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SCRIPPS RANCH NEWS



Volume 5 Issue 9 • August 2022

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BACK TO SCHOOL



Sena Taborsky (photo by Lisa Shadburn)



Jordin McCrory (photo by Lisa Shadburn)



LaCorrea Dean (photo by Lisa Shadburn)



Alexis Bernabe (photo by Lisa Shadburn)



Jax Leatherwood fires a pass during a 2022 SRHS preseason football practice. (photo by Jim Wick)

Jax prepares for season and beyond

Falcons QB commits to Nevada, but another season at SRHS remains

By Ashley Shah

Jax Leatherwood, starting quarterback for the Scripps Ranch High School (SRHS) varsity football team, has played an integral role in transforming more than one sport at the school.

Last season, the football team won both the CIF-San Diego title and the CIF 2-A Football State Championship, which has never happened before for SRHS.

Not only has Leatherwood excelled

See **JAX LEATHERWOOD**, Page 18

BRIGHT SMILES & HIGH SPIRITS

These members of the Scripps Ranch High School cheer program project the positive energy they bring in anticipation of a new school year. While some private schools are already in session, schools in the San Diego Unified School District will begin classes on Aug. 29. Parents are encouraged to send their first-day-of-school photos to Scripps Ranch News for publication in the upcoming September edition. Send to info@scrippsranchnews.com. Read more about the SRHS cheer program on Page 14.



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How to support your teachers

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SCHOOLS

Connect with your teacher

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SCHOOLS

Help build new social skills

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Cross country preps for meets

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SCRIPPS RANCH FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Develop a home escape plan

By Karen Herreros

Fire won't wait. Plan your escape.

This is the theme for Fire Prevention Week Oct. 9-15, reinforcing the critical importance of developing a home escape plan with all members of the household, and practicing it regularly.

In addition, this October represents the 100th anniversary of Fire Prevention Week, the nation's longest running public-health observance on record.

"Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape" promotes life-saving messages that can mean the difference between life and death in a fire. Developing a home escape plan with all members of the household and practicing it regularly ensures that everyone knows what to do when the smoke alarm sounds.

Following are key messages behind this year's "Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape" theme.

- Make sure your home escape plan meets the needs of all your family members, including those with sensory



The upcoming Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 9-15, emphasizes planning a home escape plan in case of fire.

or physical disabilities.

- Smoke alarms should be installed inside every sleeping room, outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home. Smoke alarms should be interconnected so when one sounds, they all sound.

- Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows open easily.

- Have an outside meeting place a safe distance from

your home where everyone should meet. Practice your home fire drill at least twice a year with everyone in the household, including guests. Practice at least once during the day and at night.

We are hoping to put together an open house at Fire Station 37 on Oct. 15, and are planning our golf tournament fundraiser at Eagle Crest in Escondido on Oct. 22. Check our website, srfiresafe.org, and Facebook for more information on both.

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Marni describes City Council experiences

By Jill Alexander

Sometimes, things you did when you were younger often come back around when you're older.

For example, having served in the U.S. Peace Corps during the AIDS epidemic years ago helped District 5 San Diego City Councilmember Marni von Wilpert – a Scripps Ranch resident – prepare her for when she started her City Council term in December 2020.

“Unknowingly, serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Botswana in Africa helped me during COVID,” von Wilpert said. “I thought, ‘I have already been through a major public healthcare crisis,’ so when I got here and had to deal with COVID, I already knew how this worked and what we had to do. ... I knew every level of government needs to be aligned and work together, so that helped me prepare when I first started.”

But that was then, and this is now.

“Now, I can go to City Hall in person, to premier events, see my constituents and work on things other than COVID – like our infrastructure and fixing our streets. It finally feels like it is true City Hall and City Council,” von Wilpert said. “The best part has been reconnecting with a lot of my old high school friends from Scripps Ranch, too.”

Serving as a former San Diego Deputy City Attorney

has helped von Wilpert, 39, as a councilmember because she already knew a lot of department heads, and how the city worked, as well as the bureaucracy. But, “it is still different,” she said.

Growing up in SR

Growing up in Scripps Ranch and graduating from Scripps Ranch High School in 2002, von Wilpert was among students in the first class to do so. Today, von Wilpert still lives in Scripps Ranch and said this also helped her prepare for serving as a city council member.

“It’s been fantastic to be an actual homegrown city councilmember because I will get emails all the time from residents who say they went to high school with me, or ‘I’m so and so, and Marni went to high school with my daughter, tell her I said hi,’” von Wilpert said.

Having been raised in Scripps Ranch, von Wilpert adds she knows the district well which has helped her be a true advocate for the community.

For example, with wildfire concerns, if someone asks about whether they can put



District 5 San Diego City Councilmember Marni von Wilpert participates in the 2022 Scripps Ranch Fourth of July Parade. (photo by Lisa Shadburn)

up a development here or there or new property, von Wilpert understands the geography versus people who have never lived in Scripps Ranch.

Surprises

Since taking office, von Wilpert has had a few surprises along the way including witnessing how hard San Diego’s firefighters work.

“It was unexpected that I learned about them, and I never appreciated how hard they work for our community,” von Wilpert said. “I knew when you call 9-1-1, they come and put out fires

and an ambulance comes, but I didn’t realize how much work they are doing for wildfire preparedness.”

She was also surprised by all the help that has been invested to make sure that wildlife response helicopters can immediately go to Lake Miramar and suck up thousands of gallons of water in a minute and respond to a canyon fire before it gets out of control.

Additionally, the firefighters have worked out a training system and an agreement with CalFire, the State and the federal government to make sure the firefighters can use the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar runways and air equipment if needed in the event of a wildfire.

“They do huge drills every year and come together to do wildfire simulations just in case we have to evacuate thousands of residents and get boots on the ground,” von Wilpert said. “That has been a surprise to me to see that they do so much work behind the scenes and to see that we are safe. I appreciate them so much and I am so impressed by how they are ready in case of an emergency for all of us.”

SCRIPPS RANCH NEWS

Presutti joins board of Arc of San Diego

The Arc of San Diego, one of the county’s largest non-profits serving people with disabilities, announced that Leslie Presutti, a resident of Scripps Ranch, is on its new board of directors for 2022-2023 as a member at large.

The board of directors plays an integral role in governing and guiding The ARC of San Diego’s mission of supporting and empowering people with disabilities to achieve their life goals.

“It is with great appreciation that we recognize our new board of directors. These extraordinary individuals embody and carry out our mission: ensuring that all San Diegans with disabilities have access to the necessary services and support they need to live their most independent and fulfilling lives,” said Anthony J. DeSalis, president and CEO of The ARC of San Diego.

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SCRIPPS RANCH FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Addressing high electricity rates and SDGE

By Glenda & Lon Poliner

Scripps Ranch has one of the highest percentages of homes with rooftop solar in the nation. At the same time, ratepayers are being charged one of the highest electricity rates in the country.

