



photos by Ralph LoVuolo



FAMILY FUN

Lemonade Stand Contest Winners

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Yanni's Bar & Grill continues to impress

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SCRIPPS RANCH NEWS

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'Butterfly Effect' encourages social awareness

By Cynthia Kurose

In the center of the Scripps Ranch High School (SRHS) campus hangs a giant mural of a butterfly that reads, "Be the change you want to see in the world." Installed last winter, a group of young leaders at the school have been using the symbol as a means to make social consciousness a part of everyday life for their classmates.

Through collaboration with an international organization known as "The Butterfly Effect," a collection of students and school counselors introduced the philanthropic movement to the SRHS community earlier this year.

Counselor Leslie McDonald is actively involved with the initiative.

"We believe it is so important for students to have an opportunity to think outside of themselves and to think about the greater needs of community," she says. See **BUTTERFLY EFFECT**, Page 9



SRHS seniors (from left) Victoria Mellow, Natalie Delos Santos and Jerry Yang are members of a student board that manages The Butterfly Effect schoolwide initiative. (photo by Cynthia Kurose)

SRHS HOMECOMING

Scripps Ranch High School will celebrate a big week of festivities the first week of October, including the traditional varsity Homecoming football game at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 5 against San Diego High School this year. The big week culminates with the Homecoming Dance beginning at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 6.

Theatre seeks new location

By Ken David

The 40-year-old Scripps Ranch Theatre (SRT) is in search of a new location, both to grow its space and to prepare for the sale of the property now home to Alliant University, from which the Theatre subleases its performance space.

In a written statement, Valin Brown, CEO of Alliant Educational Foundation, which owns the 10455 Pomerado Road property where Alliant International University currently resides, confirmed that the property has been publicly listed for sale since January 2018. Brown said the University is now exploring options for its future location which could include development on the current site, relocating to another Scripps Ranch location or moving elsewhere in the local market. Either way, Alliant International University has another 1 1/2 years on its lease and will be on the site until at least Dec. 31, 2019.

Where SRT stages its productions after that is unknown.

"It's always possible we could work with the new owner to get an extension," SRT Executive Director Dave McClure said. "But as it stands now, we have a sublease through the University through the end of December 2019. That's not that far away at this point."

McClure notes that discussions about future plans and searching by the SRT Board of Directors are ongoing, and they are now in search of a commercial real estate agent to assist with the search.



Scripps Ranch Theatre will eventually have to leave its performance site on the campus of Alliant International University. (photo by John Gregory)

When SRT moved into its current location in the Legler Benbough Theatre building at 9783 Avenue of Nations, it was taking over an existing theater space previously used by Alliant's theater program before that program ended. McClure said a similar pre-built theater space does not exist in the area.

"There's nothing around here. We have a full-time, year-round program so it would be very difficult to work with another theater," he said. "We'd be open to the idea, but there's really nothing up this way on the I-15 corridor that would make it possible to do that and stay in San Diego, which is one of the things we want to do."

With no existing theater space available, the next option would be acquiring and converting an existing space to host the Theatre. One challenge the board is facing, however, is available nearby property and local zoning. The Theatre's board would like to lease a space close to its current location.

"That's difficult because the See **THEATRE**, Page 2

New businesses planning to open

By John Gregory

Some of the vacant storefronts in Scripps Ranch will have new tenants soon.

Madison Jones and Andi Supergan are starting STEM Floral Co. and plan to move in to the small structure at 9992 Scripps Ranch Blvd., the former site of Posies Flowers. The two hope to open in mid-October, but many preparations remain.

Both Jones and Supergan used to work for Posies owner Leigh Fischer, who is now providing floral services for events such as weddings and operating out of her home.

"When the opportunity arose earlier this year, it just seemed like the right thing to do to take it over and work on it together," Jones said.

STEM Floral Co. will offer flower arrangements just like Posies did, but won't serve weddings just yet, opting for smaller events such as birthday parties to start.

"We both learned from Leigh, so we want to keep that same vibe going with STEM," Jones said.

A few blocks away, in the same shopping center where Trader Joe's is located, posters line the windows of 9870 Hibert St., Suite D-6, indicating that a new Chatime will open in the space. Chatime is a teahouse franchise based in Taiwan and its stores serve an assortment of tea and some coffee drinks, smoothies and health drinks. No opening date was available.

One of the most visible vacancies See **NEW BUSINESSES**, Page 5

NEW!

TOWN HALL SECTION

A voice for local leaders

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MRE HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL Page 7

OKTOBERFEST AT THE SWIM & RACQUET CLUB Page 15

HOMECOMING PHOTO CONTEST FOR GROWNUPS Page 11

Scripps Ranch Symphony in the Park

School music programs benefit from concert series

By Ken David

In addition to providing entertainment and an opportunity for the Scripps Ranch residents to get together and enjoy their community through free live concerts, the all-volunteer Scripps Ranch Symphony in the Park organization helps keep music alive through its donations to local schools.

Symphony in the Park Co-Chair Rachel Votel noted that the donations are another local link for the concerts in which much of the music already features Scripps Ranch residents of all ages.

"In August, we featured a bunch of kids in Scripps Ranch, their bands, so it's only appropriate that we give back to the schools," she said. "We do say the schools can use the donation any way they'd like, but it does have to go to the music program."

Scripps Ranch schools receiving the donations are Chabad Hebrew Academy, Dingeman Elementary School, Ellen Browning Scripps Elementary, Jerabek Elementary School, Miramar Ranch Elementary School, Saint Gregory the Great School, Scripps Ranch High School and Thurgood Marshall Middle School.

The donations began in 2011 when Scripps Ranch Symphony in the Park became a public, charitable 501(c)(3)



Music directors and representatives from schools in Scripps Ranch receive donations from Scripps Ranch Symphony in the Park at the Sept. 9 concert. (photo by Ralph LoVuolo)

organization. Since then, Scripps Ranch Symphony in the Park has donated \$24,600 to local school's music programs. Appreciative feedback from the schools underscores how helpful the donations are to keeping music alive in schools.

"We receive wonderful thank you notes telling us how fortunate they are to have our support year after year," Votel said.

She emphasized that support from the community is what makes the donations possible.

"Our concert series is possible be-

cause of the generous donations from our families and friends who live in Scripps Ranch as well as the wonderful businesses that sponsor our concerts," she said. "This tradition is one many families look forward to."

The next Scripps Ranch Symphony in the Park concert, the final one of the 2018 season, will be the annual holiday concert featuring Santa Claus on Dec. 9 at Jerabek Park.

To find more information, including how to support the Symphony in the Park concert series, visit symphonyin-thepark.org.

THEATRE

Continued from Page 1

zoning in Scripps Ranch Industrial Park tends to be 'prime industrial,' which means they want industrial entities to go into those places," McClure said.

A conditional use permit to enable a non-industrial occupant could be a possibility, he said, but approval would have to come from the City of San Diego.

McClure noted that the north side of Carroll Canyon road is not prime industrial.

"If we could find something there, that's possible," he said.

But McClure said SRT faces a "catch-22 situation" in funding and building any space to be the Theatre's next home.

"The catch-22 is the idea that we would need a certain amount of funding to build a theater in a leased space," he said. "But it's very difficult to raise money and get people to contribute when you don't know where you're going to go."

What kind of a place is SRT looking for in a new home?

"Ideally, we'd like to have about 10,000 square feet; right now, we probably have about 2,500," McLure said. "We'd rather be at 180 seats, so we'd be about 50 percent bigger. We'd also like some set-building space, some rehearsal space, wings on the stage that are bigger than anything we have right now, and separate bathrooms for actors and crew members, so they don't have to share them with the audience, which is what happens now."

McClure said he doesn't foresee any interruption in SRT's operations, but the Theatre's fans may see fewer productions per season until a new, permanent location is found, funded and built. He pointed out that previously in the Theatre's history, performances have been held at the Scripps Ranch Swim & Racquet Club and even in the parking lot of the old Vons.

"It would probably be a cut back season a bit if we had to face that, but certainly we'd look to rent some other theaters for performances so that we wouldn't lose everything," McClure said. "But we haven't crossed that bridge at this point."

Anyone with ideas for a new location or an available property suitable for hosting a local theater can contact Dave McClure at executivedirector@scripps-ranchtheatre.org.

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Elena Finnegan and her mother are moved to tears as children run to embrace her and present their handmade signs and gifts. (photo by Cynthia Kurose)



A colorful assortment of signs were handmade by friends who affectionately presented them to Elena Finnegan at a surprise celebration a few days ahead of her scheduled surgery. (photo by Cynthia Kurose)

Local mothers rally around their friend

By Cynthia Kurose

When Elena Finnegan's doctor informed her that tests revealed cancer in one of her lungs, she was in complete shock. As a 37-year-old mother with an active lifestyle and healthy habits – she eats well, exercises regularly and does not smoke – the idea that she could receive such a diagnosis was unbelievable.

Shortly after receiving the news and while still processing all the implications for the road that lay ahead, Fin-

negan shared the information with close friends from her local Stroller Strides group in Scripps Ranch. The response and outpouring of support were immediate.

A member of the fitness group since August 2015, Finnegan has developed a close bond with several mothers in the community and their families through her participation. One of those friends is Erin Rohling, who joined the group a couple weeks after Finnegan three years ago, and quickly formed a friendship.

"Stroller Strides is a sister-

hood," Rohling said. "There is a common thread of caring and goodness, and of strength and power among this group of amazing women."

Such caring and goodness certainly came through following receipt of Finnegan's news, when members of the group immediately mobilized and reached out to their friend to find ways that they could help take some of the weight off a very stressful and emotional situation.

"Everyone rallied," Rohling said. "Whether that was signing up to make a meal or picking up her kids from

school, we all just wanted to figure out what we could do to help her get through."

