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Local wildlife: abundant and active

By Heather Karpel

Wildlife in Scripps Ranch is abundant. Skunks, squirrels, deer, snakes, opossum, coyotes, lizards and birds, including hawks, migratory song birds, little blue herons, king fishers, coots, mallards and red-winged horned owls, are just some of the many animals that can be found in the area.

A local animal of interest is the coyote. Scripps Ranch has a canyon environment, which is why coyotes are prevalent here. However, because coyotes are "generalists," meaning they can adapt to a variety of environments with different food sources, they can be found anywhere in urban areas from Los Angeles or San Diego to Wisconsin.

Mary Zanotelli is a Scripps Ranch resident and wildlife educator who spends time observing interactions between different species of local animals and their environment.

"Coyotes are opportunistic feeders, so they are going to eat what's easy and available," Zanotelli explained. "If that means berries, they will eat a lot of berries, if that means rabbits, they're going to eat a lot of rabbits, if that means cats that are left outside to wander, that's an easy meal for a coyote and it's not doing it to get revenge on people."



Scripps Ranch has a canyon environment, which is

Zanotelli recommends keeping cats indoors, and not leaving pet food outside.

Coyotes can be seen during the day or night, particularly when they are feeding pups. They mate for life, and have been called "song dogs" for the excited vocalizations they make when reuniting.

One animal Zanotelli feels Scripps Ranch is particularly fortunate to have is the opossum.

"They (opossum) are the only marsupial to live in north America, and marsupials have a pouch, so they are related to kangaroos and koalas," Zanotelli said.

She explained that people tend to be afraid of them because of their intimidating teeth (50 of them, more than any other North American land mammal) which they display when they feel threatened. Other defenses include acting sick, and ultimately passing out. Zanotelli explained that they have a reputation for being mean, but they are actually "kind of sweet and dumb." However, she advises against trying to handle one.

The habitat for wildlife in Scripps Ranch is undergoing constant change, and we may start to see more of some animals and less of others. With some locations under development, Zanotelli predicts residents will begin to see more animals in surrounding areas as the current inhabitants search for new homes, which will likely be in "somebody's backyard."

Residents have mentioned to her that they are See **WILDLIFE**, Page 2

New restaurant focuses on all things local

By Cynthia Kurose

A group of Scripps Ranch friends and neighbors

have teamed up to bring a long-awaited local dining

and social experience
to their community.
Public House 131 –
whose name pays
homage to Zip Code
92131 – promises to
deliver a familiar,
neighborhood vibe
where patrons will
feel more like friends



deliver a familiar, neighborhood vibe where patrons will Final preparations are underway at Public House 131, a family-friendly neighborhood restaurant that plans to open in early August. (photo by Cynthia Kurose)

than customers, while enjoying locally-sourced, farm-to-table food, and local San Diego craft brews and spirits. Final touches and preparations are underway at the new restaurant, which is set to open in early August at 10393 Spring Canyon Road in the Scripps Ranch Marketplace.

Owner-operators Bob Adamson and John Lancia are Scripps Ranch residents who have lived in the community for more than 20 years. Adamson is a restaurant industry veteran who is part owner of Legacy Brewing Tap & Kitchen on Miramar Road, as well as Luigi's at the Beach in Mission Beach.

Early last summer, Adamson began actively pursuing See **RESTAURANT**, Page 3

Rattlesnake season is now underway

By Heather Karpel

Rattlesnakes populate much of San Diego County and Scripps Ranch certainly has its share. These venomous reptiles are around most of the year but tend to be most prevalent during the warmer months, April through September.

Scripps Ranch resident and wildlife educator Mary Zanotelli revealed a few facts about rattlesnakes in this area.

In San Diego County there are four types of rattlesnakes. There is the sidewinder, which lives in the desert and is a light brown color; the

See **RATTLESNAKE**, Page 2

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WILDLIFE

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starting to see more deer, for instance.

Something else that affects local animal populations, although Zanotelli says "it takes a long time to see the effects," is the introduction of non-native species to the area. Zanotelli said that most of the animals in Scripps Ranch are native, however, there are also animals such as the bull frog and European bee that are not. These animals do not have "specific predators" and, therefore, their numbers continue to increase. In the case of the bullfrog, it is eating native frogs and wa-

terfowl. There is a lot locals in Scripps Ranch can do to support area wildlife and have safe and enriching experiences with it. Zanotelli recommends planting native plants in your garden. This will attract native birds, native butterflies and bees. It also reduces watering and, therefore, attracts fewer Argentine



Wild cottontail rabbits are the most common in San Diego, according to Project Wildlife. (photo by John Gregory)

ants, a non-native species of ant. Also, observe animals from a distance.

"All animals have a flight distance. It basically means how close you can get to the animal before it gets nervous," Zanotelli said. "So, when I see wildlife I keep in mind what this animal's body language is telling me and I can tell when to stop."

With this in mind, residents can keep safe and enjoy Scripps Ranch's beautiful environment and its wildlife.

RATTLESNAKE

Continued from Page 1

red diamond rattlesnake, which has red hues, has a zebra striped tail and prefers brush and chaparral; the speckled rattlesnake, which resembles granite and prefers rocky areas; and the southern Pacific rattlesnake, which is yellow and brown, or yellow and black, and is found everywhere except the desert. They are ectothermic, meaning their body temperature is regulated by external sources, so on cooler days you might find them sunning themselves. A good way to distinguish rattlesnakes from non-venomous snakes is to look at the shape of their heads, which are triangular.

Rattlesnakes are venomous; however, their venom is not actually intended for predators. It is intended for prey. Rattlesnakes use their venom to paralyze their victims, typically rodents, and then they back away until the venom has taken effect.

Zanotelli explained that they will use venom against predators if they feel threatened, "but given the choice, the snake is always going to want to just move on" and not risk an encounter.



A good way to distinguish rattlesnakes from non-venomous snakes is to look at the shape of their heads, which are triangular.

This means that rattlesnakes are not seeking out opportunities to bite humans, and they will not chase after you.

"When people get bitten by rattlesnakes, it's when they've accidentally encountered them, like if they're rock climbing and they put their hand on them, or they're stepping over somewhere and step on a rattlesnake," Zanotelli said.

Another common way that people get bitten is by attempting to handle or kill a rattlesnake. It is recommended that you watch where you step when hiking, and keep dogs leashed.

The effects of bites vary,

and they can be debilitating. Only a minority are lethal, though. Zanotelli explained that some are "dry bites" in which no venom is used.

One myth is that young rattlesnakes are more dangerous. This idea comes from the fact they may have less control over their venom glands and how much venom they use; however, they have smaller glands and less available venom to start.

Rattlesnakes help with rodent control and they are protected animals in San Diego County parks. It is illegal to kill a red diamond rattlesnake in California. If you see a rattlesnake while hiking, it should be left alone. If it is close to a human populated area, it is recommended that you call a safe removal service. If you are in a park, call a park ranger. Zanotelli explained that the best thing you can do if you see a rattlesnake in the wild is to appreciate it from a safe distance.

"It's such an exciting thing to be able to see a wild animal in its natural habitat and if you stick around and watch what it does, it's fascinating," she said. "We're so lucky to live in Scripps Ranch to be able to have close encounters with these animals. But let's not interact with them, let's not try to feed them, let's not try to kill them, let's not try to affect their lives. Let them just live and they will let us live."

In the event that you are bitten by a rattlesnake, the Parks and Recreation Department of San Diego County recommends the following: Stay calm. Do not use a tourniquet or ice on the area. Do not try to cut the area or suck out the venom. Wash your skin if possible with soap or an antiseptic wipe. Remove jewelry or tight clothing. Send somebody to call 911, or if you are alone, walk at a "relaxed pace" to a place where you can call 911. Seek medical attention as soon as possible.



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Scripps Ranch locals plan to open Public House 131

RESTAURANT

Continued from Page 1

the idea of opening another restaurant. He said that he had always had his eye on the Scripps Ranch Marketplace as a potential location, but no space was available at the time. When Pizza Rev departed unexpectedly in August of last year leaving a vacancy, however, he knew it was time to work on securing investors and making his vision of a neighborhood restaurant in Scripps Ranch a reality.

Lancia, who is heading up marketing for the new establishment, explained that he and his partners are very much focused on delivering a local ambiance.

"We want it to be like Cheers in Boston, where everybody knows your name," he said.

Adamson added that another key element of the local focus is in the sourcing of their ingredients.