Our public utility, SDGE, a subsidiary of Sempra Energy, would have you believe that rooftop solar is the reason for those astronomical rates, but that is simply untrue. SDGE is actively discouraging the installation of new rooftop solar by homeowners, and it is important to understand why.

Your SDGE bill is composed of two parts: energy generation and energy transmission. The majority of the charges are for energy transmission, including the construction of long-distance high-voltage lines. SDGE makes most of its profits from energy transmission, with profit guaranteed for every kilowatt-hour transmitted through those lines. Because rooftop solar is locally generated, those long-distance lines are utilized less, reduc-



Numerous homes in Scripps Ranch now have rooftop solar panels.

ing SDGE profits.

SDGE uses revenue from ratepayers to build more transmission lines, which increases SDGE profits in a continuing cycle of profits for executives and shareholders. The risk of wildfires in our rural and suburban communities increases by building new transmission lines, while ratepayers pay into a wildfire fund to reduce the risks of loss to SDGE. In its latest proposal to the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC), SDGE is asking to recover \$3 billion in revenue at a time when ratepayers are already paying some of the highest electricity rates in the nation.

San Diego Community Power (SDCP) is a locally run non-profit that purchases energy that is either 50 percent or 100 percent renewable for customers. The rate charged for electricity generation is less with SDCP for 50 percent renewable than

that charged by SDGE. But, SDGE still controls the majority of the electricity charges because of transmission charges, and to maintain the profits generated by transmission, SDGE will continue to influence the CPUC to increase their rates. SDGE also supports the passage of a solar tax on every solar panel on rooftop solar installations.

Our economy and climate change are challenging, and both should remain priorities. Ratepayers in San Diego should be provided rate relief and that can be done by state and local support of rooftop solar for the local generation of electricity.

As we transition to electric vehicles with the benefits of lower maintenance costs and independence from fossil fuels, we will need lower electricity rates for our transportation needs. Governor Newsom and the CPUC must hear our concerns. The form provi-

ded at: www.solarrights.org/savecaliforniasolar allows you to add your voice to that of other Californians sharing their concerns that now is the time to move ahead with more rooftop solar and lowering very high energy rates.

Sustainable SR events

Here are two upcoming events at the Scripps Miramar Ranch Library, 10301 Scripps Lake Drive:

San Diego Building Electrification Coalition, Friday, Sept. 16, 10 a.m. Benefits of Home Electrification for Health, Climate and More.

Tree San Diego, Friday, Sept. 30, 10 a.m. "Planting the Future: The Importance of Trees" and how to care for them.

See the Sustainable Scripps Ranch webpage for more info: scrippsranchnews.com/ssr or e-mail SustainableSR@scrippsranchnews.com.

Lemonade Stand Contest deadline is approaching

The deadline for the 2022 Scripps Ranch News Lemonade Stand Photo Contest is Aug. 31, so don't forget to send in a photo of your lemonade stand from this summer. Entries will appear in the September issue of Scripps Ranch News and on ScrippsRanchNews.com. One winner will receive an order of lemonade-themed cookies from Sweet Treats by Jess Bakery! To enter, email a high resolution photo (300 dpi) of your lemonade stand to info@scrippsranchnews.com. Include the location of your stand and the date the photo was taken. Include name of the photographer and name of those in the photo. Rules: Photo must have been taken in Scripps Ranch (92131 area). Photo must have been taken between May and August 2022. Deadline is Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2022. No charge to enter.



There will be a Special Mega Book Sale at the Scripps Miramar Ranch Branch Library on Aug. 27. (courtesy photo)



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Special mega book sale!

Don't miss the mega semi-annual summer book sale on Saturday, Aug. 27, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Scripps Miramar Ranch Branch Library, 10301 Scripps Lake Drive.

There will be a huge inventory of books for readers of every age and taste – from board books for tots, picture books, easy readers, great books for teens, to a wide range of fiction and nonfiction books for adults, plus media and more.

Bargain hunters can save even more by choosing to fill the popular big yellow bag for one low price!

Browse the collection of antiquarian, rare, out-of-print books, and collectors' editions – all priced at a fraction of the online price. These books can make a wonderful gift for the discerning book lover.

All sales support Scripps Miramar Ranch Branch Library.

Please note that masks will be required for all shoppers and volunteers, regardless of immunization status.

Women's Club presents Community Outreach Awards

The 2022 Scripps Ranch Women's Club's (SRWC) Community Outreach Awards were announced in June. Scholarship Chairs Mary Ann Harper and Sally Anderson began by revealing this year's recipients of the club's annual scholarships based on academic achievement and community service.

"We are so pleased to recognize the following four outstanding young ladies who just graduated from Scripps Ranch High School," Harper said.

These are the scholarship recipients:

- **Lily Frisbie** – Lily will pursue a degree at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with a focus on being a first responder and an engineer with the San Diego Fire Department.
- **Priya Kamath** – Priya is a National Merit finalist and is heading to UC Berkeley where she anticipates majoring in applied mathematics.
- **Melanie Spitzberg** – Melanie plans to attend Washington University in St. Louis and will pursue a degree in business. She also qualified for and won the Kimbra Sellers Scholarship for Business



Scripps Ranch Women's Club (SRWC) Scholarship co-chair Sally Anderson (from left), Lily Frisbie, Priya Kamath, Melanie Spitzberg, Kayla Xu and SRWC Scholarship co-chair Mary Ann Harper. (courtesy of Scripps Ranch Women's Club)

Majors. In 2021, Brian Sampson established this scholarship in honor of his late wife, Kimbra Sellers, an active and longtime SRWC member. The award is separate and distinct from the annual SRWC scholarships, and is funded by Brian and administered by the SRWC Board on his behalf. Its recipient must be a female graduating senior attending Scripps Ranch High School (SRHS) or living in the 92131 ZIP Code who must be planning to pursue a career in business

at either a two- or four-year college.

- **Kayla Xu** – Kayla is another National Merit finalist and heading to Princeton University where she will study neuroscience with a lifetime focus to find a cure for dementia.

Club President Madeline Pantalone also announced the organizational awards.

"For the most part, we focused our general awards on supporting programs that benefit our community's youth," Pantalone said. "This



Brian Sampson presents the Kimbra Sellers Scholarship to Melanie Spitzberg. (courtesy of Scripps Ranch Women's Club)

mentary School and Marshall Middle School for their academic programs, particularly math and science

- Funds to improve the navigation of the children's material at the Scripps Miramar Ranch Library
- Contribution toward the Children's Program at the Scripps Ranch Theatre
- Sponsorship for Scripps Ranch Symphony in the Park

Graduating SRHS senior women can apply for a SRWC scholarship through their high school counseling office January through March. Winners are selected in May and awards are presented at the SRHS Awards Assembly. To find out more about the club's scholarships, contact Scholarship Chair Sally Anderson at sallyb.anderson46@gmail.com or go to <https://sr-womensclub.org/our-community-support>.

Community organizations can submit a request for a SRWC award anytime during the year. All awards are determined and funded in May. To learn more, contact Community Relations Chair Cindi Silady at cindi4realestate@gmail.com.

