar is also home to many mule deer. That places Scripps Ranch right

See **DEER**, Page 2



Scripps Ranch is the choke point of deer coming toward the west.

## 'Original Scripps Ranch kids' recall ideal upbringing

Part 1 of a  
two-part series

By Hoyt Smith

**F**ifty years ago, the San Diego City Council adopted the Scripps Miramar Ranch master plan, expediting development of the former E.W. Scripps estate. At the time, only a handful of families lived amid the vast stretch of chaparral.

This July also marks the 50th birthday of Susan Hannifin-MacNab, now a social worker who was raised in a Scripps Ranch household built in the wake of the approved master plan. She fondly remembers the community in its infancy. Even though there were few

paved roads, only one elementary school and no formal churches, she describes her childhood as "magical."

"All the homes there just popped up in the early to mid-'70s," said Hannifin-MacNab, who grew up with her older brother Patrick on a double cul-de-sac where Vista La Cuesta Drive meets Vista La Cuesta Court. "Holy moly, there were kids everywhere."

As a member of this unique cohort she calls "the original Scripps Ranch kids," Hannifin-MacNab is still close with many of the neighbors and classmates she grew up with. This summer, as she reaches the half-century mark, she has reflected upon the impact the fledgling community had upon a pioneering generation of children here.

"I have stayed in touch," she said. "I'm a social worker, so I'm all about connections and communities. That's just how I operate. It was instilled a long time ago on these very streets."

There were certain hardships living in a rapidly growing suburb that often raced to catch up with its youth. But Hannifin-MacNab described growing up in Scripps Ranch as "ideal." Many others agree.

"It was a young boy's dream back then. If we crossed to the south side of Pomerado Road we were in wilderness," said Paul Manoguerra, a former neighbor of Hannifin's who grew up on Avenida Magnifica with two sisters. They all attended the only public school at the time, Miramar Ranch Elementary,



Susan Hannifin-MacNab played on the boys' Little League teams in Scripps Ranch before there were any girls' teams. (courtesy photo)

which opened in a temporary building with just four teachers.

Paul's father Tony remembers the wilderness spilling over into the brand-

new subdivision along the southern flank of Scripps Ranch.

"We saw a lot of wildlife when we first moved in,"

See **SR KIDS**, Page 10





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**DEER**

Continued from Page 1

in the middle of a deer crossing.

“It’s wide open out there as you go east, but Scripps Ranch is the choke point where it starts to become a problem,” Tremor said. “It’s the first filter of those East County animals coming toward the west.”

In terms of vehicle collisions with deer, Tremor said fast-moving roads near open space are where drivers should be most cautious. North Scripps Ranch Boulevard and Scripps Poway Parkway already feature deer crossing signs – both near the northwestern side of the community.

Part of the threat posed by deer near roadways is that these creatures tend to run toward bright headlights as opposed to away from them, making surprise collisions harder to avoid.

When driving at night, the first thing a driver will see is the reflection of the animal’s eyes – a sign to slow down, Tremor said. This may not even be a deer, but a rabbit or other mammal.

If you happen to walk up on a deer or spot one and have a second to stop, “Enjoy it,” Tremor said.



Deer generally prefer open canyon space as opposed to more developed areas.



A local deer sighting would most likely feature a doe and a fawn. Mule deer tend to travel in groups led by females.

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# Veteran becomes an activist

## Bikers parade for equality and justice

By Jack Molmud

A group of motorcycles and cars paraded throughout Scripps Ranch on Sunday, July 19, protesting racism – a unique way of protesting as hundreds of Black Lives Matter demonstrations have taken the country by storm.

This form of protesting drifts away from the normal foot-marching as the organizer, long-time Scripps Ranch resident Ken Percy, is an avid motorcyclist and retired U.S. Navy sailor. Beforehand, Percy said 10 to 15 bikers RSVP'd but noted it's not uncommon for bikers to show up to events unannounced.



Ken Percy

ship qualities, but I never knew that was where my life was going to take me," Percy said.

The 20-year neighborhood resident hasn't always been the activist he is today. Percy credits the catalyst bringing him to participate in the movement to the video showing the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police.

"For some reason, I felt the need to bear witness to that," Percy said. "Something snapped in me, something changed in those moments."

He said something had to happen and that he could not "be a bystander." That's when Percy found a Facebook page for Scripps Ranch neighbors to discuss racism and di-

See **ACTIVIST**, Page 4

*"Change begins at the heart."*

—Ken Percy

Percy planned for the participants to make their way from Scripps Lake Drive to Pomerado Road and Scripps Ranch Boulevard.

His goal was to raise awareness of what's going on in the world to his community and show his children what it looks like to "stand up for what you believe."

"I always knew I had some leader-



A group riding motorcycles and driving cars participated in a parade against racism on Sunday, July 19. (courtesy of Ken Percy)

NEWS

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## NEWS UPDATES

### Fundraiser for family of five that lost father

A GoFundMe campaign is underway to help a family with five children after the father of the family died of injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident in early July.

Jeffrey Meginness was on his way home and was in a severe motorcycle accident. He couldn't overcome his injuries and passed away. He is survived by his wife Crystal Meginness and five children who are students at schools in Scripps Ranch.

The GoFundMe campaign was started so Crystal will not have to worry about basic expenses for a few months so she can focus on herself, her children and the healing/grieving process. Donate at <https://bit.ly/39s1LiY> or visit [gofundme.com](http://gofundme.com) and search for: Support Crystal and her beautiful kids.

### Online classes to start

On July 13, The San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) announced it will hold online classes only as the 2020-21 school year starts in August. This does not mean a

See **NEWS UPDATES**, Page 4





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### ACTIVIST

Continued from Page 3

versity. It's called Scripps Ranch for Diversity and Inclusion.

Pearcy said that being a white man in America gave him the privilege to want to give back.

**“For some reason, I felt the need to bear witness.”**

—Ken Pearcy

“I have had every opportunity to succeed in my life because I was, by a genetic stroke of luck, born white,” he said.

The U.S. military veteran and Black Lives Matter advocate said discrimination didn't wait long to come for his efforts.

