

Top of their class

By Ashley Shah

Janoj Rendaraj and Anirudh Nayak are the top scholars of the Scripps Ranch High School (SRHS) class of 2024. Here they share their experiences, advice and future plans.

Janoj Rendaraj, Valedictorian
4.86 grade point average

In his time at SRHS, Rendaraj was heavily involved in the tennis team and Cyberpatriot competition through the Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps (AFJROTC).



Janoj Rendaraj

"I had been on the tennis team since my sophomore year. I was on the varsity team. The tennis team was a much needed break from my academics," he said. "I had also been involved with the Cyberpatriot competition since my sophomore year. Being a part of this competition really helped facilitate my interest in computer science."

Off-campus, Rendaraj was involved with a local organization called Project Binary.

"We taught underprivileged elementary and middle school students different coding languages. Project Binary also grew my interest in computer science," he said.

Reflecting on his time in high school, he offered advice in terms of academic achievement.

"With academics, don't be afraid to get help from friends and teachers. I had a lot of study groups in high school. Having people around helped me stay focused on getting through material without being distracted by my phone or something," he said.

He would like to thank his parents for their support throughout his high school years, and more.

"My parents have always been a big support. They took care of a lot of things, which lessened my worries, and let me be a kid at the end of the day. I am so fortunate to have them," Rendaraj said.

He will attend UCSD where he will be studying computer science.

See **SRHS VALEDICTORIAN**, Page 13

Run & Ride set for July 4

The 2024 edition of the annual Scripps Ranch Old Pros Fourth of July Run & Ride – which draws the largest number of participants of any event in this community – will bring thousands of runners and cyclists to the streets of Scripps Ranch on July 4. Perhaps the most incredible aspect is that the event will be wrapped up by about 10 a.m.

The Old Pros will hold two running events and three cycling events – all on the morning of July 4. Everything culminates with a celebratory festival in Hoyt Park following the athletic events.

The Run & Ride includes a 10k run, a 2-mile fun run; a 12-mile bike ride, a 22.5 bike gravel trail ride and a 35-mile street bike ride.

There will be a few small changes this year, according to 2024 Run & Ride Czar Sean Phillips. The event start times will be a little different from last year:

The 22.5-mile gravel ride starts at 7 a.m. (new time this year); the 35-mile street ride starts at 7:15 a.m. (new time this year); the 12-mile ride starts at 8 a.m. (new time this year). The 10k foot race starts at 7 a.m. (same as last year), and the 2-mile run starts at 7:10 a.m. (same as last year).

In addition, a local band will be playing live music at Lake



The annual Scripps Ranch Old Pros Run & Ride attracts thousands of participants and is set to begin the morning of July 4. (photo by Jim Wick)

Miramar for the runners and cyclists as they go through that part of their course. The Old Pros will hold a silent auction at the festival in Hoyt Park. That's not new.

"But what is new is that it is 100 percent tax deductible, along with taking donations that will also be 100 percent tax deductible," Phillips said. "The monies that we do collect for this event go to scholarships and youth sports."

The Scripps Ranch Old Pros donate more than \$30,000 to youth sports and college scholarships every year from this event.

The running events begin on Red Cedar Drive in front of Miramar Ranch Elementary School.

The cycling events begin on Hibert Street at the intersection with Scripps Ranch Boulevard. All events end at Hoyt Park in the morning.

The celebration in Hoyt Park is open to the general public and will include live music, entertainment for kids, the silent auction and sponsor booths. There will also be a beer garden open only to Run & Ride participants.

Residents should expect temporary street closures due to the Run & Ride on the morning of July 4 from 4 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the following locations: Scripps Lake Drive from Red Cedar Drive to Miramar Lake; Red Cedar Drive from Scripps Lake Drive to Aviary Drive;

See **RUN & RIDE**, Page 14

Enjoy all the Journey favorites on July 14

By Jill Alexander

DSB. This acronym stands for Don't Stop Believin' – a nod to lyrics by the band Journey. It's also the chosen name of Journey tribute band DSB, named after the music sensation of yesteryear.

