

Facebook group promotes diversity and inclusion

By Cynthia Kurose

During a time of unrest and palpable division in the United States, one group in Scripps Ranch is making an effort to help neighbors achieve mutual understanding and find common ground. Scripps Ranch for Diversity and Inclusion is a Facebook group that was created on June 7 by local residents Sharon Camarillo, Lindsay Hanlon and Amelia Polheber.

While the founders expected some

community interest based on conversations in other local Facebook groups, they had no idea that its popularity would grow to attract more than 1,000 members in less than a week.

“I was expecting to get more push back,” Polheber said. “It’s been amazing to see so many people come forward with support.”

According to the description on Facebook, the purpose of the group “is to help foster a community that cultivates an appreciation for diversity and inclusion ... Everyone in our community is seen and valued here.” Posts include

everything from educational resources to community events to personal reflections from members representing a variety of races and religions.

“The bios are quite vulnerable and quite open,” said Lisa Souders, a retired United States Marine Corps military police officer who served for 20 years. “It shows a great deal of trust and also a bit of desperation. We’re at a place of disbelief and frustration and we’ve got to do something, finally. I am grateful for [the group’s] stories and their openness ... and what we can ac-

See **DIVERSITY**, Page 3



Scripps Ranch for Diversity and Inclusion is a new Facebook group that was created as a forum for social justice education and discussion. (image courtesy of Lindsay Hanlon)

Locals held peaceful event

By Bella Ross

More than 100 Scripps Ranch residents expressed solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement June 7 at a family-friendly, roadside protest.

The demonstration, which took place on the corner of Scripps Poway Parkway and Spring Canyon Road, lasted about three hours. Besides the protesters, hundreds of drivers expressed their support for the demonstration by honking their car horns.

Event organizers Pam Werner and Nadine Knowles said they were overwhelmed by the event’s turnout, especially considering it had only

been posted on Facebook one day before.

“I thought there might be six families,” Werner said. “I can’t even see where it starts and where it ends.”



(photo by Bella Ross)

The gathering was one of hundreds that occurred across the nation within two weeks after Minneapolis resident George Floyd was killed while being arrested, leading to calls for sweeping criminal justice reform.

A protest in San Diego’s Hillcrest the day before attracted at least 3,000 protesters. Werner said she wanted to bring the movement to Scripps Ranch to give residents a safe option for getting involved amid

See **PEACEFUL EVENT**, Page 4

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Extraordinary times

This is a time of trepidation, but also a time of possibilities. There is much to anticipate as the United States of America reaches its 244th birthday on July 4. Here's to health, freedom, liberty, equality and justice for all. Looking to the future with hope and great expectations!

John and Jacqueline Gregory
Scripps Ranch News publishers

Run & Ride goes virtual

By Hoyt Smith

The COVID-19 pandemic threatened to halt a Scripps Ranch tradition this year, but thanks to some tenacity and innovation, the Scripps Ranch Old Pros will host its 42nd annual summer fundraiser.

Named the Freedom Run & Ride this year, the event – normally held on the Fourth of July – consists of five virtual events this year, spanning from June 25 to July 15. This includes a two-mile “fun run,” a 10K run, a 12-mile bike ride, a 28-mile bike ride, and a 50-mile bike ride. Each event can be run or biked from any location its participants choose.

“You can run, jog, walk or bike on the road, on the

trail, on a track, or even on a treadmill at the gym,” said Old Pros spokesman Steve Trifoglio. “You have freedom to run your own course or bike your own route at your own pace.”

The Old Pros reduced the entry fee this year to \$30 for adults and \$15 for children, no matter what event. Proceeds from the Freedom Run & Ride will fund the \$35,000 in youth sports scholarships that the organization presents every year to graduating seniors from Scripps Ranch, and will also support the area’s youth sports leagues.

“I’ve been involved with this Fourth of July fundraiser for 20 years now,” said Trifoglio, who served

See **RUN & RIDE**, Page 2



Head coach waits – and shares his perspective

By Jack Molmud

A lot of things are up in the air right now for Scripps Ranch High School head football coach Marlon Gardinera.

Earlier in June, Gardinera didn’t know when he would be able to be on the field with his football team. They were supposed to already start summer conditioning.

The influence Gardinera has over his team was boundless until a global pandemic put a halt to his job and confined him to his home for lockdown.

“From a football perspective, we’re purely just in a

waiting pattern which is awkward because this time of the year we’d be preparing for the next season,” Gardinera said.

The high school football team being in limbo during the pandemic is anything but what Gardinera and his team expected coming from a historic season last year. In one year, the coach took this team from one of the worst records in their division to a 12-1 record, and raised the team’s overall grade point average from 2.97 to 3.71. Gardinera is still trying to improve their grades during the pandemic.

“We have frequent zoom calls,” Gardinera said. “We

bring the whole team together to check in, see how they’re doing ... making sure they’re staying on top of grades.”

The California Interscholastic Federation was meeting to determine when it’s safe to coach again. But Gardinera is still trying to protect his health since he is immunocompromised. Gardinera suffers from amyloidosis – it’s caused discomfort in his life and required him to get a liver transplant. This disorder makes him susceptible to severe symptoms from coronavirus. Gardinera recalled some time ago when the flu put him in a coma for eight days.

However, the coach takes it in stride and trusts that, in time, his team will have the same amount of time to practice as the other schools and be able to win games.

Perspective on the times

While waging a battle against an invisible event, Gardinera recognizes a more visible one is on center stage around the country: the Black Lives Matter protests.