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SR Welcome Club celebrates summer

By Denise Stewart

Most gatherings are safe and comfortable again, so Welcome Club filled August with a variety of special festivities for its membership.

During the first week of the month a group followed Mrs. Harris to Paris and then enjoyed a lunch at a nearby restaurant after the movie. Gadabouts, as it is known to the club, is a regular entertainment event. Movies, museums and enjoyable outings are on the agenda for the coming months, according to organizer Pam Savelsberg.

The second week featured the monthly general meeting of the membership at the Scripps Ranch Community Center. A volunteer organization known as Pawsitive Teams brought its therapy and service dogs to the meeting to acquaint the club with its program of using the dogs to aid at-risk teens, active-duty military, children in stressful situations and individuals with mobility or developmental issues. The furry friends were a big hit with the pet-friendly club. Diane Rider coordinated the event.

A Coffee in the Community Park was one of the highlights of the third week of the month. Members and friends gathered in the shade to share a chat and delicious morning treats prepared by Cecilia Waters and her co-hostesses. Monthly Coffees are a Welcome Club tradition and plans are in place for more in the fall.

Also that week, members met at the Symphony in the Park concert. They enjoyed the company of friends, the music and the tasty snacks at the BYO event under their club's party tent.

During the fourth week, to celebrate the end



Denise Forgeron and Lynnell Hallock meet a Pawsitive Teams trainee at the August meeting of the Welcome Club. (photo courtesy of Scripps Ranch Welcome Club)

of summer, a TGI – or a let's get together and party event – drew a comfortable crowd to the backyard of DJ LaVoie and her husband Bob. A summery potluck and cold beverages enhanced the garden party atmosphere. It was a delightful occasion to celebrate summer.

While these special events highlighted August, Welcome Club's routine activities continued to keep members in touch and entertained.

The Trail Walkers met three times a week to get exercise while enjoying the paths throughout our community. The four book clubs read and discussed their monthly choices. The Bunco players rolled their dice and enjoyed their friendly game. A new group of board game players is emerging and awakening the enthusiasm of those who enjoy that pastime.

Welcome Club continues to draw new members into the fold. More can be learned about this 40-plus year old community asset by checking the website: scrippsranchwelcomeclub.com.

Bee expert will visit Garden Club

By Denise Stewart

Denise Bienias, a resident of Scripps Ranch, vice president of the San Diego Beekeeping Society, and "Master" candidate of the California Master Beekeeping Program will be the featured speaker at the Scripps-Mesa Garden Club's September meeting.

Bienias will be sharing her knowledge of the fascinating non-native honey bee, science based biology and behavior, and so much more. Her talk will also include some facts about our native bees as well and how we, as homeowners and gardeners, can provide pollinator supportive landscapes locally.

She will be using beautiful color posters displaying her teaching points and various beekeeping equipment and educational items.

The Garden Club will meet at the Community Room of the Scripps Ranch Library at 6 p.m. on Sept. 27. A short business meeting and social time usually precedes the speaker. Local residents are invited to attend to learn more about bees and the Garden Club.

In August, the gardeners gathered for an outdoor potluck to celebrate their harvests and their enjoyment of both their hobby and the club. During the cooler months, meetings will be at the Scripps Miramar Ranch Library. Visit scrippsmesagardenclub.com.

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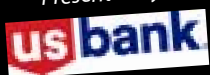
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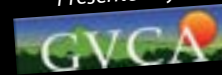


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Eric Sage's Ultimate Rock Show will rock the park

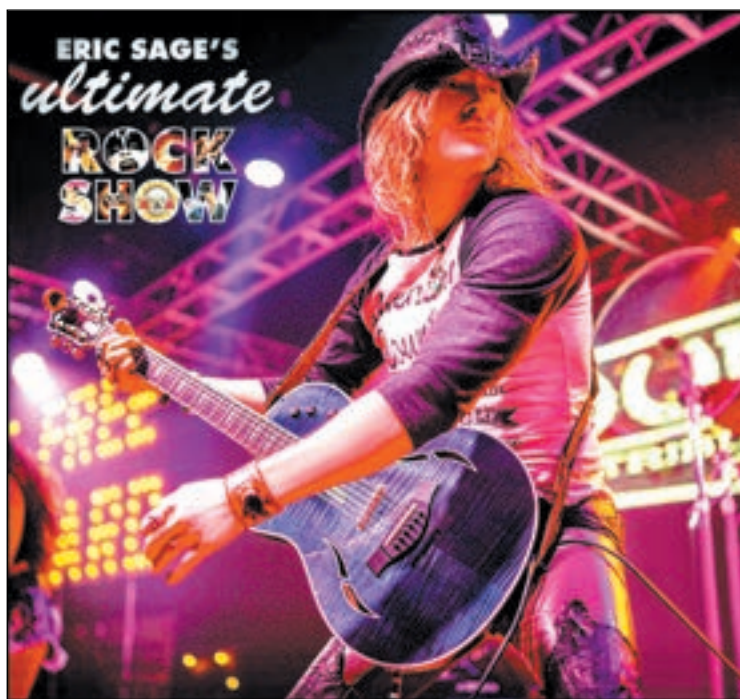
By Terry L. Wilson

Another exciting night of music comes to the Scripps Ranch Symphony in the Park concert series when Eric Sage's Ultimate Rock Show hits the stage on Sept. 11 at Hoyt Park.

"We are a fun, party rock band playing anthems from the '70s and '80s, and we throw in music from the '60s and '90s," Sage said. "We want to make sure that we have something special that brings back great musical memories for everyone in the audience. Like everyone else, when I was younger I'd listen to those songs. They bring back a lot of great memories. But back then, I never thought that someday I'd be singing onstage, let alone touring the world and performing in front of thousands of people. For me, it's truly a magical experience."

Sage understands the importance of memories. Before he was a rock star, he was a tennis star. In his early 20s, Sage was a forerunner on the Pro Tour circuit. He was well above par and headed for certain fame on the courts. All of that came to a sudden end when he was badly injured in a car crash.

"I had a world-ranking in tennis and was on a pro tour when I was involved in a serious accident," Sage said. "I was a passenger in the back-



Eric Sage's Ultimate Rock Show hits the stage for the Scripps Ranch Symphony in the Park live concert series on Sept. 11 at Hoyt Park; hosted by Fitness Quest 10. (photo courtesy of Eric Sage)

seat. The end result was back and neck injuries that ended my tennis career. I was 23, trained my entire life to be a tennis professional and I thought, 'What am I going to do now?' I tried some acting that went okay, but music was always in my heart. So, I decided to put my dedication from tennis into music. I began studying voice, piano and guitar."

At age 24 Sage began a new career as a singer-musician. However, that wasn't a huge stretch considering that he sprung from a musical family.

"Performing came naturally to me," Sage said. "My dad

was a well-known opera singer, and my mom was a dancer on Broadway. That's how mom and dad met. So, music was in my blood. I was born in Toronto, Canada, where my dad did a lot of television. In fact, he had his own show. He was pretty popular."