DSB will play all the hits from Journey on July 14 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Hoyt Park as part of the Scripps Ranch Symphony in the Park summer concert series.

"DSB is the moniker to the song," said Juan Del Castillo, DSB co-founder, and lead vocalist. "A lot of the Journey fans give abbreviations to the songs like WINTS ('Wheel in the Sky'...). 'Don't Stop Believin' is one of Journey's most popular

and biggest songs."

DSB recently celebrated its 15th year together, a major milestone for the five-member group that has earned the title of World's Greatest Journey Tribute Band, Del Castillo said.

He said DSB hasn't played Scripps Ranch since 2018 and it is excited to return for many reasons.

"Let's face it, Journey is not going to come to Scripps, so this is why we need to come out and play the way it is supposed to be played in a live setting," Del Castillo said. "It's always great to appear in front of the hometown crowd and it's a good time."

Del Castillo grew up in California and said his parents still live in Fallbrook.

"When I first started, it didn't

matter if I was out with friends, or we were doing karaoke ... people went nuts for what we or I was singing. I was always compared to Steve Perry ... I was humbled by that and still am," he said.

DSB performs more than 100 shows a year, ranging from festivals to summer concerts, cruise ships and theaters.

"I love what I do, but it's never been about fame or money," Del Castillo said. "I have devoted my life to music and there's that saying that if you love what you do, you'll never work another day in your life. I'm a strong advocate of that sentiment."

Other members of DSB are equally talented. One member plays with jazz icon Dave Koz,

See **DSB BAND**, Page 9



DSB, a Journey tribute band, will perform in Hoyt Park on July 14 as part of the Scripps Ranch Symphony in the Park summer concert series. (courtesy of DSB)

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FIREFIGHTING CHOPPERS REPLENISH

Firefighting helicopters hovered above the surface of Miramar Reservoir to replenish their water which they used to drop on a brushfire on Marine Corps Air Station Miramar on June 8 after a planned controlled burn jumped its lines. It was contained and the helicopters ended replenishment activities over Miramar Reservoir at 5:03 p.m. (photo by John Gregory)

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Items for the to go bag

We’ve talked a lot about being prepared, how to secure your homes and to have a “to go bag.” But have we talked enough about what to put in the to go bag?

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- 6) A first aid kit that includes family prescriptions

- 7) Extra pair of eye glasses and sun glasses
- 8) Extra set of car and house keys
- 9) Toiletries (yes, including toilet paper and Kleenex)
- 10) Flashlight
- 11) Special items for infants, elderly or disabled family members
- 12) Pet food, water, dishes, carrier and leash

You can learn more basics by watching Emergency Preparedness: Make a kit and a plan at sdge.com/beprepared.com. Be vigilant, smart and safe.

Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council; (858) 201-3711, srfiresafe.org, srfiresafecouncil@gmail.com.



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Apple and Berry Cream Cheese Tarts (courtesy of Envy Apples)

Fruit-infused fun

(Family Features) As patriotic parties roll on throughout the day and fireworks light up the night, Fourth of July fun calls for favorite snacks that complement the excitement.

Summer is a perfect time to make fruit the star of the show, and Fourth of July is no exception. These special occasions can be uplifted with the aroma and flavor of Envy Apples, a leading apple variety that offers an invitation to guests to savor memorable moments together.

Their versatility makes them ideal for sweet treats like these **Apple and Berry Cream Cheese Tarts** for a patriotic touch with red, white and blue pops of color. These tasty bites are shareable, handheld and festive, making them a savvy solution that keeps entertaining simple.

Just combine cream cheese, powdered sugar, vanilla and milk; pipe onto baked tart shells and top with raspberries, blueberries and star-shaped apple cutouts. Better yet, you can even swap out raspberries for preferred red fruits like strawberries or cherries, if desired.

If all the planning and entertaining leaves you short on time, turn to these Patriotic **Apple "Donuts"** that swap out traditional dough for thick, round apple slices topped with cream cheese and sprinkles. With just a few ingredients, you can slice the apples then let little ones in on the fun by spreading the cream cheese and decorating with sprinkles.