He said the world is reacting to racial injustice and hopes violence, in terms of rioting and looting, will stop. But, Gardinera said the result of this will be something positive for the future as his



Scripps Ranch High School head football coach Marlon Gardinera addresses his players last year. (photo by Ralph LoVuolo)

sons enter adulthood. “Something bad has to happen for me to get good change, and that’s a horrible dilemma,” Gardinera said.

Gardinera said that in

See **PERSPECTIVE**, Page 4



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RUN & RIDE

Continued from Page 1

as “czar” as the Old Pros call the position, in 2018 and 2019. (This year’s czar is Brian Ondek.)

“We usually draw between 3,500 and 4,000 participants, but there was no way that was going to happen this year,” Trifoglio said.

Although the Run & Ride is usually a one-day event, it requires more than six months of meetings to plan and organize.

“We started having conversations before the new year, and then of course, the pandemic came,” Trifoglio said. “We knew by May that we couldn’t do this the traditional way. We were down to three options: one, hope beyond hope that things would change; two, change it to another day like Labor Day; or three, cancel it. Luckily, we came up with a fourth option to preserve tradition.”

While a virtual community event has its drawbacks, it also provides certain advantages, according to the Old Pros. For example, it will allow people to participate in the Scripps Ranch fundraiser from anywhere in the world. In fact, Trifoglio said his organization has already received an ap-

plication from an individual in Puerto Rico.

Some of the Old Pros planners had heard that similar events were going virtual this year, so they took that and “ran with it.” There were other elements to the long-standing event however, that would have to be amended or rethought as well.

The beer garden in Hoyt Park had always been a huge draw following the Run & Ride. With current public health concerns prohibiting such public gatherings, Trifoglio said the Old Pros decided to partner with several local restaurants and breweries to create a “goody bag.”

“Participants can use their bib as a coupon at over 15 different community establishments for pizza, breweries, pastries, frozen yogurt,” Trifoglio said. “We think it’s a win-win proposition that will help local business to recover.”

Partnering eateries include Yanni’s Bar & Grill, the French Oven Bakery, Pazzo’s Pizza, Yogurt Heaven and Harland Brewing Company.

Another Old Pros summer tradition linked to the Fourth of July fundraiser is the on-stage presentation of scholarships to local recipients during the June concert in Hoyt Park, presented

by Scripps Ranch Symphony in the Park.

“Obviously, we can’t do that this year,” Trifoglio acknowledged.

Instead, the club held a drive-by scholarship distribution on Canyon Lake Drive next to Hoyt Park on June 6. There were lots of people to cheer on the young Scripps Ranch athletes and celebrate their accomplishments as they passed by in their cars.

The Scripps Ranch Old Pros is a nonprofit community organization founded by Scripps Ranch residents in 1982 to facilitate social interaction, organize local sports leagues and raise funds for scholarships for high school athletes in Scripps Ranch.

For more information, visit <https://runride.org/>.

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INCREDIBLE INITIATIVE

A 13-year-old student organized a peaceful, successful demonstration

By Ashley Shah

At the age of only 13, Diana Ilhuicatzi, soon to be a freshman at Scripps Ranch High School (SRHS) this fall, is already making a difference in the world and trying to promote change.

Ilhuicatzi organized a peaceful youth sit-in protest surrounding the “Black Lives Matter” movement on June 3 in Mira Mesa. The event ran from 2 p.m. until about 10 p.m. and was publicized through social media.

“I organized the protest with the help of some volunteers from the Che Cafe and my sister and a few friends. The Che Cafe provided us with medics, supplies and just really supported us and gave us ideas,” Ilhuicatzi said.

All members of the protest were told to meet at Mira Mesa High School.



Diana Ilhuicatzi

The protest mainly took place on the corner of Mira Mesa Boulevard and New Salem Street.

“The protest was a sit in, so we stayed in one place and then we marched one time down the block and back around. We just stood there and then laid down for the 8:46 and then we asked everyone to sit back down again and just talked to everyone. A few people gave speeches,” Ilhuicatzi said.

Ilhuicatzi wants to continue making a change.

“I’m hoping to organize another youth protest, but this time my team and I want to do a march, just an idea,” Ilhuicatzi said.

For Ilhuicatzi, this was about seeing a change in the

way the world is and how they treat people of color.

“I thought it was important that our voices were heard, and we used our voices for those who no longer have one or won’t be heard. It was just something the community needed and something we needed to spread awareness for here,” Ilhuicatzi said.

“I’m so amazed at how she was able to pull that together. It was a life changing experience for me and I’m so grateful that I was able to help in any way possible,” said Aubriana King, one of the members on Ilhuicatzi’s team.

Ilhuicatzi was recently promoted from Wangenheim Middle School where she was involved in orchestra, playing cello and violin. She also plays volleyball and participates in community service by cleaning the courts and keeping score for volleyball games.

At SRHS, Ilhuicatzi hopes to join the Black Student Union and possibly the debate club. She hopes to try out for the volleyball and lacrosse teams as well.

DIVERSITY

Continued from Page 1

complish together.”

While many members have expressed that they are encouraged in knowing that such a large group of like-minded people in favor of social justice exists in Scripps Ranch, the group’s administrators are deliberate in stating that the group is not a political platform for any one party.

“This is non-partisan,” Camarillo said. “This is about human compassion and empathy and growing as a society. It’s really about core values.”

Ken Percy, a retired U.S. Navy sailor and Scripps Ranch resident for nearly 20 years, is also a member of the Facebook group.

