

## Looking to the future

By Laura Hogan

Caps, gowns, smiles and celebrations are around the corner for local high school students.

Graduation at Scripps Ranch High School (SRHS) will be held at the University of San Diego's Jenny Craig Pavilion on June 12 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. For two hardworking seniors, this will mean the opportunity to share a meaningful quote, sit on the stage and be properly acknowledged for their hard work and dedication to their studies.

Michelle He and Ashwin Kumar have been named the SRHS valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, of the 2019 graduating class.

"I was really surprised at the news that I was valedictorian. It was not something I had been working towards; I was mostly focused on keeping up my grades," He said.

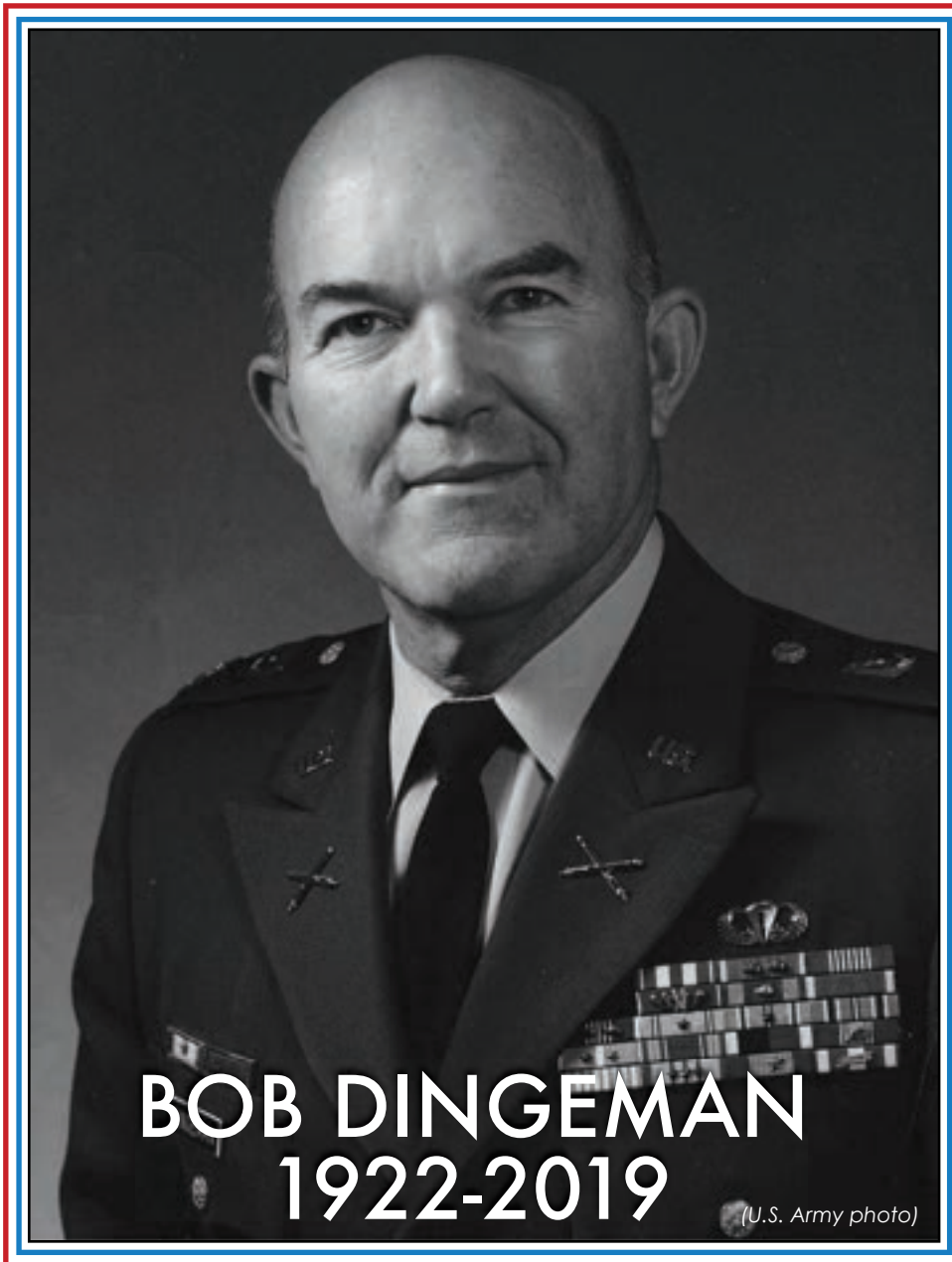
Kumar reiterated these sentiments.

"It's an interesting feeling. Throughout high school you know roughly where you stand in class rank, but when it was announced it felt like 'Wow, my hard work actually paid off,'" Kumar said.

Neither He nor Kumar felt a sense of rivalry for the top spot and shared that they are close friends. The talented students both have bright futures ahead of them albeit some 3,000 miles apart. He will attend Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Kumar will attend The University of California, Berkeley. He said she plans to study computer science and biology. Kumar will focus on computer science as well.

He said she was nervous for the next step in her academic journey, but that she is also

See VALEDICTORIAN, Page 4



**B**ob Dingeman, known as "Mr. Scripps Ranch," passed away May 4 at age 96. He had a storied military career in the U.S. Army, serving in WWII, Korea and Vietnam. Following retirement from the service as a colonel, Dingeman moved to Scripps Ranch and became active in numerous community associations. He is best known for his extensive work as a longtime leader of the Scripps Ranch Civic Association. He was heavily involved in every aspect of this community's modern evolution.

See the special In Memoriam section, pages 12-13.

## Prom time grows near

By Cynthia Kurose

**A**s the school year rapidly winds down for seniors at Scripps Ranch High School (SRHS), emotions are mixed as they prepare to leave behind all that has been familiar to them throughout their adolescent lives. But with spirit week, prom, grad night and graduation approaching in the days and weeks ahead, the leading emotion for most of these students is excitement. Many seniors admit that prom is an event for which anticipation begins building as early as freshman year.

Hayley Lewellin is a senior who has attended SRHS since her freshman year.

"I don't even know how to describe how excited you become after four years of waiting," she said.

Given that many high schools make their prom open both to juniors and seniors, the fact that this event is a privilege reserved exclusively for seniors at SRHS creates a stronger sense of anticipation and appreciation, according to Lewellin.

This year's prom, themed "Sleepless in the City," will take place on Saturday, June 1, at Parq Restaurant and Nightclub in downtown San Diego. Grady Dok, senior class vice president, is one of three Associated Student Body (ASB) officers responsible for planning the prom.

"Our venue is very unique this year; it has a really powerful and fun vibe to it," he said. "We put a lot of effort in to planning it and I think the senior class is really going to enjoy it."

Amber Almond, senior class secretary, added that the planning team has tried to ensure that the options for entertainment at the event are diverse and enjoyable.

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## Ex-Navy nurse records memories of other veteran nurses

By Tawny McCray

**A**Scripps Ranch woman who served as a Navy nurse during the Vietnam War is part of a nationwide project to record and document the experiences of war-time Navy nurses.

DJ Lavoie, 77, is the co-chair of the Navy Nurse Corps Association's Oral History Project, which in-

cludes stories from Navy Nurse Corps officers from World War II to the present. Lavoie said the project began in 2013 when the association's Southern California chapter made a commitment to capture as many Navy Nurse Corps officers' oral histories as they could. She said it started with about eight videotaped interviews from Navy nurses from World

War II and has evolved from there. To date, they have interviewed 126 Nurse Corps officers, with 99 of those interviews being sent to the Library of Congress, the research library that officially serves the United States Congress.

"The oral history project is a top priority for the Nurse Corps Association and it's really focused to preserve and share the Nurse Corps

traditions and legacy," Lavoie said. "Everyone who served has a different story, so this tells us who we were at a given time and gives a picture of how the Nurse Corps has changed, what nurses did in 1945 versus what they are doing in 2019."

Lavoie said when she started out in the then all-female Nurse Corps in the early 1960s, it was very

disciplined and organized and they had to dress in white caps and uniforms consisting of skirts, nylons and heels. She said women couldn't be married and they definitely couldn't be pregnant, since the thinking of that time was that they wouldn't be physically fit to serve.

"Because we were all single, we socialized together,"

See EX-NAVY NURSE, Page 3



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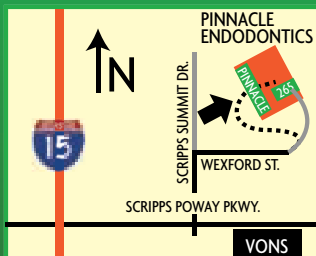
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# Local lot on list for housing

The current Park & Ride lot at 12016 Scripps Highlands Drive, next to Yanni's Bar and Grill, is on the list of eight city-owned properties available to build for "housing for most vulnerable residents," according to a press release from the San Diego Mayor's Office dated May 7.

The property has the zoning potential for permanent supportive housing (PSH) units, which appears to be the intended use, according to the Mayor's press release. Permanent supportive housing is intended to address the needs of "chronically homeless people," according to a definition by the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

Here is part of the announcement:

"As part of his effort to create more housing for the City's most vulnerable residents, Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer today announced he will make eight City-owned properties available to developers with the goal of building nearly 200 permanent supportive housing (PSH) units.

The City's Real Estate

Assets Department (READ) evaluated dozens of City-owned properties, including sites recommended by City Council offices, for housing potential. Other properties that weren't in use but are currently zoned for residential and PSH were also assessed. ...

