



BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Local businesses are open and ready!

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SCHOOLS

Back to campus in springtime

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SPORTS

Softball players are back!

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ONE MAJOR PROJECT

Construction will begin soon at Miramar Reservoir for the city's Pure Water Program. (photo by John Gregory)

Pure Water Program assembly starts soon

By Hoyt Smith

After nearly 12 years of studies, planning and preparation, the Pure Water San Diego Program is about to impact Scripps Ranch in a major way.

Construction of a 7.54-mile pipeline will impede local traffic at numerous intersections over the next few years. The project will also affect access to Lake Miramar, including a one-year moratorium on boating there.

It's all part of Phase 1 of the largest infrastructure undertaking ever in San Diego, totaling 10 different construction projects and more than a billion dollars in expenditures. When the Pure Water San Diego Program is completed and fully operational by 2035, it is targeted to provide one-third of San Diego's water supply by utilizing proven water purification technology to convert recycled water into safe, high-quality water.

The total estimated construction period for Phase 1 is four years, according to John Stufflebean, assistant director of Pure Water and Technical Services for the Public Utilities Department of the City of San Diego. He said the newly treated water will begin flowing into Miramar Reservoir by March of 2025.

The portion of Phase 1 that will most directly disrupt Scripps
See **PURE WATER**, Page 4



A TOAST TO THE NEW FARMER'S MARKET

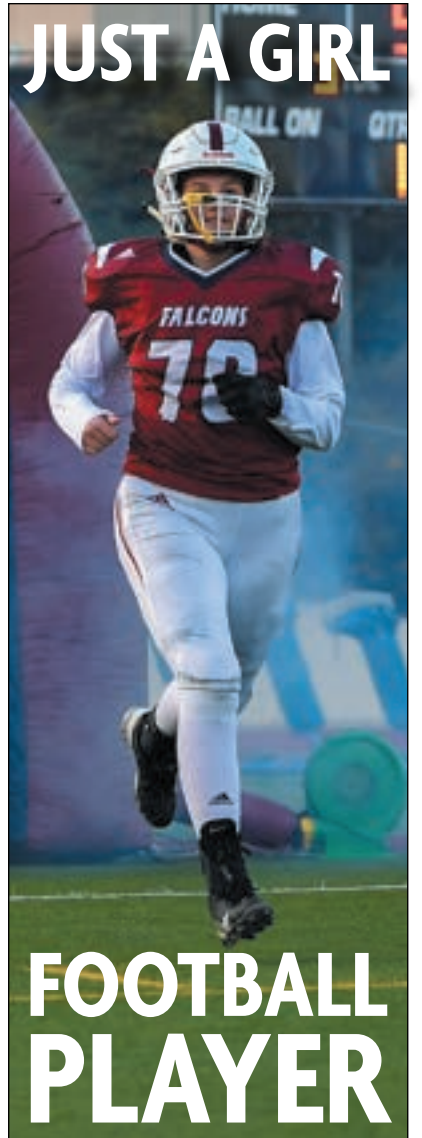
Celebrating the New Scripps Ranch Farmer's Market are (from left) Mathew Perry, owner of Auto-Ness Physical Therapy; Beverly and Mike Cassity, Farmer's Market managers; and Newtopia Cyder owners Jennifer Hays Moreno and Rick Moreno. (photo by John Gregory)

New Farmer's Market is poised to open May 20

By John Gregory

All systems are "go" as preparations continue for the planned May 20 launch of the New Scripps Ranch Farmer's Market. The New Farmer's Market is set to be held each Thursday night from 3 to 7 p.m. in the parking lot at Newtopia Cyder, 10045 Carroll Canyon Road.

See **FARMER'S MARKET**, Page 6



Becca Cook enters the field for a game against Kearny High. (photo by Justin Fine)

Becca Cook plays in the trenches!

By Kaila Mellos

Becca Cook, a Scripps Ranch High School senior, is the first female to play on the Falcons varsity football team.

"I've always wanted to play, but this year is my last year as a high schooler, and I wanted to leave without regrets," she said.

Cook plays on the team's defensive line. Before that, she had experience playing on a flag football team leading up to her freshman year. She was wary at first joining, but as she's been with the team for a year, "I am as much part of the team as anyone else," she said.

When Cook first joined, she recalls it being "a little rough," but as time went on, she learned that she just had to keep going
See **BECCA COOK**, Page 20

Celebrate Earth Month by recycling

By Lynn Owens
Sustainable Scripps Ranch

This Earth Month, we'll get "down and dirty," "into the weeds" of greenery recycling. How does the Miramar landfill create fabulous, free compost and mulch for us? The key is getting the right materials in – clean, uncontaminated plant material that can be ground up, mixed with commercial food waste, then spread, watered and turned for 70 days while it heats and decomposes.

DON'T put anything but plant material into your green can: NO glass, plastic, paper, poop, pots, rocks, bricks or even shovelfuls of dirt as these can ruin the compost and decertify the beautiful results.

SURPRISE! DO put all these plant items into your green can:

- plants, weeds, leaves and grass clippings (shake off dirt from roots as much as possible)
- palm fronds (but not palm seeds/nuts), banana trees, birds of paradise
- cactus and yucca plants and succulents of all types
- shrub and tree trimmings that are less than four feet long and six inches in diameter
- clean, untreated, unpainted wood, plywood, and particle board

Large quantities of palm fronds, succulents, etc. overpower the landfill's greenery grinding tools, so commercial landscapers are not allowed to dump these materials. However, in small household quantities, one green bin at a time, they are fine.

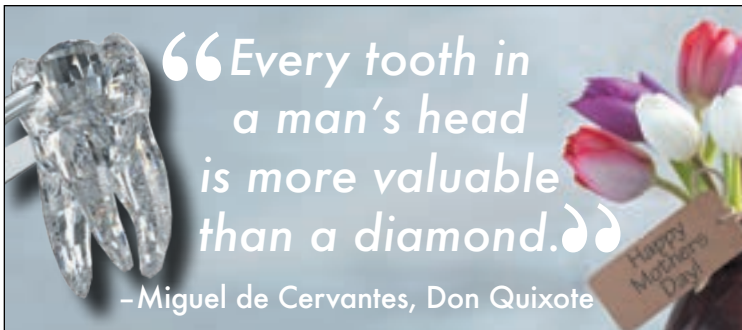
Then what? You can self-load up to two cubic yards of compost or mulch per trip, for free, with proof of San Diego city residency. (Wood chips are also available but you have to pay for them.) One cubic yard is about six 32-gallon trash cans. Bring your own mask, shovels, containers, and maybe a tarp. Big containers are heavy; use smaller containers (5-10 gallons) or fill big ones in position in your vehicle. If you have an open truck, city personnel can load for you, for a fee. Details of availability and pricing: sandiego.gov/environmental-services/miramar/greenery/cmw.

What's the point?