“For the first time in my life, neighbors are talking to each other about racism in America and what we can do to be a part of the solution,” he said. “I think what’s exciting about this group is the potential that we can come together and start to make it right – to refuse to tolerate racism in all of its forms.”

While some members have shared their personal experiences with overt rac-



Scripps Ranch for Diversity admins include (from left, top to bottom) Lindsay Hanlon, Sharon Camarillo, Amelia Polheber and JD Ouellette. (photo courtesy Sharon Camarillo)

ism, others have acknowledged their own biases, and expressed that they joined the group to listen, learn and grow. Percy said that he struggled with the question of whether or not he defined himself as a racist.

“I am guilty of sins of commission and omission. I carry with me the inherited sin of my ancestors, and I now have a responsibility to make that right,” he said. “I have to believe that it’s possible. I choose to believe that

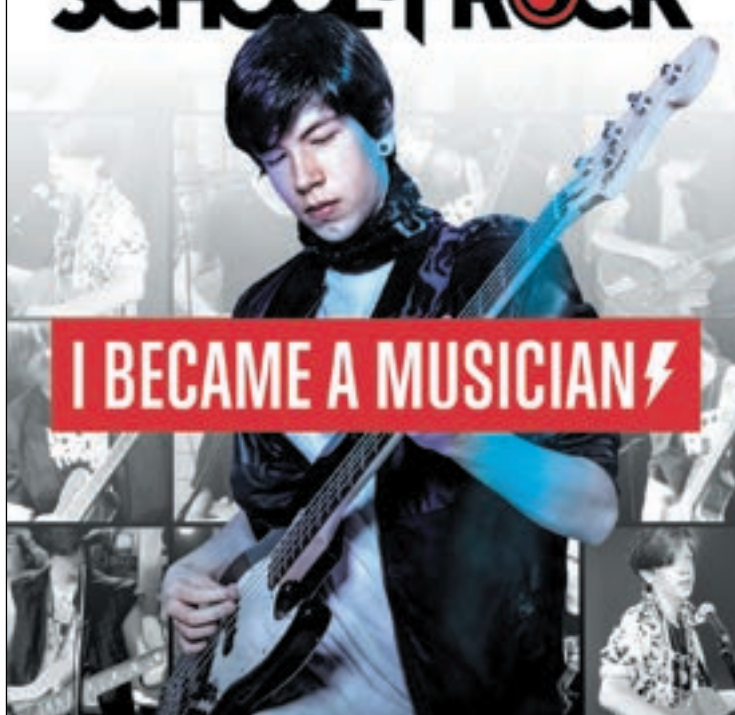
I can change my behaviors. I don’t have to be a racist.”

JD Ouellette, a group administrator, said one of the things that she has enjoyed most about the group is people’s lack of defensiveness in their discussions.

Hanlon, a professional in diversity education, said that she enjoys witnessing members’ learning, and encouraging people to stay the course even when the work gets hard.

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PEACEFUL EVENT

Continued from Page 1

the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I didn’t know what to do, I needed to do something, but COVID is real,” Werner said. “My husband is vulnerable, so going to the large, 1,000-people protest just wasn’t an option for us.”

Some families took advantage of the smaller demonstration to educate their children about racial inequality. Knowles said she believes these conversations are one of the most important ways families can fuel the movement.

“For me it’s about talking to my kids, talking to my friends and other families, and having that difficult conversation when necessary, and making sure they understand why this is so important,” Knowles said.

Protestor Candice Allnut said these conversations are common in her interracial household, and that the Scripps Ranch event was one of two protests her family attended recently.

“At the march yesterday, there were more than 3,000 people there, and we ended up running into our neighbor from across the street and he’s like the only other black neighbor in our neighborhood,” Allnut said.

The Scripps Ranch community is about 56 percent white and 2 percent black, according to the San Diego Association of Government’s 2018 estimate.

Werner said the events of the past few weeks have taught her all white people have had a role in perpetuating systematic racism, and that she wants the community to stand up against this.

“Maybe we didn’t directly do it, but indirectly we’ve all had a hand in allowing the thoughts of racism to continue to proceed in important positions,” Werner said.

PERSPECTIVE

Continued from Page 1

raising his sons in a community like Scripps Ranch, he echoes experiences of racism so that they don’t have to experience the same thing.

The same energy he puts into his sons is personified with his team. On the football field, all the politics are left out the window. On Gardinera’s team, you care for one another and play, he said.

“There’s expectations of how they represent themselves, their family, our team and the community,” Gardinera said. “That has never included if the person is this color – we all take care of each other.”



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Local returns from Peace Corps

By Shannon Barr

After serving in the Peace Corps for the past 26 months, 25-year-old Molly Moreau returned to Scripps Ranch. She volunteered teaching English in Myanmar, a country in Southeast Asia.

Moreau grew up traveling during mission trips with Canyon Springs Church to Mexico, Haiti and the Caribbean. She also went to Peru with another church.

“While I was in college, even though I was majoring in musical theater, there was always something that made me want to go out and help other people, find a job that travels and takes me all across the world,” Moreau said.

Her parents, both with military backgrounds, suggested the Peace Corps. Applicants have the option to submit their top location choices. Moreau was so excited to see the world, she wrote down “anywhere.”

Before she was placed in the village she’d call home for the next two years,

Moreau had three months of intensive Burmese language lessons and culture training.

The town she lived in was 2-square-miles with a population of 2,000. She lived by herself in a two-bedroom cement house that had bright green walls. The locals pitched in to get a bed, mattress and all the furnishings – a testament to how gracious the community was.