While doing a commercial, Sage met his soon to be bride. With her support, he studied music awaiting that big break. He got his first gig. While it wasn't "America's Got Talent," it was a big deal to Sage.

"I was asked to play in a little bar for 50 bucks and I said to my wife, 'That was one of the greatest nights in

'We can recreate those amazing recordings from the '70s and '80s live, on stage.'

—Eric Sage

my life," Sage said. "Now, we look back and laugh because after that my career kept growing."

And grow it did. Sage got his own shows in Las Vegas at Mandalay Bay and the Venetian. He recorded his first two records, "Ain't No Rock Stars Anymore" and "Redeem My Heart," and he is now working on number three.

"After that I formed my own band: Billy Shelly, drums, Heath Farmer, guitar, on keyboards is Barry Allen, and on bass — Jonathon Harris," Sage said. "And now we travel around the world performing on cruise ships. ... We can recreate those amazing recordings from the '70s and '80s live, on stage."

Symphony in The Park's concerts begin at 6 p.m., ending at 7:30 p.m. The final event of 2022 is the Holiday Concert with Santa & Friends, hosted by Greg Wisniew — scheduled for Dec. 11 in Jerabek Park.

For additional concert information or to support the program with a donation, visit symphonyinthepark.org.

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LEISURE

ADVERTORIAL

Addy's Bistro launches an exciting weekend brunch!

Addy's Bistro is excited to announce they are adding Saturday and Sunday brunch.

The new brunch menu will be unveiled and available on Sept. 3 just in time for fall, and will be available every weekend from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Introducing classic brunch fare, Addy's brunch menu includes:

- Breakfast burrito
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- Monte Cristo

All the favorites from Addy's lunch menu will also be available during brunch.

Complementing the new menu, Addy's has a selection of mimosas, wines, and beer.

"We will feature an amazing wine selection curated by sommelier James King," said Denise Mary-Callander Stein, Addy's owner.



Enjoy your favorite wine or beer at Addy's Bistro, 13771 Danielson St. Or grab a bottle of wine or a six-pack of beer to go.

With dynamic beverage pairings, Addy's takes your dining experience to the next level. The addition of wine and local beer allows both chef and sommelier to enhance the flavor of the food, the jams, the caramels and the wine.

Come for the kickoff celebration featuring the band Technical Support on Satur-

day, Sept. 3.

The bistro features an impressive to go menu including beer and wine.

Addy's Bistro is conveniently located at 13771 Danielson St.

It's perfect for workers looking for a quick bite, anyone needing a good beverage or local groups looking for a place to gather.

Wine Down Wednesdays

Coming soon — Wednesdays will mean wine at Addy's! Why should "happy" be restricted to an hour? This upcoming feature is designed for customers and their enjoyment. Enjoy an evening of celebrating with wine, champagne and appetizers with James King from King Group Events.

Catering and Cooking

Addy's Bistro is now taking reservations for catering and private cooking classes.

Top new business

Addy's Bistro won the Poway Chamber of Commerce 2022 New Business of the Year Award.

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Farmer's Market: Fudge from the garden

By Terry L. Wilson

Debbie Halverson has a very sweet pseudonym: "The Fudge Lady." As her nickname indicates, Halverson's booth at the Scripps Ranch Farmer's Market offers an age-old favorite with a new twist.

"My company and my home in Poway are both named Chateau Jardin, which means 'Garden Castle' in French," Halverson said. "And that's how I feel about my land. I feel as if I'm living in a castle. I have eight acres, and everything I create must be grown from this land. I have a very creative background, and I bring that mindset to my fudge and my booth. I've designed a little bakery motif at the market by using makeup and jewelry boxes to display my fudge."

Halverson's creative nature flows into her one-of-a-kind fudge recipes. She has a flair for mixing and matching ingredients, creating a fusion of flavors, taking the art of fudge making to a whole new level.

"I have an entire line of fudge called 'Fruit Fusion,'" Halverson said. "I take the fruit from my land, turn it into a preserve, layer it into the fudge, then I add dark chocolate on top; that is just one of many fudge fusion recipes I've created. I've invented new flavors with peaches, apples, figs and apricots. The list goes on and on."

Part of Halverson's success can be credited to her unyielding efforts to find, grow and then harvest fruits and vegetables from a bevy of rare and exotic trees and plants.

"I have more than 40 avocado trees," Halverson said. "I am able to grow a unique variety of food. I have two



Debbie Halverson's Chateau Jardin booth at the Scripps Ranch Farmer's Market offers "Fruit Fusion" fudge made with fresh ingredients from her garden. (courtesy of Debbie Halverson)

trees from the Dominican Republic and one from Columbia that produces an avocado the size of a very large three-pound russet potato. We research and create. That is what Chateau Jardin is all about. I call it my confectionary garden."

A stickler on quality control, the Fudge Lady's products must be as fresh when sold as the fruit was when it came off the vine.

"My fudge must be fresh," Halverson said. "One thing I don't like about fudge is you never know how long it's been sitting there. With my fudge, you can taste the freshness. I also have a brand new line of curds. They include lemon, tangerine, ruby red grapefruit curd and a Cara Cara, which is a pink orange. I put all of those into curds and our preserves, and all of that relates to the land."

Before Halverson could even pluck the fruit from her trees for her curds and fudge, she had to wade through a tsunami of red tape to obtain a Certified Fruit Producer certificate. She said it was a lot of work, but the end game has allowed her to create world-class fudge by embracing her Chateau Jar-



The gardens at Chateau Jardin provide fresh ingredients for Debbie Halverson's products at the Scripps Ranch Farmers Market. (courtesy of Debbie Halverson)

din mantra.

"I will not buy something from the grocery store," Halverson said. "Everything comes from my own property, and that is what a farmer's market is supposed to be. If you don't grow it or make it yourself, then what has happened to the farmer's element of calling it a farmer's market? Well, it's missing, and I want to put that back, and that's my little contribution."

Visit the Chateau Jardin booth at the Scripps Ranch Farmer's Market, held from 4 to 8 p.m. each Thursday at 10045 Carroll Canyon Road.

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Jewish Men's Choir live at the library

The "Pleasure of Your Company" music series, sponsored by the Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library, opens the new season with the San Diego Jewish Men's Choir on Sunday, Sept. 11 at 2:30 p.m. at the Scripps Miramar Ranch Library Center.



The San Diego Jewish Men's Choir will perform live on Sunday, Sept. 11 at 2:30 p.m. at the Scripps Miramar Ranch Library Center. (photo courtesy of Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library)

Under the direction of Ruth Weber, this accomplished ensemble will perform a varied program from their genre-spanning repertoire, singing in a number of languages, including English, Hebrew, Yiddish and Ladino.

Their recordings have won several Global Music Awards, among other honors. *The San Diego Troubadour* has called the San Diego Jewish Men's Choir, "one of the finest vo-

cal ensembles San Diego has to offer."