"The City identified eight properties – located in six of the nine City Council districts – that have the potential to allow for construction of up to 198 PSH units ... A request for proposals (RFP) is expected to be issued in June to lease five of (the) properties. A subsequent RFP will be issued to sell the remaining properties to builders. Winning proposals will be presented to the City Council this fall.

"Permanent supportive housing is housing with no limit on length of stay that is linked to on-site or off-site supportive services that assist residents in retaining housing, improving one's health status, and maximizing one's ability to live and, when possible, work in the community.

"Since 2014, the City of San Diego has helped more

than 7,500 people find a permanent or long-term home with assistance programs, including rapid rehousing, family reunification, housing vouchers and landlord engagement. Interim programs, such as the Safe Parking Program and the City's three Bridge Shelters, help people stabilize their situation while they access resources critical to getting them ready for long-term housing."

The property in Scripps Ranch at 12016 Scripps Highlands Drive is a 1.142-acre lot, known as the Miramar Ranch Park & Ride, and is within the Miramar Ranch North planning zone.

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## Project compiles some amazing stories



DJ Lavoie (courtesy photo)



DJ Lavoie on duty as a Navy nurse. (courtesy photo)



DJ Lavoie in her dress uniform. (courtesy photo)

### EX-NAVY NURSE

Continued from Page 1

we traveled together, we went to the club together, we did a lot together because that was our family," she said. "That has changed. Many of the nurses now are married with families."

***'You cry with them and you laugh with them.'***

—DJ Lavoie

Lavoie said she started her career at Balboa Naval Hospital in San Diego. She spent some time working in the operating room, which she said was exciting because it involved open heart surgery and brain surgery. Then, in 1968 she was sent overseas to Guam and worked in the pediatric unit as a charge nurse. But at that time, she said, there was a lot of activity happening in Vietnam and they were getting air vacs from there all the time.

"The air vacs usually came in around dinner time, so after you finish your own day, we were all there doing what we needed to do for these very badly injured young men," she said. "They were so courageous and so strong and in such pain, both emotional and physical. It was pretty hard."

Lavoie said in addition to that, they were taking care of older men who had been mistreated by the Japanese during World War II.

"This was more than 25 years after that war and that was horrendous also. You know, even now I think about this and I think, 'how can human beings do this to other human beings?' It just doesn't make sense, so I struggle with that all the time," Lavoie explained.

Lavoie said it's confronting these types of personal struggles that Navy nurses live with that make the oral history project so worthwhile.

"One thing that I've learned from doing these interviews is that people sort of forgot that nurses have trauma as well," she said. "Some of them never talked about any of this ever until they did their interview for us, so that has served as a support system and has been cathartic for them. You cry with them and you laugh with them. It's been a trip."

Lavoie said any Navy nurse – whether female or male – can take part in the oral history project; they don't have to be a member of the association. Each nurse who participates will get a DVD copy of their interview.

"It's been a fun project. It's been an incredible learning experience. I've met some amazing Nurse Corps officers and heard some incredible stories," she said.

Nurses who want to share their experiences can contact the Navy Nurse Corps Association by visiting [nnca.org](http://nnca.org).

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## Anticipation builds for Prom 2019

### PROM

Continued from Page 1

"There will be three separate areas at our venue: one primarily for dancing, another is going to have a lot more games and food where it's more relaxed and quiet, and the third area will have a silent DJ and photo booths," she said.

Promposals – the modern-day method by which students ask their dates to prom – continue to take place both on and off campus. While some choose to propose with an elaborate, grand gesture in a public place, others opt for a more simple, sweet and private approach. Senior Katherine Rosen has observed that, in general, the more elaborate promposals typically take place between couples that have been dating for some time, where an affirmative response to the invitation is almost certain.

"In a previous year, someone made a huge sign and had his friends hold it up publicly in the quad," Rosen said. "But most people might do informal things if either they are on the shy side, or not sure of the response."

Shopping for the perfect



SRHS Senior Class ASB officers (from left) Amber Almond, Grady Dok and Alexandra Kotsos are responsible for planning the senior prom, which will take place at Parq Restaurant and Nightclub on June 1. (photo by Tracey LoVuolo)

dress is also a quintessential part of the prom experience for senior girls. Each year, the female students set up an Instagram account where they exchange notes about their shopping experiences, and also share photos of what they plan to wear in order to guard against showing up to the event wearing the same dress as a classmate.

For some, the dress shopping experience is one shared with friends. Others opt to make it a family affair. For Lewellin, it involved a little bit of both.

"I went shopping a couple times with my friends, even though I knew I wasn't going to get my dress that day

because it was months ago," she said. "Then I went with my mom a couple weekends ago and the first dress that I tried on, I fell in love with. I know that doesn't happen a lot. It fit perfectly and I just loved it."

While senior prom will carry with it unique memories for each student, most simply hope that it will be a fun, lighthearted time, free from any potential stress that may surround their post-high school plans.

"I'm just hoping to have an overall positive experience where I don't need to worry about school ending or college, and just have a good time with the people that I care about before we all go our separate ways," Rosen said.

Event tickets may be purchased on campus through May 31 and cost \$60 with ASB card, \$65 without.

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SPAA '13 graduate, photo by Rachel Neville



Michelle He and Ashwin Kumar, Scripps Ranch High's valedictorian and salutatorian. (photo by Laura Hogan)

### VALEDICTORIAN

Continued from Page 1

feeling excited for what is to come at MIT. Kumar said he has a sense of dread about leaving his friends and family, but that he can't wait to meet new people and build new friendships in college.

He and Kumar credit their family and friends for their support in achieving their academic success, but, above all, they said they were grateful to the teachers at Scripps Ranch High School.

"The teachers at Scripps are massively supportive and amazing. I'm really going to miss this place," Kumar said.

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Principal Crane (photo by Hoyt Smith)

## Principal Crane says goodbye

By Hoyt Smith

Miramar Ranch Elementary School is losing something precious: an experienced principal who guided the school for 10 years.

Her name is Peggy Crane, and to truly appreciate the value of her continuity in Scripps Ranch, consider that principal turnover is a serious issue across the country. The Learning Policy Institute (LPI) reports that the average tenure of principals nationally is four years, and that only 11 percent of principals remain at one school for 10 years or more. In its most recent study, LPI also found that 18 percent of public school principals leave after just one year.

“Saying goodbye is difficult,” said Crane, who has been with the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) for 30 years as both a teacher and an administrator. “I have never worked for one school for 10 years in a row before. It’s been an incredible run.”

The move was Crane’s choice.

“It was time for a change,” she said. “Time to bring in a fresh set of eyes.”

Crane is switching schools with Monika Hazel, an area superintendent with SDUSD who has been serving as the interim principal at Fay Elementary, a year-round school in the San Diego community of Rolando that has been without a permanent principal since October.

Hazel will come to Miramar Ranch Elementary as interim principal. Crane will go to Fay, a Title I school that receives federal funding to help underprivileged children meet state academic standards. She said she is “looking forward to the challenge” at a school where an ethnically diverse student body speaks several languages, including Spanish, Somali, Swahili, Karen (Burmese) and Tagalog.

Working in public education has been “a second career” for Crane, originally a homemaker who started teaching at age 35. The stay-at-home mom and wife of a U.S. Navy pilot got her

See **PRINCIPAL CRANE**, Page 6

# STEAMing ahead into the future

By Laura Hogan

Jerabek Elementary School has taken its academic experience to the next level. Bridging an ever-growing technology educational gap, the new Science Technology Engineering Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) Lab was unveiled at Jerabek Elementary School on May 2. The celebration was marked with a ribbon cutting ceremony and testimonials from students, parents and faculty about the importance of the new lab.

Parents were the driving force behind the fundraising efforts to bring the lab to fruition, and raised more than \$150,000 in equipment, furniture, materials, flooring and wall structures. The lab consists of a 2,500 square foot space that includes a robotics room, a makerspace, a quiet room, a messy room and an audio-visual lab.

A group of parents with backgrounds in STEAM fields initiated the effort to build the lab at Jerabek. Terra Norine of Troxel Communications was one of these parents and works to build STEAM Labs in schools across the country. Norine gave her time and resources to build the lab at Jerabek. She said it took about a year and a half to get the lab up and running because of her goal to make it state of the art.

“I sat down and built out a scope and sequence for each grade level so that the skills they are learning in kindergarten are giving them the tools need-



Jerabek Elementary School Principal Dr. Angelia Watkins cuts a ribbon to signify the opening of the school’s STEAM Lab. (courtesy of Rebecca Kelley)

ed for when they get into first grade and so on,” Norine said.

According to Norine, they placed their focus on robotics and coding. She took what they were already learning in the classroom and applied it to be more interactive and project-based in the lab.

At Jerabek, classroom curricula cannot be mandated. Instead, all teachers elected to participate. Each teacher learned aspects of coding and robotics. Dr. Angelia Watkins, principal at Jerabek, said the teachers are what make the STEAM Lab at Jerabek special.

“Our teachers have decided to take it upon themselves to learn the new curriculum, which is phenomenal. This is above and beyond what they are already teaching,” Watkins said.

The influence of the teachers and their newly learned curriculum has been influential in creating an environment where students are highly engaged in their own learning, Watkins said.

“Once the teachers are in that lab,

they are more like facilitators,” she explained. “The students drive the lesson. Once students know they get to be the conductor of their learning, they are more engaged.”

Students of all ages, ranging from five to 11, are enamored with the STEAM Lab. Avi Lefkowitz, fifth grader at Jerabek, said he was inspired by what he has learned in the lab to continue on the STEAM path in middle school.