“The Myanmar people are some of the most welcoming people on the face of the planet,” Moreau said. “It’s insane how selfless they are, especially with visitors, foreigners and tourists. It was such a magical place to be living.”

Many of the local teachers were close to her age, and they would invite her to eat with their families and celebrate Buddhist holidays together.

On an average day, Moreau would wake up to the sound of monks chanting from the nearby monastery. She would go to the local market to get groceries each morning. She didn’t have a refrigerator, so she bought produce daily. Getting fresh



Molly Moreau (bottom) with children from a village in Myanmar. (courtesy photo)

produce from the local farmers became one of her favorite aspects of living there.

After the market, Moreau went to school to teach English. She taught fifth and ninth grade, totaling eight classes a day. She describes her teaching experience as “exhaustingly unforgettable.” Each class had around 60 to 70 students.

“It’s something that will always be close to my heart but wow, it is also one of

the hardest things I’ve ever done,” Moreau said.

Her Burmese lessons allowed her to communicate with the students, and she had a co-teacher who helped her translate if needed, as well as ensure the students retained the information they learned through the games and activities in class.

A favorite memory of Moreau’s happened the day after she moved into her house on her 23rd birthday.

In Myanmar, it’s custom to give back to people on your birthday, but some locals wanted to throw her an American birthday celebration. They got her a cake, cooked a meal for her and invited friends over to enjoy music.

“I was like, ‘I’ve been here less than 24 hours, and this is already the greatest moment of my life,’” Moreau said. “It’s one of my favorite memories because it just was so instantaneous that they made me a part of their family. They immediately were ready to give all their love and time.”

She said it was a very hard place to leave.

“Myanmar is an extremely beautiful and gracious country,” Moreau said. “I think everyone should get to experience it at least once in their lives.”

Now that she’s home, Moreau is looking for a job in theater and community engagement. She wants to bring theater to inner city schools and to people who don’t have easy access to see a show.

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"Waves" by Kyle Trudelle

Artist strives for personal connection

By Bella Ross

The art world," in the eyes of local artist Kyle Trudelle, is far smaller than aspirations of downtown gallery shows and big-name collectors.

In fact, the small-town artist has never signed with an art gallery – and that's not a testament to his talent.

"I always wanted a personal connection with the client," Trudelle said. "I didn't want it to be some boujee (bourgeoisie) art gallery selling this guy's artwork and he's untouchable."

Fresh off the heels of a nine-month spurt in a small town in Rhode Island, Trudelle said he is more grateful than ever to be back in Scripps Ranch. That's because the line between artistry and community building is nonexistent in Trudelle's world, where he spends his days giving back to the neighborhood through painting.

With the COVID-19 pandemic weighing heavy on everybody's hearts, Trudelle lifted spirits by painting oversized "thank you" cards for essential workers, large enough that passersby could note their own wishes on the inside with markers.

"If you put yourself into the community and just give back

to them with no expectation of return, it's a powerful tool to inspire a community and bring them together," Trudelle said.

Bryon Jaymes, a friend of Trudelle who often purchases his work, said this desire to support a larger cause comes through in Trudelle's work.

"Kyle really peels back the layers and digs into you to make the artwork the most meaningful, blessed and beautiful piece of work," Jaymes said. "You will always have Kyle's work as a constant reminder to anchor you back to what matters most."

The painter's own work reflects a love of landscapes – particularly ocean scenes – with a level of realism that sometimes resembles a photograph.

But Trudelle said his final goal is not simply to create art, but to establish a space where local creatives can come together to inspire one another. His vision of a coffee shop-like space includes rooms for art classes, where Trudelle could fulfill his love for teaching art to others.

Even during the quarantine months, Trudelle was looking for ways to make this aspiration a reality. Once his schedule of art classes in Rhode Island was emptied by the virus, he decided to sell his

See **ARTIST**, Page 7



Kaila Rosing

Scout sews masks for homeless

By Shannon Barr

Once the COVID-19 pandemic hit, cities around the nation announced mandated stay-at-home orders. But what about those who don't have a home?

At the start of the pandemic, that very question occurred to Kaila Rosing, a ninth grader at Scripps Ranch High School. Rosing is a Girl Scout with a passion for doing community work and helping people experiencing homelessness.

"I started thinking — we have a home, so we can actually quarantine and stay away from other people," Rosing said. "But the homeless don't have that, so what can we do for them?"

Rosing is on a mission to provide face masks for those experiencing homelessness. As of 2019, San Diego County ranks in the top five major cities with the largest homeless populations.

"They have it the hardest during this pandemic situation," Rosing said.

Her goal is to make and collect a total of 300 face masks.

"I'm hoping to exceed the goal," Rosing said.

She's donating the masks to People Assisting the Homeless (PATH), an organization with a mission to end homelessness for individuals, families and communities. So far, she's had 100 masks donated and sewn more than 100 herself, using old sheets that she owns.

"I did not know how to sew — my mother taught me," she said. "We have a sewing machine at home and it doesn't take that long to sew a mask."

How many does she manage to sew per day, on average?

When she was in school, she averaged five masks a day.

"These days it's 20," Rosing said.

As a Girl Scout, Rosing is also submitting this proj-

See **MASKS**, Page 7

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New Facebook page features reptiles

By Terry L. Wilson

Scripps Ranch is a pet friendly community with a variety of Facebook pages dedicated to critters that bark and purr.

Another group of pet lovers recently made its cyber-presence known with a page on Facebook: Reptiles of Scripps Ranch, created by Mary Zanotelli, a long-time local resident. This site was designed for a growing fan base of pet owners who snuggle up to creatures that slither, hiss, rattle and – whatever sounds a bearded dragon makes.