Better air: Green waste dumped into the landfill decomposes without oxygen. As a result, it generates methane gas which reduces air quality and increases global climate issues. City composting aerates the decomposing greenery to avoid methane gas creation and release.

Better soils and better water use: Soil is a key to life. Compost improves heavy clay Scripps Ranch soils and lets us grow better, healthier plants with less water and less runoff. Mulch helps hold water in the garden, keeping water usage lower and avoiding runoff.

Better community: Working with the city recycling systems improves life for all. Here's to happy Earth Month 2021. Contact us at sustainableSR@scrippsranchnews.com or visit scrippsranchnews.com/committees/sustainable-scripps-ranch for tips and links.



– Miguel de Cervantes, Don Quixote

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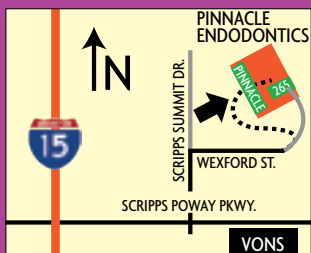


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NEWS UPDATES

Distinguished School: State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond announced that **Marshall Middle School**, under the direction of **Principal Josh Way**, is being honored under the 2021 California Distinguished Schools Program. The California Department of Education identifies and awards eligible schools based on performance and progress on state indicators specified on the California School Dashboard, the state's accountability and continuous improvement system.

Garcia wins VAPA Award: The Visual and Performing Arts Department (VAPA) of the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) announced that Scripps Ranch High School theatre teacher **Patrick Garcia** was honored with the Artistic Innovation Award, part of the 2021 VAPA Spotlight Awards. The VAPA Spotlight Awards celebrate transforming lives through the arts across SDUSD.

Honored to sing: Scripps Ranch resident **Amalea Ribeiro**, a high school student at San Diego School of the Creative and Performing Arts, was selected to sing the National Anthem for the San Diego Unified School District teaching awards. The district will hold a virtual celebration honoring the district's Teachers of the Year on May 4. Ribeiro was filmed singing the National Anthem at Hoover High for the upcoming event.

SR Theatre: Scripps Ranch Theatre and Oceanside Theatre Company are coproducing a streaming piece: the one woman show "My Brooklyn Hamlet," written and performed by Brenda Adelman. This is a story about love and hate, passion and numbness, and how to find joy after you've lost everything. Streaming April 23-25 and April 30-May 2. Tickets \$22: scrippsranchtheatre.org/mybrooklynhamlet.

SR COVID numbers: The County of San Diego released the following COVID-19 total numbers recorded in the 92131 area as of April 20: 19,288 vaccinations; 1,270 cases; 8 deaths.

Correction: Scripps Ranch News incorrectly spelled the name of Sanjana Ganti, a Scripps Ranch High senior whose artwork was selected for exhibit in San Diego Museum of Art's Young Art celebration.

SRHS graduation: Scripps Ranch High seniors will

graduate at Petco Park on Sunday, June 13 at 11:30 a.m. The SRHS graduation parade will be Monday, June 14.

Powder Puff Game: The annual SRHS Powderpuff Football Game will be held May 16, 5:30-7:30 p.m. with a senior slide show to follow; food trucks after the game at 8 p.m.

Clean Up Day: The Rotary Club of Poway-Scripps will assist all who drive through for the Scripps Ranch Community Clean Up Day on May 15, 8 a.m.-noon at the Scripps Ranch Community Center, 11885 Cypress Canyon Road. The Rotary Club is partnering with Computers2Kids (C2K) to accept electronics for recycling. C2K accepts all working and nonworking electronics.

Taste of the Ranch: The Scripps Ranch High Foundation virtual "Taste of the Ranch" drawing is scheduled for May 1. Raffle closes at 3 p.m., April 31. Raffle tickets: srhsfoundation.org/totr.

New librarian: The new branch manager for the Scripps Miramar Ranch Library is **Matt Beatty**. He has experience managing libraries in San Diego and Philadelphia, most recently at the Ocean Beach Branch Library.

Group helps set appointments

By Kaila Mellos

Elizabeth Martinez, a Scripps Ranch local, is part of a large group of volunteers calling themselves the Vaccine Angels.

"I watched my mom and many others around me struggle to find and schedule appointments for themselves," she said. "I had not realized just how difficult and frustrating it was until I became eligible myself."

Vaccine Angels is a group of volunteers led by Gavin Tong who joined together to help underserved communities in San Diego schedule appointments for COVID-19 vaccines. Martinez is one of at least 50 other volunteers helping in this effort.

Martinez started volunteering in late March after struggling to find appointments for herself and a couple of family members and friends.

"I happened to see a post from Gavin on Facebook a couple of days after making my appointment asking if anyone would be interested in joining a group with the sole purpose of helping those who were also strug-

gling to find appointments. I jumped at the opportunity and was excited to help," she said.

Since joining, she has "successfully scheduled appointments for over 50 people." Vaccine Angels, as a whole, has made 945 appointments for the community with more than 1,019 requests by early-April.

"I previously worked in the medical field as an administrative supervisor for a pain management doctor and am currently a student working toward a career in nursing," she said.

Martinez is also a single mother hoping to help her seven-year-old daughter return back to a sense of normalcy in the fall.

"My daughter has been my inspiration. I want her to be able to return to school safely in the fall," she said. "If I can do my part in helping as many people as possible get their vaccines to make that a reality, I will do whatever it takes."

Vaccine Angels is taking requests for help finding an appointment. Visit sdvaccineangels.org or email sdvaccineangels@gmail.com.



Elizabeth Martinez

NEWS

DADS & GRADS

Father's Day messages: Publish a special Father's Day message in the upcoming issue of Scripps Ranch News. Free! 30-word limit; photo optional. Deadline is May 12. Email to info@scrippsranchnews.com

Graduation messages: Publish a special congratulations message to your graduating senior, or a promotion message to your student in the upcoming issue of Scripps Ranch News. Scholarship announcements also accepted. FREE! 30-word limit; photo optional. Deadline is May 12. Email to info@scrippsranchnews.com.