Finnegan's cancer had been caught at an early stage, and doctors recommended surgery to remove the affected part of her lung. While it carried the potential risk that she could lose the entire lung, the hope was that they could isolate the removal to just a portion, enabling her to retain some of its function. Regardless of the outcome, however, the complicated surgery promised to be followed by a

See **FRIENDS**, Page 4

FRIENDS



Alison Green

Green selected for HGTV competition

Scripps Ranch's Alison Green, senior interior designer at Jackson Design and Remodeling, is a finalist in HGTV's "Faces of Design" Competition. She is one of 14 talented designers in the "Color + Pattern" category. She was selected for her work on a Kensington-area historical home that was designed to reflect the unique personality of the homeowners. Green has been recognized with several industry awards and featured in local and national media.

Spooky programs set at the library

The Scripps Miramar Ranch Library will hold a Pumpkin Party on Oct. 18 at 3:30 p.m. This fun event for kids will have no scares but crafts, treats and Halloween fun.

Kids 8-12 are invited to make a skeleton pop-up book at the Afternoon Craft Club on Oct. 25 at 3:30 pm. All supplies provided but prior registration required online.

The library will be transformed into a haunted house after hours as The Haunted Library returns Oct. 26 at 7 p.m. This year's event will feature a new route through the library.

The Book Discussion Group is reading "Frankenstein" by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley. Join the discussion on Oct. 24 at 6:30 pm in the Seminar Room. Visit srfof.org.

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- 1) Send a photo of you at your high school homecoming dance to info@scrippsranchnews.com.
- 2) Include the year the photo was taken and your name.
- 3) Include your mailing address.

Deadline: Oct. 10, 2018.
Rules: Must be 21 years of age or older to enter. Must presently reside in Scripps Ranch.





A tight-knit group of Scripps Ranch families came together to show their support for Elena Finnegan at a surprise gathering on Aug. 24. (photo by Cynthia Kurose)

FRIENDS

Continued from Page 3

lengthy recovery process. Denise Pollak, another close friend who Finnegan first met through Stroller Strides, took the lead in organizing a surprise party a few days prior to her scheduled surgery. "We had 20 to 30 families join us to celebrate her and show our support," Pollak said. "We made signs and banners to hold as she arrived, and even made matching silicone bracelets so she would know how much we love and care for her." On the afternoon of Aug. 24, more than 50 friends – mothers, fathers and their children – showed up at Lake View Park, ready to

surprise Finnegan and shower her with love. As she arrived – thinking she was meeting just a few friends for a playdate – she first laughed, somewhat confused about what was happening. As friends' children ran to her to present her with their signs and gifts, she began to cry. "I feel so overwhelmed with love," said a tearful Finnegan. Her parents, who stood close behind their daughter as she was showered with affection, also appeared emotional as the event at the park unfolded. Niall Finnegan, Elena's husband, describes himself as a private person who generally does not get involved in the community, but noted

that the friendships he and his family have developed here have made it a truly special place to live. "The strength of a community is the sum of its parts," Niall said. "The moms reached out to see how they could help my family and help make my life easier. It's overwhelming." Elena Finnegan's surgery was deemed successful – with the cancer removed and only a portion of the organ lost – and her doctor advised that her lung function would return to 85 to 90 percent capacity once fully recovered. In a message of thanks to her friends, Elena wrote, "I honestly feel like the luckiest girl in the world to have found our village and the lifelong friends that, more than friends are now my sisters. I love you all and cannot imagine how this nightmare would have been without you fighting the battle by my side. Thanks to you, I never felt alone."

For more information about Stroller Strides, visit sandiego.fit4mom.com.



Brink's security guards escort WD-40 President and CEO Garry Ridge with the WD-40 formula chained to his wrist.

Top secret formula moved to vault

The ingredients to WD-40 are known only to a handful of people. That's why WD-40 Company enlisted the help of an armored vehicle and security to move its secret formula to a secure bank vault on Sept. 12. Starting at the WD-40 Company office on Businesspark Avenue in Scripps Ranch, WD-40 President and CEO Garry Ridge entrusted Brink's to transport him handcuffed to a briefcase carrying the secret formula, which is now housed safely in a nearby bank vault. The formula – which hasn't been touched by human hands in more than 15 years since the Company's 50th anniversary – is the company's prized possession.

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NEW BUSINESSES

Continued from Page 1

is the storefront of the former Pick Up Stix restaurant in the Scripps Ranch Marketplace shopping center on Scripps Poway Parkway, specifically 10755 Scripps Poway Parkway, Suite 8-I. A quaint family business known as Nutmeg Bakery and Café should be occupying that space sometime early next year.

Shirin Soroushian and Drew and Michka Hoffos plan to open Nutmeg Bakery and Café in this prime location. The trio has owned and operated their business of the same name in Sabre Springs for six years.

The new Nutmeg Bakery and Café will follow the same blueprint, offering breakfast, brunch and lunch. All items are homemade and the baked goods are created from scratch.

“We offer gluten free, veg-an items. We focus on local,” Drew said.

He explained that sandwiches are a favorite, including the “smokey tom” which features roasted turkey, smoked gouda, homemade chipotle aioli, organic greens and onion relish on toasted sourdough bread.

Meanwhile, work con-



STEM Floral Co. will move into the former site of Posies.



Nutmeg Café and Bakery will be a new tenant replacing Pick Up Stix.

tinues nearby in the same shopping center at the site of Public House 131, a new restaurant that a group of Scripps Ranch locals will open soon. Help wanted

signs are on full display and permits are being obtained in order to be fully prepared for the much anticipated opening sometime this fall.



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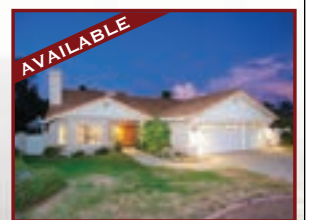
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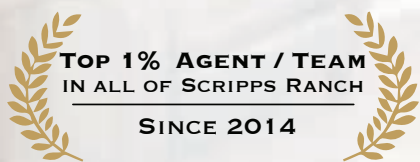
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SCHOOLS



Twins Jackson and Veronica Rol are ready for fourth grade at Innovations Academy. (by Jennifer Ott-Rol)

First day of school 2018

Faculty and staff members at local schools have gotten the 2018-19 school year underway. Students were happy to see their friends and meet new teachers. Children ready for this year's first day of school are featured in the photos on this page sent by proud Scripps Ranch parents.



Sofia Nocella and Kendall Hancock are all smiles before entering first grade at Jerabek Elementary School. (by Kimberly Nocella)



Samantha Nocella displays her back to school face for her first day of preschool at Discovery Isle. (by Kimberly Nocella)



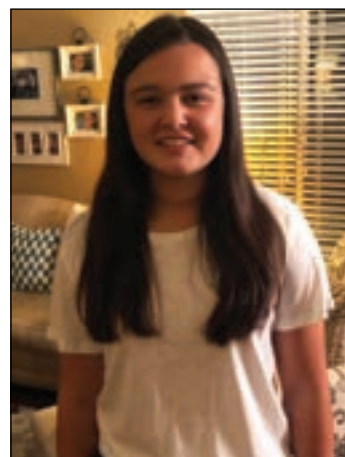
Alana Bridges is prepared to enter fourth grade while John James Bridges is set to start first grade at St. Gregory the Great Catholic School. (by Gloria McKearney)



Scripps Ranch High School students Hana Helder, a sophomore, and Nancie Helder, a senior, are ready to roll. (by Lesleigh Helder)



Bryce G. and Noah W. are ready to bike to Scripps Ranch High School. (by Laura White)



Gracie Wong is a senior this year at Scripps Ranch High School. (by Kellie Wong)



Twins Zoe and Olivia Wong are now freshmen at Scripps Ranch High School. (by Kellie Wong)



Arjun Suri

Student chosen as Kid Reporter

Arjun Suri, a 13-year-old student attending Marshall Middle School, will write "news for kids, by kids" as one of 45 Kid Reporters in the 2018-19 program year, covering current events, breaking news, entertainment stories and sporting events from his hometown and on the national stage. Kid Reporter stories are published on the Scholastic News Kids Press Corps website and featured in select issues of Scholastic Classroom Magazines, reaching more than 25 million students in classrooms nationwide.



Maia Bloom Wilson on her first day of "Shooting Stars" Pre-K at the Scripps Ranch Swim and Racquet Club. (by Emily Bloom)



Ivy Wong enters fifth grade at Miramar Ranch Elementary School. (by Kellie Wong)



Kamryn Sablad poses before entering third grade at Dingeman Elementary School. (by Catherine Sablad)

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- Dr. Gerald Palmes



**BEST LIFE
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Halloween Carnival brings frights and fun

By Laura A. Hogan

A frightening festival is headed to Scripps Ranch in October. Miramar Ranch Elementary School is hosting its annual Halloween Carnival on Saturday, Oct. 20 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The carnival is free to the public and will feature a haunted house, carnival games, a bake sale, a cake walk, laser tag, food trucks, a book sale and, new this year, a dunk tank.

Helena Parker, carnival co-chair, said there is fun to be had for all ages.

"It's the perfect way to spend a Saturday in October celebrating Halloween. There's something fun for everyone in the family to enjoy," Parker said.

The carnival also features a pumpkin patch, hay rides and a petting zoo.

Parker said the biggest draw to the carnival is typically the haunted house. The fifth grade class will serve as the actors and will work to create the entire haunted house experience. Children have the option of



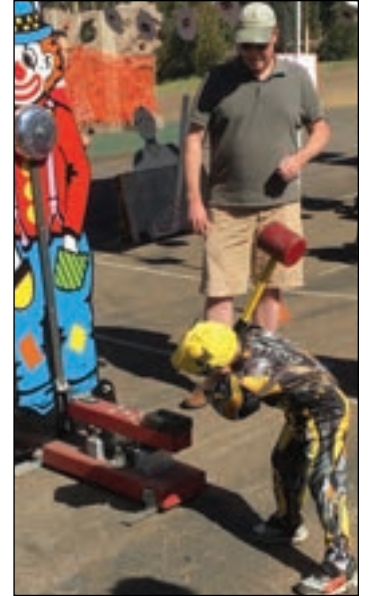
A young star trooper adjusts his helmet during last year's Halloween Carnival at Miramar Ranch Elementary.