Zanotelli believes that reptiles get an undeserved bad rap because they are misunderstood. Her task is to shine a positive light on creatures that sometimes have a very dark reputation.

“I feel that snakes in general, and especially rattlesnakes, are vilified by the general public,” Zanotelli said. “I try to dispel the myths about things like snakes and spiders. For example, a snake’s skin is smooth and dry, not slimy and wet. And, when a rattlesnake rattles he is warning you to stay away, it doesn’t

want to bite you, it wants to get away. When a person tries to harm a snake, that’s when it really becomes dangerous because now the snake feels threatened, and you take on the form of a predator. Of course, if you try to pick a snake up or step on it, you’ll get bit.”



Mary Zanotelli with “Blue” the bearded dragon

Zanotelli started the Reptiles of Scripps Ranch Facebook page so people with questions about reptiles would have a source for information.

“We have one lady that has a bearded dragon. She asked why he was digging so much. I told her the reason was because she’s pregnant and wants to lay eggs,” Zanotelli said. “Our page is also a great place for people to share photos of their pet reptiles.”

The fledging Reptiles of Scripps Ranch site has nearly 50 members, all of whom have an interesting collection of roommates. Zanotelli leads the pack with a bevy

of animals that could star in their own “Wild Kingdom” special.

“I have four reptiles: two bearded dragons, Nacho and Blue. My snake is a rosy boa named Sage, and Churro is my red footed tortoise,” Zanotelli said. “When I take my rosy boa to class, the kids start out

being hesitant to touch Sage, but it doesn’t take long before curiosity takes over and, eventually, they’ll be petting her and asking lots of questions.”

Zanotelli is an environmental educator and nature studies teacher, she said.

“I teach children to understand reptiles. My goal is for children to see those creepy crawlies in a more positive way,” she explained. “I teach children how to be around reptiles safely; we often encounter snakes on our nature walks. We give them lots of space to get away, and then we talk about it and take pictures from a dis-



Stanley is a 10-year-old desert tortoise.

tance. I wish people could appreciate snakes in general for all the good they do for us. Actually, the sign of snakes in our neigh-

borhood is the sign of a healthy ecosystem.”

Reptiles of Scripps Ranch is a public group easily found on Facebook.

MASKS

Continued from Page 6

ect for the Girl Scout Gold Award, which is the highest award achieved in the Girl Scouts organization. It requires a minimum of 80 hours of work on a project that’s sustainable, a proposal and a project report.

She plans to keep sewing masks to donate to PATH through the summer, and to continue supporting homeless populations in other ways.

Residents can donate masks by contacting Rosing through her website bit.ly/3d8Xz7H or by email, kailas.mask.project@gmail.com.

ARTIST

Continued from Page 6

own paint-by-numbers kits. And when he receives messages from customers asking for help with their kits, “I love personally responding to them,” he said.

Trudelle said he would like to collaborate with community members on more projects. Send him ideas at trudelle_galleries@hotmail.com. Visit trudellegalleries.com.

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FEEL SCRIPPS

Facebook wine club thriving

By Hoyt Smith

An enterprising mother of three in Scripps Ranch has founded the Scripps Ranch Wine Club, a social media group created to bring local women closer together in these times of isolation and division.

Katie Schmidt – a resident of Scripps Ranch who grew up here, went to Scripps Ranch High School and moved back to Scripps Ranch five years ago to care for her parents – founded the club on Facebook “to create some connections in the community during this season that we’re all going through right now,” she said.

According to Schmidt, the Scripps Ranch Wine Club is similar to groups in other parts of California, including The Ladies Wine Club of Fallbrook in San Diego County.

“It turns out that they have women’s clubs like this all over the place. This is a pretty common thing, I guess, but it seems to be perfect for a tight-knit community like Scripps Ranch,” she said.

Schmidt started the club on

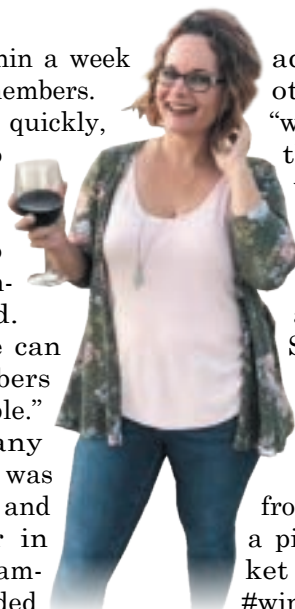
May 20 and within a week there were 500 members.

“It grew very quickly, and we had to cap any new growth until we can catch up with the momentum,” she said. “I’m hoping we can add more members as soon as possible.”

As with many people, Schmidt was recently laid off and had to shelter in place with her family for an extended period because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

“Honestly, the idea for the wine club really came out of me feeling lonely and isolated and desiring connection,” she said.

Here’s how the club works: when a new woman joins they are asked to write about themselves, including biographical information, favorite activities and the kind of “self-care goodies” they would enjoy receiving, so that the club members can get to know one another. They also submit their



Katie Schmidt (courtesy photo)

address, choose another member to “wine and dash” and then assemble a wine gift basket and secretly leave on another member’s porch (acting as a “wine fairy,” Schmidt said.)

Once members receive a wine basket, they delete their address from the list and post a picture of their basket with the hashtag #winefairycame.

It doesn’t have to be a wine basket. Some members may prefer spirits, hard cider or even a non-alcoholic beverage. Schmidt said the typical gift basket will also include items such as a scented candle, some chocolate, perhaps some hand lotion or moisturizer, and maybe even a face mask.