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PURE WATER

Continued from Page 1

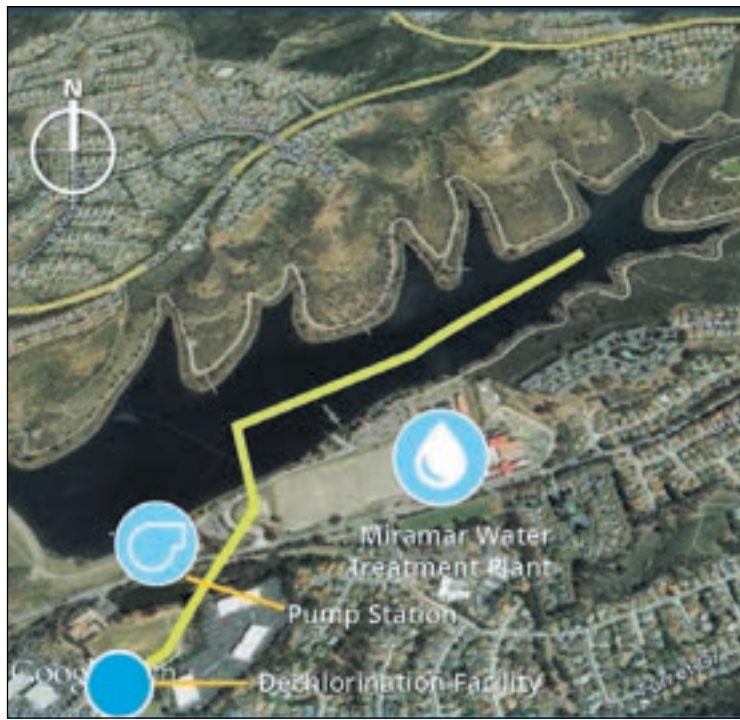
Ranch residents is slated to begin in June and may possibly continue into 2024.

“Construction of the pipeline should start in two months and it should last for about two to three years,” Stufflebean said. “Work in the reservoir will probably take more than two years.”

The pipeline route for delivering treated water from the North City Water Reclamation Plant Expansion to the Miramar Reservoir will intersect streets such as Hoyt Park Drive, Scripps Ranch Boulevard, Carroll Canyon Road, Business Park Avenue, Willow Creek Road and Old Grove Road.

“We’re just in the process of awarding the contract,” Stufflebean said. “One of the first things the contractor does is give us their specific schedule. It will be a few weeks before we know when construction will affect these specific streets.”

Community input on Phase 1 of the Pure Water San Diego Program has come from the Scripps Ranch/Miramar Working Group, one of four working groups organized by the City to provide ongoing feedback in order to address and reduce con-



This image of Miramar Reservoir pinpoints the dechlorination facility, pump station and Miramar Water Treatment Plant. The Pure Water Program will release purified water via an underground pipeline where it will blend with imported and local water supplies. (courtesy of Pure Water San Diego Program)

struction issues in various neighborhoods. The Scripps Ranch/Miramar Working Group will assist in disseminating information and sharing residents’ concerns.

“They’ve been very active and have already made dozens of suggestions to reduce the impact of the project,” Stufflebean said.

Once the pipeline carrying the purified water reaches Lake Miramar, it will continue for an additional mile

underwater toward the reservoir’s eastern shore.

“A sub-aqueous pipeline will diverge, much like a fishbone, beneath the surface,” Stufflebean said. “There will be about a hundred different ports distributing (the treated water) evenly throughout the reservoir.”

The pipeline will deliver 30 million gallons of purified water per day to Lake Miramar, where it will blend

with the City’s imported and local water supplies. It will then be treated once again at the adjacent Miramar Drinking Water Treatment Plant before the reservoir water is distributed to customers. The treatment plant currently provides treated drinking water to an estimated 500,000 customers. The plant produces up to 144 million gallons of treated drinking water per day.

The Phase 1 pipeline project will affect access to Lake Miramar, although the City has consulted with a community working group to mitigate many of the issues that construction will cause. Stufflebean said that there is a plan in place that will eliminate any reduction in parking places.

“New parking will be created to replace any loss of existing parking at the reservoir,” he said. “There will be no changes to on shore activities, no impact along the trails beside the reservoir. The major impact will be to boating. There will be no boating for about a year. It’s a safety issue.”

Stufflebean added that wildlife surrounding Miramar reservoir will not be harmed by introducing treated water into the lake.

“We have done a lot of studies to determine that the surrounding flora and fauna will not be impacted,” he said. “Currently, the reservoir water consists mostly of Colorado River water. Eventually, most of the reservoir water will be cleaner.”

When the Pure Water San Diego Program is complete, it will provide a local, reliable source of extremely pure water that will, along with ongoing conservation efforts, significantly reduce the region’s reliance on Colorado River water.

Prepare for fire season

By the Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council

Be prepared – oh wait, haven’t we heard that before?

It’s fire season – oh wait, we’ve heard that before also, only difference now is that fire season has been declared year



round. Which takes us back to “be prepared.”

As I drive around our community, I see so many things that make me concerned:

Palm trees with dead shrouds; they make wonderful torches! Rotten fences held up with rotten hunks of wood. Combustible material close to houses. Shake shingle roofs. These are a few of the items that should be taken into consideration as you look around your property. How can you get them taken care of to be better prepared?

The Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council is hoping in the next few months to get a contract in place to help with some of the brush clearing in the community by cleaning up some of the ground fuel hanging around. More to come in the future.

One of the exciting things coming up for our community is the firefighters training on May 3-5 between the Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar and Scripps Ranch. The training is designed for engine company personnel and strike team leaders. So, be prepared to see hundreds of fire fighters in the community, but activities are not open to the public.

Be prepared and stay safe: srfiresafe.org; srfiresafecouncil@gmail.com; (858) 201-2711.



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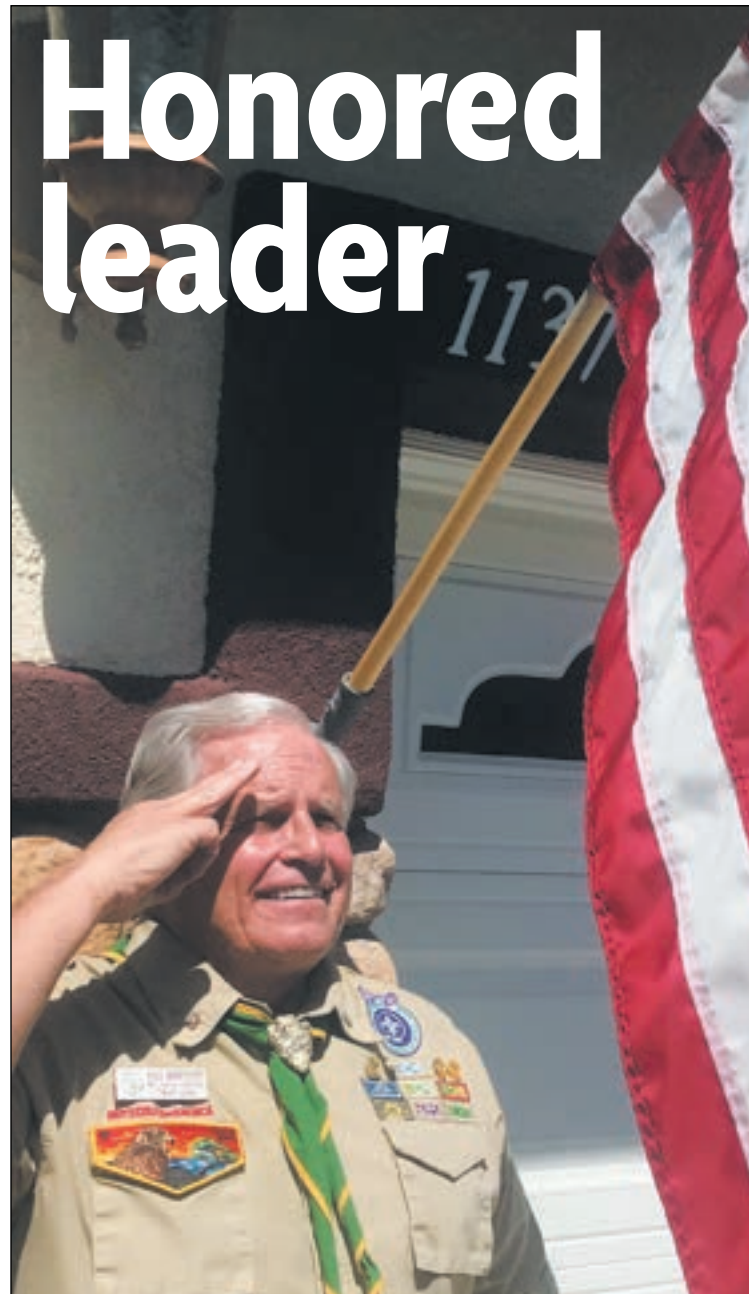
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Scoutmaster Paul Honeycutt snaps a crisp salute on Memorial Day 2020. (courtesy of Paul Honeycutt)