"Our objective is to try to source everything locally," he said. "We have a pig farmer in Bonita, and we'll get our beef from Escondido. The beer is all going to be local – we won't have anything from outside of San Diego County. We're going to source a lot of the spirits from local distillers in San Diego. We'll have farm-totable food; everything will be made from scratch."

Leading the kitchen at Public House 131 will be Chef Scott Floyd, who has

Still more work ahead for SDG&E project

San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) plans to conduct curb-to-curb grind and cap work along Pomerado Road this weekend, July 28 and July 29. The work will be done in two 12-hour shifts, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. both days. Expect road closures from Avenida Magnifica to Spring Canyon Road during these times. SDG&E will ensure emergency vehicles have immediate access and evacuation routes remain open in the event of an emergency along this route.

SDG&E's contractors will begin to finish the repaving and restriping portions of the project about one week later. This work should take place during daytime hours and last about five days.

The final restoration and repaying activities along Stonebridge Parkway will be underway in the latter part of August, according to SDG&E.



Public House 131 owners and investors are all members of the Scripps Ranch community. Pictured are (back row, from left) Mike Adamson, Brock Flint, Marlon Gardinera, Brian Rhew, Tracey Gardinera, Karen Wenger, Damon Wenger, Kristen Dolan, Bill Dolan, Bob Adamson, Jess Friedman, and (front row, from left) John Lancia, Royce Ryan, Taylor Ryan, Scott Ryan and Greg Friedman. Not pictured: Mike Danish and Eric Welter. (photo by Cynthia Kurose)

served as executive chef for a number of restaurants in Los Angeles and Orange County, including Salt Creek Grille in Dana Point, where he worked for six years. According to Adamson, Floyd has also been involved with opening five brewpubs in southern California.

Floyd and Adamson collaborated on designing a well-rounded menu that caters to everything from the casual diner stopping in for a quick lunch to a couple out for a delectable date-night dinner to a Little League team seeking to replenish after a game. Casual meal offerings include a variety of gourmet salads, soups, sandwiches and custom burgers, including vegetarian options. Steak, seafood and pork dishes are among carefully-crafted entrée choices. Of course, plenty of small bites on the menu complement a collection of local craft beer and spirits, which will be served during lunch, dinner and a late afternoon happy hour.

In community online fo-

rums, where initial buzz about the new restaurant began several months ago, some expressed confusion over whether the establishment would be an extension of the similarly-named Public House La Jolla. Adamson explained that there is no affiliation, stating that "public house" is simply a term like "gastropub" and does not refer to a specific brand or chain of restaurants. While literally defined as "a tavern," according to Dictionary.com, the restaurant's owners do not intend for the

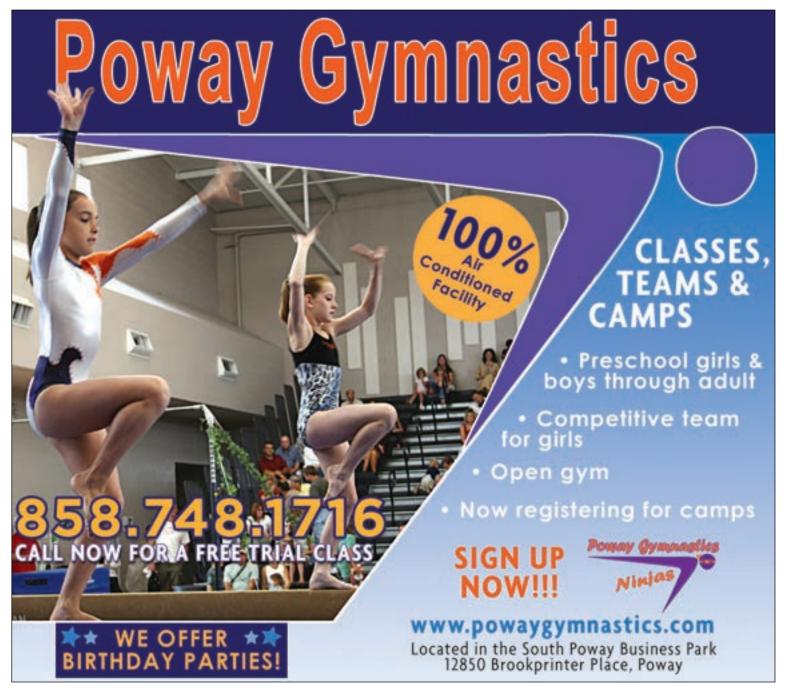
establishment to be known merely as a bar.

"Our priority will be families," Adamson said. "We're going to have not just a kid's menu, but a teen menu."

Lancia added that all of the restaurant's investors have children of their own, ranging from elementary school through recent high school graduates, so they are personally invested in ensuring that the restaurant provides a welcoming environment for the many young families in Scripps Ranch. A quick stroll through the dining room revealed the presence of high chairs, offering some evidence of their commitment.

Hiring of wait staff, hosts and bartenders is in progress, and in keeping with the restaurant's neighborhood vibe, the owners have made an effort to attract local talent. Some positions have yet to be filled, however, and they welcome members of the community to apply.

Further details will be added to the restaurant's Facebook page as it becomes available, including hours, menus and date of opening. Visit Facebook and search "Public House 131" for more information.



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Scripps Ranch News | July 2018





All entrants will receive

ONE REGULAR ITALIAN ICE FROM RITA'S

All entries will appear on ScrippsRanchNews.com and in the September newspaper.

How to enter:

Send a high-resolution photo of your lemonade stand to info@scrippsranchnews.com.

Let us know the location and date of your stand, the names of the people in your photo and your mailing address.





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You will be featured in the September issue of Scripps Ranch News

No purchase necessary to enter. Photos due by August 24, 2018.

Announcing the 1st annual Lemonade Stand Contest

Scripps Ranch News and Rita's of Scripps Ranch are holding the first annual summertime Lemonade Stand Contest.

Everyone who enters will receive a gift certificate for one regular Italian ice treat from Rita's, 10585 Scripps Poway Parkway. All entries will be featured on Scripps-RanchNews.com and will appear in the September issue of Scripps Ranch News.

The grand prize-winning entry will receive one \$25 gift card to Rita's at the end of the contest.

Are you planning a lemonade stand near your home this summer? Why not enter the contest? It's simple:

1) Send a high-resolution photo of your lemonade stand to info@scrippsranchnews.com.

2) Include the date the photo was taken; the street location of your stand; and the name (or names) of the kids running the stand.

3) Send your mailing address so we can send your certificate for a free regular Italian ice from Rita's of Scripps Ranch.

Entries must be received by Friday, Aug. 24, 2018.

Rules: The contest is open to children only. Lemonade stands must be located within Scripps Ranch. Only one Italian ice certificate per entry will be mailed. Lemonade stands from June 1, 2018 to Aug. 24, 2018 are eligible. Email any questions to info@scrippsranchnews.com.



Don Butz, Fire Safe Council of San Diego County (FSCSDC) president, awards Project of the Year to Sandy Wetzel-Smith (second from left) and Jessie Gates (middle) from the Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council. They are flanked by FSCSDC VP Sheryl Landrum (far left) and FSCSDC Coordinator Britney Munoz (far right). (courtesy photo)

Fire Safe Council receives award

he Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council recently received the Project of the Year Award for its Scripps Ranch Disaster Preparedness & Awareness Outreach program from the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County (FSCSDC).

The Project of the Year award was presented to the Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council for its Scripps Ranch Disaster Preparedness & Awareness Outreach program "in recognition of the outstanding volunteers working to increase interest in creating disaster emergency plans with High School Students."

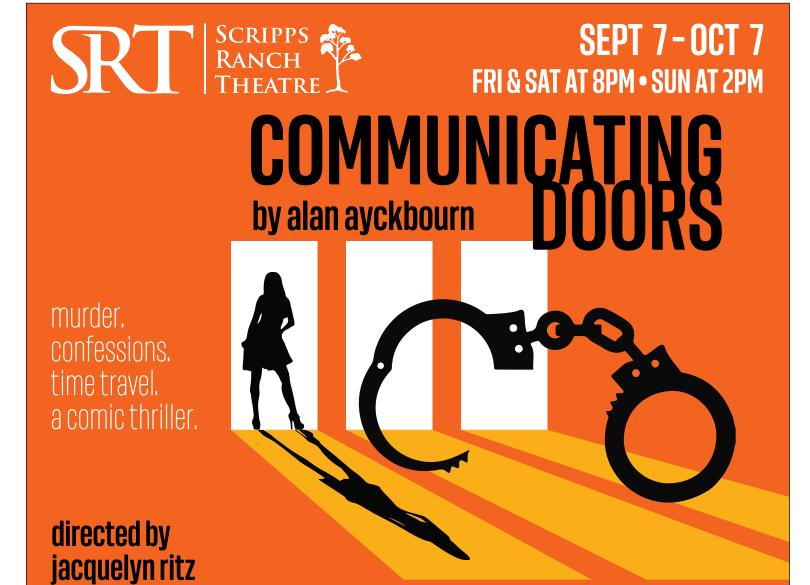
Additionally, Trenton Bilyeu was recognized as a student honoree from Scripps Ranch High School.