The craveable texture and crunch of Envy Apples provide balanced sweetness for these favorite desserts and beyond, giving guests the ultimate apple experience for

all your Fourth of July festivities. They're an appealing backdrop for pops of red and white in patriotic recipes as their flesh remains whiter longer, even after cutting or slicing, so they look fresh and delicious throughout the holiday.

To find more Fourth of July salads, main courses, sides and desserts, visit EnvyApple.com.

See **FRUIT-INFUSED**, Page 5



BIG SMILE!

Scripps Ranch 10u all-star player Katelyn McChesney shows a bright smile as the Scripps Ranch Softball Association hosted its annual softball tournament May 31-June 2 with game action at Cypress Canyon, Sycamore Canyon and Canyonside parks. The tournament, which involved teams from San Diego, Orange County and the Los Angeles area, was put on with the help of numerous volunteers from the Scripps Ranch softball community. (photo by Lisa Shadburn)



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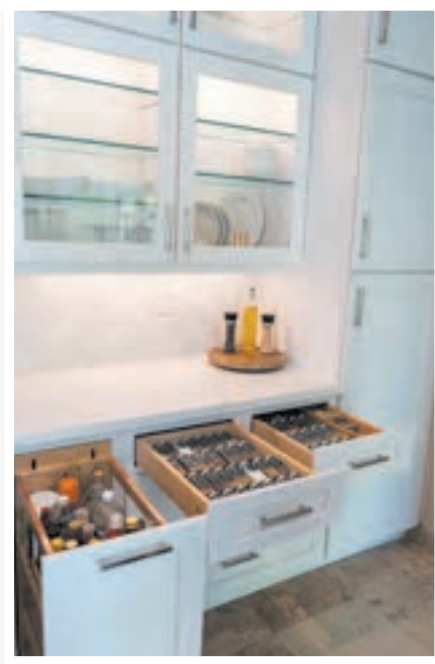
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ENHANCING HOME AND HAPPINESS: The Value of Kitchen and Bath Remodeling



Summer is the perfect time to revitalize your living spaces, and with the holidays just around the corner, there's no better time to start planning your new home project.

A kitchen or bath remodel offers numerous benefits that enhance both your lifestyle and your home's value.

Firstly, these renovations modernize the spaces, making them more functional and visually appealing. A well-designed kitchen encourages cooking and socializing, transforming meal prep into an enjoyable experience and fostering family togetherness.

Similarly, an upgraded bathroom creates a spa-like retreat, promoting relaxation and self-care.

Beyond aesthetics, a remodel can improve efficiency and organization, streamlining daily routines and reducing clutter. Upgraded appliances and fixtures in the kitchen and bath can also enhance the energy efficiency, saving you money on utility bills in the long run.

A kitchen or bath remodel not only adds value to your home but also enriches your daily life, creating spaces that are beautiful, functional and enjoyable for years to come.

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FRUIT-INFUSED

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Apple and Berry Cream Cheese Tarts

- 1 cup diced raspberries
- 4 tablespoons sugar, divided
- 1 cup halved blueberries
- 1 package cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup milk
- 12 frozen mini tart shells, approximately 2 inches in diameter
- 3 Envy Apples, cut into 12 large slices (around cores)

In bowl, stir raspberries and 2 tablespoons sugar. In separate bowl, stir blueberries and remaining sugar. Let sit 30-60 minutes.

Beat together cream cheese, powdered sugar, vanilla and milk. Spoon into piping bag and cut off small part of tip.

Bake tart shells according to package directions. Once baked and cooled, fill halfway with cream cheese mixture.

Using small star cookie cutter, cut shapes from apple slices.

Top half of each tart with spoonful of raspberries and other half with blueberries. Top each with apple star and repeat with remaining ingredients.