Honeycutt earns prestigious awards

By John Gregory

Paul Honeycutt, a Scoutmaster in Scripps Ranch since 2006, recently received two huge honors for his many years of accomplishments as a Boy Scout leader.

Honeycutt was presented the Eagle Scout Alumni Association Scoutmaster of the Year Award and also received the National Eagle Scout Association Outstanding Eagle Scout Award.

The Scoutmaster of the Year Award is awarded to only one adult leader each year in the San Diego region. Honeycutt mentored 70 Scouts to earn their Eagle Scout award.

The National Eagle Scout Association Outstanding Eagle Scout Award is presented to a leader with a longtime period of distinguished service to Scouting, community and youth.

Honeycutt is Scoutmaster for Scripps Ranch Troop 616, with members ranging from 11 to 17 years of age. One of the main reasons he was nominated for Scoutmaster of the Year was because of his ability to overcome the challenges of maintaining activities for his troop during the COVID-19 crisis.

“It was pretty devastating to Scouting to be locked down,” he said, adding that the challenge was figuring out how to continue activities when the troop couldn’t meet in person. “As each week came along, I just tried to think of things that would make scouting fun.”

Using his motto, “have fun and be safe,” Honeycutt worked with his troop to plan virtual meetings.

“I just jumped in, got a professional level Zoom account, set it up for our troop and we

started having our weekly meetings – which wasn’t perfect, but was the best we could do,” he said.

Troop 616 virtual meetings have begun with instruction on such topics as camping, hiking or first aid, and end with a game based on that week’s theme.

He set up activities for his Scouts that they would complete on their own. One month was a geocache contest. One month included a fishing derby in which scouts went to their favorite fishing hole. There was a hiking challenge in which scouts were to hike with family members and log their miles. Another activity involved camping.

“So, that was a huge challenge to overcome, to try to keep outdoors somehow in the program,” Honeycutt said. “We gave the scouts credit for camping nights where they set up their tent in the backyard. They had to cook for their family.”

A former Navy fighter pilot and now a financial advisor, Honeycutt has received numerous civic and Scouting honors. Here are a few of his other accomplishments and awards: Council Contingent Jamboree Scoutmaster 2009-2010; World Scout Jamboree Scoutmaster 2018-2019; Wood Badge for the 21st Century 2008; Scout Leader’s Training Award 2009; Scoutmaster’s Key 2010; Order of the Arrow Vigil Honor 2013; James E. West Fellowship Award 2016; National Eagle Scout Association Legacy Fellow 2017; Silver Beaver Award 2017; President’s Volunteer Service Award for Lifetime Achievement 2016 for over 4,000 volunteer service hours; SRCA Volunteer of the Year 2013, 2014; SRCA Distinguished Volunteer 2016.

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FARMER'S MARKET

Continued from Page 1

The opening of the New Farmer's Market signals the return of a weekly Scripps Ranch tradition that has been missing since the former market closed in 2018 when its site was designated for construction. Now, Beverly and Mike Cassity will return to manage the New Farmer's Market. Tim Mapes will be assistant manager.

"It's going to be a meeting place for family and friends," Beverly said. "Come after work. Join your fami-

ly, have dinner together. Do your shopping. Bring the kids."

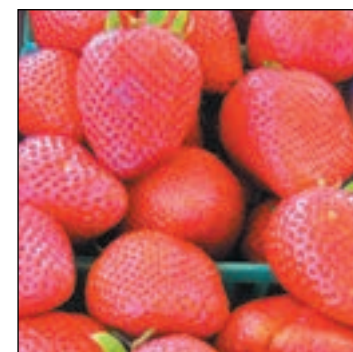
The New Farmer's Market will host more than 60 vendors each Thursday, with the main focus on Farmers and Food, she added.

The market will have three times as many farmers as before. It will feature a selection of the largest organic fruit vendors in the county.

There will be 26 food vendors, 10 of them serving hot food. Food vendors will include yakitori Japanese street food, New Zealand meat pies, toasted cheese sandwiches and crepes. Five



Bibby's Belgian Crepes is just one of the 26 food vendors offering mouthwatering treats for all to enjoy at the bistro tables or to take inside Newtopia Cyder at the New Scripps Ranch Farmer's Market. (courtesy photo)



Strawberries from Antonio & Guillermo Farms will be available at the New Scripps Ranch Farmer's Market. (courtesy photo)

bakery vendors are scheduled.

Live music will be at the market each week, and bistro tables and chairs will be

available for dining. Customers can also take their food into Newtopia Cyder and order a drink.

There will be arts and crafts booths, two fine artists and a wood turner. A clothes designer will offer her line for the 20-something set.

Parking will be available in the Cabrillo Credit Union lot to the east of Newtopia Cyder and there is an ATM right in front of the credit union. More parking will be available on the streets to the west of Newtopia.

Masks will be required until further restrictions are lifted.

Newtopia Cyder owners Rick Moreno and Jennifer Hays Moreno provided the catalyst and are sponsoring the project along with Matthew Perry, owner of Au-

to-Ness Physical Therapy; and Cabrillo Credit Union is also helping. The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is the nonprofit sponsor.

"We wanted to get the people together. We wanted to celebrate the community within Scripps Ranch," Rick Moreno said. "We wanted to do that safely, so we wanted to create an outdoor event where we could partner with local businesses and host an event where we could provide value to the community by bringing farmers and artisanal craft makers that wouldn't necessarily be accessible out here in suburbia."

Perry agreed. "We decided that, especially in the midst of a pandemic, it is so important for us to try to figure out some semblance of community and getting that neighborly feeling again because we have all been so distanced for so long. So, we decided to do something like this in order to promote that community," Perry said.