This pooch was decked out in a super hero costume for the 2017 annual Miramar Ranch Elementary School Halloween Carnival. (photo by Denise Herich)



A bouncy, fun dinosaur costume was one of the crowd favorites at last year's MRE Halloween Carnival. (photo by Jacqueline Gregory)



A tiny muscle man swings the sledge hammer to ring the bell at the 2017 MRE Halloween Carnival. (photo by John Gregory)

going through the haunted house with the lights on or with the lights off. There will be a special preview of the haunted house the night before the carnival, Oct. 19, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Scripps Ranch resident Rachele Feretti said her entire family enjoyed attending the carnival last year.

"My son was a first grader and was brave enough to go through the Haunted House

for the first time, and he loved it," Feretti said. "I also have a toddler who loved the carnival games and prizes. And it's always fun to catch up with friends and neighbors while supporting and giving back to our school."

The carnival helps Miramar Ranch Elementary School raise needed funding for specialty programs at the school including art, music, science lab and the school garden.

"Sponsors and attendees' contributions help to bridge the gap between what the San Diego Unified School District can provide to our

schools and what students need for a well-rounded education," Parker said.

Both children and adults are encouraged to come in costume as there is a costume contest. Also included during the carnival is a raffle with prizes ranging from tickets to Disneyland to an American Girl Doll and an electric scooter.

Residents can buy pre-sale package tickets for a discount in advance of the carnival online starting on Oct. 1 at halloween.miramarranch.org or buy regularly priced tickets the day of the carnival.



A young girl enthusiastically participates in the hula hoop contest at last year's MRE Halloween Carnival.

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Girl Scouts' mural brings beauty to MRE

By Laura A. Hogan

The first day of school this year was met with new teachers, old friends and, for the students at Miramar Ranch Elementary School, a new welcome mural.

The 14 Girl Scouts of Troop 2067 spent eight months bringing their Bronze Award mural project from concept to completion. The Bronze Award in Girl Scouts is needed in order to become a Junior Girl Scout.

"We wanted to do something special for Miramar Ranch Elementary because the school has been gracious enough to provide our meeting space since the girls were in Daisies," said Diane Hunter, troop leader.

The wall selected for renovation had chipping paint and was a dull, khaki color painted many years ago. It was also the last remaining large wall without a mural at the school.

A group of Miramar Ranch teachers selected the final design after the scouts presented multiple concepts to them.

The scouts learned in-



Troop Leader Diane Hunter, pictured with the Girl Scouts of Troop 2067, hopes the new mural will bring joy to all students for years to come. (photo by Laura A. Hogan)

valuable lessons on developing plans, presenting to adults and working together to reach their goal.

Troop member Gracie Hass, 11, said she enjoyed participating in every stage of the project as they cleaned, scraped, sanded, sketched and finally painted the mural.

"We could see what was ahead, and it was fun to

bring our design to life," Hass said.

Hunter said this project fulfilled the Girl Scout mission to build girls of courage, confidence and character. It also encouraged the girls to be sustainable and work toward bettering their communities.

"We are excited to present this mural to the school as they welcome the students

for a new year. We hope it will bring joy to all students for years to come," Hunter said.

Troop 2067 will participate in more service projects this year including volunteering at a senior center.

Parents interested in signing their daughters up for Girl Scouts can visit sdgirlscouts.org to find an open troop in the area.

SCHOOL NEWS

Family Fun Night

Innovations Academy will hold its Family Fun Night, 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 27. Students and families can enjoy I Love Tacos, Looney Dooney Magic, DJ TahRei, Maven & Mason Exchange, crafts and laser tag.

Costumes at EBS

Ellen Browning Scripps Elementary School will hold its annual Halloween Costume Boutique from 8 to 9 a.m. and 2:30 to 4 p.m. on Oct. 18 at the front gate. Gently used costumes for the fundraiser boutique will be accepted through Sept. 28.

Student achieves top ACT score

Ryan O'Toole, a senior at The Gary and Jerri-Ann Jacobs High Tech High in Point Loma and the son of Bill and Debbie O'Toole of



Ryan O'Toole

Scripps Ranch, earned the highest possible ACT composite score of 36. On average, only around one-tenth of 1 percent of students who take the ACT earn a top score. In a letter to the student, ACT Chief Executive Officer Marten Roorda stated, "Your achievement on the ACT is significant and rare. ... your exceptional ACT composite score should prove helpful as you pursue your education and career goals."

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Students at St. Gregory the Great School work at the new Guardian Snack Shack.

Guardian Snack Shack opens for business

Students at St. Gregory the Great Catholic School welcomed the grand opening of the new student store, the Guardian Snack Shack. Staffed by junior high students, the Snack Shack provides snacks and drinks for the morning recess. Fifth, sixth and seventh graders interviewed for positions and experienced what it takes to be hired and accept the responsibility of serving others.

C2 Education Partners with K12 Inc.

C2 Education (C2), a network of subject tutoring, SAT®, ACT® and PSAT® test prep and education support centers, joined forces with K12 Inc., a national provider of online curriculum and school programs for students, to make Advanced Placement® courses accessible. Now, students can take AP classes together with support from the Scripps Ranch C2 Education Center. Visit 9872 Hibert St. or call (619) 800-3430.

BUTTERFLY EFFECT

Continued from Page 1

said.

McDonald helped to facilitate the introduction between the school and the organization's creator, Tasha Wahl, who founded The Butterfly Effect in 2003.

"The goal of the Butterfly Effect is to inspire people to figure out how they can give back," Wahl said in a video interview produced for SRHS.

Her philanthropic idea materialized out of a conversation with her sons in which she challenged them to determine what causes mattered most to them. She then wanted to figure out how she could help children interested in philanthropic giving by facilitating a donation in their name. Thus was born the "butterfly drop," one of the original methods by which the organization says it promotes change and "contagious generosity."

In a butterfly drop, a painted wooden butterfly is hidden somewhere in a community with clues as to its location publicized on social media. Once located, the person who finds it earns a financial contribution submitted in their name to the charity of their choice, funded by Wahl's organization.

Natalie Delos Santos is a senior who serves as secretary and treasurer for the SRHS Butterfly Effect student board and has been involved since the program's inception at the school.

"We put together a presentation to let the entire school know about the initiative," she said of a school-wide assembly that was held in January. "We made a video that explained The Butterfly Effect and we had an activity where we hid [wooden] butterflies in the seats."

This activity was intended to mimic a butterfly drop and generate excitement among the students.

The audience was then asked to participate. "We had the kids think about the three essential questions [originally proposed by Wahl]," McDonald said. "What lights you up? What breaks your heart? And if you had a sum of money to donate, where would you donate it and why? Every student had an opportunity to do some reflection in that assembly and then ... students came on stage to share the answers to their

questions."

Seniors Victoria Mellow and Jerry Yang are co-presidents on the student board. Mellow suggested that the questions were intended to help students draw a parallel between their passions and charitable organizations that champion simi-

working to post clues in a static place on campus for those who do not use Instagram. Last school year, Wahl funded donations in the amount of \$250 for each drop that occurred between January and June. Beginning this academic year, however, the board has set a goal to be completely self-sustaining, endeavoring to raise funds through sponsorships from businesses and individuals in the community.

"We have a business committee that is responsible for sending out emails, then going in to the businesses to make a presentation," Yang said.

In addition to potentially raising funds to support the school initiative, "it allows the students to practice their interpersonal skills and professional skills in a workplace environment," Yang said.

Donors interested in supporting the initiative at SRHS should email srhs-butterflyeffect@gmail.com. Information about The Butterfly Effect global organization can be found at butterflyeffectbethechange.com.



A giant mural of a butterfly hangs prominently in the quad of Scripps Ranch High School's campus, serving as a daily reminder for students to "be the change you want to see in the world." (photo by Cynthia Kurose)

lar values.

"It gives them an opportunity to see something in the world that they're not entirely satisfied with and it allows them to have a stake in making a change in that area," she said.

At SRHS, a butterfly drop occurs on campus once each month, and clues are provided to students through an Instagram account between periods. The student board is also currently



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FAMILY



Kory Kim (from left), Gio Bae, Ian Bae, Kenny Kim, and Ryan Hu run a lemonade stand for the first time. All money was donated to UNICEF. (by Seong Bae)



Giana Goodwin and Echo run a lemonade and cupcake stand. (by Tia Goodwin)



GRAND PRIZE WINNER: Asher, 7, and Quinn Sturch, 6, sold their lemonade June 26 on the corner of Dichondra Court and Ironwood Street. (by Joanne Sturch)

Lemonade Stand Contest

Scripps Ranch News and Rita's of Scripps Ranch are proud to display the entries to the first annual Scripps Ranch summertime Lemonade Stand Contest, and we thank all those who sent photos.

The grand prize-winning entry (above) was submitted by Joanne Sturch and features Asher and Quinn Sturch displaying cheerful smiles.

The winner will receive \$25 in gift cards to Rita's of Scripps Ranch. The rest of the entrants will receive one \$5 gift card to Rita's of Scripps Ranch, 10585 Scripps Poway Parkway in the Scripps Ranch Marketplace.

'Aladdin, Jr.'

See the cast of this new Scripps Ranch-based youth theater program perform the junior version of the Broadway-based rendition of "Aladdin." Scripps Theatre Arts presents "Aladdin Jr.," Oct. 5-7 in the theater at Marshall Middle School. Visit scrippstheatrearts.wixsite.com/shows or search for Scripps Theatre Arts on Facebook.