The FSCSDC honored community Fire Safe Council volunteers for their exceptional service in the area of wildfire prevention at its 13th annual Volunteer Awards Ceremony. Held on June 14, this annual event honors volunteers who go above and beyond keeping their communities fire safe. Run exclusively by volunteers, the 38 community Fire Safe Councils in San Diego County work closely with fire agency representatives to identify risks and carry out projects to address those risks.

Community Fire
Safe Councils
and the volunteers
who run them are
a vital piece of San
Diego's wildfire
prevention efforts.

Representatives from CAL FIRE, the U.S. Forest Service, San Diego Fire-Rescue, San Diego County Fire Authority, and the Bureau of Land Management were keynote speakers at the event. In addition, representatives from national, state and local elected officials were on hand to present certificates of recognition to the honorees. Fire Safe Council President and Lakeside Fire Chief Don Butz presented the 2018 awards.

"Community Fire Safe Councils and the volunteers who run them are a vital piece of San Diego's wildfire prevention efforts," said Sheryl Landrum, vice president of the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County. "I am proud to say that there are more community Fire Safe Councils in San Diego County than any other county in California. They are the 'Neighborhood Watch' for keeping San Diego fire-safe, and we are thrilled to recognize their significant contributions to wildfire prevention."



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Whiz Kids gets youngsters moving!

By Anna Ruth Ramos

ne local librarian at Jerabek Elementary is known for making exercise fun. Her name is Ruth Burr, librarian and certified instructor. She teaches aerobics to adults during the day and to kids in the afternoon.

Whiz Kids was started by a friend of Burr in 1989, and Burr came on board around the early 1990s. Now, Whiz Kids, an aerobic team and class for children, is independently helmed by Burr as her own venture.

Burr's background is in exercise and she taught aerobics to adults before she taught it to children. Her pursuit in teaching aerobics to kids was inspired by her daughter who used to be very shy when she was younger until she took an aerobics class. Burr said she was surprised to learn that, according to her daughter, aerobics was "the most fun [she's] ever had."

Whiz Kids is now a small operation with three classes taught personally by Burr. She has two classes at Jerabek Elementary's after-

school program, when it's in session, on Wednesdays and Thursdays. She also teaches a Tuesday class at the Scripps Ranch Swim and Racquet Club which is open to anyone, even those who are not members of the club.

She teaches all her classes at Jerabek by herself. However, at the Scripps Ranch Swim and Racquet Club, she has about two or three teenagers who were in Whiz Kids when they were children who now help her out. These teens undergo a paid training program with Burr and they help her teach the kids in her Tuesday class.

Burr started in this venture by teaching 10 children. Now she teaches about 90 of them.

Whiz Kids' target demographic are boys and girls ages 5 to 10 – kindergarteners through fifth graders.

Burr's main exercise philosophy for Whiz Kids is not at all about competition, nor is it about perfection. It's more about getting the kids moving and, more importantly, having fun.

"It really is a good avenue for children that maybe ar-



The Whiz Kids program is open to children 5 to 10 years of age. (photo courtesy of Ruth Burr)

en't the greatest at sports, or they may not be the greatest at dance, but they want to do something and they want to feel successful," Burr said.

She teaches the children aerobic exercise skills based on flexibility, balance and dance routines.

Burr added that Whiz Kids is all about wanting to increase kids' concentration, self-confidence and self-esteem so that they can develop a love for physical fitness through aerobics and dance at an early age.

"I always want the kids to feel the confidence that they can exercise and that exercise is fun," she explained. "I said when you get older, and you feel like, 'Oh I have to go work out,'— I don't want that. I want the kids to al-



Whiz Kids owner/instructor Ruth Burr is pictured with Violet Grover (left) and Olive Grover at Jerabek Elementary School. (photo courtesy of Ruth Burr)

ways think exercise is fun." For more information ab-

 $out\ Whiz\ Kids, contact\ Burr\ at\ Fit 2goON@aol.com.$

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EBS K/TK Playgroup playdates remain

Ellen Browning Scripps Elementary School has a Kindergarten/TK Summer Playgroup for children starting at the school this year. The next playdates will be Sunday, Aug. 5, 3-4 p.m.; and Wednesday, Aug. 8, 4-5 p.m.; both at Lakeview Park, 10794 Mira Lago Terrace. Contact Kristi M. Bidermann, kmaibaum@gmail.com or Christine Martinez, saylesmartinez@gmail.com.

Donations needed for MRE Halloween Carnival

Volunteers are already hard at work getting ready for the 45th annual Miramar Ranch Elementary (MRE) School Halloween Carnival. Favorites such as the Haunted House, Cake Walk, Laser Tag and other popular games will be back. There will also be new, fun activities.

The Halloween Carnival committee is looking for more vendors and sponsors to participate in the carnival and support MRE and the Scripps Ranch community with this long-standing event. The committee needs businesses that would like

to sponsor a booth on the day of the event. There is also a need for donated items, gifts, gift cards, etc., for the raffle and silent auction. Businesses and residents who wish to contribute may email Helena Parker at miramarhalloweenchair@gmail.com or Leanne Steichen at leanne. steichen3@gmail.com.

Jerabek registration will resume Aug. 16

Jerabek Elementary School, 10050 Avenida Magnifica, announed important dates regarding registration and orientation.

TK, kindergarten and new student registration will resume on Aug. 16 when the school office opens. First day of school is Aug. 27.

The TK and Kindergarten Meet and Greet will be Friday, Aug. 24 from 2 to 3 p.m. This will be for the TK/kindergarten students and parents only. Due to space constraints, siblings may not attend.

New additions ready at St. Gregory the Great

August will be a busy month at St. Gregory the Great Catholic School: After several months of preparation, the school playing field has been revitalized with new sod so students may enjoy an amazing environment for recess, lunch and after school sports.



St. Gregory the Great Catholic School is expanding its STEM program to include a robotics curriculum and the school is adding a dedicated technology teacher. (courtesy photo)

Student services are being expanded to include a student-run store which will serve students during recess. At the end of last school year, students were encouraged to apply for sales positions and a group of motivated student entrepreneurs will take on this new project. Student Council and Green Team are other leadership opportunities open to the student body.

The STEM program is being expanded this year to include a robotics curriculum and St. Gregory's is adding a dedicated technology teacher to support students in incorporating technology into their learning experiences.

A 1:1 iPad program is being rolled out in middle school, which along with classroom iPads, desktops, smartboards and document cameras, will enhance the learning experience for students with diverse learning styles.

Preschool now offered at St. Gregory the Great

St. Gregory the Great Catholic School now offers preschool as an addition to its elementary school. The program is being expanded to include enrollment for 2-year-olds, in addition to the already established 3 and 4-year-old programs. A variety of enrollment options are available for all three programs.

Preschool and school tours are available upon request and enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year is still open. The first day of school at St. Gregory's is Aug. 21. Those in-

terested may visit www. stggcs.org.

Miramar Ranch Kindergarten Meetups planned

Incoming Miramar Ranch Elementary School kindergarten (and TK) students and their families are invited to summer kindergarten Meet and Greets. Parents and children can get to know each other a little bit before school starts.

The next meetup will be Tuesday, July 31, 9:30 a.m. at Lakeview Park. August meetups will be held Sunday, Aug. 12, 4 p.m. at Scripps Ranch Community Park; and Friday, Aug. 24, 9:30 a.m. (just after the kindergarten teacher meet and greet). For more information, contact coordinator Nikki Lankford at nikki_spencer@hotmail.com.

SRHS boosters seek help for student athletes

Scripps Ranch High School (SRHS) football boosters are seeking to raise funds to support study hall for student athletes, which was instituted for the football program last season. According to Adria Shaw, secretary for the SRHS football boosters, players regularly spend 12-hour days on campus, with practices, classes and study hall, and it is critical that they receive adequate nourishment to keep them focused. The football boosters seek contributions in any amount to offset the cost of snacks and drinks for student athletes. Those who want to contribute may email info@srhsfootball.org for more information.