“My favorite subject right now, other than P.E., is probably STEAM. It’s really fun to work with my partner,” Lefkowitz said. “It’s interesting to have that relationship and we can become friends because before STEAM, my partner and I didn’t really know each other. I think it’s really great that my teacher puts us together boy, girl. It just creates a really cool program.”

Watkins said the lab will set students up for STEAM careers and success in the future.

“The younger you start students out with engineering and things of that nature, then they are not afraid later. It sets them up for the next level,” she said. “If we can instill that in them here in the elementary, just think of what they can do in middle school and beyond.”

According to Watkins, the teachers will continue to push the envelope with the curriculum through training at the University of San Diego, partnering with other teachers who also have STEAM labs and every year making sure the rigor is more challenging.

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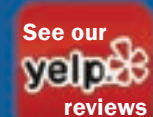
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## PRINCIPAL CRANE

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start by volunteering in her daughter's elementary school classroom. She has since served a diverse group of schools and communities, from San Carlos and Barrio Logan to City Heights and Scripps Ranch, and "loved every minute of it."

The veteran principal described her job at Miramar Ranch Elementary School for the past 10 years as "a juggling act involving parents, students, staff, budget and politics." But she added that "it's easy if you keep your students' needs front and center."

Principal Crane said her greatest accomplishments at Miramar Ranch include helping the school become a California Distinguished School last year. The award is presented to schools that have made exceptional gains in implementing academic content and performance standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

She is also proud of Miramar Ranch Elementary's commitment to the Whole Child approach to education. Developed by the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development in 2014, the Whole Child model emphasizes social and educational aspects, integrating education, public health and school health to improve learning and health.

Additionally, Crane has managed, through foundation and grant money, to enhance performing arts programs at Miramar Ranch – specifically music.

"We've also added a computer lab and a sciences lab, thanks to some very supportive parents," she said.

During Crane's tenure, a newer, taller perimeter fence was built around her campus. The fence reflects her commitment to student safety, but also showcases her ability to balance sometimes conflicting issues.

"It was important to keep the school secure, but at the same time we didn't want it to feel like a prison," she said.

What will Principal Crane miss the most after 10 years in Scripps Ranch? "The staff, the family, and the kids. Especially the kids. I mean, look at my wall," she said, pointing to a virtual floor-to-ceiling collage of photos, post-its, paintings and notes representing years of gratitude and personal relationships.

"I've made such great friends and such great memories," she added. "It's really been a great experience here at the Ranch and I will miss everybody."

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# Scripps Ranch High school holds Visual Arts Festival

By Nick Cassol

On April 27, Scripps Ranch High School students put their hard work and talent on display at the Visual Arts Festival in which they were able to screen short films they had crafted throughout the year. Premiering at the quad in the middle of the campus, underclassmen were allowed to submit 4- to 10-minute films, while seniors in the Film Arts class submitted 10- to 15-minute short films to be screened after sundown.

The theme for the festival was “disenchantment,” which, according to Film Arts teacher Mrs. Francisco, was student-generated. “Students brainstormed and sent in ideas and then [we] decided that ‘disenchantment’ could be negative, or positive and empowering,” she explained. The theme, Francisco said, encapsulated a variety of different themes students suggested, and she “felt they could do a lot with interpretation.”

Students like Max Messmer, whose film “A Very Boring Book” won four

*‘My favorite part about participating was seeing other students use their creativity to contribute to an art form that is often taken for granted.’*

—Max Messmer

awards – including Best Editing for Joe Martinson and Best Picture for Messmer himself, took advantage of this creative opportunity.

“Film Arts gave me the creative inspiration to make my short film, and it gave a platform to present my work,” Messmer said.

Making the film was no picnic, he said.

“Nothing could have prepared me for the amount of time and effort that a simple 15-minute short film requires,” Messmer explained.

However, as hard as the filmmaking process may have been, it was not without its rewards.

“Making the movie was



Awards await presentation for student winners of the Scripps Ranch High School Visual Arts Festival. (photo by Richard Francisco)

a lot of fun because I got to hang out with my friends a lot,” Messmer said.

“My favorite part about participating was seeing other students use their creativity to contribute to an art form that is often taken for granted,” he added.

One person who doesn’t take the art form for granted is Josh Board, a San Diego film critic for FOX 5 Television, who has reviewed movies since 1990 and attended the festival.

“I love the fact that kids nowadays can [make movies],” Board said. “That doesn’t mean it’s going to

be the best shot production in the world. When I go to a student film festival, I’m not expecting to see ‘Citizen Kane,’ or some kid that will be the next Tarantino or Scorsese. Yet I am under the assumption that at least half of these kids loved movies the way I did.”

One student who was eager to showcase his talents in the festival was Jack Izzo, who claims that the best part of the filmmaking process was “the immediate enthusiasm after we had just gotten a great take.”

“There were moments where, as soon as the cam-

era cut, we all just burst out laughing,” Izzo said.

However, Izzo, who starred in both “We Regret to Inform You” (which he co-wrote), and “Redacted,” for which Zoe Thomas won Best Screenwriting, affirmed that it was not all fun and games.

“It was surprisingly draining,” he said. “I gained a lot of respect for full-time actors who have to do that every day for 60 days or so. ... Being behind the camera is a lot of pressure.”

The Visual Arts Festival provided students the opportunity to put their cinematic talents on full display, and collaborate with others to create meaningful artwork that can inspire audiences.

“I love celebrating their work and I love when students completed something and recognize what is possible,” Francisco said.

As for Messmer, he had this to say: “To all my fellow participants: Continue making films. If you have a creative idea, turn it into a short film. Don’t worry about the quality or budget. If you keep at it, you’ll achieve those things eventually.”

## Pearls . . . The traditional birthstone of June

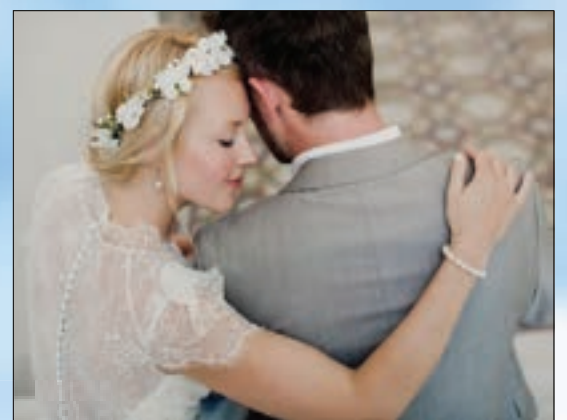
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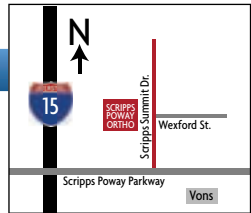




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## Students place first in world LEGO competition

By Laura Hogan

**B**rick by brick, four Dingeman Elementary School students found success at the FIRST LEGO League Jr. World Competition held April 25-27 in Houston, Texas.

Lead by coach Shreya Goel, an eighth-grade student at Marshall Middle School, second grade students Siddharth Goel, Joshua Pun, Adam Couvrette and Aarnav Jain created the team Builder Beavers and placed first in the Creative Model Award.

Goel said the team qualified for the world competition at the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) LEGO League Jr. Regional Expo hosted locally at LEGOLand Resort. While the local competition was not ranked, the team was invited to bring its model and compete at the world competition in Houston.

The 2019 challenge was titled "Mission Moon." Organizers challenged the students to think of a solution to the question: "How would you build a base on the moon to sustain human life?" They then had to build their solution out of LEGOs.

"I started by assigning each team member a different problem: how to get water, how to get food, how to get energy and health. They all did their research and brought it back to the team. One team member found a solution for bringing energy to the moon through fuel cells," Goel said.

Goel explained that through their research, the team was able to create what they called the Lunar Resource Generator. She helped the members direct their solution into building a model out of LEGOs for the competition. The model also included two motorized models that Goel taught the



Team members (from left) Aarnav Jain, Joshua Pun, Siddharth Goel, Adam Couvrette and coach Shreya Goel pose next to their award-winning LEGO model at the FIRST LEGO competition in Houston, Texas. (photo courtesy of Nidhi Goel)

members how to program. The final piece of the competition was preparing the members for the presentation of their ideas.

"I was surprised just to make it to worlds and, while our ultimate goal was to make it to the top of the competition, it was huge just to participate. It was a great experience just to meet people from all over the world," Goel said.

Their remarkable model was among 60 other participating teams from all over the world. Nidhi Goel, parent mentor and Shreya's mother, said team members expanded their knowledge exponentially through the entire experience.

"LEGO is STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math). But, it is also about presenting your ideas and doing the research part of it and problem solving. I have always felt that this program boosts the kids' confidence while increasing their knowledge," Nidhi Goel said.

Both Nidhi and Shreya Goel said they hope the Builder Beavers' success inspires other teams to form and they would be happy to assist with the process.

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The Mighty Untouchables plan to bring its full 10-musician lineup for the Symphony in the Park season opener on June 9. (courtesy photo)

## Symphony in the Park concerts return

By Ken David

Good times and great tunes return when the Scripps Ranch Symphony in the Park free concert series kicks off its 34th season with the classic rock and Top 40 sound of The Mighty Untouchables, 6-7:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 9 at Hoyt Park.

Now is a good time to mark your calendars for the full season. In addition to The Mighty Untouchables on June 9, July 14 features '80s covers and fun from Beta Maxx. Aug. 11 brings the danceable grooves of the Detroit Underground. Sept. 8 sees the Young Guns present a tribute to the superstars of country music; and Dec. 8 is the series' traditional holiday concert with Santa and friends. All shows will be at Hoyt Park except for the holiday show, which will be held at Jerebek Park.