Izadi family cousins JoJo, Maria, Tea, and Batman Jake. (by Grandma Jacky Izadi)



The Lemonade Shack was run by Roshen Pillay, sister Jia Pillay and best buddy Pierce Nelson. The kids made all the items and donated most of the proceeds to the World Wildlife Fund. (by Yogita Singh)



Colin and Riley Ryan, and Xavier and Arianna Torres attract customers to their lemonade stand. (by Jennifer Ryan)



MCAS Miramar Air Show

The public is invited to the 2018 Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar Air Show, Sept. 28-30. The air show features flight demonstrations as well as static displays of aircraft on the ground. The Navy's Blue Angels highlight the ending of each show. Visit miramarairshow.com.



Crew Foss and Chase Demarest set up their lemonade icee stand on a hot July day. (by Cara Foss)



Paige Williams and Jake Izadi (by Casey Williams)



Elliott Hamon, Priscilla Hamon, Alexandra Hamon, June Hamon and Bryce Hamon. (by Kristin Hamon)



Half of sales from this stand were donated to St. Vincent de Paul's. Running the stand are Brady Beer, Kendall Beer, Hailey Shaw, Sydney Shaw (not pictured: Liam Beer and Gavin Shaw). (by Adam Beer)



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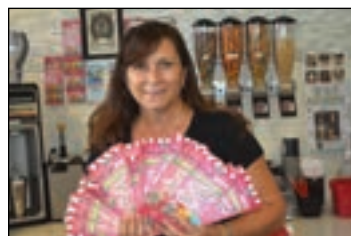
Enter the Homecoming Contest for Grownups

Do you still have that old photo of you at your high school homecoming dance? Was it silly? Was it embarrassing? Was it magical?

Well, today it might be valuable.

Scripps Ranch News, Yanni's Bar & Grill and F45 Training Scripps Highlands are sponsoring the 2018 Homecoming Dance Photo Contest for Grownups. Find that special photo of you and your date, or you and your friends, and email it to info@scrippsranchnews.com.

All entries will be featured on ScrippsRanchNews.com and the best ones will appear in the October issue of Scripps Ranch News. Here are the prizes:



Denise Escala displays completed Read with Rita's cards.

Rita's encourages children to read

Rita's of Scripps Ranch offers more than delicious frozen drinks; owner Denise Escala encourages kids to read through the Read with Rita's program. Children can read books and track how many minutes they have read. When they reach 240 minutes of reading, they can have an adult sign their reading card and bring it in to Rita's for a free kids Italian ice treat.

Rita's concluded its summer reading program in August and Escala proudly displayed more than 85 reading cards totaling 20,400 minutes of reading. Now, the Read with Rita's school program is underway until summer begins, and the same rules apply.

Escala recently placed a small library filled with books near the front of her store. Kids can select a book to read at home and bring it back on their next visit. Customers can also donate books they want.

"The kids love to tell me about their stories. They love to share," Escala said. "It gets the kids to talk about reading, learn how to discuss what they're reading in a really easy and casual way."

Rita's is at 10585 Scripps Poway Parkway in the Scripps Ranch Marketplace.

First Place

\$100 gift certificate to Yanni's Bar & Grill and one free month of membership at F45 Training Scripps Highlands.

Second Place

\$50 gift certificate to Yanni's Bar & Grill and one free month of membership at F45 Training Scripps Highlands.

Third Place

\$25 gift certificate to Yanni's Bar & Grill and one free month of membership at F45 Training Scripps Highlands.

Why not enter the contest? It's fun and it's simple:

- 1) Send a photo of you at your high school homecoming dance to info@scrippsranchnews.com.
- 2) Include the year the photo was taken and your name.
- 3) Include your mailing ad-



Adults may enter the Homecoming Dance Photo Contest by emailing a photo of themselves at their high school homecoming dance to info@scrippsranchnews.com.

dress so we can send your prize if you win.

Deadline: Entries must be received by Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2018.

Rules: The contest is open to adults only; must be 21 years of age or older. Entrants must presently reside in Scripps Ranch. Email any questions to info@scrippsranchnews.com.



Evelyn Camaclang and Naomi Banister

Girl Scouts organize local trash cleanup

Evelyn Camaclang and Naomi Banister of Girl Scout troop 2057 are organizing an open space cleanup at locations throughout Scripps Ranch as their Silver Award project. They are seeking volunteers to pick up trash during the week of Oct. 13-20.

The Scouts noticed trash on sidewalks, parks and roads in Scripps Ranch. The trash can harm wildlife here or go through the storm drain to the ocean and harm the sea life. The two are trying their best to keep the environment clean and hope others will do the same. This project is one way they are helping.

The youngsters are very organized and have chosen specific areas for their Scripps Ranch Trash Cleanup Project. They have built a website with information and a sign-up form: bit.ly/SRCleanup. To sign up for an area, fill out the form on the website or send an email to SR.TrashCleanup@gmail.com. Volunteers can sign up to help clean their assigned areas anytime from Oct. 13 to 20.

Participants can place trash in their own bin at their home or drop it off at the Scripps Ranch Community Center, 11885 Cypress Canyon Road.



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The eucalyptus: Scripps Ranch's signature tree

By Heather Karpel

The seeds that brought California the eucalyptus tree traveled a long way to get here. They were shipped across the Pacific Ocean from Australia around the time of the California gold rush in the 19th century. The idea was to use them for railway ties. Unfortunately, the eucalyptus' incredible growth rates made for wood that cracked and was not useable. Today, eucalyptus trees tower

above others in the area, and they are numerous in Scripps Ranch.

David Ehrlinger served as the director of horticulture at San Diego Botanic Gardens for 12 years. It was on a trip to the West Coast in 1970 that Ehrlinger decided horticulture was his calling, and the eucalyptus tree had a lot to do with it.

"I stayed with a friend for several weeks and was just dazzled by these eucalyptus trees and how tall they were," Ehrlinger said. "The

large eucalyptus seemed to be 25 percent taller than the tallest trees back east. They are just an extraordinary arboreal phenomenon."

Ehrlinger said that many of the large eucalyptus trees of Scripps Ranch were originally planted for E.W. Scripps' ranch. The trees tend to fare better in canyons than on slopes, because water drains into canyons. Eucalyptus trees are well known for their fragrant leaves. Three of the more common eucalyptus in California are the blue gum, the red gum and the skyline, or sugar gum. Ehrlinger explained that the red gum, which is common in Southern California, is "quite a tree" and "adapts to a variety of soils and all kinds of climatic conditions." It thrives in the low-moisture conditions of Southern California and Australia, and at the other extreme, he has seen photos of the tree growing in swamps.

The skyline gum, which is also common in this area, can grow to be over 100 feet in the right soil and with enough moisture.



Many eucalyptus trees were originally planted for E.W. Scripps' ranch. (photo by Heather Karpel)

"It's way too big of a tree for your yard, but off on the hillside, they're just beautiful, iconic trees," Ehrlinger said.

The eucalyptus has been criticized for being a fire hazard. It gained this rep-

utation in part because of its high oil-containing foliage. Other factors have to do with the conditions that have begun to affect it — prolonged years of drought and pests. One of the reasons the tree grew so successfully here is because, as a non-native species, it had no natural pests. In the 1980s new pests were introduced into the area and they began to attack the eucalyptus. Sick trees tend to drop more branches and leaves than healthy ones.

"The most flammable aspects of eucalyptus trees are the dead foliage and bark on the ground, along with fallen branches and twigs," Ehrlinger said. "These can create so much fuel that flames reach high into the trees above."

He recommends that leaf litter, bark and branches be cleaned up, and low branches removed where possible.

"When we have really bad fires, the trees haven't gotten rainfall in six or seven months or more, we can have high Santa Ana winds from the desert, atmospheric humidity is very low, just conditions for really almost any plant to burn," Ehrlinger explained.

Like all species in the environment, the eucalyptus is affected by changing conditions. It has the advantage of being very tall and resilient, which also means its relative impact on the surrounding environment is large. One thing is clear, it has rooted itself in Southern California and it aims to stay.

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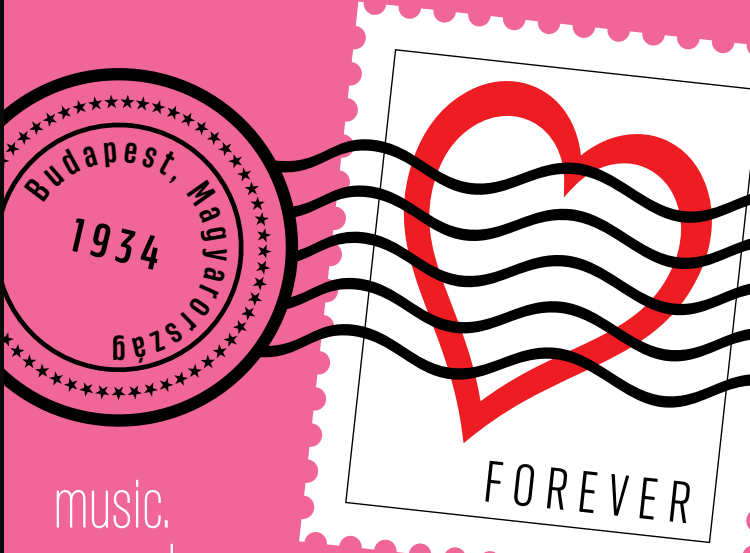
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Yanni's: A Scripps Ranch favorite for good reason

By John Gregory

Yanni's Bar & Grill is not just another restaurant and owner Yannis Pihas is not just another restaurateur.

Pihas has been in the restaurant business for 33 years, and his vast knowledge of the industry is apparent. But it didn't come easily. He immigrated to the U.S. from Greece and had to learn English. While he has worked in management in both the restaurant and hotel industries, he first worked as a cook, then as a server, wine steward, maitre d', beverage manager, restaurant manager and then at several director positions.

Pihas owned a restaurant in Los Angeles before moving to San Diego in 2001. He eventually opened Yanni's Bistro at 12205 Scripps Poway Parkway, and he said the majority of his customers came from Scripps Ranch. He was considering opening Yanni's Bar & Grill at the new location and keeping Yanni's Bistro going, but his wife, Denise, talked him out of it.