SRHS football begins

Scripps Ranch High School (SRHS) football practice for the 2018-2019 season will officially begin at 9 a.m. on Monday, July 30 at the SRHS football stadium. Any student wishing to play football in the upcoming season must be in attendance. The first freshman game of the season will take place on Aug. 16 and the first varsity game will be played on Aug. 17 at Serra High School. The first varsity home game will be Aug. 24 against Del Norte High School.

SRHS Kick-Off is set

Kick-Off at Scripps Ranch High School is the time that enrolled students have a chance to get nearly everything they need to begin classes for the upcoming school year. This is the Kick-Off schedule:

Thursday, Aug. 16, currently enrolled seniors, 7:30-9:30 a.m.; Thursday, Aug. 16, currently enrolled juniors, 10 a.m.-noon.

Friday, Aug. 17, currently enrolled sophomores, 7:30-10 a.m.

Monday, Aug. 20, currently enrolled freshmen, 7:30 a.m.-noon.



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Serving the Scripps Ranch Community since 1987, Scripps Performing Arts is more than a ballet school that includes a variety of genre's (jazz, tap, lyrical, modern, Baby and Me, and musical theatre); it offers a nurturing, non-competitive environment that encourages each student to become the best that they can be without compromising their technical and artistic training.

Scripps Ranch 858.586.7834 Carmel Valley 858.509.2624 ScrippsPerformingArtsAcademy.com

Scholarship fund aids students of rock

By Chris Lindahl

fter seeing her sons thrive in their performance-based music lessons, Meridith Coady of Scripps Ranch realized the School of Rock's approach is about a lot more than just learning a few chords on a guitar.

The national music school chain, which has locations in Oceanside, Encinitas and Liberty Station, also teaches its students how to be good bandmates: setting up before the show, working with others to put on a great performance and then cleaning up when the fun is



Mackenzie Wrap will perform at Scripps Ranch Marketplace on Aug. 4. (courtesy photo)

Mackenzie Wrap returns to sing

Mackenzie Wrap will be making a return visit to perform at Scripps Ranch Marketplace on Saturday, Aug. 4 from 6 to 7:30 pm. This 14-year-old aspiring singer-songwriter-actress, originally from Scripps Ranch, is now attending the Musical Theatre Conservatory at the Orange County School of the Arts.

She has won numerous singing competitions and has been invited to perform at Hollywood venues such as The Catalina Jazz Club, Rockwell Table & Stage, Vitello's and Sterling's Upstairs at the Federal.

In a Cabaret Scenes magazine review for one of her recent shows, Les Traub commented that, "Her vocal range and the control she has with her voice was on display as she scatted to the stratosphere ... Be it pop, jazz, opera, country, traditional Great American Songbook, blues or Broadway, she handled it with ease."

Wrap's free performance on Aug. 4 at Scripps Ranch Marketplace will take place in the gazebo area of the shopping center between Starbucks and Luna Grill. over, Meridith said.

"That was translating into his school work, it was translating into his personal relationships," she said of her oldest son, Nate Coady, 17, who has been at School of Rock for eight years. "He really started to see himself as a small piece of a bigger picture."

So, when the family of one of Nate's classmates fell on hard times in 2015, Meridith Coady and other parents pooled their money to ensure the young musician could stay enrolled at School of Rock.

That collaborative effort spawned the Rock Out Scholarship Fund which, since its founding last year, has assisted seven future virtuosos in paying for lessons and has put about a dozen rehabilitated instruments in the hands of young rockers.

"The ultimate objective of our organization is to get more kids playing music and more kids playing music in groups, where they learn to play together as part of a team," Meridith said.

Meridith runs the day-today operations of the non-



Collin Coady of Scripps Ranch performs at a recent School of Rock Show. (courtesy photo)

profit with her husband, Shawn Coady. Two other board members meet with the couple several times per year. Scholarship award decisions are made by a panel of School of Rock instructors.

Scholarship-receiving families pay at least 25 per-

cent of their child's tuition, which is offered at a discounted rate through a partnership between Rock Out and School of Rock. Students typically have three hours of band rehearsal weekly plus a 45-minute private lesson.

The Rock Out organization also offers awards to students at other music schools.

Most awards are around \$145 per month and are available to kids ages 7 to 17. The largest was \$250 per month for the length of a season, which lasts about four months leading up to a weekend of performances.

That's where Rock Out has raised the bulk of its money, through concessions sold during the weekend of shows, including one-off beers crafted by Shawn Coady, who works as a brewer.

The other piece of Rock Out is providing instruments to young music students. The organization accepts donations of instruments in need of rehabilitation and fixes them up.

It recently provided an upright piano to a musical theater class and guitars for a music class at San Diego Cooperative Charter School in Linda Vista, Meridith said.

Those interested in learning more about Rock Out Scholarship Fund can visit its website at rockoutscholarshipfund.org.



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A PARADE TO REMEMBER

A very festive Scripps Ranch Fourth of July Parade worked its way through one of the community's oldest neighborhoods as hundreds of participants and thousands of spectators enjoyed a traditional, patriotic event celebrating this nation's birthday. People of all ages sat cheering in yards and crowded along sidewalks. The parade had everything from bands to politicians to school principals to antique cars to teams, groups and organizations of all kinds. The theme of this year's event, produced by the Scripps Ranch Civic Association, was "Stars, Stripes and Dreams."

Photos by Ralph LoVuolo















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A variety of Scripps Ranch public parks await

Amenities

Baseball

By Arjun Suri

grew up in Scripps Ranch and have spent some memorable times on the swings, sand pits, play structures, soccer fields and basketball courts of all the public parks in the area. So, which one is my favorite? That's hard to answer, but let me introduce these amazing public parks that we have in Scripps Ranch.

Let's start with Miramar Overlook Park. It is a lovely park; great for young kids, with a beautiful view of Miramar Lake. This is the perfect place for a family with young children to enjoy on a lazy Sunday afternoon.

Next, we go to Spring Canyon Neighborhood Park, which has many sports fields. It is a large park with Dingeman Elementary School to the southeast and Innovations Academy to the west. The facilities at Dingeman, such as a baseball field and four basketball courts, are also accessible to the public through a con-

Fields	HOHE	2.4.0		
Play Structures	Small structure	2 old, Small Playgrounds	1 large and 1 small play structure	2 small structures
Seating	Gazebos w/ benches and tables	Benches and Tables	Gazebos with Benches and Tables	Benches and Tables
Bathrooms	yes	yes	yes	yes
Swings	2	Tire Swing	4 regular swings and 2 toddler swings	none
ou might see ic group of ricket at this The one	park where the most tim	tain pla g are for v the pare I walking e From	his park does con y structures, the ery young kids. F ents, there is a lon- trail. the largest to the Hoyt Park is	ey groo or the ng If whi he hav

The one park where I have spent the most time is Scripps Ranch Community Park, located next to Ellen Browning Scripps Elementary School (Go Penguins!). It has an attached recreational center (Scripps Ranch Recreation Center) that has a gym and multiple courts that are open to the public.

Cypress Canyon Park is the largest park on this list based on the amenities (see table). It has some unique offerings such as a bullpen and softball batting cages. From the largest to the smallest, Hoyt Park is a small neighborhood park near Miramar Ranch Elementary School. Its unique feature is a large, open grassy field and plenty of shade. It also has a play structure and swings for children.

The last on my list of public parks in Scripps Ranch is Jerabek Park. One of the most unique features at this park is the availability of tennis courts. It is located among surrounding homes and has some eateries and grocery stores just across the street.

If you are still wondering which park is my favorite, I have just one word for you - ALL!

Arjun Suri is a reporter who resides in Scripps Ranch and attends Marshall Middle School. He published his



Arjun Suri

own weekly newspaper as a fifth grader at Ellen Browning Scripps Elementary School. Arjun aspires to be a professional journalist and practices his craft in Scripps Ranch News each month.



Children can enjoy this play structure at Hoyt Park.









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Welcome Club: A tea and a TGI party

By Denise Stewart

ith bonnets and tea cups and pinkies held high, Scripps Ranch Welcome Club members will toast the glories of summer among their Circle of Friends.

The Tea Party event is slated for Aug. 1 in the garden of long-time member Dorothy Mildice. Co-hostesses Janet Hanley, Sandy Desmond and JoAnn Farmen will prepare the traditional delicious and delicate tea treats. They will also help serve the women attending the festivities in Dorothy's lushly planted canyon-vista yard.