The Mighty Untouchables brought their high-energy classic rock and dance show to previous summer concerts in Scripps Ranch. The band formed about 10 years ago, according to bandleader Mark Fulton, a resident of nearby Sabre Springs. The group of experienced musicians and singers includes veterans of the U.S. Navy Band. Fulton said that for the Concerts in the Park season opener, the band will bring its full 10-musician lineup, including a horn section.

"In the concert, we do a lot of dance stuff, but for this show, we'll also do a lot of classic rock," Fulton said. "We'll probably do some Queen, too. A lot of people want to hear Queen these days."

This local summer concert

tradition is arranged and presented by the nonprofit, all-volunteer Scripps Ranch Symphony in the Park organization. In addition to providing entertainment and an opportunity for area residents to get together and enjoy their community, Scripps Ranch Symphony in the Park helps keep music alive through donations to local schools. Since 2011, the organization has donated

\$24,600 to local school music programs.

Those planning to attend the 2019 concerts should know that while picnics are welcome, only low-to-the-ground chairs are allowed, no dogs are allowed and attendees cannot bring plastic tarps. To find more information, including how to support the Symphony in the Park concert series, visit [symphonyinthepark.org](http://symphonyinthepark.org).



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The Tussey garden consists of two major aspects: The flora and the architecture. (courtesy photo)

**Garden Club digs into soil basics**

By Denise Stewart

The June meeting of the Scripps Mesa Garden Club will be on Tuesday, June 25 at 6 p.m. at the Scripps Ranch Library Community Room. After a short social time and brief business meeting, a talk on gardening basics and necessities for success will be conducted. Some simple experiments and strategies for improving garden soil and the odds of selecting and growing healthy plants will be demonstrated. Mike Stewart will be the speaker.

“As a tenderfoot gardener, I have had to give myself a crash course on pretty much everything. I started with trying to understand my soil. In doing so, I found some quick and dirty tricks (pun intended) that you may find interesting, if not handy,” Stewart said. “I’d like to share the basics of soil texture and a few do-it-yourself tests that any of us can do with materials we already have lying around at home or in our garage. Once you determine what your soil is all about, you can choose plants that should do well in it.

An exchange of ideas and experiences pertaining to soil improvement is to follow. A plant share will end the meeting.

A garden tour of an exceptional backyard here in Scripps Ranch was the program for the May meeting. The beauty and uniqueness of this garden was a delight for the club members. It was the second local garden tour of this growing season organized by Helen Plutner and Lynnell Hallock.

According to host Mike Tussey, “Our garden consists of two major aspects: The flora and the architecture. The flora is flower producing plants, which are strewn about in something resembling an English Garden, or perhaps, something reminiscent of a French, Mille Fleurs tapestry.”

Here, Ina Tussey “has created a tasteful symphony of See **GARDEN CLUB**, Page 11

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## 'Move Over Mrs. Markham' brings farce to SRT

By Ken David

A busy stage and a healthy dose of British humor are in store for local playgoers when Scripps Ranch Theatre (SRT) presents "Move Over Mrs. Markham," May 31-June 30.

Written by Ray Cooney and John Chapman, the play is described as a "hectic British farce full of laugh-inducing misunderstandings, mix-ups and mistaken identities" among a group of couples who each think they have an empty London flat to themselves.

Owners of the flat, Philip and Joanna Markham, have each, without telling the other, given a friend permission to use the place on the same date for a romantic rendezvous. As it turns out, the interior designer hired to renovate the flat decided to have his au pair friend visit on the same night. When all three sets of people converge on the apartment, chaos and comedy ensue.

Director Francis Gercke predicts the play's unexpected twists and turns will keep both the audience and the actors on their heels, in the funniest and most entertaining way.

"The characters have a definite plan for how they want the day to go and at every turn, things go awry," he said. "Just when it seems like something is working out like the characters intend, a wrench is thrown into the works."

Gercke, who previously directed "Tribute" and "Loves and Hours" at SRT, added that "Move Over Mrs. Markham" is also something of a funny math problem.

"You get to the point where you wonder how this is ever going to work out," he said. "Somehow, in true British style, it does."

The cast includes Leigh



The cast of "Move Over Mrs. Markham," including director Francis Gercke (center), prepare for their upcoming performances at Scripps Ranch Theatre. (photo by Daren Scott)

Akin as Joanna Markham, Alex Guzman as Phillip Markham, Kate Reynolds as Linda Lodge, John DeCarlo as Henry Lodge, Colette Culbertson as Sylvie, Jill Drexler as Olive Harriet Smyth, Chris Szabo as Walter Pangbourne and Kylie Young as Felicity Jan Wilkinson. This will be the first SRT performance for Akin, Culbertson and Szabo.

Filled with laughs, the play offers a respite for those seeking an escape from their own busy, hectic lives, according to Gercke.

"A play like this provides a respite from the complications of the real world," he said. "I think it's an absolutely delightful day or night at the theater."

Scripps Ranch Theatre is on the campus of Alliant International University, 9783 Avenue of Nations. "Move Over Mrs. Markham" begins its run May 31 and will play Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through June 30. To reserve seats, call (858) 578-7728. For ticket price information, visit scrippsranchtheatre.org.

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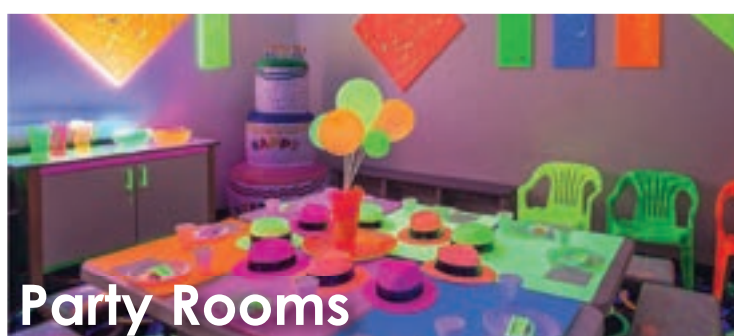
### GARDEN CLUB

Continued from Page 10

color and texture, where the exotic is combined with the banal."

Some of the garden Club members took an excursion to the Carlsbad Flower Fields to view the spectacular spring colors. Susan Castellana organized the event and is planning more adventures to nearby horticultural attractions.

Gardeners of Scripps Ranch and Mira Mesa who would like to take part in the club's activities may contact the President Bob Gale at rgale1943@gmail.com.



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# Robert 'Bob' Edward Dingeman: 1922-2019

By John Gregory

**B**ob Dingeman, known as Mr. Scripps Ranch because of his extensive activities as a civic leader in this community, passed away May 4.

Bob Dingeman was born in 1922 on the Philippine Islands where his father was assigned to the Coast Artillery. Dingeman's father, Ray Dingeman, was an Army captain at the time, commanding the island fortress called Fort Drum.

Later in life, Dingeman began attending the University of Hawaii, joining the school's ROTC program. He was present when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

Dingeman had a desire to attend West Point and competed for an appointment. When the legendary Admiral Chester Nimitz, commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet during WWII, learned that Dingeman scored the highest when applying, he helped him get accepted to the academy.

"I think the thing that impressed me most about West Point was the very high sense of duty, honor, country," Dingeman stated.

Dingeman was dating his future wife, Gaye, while he attended West Point. The couple got married the day after he graduated in 1945.

Dingeman served in the U.S. Army in WWII, fought in the Korean War and in Vietnam. He commanded large artillery units in combat. He oversaw nuclear weapons. He survived several helicopter crashes in Vietnam. He served many times as a valuable staff officer, assisting with historic efforts during times of occupation, rebuilding, ending conflicts and deterring war.

He said that he doesn't like

to dwell on the horrible things about his experiences in war. Instead, he chooses to think of the good things. "I think of the American soldiers," he said. "They're wonderful."

He retired from the Army as a colonel, having earned most of the military's highest medals for service, heroism, sacrifice and accomplishments.

Upon his retirement, Dingeman was offered a job as vice president with a large defense contractor. He turned it down because he didn't agree with the company's ethics when dealing with U.S. defense contracts, he said.

Instead, he and Gaye toured the U.S. and Canada in a motor home.

They visited San Diego and eventually decided to settle down in Scripps Ranch. As a civilian, Dingeman put his advanced education to work (he had four master's degrees), and taught classes at Miramar College.

He soon put his energy into serving on local committees in San Diego and became involved in developing the Scripps Ranch Civic Association (SRCA). Today, there is little in Scripps Ranch that he wasn't involved with in some way. He did an enormous amount of volunteer work in the community, starting from a time when few homes stood anywhere near his own. His home was filled with mementos, news clippings and awards from his civic activism, as well as ribbons, medals, photos and displays from his time in the Army. However, his civil-

ian commendations are so numerous that it's impossible to list them all. So great are his contributions to this area that Dingeman Elementary School bears his name.

The San Diego City Council honored him by declaring a "Bob Dingeman Day" on nine occasions. He was voted Scripps Ranch Citizen of the Year at least six times. A scholarship program is named in his honor. The SRCA designated him President Emeritus for Life.

He served on more than twenty boards, foundations and committees. He held every board position on the SRCA at least once. He served on both planning groups in Scripps Ranch and helped author award-winning community plans.

"There's nothing I'm not involved in," he said back in 1989. "There were so many things I'd felt needed to be done ... I've devoted at least 40 hours of every week to doing community activities."

Yet, not all his dealings with the residents were rosy. There were those who didn't agree with him, and he sometimes struggled to gain enough volunteers for community projects and events. He once wrote: "I found that Scripps Ranch was composed of many self-reliant people, none of whom really wanted to work with others despite the need."