Pihas explained that De-



Yannis and Denise Pihas own and operate Yanni's Bar & Grill, 12015 Scripps Highland Drive. (photo by John Gregory)

nise is the brains behind the business and taking her advice to run only one restaurant was "a very wise decision."

Yanni's Bar & Grill opened in July 2014 and the new location was an instant success, Pihas said.

The restaurant, located at 12015 Scripps Highlands Drive, occupies a building where other restaurants have failed. Pihas revealed a few secrets to his success.

"Treat people the way you want to be treated," he said.

"You never serve something you won't eat yourself," he further explained.

"Treat your employees the

best you can so they treat our guests the best they can. It's always been a win-win situation," he said, adding that the longevity of his employees is a testament to the restaurant's success as well.

Ask Pihas a few questions about his restaurant and prepare for a journey through the fascinating world of cuisine and libations. As one would predict, Yanni's menu features Greek food. But it also has Italian dishes because Denise is Italian-American, and the menu has Italian influences throughout.

Pihas said one the most

popular items is the lamb skewer, with marinated lamb, tzatziki and a pita. Other skewer selections include chicken, shrimp and beef tenderloin, each marinated in a different recipe of exotic and irresistible ingredients along with toppings. Plates come with vegetables and either mashed potatoes or Yanni's rice.

Pihas said the pasta selection is incredible, stating his favorite is the capellini tourkolimano: shrimp with spiced tomato sauce served over pasta.

He also recommends any one of the dishes featuring salmon, which he orders from two different sources and receives several times each week. Pihas also suggests the penne chicken Marsala: chopped chicken, shallots, garlic, sage, mushrooms, Marsala wine, demi-glace and cream.

Yanni's also has steaks, chops, hamburgers, sandwiches and a kids menu. The salads are made fresh and there is a special salad every day. Homemade soup is also available.

There is nothing like hearing Pihas describe the

See **YANNI'S**, Page 14

SCRIPPS RANCH



The San Diego Jewish Men's Choir

Jewish Men's Choir performs at library

The Pleasure of Your Company music series, sponsored by the Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library, presents the San Diego Jewish Men's Choir on Sunday, Oct. 14, at 2:30 p.m. in the Scripps Miramar Ranch Library Center.

Their recordings have won three Global Music Awards among other honors.

Under the direction of Ruth Weber, this ensemble will perform a varied program from their varied repertoire — from Yiddish and Israeli songs to opera, movie and Broadway music.

There is no charge for the concert, although donations are appreciated. Meet the musicians at a complimentary post-concert reception. Visit www.srfol.org for information.

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– Yanni



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Welcome Club: Book talks, trail walks, yoga

By Denise Stewart

Cooler weather has warmed up the Welcome Club's calendar for the fall season. October will be busy starting early in the month with a coffee at member Sheri Smith's home. Coffees are a favorite occasion for the ladies since they traditionally involve lots of friendly conversation and delectable treats. Two more Coffee Klatches are scheduled for later in the fall.

The general monthly meeting on Oct. 8 will feature a demonstration and talk about the benefits of yoga as a stress reducer and health promoter for older adults. Yoga instructor Carol Dulmage will be sharing her knowledge of the art with the group. She is encouraging club members to come to the meeting in appropriate clothes and to bring a mat so they may participate in the yoga activities if they wish.

Trail walking around the Ranch three times a week helps burn calories while, as a bonus, providing opportunities for building friendships along the way. Janelle Boustany has led the robust exercise group for more than 10 years and still enjoys the blend of fresh air and friendly chatter along the local trails. Once monthly, this group takes a longer off-the-Ranch trek beside the sea or over county trails led by Dorothy Mildice, Welcome Club co-president.

The Great American Read is being celebrated by the Morning Book Club, so they are exploring the list of America's favorite books



Carol Dulmage will demonstrate how Yoga is a stress releaser for older adults at the Oct. 8 Welcome Club meeting.

PBS has been promoting. Readers might be revisiting classics they enjoyed while they were in school or catching up with those they missed along their way to retirement. Either way, the sharing of great literature will make for an interesting exchange of ideas over the next few months.

A day's outing to a place of interest or maybe a movie and lunch is on the October calendar for the Gadabouts group, according to Pam Savelsberg, event planner.

A second Scripps Ranch Theatre outing and pre-performance gathering is being organized by Kathy Binks, who has recently taken over the role of "Drama Queen"

for the club.

The Welcome Club was founded here in Scripps Ranch over 30 years ago by Becky McDonald. Since then, local women have enjoyed the Circle of Friends that has grown from that original small group and expanded to about 130 members. Some members have raised their families here, while others are newer residents just joining our community. However, Welcome Club means just that, and anyone interested in learning more about the organization is encouraged to check out the website scrippsranchnwelcomeclub.com and to contact officers listed there.

YANNI'S

Continued from Page 13

menu items himself. It is too extensive to list in the detail needed to do it justice. To take a look, visit yannisbarandgrill.com.

There is also a wide selection of offerings in the bar. It has an assortment of fine scotch and vodkas. The beer selection features microbrews from throughout Southern California. Of course, Pihas made sure the bar carries excellent Greek ouzo. In addition, Pihas said he is pleased with the mixology involved creating fine cocktails. Some of the more exotic drinks are a basil cucumber gimlet, a honey monkey and a hibiscus margarita.

"We are very proud of the drinks that we serve, top quality drinks," he said.

Pihas has a passion for wine and has been collecting for many years, claiming his restaurant has one of the most extensive wine lists in San Diego.

"I enjoy wines very, very much because I believe food and wine go very, very well together," he said.

Customers can order appetizers of all sorts, including small bites with a single bruschetta or a single piece of spanakopita, or they can enjoy large plates of appetizers. Guests can also feast on a full meal from the dinner menu while in the bar. Yanni's holds happy hour Mondays through Saturdays from 3 to 6 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 8 p.m.

There is a great deal of attention to detail at Yanni's Bar & Grill, and dining there provides a comfortable experience. The meals are

prepared much the same as the Pihas family cook and eat at home, with some additions, Pihas explained.

"The concept came about to just have delicious cuisine with American influence ... that is very fresh, prepared at the restaurant," he said. "We make all our sauces. We make all our dressings. Now we have a garden (on-site), so we have a lot of our own herbs. ... It's an exceptional quality of food at a reasonable price."

Yanni's Bar & Grill is planning a special wine dinner on Nov. 6 featuring selections from Barr Estate Winery from Paso Robles. Wines will be paired with a five-course dinner selected by Pihas for this occasion. Cost will be between \$75 and \$85 per person. Visit Yanni's Facebook page or website for future details.

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Garden Clubbers Kathy Shattuck, Helen Plutner, Lynnell Hallock and Char Fitzgerald enjoy a trip to artist Cherie LaPorte's magical garden overlooking Lake Hodges. (courtesy photo)

Garden Club features fall planting

By Denise Stewart

The Oct. 23 meeting of the Scripps-Mesa Garden Club will feature a talk by experienced gardener Fausto Polafax from Mission Hills Nursery. The topic will be Fall Planting using eco-friendly organic plants.

Polafax has owned and operated his nursery since 1989. He will bring his knowledge and experience to share with local gardeners. Fausto's understanding of newer attitudes about gardening and the struggle with climate challenges make his talks enlightening experiences. He encourages gardeners' questions.

The event will take place after the plant share at 5:45 p.m. in the Community Room of the Scripps Miramar Ranch Library. A brief business meeting will follow.

The club recently celebrated the end of the summer growing season with its annual BBQ. A trip to view artist Cherie LaPorte's magical garden overlooking Lake Hodges was also enjoyed by club members.

Residents of Mira Mesa and Scripps Ranch are welcome to attend the Garden Club meetings. More information about the group is available by contacting Louise Badham at lab@san.rr.com.

Scripps Ranch Swim and Racquet Club Annual Oktoberfest is set for Oct. 6

By Ken David

Scripps Ranch Swim and Racquet Club members and their guests are in for an afternoon of family fun when the club presents its 19th Annual Family Oktoberfest, 4-9 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 6 at 9875 Aviary Drive.

The event is open to members of the club and guests of members. Guests of members can attend using a guest pass or by paying \$10 per person. Guests under the age of 4 are free.

"It's our biggest event of the year," said club manager Tal O'Farrell. "We had around 1,200 people attend last year."

Visitors can expect, of course, a beer garden for those 21 and older, plus food trucks, music from DJ Tim Council, and a wide range of games and family-friendly entertainment.

"Food trucks were a new item last year, but this year we've added even more," O'Farrell said.

The beer garden will feature more than just beer, although Ballast Point will be available there. The garden will also offer mead (a drink made from fermented honey, yeast and water) from Bronto Meadery, hard cider from Newtopia Cyder, and red and white wines. While



Enthusiastic attendees got into the spirit of Oktoberfest at the Scripps Ranch Swim & Racquet Club last October. This man's grandparents were folk dancers for many years, so he wears his grandfather's authentic lederhosen to honor his memory. (photo by Jacqueline Gregory)

enjoying those refreshments, beer garden attendees can try their skill at shuffleboard or a life-size Jenga game.

At the entrance to the beer garden, 100 complimentary pint glasses will be available while they last starting at 4 p.m. While the limited supply of glasses is free, drink tickets will cost \$4 each.



With adults occupied in the beer garden, kids will be free to enjoy activities like a climbing wall, a quad pod, a wrecking ball game, six different carnival games, astro-jumps, a giant LED foosball table, a hi-striker and a toddler obstacle course. There will also be pony rides and a henna tattoo artist.

Families can bring their own food for a picnic; however, no alcohol brought in from outside is allowed during Oktoberfest. Tables at the event are available on a first come, first served basis.

For more information, visit srsr.com/oktoberfest or call (858) 271-6222.

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Scripps Ranch Women’s Club awards annual scholarships

By Mary Ann Harper

Each year there is an excitement in the air when the Scripps Ranch Women’s Club selects their high school scholarship winners. This year was no different. Of the highly qualified applicants, two college bound senior girls were chosen based on criteria including educational goals, community involvement, work experience, school activities, grade point average and honors.