After Pearcy's first event on June 28, he said a Scripps Ranch neighbor sent an anonymous letter to his employer to discount the Black Lives Matter movement and Pearcy's motives.

“I'm trying to approach a point where I can learn to interact with people to share my hope and aspirations and what I feel deeply that the God I worship means for



A Bikers Against Racism parade, organized by Ken Pearcy, took participants through much of Scripps Ranch on Sunday, July 19. (courtesy of Ken Pearcy)

us to be,” Pearcy said.

Pearcy said that his fear is that he doesn't want the community of activists to become an echo chamber, and wants to continue pushing people by creating more events.

“White people created this problem, and white people need to participate in fixing this problem,” he said.

Regarding Scripps Ranch, Pearcy said there is work to still be done to help the community.

“A lot of people talk that we're all for equality, but they don't want anybody different from them moving in next door,” he said.

For Pearcy, “there's no end in sight” for his journey in leading demonstrations.

“Change begins at the heart, and when that begins on an organically sustained level, the world changes, one person at a time,” Pearcy said.

### NEWS UPDATES

Continued from Page 3

physical return to campuses will not happen this year or next. SDUSD will provide a public assessment on Aug. 10 of how soon a physical return to class will be possible.

The new school year will start online Aug. 31 as previously scheduled; and the district will continue planning for a return to in-person learning as soon as public health conditions allow.

SDUSD stated its teachers will receive expanded training in online education; students will receive additional training to become better online learners; online supports for parents will be increased; principals will continue customized planning for the safest possible reopening this fall; free meals will continue to be provided at the current distribution stations.

On July 17, California Governor Gavin Newsom announced his plan for learning and safe schools for the new school year, as the California Department of Public Health issued a framework for when and how schools should reopen for in-person instruction. The statement says schools located in counties that are on the Monitoring List must not physically open

for in-person instruction until their county has come off the state's Monitoring List for 14 consecutive days.

### Tumultuous march

A march in support of equality and justice drew a large crowd on Saturday, July 18 in Scripps Ranch. The public was invited to participate in the planned peaceful demonstration supporting equality and the Black Lives Matter movement beginning at Jerabek Park.

Much of the march was streamed live on social media, showing the procession as it moved north through Scripps Ranch. While many of the participants protested peacefully, some reportedly blocked streets, walked into normally quiet neighborhoods and taunted police. The march reached its most tense point at the intersection of Scripps Poway Parkway and Spring Canyon Road as agitated motorists reportedly nudged into protestors with their vehicles. Some accounts report that a car barreled into the marchers and sped away, injuring at least one participant.

Scripps Ranch News intends to publish a full report and seeks credible eyewitness accounts. Those witnessing this event in person and who agree to have their full names published are encouraged to email [info@scrippsranchnews.com](mailto:info@scrippsranchnews.com).

### Census help

Thirty percent of the Scripps Ranch community has not yet responded to the 2020 Census. Residents can call the number below to reach a local census specialist who can answer questions or even fill out the questionnaire on their behalf. The online questionnaire is still available at <https://my2020census.gov/1>. Call (858) 285-7539 for assistance with the census questionnaire.

### Drive-thru graduation

Scripps Ranch High School (SRHS) will hold a drive-thru/walk graduation ceremony for the graduating Class of 2020, within the San Diego County guidelines for safety during the coronavirus pandemic, according to a message sent by Matt Lawson, SRHS interim principal. The graduation ceremony will be held at SRHS on Wednesday, July 29 from 3 to 6 p.m. More information regarding the logistics of the ceremony will be sent at a later date (beyond Scripps Ranch News deadline).



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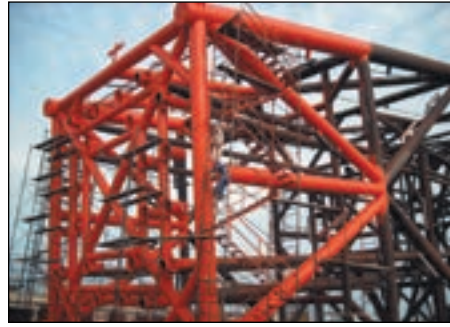


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Rhino Linings' truck liner comes in different formulations depending on need and is also available in different colors. (courtesy photo)



Rhino Linings has grown from a single product to now producing a wide range of coating and barrier products. (courtesy photo)



Scripps Ranch-based Rhino Linings products include a range of floor coatings for various industrial needs. (courtesy photo)



A variety of Rhino Linings coatings are available depending on the need or intended use. (courtesy photo)

# Rhino Linings covers more than truck beds

By Ken David

Starting with one product, a spray-on truck bed liner, Scripps Ranch-headquartered Rhino Linings has grown into a worldwide provider of specialized, protective polymer coatings used on various vehicles as well as in many industries and in the military.

The privately-owned company, with corporate offices located at 9747 Businesspark Ave., was started in 1998 by chemist and entrepreneur Russell Lewis, who today serves as chairman of the Rhino Linings Corporation. The bed liner was the original product, with continued development leading to product improvements and creation of new products for other industries.

"Our bed liner is such a strong material that we were able to develop

additional protective coatings that are not just for ... your truck but for a tremendous variety of other applications," said Berena Peña, global marketing manager for Rhino Linings.

Now, in addition to a full line of protective coatings usable on many types of vehicles, boats and aircraft, Rhino Linings also makes chemical-resistant floor coatings, coatings for containment, cured-in-place piping, roof coatings, UV protection and blast protection and mitigation. Divisions within the company include Rhino Vehicle Protection, Rhino Industrial, Rhino Military, Rhino Epoxy and Rhino Concrete.

"We're constantly in the research and development phase of products, new products and making our existing products better," Peña said. "If we have a client looking for something specific and don't have what they need, we definitely work with

the client to try to find something that works for them. There's a lot of research, development and testing required."

The company boasts a global applicator network consisting of more than 2,000 independently owned and operated businesses in almost 80 countries. Individual companies offering Rhino Linings products are not franchises, but authorized applicators who remain individual businesses, Peña said.

"We offer to train them, give them the tools to start their own business," she said. "For some businesses, (applying Rhino Linings) is all they do; for others it's a part of their business. We provide the training and the product."