There is no charge for the concert, although donations are appreciated.

Due to the public health situation, masks will be required for all audience members regardless of immunization status.

Scripps Miramar Ranch Library Center is located at

10301 Scripps Lake Drive near Miramar Lake. Overflow parking is available on Meanley Drive off Scripps Ranch Boulevard.

Call (858) 538-8158 or visit www.srfol.org for information.

The complete concert lineup for the 2022-23 season can be found at www.srfol.org/music.htm.

Poway Rotary Parade set for Sept. 10

The Rotary Club of Poway-Scripps announced that the Palomar Health Presents the 2022 Poway Rotary Parade is scheduled for Sept. 10. The parade start time is scheduled for 9 a.m. and more than 100 entrants are expected.

This year's theme is "We Are Family."

The grand marshal is former San Diego Charger Cory Withrow. Withrow played with the team from 2006 to 2008. He is the owner of King's Craft Coffee Co. in Poway.

In addition to parade favorites and regular entrants such as classic cars and horses, this year's event will include a pet parade. In the first ever inclusion, Rotarians are eager to invite family and friends to participate in the parade with their lovable furry friends. There will be a contest for most unique pet, best dressed pet, and best float with a pet in it.

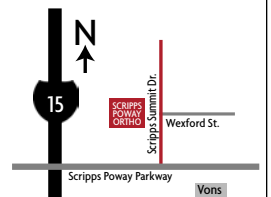
The Rotary Club of Poway-Scripps has hosted the parade since 2013.

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SCHOOLS

Ways to support teachers this fall

(Family Features) Throughout the pandemic, teachers have gone above and beyond for their students, becoming not just educators, but also counselors, role models and friends to their students by supporting their overall well-being.

Even so, only 52 percent of teachers feel valued by their communities, according to PDK International, a professional association for educators. What's more, teachers are more burnt out than ever, with 81 percent reporting their workloads have increased and 55 percent sharing they have less time for planning than before, according to a State of Teaching survey conducted by Adopt a Classroom.

Heading back to school means stocking up on supplies, updating wardrobes and planning new routines for hassle-free mornings. This fall, as you prepare for the new school year, consider these ideas for supporting your children's teachers, too:

Volunteer in the classroom

With the extra roles and responsibilities many teach-



Here are a handful of ideas about how parents can support teachers who go above and beyond the call of duty this school year. (Getty Images)

ers have taken on in recent years, there aren't enough hours in the day to complete special projects or keep up with certain tasks. Ask teachers how you can lend a hand. That might mean spending some time physically in the classroom, or there may be ways you can support your children's classes from home, such as assembling instructional packets or researching field trip ideas.

Recognize good teachers

Chances are good you know at least a few educators who

have gone beyond the call of duty and made an exceptional impact on their students. Honoring their contributions shows appreciation for all they do.

Be a learning partner at home

Supporting teachers isn't just about the classroom and supplies; you can also provide a helping hand by creating good habits and modeling the importance of education at home. Actions like creating routines that keep students on a comfortable, familiar schedule

help teachers manage classrooms more effectively. You can also make communication with your children's teachers a priority so you're aware of concerns and can help address them early.

Donate school supplies

Often, teachers dip into their own income to create fun, engaging learning experiences and supplement student supplies when they run low. In fact, the average teacher spends \$745 on supplies for their classrooms that are not covered by school budgets. According to Adopt a Classroom's State of Teaching survey, 71 percent of teachers spent more of their own money on classroom materials in 2022 than during the previous year.

You can ask teachers what supplies they need, or you can give back to teachers through Staples' Classroom Rewards program. Join for free (staplesconnect.com/c/classroomrewards) and earn 5 percent back on every qualifying purchase for you and 10 percent back from qualifying purchases to donate to local teachers. The program helps reduce teachers' out of pocket costs for their classrooms by allowing them to earn up to \$2,000 a year.

Attend school meetings

Keeping tabs on the issues affecting your school district and teachers is an important part of monitoring and advocating for your children's education, but it's also a way for you to lend your support on topics affecting teachers. Stay informed about issues that matter to your children's teachers and support school board policies and actions that serve teachers' best interests.

—Source: Staples

FIRST DAY PHOTOS

ATTENTION PARENTS: Send a special photo of your students on their first day of the 2022-23 school year to Scripps Ranch News. Your photo will be published in the September edition of Scripps Ranch News and posted on ScrippsRanchNews.com. Free!

Send a high resolution photo to info@scrippsranchnews.com. Be sure to include the names of the students in the photo, the school they are attending and grade, and the name of the photographer. Deadline is Sept 6.



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Children can develop a sense of empathy, which can help them have positive interactions with others anywhere. (Family Features)



Children are generally kind, but it's possible they might internalize societal messages that equate kindness with weakness. (Family Features)

Tips to raise your children to be kind and caring

(Family Features) At some point, many parents will likely find themselves encouraging their children to “be kind” or “be friendly.” While they lead with the best of intentions, nearly all parents will worry about whether their child is kind to others when adults are not around.

“We often encourage children to be friends with everyone, but that’s unrealistic,” said Carter Peters from KinderCare’s Inclusion Services team. “We don’t have to be friends with everyone, but we do need to be friendly

with everyone. When children learn to respect everyone, even those they don’t like, they help create a kinder, more welcoming community.”

While children are generally kind, it’s possible they might internalize societal messages that equate kindness with weakness. With a little help, children can develop a sense of empathy, which can help them have positive interactions with others.

Consider these three ways parents can encourage empathy:

Try a new twist on “what did you do today?” Find a consistent time during the day to ask your child, “How did you help someone today?” or “How were you kind to someone today?”

Be sure to offer your own examples from your day, too. This helps your child understand the connection between his or her actions and kindness to others. It also

opens the conversation for you and your child to discuss missed opportunities to show kindness.

Intentionally call out acts of kindness. Go beyond a simple “thank you” and be specific about why the action was kind: “That was so kind of you to clear the table after dinner. Your help made cleanup go faster. I appreciate that.”

Ask your child what compliments he or she likes to hear and encourage him or her to do the same for others. This teaches empathy and encourages children to treat others the way they want to be treated.

Build a toolbox of responses for tough situations. First, help your child build emotional literacy skills by helping him or her learn to identify and name feelings. Then work together to identify appropriate expressions of those feelings.

“Children need to learn they can express big emo-

tions, like frustration or anger, without taking those feelings out on others,” Peters said.

Some healthy ways to react to emotional moments could be to find a quiet place to calm down, talk with a trusted adult like a teacher, squeeze fists or name the feeling: “I’m so angry right now.”

The ability to think and react rationally diminishes when angry, so practicing potential responses while in

a calm, low-stress state is essential to helping children learn to apply those responses when they’re upset. Having this toolbox of responses to rely on also gives children the autonomy of deciding how best to respond to an emotionally difficult situation, which can lead to a sense of empowerment when they realize they chose to act kindly despite their emotions.

For more tips about raising kind and caring children, visit kindercare.com.