The second Welcome Club TGI of the season is planned for Friday evening, Aug. 17 at the home of Sharon and Dale Hebl. The Hebl's patio, where celebrants will gather to celebrate a Hawaiian theme, overlooks Lake Miramar and will make a perfect venue for watching the sunset over the Pacific. TGIs are evening BYO affairs when members and friends bring a canape to share with others. The party table is always laden with tasty bites, adding to the enjoyment of Bunco and card games, craft groups and book clubs all make it easy for Welcome Club members to meet with friends as often as they wish ...

friends.

Welcome Club Trailwalkers are gathering a little earlier in the morning during the warmer months, but still enjoying jaunts around the cooler wooded areas of the Ranch. Janelle Boustany has been leading the walkers for a while now and knows the most delightful places for them to stretch their legs and get their exercise.

Bunco and card games, craft groups and book clubs all make it easy for Welcome Club members to meet with friends as often as they wish and to do the fun things they enjoy and can make time for. These events

www.westcoastoralsurgery.com



All decked out for the Welcome Club Garden Tea, Dorothy Mildice will be the hostess for the special summer event. (courtesy photo)

take place throughout each month on a regular basis.

The monthly gathering held at the Scripps Ranch Community Center on Cypress Canyon Road on the second Monday of August will feature a short business meeting followed by an ice cream social. Residents who might like additional information about the Scripps Ranch Welcome Club can check the website scrippsranchwelcomeclub.com or this newspaper's website. Contact information is available there also. Please be assured that the Welcome Club is just that.



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Trio of bands highlight concert showcase

By Bella Ross

anceable tunes are generally the standard when it comes to the Scripps Ranch Symphony in the Park concert series. With a variety of bands taking the stage for the Aug. 12 show, attendees can expect to revisit dance moves from every genre and decade since rock began.

The August Symphony in the Park show is unique. Instead of one or two bands, expect a showcase of Scripps Ranch talent, featuring bands Wolff, High Tide Society and Breez'n.



The Scripps-Mesa Garden Club holds events for local plant lovers

Garden Club

By Denise Stewart

The Scripps-Mesa Garden Club is growing in membership as local plant lovers are catching on to the informative monthly meetings and garden tours sponsored by the group.

On the upcoming calendar, the club will enjoy a return visit from the knowledgeable speakers from the Master Gardener Program at the University of California, San Diego. Gardening successfully using water-wise techniques is the focus of their talks.

Member Alan Binks is planning a sequel tour of his hydroponic green house to share what his new experiences have been with tomatoes and other vegetables. As usual, before each meeting, members will continue to share plants, products and knowledge gained in their own gardens with other members.

The club meets on the fourth Thursday evening of most months at 5:45 p.m. in the Scripps Miramar Ranch Library Community Room. During the growing season, the meetings are sometimes moved to local gardens elsewhere in the community for onsite experiences.

Those who wish to learn more about the Scripps-Mesa Garden Club should contact President Louise Badham at her email: lab@san.rr.com.

The night will begin with the niche but nostalgic sounds of yacht rock from High Tide Society. For many, the term "yacht rock" probably doesn't ring a bell. However, chances are these songs will hit a particularly soft spot for anybody from their mid-30s to their late 70s.

"This music was so good, these hits were so big and it was played on the radio so much," said John Perkins, High Tide Society founder and drummer.

In describing the genre, Perkins was quick to cite classic acts such as Hall and Oates, Steely Dan and Kenny Loggins.

While this style of music was most popular from the 1970s to the early 1980s, Perkins made it clear that we're in the midst of a yacht rock revival. For the Scripps Ranch show, he said attendees can expect a more up-tempo approach to these generally smooth tunes to ensure danceability.

For those who relish the sounds of this era, keep an eye out for the folks in the nautical outfits on Aug. 12.

The sounds of the night



Scripps Ranch Symphony in the Park concerts have attracted large crowds to Hoyt Park this summer and the showcase of Scripps Ranch bands on Aug. 12 should be no different. Bands will include Wolff, High Tide Society and Breez'n. (photo by Ralph LoVuolo)

will begin to diversify as Breez'n takes the stage, bringing in music from as far back as the 1950s.

"We could play for an 80-year-old's birthday party or we could play for an 18-year-old's birthday party," said band leader and founder Vince Petrucci.

If the group sounds familiar, it's probably because they are. Breez'n permeated the airwaves of San Diego from 1996 to 2008, playing for San Diego's smooth jazz station 98.1. Aside from that, they have deep roots in the Scripps Ranch community.

Petrucci said not to expect anything too flashy, as members of Breez'n pride themselves on being musicians over showmen. However, he said, this does not mean attendees will be glued to their seats.

Highlighting the end of the show will be Wolff, a group that is bound to make the scene at Hoyt Park feel more like one from across the pond.

"We're a power trio," band leader Steve Wolff said. "We try to pick songs that people know but that not a lot of bands around town, if any, would play."

A former resident of London, Wolff continuously cited groups such as U2, The Clash and The Kinks when describing the band's style.

When it comes to being a variety band, Wolff said he likes to keep their music choices lively and original.

"We don't feel like the world needs another 'Sweet Home Alabama' cover band," Wolff said.

Another group that is focused on harnessing a sense of nostalgia, Wolff said attendees can expect to hear the songs from their childhood that they once loved, but may have forgotten about. He also said that when members of the audience get up to dance, they won't be alone.

"I'm always sweating furiously no matter what the weather is," Wolff said, describing the lively nature of the group.

Enjoy this free ride through the genres of the decades in Hoyt Park on Aug. 12 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Any prospective attendees of Scripps Ranch Symphony in the Park concerts should know that only low-to-the-ground beach chairs are allowed, no dogs are allowed and attendees cannot bring any plastic tarps. Visit symphonyinthepark.org.



Coach emphasizes academics and character

By Cynthia Kurose

arlon Gardinera is starting his second year as head coach for Scripps Ranch High School (SRHS) football, and he is shaking things up with what some might call an unconventional approach.

Not historically known as a powerhouse football team, SRHS has struggled in the past to attract and retain top football talent, often losing promising play-

ers to private schools. What SRHS and the surrounding community do have plenty of, however, are bright students with the capacity to excel in the classroom. Gardinera, or Coach Marlon - as he is known in Scripps Ranch – recognizes that this aptitude, combined with the real-world skills that can be learned through playing football, provides a recipe for achieving success on and off the field.

"Football is a unique activity that gives you so many life lessons," Gardinera said. "I use football to teach young men the right way to do things: discipline, focus, effort. We're relentless in pursuit of them learning those things; and it works out that if you learn those things, you'll probably play football pretty well."

Having played competitive team sports in high school and college himself, followed by a successful professional career in corporate management for the last 23 years, plus eight years of coaching Scripps Ranch Little League and Pop Warner Football, Gardinera knows a thing or two about success both on and off the field.

"My job here is to take the excellence and academics that we all expect from Scripps Ranch High School and bring that out on to the football field," Gardinera said. "The obligation and responsibility is to help these young men grow in to good men."

According to SRHS freshman head football coach Robert Hasson, "Marlon uses the term 'student-athlete' and stresses that the 'student' comes first. He has institut-



SRHS head football coach Marlon Gardinera places heavy emphasis on academic achievement and character development as he seeks to reinvigorate the football program. (photo by Ralph LoVuolo)

ed a study hall, tutoring and mentoring programs. He has raised the bar."

Gardinera established a 2.5 minimum grade point average (GPA) requirement for students to play on his teams, which is one half point higher than the school district requirement of 2.0. On the whole, however, the team's collective GPA far exceeds the minimum. In the 2017-2018 school year, according to Gardinera, the team's average increased from 2.97 to 3.24.

Parents have expressed their support and enthusiasm for the changes Gardinera has implemented. Adria Shaw has two sons at SRHS; one who is an incoming freshman and another who will be entering his junior year as a varsity football player.

"They're having more fun playing football," Shaw said. "It's also hard work, but I think they're learning how to balance school and the demands of

football much better than I've seen in the past."

Kevin Merrigan - father of Riley Merrigan, who is entering his second year on the team - has lived in Scripps Ranch for 22 years and reflected on the SRHS football program, historically.

"Before Coach Marlon, I don't think they had a football program. They had a team, but they didn't have

See COACH, Page 13



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Coach Marlon Gardinera (photo by Ralph LoVuolo)

COACH

Continued from Page 12

a program," he said. "What makes a successful athletic team in high school is a program. [Coach Marlon] is making it so that they are doing things together, working out in the summertime, collaborating together, studying together. It's a very well-organized 'team' feeling. He is 100 percent headed in the right direction on turning this program around for the kids."