While most of the company's products are professionally applied, there are also some do-it-yourself products available to coat garage floors or to

spruce up an existing bedliner.

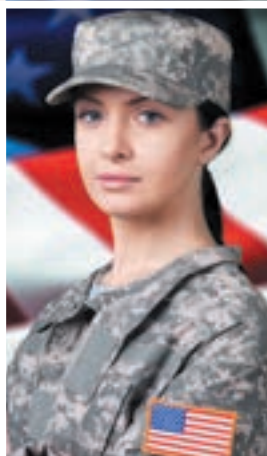
"Our new DIY garage kit can be applied in any garage, workshop, basement, and other places, Peña said. "It's a high-end product created for DIY folks."

The corporate office in Scripps Ranch is the location of the company's business, marketing and sales operations, with production of the company's products taking place at another location in San Diego as well as in Richmond, Missouri and Greenville, Texas, according to Peña. She said the COVID-19 pandemic has had its impacts, but the company has been able to adapt to serve its clients.

"Working in different industries, we've been able to sustain businesses," she said. "It's affected us, but we consider ourselves fortunate to be diversified because it's allowed us to be fine."

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# Teen finds audience with BLM art

By Ken David

**A** Scripps Ranch teenager and artist has found an unexpected audience for her latest, socially driven work after her first hand-painted Black Lives Matter signs were mysteriously removed from where they were posted in her own home's yard.

April Phillips, a 16-year-old Scripps Ranch High School student going into 11th grade, has painted watercolors as a hobby for some time. But recent social upheaval motivated her to use her art to show support for the Black Lives Matter movement.

"From the start, I've never been super proactive going out to protest or anything," Phillips said. "But then, as I got exposed to all this new information, like America's much worse than I thought, then I felt the need to do something a little more than just be quiet."

So, back in May, she brought out a canvas, frame and acrylic paints and designed an artful sign centered around the words "Black Lives Matter," and posted



One of the pieces by artist April Phillips (photo by Panita Phillips)

it on a fence at her family's Scripps Ranch home.

"Then we left to go on a road trip for five days, and when we came back, it was neatly screwed out, like it didn't (ever) exist," Phillips said.

She noted that it was neatly unscrewed, not just pulled down. No note was left behind; the sign was just gone. Unfortunately, the family didn't have any

security cameras that captured footage of what happened to it.

"At first, I was really devastated because in this neighborhood we've never had any problems," Phillips said. "We've been here for like seven years, and there's never been a problem like this around our house."

Phillips' mother didn't take a picture of that first poster, so she posted a message to the Scripps Ranch Diversity and Inclusion and the Scripps Ranch Information Exchange Facebook groups asking if anyone had photos of the poster or any idea what happened to it.

"From that, we received a lot of kind words of encouragement and stuff," Phillips said. "Then I decided, OK, I'll make a new poster."

Then people started asking if they could commission the artist to make signs for them.

"I provide a few sketches for them to choose from," she said. "Then, if they want to make adjustments, they can. Once they agree that the sketch is OK, I go ahead and paint it."

Phillips said she is donating 50 percent of the money she makes to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The rest of the money goes to canvas, acrylic paint and other supplies needed to make the posters.

So far, she has completed one commissioned sign and still has more to do.

"I'll keep going as long as there are commissions," Phillips said. "I'll keep donating and getting more experience as an artist."

Anyone interested in having a sign made can email Phillips at aprilrawipa2004@gmail.com.



Scripps Ranch artist April Phillips. (photo by Panita Phillips)



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Alberto Frias, owner of Blue Bear Entertainment, poses in front of one of his company's colorful bounce houses. (courtesy photo)



Alberto Frias sets up a bounce house, taking full safety precautions. (courtesy photo)



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# Blue Bear Entertainment lifts spirits

By Bella Ross

As Scripps Ranch's youngest residents grow increasingly restless in their houses during the coronavirus pandemic, local business owner Alberto Frias said he has the perfect medicine: bounce houses.

The COVID-19 pandemic hit merely a year after Frias launched his bounce house business, Blue Bear Entertainment.

Although the early months of the outbreak were grim – with Frias experiencing a week's worth of cancellations – he quickly realized his five inflatable bounce houses gave him an easy way to perk up the community during tough times.

“Think about it: parents are home with their kids for the last three months. They're suffering sometimes and sometimes they need a break,” Frias said. “Set up a bounce house for the kids and they're jumping all day and they actually go to sleep at 9 p.m.”

Once the County started reopening in June, Frias began setting up his bounce houses in local parks – then posting about it on Scripps Ranch Facebook groups for anybody to enjoy. Some days, he would set up an inflatable castle in his front yard so community members could enjoy private sessions.

“He set up drinks for us and he sanitized it right before we got there,” said Katie Mandalia, who brought her two young kids over to bounce. “Then afterwards, he ran out and had more wipes to show us how clean he was keeping it.”

Mandalia had been quarantined in her Scripps Ranch condo for months with her six-year-old son and one-year-old daughter. Because

she has no outdoor space at her home, her family depends on daily walks to get out of the house. After jumping for about an hour, Mandalia's son said he had the “best day of his life.”

“For that hour, the kid gets to be a kid again,” Frias said.

Blue Bear Entertainment came to light after Frias suffered a stroke in December 2017, forcing him into 10 months of physical therapy. He said it was this experience

that inspired him to get closer with his kids, and the bounce house business was born.

Even with the financial struggles of operating as a young business during the COVID-19 crisis, Frias has found ways to offer inflatable castle experiences to Scripps Ranch residents.

“It's time to just be a kid again because these days are just totally different,” Frias said.

Mandalia said her experience

with Frias served as a friendly reminder of the kindness that remains in others, especially during tough times.

“It's nice to know that people are still willing to help people, knowing they don't get anything back in return,” Mandalia said.

To contact Blue Bear Entertainment about bounce house rentals, call (619) 813-3914, email [info@bluebear-entertainment.com](mailto:info@bluebear-entertainment.com) or visit [bluebearentertainment.com](http://bluebearentertainment.com).