This year’s scholarship winners are Sabrina Drobeck and Selena Martinez. Sabrina is now at U.C. Berkeley studying pre-med. Selena is at Yale University with a focus on investigative journalism. These accomplished young women have already given back to their community in their young lives. The members of the Women’s Club are delighted to acknowledge Sabrina and Selena’s abilities and contributions through its scholarship program.

The two 2018 scholarship winners were guests of honor at the Women’s Club’s annual dinner at the Country Club of Rancho Bernardo.

Following are excerpts from Sabrina’s and Selena’s thank you letters to the Women’s Club.

Sabrina wrote, “I am extremely grateful, humbled and honored to be a recipient of the Scripps Ranch Women’s Club Scholarship. I appreciate your confidence in me and willingness to contribute to my future educational goals. This scholarship will challenge me to work diligently to make a positive, lasting impact in the future. I look forward to a long term relationship and to someday become a member of the Scripps Ranch Women’s Club, giving back to the larger community.”

Selena wrote, “Thank you for giving me the opportunity to receive a world-class education. I am so grateful for your kindness and your generosity. I like to believe I focus on the simpler things, but, in-all honesty,



Scripps Ranch Women’s Club scholarship winners are (front, from left) Sabrina Drobeck and Selena Martinez. Pictured in back are (from left) Sabrina’s mother, Karol Drobeck, and Selena’s grandmother, Connie Curran.

the notion of the true cost of my education loomed over my head. Thanks to your Club, I can limit my worrying to semester grades and dorm decor. In meeting with the Women’s Club, my belief was affirmed that this organization stands to welcome and support every woman, from every walk of life.”

The Women’s Club also gives donations to local schools and organizations. This year the Women’s Club is donating to the Scripps Ranch Library, the Scripps Ranch Theatre, the Symphony in the Park and to local elementary and middle schools.

In addition to this philanthropic arm, the Women’s Club hosts monthly activities ranging from enrichment outings, bridge and bunco groups, and a book club, to happy hours, coffees and pre-theater parties. New and long-time Scripps Ranch residents are invited to join the Women’s Club to connect with others and enjoy new experiences.

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 srwomensclub.org.

SRFSC: Teaching homeowners about fire protection Organization plans fundraiser and fire station open house

Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council (SRFSC) was originally formed in 2004 to take steps to prevent our community from losing homes in the event of the next wildfire. We obtained grants to remove dead plants (commonly referred to as “fuel”) to reduce the spreading of fires in the future. We hired a goat keeper who brought his goats to eat all the weed growth on the South side of Pomerado in order to reduce the danger of fire spreading from the east.

With fewer grants available, SRFSC has adopted the role as educator. We strive to teach the homeowners in our community to protect their homes and their families with tips from Cal Fire, the burn Institute and other helpful organizations.

We offer suggestions of how to protect your home by reducing the “fuel” up to 100 feet, called defensible space, from your home. We created an Evacuation Plan which details what important papers and personal items to have at the ready in the event of an immediate evacuation. The Evacuation Plan instructs you to be prepared at all times for a sudden fire: always keep at least half a tank of gas in your car, have cash at home for emergencies, and keep a flat of water to bring along in the event of evacuation. The Evacuation Plan also outlines the best route to take to avoid congestion and gridlock.

We are currently raising funds to purchase storage sheds to be placed in strategically chosen places on the evacuation route. These

sheds will contain caution cones, protective vests, flares and other helpful equipment which will be accessible to the first responders when the next fire threatens our community.

Our primary fundraiser is our annual golf tournament. This year the tournament will be held on Oct. 20 at The Vineyard Golf Course in Escondido. The shotgun start is at 8 a.m. Please sign up with us by going to our website at SRFireSafe.org.

Please join us at Fire Station 37 in Scripps Ranch on Saturday, Oct. 13, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Children will be allowed to climb on the fire trucks and have a tour of the fire station. See you there!

—Kristin Young Rayder,
President

Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council

Making it easier to interact with City Hall

District Five being the farthest district from City Hall can make it tougher for constituents to visit my office, so I’m bringing my office to constituents by establishing weekly Scripps Ranch office hours. A member of my staff, Scripps Ranch community representative Quinton Grounds, will be available every Friday from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Scripps Ranch Community Center (11885 Cypress Canyon Road) to provide face-to-face assistance with City issues. You can also stop by to share input for me, get updates or just to say hello.



Mark Kersey

Another way I am working to make government more accessible to the people we serve is by expanding the “Get It Done” app and website, which I am proud to have led the effort to develop. In addition to allowing San Diegans to report potholes, graffiti and abandoned vehicles, you can now use “Get It Done” to report other non-emergency problems like illegal parking, hoarders, missed trash pick-ups and scavenging in recycling cans.

As your representative, I am committed to making interactions with the City as simple and convenient as possible. However you prefer to communicate with me — over the phone, via email, through social media, and now with in-district office hours — I want to hear from you.

Councilmember Mark Kersey

MarkKersey@sandiego.gov
(619) 236-6655

Mark Kersey is the City Councilman for San Diego’s District 5, which includes Scripps Ranch.

Town Hall Invite

Scripps Ranch News invites nonprofit organizations or local clubs from Scripps Ranch or the San Diego area to submit a commentary for publication on the Town Hall page. A different organization will be featured each issue and groups will be rotated throughout the year so that all will have a chance. An organization can write about its purpose, accomplishments, fundraising needs, upcoming events or a call for new members. Organizations interested in scheduling a guest commentary may contact Scripps Ranch News. Send an email to john@scrippsranchnews.com or phone (858) 945-4465.

Grit leads team to great start

By Laura A. Hogan

Mental toughness is at the core of the Scripps Ranch High School women's field hockey team. This toughness, coupled with remarkable talent and hard work, led the Scripps Ranch High School women's field hockey team to an early undefeated season.

Dani Castro, head coach, has helmed the program for two years and is also an alumna of Scripps Ranch High School. Castro has been working to develop the team's mental preparation to match their physical strengths.

"I try to give the team the space where they can do their own self-motivation and self-coaching. They draw their energy from each other and mentor each other. Creating this environment is my number one focus," Castro said.

The team has been working to hone their physical talent as well. Megan Connors, senior and captain, was named by Max Field Hockey as California's pre-season Player of the

Year. Castro said Connors often has a target on her back because of this distinction, but they work diligently to ensure they use each player's strengths and skills to succeed.

"We make sure the success of the program is not resting on Megan's shoulders so she can succeed and play the game that she wants to play. She's very talented and an excellent leader, and I feel lucky to be part of her success and career," Castro said.

The team has made some adjustments this year including starting its pre-season a week earlier and setting both individual and team goals. Led by senior captains Connors, Victoria Mellow and Jolie Riedell, the team made a commitment to positivity and hard work.

"Competing against other teams has shown us that our



Captains Victoria Mellow (right), Megan Connors (left) and Jolie Riedell led the SRHS women's field hockey team to a 4-0 start. (photo by Laura Hogan)

hard work in the off season has really helped us start off on top. To be able to stay on top, we have to continue working hard during practice doing all of the little extra things including team bonding. We have a really good chemistry on the team this year which ultimately helps us on the field," Connors said.

The three captains were on varsity last year and experienced a number of tough losses. Riedell said having those difficult experiences has allowed them to learn what went wrong and how they can enhance their program.

"I think our mentality has taken a 180 turn for the better. We are trying to build off of positivity and holding each other accountable and making sure everyone is included," Riedell said.

The team's dedication and efforts have paid off thus far this season. Mellow said the key to their notable start is mental toughness and inspiring coaches.

"Mental toughness is something we all have. We all know what we want our goals to be and we're not afraid to work on them. We're all so fearless," Mellow said.

The team will meet its biggest rivals Serra High School on Oct. 26. Castro is hopeful the Scripps Ranch community will come out to support the team.

"It really enhances the experience of the game when the community turns out. When the fans are involved the team's energy is up. We would love to have the community's support," Castro said.

See a full schedule of the team's games at bit.ly/2Nfnq5S.

SPORTS

Powerful volleyball team

The Scripps Ranch High Girls varsity volleyball team has already piled up a stack of victories this season. See this powerful team as the players return home to host Point Loma High at SRHS starting at 4:45 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 27.

Other SRHS games

The SRHS girls varsity golf team takes on Point Loma High at the Balboa Park golf course, 2600 Golf Course Drive, on Thursday, Sept. 27, starting at 3 p.m.

The SRHS girls varsity tennis team hosts La Jolla High at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 27.

The Falcons boys varsity water polo team challenges Mission Bay High at home on Friday, Sept. 28 with a 3:45 p.m. starting time.



Socctober Fest

The Scripps Ranch Soccer Club will hold Socctober Fest from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 7 at Scripps Ranch Community Park, 11454 Blue Cypress Drive. This is a celebration for the Scripps Ranch Soccer community as well as a team photo day for club members. Visit scrippsranchsc.com.

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Scripps Ranch NJB gets a new look

By Terry L. Wilson

Tip-off time is fast approaching for the Scripps Ranch Chapter of the National Junior Basketball (NJB) season. The program first hit the court in Orange County in 1984 and has been scoring high points with the community and its young hoopsters ever since.

Overseeing the non-profit volunteer program locally is John Owens, director of Scripps Ranch NJB. In his day job as a federal judge, he rules over a court of law, but during NJB season he trades in his gavel for a coach's whistle and presides over a different kind of court.

"NJB in Scripps Ranch was founded 22-years ago and, for all those years, it has been one of the largest recreational basketball programs in San Diego," Owens said. "Children that have played in NJB have gone on to play in high school and Division 1 college basketball. It's been a great way for families to learn about what we think is a great game."

Registration for the 2018-19 season is now open for third through sixth-grade boys and girls. Practice will begin the week of Oct. 29 and games begin on Sunday, Nov. 18. The season ends on Jan. 27.