Many of the members came from Schmidt’s connections with Scripps Ranch Pop Warner and Cheer Association. Her 13-year-old daughter has been involved with that organization, said Schmidt, who also has a

four-year-old daughter and a 16-year-old son.

“I think a lot of people have made connections (through the wine club) with people they wouldn’t have met otherwise,” she said. “And it’s all been done through social media. My vision is to have a wine tasting gathering, or maybe a Temecula wine tour together. I can see this being a great bond after some of these restrictions are lifted. There’s obviously a need for it.”

For more information, contact Katie Schmidt at m858@yahoo.com.



Scripps Ranch Theatre partnered with Oceanside Theatre Company to present a live Facebook concert featuring Nina Herzog accompanied by twin brother musicians Jack and Benny Lipson and percussionist/drummer Jonathan Pinson. (courtesy photo)

SR Theatre carries on

By Ken David

Amid the challenges presented by COVID-19-related concerns and restrictions, Scripps Ranch Theatre (SRT) had to get extra creative during an unexpected and extended intermission.

“Were on hold, we’re not closed,” said SRT Director of Public Relations Susan Clausen.

The theater had the play “Love Song” cast, rehearsed and were close to opening when orders went out shutting down large public gatherings. Since then, the theater has been sharing as many things online as it could. First, in early April, was an online reading of Casey Tibbitts’ “A Quiet Cross,” a coproduction with Oceanside Theatre Company. No tickets or prepayment were required, but viewers could donate to support the show and the theaters.

“It’s not the perfect medium for theater but it’s how we can story tell at the moment,” she said.

See SR THEATRE, Page 9

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SR THEATRE

Continued from Page 8

Next, was an online concert by singer and actor Luke Monday performing online with his pianist. An online concert featuring singer-actress Nina Herzog accompanied by twin brother musicians Jack and Benny Lipson and percussionist/drummer Jonathan Pinson was set for June 20. A live reading of the Paul Coates play "The Longer You Wait" is scheduled for July.

"It is definitely a different way to communicate," she said.

She also thinks presenting theater virtually provides an opportunity for people seeking solace or relief in challenging times. Still, the theater expects to feel the pain of the lingering effects.

"Theater, as a whole, is very dependent on donations and grants, city funding that will drop, and that will affect us," Clausen said. "We'll have to revisit what kind of expenditures we can afford to put out and we'll also continue to count on the support of the community."

As for when things like community theaters will be able to reopen for in-person performances, SRT leadership is still trying to figure that out.

"A lot of this will be guided by law and also the response of the community," she said. "What things will theaters have to install to make the public feel comfortable enough to come back? As big a question as, 'what does our future look like?' is 'what is the community ready for?'"

Visit scrippsranchtheatre.org.



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Performing put on pause

By Ashley Shah

Scripps Theatre Arts, a local youth theater organization that is only about two years old, has been put on pause due to the COVID-19 crisis.

"We were in the middle of our biggest production yet, 'Beauty and the Beast.' It was going to have the largest cast, set and audience. There were over 70 kids ranging from ages 4 to 16. The production was supposed to be in May," Scripps Theatre Arts founder Alicia Gonzalez said.

From April to May, the organization held virtual rehearsals and master classes.

"Usually, a rehearsal is 12 weeks long, so you can't really get into acting, it's more about just memorizing the script. However, virtually it's hard to do music, so the director switched the focus to acting. It was a great learning opportunity for the kids," Gonzalez said.

The theater group was supposed to hold three camps over the summer. However, due to the Scripps Ranch Recreation Center not being open for use yet, it had to cancel all three of them.

Alongside the now cancelled summer camps, the third production of the year in September, which was supposed to



Denali Gibson as the minstrel in a Scripps Theatre Arts production. (courtesy of Alicia Gonzalez)

be held at Marshall Middle School, is now cancelled as well.

Due to the ever-changing virus situation, they have decided to go on pause for the whole summer.

"At this point we are waiting on the Poway Center for the Performing Arts to start booking dates. Once we receive a date from the theater, we are planning to come back at 100 percent or more. The actors need a lot of support. I'm hoping the community comes out in full force to support and fills the theaters," Gonzalez said.

The organization is mainly funded by ticket sales as well as donations from companies such as Dixieline and people who want to support those in the productions.

The theater group has only had one production this year in February:



Elise Gaudreau as the matchmaker in the Scripps Theatre Arts production of Mulan last fall. (courtesy photo)

"Once Upon a Mattress."

"With the production in February, we introduced a relatively unknown story with great success. Also, it was the most prepared that our youth had been," Gonzalez said.

Scripps Theatre Arts focuses on equity, diversity and inclusion.

"We want to really include everyone and give children in under-served communities an opportunity and a way for some to get scholarships," Gonzalez said.

Visit their scrippstheatreats.com or the Facebook page @facebook.com/scrippstheatreats.



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SCHOOLS



SRHS CLASS OF 2020 CAR PARADE

There appeared to be miles of vehicles with graduates participating in the Scripps Ranch High School Class of 2020 Graduation Car Parade on Tuesday, June 9. This event was held for the graduating seniors since an in-person ceremony for graduation was not allowed by the school district due to the COVID-19 crisis. SRHS parents planned and carried out this enormously popular event.



Photos by Justin Fine



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Mekhi Shaw is attending University of Nevada Reno where he will major in Biology and play football.



Congrats, Kaleigh! So proud of you. Show the world your kind heart, strong spirit, creative problem solving and fierce determination. We love you.