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# July 4 mini parade

Neighbors in one Scripps Ranch neighborhood found a creative and memorable way to celebrate the Fourth of July, in light of COVID-19 restrictions and cancelled July Fourth events in the area. Children decorated their bikes, scooters and motorized mini vehicles, and participated in a socially-distanced mini parade down their street and back while parents and grandparents cheered them on. All were treated to red, white and blue popsicles and other cold treats at the end of the "parade route."



(photo courtesy of Cynthia Kurose)



Siena and Lorelei Fleizach  
"Fred the Cactus"



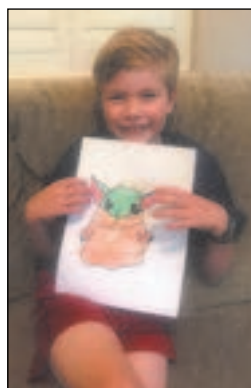
Kristine Talaga (age 12)



Falyn (age 13)  
Inspiration: George Floyd  
Submitted by: Shelley Ray (Mom)

## Quarantined Creations

Readers submitted artwork that their children created during the pandemic.



Drew Bidermann (age 7)  
"Baby Yoda"



By Kiana Farokhi (age 9), Dingeman Elementary  
"Friendship no matter what"



Luke Bidermann (age 5)  
"Cup Monsters"



(photo courtesy of Aimee Edmonds)



(photo courtesy of Aimee Edmonds)



(photo courtesy of Aimee Edmonds)



(photo courtesy of Anna Brackman)



(photo courtesy of Anna Brackman)

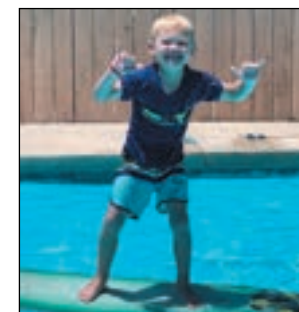


(photo courtesy of Cynthia Kurose)

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Happy 10th birthday, Malia! She enjoys training in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu; outdoor activities like snowboarding, paddle boarding and the beach; as well as spending time with friends and family.



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# Local author publishes debut novel

By Bella Ross

After a lifetime of sticking her nose into books, local author Prasanna Madabushi realized the gaps she noticed in literature could be filled with a story that is uniquely her own.

The product of this realization was “Heir to Malla,” Madabushi’s debut novel that dives into a fantasy world through the lens of an Indian princess.

“There was a gap and I realized I wanted to read a book that was based in Indian culture,” Madabushi said about her decision to write her first novel.

The story tracks the dilemmas of an Indian princess whose brother mysteriously disappears. Meanwhile, the princess is being pushed by her father to marry a prince from a neighboring kingdom, prompting a series of romantic and ethical battles.

Although these battles are not physical in nature, Madabushi said this was part of her goal.

“I wanted to portray a strong female protagonist, but not necessarily strong in a traditional male way ...”

Madabushi said. “She does not fight in a physical sense, but she’s very strong.”

For somebody with an engineering degree and a job in the technology sector, Madabushi said picking up the pen was daunting at first. She’s never confronted many of the storytelling techniques familiar to career writers, and had no experience working on such an expansive writing project.

After working on a draft for about three years, Madabushi deemed her words ready to meet a second set of eyes.

“I did enjoy working with her and she really did the work,” said freelance editor Christa Yelich-Koth. “She put the effort into it, and so I knew that because of her willingness to try harder, to work harder, to learn more, the book just was going to get better and better. And you can see that on the page.”

Yelich-Koth and Madabushi worked on “Heir to Malla” for about two years before the finalized version became available.

One piece of advice Madabushi carried with her throughout the process is that the novel was entirely her own, and that it needed



Author Prasanna Madabushi (courtesy photo)

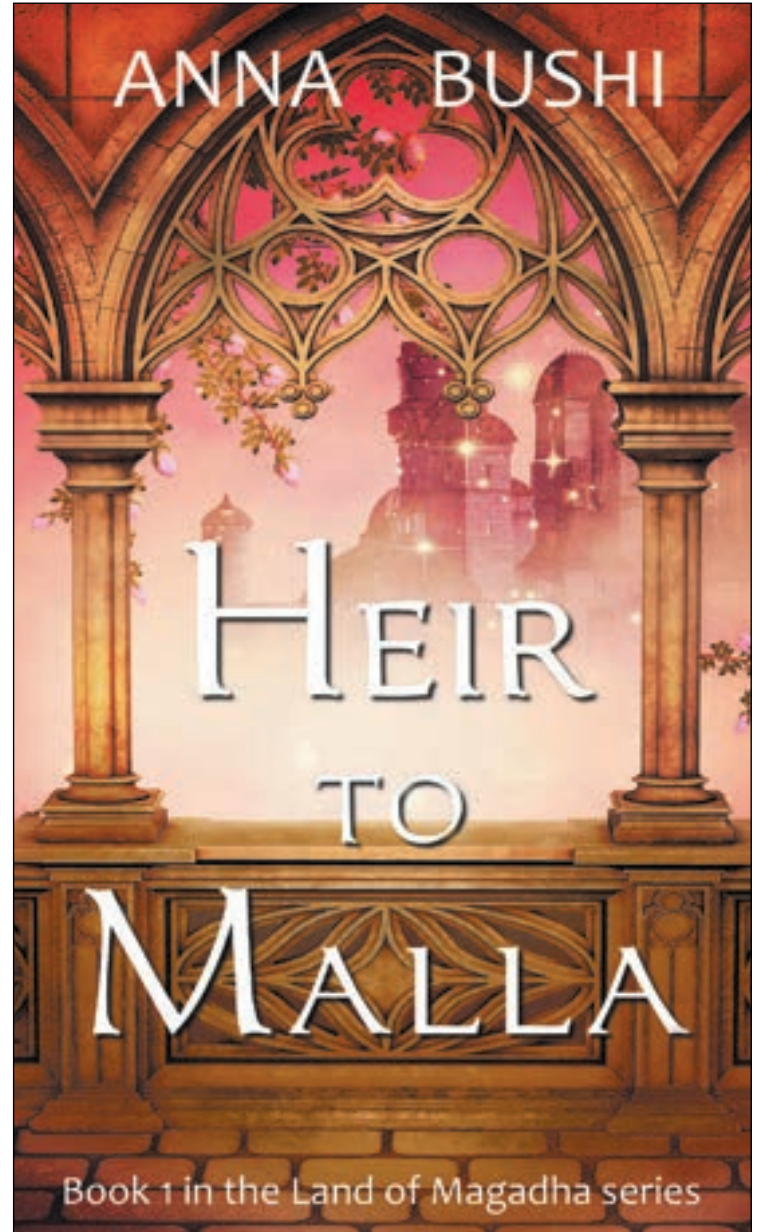
to be written as such.