SDUSD classes start Aug. 29

It’s that hectic time of the year when summer vacation draws to a close for children and parents prepare to send their students into a new school year. Schools in the San Diego Unified School District begin classes the morning of Aug. 29. Classes will not be in session on Labor Day, Sept. 5.

State begins college savings program

The State of California announced the launch of the California Kids Investment and Development Savings Program (CalKIDS), a taxpayer-funded scholarship program designed to help kids start saving for college from the day they’re born.

Under the new program, every child born in California on or after July 1 of this year will be automatically enrolled in CalKIDS, and can receive \$100 in free deposits by registering in the online portal. Parents are asked to allow up to 90 days after birth before their child’s information will be updated in the CalKIDS system.

For older children, CalKIDS will automatically grant \$500

to all eligible low-income students in grades 1-12, plus up to an additional \$1,000 for those in foster care or experiencing homelessness.

CalKIDS lists this eligibility criteria as:

- Students eligible for free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program
- Students receiving benefits from CalFresh, CalWORKS or the food distribution program on a reservation
- Students in a state-recognized English language program for non-native speakers
- Students in a migrant household working in the agriculture, dairy, fishing or logging industries

- Students classified by their school as a foster youth or homeless

CalKIDS money is invested in a mutual fund managed by the State’s college savings plan, ScholarShare, and is tax-free to use on college tuition, books and other education expenses.

To learn more, or to register your child’s account online, see the following resources online:

- calkids.org
- calkids.org/the-basics/who-is-eligible/
- calkids.org/get-started/register-your-account/

—San Diego Unified School District

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Scripps Ranch High School cheerleaders display some of their awards. The team decided to enter CIF competition this year. (courtesy of Trishaa Camp)

Cheer team preps for season

By Kaila Mellos

As the school year begins, the Scripps Ranch High School cheer team aimed to have an exciting kick-off. Their first event was the Freshman Falcon Pride Event on Aug. 16.

"It's welcoming all the brand new freshmen to our school," said Trishaa Camp, the Scripps Ranch High School cheer teacher. "That's where they learn their first SRHS cheer, and we help them. We perform for them and greet them. They also got goody bags packed by the cheerleaders, ASB, the peer mentoring group, and Butterfly Effect group. So, all the different initiatives on our campus greet all these brand new kids."

After this event, there are football games, one being the Homecoming game they will be cheering at on Sept. 23.

This year's cheer team has already been bonding since spring break with a larger team than ever before.

Practicing Tuesdays through Thursdays over the summer, the 14-person freshman, 18-person junior varsity, and 21-person varsity teams have been working hard to get everything ready before their first events.

Each team has its captain and co-captains assisting them. For varsity, Melissa Howell is the head captain, with Maya Zurmuhle as technique captain, Kira Farias as dance coordinator captain and Alexis Bernabe as rules and attendance captain.

Freshman co-captains are Avery Martin and Giada Horton. JV head captain is Jordin McCrory.

As cheerleaders, their role on campus is to be spirit ambassadors.

"One of the major responsibilities is just implementing the spirit on campus, as well as their ambassadorship," Camp said. "It's about making sure people know what's happening while also making sure people feel welcome when they come to

our school. They cheer at all the events and just being there, supporting as many sporting events as possible."

While being spirit ambassadors, they are also helping bring everyone together.

"Seeing the kids and the school have so much spirit and so much pride for itself and root each other on is so important," Camp said. "We live in a society where it's so easy to rip each other down. But that's why I love cheering so much because it's not about us; it's teaching kids how to support each other, teaching kids how to root for each other."

Along with cheering at sporting events, the team will compete for the first time in CIF competitions this year, representing Scripps Ranch High School.

"This year, we were talking about it, and the girls are excited to be able to compete, so we're gonna compete this year," Camp said. "We're gonna represent our school in the CIF competition, which will be in December, and then we'll just go from there."

The competition will compare each team's skills in multiple categories ranging from stunts to jumps.

"Our goal is to support our teams, but it's hard to say we're a sport if we don't compete against the same people within what we do," Camp said. "So, we would like to compete and do our sports side of cheerleading. Comparing our jumps to your jumps, our stunts to your stunts, we will compete in those levels."

In between cheering and competing, the cheerleaders are creating lifelong friendships and building skills that will last.

"They feel super bonded and connected, and are very proud of themselves to be able to achieve those things," Camp said. "I think it's just a different type of dignity and pride they walk away with, and the sense of accomplishment."

Vax to school

The start of August means summer break is coming to an end, and it is time to get the kids ready to go back to school.

As families make their back-to-school to-do lists, vaccinations and well-child checkups should be top of mind, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic caused many children miss important health checkups and recommended vaccinations.

Vaccines for school-aged children include DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus and

pertussis/whooping cough), Hep B, MMR (measles, mumps and rubella vaccine), chickenpox, polio and more. Additionally, the HPV vaccine is recommended for children ages 9 to 12, and everyone through age 26 to help prevent certain cancers and infections.

More information about vaccines and where to get them is available on the County website bit.ly/3zW-GLhN or by calling 211.

—Fernanda Lopez Halvorson
County of San Diego Communications Office



When parents and teachers connect, they can create a stronger support system. (KinderCare)

Connect with the teacher

(Family Features) A new school year can feel like uncharted territory for children, parents and teachers alike as they learn new things and meet unfamiliar faces. Building a relationship with your child's teacher can help create a positive school experience for everyone involved.

"When parents and teachers connect, they can create a stronger support system," said Tyreca Elliott from KinderCare's education team. "When families and teachers work together, children can succeed."

Consider these three tips from KinderCare teachers to help families create connections and build trust and collaboration with their child's teacher.

Be Intentional. Ruby Villarreal, a preschool teacher of nearly 30 years, suggests meeting with your child's teacher before the first day of school to introduce your child and your family. Share your child's previous school experience, likes and dislikes as well as any home issues that may impact your child's mood or behavior, such as a new sibling, recent move or divorce. Raise any concerns you may have – no matter how big or small. Your child is the teacher's priority too, and he or she might have some tips and tricks to help

you help your child.

Communicate about communications. Drop off and pick up times can sometimes be too busy for more than a "hi" or "bye." Ask your child's teacher how he or she likes to communicate, and share your preference, too. Let the teacher know if you would like a phone call during a lunch break for a quick update about your child or if you'd rather communicate via email or the school's app.

Make a big difference with little chats. During pick up or drop off, try to leave time for a brief conversation. This could be a quick chat about something fun your child did over the weekend or why he or she might be having a tough day. It could also mean asking, "What can I ask my child about on the way home?" or finding out about activities you could do to help your child keep learning at home.

"Learning is a partnership between families and school," said Quiana Smith, a 15-year prekindergarten teacher. "Your child will be excited about school and learning when he or she knows you're excited about it, too."

To learn more about how to create connections between home and school, visit kinder-care.com.

Focus on building new social skills

(Family Features) When thinking about back-to-school season, most people naturally think of academics. However, it's just as important to focus on social and emotional skills.