Benjamin Ward will be studying Accounting/Business at SDSU in the fall so listen for him in the drumline as he intends to continue as a Marching Aztec!



Heath Logan (aka "The Champ") will be attending the University of Arizona this fall and studying Business Management



Joshua Cox. He will be going to Purdue University this fall to study Engineering.



Amanda Levine - We are so proud of you and wish you the best at University of Colorado, Boulder. Love, Mom, Dad and Brett



Brandon Stadtherr will be attending CSUF majoring in Biology.



Steven Leung! He will attend SD Mesa College to study Multimedia Design and Animation. "We are so very proud of you! Love, Mom and Dad"



Congratulations James !! May Your Pathways be Smooth and Your Burdens Light. James will be attending college in San Diego this coming fall and is excited for the future !



Emma Jackowski will be attending UCSD in the fall and majoring in History.



Jessica graduated with honors and will be attending SDSU in the fall as a Film, Television and New Media major.



Jack Ariaudo will attend San Diego Miramar College and study History. "I am so very proud of you! Love, Mom XOXO"



Support Independent Journalism in Scripps Ranch

*Scripps Ranch News has launched its first GoFundMe fundraising campaign. As an **essential business**, Scripps Ranch News battles through the COVID-19 crisis to bring you vital information.*

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DIVERSITY

"Scripps Ranch News is intended to be inclusive, to include all residents of Scripps Ranch."

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Andy Manso will be attending Gonzaga University this fall and will be majoring in Business Administration.



With 30 college units already under her belt, Emma is going to finish up her undergrad at Palomar or Miramar College, then transfer to San Diego State and major in business/marketing.



Ryan Kozak will be attending Grand Canyon University in the fall and is majoring in Sports Business.



Gabriel Matthew Bautista Pennington is attending the University of Notre Dame in the Fall of 2020 and majoring in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering.



Katherine Chicca is graduating with honors from Scripps Ranch High School and will attend the Honors program at Gonzaga University in the fall. She is planning on majoring in psychology.



Grant Norberg will be attending UCLA. He is majoring in Business Economics and playing Tight End for the Bruins football team.



Georgina Madok plans to attend Texas A&M in the fall to study animal science.



Dillon Gebase will be attending Grossmont College in the fall, where he will be playing football. "We are so proud of you. Love, Mom and Dad."



Hailey Brigger is heading to Vassar College where she will be playing field hockey.



Sean Tyler Hodgson graduated with honors. Will be attending SDSU and majoring in Mechanical Engineering!



Kayla Swift will be attending Boise State University in the fall.



Cole Gorham will be attending Biola University and will major in Business Administration.



Mckenna is heading to Arizona State University to study psychology. "We are so proud of you! Follow your dreams, we can't wait to see what your future holds. Forks up!"



Connor achieved an overall 3.7 GPA. He was a two year letterman on the Varsity Baseball team and enjoyed being part of the 2019 league champion team. Memories he and his teammates will always cherish! He missed the last 3 months connecting with his many friends and hopes for a Summer Prom/ Party to reconnect with classmates. Connor will be attending Grand Canyon University in Arizona in the fall! #falconpride #classof2020.

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Numerous residents are having to celebrate their birthdays without being able to invite friends to their parties due to the COVID-19 isolation orders. They are still able to celebrate in other ways, and share their birthdays here:



Happy double digits Stella! We love you so much and look forward to celebrating you today. Love, Mom, Dad and Matty



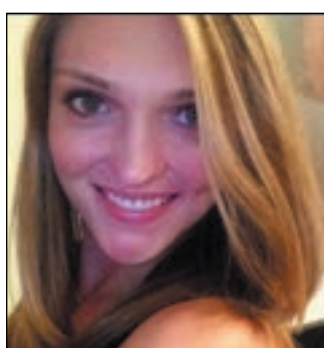
You are a bundle of energy that brings constant joy to our family. Thank you for brightening our lives every single day! Lots of love from all of us!!



Happy 9th Birthday to our super cool, creative, energetic son, Reid! You amaze us everyday! We love you so much, Mom, Dad, and Carys.



Happy 12th birthday to Macy! Your compassion, thoughtfulness, and zest for life has brought so much joy to your family and friends. We love you more than words can express! Love from your family and all the critters. :)



Happy Birthday, Mackenzie! You shine so bright, you bring love and laughter and light into the lives of everybody who knows you.

Happy Father's Day!



Happy Father's Day, Dad! I am honored to be your daughter, and also, to be "the son you never had. Love Always, Mackenzie xo

If you know someone having a birthday in July or August, you can send a message and photo to Scripps Ranch News and we'll share it on the special day on our Facebook and Instagram pages – and publish it in the next issue of Scripps Ranch News. Send your birthday message (25 words maximum) along with a photo and the birthday date to info@scrippsranchnews.com.

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HOMES



'Summer Fresh Up'

If you're going stir-crazy observing all the flaws in your home or business during the pandemic, the American Society of Interior Designers' (ASID) San Diego Chapter has a solution. During the month of June and July, members of the organization will conduct virtual appointments to discuss design dilemmas and offer advice during ASID's first-ever Summer Fresh Up event. The affordable fee of \$85 per hour (minimum one hour/maximum two hours) is a donation to the ASID chapter; and the designer volunteer's time.

"Sheltering at home has made people eager to refresh, renew and redesign their surroundings," said ASID Chapter President Bertha Hernandez. "This is an excellent way to brainstorm with a professional and kickstart your design projects. Appointments can be made virtually via various video conference platforms, such as Zoom, Skype, Facetime or arrangements can be made for an in-person appointment with social distancing. "This is an extraordinary opportunity for homeowners to get a taste of working with an interior designer, with no commitment and a small investment," she said.