Referencing the study hall and "big brother" mentoring programs that Gardinera implemented, Diane Merrigan - Riley's mother - observed that the student athletes "help each other and lift each other up," she said. "I think that's helped build the team [on the field], as well."

While a focus on academics under Gardinera is evident, the physical preparation necessary to realize success on the field also remains a priority.

"Coach Marlon is trying to get these kids in to the weight room and conditioning before football starts, and to eat properly. They have regimens and classes where they talk about the importance of nutrition and sleep," Kevin Merrigan said. "He's teaching the value of both physical and emotional health."

Hasson said that they are working diligently to change the culture, but recognizes that it is going to take time. It will also require a collective effort, according to Riley Merrigan.

"We're trying to go in the right direction and get better every single time we step on the field," he said. "I think we can achieve that if everyone puts in hard work and is dedicated to it."

Local teen will play in World Tournament

By Cynthia Kurose

rene Lancia knew that her son, Steven, was destined to play baseball since he was a toddler. She remembers watching him squat and leap frog around the house, half-joking with her father that he would one day play baseball competitively as a catcher.

In the years that followed, Steven would take on the role of preschool-aged spectator and supporter at his big brother's baseball games, then little leaguer who regularly played on all-star teams, and finally on to the Falcon's freshman baseball team - where he was called up to varsity for six games - at Scripps Ranch High School (SRHS). His years of effort, combined with athletic genes and innate talent, have now earned him a coveted spot as catcher for the U.S. World Boys Baseball San Diego team, which will travel to Sydney, Australia, on July 26.

According to the U.S. World Boys Baseball website, the international games began as a "Goodwill Friendship Game" with Japan in 1977. These games continued until 1981. Then, "In 1982, the first International Tournament was held in Osaka, Japan. San Diego has participated in all of these tournaments and has hosted the tournament four times," according to the

Coach Mark Wilson, who is also the pitching coach at Cal State San Marcos, is heading into his 19th year as coach of U.S. World Boys Baseball San Diego. He and his coaching staff, which includes three baseball coaches from San Diego-area high schools, have been working together for the last 18 years. While their combined experience has served the boys well in further developing their athletic talents, the coaching staff is also focused on helping to build character for their young players.

"We believe that nobody is any better than the other guy," Wilson said. "That's important. It's more about the experience of going to a foreign country and playing all of the national teams."

See TOURNAMENT, Page 14



SRHS Sophomore Steven Lancia will travel to Sydney, Australia, on July 26 to compete in the World Boys Baseball tournament. (courtesy photo)

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TOURNAMENT

Continued from Page 13

Other countries that have historically competed in the World Baseball tournament have included Japan, Brazil, Chinese Taipei, China, Canada, Argentina, Korea, Australia, Puerto Rico, Peru and Italy. Wilson explained that Japan has historically been the team to beat, noting that it has racked up 21 wins out of the last 35 years the tournament has been played. U.S. teams have taken home six wins, with San Diego earning four of those titles.

This is no small feat, according to Wilson, considering that Japan's national team plays and practices together year-round, while California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) regulations prohibit high school athletes from simultaneously participating "on an outside team, in the same sport, during the student's high school season of sport," according to the CIF Southern Section Blue Book.

Steven Lancia, who cites Buster Posey – catcher for the San Francisco Giants – as his favorite professional player, said he is excited to travel to another country to play baseball. As the only



The U.S. World Boys Baseball San Diego team will travel to compete in its annual tournament in Sydney, Australia, on July 26. (courtesy photo)

player from Scripps Ranch who will participate in the tournament, he has quickly built friendships over the course of summer practices with the other 17 boys who made the team.

"I'm excited about the experience with all my friends on the team," he said. "I'm looking forward to just getting to know each other and the other teams."

The two-week overseas experience will include one week of taking in Australian sights and culture, followed by the week-long baseball tournament, during which time all visiting players will homestay, in pairs, with host families from Australia.

"This is going to be something that they're never going to forget," Wilson said.

While character development and worldly exposure are highlights of the World Boys Baseball experience, athleticism and competitiveness are certainly not in short supply. According to Wilson, almost all participating countries have had boys from their teams ultimately be drafted to U.S. Major League Baseball (MLB) teams. From the San Diego team, alone, 23 players who have been coached by Wilson in past U.S. World Boys Baseball tournaments have continued on to the MLB. Notable among them are Adrian Gonzalez, Eric Karros, Brian Giles, Eric Chavez and Tony Clark. Additionally, Wilson pointed out that in last year's MLB World Series, two of the



Steven Lancia earned a spot as catcher for the U.S. World Boys Baseball San Diego team, which will travel to Sydney, Australia. (courtesy photo)

pitchers were former players on Japan's World Boys Baseball national team.

Irene Lancia said that her son aspires to continue playing baseball competitively, and currently has his eye on Division I schools, with USC and Stanford at the top of his list. She noted that he is also an excellent student, having completed his freshman year at SRHS with a 3.8 grade point average.

"I'm very proud of him," she said. "He works hard at school and he works hard at baseball. Whatever he puts his mind to, he works very hard and he takes pride in what he does."

Additional information on U.S. World Boys Baseball of San Diego, including updates throughout the course of the 2018 tournament, can be found at usworldbaseball.com.

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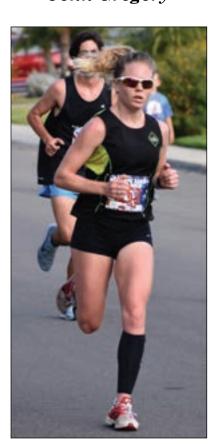
Thousands participate in Run & Ride

The Scripps Ranch Old Pros held another successful Fourth of July Run & Ride: a 10K Race, a 2-Mile Fun Run, a 50-Mile Bike Ride, a 28-Mile Bike Ride and a 12-Mile Bike Ride. A seemingly unending stampede of runners kept pouring from behind the starting line of the running events.

Top male runners in the 10K were Tyler Underwood, first, 30:59; Dante Capone, second, 32:26; and Brendan Gee, third, 32:30. Top female finishers were Sam-

my Silva, first, 33:20; Elizabeth Ryan, second, 34:14; and Annika Pfitzinger, third, 34:44.

Photos by John Gregory











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Great season highlighted by trip to Regionals

By Bella Ross

he Scripps Ranch Little League (SRLL) Intermediate All-Star team won the Southern California State Tournament July 15 and advanced to the Western Regional Tournament in Nogales, Arizona. This is the first time in SRLL's 43-year history that an Intermediate team has accomplished such a feat.

The team played amazing baseball, according to SRLL President Marcus Armstrong, and held a 10-0 record heading into Regionals. Now, the team is rep-

resenting Scripps Ranch, San Diego and all Southern California as it competes against teams from other western states.

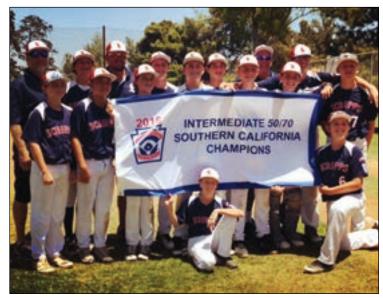
Single elimination play began Tuesday, July 24. Pool play started July 19 as Scripps Ranch defeated Northern California-Danville 9-4. Then, the team played Washington on July 20, Arizona on July 21 and Oregon on July 22. Check the Sports page on Scripps-RanchNews.com for tournament updates.

SRLL's regular season and the All-Star tournaments ended for the other teams earlier this summer and Armstrong reflected on his first season as league president. He said he wanted to ensure the tradition of baseball is one the kids of Scripps Ranch experienced. Armstrong didn't want to change much. In addition, he said Little League is something that has always been familiar to him.

"I felt the need to volunteer because it's something that my grandfather, my mom and my dad did while I was growing up, so it was something I was familiar with," he said. "Little League was something that I'd always done and it's just a way for me to give back to my community."

If there is one thing the league needs, it's parent volunteers, Armstrong said.

"We are in need of some board members right now," he explained. "We have some openings that are coming up, so we're going to need some additional parent volunteers to step up and help out. It's a lot of work and there's a lot of time commitment to it, but



The Scripps Ranch Little League Intermediate All-Star team is competing in the Western Regional Tournament representing Southern California against teams from other western states. (photo courtesy of SRLL)

we can't have a successful season without parent volunteers, and the board is the place to start."

Even though the spring season has passed, the league offers a fall season for kids who want to be a part of the sport year-round. Registration for the fall season is underway.