Children of all ages are still learning to manage their emotions and get along with others. As they learn these skills, behaviors that make academic learning more challenging for everyone else in the classroom may be seen.

"Social and emotional skills are crucial to a child's academic success, but they aren't inherent," said Carter Peters from KinderCare's inclusion services team. "Teachers tell us again and again that starting the school year with a grasp on social emotional learning is just as important as knowing academic concepts. Children who are struggling to manage their emotions and transition into the classroom may not be able to focus on academics."

Consider these three skills families can teach their children before school starts to help build friendships.

Turn transitions into games

Making a game out of stressful transitions can help both you and your child reframe your mindsets and reduce stress. Asking your child, "Can you hop like a bunny while you get your school things together?" or playing a listening game like "Simon Says" can help your child develop executive function skills such as impulse control. You could also give him or her choices. For example, tell your child, "You can put your shoes on yourself or I can help you," which lets him or her feel a sense of autonomy and control when choosing the desired solution.



Building these social skills now can help your children start the school year ready to learn and grow. (KinderCare)

Play a 'what if' game

Help school-age children build a growth mindset by problem-solving responses to common friendship issues. Ask your child "What would you do if ...?" and help him or her practice responses. Thinking of responses ahead of time gives your child a rehearsed playbook to choose from in the moment. The more he or she practices these responses, the less you will see unwanted behaviors such as yelling or hitting. By giving children the autonomy to choose their own responses, you demonstrate your trust in them, which can give children a powerful sense of their own abilities to act maturely.

"The need to practice impulse control and self-regulation skills will remain a challenge throughout childhood as executive function skills continue to develop into a person's mid-20s," Peters said. "It's not that children don't 'know better,' it's more their brains are still learning these vital social and emotional skills."

Find more tips to build children's social and emotional skills at kinder-care.com.

Take turns

One thing younger children often struggle with is the concept of sharing. Adults can forget that – to young children – sharing implies giving something up, Peters said. If your child struggles to share, try introducing the concept of taking turns: "It's Mariah's turn for the slide. When she's done then you can go," for example. Help your child practice how to have conversations with playmates about taking turns.



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Entries will appear in the September issue of Scripps Ranch News and on ScrippsRanchNews.com.

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Alex Ariaudo makes a cut and heads down the field during a Falcons football practice session. (photo by Jim Wick)



Josh Nguyen goes through drills as the Scripps Ranch High School football team returned to campus for preseason practice. (photo by Jim Wick)

SRHS football follows coach's recipe for success

By Jill Alexander

The new football season for last year's CIF State Champion Scripps Ranch High School (SRHS) Falcons started Aug. 19 in an away game in Brawley. For fans who couldn't make the trek, the first home game will be Aug. 26 with a scheduled 7 p.m. kick-off in Scripps Ranch against a difficult rival – La Jolla High School.

Last season, the Falcons won the CIF-San Diego Section Football Division 2 Championship for the first time in SRHS history, then made it to the State championship game and won for the first time. In 2019 the team went undefeated in its regular season and went on to the CIF San Diego Championship Division 2 game before losing to La Jolla.

After the team's big 2021 championship season, head coach Marlon Gardinera is

looking ahead, also mentioning that there is "beautiful new turf" on the home field that was just installed this summer.

Keeping motivated

"Following an incredible season, like all the previous five seasons, we have high standards and even higher expectations," said Gardinera, who is approaching his sixth year as head coach. "The most important part of my role is not football; my job is to teach them how to thrive."

Under his leadership, the team continues learning the recipe for success in life: "Hard work, discipline, dealing with adversity, dedication and understanding what team means."

Sometimes, the culmination will be the pinnacle of success and that's what the Falcons reached last year.

"However, there are times you will fall short of that pin-



Scripps Ranch High School football players prepare for a drill from the line of scrimmage. (photo by Jim Wick)

nacle because of the match-up on the field, but that doesn't mean you have to fall short of the recipe for success. I'll continue to be relentlessly relentless in doing that," Gardinera said.

"We are driven, and we are going to get to where we are trying to go. If you saw last year, our best was pretty good," he said. "We'll do what

we do every year and that's work hard, get the absolute most out of each teammate and see where that lands us."

Top expected players

Offense: Jax Leatherwood, QB (Sr.), Trevor Granucci, OL (Sr.), Dean Paley, WR (Sr.), and Ethan Rochet, TE/WR (Sr.).

Defense: Noah Gardinera, S (Jr.), Hudson Wanner, LB (Jr.), Ryan Stadherr, LB (So.), and Nathaniel Barba, DL (Sr.).

"There are five returning starters from last year's defense. This is by far the youngest team I've had in my five years at Scripps Ranch High School. It has become a pattern," Gardinera said. "We are senior heavy one year, then starting sophomores and juniors the next. There will be at least 16 non-seniors starting for us this year. That just means we will be back the following year with a team with 3-and 4-year starters."

Bottom-line: the same offense and defense, just a new cast of characters working hard to put it all together as they move up to Division 1 and the "incredibly tough Western League."

As for this season's kicker, Gardinera will decide between three players in the

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High school is getting sand volleyball courts

By Hector Trujillo

Ever since the Scripps Ranch High School (SRHS) boys beach volleyball program started a few years ago, the team has played at the highest level against some of the best competition in the county. Even though it's still considered a club sport for boys, it has officially become a CIF-sanctioned sport for girls.

With that in mind, a Scripps Ranch couple – Lance and Judy Taschner – are putting their best efforts to have sand volleyball courts installed on the campus of Scripps Ranch High School.

“Since Lance got the Scripps boys beach program started up three years ago, we have often been running practices out of our backyard sand court,” Judy said.

Both have been playing beach volleyball since their late teens, having met each other at the Estero Beach Volleyball Tournament in Mexico. Judy, an attorney by profession, has competed in beach, grass and indoor volleyball her entire life. Lance is the boys volleyball coach at the high school and also led the Scripps Ranch Little League Intermediate All-Star team all the way to the Little League World Series in 2018.

“There are not a lot of sand court options in the area, so we could never host home matches,” Lance said. “While playing over at the beach is beautiful, it can be difficult and inconvenient for kids



Lance Taschner (left) with Scripps Ranch High School Associate Principal Rudy Parra as construction of the new sand volleyball courts is underway on the school campus in the background. (courtesy of Lance Taschner)

and families to make it out there during weekday afternoons.”

There are several other high schools in San Diego that have already installed their own beach volleyball courts, which provide an advantage for their students.

Beach volleyball is recognized as an official college sport for women and is among the fastest growing sports, and some colleges are starting to offer it as a men's club sport, too.

“To actually have our own facility at the high school is a

dream come true, and opens up the availability of this growing sport to all Scripps students,” Judy said. “They will possibly still be playing it – especially beach, since it's easier on the joints – even into their fifties, creating many life memories and relationships, as it is a very socially connected activity.”