"It's open enrollment, so everyone who signs up for NJB will be on a team," Owens said. "To keep everything fair, we have Assessment Day, which is Sunday, Sept. 30 and Oct. 7 at the high school.

"This is like the draft you see in the National Football League or the National Basketball League. The kids do some skill work, some shooting and a scrimmage. The coaches will watch, then rate the kids on their



Players crowd the lane in preparation for a free-throw during the 2018 Scripps Ranch NJB Division 1 Girls championship game. (photo courtesy of Kristy Cruz)

skill level. Based on their level of play, we form the various teams. We work very hard to make sure the teams are fair but competitive."

Unfortunately, one division will be missing this year.

"Historically in NJB, we've had three divisions. Division 1, which is seventh and eighth grade, Division 2, which is fifth and sixth grade and Division 3 which is third and fourth grade. This year we will not have a seventh and eighth grade division due to a lack of access to a high school gym," Owens said.

"The only facility for games is Scripps Ranch High School, and this year they will be playing high school games on Saturdays. That makes it very difficult because we always played our Division 1 games on Saturday and our Division 2 and 3 games on Sunday. So, this year all games will be on

See **NJB**, Page 19



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Cross country is not only about running

By Bella Ross

If there is one thing Jerabek Park, Lake Miramar and Mission Bay Park all have in common, it is that they are familiar sites to Scripps Ranch High School's 135 cross country runners who've made distance running their life.

Often on weekends, these kids can be found running these sites in preparation for their next meet.

"I don't cut kids," Head Coach Chuck Warren said. "I figure if a kid wants to run, they can join the team. If they have a good attitude, they give 100 percent in the workouts and meets, and they come to practice

every day, they're on the team."

Invitational meets began earlier in September and will be followed by league competitions in October, according to Warren.

"We compete against powerhouse schools like Cathedral Catholic and University City who have really good programs," he said.

Following league competitions, Warren said the seven best varsity boys and girls move up the CIF championships, then to the state championships in Fresno if they make it.

Last year, Warren said, both the boys and girls



teams went to the state championships for the first time in 20 years. With a number of returning runners, Warren said he is optimistic the success from last year will live on into this season.

There seems to be one concern. One of the team's top competitors moved up into their division, Warren said.

"La Costa Canyon actually increased their students by 30 kids and have moved up to division 2, which is a bad break for us, but it happens," Warren said.

However, Warren emphasized that winning has not always been the focus.

NJB

Continued from Page 18

Sunday at Scripps Ranch High School," he explained.

"Subsequently we had to take a year off for Division 1, but we're working on a solution to this with the city and the Department of Parks and Recreation to see if something can happen next year," Owens said.

In NJB, every player gets time on the court and every-

one gets time on the bench.

"One of the great things about NJB is that everyone will get roughly the same amount of playing time in every game," Owens said. "At the same time, these games are very competitive. Players want to win these games, so there are winners and losers of each game. We do not hand out participation trophies. Instead we give the kids Shooting T-Shirts with our spon-

sors on the back. You'll see kids wearing them all over town."

This year, the NJB players will be hitting the court in style, with a brand-new look.

"For years we've had a standard uniform, but this year we're getting new uniforms," Owens said.

For more information about NJB, visit scrippsranchnjb.org or email info@scrippsranchnjb.org.

ADVERTORIAL

Talking about fire safety with your children

By Kevin Kane
State Farm Agent

You've equipped your home with all the necessary precautions for a fire. But smoke detectors and fire extinguishers aren't enough to keep your children prepared. Equip your family with safety knowledge by teaching them about fire hazards and how to react if a fire sparks in the home.

Identify your home's hazards

Most of the fire hazards in the home are in the kitchen. The most important lesson for young children to learn in the kitchen is that the stove is hot, and they should keep away from it when it's in use. When your children are older and ready to begin cooking for themselves, then you can instruct them further on individual appliance safety and extinguishing cooking fires.

Playing with matches is another major source of home fires. Children as young as two years old can strike matches and start fires, so be sure to keep your matches and lighters safely tucked away in locked drawers. Teach children not to pick up matches or lighters they may find, but to tell an adult immediately.

You should also inform your children about the following hazards:

- **Aerosol cans:** These can explode if placed near stoves, radiators, or other sources of heat.
- **Candles:** Candles can start fires if placed near flammable materials, and their hot wax can burn skin. Never let children light candles, and get in the habit of blowing out any candles before leaving a room.
- **Electrical cords:** Fraying cords can ignite a fire, so show children how to recognize one.
- **Lamps:** Explain that paper or cloth over a lamp can start a fire.
- **Iron:** Warn children to stay away from an iron standing on end.

Stop, drop and roll

Teaching children this important safety move can prevent serious burns if their clothes are on fire. Have them demonstrate the steps for you, and remind them to cover their face and mouth.

Disclosure

Because insurance protection is a contract, any coverage descriptions in this article are general only and are not statements of contract. All coverages are subject to all policy provisions, including applicable endorsements.

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HEALTH



Filter water safely

(StatePoint) September is National Preparedness Month, and with disasters occurring around the world, accessing safe drinking water is a priority. When building your emergency kit, include a portable filter to help eliminate harmful contaminants from drinking sources. LifeStraw Go is a refillable bottle that incorporates a two-stage filter removing toxins from drinking water. Another option is LifeStraw Flex, a multi-use filter. Those in groups may use the Mission model, a high-volume gravity-powered purifier.

Local endodontist helps save teeth

By Bella Ross

With sprawling mountains as the backdrop and the sounds of the ocean in the distance, one may find it easy to forget they are sitting in the waiting room at the dentist.

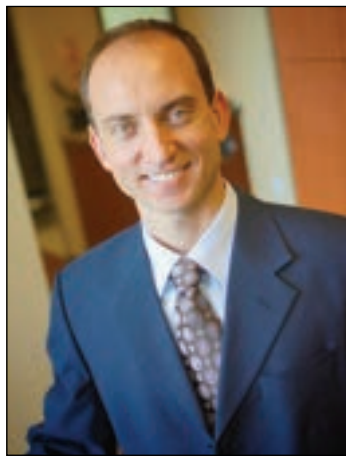
"It's always been a passion of mine to help patients through the more challenging experiences in dentistry," said Autumn McDonald, lead assistant at Pinnacle Endodontics.

This, she said, explains their attempts at creating a serene environment for the patients. When it comes to endodontic care, endodontist Dr. Anthony John isn't normally seeing people on their best day.

"This isn't coming in for your routine cleaning," McDonald said. "It's a root canal. Each tooth is so unique, and we want our patients to really understand in depth what the possibilities are and what the prognosis is."

John, a Scripps Ranch resident, has been in the business for a while and he said, when starting his practice, he wanted to be sure he had the best technology available.

"The 3D technology we have first became available



Dr. Anthony John, D.D.S., M.S.

in 2006 and, with this technology, it allows us to depict internal structures and cross sections rather than the overlapping images typically produced by conventional x-rays," John said.

Often, what John deals with in his practice is either root canals or the re-treatment of root canals. Because many dentists do not have the technology available to them, John said they may not be able to fully address the issues that cause root canals.

These are the patients John and his team are often dealing with.

"We save teeth," McDonald said. "We work really hard to (save) a tooth that might be infected or a tooth that might have a situation where one might say, 'just pull the tooth.'"

Patients will be relieved



Special 3D technology at Pinnacle Endodontics depicts internal structures and cross sections. (courtesy photo)

to learn Pinnacle Endodontics keeps their afternoons open for last-minute appointments. While other endodontists are closed on Fridays, McDonald said they stay open and even have people on call over the weekends.

"We know that a toothache is probably the worst experience most people have to go through when they do experience it and we don't want them to have to wait through the weekend," McDonald said.

On top of this, the Pinnacle Endodontics team has made it clear they have a passion for their practice.

McDonald said it was a bad dental experience she had as a child that even-

tually turned her toward dentistry. When her family finally found a dentist who was willing to take the time she needed to feel comfortable, she realized the importance of being by the patient's side.

As for John, he said it's easy for him to get caught up in his love of what he does.

"I am so passionate about saving teeth and helping people that sometimes I forget how I got here," John said. "I'm grateful to be here."

Pinnacle Endodontics is at 10672 Wexford St., Suite 265, around the corner from Scripps Summit Drive off Scripps Poway Parkway. Visit pinnacleendodontics.com.

ADVERTORIAL

Six Reasons why you should get sober NOW

Have you been putting off getting help for your alcohol or drug problem? Here are some reasons why getting help TODAY just might be the best option for you.

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- Heart disease
- ... And hundreds more

You'll Save Money

From the very first day you stop drinking and druging, you'll be putting money in your OWN pocket. Think of what you could do with the thousands of dollars you spend on alcohol or

drugs:

- A new car?
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You'll Have Better Relationships

Substance abuse is the enemy of healthy relationships. Think of all the past nagging, arguments, lies, betrayals, dysfunction, and emotional pain associated with alcohol-and drug-driven behaviors. When you get sober, you can start repairing some of the damage that was caused by active addiction.

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Every drug addict or alcoholic has "buddies" – people who are just along for the ride and a good time. They are your "friend" only as long as partying lasts. In recovery, you learn to make positive friendships that are not substance-based.

Imagine having friends who share common interests and actually care about YOU, rather than the drugs and alcohol.

You'll Have SO Much More Time

Have you ever thought about how time-consuming active addiction really is? Obsessing over, acquiring, using, and recovering from drugs and alcohol can take up your entire day. In recovery, all that time is freed up, and you can now spend it on becoming the best YOU possible.

You'll Be Present for Your Own Life

During active addiction, you may not even remember all of the "fun" you are supposed to be having – blackout drunks, nodding off, etc. To top it off, how many memorable occasions did you miss – birthdays, anniversaries, family out-



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Helping the body function at its best

By John Gregory

Stress and accidents are a part of life. They affect everyone eventually.

Now, when residents get out of alignment, there's a man who can help and he just moved his practice into Scripps Ranch at 9909 Mira Mesa Blvd., Suite 130.