There are differences between the fall and spring programs. To start, Armstrong said, the fall program is not nearly as busy. The season has a greater focus on instruction than competition, he said.

Armstrong emphasized the importance of staying on top of the registration dates. Even though the 2019 season doesn't get underway until March, registration could start as soon as November, with registration closing toward the start of the new year. Visit manageyourleague.com/SRLL/.

Pop Warner begins soon The first day of the 2018 season for the Scripps Ranch

The first day of the 2018 season for the Scripps Ranch Pop Warner & Cheer Association begins Aug. 1 with practices. The first games of the fall season will begin Aug. 25. In the meantime, families are invited to join their players and cheerleaders on Aug. 19 for an opening day celebration at the Scripps Ranch Ranch Recreation Center, 11454 Blue Cypress Drive. While the season is about to start, late signups are still being accepted. Visit ScrippsRanchPopWarner. com.

2018 SRSA All-Stars were fantastic

By Anna Ruth Ramos

All Star season recently wrapped-up for the Scripps Ranch Softball Association (SRSA) following the Fourth of July weekend, for the most part. But the SRSA said one team has more action ahead this summer when it announced its 12U Gold team was invited to Nationals.

"This year, we had a pretty successful season of All Stars. For the first time in history, all four of our teams qualified for the States ... This year our 8 and 14 both took first place, our 12 took second place at district, and our 10 took fourth place," said SRSA President James Anderson. "The goal is to make it to State. This year was the first year with all four of our teams. The last time we came close was in 2006 [when] 8, 12 and 14 made it. This year we had all four teams make it, which we were pretty excited about."

The year usually starts off with "Rec" season in the spring, which runs from February to the end of April. For one thing, it's a time for recreational T-ball for 5-year-olds and rookies who are 6-year-olds who can get recruited for the main softball teams. Altogether, SR-SA's softball teams include about 275 players divided by age brackets.

"You have 8U, which is 8 and under; and you have 10U, which is 10 and under; 12U, which is 12 and under; and you have 14U, which is 14 and under," Anderson explained.

He added that this year, SRSA had enough kids for 8U to have a gold and two silver teams; for 10 to have a gold, silver and two bronze teams; and for 12 to have a gold and silver; and for 14 to have a gold team. Following Rec season is All-Star season which usually runs from the beginning of May to the end of June.

"States are traditionally around the Fourth of July," Anderson said. "They all just got eliminated."

Now, the league is moving toward its Fall Ball season and sign-ups are underway.

"Fall Ball is designed for girls who want to get better during their off-season," Anderson said.



Scripps Ranch Softball Association All-Star teams that qualified for States were: (clockwise from the upper left) the 14U Falcons, coached by Karl Friedl, the Northern San Diego B District Champions in 14U; the 10U Falcons, coached by Jason Griffin, finished fourth in the Northern San Diego B District in 10U; the 8U Falcons, coached by Rob Ippolito, the Northern San Diego B District Champions in 8U; and the 12U Falcons, coached by Jason Turfler, runner-up in the Northern San Diego B District for 12U. (courtesy of Scripps Ranch Softball Association)

Fall Ball teams form in August and games will start in September. Early Bird Registration has ended but Normal Registration will continue through Aug. 12. For more information email registrar@srsoftball.org.

"We have such high-quality girls because we really foster an environment

where we're competitive, but that's not our focus," Anderson said. "Our focus is development and fun. A lot of the coaches, we don't really care if we win, we just hope you like the game and want to play again next year."

Visit the Scripps Ranch Softball Association at srsoftball.org.



www.ralphlovuolophotography.com

By Terry L Wilson

ruski Burgers & Brew in Scripps Ranch is going to the dogs, but only on Wednesdays. Owner Omar Abdullah opened his patio to man's best friend for what he has dubbed Woof Wednesdays.

It's been a howling hit with dogs and customers alike. As with many dog owners, Abdullah likes to have an occasional nosh with his canine pal and thought his customers might enjoy the same. So, he dedicated one day a week to his customers and their dogs.

Dogs are a passion for the Bruski Burgers & Brew owner. He enjoys seeing his customers and their dogs having a good time together.

"We have two patios for the dogs and their owners to hang out and enjoy dinner," Abdullah said. "We sometimes don't give our pets enough credit for all the joy they bring into our lives. So, I created Woof Wednesdays so we could all have lunch or dinner together."

Combining his love for animals and his affection for the community, Abdullah created a Charity of The Month connected to Woof Wednesdays.

"On Woof Wednesdays, each time a customer dines with us, our server will identify the check and saves a copy for me," Abdullah said. "Then, at the end of the month I'll tally up all the totals of all the checks identified as Woof Wednes-

Pups on the Patio

All members of the Real House Doas of Scripps Ranch Facebook group and their pups are invited to dine on the patio of Sammy's Woodfired Pizza & Grill, 10785 Scripps Poway Parkway, #B, on Saturday, July 28 from noon to 4 p.m.

Titled Pups on the Patio, this meetup is being held as both a social event as well as a benefit for the San Diego Humane Society. Ten percent of the proceeds from food and drink will be donated to the San Diego Humane Society. Make sure to print out the event flyer from the Real House Dogs of Scripps Ranch Facebook page and present it to your server during the event.

The Real House Dogs of Scripps Ranch is a closed Facebook group, but becoming a member is not difficult. Simply search for Real House Dogs of Scripps Ranch on Facebook and fill out the application window.

days checks. Then I will donate 10 percent of that total to the charity of the month."

Abdullah explained that his father owned restaurants and was very involved in the community.

"I wanted to do the same. Whether it's a Little League, a high school or an animal rescue center, I love to give back," he said.

Traci Wilkerson, founder of Traci's Paws, an organization dedicated to saving animals' lives and assisting pet rescue groups, is a big fan of Woof Wednesdays. Her organization was one of the first to be named Charitv of The Month.

"We were chosen as Woof Wednesdays Charity of The Month for April and again in May," Wilkerson said. "Our non-profit received \$200, and it was really appreciated. For a non-profit like ours, every donation means a lot. We're an all-volunteer based operation. Donations like Omar's Woof Wednesdays helps us keep our website up and that allows us to assist other homeless pets."

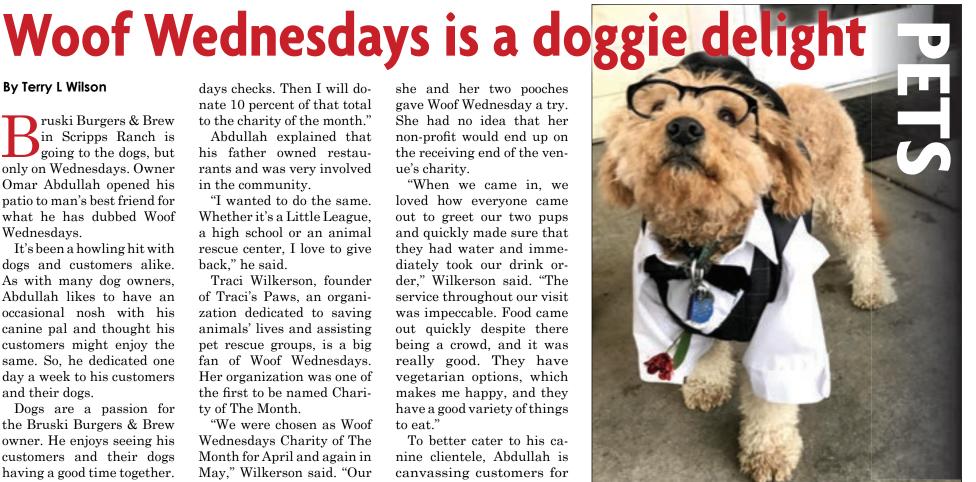
Wilkerson heard through the grapevine about the dog friendly establishment, so

she and her two pooches gave Woof Wednesday a try. She had no idea that her non-profit would end up on the receiving end of the venue's charity.

"When we came in, we loved how everyone came out to greet our two pups and quickly made sure that they had water and immediately took our drink order," Wilkerson said. "The service throughout our visit was impeccable. Food came out quickly despite there being a crowd, and it was really good. They have vegetarian options, which makes me happy, and they have a good variety of things to eat."

To better cater to his canine clientele, Abdullah is canvassing customers for ideas regarding what kind of doggie snacks and treats they would like to see offered on Woof Wednesdays.

"We are looking into some healthy items for the dogs," Abdullah said. "What we offer now is our hormone and antibiotic free burger and chicken patty. A lot of our guests ask us to cook one up for their puppies. We can do a full or half chicken breast



This dapper dog wore his Sunday best for a visit to Bruski Burgers & Brew during Woof Wednesday. (courtesy of Omar Abdullah)

and cut it up into little bitesize nibbles."