Nevertheless, he worked tirelessly to help get infrastructure secured for the community as it grew. He stressed patience to new SRCA officers and wrote

that the most important goal is "getting things done for the Ranch."

He urged Scripps Ranch residents to get involved instead of complaining about something that had already been discussed and decided upon. He referred to a saying: "A very small clique runs Scripps Ranch. This very small clique is spelled v-o-l-u-n-t-e-e-r."

## Some little-known facts:

Dingeman was co-founder of the San Diego Christmas Tree Recycling Program. He helped found and served as treasurer and fundraiser of the San Diego Friends of Park and Recreation Foundation. While a history instructor at Miramar College, Dingeman taught a complete generation of new citizens attending his classes to qualify for U.S. citizenship. Dingeman had one vice – he liked to sip a can of Coke once each day.

During an interview in 1989, Dingeman offered some advice regarding young people, a view that carries as much meaning today as it did then: "Don't try and curb all their natural instincts ... I think we make too much of the kids who get in trouble and not enough of those who don't. They live in a very confusing world."

He obviously delighted in his role as a community leader: "It's been a blast," Dingeman once said.

Col. Bob Dingeman is survived by Gaye Dingeman, his beloved wife of 74 years; son Dr. Robert D. Dingeman; daughter Susan C. Dingeman; as well as grandchildren and great grandchildren.

*Editor's note: The preceding was compiled from past conversations and interviews I had with Bob Dingeman, as well as from documents he placed in his old brown satchel and once allowed me to borrow.*



Col. Bob Dingeman  
(photo by John Gregory)

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE

The public is invited to join the Dingeman family for a Celebration of Life for Col. Bob Dingeman on Sunday, May 26 at 3 p.m. in Hoyt Park.

The event will include music, tributes and special memories, according to the Scripps Ranch Civic Association. Residents are encouraged to bring cards or photos to give to the Dingeman family.

## COUNCILMAN SENDS CONDOLENCES

I am so sad to learn of the passing of Col. Bob Dingeman, 96 years young and a man we all knew as Mr. Scripps Ranch.

Nobody has been a stronger advocate for his community than Col. Dingeman, and I considered it a privilege every time we had the chance to talk.

My deepest sympathy and condolences go out to his wife Gaye, and to his entire family.

Rest In Peace, Colonel Dingeman.

– Mark Kersey

San Diego City Councilman, District 5

## WAR AND PEACE

I met Bob Dingeman in 1988 when I was editor of the Mira Mesa/Scripps Ranch Sentinel. During 1988-1989 I spoke with him at least once each week. He wanted to make sure our readers understood every aspect of every project he headed. Bob Dingeman and I had a professional relationship – as it should be between a journalist and a source. When I published a biographical article about him on Jan. 5, 1989, these things struck me:

- 1) He casually mentioned he served as a negotiator in the Middle East on arms control and delivery of weapons, and I realized he was involved behind the scenes in many historic events – more than he would admit.
- 2) While describing one of the helicopter crashes he survived in Vietnam he stated, "And, John, I'm a good fighter." Yes, he certainly was.

There was a 28-year gap in our acquaintance, but when we met again, it was as if no time had passed: instant communication. I like the fact that he was direct. You always knew where he stood. He was always respectful toward me. He was intelligent enough to know the importance of maintaining an open relationship with the press. His leadership in Scripps Ranch cannot be duplicated.

The most impressive thing about Dingeman: he demonstrated how a long-time warrior can become a civilian contributing to his community in great ways. He was a man of both war and peace.

—John Gregory



## Bob Dingeman's military Career

- At Pearl Harbor during attack 1941
- Bodyguard of Hawaiian Gov. Poin-dexter
- West Point graduate 1945
- Served in Japan following WWII; intelligence
- Trained in arctic/mountain rescue
- Korean War: 27th RCT, 8th Field Arty.
- Advanced degrees in mechanical engineering, guided missiles, electrical engineering and nuclear physics
- Planning officer for Nike Zeus missile system in Colo. Springs
- On three ad hoc committees at the presidential level
- Nuclear weapons/guided missiles project officer; military assistance officer, HQ Paris, France. Assignments: Europe, Middle East.
- Commanded the 16th Field Artillery Honest John missile delivery unit on the Czech border
- Personal assistant to Secretary of Defense as trouble shooter: Pakistan, Malaya, Singapore, Tehran
- Volunteered for duty in Vietnam
- Served at the Army War College as director of Strategic Intelligence Planning, Soviet Union
- Chief of staff at Army Test Evaluation Command, Aberdeen Proving Ground
- Participated in 16 combat campaigns.

## Col. Bob Dingeman's distinguished military career

By John Gregory

*The following are excerpts from an interview with Col. Bob Dingeman conducted at his home in May 2017. His stories are a treasure of military exploits, examples of leadership and heroism. He began with this account of action when he was an artillery captain serving in the Korean War:*

"We were supporting the 27th Infantry and the Chinese had fired on my unit. ... I had the 105 (mm) howitzers ... firing as rapidly as we could ...

"Unfortunately, an incoming round came in and hit the camouflage. Luckily, no one was killed. We had a few men wounded, but the fragments fell into the ready ammunition.

"The ammunition was going off like rockets. I evacuated the men from the firing position. Then I was able, with the Lord's help, to pick up these fountaining projectiles that were so hot, and I took them across the road and laid them in the ditch and so forth.

"One of my sergeants ... wrote on a piece of scrap paper. It said, 'I think the old man needs to be decorated for his heroism.' He handed this scrap of paper to the commanding general of the 25th Division. ... the end result was that I received the Soldier's Medal, which is the highest award of any Army person during non-combat operations."

Although he likely deserved a higher honor, Dingeman beamed with pride.

"When the time came for it to be awarded to me, I had come back to the United States. I was the plans officer at the Field Artillery Replacement Training Center at Fort Sill (Oklahoma) and I was able to arrange a parade for my father (an Army colonel) who was retiring," Dingeman stated. "That was my father's last official act ... to present me with the Soldier's Medal. So, that, out of all my awards and decorations, has a wonderful feeling for me."

Dingeman lifted his arm and stared at it for a moment.

"The only trouble is," he said as he paused for a few seconds, eyeing his scarred hand. "It wrecked my hand. But with the Lord's help, I was able to overcome it."

### Hawaii, Japan, Korea, Europe, Vietnam

As fate would have it, Dingeman was attending the University of Hawaii, participating in the school's ROTC program when Japanese bombers and fighters attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. He grabbed an old Springfield rifle and began firing at the attacking planes.

"One plane was shot down fairly close. I shot at it. Whether I hit it is problematical. ... it crashed," he said.

Dingeman declined to speak more about that tragic day.

"I won't dwell on the things I did because they bring up bad memories," he said.

Dingeman was eventually accepted to West Point. After graduation and artillery training, he was shipped overseas for the planned invasion of Japan, but the war ended, making the invasion unnecessary. Instead, he served with the U.S. occupying force in Japan.

Not long after the Korean War broke out, Dingeman was ordered to take an artillery battery to Korea.

"We became famous in the Korean War ... 'You call, we shoot,'" he said. "Whenever things got tough, we were thrown in over and over."

Following the Korean War, Dingen-



Brig. Gen. Joseph Sladen Bradley (left), commanding general, 25th Infantry Division, awards the Silver Star to Capt. Robert E. Dingeman during ceremonies in Korea, June 10, 1951. (U.S. Army photo)

man earned advanced degrees revolving around missiles and nuclear physics. The Army made good use of his knowledge.

"I commanded the Honest John nuclear delivery unit of the 4th Armored Division on the Czechoslovakian border," Dingeman explained. "I had the golden key to control the nuclear weapons. The other person with the golden key was the president of the United States. We had ultra-secret double checking and so forth. My unit was to provide the nuclear weapons that if the Soviets came through the Fulda Gap, my unit would stop the Soviet armor as they came through."

What was it like to oversee weapons that could destroy entire armies and cities?

"Terrible," he said slowly.

As the Vietnam War was underway, Dingeman found himself as an assistant to Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara. One of his projects was to find out what was causing the new M-16 rifle to break down in the field, and make recommendations about how to fix it. Dingeman came up with a list of 26 items. McNamara accepted them all and ordered a wavering four-star general to make the changes. While the resulting changes saved the rifle and numerous lives in battle, that general never forgot the incident and was the same one who later voted against Dingeman's promotion to general. Therefore, when Dingeman was sent to Vietnam to take command of the 52nd Artillery Group, he did so as a colonel even though the position was normally held by a brigadier general.

Dingeman was responsible for artillerymen and artillery guns of all sizes in Vietnam. On one occasion, he was using his helicopter to evacuate a sergeant who had been wounded. Enemy fire hit Dingeman's chopper and it crashed, smashing into the jungle floor.

"The sergeant wrote a note on a piece of paper: 'This is my first helicopter ride and I hope it is not my last.'" Dingeman said. "I told him we'd be out of it. ... Well, some (North Vietnamese Army) soldiers came and I was able to drive them off. ... There were only six of them, so it was no problem."

Dingeman, the wounded sergeant and the chopper crew were eventually hoisted onto a rescue helicopter and taken to safety.

Dingeman was assigned as the deputy chief of staff on General William Westmoreland's staff. He said he and one other officer had the duty of working out details of a peace plan to end the U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War.

"The only difficulty is — that ain't the way you fight wars. If you're a graduate of West Point, you fight a war and you win a war," he said. "The peace plan was adopted and we pulled out of Vietnam."