“Just write for yourself. Write a book that you want to read,” Madabushi said. “And then you will find others who have similar interests.”

Now that “Heir to Malla” is available for purchase, Madabushi said she is excited to be working on a second book for the series.

“I think whatever she puts out next, she’s just going to keep improving more and more,” Yelich-Koth said.

To learn more about “Heir to Malla,” visit [AnnaBush.com](http://AnnaBush.com).



“Heir to Malla” is Prasanna Madabushi’s first novel.

## SR KIDS

Continued from Page 1

he said. “There were lots of tarantulas and scorpions. Deer would come up to our back fence.”

Paul recalled a rattlesnake in the backyard the first week the Manoguerras moved in.

“There were plenty of snakes, lizards, crawdads, frogs, all kinds of stuff like that. We heard coyotes howling at night, especially

in the summer,” he said.

In the summer, Hannifin-MacNab remembers front doors always being open down her street.

“Kids goofed around, walked on stilts and ran in and out of each other’s houses. We all became one big extended family,” she said.

Hannifin-MacNab said Rob Martin was the best friend of her brother, Patrick. She said they “got into all sorts of mischief,” bringing home bugs and sections of beehives

dripping with honey. The two boys met in third grade and were in Cub Scouts together.

“My best memory was riding bikes to Miramar Lake to fish,” Martin said. “There was an old dam on the other side of Pomerado. We would go catch crawdads there, then use them for bait to catch bass.”

Martin and Hannifin spent up to 12 hours a day fishing, riding bikes and searching for salamanders and horned toads.

“We finally came home when we got hungry or when the streetlights came on,” Martin said.

Nils and Josette Persson came to Scripps Ranch in 1976. Nils remembers the day very well.

“I literally turned eight when we moved in and my babysitter took me to see ‘Herbie the Love Bug.’ – the second film, ‘Herbie Rides Again,’” he said.

Stacy Warner Rivera claims she knew practically every family in southern Scripps Ranch when she grew up there in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

“When Jerabek Elementary opened, we got to know



Susan Hannifin-MacNab

everybody, and everybody knew us,” she said.

The cohesion of the neighborhood kept children honest.

“You couldn’t get away with anything because everybody knew you,” Rivera said. “If I got in trouble, my mom knew before I got home from school because another mom would call her immediately.”

Susan Hannifin-MacNab played Little League baseball with boys in the early 1980s. There was no alternative.

“There were no girls’ sports teams in Scripps Ranch at the time, so I let her play on my son’s Little League team,” Tony Manoguerra said. “She was probably one of the best players on the team.”

For most of the kids living in Scripps Ranch in the

1980s, there was no middle school or high school. Many went to Wangenheim Middle School or Mira Mesa High School in Mira Mesa. Some chose to attend a magnet program at Gompers Middle School in southeast San Diego.

“My mom was one of the main people to push this,” Nils Persson said. “We caught a 6:45 a.m. bus to Gompers. I did that from seventh through ninth grade.”

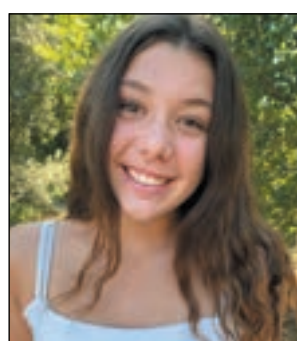
The Hannifin kids also attended the magnet school. So did the Manoguerras. Paul Manoguerra recalled that the bus rides to and from Gompers, which was just south of the 94 freeway, were “rather lengthy.”

“But I really enjoyed going there,” he said.

Paul’s father, Tony, said he was supportive of the magnet school program at Gompers.

“We wanted our children to grow up in contact with people from different backgrounds. Plus, the kids got an excellent education there,” he said.

Part II, coming in the August issue: *The Scripps Ranch Kids grow up.*



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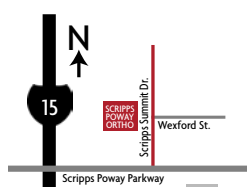
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## Valedictorians describe their futures, express thanks

### VALEDICTORIANS

Continued from Page 1

was president. Going into her senior year, she began working at Starbucks and is still employed.

"I just joined clubs and sports that interested me and that really helped me and made high school a better experience," Milanov said.

She attributes her success to many people such as her parents, her counselor Leslie McDonald and her freshman English teacher Andrew Laverty.

"I don't think I would be anywhere without my parents. I always wanted to be valedictorian, it was just something I wanted to achieve for myself and my parents have always been a great support system. As well as my parents, my counselor Ms. McDonald was always there for me not only academically, but also emotionally and mentally. Lastly, my English teacher Mr. Laverty was always encouraging and believing in me. His class was the first class I struggled with, but he pushed me to do better and prepared me a lot for what was to come," Milanov said.

As part of the class of 2020, Milanov graduated under the restrictions of COVID-19.

"I think the last semester of high school was something we all anticipated, but it got taken away from us. We ended up missing a lot, but I don't think that will stop us in the future. As a whole, I think it has made us stronger," Milanov said.

A message Milanov would like to share with her fellow graduates: "2020 has been a rough year and we have been through the most by far. However, now is your chance to start over and go follow your dreams. Following your dreams will take you where you are meant to be," Milanov said.

**Shravya Sanigepalli:** Valedictorian Shravya Sanigepalli will be attending UC San Diego (UCSD) on a Regents scholarship and plans to study ecology and go into pre-med. At UCSD, Sanigepalli wants to do research, volunteer work in hospitals, study abroad and join clubs such as "Crochet for Charity."