He said they are in the process of revising the menu to include a variety of healthier options for dogs and their human companions. Abdullah is also looking into dog friendly ice cream.

In the meantime, Abdul-

lah continues to refine the menu for his human customers, as well.

Bruski Burgers & Brew's Scripps Ranch location is 9844 Hibert St., Suite G-10. Woof Wednesday is open for lunch and dinner each Wednesday. The Poway location is 12622 Poway Road.



Resale home prices are at record levels

rices of resale homes in San Diego continued their record run in June, according to housing statistics compiled through the Multiple Listing Service by the Greater San Diego Association of Realtors®.

Single-family home prices were up 2 percent month over month, hitting \$655,000. That's nearly 7 percent higher than a year ago. Condominiums and townhomes (all attached properties) edged up 1 percent in the past month, to \$425,000, an increase of 4 percent from June of last year. For the first six months of the year, prices of all previously owned homes are up nearly 8 percent.

The number of sales of single-family homes in June was down 2 percent from May, and significantly lower (17 percent) from June of 2017. Condo and townhome sales in June were down 3 percent month over month, and down 12 percent from

June of last year.

In June, resale properties were closing escrow in an average of only 25 days, reflecting the high competition among buyers and lack of properties on the market.

"Our housing market is definitely active this summer," said SDAR President Steve Fraioli. "The result is quick sales above asking price. Inventory is likely to be persistently lower, but I think San Diego County will finish the summer on an upswing."

Scripps Ranch

Twenty-seven single family homes in Scripps Ranch were sold in June, with 122 total sold so far in 2018. The homes averaged 23 days on the market in June and an average of 21 days on the market for the year 2018. The median price of single family homes sold in Scripps Ranch in June was \$990,000 and the average median price is \$972,450 for 2018



Twenty-seven single family homes in Scripps Ranch were sold in June 2018, and the median price of single family homes sold in Scripps Ranch in June was \$990,000.

There were 16 attached homes (condominiums or townhomes) sold in Scripps Ranch last month, with 83 sold in 2018 year to date. Attached homes were on the market in Scripps Ranch an average of 7 days in June and an average of 13 days on the market for 2018 so far. The median price of attached homes sold in Scripps Ranch in June was \$502,500 and the median price for 2018 so far year to date is \$530,000. That's \$25,000 more than June 2017, and the median price for 2018 year to date is dian price for 2017 at this time last year.

San Diego County

SDAR's housing statistics are compiled monthly from the Multiple Listing Service

NOTE: The median home price is the price in which half of the homes sold for more, and half sold for less. It is a more typical price measure than average price, which can be skewed high by a relative handful of million-dollar-plus transac-

Here is a summary: Median Sales Price

Comparing June 2018 to May 2018 (month over month)

Single-Family: 2 percent

increase

June 2018 = \$655,000

May 2018 = \$645,000

Condos/Townhomes: 1 percent increase

June 2018 = \$425,000

May 2018 = \$421,000

Median Sales Price

Comparing June 2018 to June 2017 (year over year) Single-Family: 7 percent

increase

June 2018 = \$655,000

June 2017 = \$615,000

Condos/Townhomes:

4 percent increase

June 2018 = \$425,000

June 2017 = \$410,196Total Sold Listings

Comparing June 2018 to May 2018 (month over

month) Single-Family: 2 percent

decrease

June $2018 = 2{,}124$

May $2018 = 2{,}174$

Condos/Townhomes:

3 percent decrease

June $2018 = 1{,}103$

May $2018 = 1{,}137$

Total Sold Listings

Comparing June 2018 to June 2017 (year over year) Single-Family: 17 percent

decrease

June $2018 = 2{,}124$

June 2017 = 2,549**Condos/Townhomes:**

12 percent decrease

June $2018 = 1{,}103$ June 2017 = 1,257





9909 Hibert St., Suite E, San Diego, CA 92131

Creating a California Room

By Fiona Klerekoper Certified Associate Kitchen and Bath Designer

ack in the day, "outdoor living" meant some basic plastic or aluminum furniture and a barbeque. Well, get ready to rethink that concept and embrace the "California Room."

San Diego has the perfect climate for alfresco living. Long summer evenings and mild winter days mean we can enjoy the outdoors yearround. So, why not live it to the max? The California Room is one of the largest growing elements in new home construction, and owners of existing homes are reimagining their yards to include them.

What is a California Room? It's an outdoor space that has protection from the elements. It has a roof to keep out rain and sun, but it's open on one or more sides. More than a patio, it is furnished with all of the luxury of interior spaces: sofas and chairs, tables, rugs, fans and light fixtures. Some homeowners even add a bar, TV and fireplace. It functions like an extra room in the house, a space where people can gather for special occasions, socialize or just relax in the evenings after a hectic day.

When creating a California Room, the key is to treat it like an indoor space. Here are a few tips to get started:

Space plan for function

Just like any room in your house, think about how you want to use it. Consider the pieces of furniture that you would like to use, their sizes, and how they will be configured. A scaled model will help you see how much space you will need. Plan for adequate clearances and traffic flow.

Consider focal points

Do you have a great view? Want to catch the sunset? Or maybe cuddle up in front of a fire and watch a movie in the evening? The space should invite people outdoors and encourage them to linger.

Open it up

Expansive openings blur the boundaries between outside and inside, allowing for full, open views and breezes. Many door and window manufacturers offer sliding, stacking and folding glass doors that can span whole walls. This doubles the living spaces and allows light to flow inside all year long.



Many door and window manufacturers offer sliding, stacking and folding glass doors that can span whole walls. This doubles the living spaces and allows light to flow inside. (photo by Fiona Klerekoper)

Create a flow

If possible, level out the floor of the California Room to the height of the adjacent indoor room. Maintaining consistency in flooring/finishes, color scheme, materials, etc., creates a smooth transition and the illusion of one large openplan space.

Add comforts of the indoors

Thanks to advances in materials such as all-weather finishes and fabrics, outdoor lighting and indoor-outdoor rugs, you can live as stylishly and luxuriously outdoors as you do indoors. Test drive sofas for lounging; this is a place to splurge on quality

and comfort. Great lighting (on a dimmer) is a must. Accessories add personality and the finishing touch.

A great design for a California Room is an excellent way to add value to your home, but more than that, it's the perfect space for relaxing, entertaining and enjoying the SoCal lifestyle, year-round.

Fiona Klerekoper is a long-time resident of Scripps Ranch and is the principal and designer at FDK Design. Based in San Diego, FDK Design is an award-winning interior design studio. For more information, call (858) 945-2867 or email fiona@fdkdesign.com.



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— Lawrences, Scripps Ranch Residents



4991 Ranch Del Mar Trail

Rancho Pacific | Carmel Valley

Asking \$8,990,000

7 Br | 7 Full Ba, 2 Half Ba | 12,100 Sq. Ft.



10978 Serafina Lane #65 Savannah Terrace | Sabre Springs Asking \$559,000 3 Br | 2 Ba | 1267 Sq. Ft.



12668 Carmel Country Rd. #59

Antares | Carmel Valley

Asking \$849,000

3 Br + Retreat | 2.5 Ba | 1608 Sq. Ft.



743 Paseo Tierra

Alegria | San Marcos

Asking \$729,000 - \$759,000

4 Br | 3 Ba | \$3230 Sq. Ft.



12618 Rue Sienne Nord

Chantemar | South of Pomerado

4 Br | 5 Ba | 4201 Sq. Ft.

Sold for \$1,405,000



10387 Rue Finisterre

Loire Valley | South of Pomerado

5 Br | 3.5 Ba | 3378 Sq. Ft.

Sold for \$1,180,000

SCRIPPS RANCH MARKET UPDATE

as of July 2018

ACTIVE - ON THE MARKET				
52 Detached	9 Attached			
Homes	Condos/Townhomes			
21 Homes Priced	Highest Priced			
Under \$999,000	at \$715,900			
PENDING -	IN ESCROW			
34 Detached	15 Attached			
Homes	Condos/Townhomes			
Average Market Time	Average Market Time			
21 Days	17 Days			
SOLD - CLOSED ESCROW				
127 Detached	29 Attached			
Homes	Condos/Townhomes			
Sold Last 6 Months	Sold Last 6 months			
Average Sales Price	Average Sales Price			
\$1,042,701	\$437,088			
Average 22 Days	Average 13 Days			



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