New local businesses

Owners of Newtopia Cyder plan to open three new businesses in their same business campus, according to Rick Moreno.

"The next project we have coming up is a coffee shop called Dark Horse, a vegan ice cream parlor called Mutual Friend and then a vegan doughnut shop called Skinny Donut," he said.

"We're trying to get open as soon as May 20. ... Dark Horse will probably open first, and then the ice cream parlor and doughnut shop will follow suit," he added.

The businesses will be within the Farmer's Market area and, if all goes well, Dark Horse will be open when the Farmer's Market begins.

"We wanted to bring culture to Scripps Ranch and coffee provides that culture. It brings people together to talk, tell stories and share ideas," Rick said. "Newtopia Cyder has been here for the community and we look forward to continue to be here for generations on."

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Plenty of parking is available in the Cabrillo Credit Union Lot (to the left of Newtopia Cyder) and on the streets on the west side of Newtopia. There is an ATM right in front of the Credit Union.

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Trevor, Lacey and Kevin



Jill Carroll
Amber and Chad



Melissa Fuller
Caroline



Dr. Jennifer Santoro
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Michelle Black
Andrew and Corey



Dr. Santoro's boys wearing their 'Mama is my Bestie' shirt for Mother's Day.



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See **BUSINESS DIRECTORY**, Page 10

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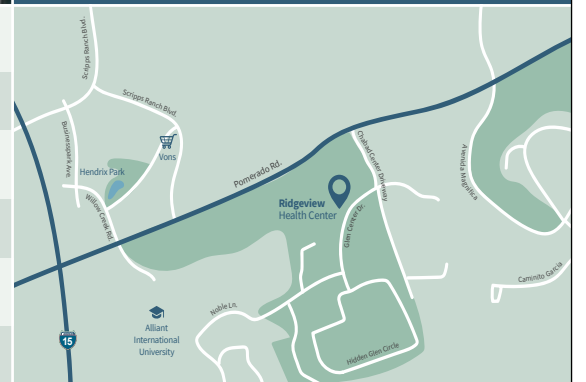
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See **BUSINESS DIRECTORY**, Page 13



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Seniors Corner: Nearing the end of senior year

By Ashley Shah

Seniors from Scripps Ranch High describe their thoughts about school under COVID-19 restrictions as they near the end of their final year of high school.



Courtney Anderson

Four-year lacrosse player

“The main thing I miss about being in-person for school is the social aspect. I miss the rallies and activities that ASB would put on,” Courtney Anderson said.

She explained the hardships she has faced with virtual learning.

“It’s harder to follow along. I definitely like bouncing ideas off of others and doing group assignments, and that’s a lot harder online. I feel like I really don’t know my teachers either,” Anderson said.

On March 27, Anderson was able to play in the first girls varsity lacrosse game of the year.

“I’m really enjoying being active again. Before, it was hard to get out, but now I get to see my friends on the team and play,” she said.

Alongside playing lacrosse at SRHS, she is also involved in the Butterfly Effect club.

Anderson plans to attend Texas Christian University in the fall. She is undecided, but hopes to transfer into the nursing program.



Leiden Huber

Four-year varsity soccer and lacrosse player

“I miss seeing my friends, especially the friends that you make in specific classes, but don’t really get to see outside of class,” Leiden Huber said.

In March, Huber was able to begin playing both varsity soccer and lacrosse for the first time this year.

“In lacrosse, I’m hoping we can win CIF because we won my sophomore year. In soccer, I’m just looking forward to playing with my

best and closest friends one last time,” she said.

Other than varsity soccer and lacrosse at SRHS, Huber is in the Circle of Friends club. She also created the Student Athlete Club and the Jewish Club.

Outside of SRHS, she plays club soccer at San Diego Soccer Club. She volunteers for the Female Athlete Volunteers and has a job at Pernicano’s Ristorante.

In the fall, Huber will attend the University of Idaho to play Division I soccer. She plans to study chemical engineering.



Riley Lacey

Four-year varsity soccer and field hockey player

“I miss the connection I used to have with teachers. Connecting with them helped me understand what I was learning and I don’t really get that now. I also wish I was able to see everyone

since it’s my last year,” Riley Lacey said.

She conveyed the challenges she has faced with virtual learning.

“The hardships have been time management and keeping track of all the school work I need to do while working and playing sports,” Lacey said.

In March, Lacey was able to start playing varsity field hockey and soccer for SRHS.

“My favorite memory from this season has just been (being) able to get out on the field and play with my friends. I’ve been able to help the new freshmen on the team and that has been such a fun experience for me,” she said.

Outside of school, Lacey works at Pernicano’s Ristorante. She plans to attend a four-year university in the fall.



Kobe Germain

Four-year theatre member

“I miss the buzz of a normal school. There was always something going on at Scripps and now it’s very isolating. I feel no connection to my senior class,” Kobe Germain said.

Germain spoke about what has been difficult with online learning.

“It’s really easy to get distracted now. The place where you do all of your school work, your room now, is also the place where you are supposed to rest,” he said.

On March 26, Germain performed in the second show “Ten Two” for the SRHS Falcon Playhouse.

“The show was over Zoom. It’s kind of weird talking to your wall rather than your stage partner, but I’m glad we have been able to put on productions,” he said.

Alongside participating in theatre at SRHS, Germain has participated in the broadcast journalism program for four years.

Outside of SRHS, he does freelance photography.

This fall, Germain plans to attend a four-year university studying film production with a focus on editing.



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First day of in-person school

Scripps Ranch parents shared these photos of their students on April 12, the first day of in-person learning available for students in general at public schools since closures last spring due to the coronavirus pandemic.



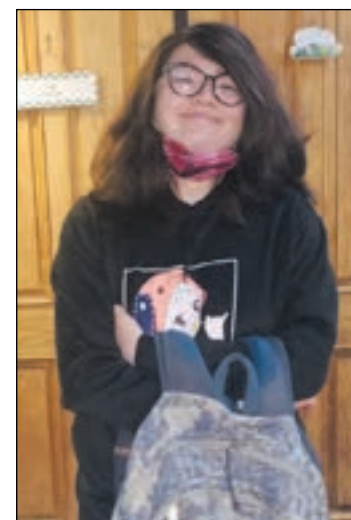
Luke (third grade) celebrated going back to school at Miramar Ranch Elementary. It was also Luke's birthday. (photo by Rachel Spriggs)



Calvin is happy to go back to Miramar Ranch Elementary for first grade (photo by Rachel Spriggs)



Kindergartener Aaron Horton and first grader EJ Horton on their first day back at Jerabek. (photo by Shannon Horton)



Emily Kaup is ready to return to campus at Marshall Middle School. (photo by Sara Kaup)



Katie Jobin is excited to start her first day of 'real-live' kindergarten at Jerabek Elementary. (photo by Allison Jobin)



Katie Jobin is excited to start her first day of 'real-live' kindergarten at Jerabek Elementary. (photo by Allison Jobin)



Stella and Hana met up before going back to Jerabek. (photo by Katie Keller)

Happy Birthday!