This September, Sanigepalli will be participating in a lab regarding the effects of TB on zebrafish at UCSD.

Throughout her time at SRHS, Sanigepalli played varsity badminton for all four years and started Pen Pals for Patients in her junior year – and was co-president. In her sophomore year, Sanigepalli was part of a lab at San Diego State University relating to genes. In her junior year, she was involved in a lab at Sanford Burnham Prebys relating to colorectal cancer. She also began working at Wild Birds Unlimited, going into her senior year and is still employed.

Sanigepalli attributes her success to her parents, friends and her AP biology teacher Patricia Fowler.

"My parents encouraged me throughout my whole journey, and I can't thank them enough. Alongside my

parents, my friends were always supportive and without them I really would not know what was going on. Most of all though, my AP biology teacher, Ms. Fowler was the one who inspired me to do biology – and she was such a great influence," Sanigepalli said.

Even though Sanigepalli graduated under COVID-19 and its restrictions, she doesn't consider it a setback.

"We might not have gotten the traditional graduation, but I think that makes our class even more special. We were the first to graduate with a drive-thru graduation and we are for sure going to make a mark in history," Sanigepalli said.

A few words Sanigepalli would like to share with her graduating class: "We've been through so much and because of that the class of 2020 should be the catalyst for change. There is so much that our class will achieve that no other class before us has done and we are going to make a big difference in the world. As long as you follow your flow, everything will turn out fine," Sanigepalli said.

Valedictorians at SRHS are those who have the highest weighted cumulative grade point average calculated from sophomore to senior year.

"I'm impressed with both Sophia and Shravya and their qualities as people," SRHS interim principal Matt Lawson said. "I am so happy that they are representing SRHS. I want them to grow up and be successful, but most of all happy and accomplish their goals."

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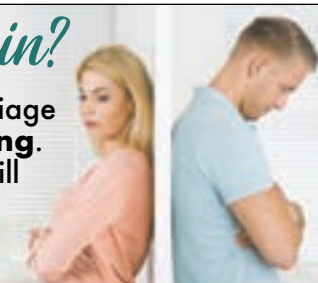
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SPORTS

Hoping to get back in the swing

By Ashley Shah

The Scripps Ranch Softball Association (SRSA) is an organization for girls to learn and play softball. It is part of the Junior Olympic program with USA Softball. Each year the association recruits around 280 girls that range from ages six to 14.

"We are a family-oriented association and we really focus on the girls," said James Anderson, SRSA president.

During the spring, the association fundraises by holding a raffle.

"We ask each girl to try and sell five raffle tickets. As an incentive for the girls, we also put their names in a raffle in which they can get a bat. Then we get donations from companies and amusement parks to help fundraise. For example, this year Disneyland had donated a four day and two-day pass," President Anderson said.

However, this year the organization split up the profits and donated \$2,000 to Feeding San Diego in light of the COVID-19 crisis.

"We wanted to give back to the community in a time like this," Anderson said.

Not only does the association fundraise through the raffle, but it also has local sponsors such as Diamond Designs and the Scripps Ranch Old Pros.

With the rest of the money raised, they pay for expenses in the program. SRSA was also able to award five \$1,000 scholarships to five senior high



school students: Lauren Anderson, Julia Cornelissen, Alex Cruella, Sophia Ippolito and Juliana Ishimine.

"Because of our local sponsors and fundraisers, we are able to have one of the lowest registration fees," Anderson said.

On June 17, the association started holding summer camps that ran in two-week increments. For now, their permits have been renewed through the end of July.

Depending on the group of athletes, sessions can range from teaching the basics to running drills. Each group has 12 athletes.

At the moment, USA Softball has possible plans to have tournaments in August in which the association wants to participate. Some of the activities are up in the air (as of press time) due to the COVID-19 crisis, as one of the leagues the association partners with cancelled its upcoming season and another plans September competition, pending local guidelines of cities in which it plays.

During the regular year, the association has three seasons. Fall Ball season runs from August to November.

"Fall Ball is developmental in nature. Girls that play Fall Ball are usually trying to improve or preparing to move up in age next season. During the fall, we play in the North County Winterball League or in Premier Girls Fastpitch. Both leagues have teams from all over the San Diego area," Anderson said.

Recreational season runs from January to April.

"Recreation season is designed to help all players of all levels get better and learn and, hopefully, love softball. We play around 12 to 16 games per season followed by a double elimination playoff tournament. We also have activities such as movie night and hot dog decorating contests for the girls," Anderson said.

All Star season runs from May to July.

"All Star season is designed to provide players an opportunity to take their game to the next level and compete with neighboring leagues. All Star season can include the opportunity to play at States and eventually Nationals, if you qualify," Anderson said.

All Star season also includes travel. Each season, players compete in a tournament in Irvine.

"The trip to Irvine is truly a lifetime memory for the girls. They really feel like they are part of something," Anderson said.

Visit [srsoftball.org](http://srsoftball.org).

CIF postpones start of sports

The California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) postponed the start of the fall high school sports season until December or January due to the COVID-19 pandemic. CIF determined that education-based athletics for the 2020-2021 school year will begin with a modified schedule. It is anticipated that most Section start dates will commence in December 2020 or January 2021. The CIF said it is continuously monitoring the directives and guidelines released from the Governor's Office, the California Department of Education, the California Department of Public Health, and local county health departments and agencies as these directives and guidelines are followed by member schools/school districts for student health and safety. Each CIF Section will release its own calendar to reflect regular season starting and ending dates and Section playoffs.

The California Interscholastic Federation, San Diego Section stated the plan provides for two seasons of sports, which will serve to maximize the length of each season. The adjusted calendar distributes the athletic offerings into a Fall/Winter Season, and a Spring Season.

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and search for Scripps Ranch News.



# Season hangs in the balance

By Bella Ross

July usually marks a short time before the start of practice for the Scripps Ranch Pop Warner Football and Cheer Association. But, as of press time, the league was still uncertain whether the traditional Aug. 1 season start would happen at all.

With the California Interscholastic Federation's decision to push back the fall high school sports season, Scripps Ranch Pop Warner was sitting in an unknown situation. It was waiting to find out from Scripps Ranch High School if it would be allowed to use the school's field and stadium, as it has in the past.