*The full, three-part series about Bob Dingeman's military career can be viewed on ScrippsRanchNews.com at bit.ly/2vOchhm.*

### KOREAN WAR MEDALS: OFFICIAL ACCOUNTS

#### Silver Star

"... During the early morning hours of 27 November 1950, Captain Dingeman's Battery was alerted for an imminent hostile attack. Although under the direct observation and fire of the enemy, he made a detailed reconnaissance of a nearby hill to establish an outpost line. When the infiltrating enemy emplaced a machine gun on a commanding ridge, he repeatedly exposed himself to the deadly fire to encourage his men and to direct more effectively the perimeter defense. By skillfully coordinating the action of the supporting infantry with that of his own command, he enabled friendly forces to regain the initiative and drive the foe to flight ..."



#### Bronze Star

"... Captain Dingeman's battery was under heavy attack by infiltrating enemy near Ipsok, Korea, on 27 November 1950. Despite the proximity of the enemy and the intensity of small arms and automatic weapons fire, he constantly exposed himself, to direct the fire of his men until the enemy were driven back and his position secured. Captain Dingeman's courage, determination and exemplary leadership reflect great credit upon himself and the military service."



### BOB DINGEMAN: COMMENDATIONS

Silver Star (heroism)

Bronze Star (3 awards for valor, 4 awards for combat service)

Soldier's Medal (bravery)

Purple Heart (wounds)

Legion of Merit (5 awards for outstanding service)

Meritorious Service Medal for Outstanding Service

Air Medal (11 awards and "V" device for aerial combat missions)

Commendation Medal (3 awards and "V" device)

Cross of Gallantry, Vietnam (with star for heroism)

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Occupation Forces Medal Japan

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Korean Special Combat Award

United Nations Medal Korean War

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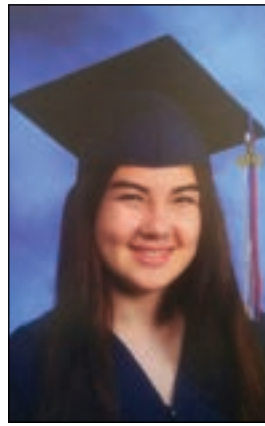
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Congratulations Savannah Ashley on your HS graduation from the SD School of Creative and Performing Arts with a degree emphasis in Musical Theater. We are thrilled you will be attending Belmont University in Nashville, TN Fall 2019 to study Commercial Music with an emphasis in Music Technology. We love you! Daddy, Momma and Addison



Happy Graduation to Amanda Levy and best wishes at George Washington University in DC! We are so proud of you! Love, Mom and Dad



Gracie, Congratulations!! We are so proud of you and all your accomplishments. We couldn't be more excited to watch your future unfold. Cal Poly SLO is lucky to have you. We'll miss you so much! Love, Mom, Dad, Zoe, Olivia and Ivy



Congratulations Jared! You made it! We couldn't be more proud of you. We wish you continued success at the next level. We love you! Mom, Dad and Ethan.



Alexis ~ Dream Big, Follow Your Heart, Have Faith ~ Love Mom and Dad



Blake, I couldn't be more proud of you and all that you have accomplished!! All your hard work paid off! I'm so excited for you! Congratulations! We love you so much!! Mom and Madison

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# WD-40 calls Scripps Ranch home

By Ken David

**S**cripps Ranch is home to a world-wide business giant, makers of a product so successful that it's something of an icon. That business is the WD-40 Company. According to the company's website, the WD-40 Multi-Use Product — with more than 2,000 documented uses — can be found in four out of five American households and is used by 81 percent of trade professionals. Every week, they sell more than 1 million cans in the United States alone.

The publicly traded WD-40 Company, makers of WD-40 Multi-Use Product, moved into its 9715 Business Park Ave. location in August 2017, according to Scripps Ranch resident and WD-40 Company Director of Investor Relations and Corporate Communications Wendy Kelley.

"We were located in the Morena area since the '70s, but we outgrew that location," Kelley said. "When I got the news that we were moving to Scripps Ranch, I was very happy."

Scripps Ranch now serves as its main corporate headquarters, including the office of the CEO, CFO and other executives. The headquarters staff handles everything the company needs to sell its products in the United States, including sales and marketing, supply chain, financing and accounting. The U.S. staff also helps with sales and marketing efforts in Canada and Latin America. Approximately 125 workers are at the Scripps Ranch office, but the company's entire roster includes 485 employees. A corporate office in London manages WD-40's European business, and the company also has smaller offices in other parts of the world.

"We have a unique business model where we don't manufacture anything; we use contract manufacturers to manufacture our product all over the world," Kelley said. "We manufacture in about 15 locations; two to four in the United States, (plus others) in the UK, continental Europe, China, Australia, Brazil and Korea. Our goal is to manufacture the product as close to the end user as possible and not be exporting cans all over."

For a long time, the company manufactured only its flagship multi-use product, now available in several formulations, containers



WD-40 Company employees pose in the Scripps Ranch headquarters location which the company occupied in 2017. (courtesy of WD-40 Company)

and applicators to fit specific needs. The company now also boasts a Specialist line of products. The Specialist range includes high-performance products for lubrication, greasing, penetration, rust management, and cleaning and degreasing.

"They're very niche products, primarily focused on the end user that maybe does maintenance, repair or overhaul as part of their job versus someone like me who maybe sprays a little WD-40 on a hinge from time to time," Kelley said.

The company has also developed Specialist Bike and Motorcycle lines made for these machines' specific lubrication needs. Other com-

panies and products now owned by WD-40 include 3-In-One Oil, Lava soap, Spot Shot carpet stain remover and Carpet Fresh. The company also owns a handful of brands sold only overseas.

With a proud history and solid home base footing, the WD-40 Company is looking to expand its business in new markets.

"We have really good market penetration in places like the United States, Canada, UK, and Australia, but in the rest of the countries where we do business, we're barely scraping the surface," Kelley said. "Our primary objective is to continue to introduce WD-40 Multi-Use Product to the rest of the world."

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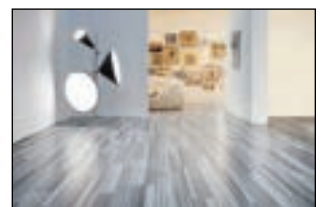
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Attending the Scripps Ranch Women's Club Membership Brunch are (from left) Wendy Higgins, Marianne Marion and Madeline Pantalone. (courtesy photo)



Others enjoying the Scripps Ranch Women's Club Membership Brunch are (from left) Anne McClure, Laura Wright and Elaine Scott. (courtesy photo)

# The Women's Club: Why we joined

By Mary Ann Harper

The Scripps Ranch Women's Club consists of women of diverse backgrounds and interests. As with any organization, the members of the Women's Club joined this group for a variety of reasons. Here is what four members shared:

"I especially love the op-

portunity to make new friends among such an interesting, intelligent and dynamic group of women." – Barbara Wesser

"It is easy to participate at any level you are comfortable with. The amount of time or number of activities you participate in is up to the individual."

– Beth Surrell.

"I've thoroughly enjoyed

the past 29 years in the Scripps Ranch Women's Club, with its opportunities to meet new people, keep in touch with longtime friends and enrich the community in which we all live."

– Lynn Parke

"When I joined the Women's Club, I immediately got involved with the Scholarship Committee that awards college scholarships

and empowers young women by letting them know we believe in them and their potential. What a rewarding experience!" – Mary Rea

## Scholarship Time!

The Women's Club Scholarship Committee has reviewed the applications and conducted interviews with the candidates for our annual scholarships. These

applications were received from female students who will be graduating this year from Scripps Ranch High School (SRHS). The scholarships will be announced at the SRHS Awards Assembly in late May, and the winners and their mothers will be invited to our Women's Club Annual Dinner Meeting in July, to give our members a chance to meet them.

## Socializing!

Each month the Women's Club provides opportunities for a variety of engaging activities. There are pre-theater parties, bridge groups, bunco groups, a book club, walking and hiking groups, happy hours and enrichment outings. This month the Women's Club book club selection is "Before We Were Yours," by Lisa Wingate. This month's pre-theater gathering is at Judy and Phil Gagnan's home on June 14. Immediately following this gathering, Women's Club members will see the Scripps Ranch Theatre production of "Move Over, Mrs. Markham."

On June 26, the Happy Hour will be at Yanni's Patio Lounge.

If you are looking for ways to have a good time, to meet new friends, and possibly to give back to your community, Scripps Ranch Women's Club can help you make those connections! To learn more about joining the Women's Club, contact Connie Curran at (858) 775-7703 or Denise Hampton at (858) 361-7118. More information on the Women's Club can be found on its website at: [srwomenclub.org](http://srwomenclub.org).



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Dan Brenner, treasurer and two-time president of the Rotary Club of Poway-Scripps.

### Rotary Club: 'Service Above Self'

By Hoyt Smith

Whether producing a parade, painting the Boys and Girl's Club or assisting a pediatric patient, the Rotary Club of Poway-Scripps is a pillar of the local community and a portal to worldwide projects.

Most residents will recognize the service organization's many contributions in their neighborhood, but as Club spokesman Dan Brenner pointed out, the Rotary Club is international in scope, with networks all across the globe.

"As a member, you can make an impact around the block or in a rural village in Africa," he said.

Of course, there is a lot of business-to-business networking among Rotarians, with opportunities to meet civic and community leaders or mingle with executives, business owners and well-connected people who know a lot of others in one's own backyard.

"We provide a strong web of opportunity with a chance to plug in and get connected at the grassroots level," said Brenner, president of Bren-Tech, Inc., an award-winning IT solutions company that is celebrating 34 years of business.

Brenner has served twice as president and currently serves as treasurer of Rotary Club of Poway-Scripps.