Happy Birthday, Pierce!

May fourteen rock as much as you do. Love from Mom, Dad, Flynn, Candice, Cassie and Marlowe



Happy Birthday, Chelsea & Annalisa!

Happy March 26th birthdays to our 2 daughters, Chelsea and Annalisa!



Happy Birthday, Ethan!

You bring us joy every day of our lives! We love you so much our darling boy. Lots of hugs and kisses—Dad, Mom and sister.

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

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Innovations Academy still thrives

By Ashley Shah

From 2011 to 2020, Innovations Academy, a public charter school, was located at 10380 Spring Canyon Road in Scripps Ranch. However, in March of 2020, the school was forced to leave its home in Scripps Ranch. The San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) board voted to redevelop the property where Innovations Academy was located, choosing to turn it into apartments.

"I believe it was March 13 of 2020 when all schools were shut down because of the pandemic, but we also had to move out that weekend. The teachers taught their last day of in-person learning that Friday, packed up their stuff on the weekend, and by Monday, they were online and teaching from home. They never missed a beat," Innovations Academy Director Christine Kuglen said.

From March to June of 2020, Innovations Academy stayed online without a physical home.

In August of 2020, Innovations Academy was finally able to move into its permanent, new home, 5454 Ruffin Road in Kearny Mesa.

They were able to gain the property in Kearny Mesa by working with SDUSD to use charter designated funds from Prop Z and Prop YY.

"Up until August of 2020, we had everything in storage. So, when we got word that we could move in, we got our things out of storage and moved in right before school started," Kuglen said.

Kuglen made the decision to give families the option for their students to learn online or in-person this school year.

"We opened because there were parents who could not work from home and had to go in-person. ... At the beginning of the year, we had about 50 percent of students on site and 50 percent online. Now, we have about 75 percent on site and 25 percent online," Kuglen said.

Throughout the year, Innovations Academy has adhered to all COVID-19 precautions. Those on campus are required to wear masks, have dividers, sanitize frequently and social distance as much as possible. They have not had any COVID-19 cases all year.

"Because of the COVID-19 precautions, it's been hard. It kind of killed hands-on learning. We are not able to do enrichment classes all year because students can-



The new location for Innovations Academy is 5454 Ruffin Road. (courtesy Innovations Academy)

not leave one class and go to another. We haven't been able to do any field trips or have any guest speakers come in," Kuglen said.

Due to the move to Kearny Mesa, Innovations Academy lost some students that reside in Scripps Ranch.

"We did lose a lot of students and that was frustrating, sad and hard. However, since our move, we have been able to gain a ton of students," Kuglen said.

Forty students from the

Scripps Ranch area stayed with Innovations Academy. Twelve new students from the Scripps Ranch area joined this year. The school now has 413 students.

While the location in Kearny Mesa will remain its permanent location, Innovations Academy has had a history of moving. In 2008, when founder and director Kuglen began Innovations Academy, it was located near La Mesa at the Salvation Army Kroc Center. It remained there for a year. From 2009 to 2010, Innovations Academy was located off of State Route 163 near Fashion Valley. From 2010 to 2011, it moved to a location near the Home Depot in Mission Gorge.

Despite all the moves, Kuglen has always kept the mission of her school the same.

"Innovations Academy is a model of putting one foot in front of the other. I created this school for people who are willing to think differently about learning. If we really want to change the world, we must change how children are addressed in school," Kuglen said.

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SCRIPPS RANCH
SPORTS

SRSA continues, hopes for all-star games

By Nick Ng

The Scripps Ranch Softball Association (SRSA) resumed its practices and games outdoors in late March after it shut down last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since San Diego County had gone from the purple tier to the red tier on March 17, players and coaches began to practice outdoors at Cypress Canyon Park, but the organization had to jump through some fiery, legal hoops to get the practices restarted.

John Grady, who is the president of SRSA, said that he and his team had to “check off many boxes” to meet the standards of the state, county and city COVID-19 precautions.

“It was difficult. It’s definitely a bureaucracy. It took a number of people to make sure we didn’t miss anything,” Grady said. “A year later, we’re finally able to get the kids back out there.”

Standard precautions were enforced to allow everyone back on the field, which include social distancing and mask wearing. The



Happy players in the Scripps Ranch Softball Association celebrate during a game. (courtesy of Scripps Ranch Softball Association)

players were encouraged to wear a mask while playing, but it was not mandatory.

Grady said that the coaches have become “social distancing police” to maintain distance between the players, especially in the dugouts. No one was allowed to give each other high-fives.

“[There’s] no sharing of

equipment, which is a little difficult because we used to share catchers’ equipment for some of the younger girls,” Grady said. “We had to make some modifications.”

This year, the number of registered players topped at 180 – a drop from last year’s 290 players. Some of the players have “aged out”

and many families do not yet feel comfortable letting their children resume playing.

Grady mentioned that other leagues in other communities in San Diego have also seen a large drop in sports participation.

Started in August 1990, SRSA has helped local girls gain scholarships and academic opportunities as softball became more popular. The group played its first season in 1991 and is currently in its 30th year as a league.

Beyond sportsmanship, the SRSA teaches softball players about giving, such as holding charity events for different non-profit organizations and schools. Some of these events include donating backpacks and school supplies to Monarch School and raising money to help the homeless organizations such as Feeding San Diego.

“We also provide scholarships every year to graduating high school seniors that have not only played in the league but donated their time working with the younger girls,” Grady said.

SRSA plans to continue the spring season as late as it can and play through May, but no one knows for certain if anyone will be playing in all-star games and beyond with the pandemic lingering.

“Traditionally, our season would end at the end of April and we would roll into the all-star season,” Grady said. “We would choose teams in May, play some tournaments, host our own tournaments in early June, and go into districts. If they

See **SOFTBALL**, Page 19



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Boys soccer continues despite obstacles

By Hector Trujillo

With high school athletic programs across the state allowed back on the field – the Scripps Ranch High School mens soccer team continues to plug along and put its best foot forward despite continued uncertainty.

The Falcons have lost some close matches to start the season, but the team, led by head coach Hans Witzell, understands that just being out there competing is a positive.

“Obviously, COVID has been tough on everyone,” Witzell said. “Our season normally starts in late November – and we are just starting in early April, but the players are ready and enjoying our return to competition.”

The team started the season on the right foot with a 2-0 home victory over San Mar-

cos High School on March 30, followed by a 4-2 loss to University City High School on April 6 in the team’s first of a six-game road span.



The Falcons were back on the pitch two days later earning a well-deserved 0-0 draw against a tough San Diego High School. SRHS was on the road for its April 10 match against Saint Au-

gustine High School, falling by a score of 5-1, followed with a gut-wrenching 4-3 defeat to Hoover High School on April 13.