"Because we use the Scripps Ranch High School football field for our games, that's what makes (CIF's decision) really contingent for Scripps Ranch Pop Warner's ability to facilitate a season," said Sarah Wicker, president of Scripps Ranch Pop Warner.

Nevertheless, Pop Warner leaders have been working to draft a safety protocol in the instance they are able to proceed. The guidelines are a compilation of Center for Disease Control, San Diego County, State of California and National Pop Warner sanitation guidelines.

If the season proceeds, varying degrees of interaction between athletes will be determined by the current reopening status of the region, Wicker said.

With the latest swath of closures handed down by Governor Gavin Newsom to counties around the state, Wicker said the 2020 season would likely begin with the strictest COVID-19 protocols. Under these circumstances, athletes would be limited to interacting within groups of 10.

"If you're throwing a football, that would be to that small 10-person group and that football never leaves or exchanges into another group until it is sanitized appropriately," Wicker said.

Later phases, such as phase 3, allows athletes to interact in groups of 25. But if the state's virus cases remain high, Wicker said the league may not even make it to the point where games between groups are possible. In this case, she said, the



Pop Warner builds leadership, respect and trust, said President Sarah Wicker. (photo by Ralph LoVuolo)

league is planning a fair refund policy.

On top of limiting group sizes, Wicker said the league will monitor athletes' temperatures, offer hand sanitizer, enforce social distancing among all practice attendees and sanitize all equipment thoroughly between uses.

But the question remains: Are Scripps Ranch families comfortable enrolling their kids in youth sports amid an unprecedented pandemic?

"I've seen it both ways," Wicker said. "There are parents that really want to get their kids back into youth sports, that want to get their kids out away from computers, video games and mobile devices and get them the exercise they absolutely need and thrive on. Then, I'm also talking to parents that are unsure and are really putting a more concerted effort into keeping their family safe."

At the end of the day, Wicker said she hopes the league can find a way to continue for the sake of her kids and others.

"There are so many different things that they learn through football and through cheer," she said. "Leadership, respect, the ability to really build trust and lean on your teammates."

Visit [scrippsranchpopwarner.com](http://scrippsranchpopwarner.com).

## No hoops for NJB this season

Scripps Ranch's youngest basketball fans are in for a quiet winter after Scripps Ranch National Junior Basketball was forced to cancel its upcoming season in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

League director John Owens said, with all factors considered, the board had no other choice. For starters, the facilities the league uses for practice and games are both closed.

"Our league relies very, very heavily on indoor gym space," Owens said. "That's the only way it can function. And for years we've had our games on Sunday at Scripps Ranch High School."

On top of facility issues, Owens said the state of California banned five-on-five basketball among children in an effort to reduce the spread of the novel coronavirus.

In years past, the league has taken in numerous young players for its winter season. The program serves students from third to sixth grades and is entirely volunteer-run.

Even though tryouts for the winter season don't usually occur until October, Owens said the planning timeline meant a decision had to be made soon. This action was solidified on July 13 when San Diego Unified School District announced it would not reopen in August for physical classes on campuses, meaning the Scripps Ranch High campus would remain closed.

The response from parents to the cancellation has largely been understanding, Owens said, although he said there has been disagreement what the real risk is of allowing kids to play basketball.

"Some people think it's relatively low-risk when compared to other activities. Other people think it's dangerous and shouldn't happen," Owens said. "We have to go right now with what the governor is telling us and allowing us to do."

During these next few months of isolation, Owens said he is fearful of the impact the season cancellation will have on kids' lives. With no basketball season, kids who normally enroll will get less exercise, fewer teamwork opportunities and may have a harder time making new friends.

"We go to games on Sundays and see a close game and see the excitement of the kids on the floor, the coaches and the parents. That was a special thing," Owens said. "It's hard to replicate that, esports is not the same. But that's just the way it is these days."

The status of the 2021 season remains unknown, but Owens said the league is hoping to return if conditions permit.

To follow any updates pertaining to Scripps Ranch National Junior Basketball, visit [scrippsranchnjb.org](http://scrippsranchnjb.org).



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# HOMES



When taking your home interior from ordinary to extraordinary, it's all in the details. (StatePoint)

## Interior updates to create a wow factor

(StatePoint) Whether you want to customize and enhance your living spaces for your own enjoyment or you need to prepare to stand out in a buyer's market, creating that wow factor is easy to achieve, if you know where to focus your attention. You're likely already familiar with the importance of exterior curb appeal. According to experienced realtors, it's just as important to continue that concept after walking through the front door.

"As the saying goes, 'you only have one opportunity to make a first impression,'" says realtor Vincent A. Stanson, a realtor associate with Berkshire Hathaway Home Services. "When that front door opens, homeowners have the chance to impress their guests with a stunning stairway system, stand-out mouldings and decorative interior accents."

To get you started, here are easy ideas to give your spaces that wow factor you see and admire in ads and architectural magazines:

### Ceiling-to-floor transformation

Totally transform a room top to bottom with decorative mouldings and millwork, starting with the ceiling. Add warmth with wood beams in a horizontal or criss-cross pattern, or simply accent the ceiling with stand-out crown mouldings.

Working your way down, frame windows with straight trim and rosettes in the corners. Throughout the room, add chair mouldings, mantels and floating shelves.

Remember, mouldings don't need to be plain, especially if you want to make an impact. So, replace any humdrum casing, crown, chair and base mouldings with elements that pop, such as those that feature leaves, grapes, vines or criss-cross ribbon patterns. Consider the decorative millwork accents available from Ornamental Moulding & Millwork, which are easy to install. Their newest offerings dovetail nicely with the latest trends, and their commitment to craftsmanship mean high-quality products that last. The inspiration galleries available on its site can be a good tool for those seeking ideas for creatively enhancing their own rooms. To learn more, visit Ornamental.com.