The project has been officially approved on the SRHS campus with excavation having started on Aug. 9. Forthcoming steps include filling the courts with sand and putting in the volleyball eq-

uipment. The beautification is expected to continue over the course of the year – and in preparation for the girls sand volleyball season in the spring.

Among those supporting the project are the Scripps Ranch Volleyball Booster Club with the goal being to get three courts to be utilized for the boys sand volleyball fall season.

The Taschners wanted to recognize Scripps Ranch High School Associate Principal Rudy Parra because he has been instrumental in



Those wishing to donate funds to help complete the sand volleyball courts at Scripps Ranch High School may contribute through Venmo.

working with them and the school district to make this project happen. He and Andrea Eaton, maintenance planning senior coordinator from the San Diego Unified School District worked together with Lance to approve this volunteer-driven dream project.

“The biggest obstacle now is money. Fundraising is in full swing with the newly established Scripps Volleyball Booster Club, and we are already so grateful for the generous donations coming in,” Judy said.

SRHS FOOTBALL

Continued from Page 16

coming weeks.

“It's such an important part of what we do. Even in our State championship game, the score difference was three and the kicker came out and made the pivotal kick. It's always such a big thing,” Gardinera said.

Tough season

Facing such opposition as Madison, La Jolla, Cathedral Catholic, Lincoln and St. Augustine will make for a challenging season.

“We have been moved up to the highest division and what I think is the toughest league in San Diego County,” Gardinera said. “It's going to be a challenging season.”

But with Gardinera's recipe for success on and off the field, it may very well be another winning year.



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EXCELLENT FORM: KT Rodriguez focuses on a bunt during a 12-4 Scripps Ranch Softball Association 12u gold team win over Poway in the District B National tournament in Corona. The team went 2-1 in pool play and 4-2 in brackets, finishing in the top 10 at Nationals. (photo by Lisa Shadburn)



GREAT SHOWING: Aaron Tinoco of the Scripps Ranch Little League 11U All-Stars fires the ball during action in the Southern California State Championships. The team took second place, beating all but one of the teams in their age group. (photo by Lisa Shadburn)

JAX LEATHERWOOD

Continued from Page 1

in football, but he has been a part of the SRHS basketball and volleyball teams for the past three years.

“Last season, our basketball team was able to make it to the CIF championship, and State championship – where we won. Even our volleyball team was able to make it to the State playoffs,” he said.

“I think the most amazing part of winning those

championships for the first time has been changing people’s view on boys athletics at this school. People have changed their ideas on what we can do,” Leatherwood said.

As the upcoming football season approaches, Leatherwood and the team have begun preparing.

“We began lifting and conditioning in July. Our real season started on Aug. 1. We started practicing every day, except Sunday, and we continued conditioning and

lifting,” Leatherwood said.

He described the football team’s dynamic this season.

“This is a different team this year. I have not played with a lot of these players. We’ve been taking it step by step, and as the offseason has progressed, I’ve seen a lot of growth from these players,” Leatherwood said.

He has been able to see his teammate’s strengths as he works with several new players.

“I think our biggest strength is how close we are. We’re all like best friends. Our teamwork is great because of how close we are,” he said.

Despite their strengths, there is room for growth in other places.

“I would like to see a boost in everyone’s confidence. When someone messes up, they get really down on themselves. I’ve been working on building up the players. I think we can get there,” he said.

As he enters his last season, he conveyed his thoughts and hopes.

“It’s my senior year, and I’m looking forward to having fun on the field. I can’t wait for the season to start,” Leatherwood said. “We’re really hoping for a repeat of last season. I’m excited to learn new things this season with this new team.”

The first game took place Aug. 19 at Brawley Union High School.

While the regular season ends in October, that will not be the end of Leatherwood’s time in football. In April, he committed to the University of Nevada to play football. He plans to major in business or marketing.

“I felt at home there. I loved the coaching staff and what the school had to offer,” he said.

He plans to graduate from SRHS early and will be head-



SRHS quarterback Jax leatherwood throws downfield during the 2021 CIF 2-A Football State Championship victory. (photo by Jim Wick)

ing to Nevada in January.

“I think it will benefit my game greatly. It will give me a head start, and I feel like it is the best option,” Leatherwood said.

He shared his future aspirations at Nevada in his role as a quarterback.

“I hope to win a conference championship. When I get my chance to start, I want to be a great leader for the team,” he said.

Alongside his commitment to the University of Nevada,

Leatherwood has a name, image and likeness (NIL) deal with Sleefs athletic gear.

Leatherwood has been playing football for more than 10 years.

“What keeps my passion going is my competitiveness. I hate to lose no matter what it is, whether that’s playing mini golf with my girlfriend, or football,” he said.

To keep up with Leatherwood, follow him on Instagram @jaxleatherwood, and Twitter @JaxLeatherwood.



Jax Leatherwood, wearing a University of Nevada uniform, poses on a dock on Lake Tahoe. (courtesy photo)



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Some members of the Scripps Ranch High School cross country mens team run on the path around Lake Miramar in early August. (photo by Jim Wick)



A group of runners on the Scripps Ranch High School cross country womens team put in some miles during a small preseason session. (photo by Jim Wick)

Cross country teams prepare for 2022

By Hector Trujillo

The Scripps Ranch High School cross country teams kicked off the first official day of practice on Aug. 8, hoping to have another great showing, as was the case during the 2021 season.

Despite no longer having the service of some key runners, the teams will still have several long-distance athletes as part of the approximately 30 boys and 25 girls competing in 2022.

“The off-season makes their season,” said SRHS cross country coach Chuck Warren. “What we do during the summer is have them join a running club for those who are serious, and they meet at Miramar Lake three days a week. Before COVID, we used to have over a hundred kids on the team.”

Warren, who has been at the helm since 2012, saw both the boys and girls make it to the State Championships last season which was the fourth year in a row for the boys and three out of the last four for the girls.

“I give them recommended workouts throughout the summer, with the dedicated ones going six days a week,” Warren said.

Among the returners for the boys are senior Ken Belt who finished 11th in CIF, winning the D2 junior race at the Dana Hills Invitational and also recorded a 4-minute, 21-second mile last year.

He will be accompanied by fellow senior Brian Maguire and junior Oliver Cannon who finished in the CIF top 20 in 2021.

As for the girls, seniors Michaela Martin and Chloe Ellermeyer will be among those returning, with sophomore Addy Richardson, who ran a 5-minute, 10-second mile during the 2021 CIF fi-

nals, also coming back.

“We definitely want to peak our runners in the month of November for the big meets like league finals, CIF and possibly the State meet,” Warren said. “We’re in the most competitive league by far and overall, we’re probably third in the whole county.”

The month of September will serve as preparation for league competition. September will include the annual South Bay Invitational

in Bonita to kick things off, followed by the Mt. Carmel Invitational at Morley Field, and concluding with the Dana Hills Invitational in Dana Point the last week of September.

The Scripps Ranch cross country teams then start their league competition in October with the biggest rival once again being Cathedral Catholic High School, which has been the case since SRHS joined the Western League in 2016.



(photo by Jim Wick)

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