“We have many tough games,” Witzell said. “Nate Robinson is our captain and has a few assists. We have two solid senior goalkeepers.”

Scripps Ranch hopes to close the season strong with four of its last five matches being at home starting with re-matches against Hoover High School on April 26 and Coronado High School on May 4, with a game against Patrick Henry High School in between on April 27.

The Falcons close the regular season against Mission Bay High School on May 6 and a game against Patrick Henry on May 13.

“We hope to challenge for the Eastern League title,” Witzell said.



A batter keeps her eye on the ball during Scripps Ranch Softball Association action. (courtesy of Scripps Ranch Softball Association)

SOFTBALL

Continued from Page 18

perform well, they go to state and nationals if they are able to.”

Large tournaments are currently discouraged, but Governor Gavin Newsom said that the tier system will be going away in mid-June.

“This could open up a lot more potential for doing tournaments again,” Grady said. “It allows the girls to continue playing the sport at a higher level and getting access to competitions from surrounding communities. That’s why a lot of the girls come back – because of that extra experi-

ence after the season.”

For 30 years, the SRSA has held the all-star tournament on the weekend after Memorial Day, and Grady hopes that the tradition continues on June 4 to 6.

“We are hearing that smaller tournaments may start mid-May, so things are looking up,” he said.

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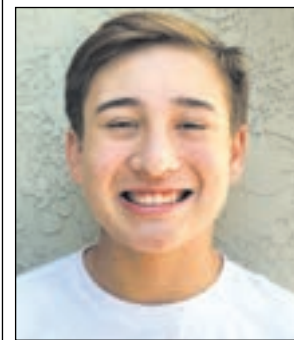
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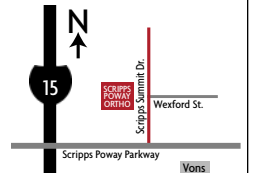
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Pro basketball plays at Alliant campus

By Hector Trujillo

The West Coast Breeze basketball team, which will play part of its 2021 home schedule at Alliant University in Scripps Ranch, kicked off its first competitive season as a member of The Basketball League (TBL) on April 10 with a game against the Vegas Ballers, followed by a game the following day against the San Diego Guardians.

The team's inaugural season was scheduled to take place in 2020, but the league had to cancel the entire season due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

"This is the sport we all love, and we will show this to our fans," said West Coast Breeze head coach Diarra Carrington.

Carrington, who is the daughter of former NFL player Darren Carrington, is making history of her own as the league's only female head coach. She is joined by

her associate coach, Jerome Sherman, who has years of coaching experience including being the head coach of the Tijuana Zonkeys in 2010 and the assistant coach of San Diego City College from 2004 to 2009.

"This team has a lot of talented players and they are a very solid group of guys," Sherman said. "The season is just getting started and I think the team will get better and better as the season goes on."

The West Coast Breeze finds itself in the West Coast Division and is scheduled to play a total of 22 games alongside the San Diego Guardians, Vegas Ballers and California Sea-Kings.

"We are thrilled to add the West Coast Breeze into markets that fit geographically with our current TBL teams," said league CEO Evelyn Magley. "The heart of this ownership group is to get engaged with the local youth and become a real



A West Coast Breeze player shoots a jumper near the foul line. (photo courtesy of Greg Siller)

community asset."

The league announced several new teams for the 2021 season, expanding from 12 teams in the curtailed 2020 season to 35 teams by Jan-

uary of this year with several of the added teams coming from the semi-professional American Basketball Association. By the end of March, six teams had opted out of the

current season due to the ongoing pandemic restrictions, bringing the final number to 29.

View the schedule at bit.ly/3n5JsH1.

BECCA COOK

Continued from Page 1

and it would be a rewarding experience.

"After everything with COVID, I am just one of the guys. Stick through things even when it gets tough because it is worth it in the end," Cook explained.

As one of the first females on the team, she said that many of the other male players were open-minded about the experience. Some of the guys have even taught her new things she will never forget.

"I learned from and appreciate my teammates – Ruben Garcia and Isaac Rico – different techniques and to keep pushing myself," Cook said.

Along with her teammates, her coaches, family and friends have been su-

per supportive throughout her journey.

"My coach Marlon Gardinera, who is like a second dad, and my offensive line coach, who is always super fun, always made me feel welcome," she said. "My Dad is also pretty supportive. He played in high school. My mom, however, is worried I'm going to get hurt, but she likes how committed I am. My friends think it's cool, other than all my bruises from playing."

So far, Cook has only played a couple times this season due to COVID canceling sports for most of the year.

"I have played four downs on varsity football, hopefully, more this Friday because it is senior night and our last game of the year," she said last week.

Looking back on her first



Scripps Ranch High senior football player Becca Cook with head coach Marlon Gardinera. (photo by Justin Fine)

game, she said, "It felt as though I couldn't breathe, and I couldn't remember

any of the plays. I knew them, but it was so much. However, it was a lot of fun."

Cook likes to play music before each game and get in the right headspace.

"I always listen to a couple of songs before I put on my pads, but usually the game itself really gets my heart pumping," Cook said.

She doesn't plan on continuing her football career into college.

"Right now, I am going to go to school at Miramar College until we can go back in person. Once that happens, I plan on transferring to a UC school and becoming a trauma surgeon," she said.

Her advice for any future female players on the football team is: "For the few who are willing to commit to it, don't let anyone knock down your dreams. If it is something you like to do, you will never forget it, and it will be a very memorable experience."

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HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY
SCRIPPS RANCH!



Spring home upgrade ideas

(Family Features) Spring means it's time to start sprucing up your home and garden with a little TLC inside and out. If you're unsure where to begin, consider these tips:

Make function a priority.

While aesthetic changes may boost value and please the eye, be sure to consider upgrades that make living easier, like organization units that give you more space or upgrades that create additional living space.

Keep budget in mind.

Make a list of the projects you'd like to complete and estimate how much each will cost. Use the list to determine what you can afford to complete now.

Do your research.

If you'll be making a significant purchase such as a new vacuum or grill, be sure to explore your options, read reviews and shop around for the best prices for greater confidence in what you choose.

Set yourself up for a more enjoyable spring with more home and garden tips at eLivingtoday.com.

Hands free spring cleaning

For busy households, an all in one vacuum and mop robot like the Deebot N8+ is a perfect daily companion to help automate spring cleaning. It features high suction power (but low noise), TrueMapping technology to create an efficient cleaning path and the OZMO Mopping System to remove 99.26 percent of bacteria with dual vacuuming and mopping. Controllable with a smartphone app, it includes an Auto Empty Station for months of hands- and maintenance-free cleaning.

Learn more at ecovacs.com/us.

Enhance the space under your deck.