Dr. Gerald Palmes is here and he's ready to help. He's been practicing for about seven years, the last 2 ½ in San Diego. He just moved his office to Scripps Ranch this summer and he has been introducing himself to the community at the Scripps Ranch Farmer's Market.

"I work with all types of people, particularly people that are active, that love being active and want to stay active," Palmes said. "I specialize in more of a family approach for chiropractic care, meaning kids, pregnant women, your weekend warriors, you name it."

Chiropractors are doctors who are trained in a similar manner as medical doctors, but with the emphasis on adjusting and biomechanics versus surgery and pharmacology. The main goal is to get the body to work and function and feel better, Palmes explained.

"Oftentimes, people will come in with lower back issues or chronic issues like back pain or headaches. It works wonders with that but, at the end of the day, the goal is to get the body to work more efficiently so it's healing," he said.

The main control system in the body is the brain and the brain is connected to the nervous system, Palmes said.

"The main goal is to remove any interference within the nervous system," he said.

"In life we all have certain accidents and stresses. Those incidents can cause interference and irritation on the nervous system," Palmes added. "If that's occurring, the body's not going to heal or move or work the way it's supposed to. The job of the chiropractor is to remove that interference so that the body's working closer to 100 percent."

Techniques include mostly adjustments by hand, but he also uses equipment including a chiropractic drop table or a chiropractic adjustment instrument. The first is an adjustable table and the latter is a mechanical tool that delivers a gentle impulse to a targeted area.

"Ninety-nine percent of the time I'm adjusting the spine. So, neck, mid-back,



Dr. Gerald Palmes

lower back, hips," he explained. "Some people, if they are having jaw issues, we can just adjust that as well. I can also do work on shoulders and other extremities. But 99 percent of the time it's going to be related to the spine."

He said he doesn't do much soft tissue work, and he'll prescribe exercises that will help complement the adjustments. If a patient needs further care, he will recommend a physical therapist or a trainer.

Palmes will soon rebrand his practice as Best Life Chiropractic and has plans for a grand opening on Oct. 20.

He intends to perform community outreach, host events and hopes to become a valuable resource for the community. For instance, he is offering a free backpack assessment for children. Parents can call ahead, bring in their child with their backpack and the doctor will make sure the backpack fits correctly and that the child is wearing it properly.

He also plans to help with the Run Force 5K at Miramar College on Oct. 27.

"My vision is to help people live life where there are only possibilities instead of limitations. To help people in the community be the best version of themselves by making sure their nervous system and body is functioning at its highest level possible," he said. "My vision is to empower people in the community to be proactive about their health."

Palmes offers a free phone consultation to anyone considering chiropractic care.

Visit drpalmes.com, email gerald@drpalmes.com or call (619) 758-5820.

Boost your family's veggie intake

(StatePoint) Nutritious, low-calorie vegetables should be the star player of all your meals. But providing veggies for your family can be time consuming and costly. Luckily, there are several ways to boost your veggie intake.

- **Go frozen.** Frozen vegetables are often one of the most affordable options and the quickest to prepare, reducing time spent slicing and dicing on busy weeknights. What's more, by opting for frozen veggies, your family will likely reduce its food waste. Frozen vegetables are easy to store for long periods of time, and recent studies have found that freezing actually helps lock nutrients in.

- **Swap it out:** Little ones and even some adults can be resistant to certain vegetables at first. But there are ways to incorporate them into family

meals with no one the wiser. Consider cooking with vegetables that offer the look, feel and taste of traditional starches such as rice, pasta and potatoes. For example, Green Giant's frozen Veggie Swap-Ins line, which includes Green Giant Riced Veggies, Green Giant Veggie Spirals and Green Giant Mashed Cauliflower are easy go-to items in any kitchen for quick family meals.

- **Get creative:** Consider reducing calories in salads and sides by upping your vegetable intake in these dishes. Make an Italian pasta salad out of zucchini or carrot spirals. Swap out traditional rice with riced cauliflower to make a simple pilaf. Create a tasty alternative to traditional potato tots with such products as Green Giant Veggie Tots. The possibilities are endless.



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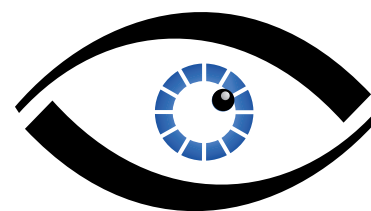
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HOME NEWS

Time to replace your entry door?

(StatePoint) Is it time to replace your home's entry door? If your foyer is drafty, the answer is yes. Particularly with winter around the corner. Not only will a new door boost exterior appeal, it will prepare interiors for a temperature dip, making your home more comfortable while saving you money on utility bills.

So, what should you be looking for in a door?

A tailored fit

Nothing feels quite as good as well-tailored clothing created specifically to your size, shape and style preference. Off-the-rack clothing just doesn't fit everyone's measurements. Similarly, off-the-rack doors fall short of expectations in the same way. The materials and workmanship that go into custom-made doors are of exceptional quality and durability, and far exceed what is available as ready-made. Unlike consumer-grade doors, which are cut down to fit your need, professional-class doors are built to your exact measurements for a more secure and energy efficient door.



This fall, set yourself up for a comfortable winter. Upgrade your entry door for substantial energy savings and a more secure home. (StatePoint)

Energy efficiency

Look for Energy Star certified doors, which have been independently tested and certified to meet strict energy-efficiency standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency. While a new door does come with a price tag, it's important to keep in mind that the right choice can help you lower your utility bills and ultimately present a return on your

investment.

Quality materials

While wood doors offer a beautiful classic look, they require regular maintenance and lack the endurance, security and energy efficiency of fiberglass or steel. Consider opting for quality materials that will last a long time but not force you to sacrifice the look you want. For example, the low-main-

tenance fiberglass options offered by door system manufacturer ProVia include the Signet and Heritage collections and provide the classic look of real woodgrain, but are engineered to be highly energy efficient. The Legacy steel collection provides durability and energy efficiency, whether you opt for a woodgrain texture or smooth steel look, and is

See **ENTRY DOOR**, Page 23



Prices remain high, but down from July

August sales of previously owned homes in San Diego County drooped in the late summer heat, according to housing statistics compiled through the Multiple Listing Service by the Greater San Diego Association of Realtors®.

Scripps Ranch home sales for August 2018

Single family homes sold: **30**

Median price of single family homes sold: **\$960,750**

Attached homes sold (condominiums or townhomes): **15**

Median price of attached homes sold: **\$530,000**

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Upgrade your kitchen

(StatePoint) Of course, cooking like a chef at home requires talent and practice. But there's no doubt about it: having the right culinary tools, appliances and prep space is essential, too.

To upgrade your kitchen so that you can cook like a chef, consider the following:

Prep like a pro

Save time and energy and get a cleaner cut by maintaining your knives. Properly clean, dry and store knives directly after use and regularly sharpen them. Whether that's on a magnetic strip on the wall or an in-drawer organizer, the best options will allow you to see all your knives at once so you can reach for the correct one.

Precision slicing? You may also wish to invest in a mandoline slicer.

Bake a lot? Consider ditching the measuring cups by using a digital scale instead. You'll get faster, more accurate results and the bonus of less to clean-up.

Cook like a pro

When it comes to ensuring that there are no limits to what you can do in the kitchen, it's all about having top-notch appliances. Check out the Pro Series Collection of free-standing ranges from ILVE. Known for their handcrafted Italian appliances, the new series offers chef-quality features such as a removable griddle, high BTU brass burners and a built-in warm drawer to keep cooked food at an ideal temperature for serving. Available in a 36-inch single or unique double oven configuration as well as 40-inch and 48-inch sizes with double ovens, the electric ovens feature multi-function

ENTRY DOOR

Continued from Page 22

a good choice if security is your top priority.

The right style

When selecting a style and color, take into consideration the current architectural elements of your home. Use online tools that allow you to upload an image of your home's exterior and play with various combinations to determine the right fit. Keep in mind that an entry door can either be a place to maintain the overall mood of your home's exterior or a way to add a pop of color.

For more tips and resources, visit provia.com.



Want to cook like a professional? Update your kitchen accordingly. A few upgrades can help you become a better chef. (StatePoint)

cooking options and included rotisserie accessory. The Pro Series is equipped with features that professional chefs dream of at a price point that the home culinarian can afford. Offered in stainless steel and matte graphite colors, you can get a professional-style cooking experience while maintaining the sleek design of your kitchen.

Move like a pro

Do an audit of your cur-

rent cooking habits, bearing in mind the layout of your kitchen and the organization of go-to ingredients. Are you expending time and energy walking all the way around the kitchen island just to get to the fridge? Are you spending too much time poking around for a particular spice or oil? The optimal flow in your kitchen space will allow for more intuitive food preparation and help you stay light on your feet.



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CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

I would give Steve, Johnny & Julie 10 stars if I could. If it weren't for this Dynamic Team, we would not have the beautiful house we have today. Steve's extensive experience, efficiency and expertise were the main factors in the seller choosing our offer over multiple others. As soon as the offer was officially signed, Steve went to bat negotiating for repairs. He made sure we had a thorough understanding of any issues with the house and played hardball until he got us the best possible credit - which was more than we had hoped for. His team stayed in touch almost daily and also worked directly with our finance guy and escrow company to make sure that everyone was on the same page and things were moving along. We ran into a major snag with some solar issues that the seller had not disclosed up front. Julie spent countless hours on the phone working with the solar company and escrow. She took care of all of the necessary paperwork and both she and Steve made themselves available at all hours to help until the problem was finally resolved. I have worked with many realtors over the years, but buying a home through Steve & Johnny was by far the best experience I have ever had with any realtor. With so many realtors out there, it's hard to make a decision - and it seems that everyone has a friend that is a realtor these days. But, if you want a professional realtor that has the experience and expertise on getting you the absolute best deal and can handle issues that are bound to arise, Steve & Johnny Ferreira are your go to guys. I can't recommend this team highly enough."

- J. Wasserman



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