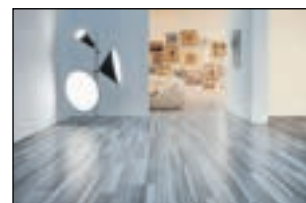
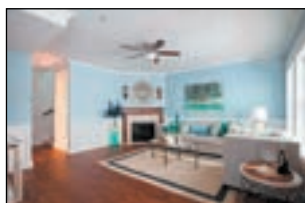
### Step up stairways

Often a focal point of a home interior, a stairway system is a crucial area where homeowners can step up their game, and doing so doesn't have to be overwhelming.

"There's a definite trend underway of people mixing metals and woods on stair systems and throughout the home," says Kelly Miller, director of market development for L.J. Smith Stair Systems. "Rather than completely take down an existing wood stair system, many people are turning to the easy IronPro DIY project of replacing wood balusters with iron balusters. Then they're leaving the wood hand rails and newel posts for a stylish, upgraded look."

Defined by unique designs and durability, L.J. Smith products – including wooden and ornamental iron balusters, stainless steel cable and tube infills, metal panels, newel posts, hand rails and accessories – can help you transform your stairs. Check out the "Stair Designer" tool to determine the best look for your home, as well as installation details and additional tips at ljsmith.com.

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# Upgrade your home with new tech

(StatePoint) Upgrading your lifestyle doesn't have to mean undergoing a major home renovation. By simply introducing a few technologies around the home, you can boost the style, efficiency and comfort of your living spaces. Consider these five ideas for five areas of your home:

- **The hallway:** Why display just one photo when you can rotate several images that include all your favorite people and moments? A digital picture frame allows you to do just that, with many models connecting to apps that allow you to directly share photos to the wall-mounted device, which means you don't actually have to be at home to do some light redecorating.

- **The home theater:** Still rocking a mercury bulb projector in your home theater? Unfortunately, the cooling fans, filters and toxic mercury bulbs associated with them are inefficient and high-maintenance. While a laser-only light source sounds good on paper, these models tend to be large and costly. Instead, consider upgrading to a laser and LED hybrid light source, such as Casio's LampFree Projector XJ-A257, which is high-efficiency and structurally smaller, without compromising on brightness. Offering a lifespan of approximately 20,000 hours, the



For some easy upgrades with a big impact, consider incorporating the best and brightest tech into your home. (copyright in4mal/iStock via Getty Images Plus)

power-saving design of this particular model cuts energy consumption by as much as 40-50 percent, making this an addition to your home theater you can feel good about.

- **The kitchen:** Slow cookers have always offered a convenient way to create an amazing meal without too much hands-on attention, but some of today's options are taking this concept a step further by connecting to smart technology. Now you can monitor and adjust cooking settings from afar, so that if something unexpected occurs and you get home later than planned, dinner doesn't suffer for it.

- **The family room:** Whether you're an aspiring musician or an accomplished pianist, your home can benefit from

a digital piano that evokes the luxury of an acoustic grand. One such model is the PX-S3000, which features a sleek, glossy top panel and unibody case that fits any room, décor or mood. Its bright backlit LCD display and touch sensor controls are revealed only when the power button is pressed, leaving only a sleek, clean top panel when powered off. Thanks to integrated Bluetooth audio that lets you connect your device wirelessly, you can play your music through its powerful stereo amplification system.

- **The bathroom:** Make stepping out of the shower a luxurious experience with a towel warming drawer, which keeps linens the perfect temperature for maximum comfort.

# Extend living area to outside spaces

(StatePoint) When warmer weather arrives, it's all about spending time in your home's outdoor spaces. Here are a few new ideas for transforming your porch, deck or yard into an oasis of relaxation.

- **Spruce up:** Give your outdoor spaces a once-over. Sweep porches and decks, dust and move outdoor furniture out of storage and prune trees and plants. This may be a good time to refinish or re-stain an older deck in need of some tender loving care. Want to add a splash of color to the space? Give some time-worn wooden furniture a new paint job in a bold hue.

- **Power up:** To match the comfort of indoor life to your home's outdoor spaces, you'll need a safe, code-compliant and unobtrusive way to power fans, lighting, entertainment and electric appliances. To add an outlet to raised outdoor floors, porch-



Put power where you want it in an unobtrusive, code-compliant way. (StatePoint)

es and decks, consider installing a Deck Outlet Cover from Hubbell TayMac. Accommodating two power cords, it lets you put the power in a safe place where people are less likely to trip over cords.

Weatherproof, UV resistant and durable even in harsh environments, it also fea-

tures a low-profile design that meets Americans with Disabilities Act standards, and a slip-resistant texture available in gray, white and bronze.

- **Furnish:** There is no reason your outdoor spaces can't offer the same level of comfort and beauty as any den or living room, especially now that you've supplied your outdoor space with electrical power and the flexibility to install such amenities as an entertainment center, ceiling fans and even chandeliers. Be sure everything you install is weatherproofed and protected against the elements, and that you select only outdoor-grade products. By giving your home's outdoor spaces the same attention to detail as the indoors, you can extend your living spaces and even create new "rooms" in which to dine, relax and entertain.



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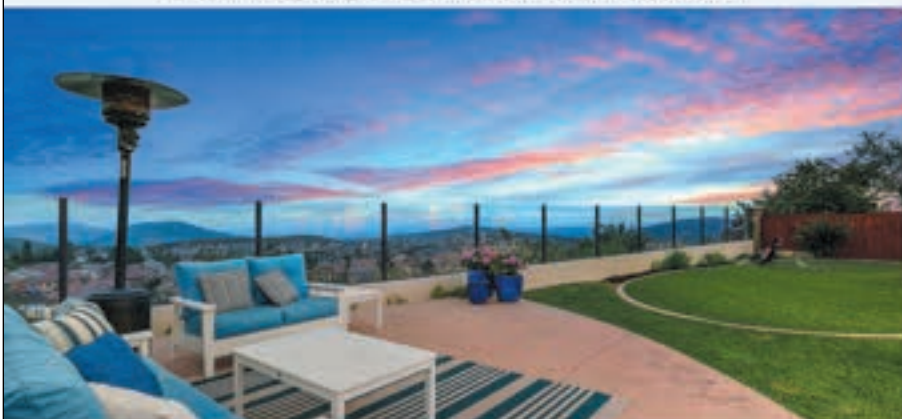
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