Optimize the space beneath an elevated deck by adding a drainage system such as Trex RainEscape. Designed to capture and divert water, this system protects a deck's substructure from moisture damage while creating dry space usable for storage or an additional living area. Homeowners can safely add gas lines and wiring to accom-



Make a list of the projects you'd like to complete and estimate how much each will cost this spring as you spruce up your home inside and out. (Courtesy of Getty Images)

modate grills, appliances, ceiling fans, lights and entertainment components to create an outdoor oasis.

For more information, visit TrexRainEscape.com.

Perfect your pantry.

Cleaning out your pantry is an important step during spring cleaning as it allows you to discard expired items and rethink the space. Start by reorganizing and simpli-

fying the area with Closet-Maid ventilated shelving like this Pantry Organizer. Built with the ShelfTrack system for a fully adjustable space along with close mesh to help prevent items from tipping over, it includes four 4-foot-by-16-inch shelves, a hang track and all necessary hardware.

Find more information at closetmaid.com.

See **HOME UPGRADE**, Page 22



Homeowners can safely add gas lines and wiring to accommodate grills, appliances, ceiling fans, lights and entertainment components to create an outdoor oasis. (Family Features)

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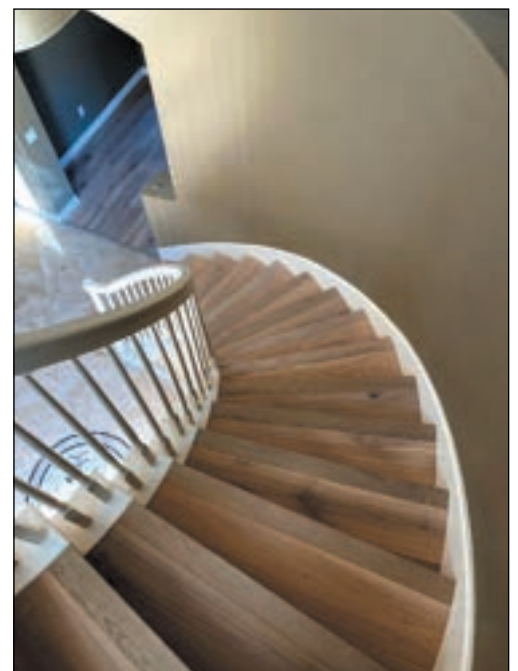
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Tips to get organized

(Family Features) Getting organized and making the most of your home's storage space can be a daunting task. To help keep clutter at bay and streamline organization throughout the house, consider these tips for revamping your closets and designated storage areas from the experts at ClosetMaid.

Find closet systems and other organization hacks at ClosetMaid.com.

Determine your goal

Create a plan of attack and sketch out a closet design, accounting just for things you want to keep.

Beat closet blahs

Spruce up your closet with stylish storage accessories like drawers, shelves and sturdy, matching hangers.

HOME UPGRADE

Continued from Page 21

Get Ready to Grill.

A grill's lifespan depends on many factors, including where and how it is stored and your climate. When it's time to upgrade, you'll have some decisions to make. The biggest is which heating style you prefer: gas, electric or charcoal. Other considerations include the overall size, number of burners and grate quality. Also be sure to compare available features, such as side burners and igniters, which are fairly common, and upgrades like lighting and fuel gauges.

Update home and garden goods

Investing in quality products, properly maintaining and storing them all have an impact on how long they'll stay in good working condi-



Tidy up your closet with stylish storage accessories like drawers, shelves and sturdy, matching hangers. (Family Features)

Get colorful

Get your closets in tip-top shape with a ClosetMaid ShelfTrack system in white with colorful and patterned

fabric bins.

Relieve clutter stress

Keep clutter at bay with See **GET ORGANIZED**, Page 23

tion. As you tackle spring cleaning this year, take stock of your common home and garden equipment to determine what may need updating.

Lawn mower: If your mower needs a repair that exceeds its value, it's time for a replacement. However, there may be other signs that an upgrade is warranted. Rough operation, frequent breakdowns or other indications of faulty performance deserve a second look. Before you buy new, remember to check your warranty to determine whether repairs might be covered.

Vacuum: Many homeowners discard their used vacuum when it stops picking up dirt and debris as efficiently as it did originally. Before you move on, be sure to check that performance issues aren't the result of clogged hoses or a filter that

needs cleaning or replacing. A belt may also be worn or need adjusting. Other signs it may be time to replace the vacuum include damaged or frayed cords, motor issues like overheating or making strange noises.

Grill: A grill may last anywhere from 5-15 years, depending on the quality of the materials and how it is maintained. However, it's common to have to replace parts along the way. Signs you may need a new grill include a firebox (the main enclosure) with cracks, rust or holes and burners that distribute heat unevenly. Damaged grates can affect even grilling if they're warped or if they're flaky or rusted, they can contaminate food. If you're not able to replace the grates, or any other essential part, including hoses and connectors for a gas grill, you'll be better off replacing the unit.



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Prepare for bug season

(StatePoint) Spring is the official start to bug season, making it important to prepare your home. Here are four steps you can take to keep bugs at bay:

1. Do a spot check.

Check window and door screens for tears to prevent flying bugs from getting in the home and make repairs where necessary. Also, take a quick look around for areas with standing water and try to eliminate them. Standing water creates a breeding ground for mosquitos. Lastly, even the sturdiest garbage bags can't entirely prevent leaks and spills, and over time, your trash bins can begin to accumulate residue inside and around the rim. Bugs, especially flies, love leftovers, so give your garbage cans a thorough rinse.

2. Be ready.

Put an effective pest control product in your shopping cart early in the season so you're ready when you see the first sign of bugs in your home. If you see one cockroach, chances are there are more hiding in nooks and crannies. It's hard to put a pin on how many, but an old saying is that for every one you do see, there are 10 more you don't. Striking at the first sign of ants or roaches can help you avoid big problems down the line, as these insects can multiply very quickly. One solid choice is Zevo Instant Action Bug Killer Spray. Zevo's Bio-Selective Technology targets and shuts down biological pathways found in bugs, not in people or pets. Easy to use, just spray on pests, then wipe up the dead bugs, as well as any excess product. Zevo is now available nationwide at The Home Depot and Target, and online at zevoinsect.com.

3. Protect your trees.

Prepare for the upcoming

GET ORGANIZED

Continued from Page 22

functional materials and extras that allow you to make the most of every aspect of the room.

Meet your needs

Inspire and streamline organization throughout the whole house by redirecting clutter and taking advantage of adjustable shelving.



During the spring season, it is necessary to take steps both to keep bugs out, and to be ready if they do invade. (copyright Jamie Thorpe, @homeofuandme)

visit of the 17-year cicadas.

In many parts of the country, billions of cicadas will swarm and the females will scrape small twigs to lay their eggs under bark. Protect small and vulnerable trees (ones that are under 4 or 5 feet tall) with cheesecloth to spare them

from attack.

4. Keep an eye on pets.

Pets are liable to gobble up large helpings of dead cicadas. While not toxic, too many cicadas could cause some digestive issues for furry friends. Help keep them healthy by watching what they eat.

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