"No matter what your project—commercial, residential, hospitality, healthy home, universal design, green design, aging-in-place, color scheme selection, kitchen/bath remodeling, outdoor rooms, multigenerational living, feng shui, or downsizing—ASID can provide an expert that can give you stylish and sensible advice that is often money-saving, too," she added.

The list of participating interior designers and their companies is available at Eventbrite.com under "ASID Summer Fresh Up." Information is also available by emailing administrator@casd.asid.org.

Summer home renovation trends

(StatePoint) Whether you are building a home from scratch, doing a complete renovation or simply refreshing a room or two, you can take your project to the next level with some design inspiration.

As one half of HGTV's "The Cousins" and the founder of Lily Shea Development LLC, John Colaneri is well-versed in top design trends. Having recently purchased a 1960s-era rambler with the goal of taking it down to the studs and remaking it, Colaneri is sharing insights and ideas to help you create a unique space in your own home where all the elements blend together:

- **Color pop.** Find a color to carry throughout the entire home. While many people typically look to paint doors and trim white, consider being creative here.

"For my home, which has an open concept floor plan, I knew that I wanted to use a dark color for trim and doors in order to enhance other design elements, such as my kitchen island and hood," Colaneri said.

See **RENOVATION**, Page 15



When it comes to a renovation, it's all about potential. With a little vision, you can transform your home into something that you never thought possible. (courtesy of John Colaneri)

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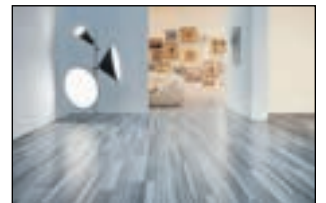
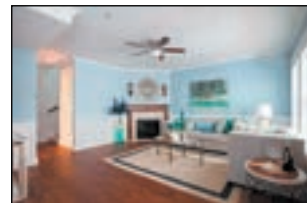
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Get your home in summer shape

(StatePoint) The weather is warming up which means you're probably chipping away at your cleaning to-do list.

Looking to have a little fun with your chores? Try these five unexpected shelf liner hacks around your home to protect against messes, enhance organization and add pops of color to lackluster spaces.

1. Liner in the laundry room. It never hurts to have a little extra storage in the laundry room. Cover the top of front-load machines with shelf liner for easy cleaning and to help keep items in place, then use the space to display your detergents and fabric softeners in decorative baskets or containers.

2. Spice up the pantry. It's finally time to trade your mess of boxes, bags and random spices for those dry food canisters and pantry organizers you've been eyeing. Before arranging them on your shelves, put down a layer of liner to catch any crumbs or leaks. Kick things up a notch by choosing a printed liner to complement your kitchen décor.

3. Everything but the kitchen sink. The cabinets under your kitchen sink tend to be a catch-all for random



Clearing the cobwebs and getting a fresh start this season? Use shelf liner around the house to add beauty and organization to your spaces. (StatePoint)

cleaning products, tools and household supplies. But they can also be a hot spot for water damage, grime and leaks. Cover under-sink surfaces with shelf liner and organize your products in sleek containers to elevate this dreary space.

4. Fridge envy. Feeling inspired by pics of your favorite celeb's perfectly stocked fridge on social media? Take a stab at recreating their masterpiece by lining up your produce, drinks and condiments by type and color. Even if you can't keep it up all year, at least you'll get a great pic for the 'Gram. Bonus Tip: A layer of shelf liner will help keep your groceries

in place and make cleaning up any leaks or spills a breeze. You can even throw the liner in the washing machine and re-use it.

5. Dress up your closet. It's the perfect time of year for a closet purge. After you've divvied up your "donate" and "keep" piles, cover your closet shelves and dresser drawers with fabric top liner to protect clothes from snags, crease lines and discoloration. While you're at it, apply leftover printed liner to the sides of your drawers for an easy, DIY upgrade.

For additional shelf liner hacks and DIYs, visit duckbrand.com.

RENOVATION

Continued from Page 14

• **Something old, something new.** Achieving a blend of old and new can bring warmth and texture to otherwise ascetic spaces and design elements.

"I love contemporary design, but my true passion is blending old and new together. For the main entry and hallway, I installed reclaimed natural wood to add warmth and character to the space," Colaneri said. "Likewise, I selected industrial-style light fixtures that boast traditional touches."

• **Let it shine.** Blurring that line between the indoors and outside can make a space feel larger and more inviting. To do this, Colan-

eri suggests replacing old windows with those that bring in more natural light.

"I chose black trim to give my windows a contemporary look and allow them to be a focal point, but I went with a farmhouse-style grille for a traditional feel," he said. "I also changed the rear windows into sliding doors, which made a huge difference by offering more outdoor access and light."

Colaneri chose to work with Renewal by Andersen because of the quality of the products and the fact that it's a one-stop shop, which can simplify a home renovation during these uncertain times.

"This is the first time I had one company handle so many aspects of my project," he said. "You need to have

a professional team that thinks of all the small things that can go wrong and reacts before they happen."

• **Customized tiling.** Tiles are a great way to customize a space so that it's truly yours.

"Since I have three different design styles pervasive in my home – contemporary, rustic and industrial, I wanted the tiles to reflect this," said Colaneri, who chose different effects for his daughter's bathroom, the master bathroom and his home's entryway, where he used a hexagon marble tile that blends into the wood floor.

To learn more about Colaneri's project and read about more ways to freshen up your space, visit getinspiredwithjohn.com.

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