Over the years, Brenner said that the service club has had a very important presence in Poway and Scripps Ranch, even at the most basic level. He cited many instances in which club members help neighbors with yardwork or maintenance.

"There's a comradery among Rotarians, and it makes us appreciate what we have and what we can do to help others," Brenner said. "Even though we live in an affluent area, there are many people here who need and benefit from our assistance."

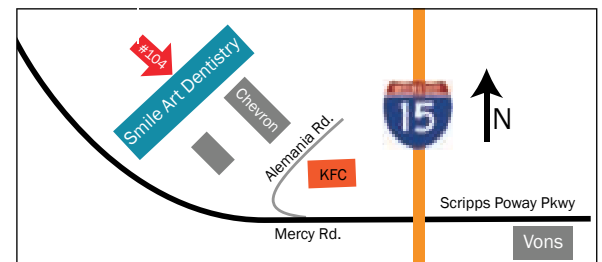
Members helped with a community clean-up in Scripps Ranch last month. They volunteer for Red Shoe  
See **ROTARY CLUB**, Page 18

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### ROTARY CLUB

*Continued from Page 17*

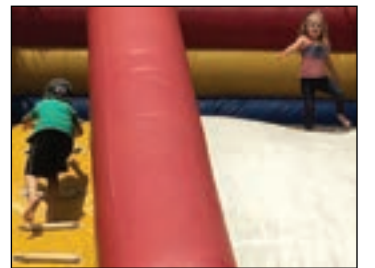
Day as well, standing on the corner at busy intersections and collecting money for Ronald McDonald House. There is a Rotarian work detail that is committed to painting the Boys and Girls Club in Poway, and Brenner also mentioned the sponsorship of a child who is currently undergoing cancer treatment at Children's Hospital.

The big project for Rotary Club of Poway-Scripps is the upcoming Poway Rotary Parade on Sept. 7.

"We took that over from the city and we see it as a community service, but also an opportunity for fundraising to support our different projects," Brenner said. "We're already having meetings and there's a whole bunch of stuff to do. We could use some helping hands."

Rotary Club speakers for May meetings included Karen Cebros, CEO of Earth's Choice and a pioneer of organic, fairly traded coffee; and Pete Griffith of the La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club, who presented an update on providing emergency shelters and tools for displaced families all over the world.

*For more information on upcoming events and speakers, or joining the Rotary Club of Poway-Scripps, visit [bit.ly/2W2LCMo](http://bit.ly/2W2LCMo) or [Bit.ly/2LFgzm7](http://Bit.ly/2LFgzm7).*



*Youngsters enjoy an inflatable slide at a past Scripps Ranch Swim & Racquet Club Memorial Day Celebration.*

### SRSRC celebrates Memorial Day

The Scripps Ranch Swim & Racquet Club (SRSRC) will hold its 45th annual Memorial Day Celebration at its 9875 Aviary Drive location on Monday, May 27, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The celebration includes inflatables, family fun, games and music. A BMX freestyle stunt performance will take place from 1 to 2 p.m. Challenge the tennis pros from noon to 2 p.m. Attendees may bring picnics, and food trucks will be on site, including American Flavors and LouZiana.

The event is free for SRSRC members. Guests are welcome with guest passes. Visit [srsrc.com](http://srsrc.com).

# MOVE OVER, MRS. MARKHAM

by ray cooney and john chapman

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# Welcome Club went out to the ballpark

By Denise Stewart

The month of April had a Grand Slam ending in a Welcome Club Gadabout adventure on a conducted tour of Petco Park. While the Padres were out of town, the Welcome Club members got to tour some of the very exclusive and very expensive areas of the hometown team's facility. From seats in the press box to a tour of the gourmet restaurant just behind home plate to the visiting team's locker room, the ladies were introduced to parts of the sport's facility few fans ever get to visit.

The tour of Petco Park was followed by lunch at Bub's Restaurant just down the street. Bub's menu offered the ladies a baseball flavored menu that hit a homerun with the crowd.

The Gadabouts Chair Pam Savelsberg and Coffee Klatch Chair Denise Stewart teamed up in May to entertain the group to a very special event at the Cosmopolitan Hotel in Old Town. A Victorian high tea complete with bonnets, raised pinkies, delicate sandwiches and pastries was enjoyed by club members in the restored hotel's "Sala."

Coffee klatches in a member's home are a monthly event for Welcome Clubbers, but this catered Victorian tea was a special occasion.

A quarterly party for members, known as the Birthday Babes, was hosted by Ann Schiebelhut at her home. Lunch, laughter and friendship were on the menu. Many of the ladies with spring birthdays joined the celebration of their special days.

As usual for most months, in May the book clubs met, the dice got rolled, cards got played, the trails got walked, the crafters did their creative thing. But the annual election and Installation of Officers at the regular meeting on the second Monday was an especially festive affair.

To celebrate and show their appreciation for the women who work behind the scenes to make all the fun happen, the Welcome Club rolled out pizza, cake and treats to toast the newly elected officers and those retiring from their positions. Members recognized the contributions and achievements of those who put forth the talent, time and effort to make the club



The Welcome Club of Scripps Ranch tours Petco Park. (courtesy photo)

the vibrant circle of friends that it is. Each of the officers received a small gift as a token of the club's appreciation.

To commemorate all the fun the club enjoyed, club Co-Chair Dorothy Mildice, an accomplished photographer, displayed a montage she created with pictures of the interest groups and special activities of the last

year.

One of the highlights celebrated was the growth of membership. The Scripps Ranch Welcome Club now has 140 ladies on its roster. Each of the new members present was introduced to the gathering.

Early in June, a Gadabouts outing for lunch and to view the play "Menopause the Musical" at the Welk

Theater is on the agenda.

Next, Kathy and Alan Binks will host the pre-theater small plate dinner on June 8. With sated appetites, members will then go to the final performance of Scripps Ranch Theater's current season, "Move Over Mrs. Markham."

At the June general meeting on the 10th, an expert in Tai Chi, Grandmaster Park-

er Linekin, will speak about an area of concern for many older adults. He will demonstrate positions to assist us in maintaining our balance.

Linekin has been studying and teaching martial arts for more than 50 years. He is the founder and head instructor of The Academy of Martial Arts where he teaches Tai Chi and several forms of martial arts.

In the middle of the month, a TGI is set for the 15th, the interest group gatherings and lots of friendship are also on the calendar. This TGI will be the first of the outdoor party season and members look forward to bringing along their husbands and friends to this early evening potluck affair.

During the last week of the month, the regular monthly Coffee Klatch will be hosted by Lynnell Hallock at her home.

You can find information about the Welcome Club as well as contact names and numbers on its website. Should you be interested in learning more, check scrippsranchwelcomeclub.com.

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The decision on the appropriate successor was taken with careful consideration. I was very

fortunate to come across Dr. Luna, who is a perfect fit for the office. I feel very comfortable leaving the care of the practice in his very capable hands.

As for my family, we are off on a new adventure in Arizona!

I wish the best to everyone,  
Dr. Huttenhoff

"I am excited for the opportunity to continue the **high quality of care** that both Dr. Stanton and Dr. Huttenhoff provided before me."

Dr. Fabian Luna is a native San Diegan who grew up in the community of Clairemont. He attended Longfellow Elementary, Kroc Middle and Madison High School. Like Dr. Huttenhoff, he also attended UCSB for his undergraduate studies. Afterwards, he attended the UC Berkeley School of Optometry where he received honors in clinical care and also completed an externship at the prestigious Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami, Florida.



After graduating from Berkeley, he briefly worked with the UCSD Eyemobile for children, then spent 8 years performing pre and postoperative care with a local refractive surgeon.

More recently, he has been performing general optometry in Chula Vista, California. When he's not working, Dr. Luna enjoys cheering for the Padres and spending time with his wife and daughter.



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# Lacrosse team enjoys incredible season

By John Gregory

The 2019 Scripps Ranch High School women's lacrosse team is a powerhouse. It was so strong this season that it was highly ranked state-wide all year, and the team defeated most competition by lopsided scores.

The Lady Falcons are so talented that they sliced their way through the CIF San Diego Section Girls Lacrosse Championships Open Division post-season bracket to the championship game; first by beating Del Norte 18-5 on May 11 in the quarterfinals, then by trouncing a good San Marcos team 19-4 in the semi-finals on May 15. The Scripps Ranch players earned the opportunity to

avenge one of only two regular season losses as they were scheduled to play La Jolla High in the championship game on Saturday, May 18 (beyond press time for this issue).

Earlier in the season, Scripps Ranch lost to La Jolla in an overtime thriller on April 10. The team's only other defeat was against a strong Harriton High School team from Pennsylvania in a special East Coast-West Coast match-up on April 16.

Scripps Ranch head coach Michele Uhlfelder stated her team's lacrosse skill set, team speed and team philosophy sets them apart.

"They really pay attention to detail and they're very competitive. They make practices competitive and they really work hard at

practices," Uhlfelder said, adding that this translates to the games. "They feel prepared and they feel excited to play and they grind it out. They don't stop working."

She explained that the team has excellent leaders and the players take leadership responsibilities at all levels. The team culture has been outstanding, Uhlfelder said.

Team captain Jolie Riedell and Ella Brislin lead the team statistically in many categories, Uhlfelder stated. Attackers Natalie Markman, Jaiden Stepnowski and Kayden Williamson have made major contributions that are also showing up in the stat lines, she said.

The transition game has been strong. Midfielders such as Mara Zajac, Brislin and Riedell have been working well together and their fitness has paid off, Uhlfelder said. Draw specialist Leiden Huber has also played an important role, although she has had to deal with a knee injury.

The lack of scoring by opponents is a testament to how the defensive unit has been one big workhorse all season. Key contributors on defense include Adah Anderson and Ashly McGratten, as well as goalie Ali Richardson-Pepper.

"They've really invested – not just physically, but

mentally – in each other and the team concept. We're seeing that in how balanced our scoring is. We have a lot of girls scoring," Uhlfelder said. "We're seeing it in the contributions that all the girls are making. ... It's heightened their sense of comradery and heightened their sense of pride."

Uhlfelder explained this special season came together partly because the players brought all their experiences and skills from club play, camps and clinics, then focused on what they could do together as a team.

Having a highly accomplished coach is another reason. Uhlfelder was a four-year starter and First Team All American at the University of Maryland; a two-time gold medalist on the U.S. Women's World Cup Team; an inductee of the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame; and the all-time winningest coach of the Stanford women's lacrosse team.

*Photos  
by  
Ralph  
LoVuolo*



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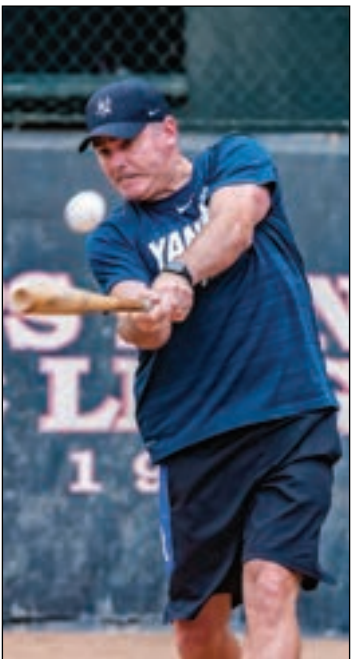
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Participants in the annual parent/coach home run derby (above and below) swung away during the Scripps Ranch Little League BBQ and Movie Night on May 10. (photo by Ralph LoVuolo)



(photo by Ralph LoVuolo)



Scripps Ranch Little League dedicated its new scoreboard to the 2018 Intermediate Division All-Star team. (photo by Ralph LoVuolo)

## LITTLE LEAGUE HOLDS CELEBRATION

Scripps Ranch Little League held its BBQ, Movie Night and Coach/Parent Home Run Derby, along with a special West Team scoreboard dedication on May 10 at Jerabek Park.

Scripps Ranch Little League dedicated its new scoreboard to the Intermediate Division All-Star team, which went all the way to the Little League World series representing the West in 2018. City Councilman Mark Kersey was on hand to honor the West Team, as was the Scripps Ranch High varsity baseball team.

Some of the parents and coaches competed in the second annual Home Run Derby. Tim Spooner ripped 13 deep in the first round, only to fall to fellow lower minors coach Jared Balastrieri in the finals.



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## Run & Ride registration underway

Registration is underway for the Scripps Ranch Old Pros' annual Fourth of July Run & Ride. The local sports club hosts a morning of running and cycling fun early on the Fourth of July each year. The events include a 10k Run, a 2-Mile Fun Run, a 50-Mile Bike Ride, a 28-Mile Bike Ride and a 12-Mile Bike Ride. Thousands of participants take part in this local tradition every year on the Fourth.

The running events will start at Red Cedar Drive in front of Miramar Ranch Elementary School. The cycling events will start at the intersection of Scripps Ranch Boulevard and Hilbert Street. All the events end near Hoyt Park.

Fourth of July Run & Ride participants who are 21 years of age and older are allowed free access to the beer garden at Hoyt Park at a festival following their events.

To register, visit [srop.org](http://srop.org).

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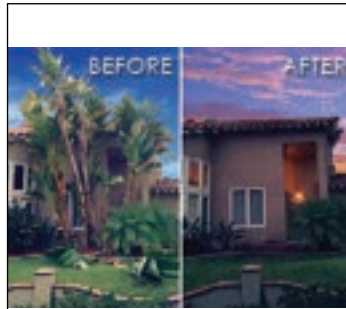
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Thank you dad for always being there for me. For never missing a soccer game or martial arts class, for encouraging me, teaching me, and for your love. Thank you for everything. I love you. Morgan

I love you Dad because you earn money that is going to be spent on yummy candy. And also a mansion! From Itski



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Happy Father's Day Jon Ashley! You have been a spiritual leader, protector and provider for Addison, Savannah and me. You have given tirelessly to our community through your time volunteering at church; in all of the schools: Dingeman, Marshall and SRHS; at Theater for Charity and our neighbors. We love you so much!



Happy Fathers Day to the Best Dad Ever! Thanks for always showing me the way and being there. Love, Colin.

Our kid is lucky to have a dad who looks at him the way you look at him and loves him the way you love. Love, Jennifer

## CLASSIFIEDS

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### HELP WANTED

**Scripps Ranch Theatre** is seeking S.R. community members who may be interested in serving on our volunteer Operational Board. If you think you may have interests in publications management, Board record-keeping, production management, or other theatre-management areas, please email publications@scrippsranchnews.org with your contact information and a bit about your interests.

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# Operation Harley: Residents aid stray cat and kittens

By Terry L. Wilson

Scripps Ranch is home to a myriad of unique personalities: authors, tycoons, mom-and-pop shops, trail blazing entrepreneurs and a cat named Harley.

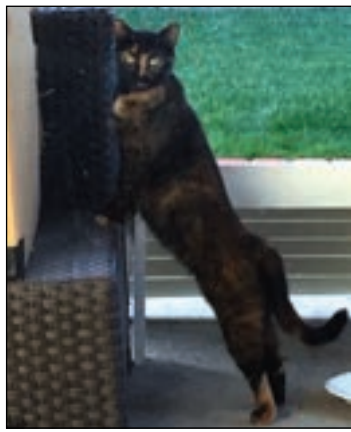
Harley, a feral female feline, united an entire community that banded together to do what animal lovers do best, which is to take care of their four-legged friends when they need help.

Harley had no idea she was going to cause such a fuss, or that her adventurous nature would make her the talk of the town and an Internet sensation.

It all started when this sneaky cat snuck into J.L. Nuss's backyard searching for a snack.

"One day we saw a very skinny cat eating some cake crumbs we left in our yard for the birds," J.L. Nuss said. "We named her Harley for Harlequin and began feeding her. She very quickly put on a lot of weight."

Harley's weight wasn't due to a high-carb diet; she was preparing to deliver a litter of little Harleys. Six weeks later the Nuss clan



The notorious Harley, captured on camera while roaming the town looking for a stray mouse and a good time. (courtesy photo)

had a handful of newborn kittens running around in their backyard.

"On March 17, Harley delivered her second litter in my backyard, then carried them to my neighbor Sharon's yard," Nuss said. "Harley would come and go at-will to visit her kittens, leaving my family in charge of feeding and caring for them."

The Nuss family wanted to trap Harley and put an end to her wild ways but she was a sly kitty and avoided capture with ease.

"My mother-in-law asked the Feral Cat Coalition in El Cajon for help," Nuss said.



Members of Real House Cats of Scripps Ranch at a fundraiser to help Harley and her kittens. (courtesy photo)

"They offered us traps but we had to set them up, capture the cats and cart them to El Cajon ourselves. We had no clue how to set a trap."

Trying to wrangle a mob of curious cats and a very street-smart momma cat was not an easy task. To make matters worse, Harley showed up with another tummy full of fun that she again deposited in Nuss's backyard.

With a brood of six new baby kittens to deal with, the cat-friendly Nuss family was in way over their heads and needed help. Sometimes help can be just around the corner, or in this case, a grocery store checkout line.

While shopping, Nuss's

mother-in-law dropped a case of water. Customers Mitzi and Keith Reel came to her assistance. Mitzi, a cat person, noticed the woman was wearing a scarf adorned with kittens. A conversation ensued about Harley that resulted in the Reels jumping on the Harley bandwagon. They were members of the Real House Cats of Scripps Ranch Facebook page, and with a few strokes of the keyboard, Operation Harley was born.

"Once Mitzi and Keith got our story on the Real House Cats (page) things began to snowball," Nuss said. "The entire community of the Real House Cats

in Scripps stepped forward. Total strangers began dropping off donations of money, cat food, litter, formula, cat toys, cat beds and blankets."

Nuss also needed someone to be foster parents for the kittens. In little time, Jennifer Ott-Rol and family volunteered to take on the task.

"Jennifer and her husband took all five cats and fostered them for two months ... we got them all adopted except for the two they kept," Nuss said. "We also got The Kitten Lady (a TV Personality) involved. She got us in touch with Val from the Rescue House."

The Rescue House began setting up traps, and although it took time, Harley was eventually caught and fixed so her days of having kittens were put to an end.

Harley and her adopted kittens continue to be celebrities, thanks to daily posts on the Real House Cats of Scripps Ranch Facebook page.

Harley's story could have been a catastrophe. But thanks to J.L. and her animal friendly neighbors, it all ended purrrrrfectly.



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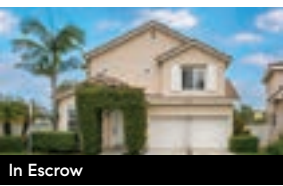
Open spacious floor plan beautifully upgraded. Desirable open loft/bonus area upstairs and overlooks cozy living room. Completely remodeled kitchen with granite counters, high-end stainless steel appliances and center island. Wood-like tile flooring, upgraded carpet, crown molding, upgraded windows throughout and fireplace.



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## Sold in 2019



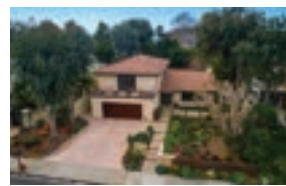
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