SUMMER EVENTS

JUNE 26

County Fair

The San Diego County Fair is underway and will run through July 7 at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

sdfair.com

Shark Summer

It's Shark Summer at Birch Aquarium! Have you ever wondered what species swim in our local waters? Or wanted to know what makes sharks such unique animals? Birch Aquarium dives deep into the world of these amazing animals, with fin-tastic fun for shark fans of all ages! Shark Summer celebrates the vital role sharks play in the ecosystem, while shining a light on the important conservation work and research being done to protect them.

aquarium.ucsd.edu

SeaWorld's 60th

SeaWorld San Diego has unveiled its all-new 2024 Summer Spectacular, which runs through Sept. 2. Guests are invited to dive into the excitement through



(courtesy of SeaWorld San Diego)

new interactive experiences, shows, a summer concert series and even more up-close animal encounters throughout the park, all in honor of SeaWorld's 60th anniversary this year.

seaworldsandiego.com

JUNE 28

SD Symphony Opening Night

Celebrate the opening of the Conrad Prebys 2024 Summer Season at The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park with the San Diego Symphony Orchestra, conductor Gemma New and pianist Olga Kern. The concert features Kern performing the Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 3, as well as Copland's Four Dance Episodes from "Rodeo" (including the well-known "Hoe-down" movement) and Rimsky-Korsakov's fiery "Capriccio" espagnol, which is based on Spanish folk melodies.

sandiegosymphony.org



Lemonade Stand Contest

The annual Scripps Ranch News Lemonade Stand Photo Contest is underway. Send in a fun photo of your child's lemonade stand from this summer.

All entries will appear in the September print edition of Scripps Ranch News and on ScrippsRanchNews.com.

One winner will receive an order of delicious treats as a prize!

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 2024. Deadline to enter is Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2024. No charge to enter.

XOMG POP!

XOMG POP!, the all-girl pop group created by JoJo and Jessalynn Siwa, is

set to embark on a thrilling nationwide tour this summer. Produced by

See **SUMMER EVENTS**, Page 7

God Bless AMERICA!

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Please note: We will be closed July 4th-8th for our family's summer vacation time.

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4TH OF JULY EVENTS

Run & Ride

The annual Scripps Ranch Old Pros Fourth of July Run & Ride will fill the streets with thousands of participants the morning of Independence Day with the first running event beginning at 7 a.m. in front of Miramar Ranch Elementary School, and the first cycling event beginning at Hibert Street and Scripps Ranch Boulevard. The Old Pros will hold two running events and three cycling events – all on the morning of July 4. Everything culminates with a celebratory festival in Hoyt Park.

runride.org

Scripps Ranch 4th of July Parade

The annual Scripps Ranch Fourth of July Parade is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. on Independence Day near Red Cedar Drive and Ironwood Road, generally runs down Ironwood Road, along Scripps Ranch Boulevard and ends at Aviary Drive. Presented by the

Scripps Ranch Civic Association.

Old Fashioned Fourth in Old Poway Park

Visit Old Poway Park to celebrate the country's independence "turn-of-the-20th-century-style." This event will feature patriotic entertainment, free children's crafts, train displays and old-fashioned games. Treats and train rides will be available for a nominal fee.

Free shuttles to and from the event will be available from two different locations: Poway City Hall parking lot starting at 9:30 a.m.: 13325 Civic Center Drive; and at the Poway Adult School parking lot located at 13626 Twin Peaks Road. Shuttles will run throughout the event. July 4 at 14134 Midland Road, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Fireworks in Poway

Enjoy two spectacular fireworks shows as they light up the sky over the Poway High School Stadium and Poway Sportsplex on July 4 at 9 p.m. Gates at Poway High School open at 6 p.m. for games, activities and a

DJ spinning the tunes. No registration is required. Pay at the gate. Children ages 11 and under are free with a paid adult admission. Arrive early to allow plenty of time for parking.

Fireworks will also be set off over Poway Sportsplex, 12349 McIvers Court. The Poway Sportsplex will not be open to view the fireworks. Please see the link to the parking map below. Lake Poway is open to the public on July 4 and will stay open as a viewing area for the fireworks at the high school. Parking is \$10 for non-resident. Residents and active military members (with ID) are free. A parking map for fireworks viewing is at:

poway.org/fireworks-map

Scripps Mesa Fireworks

The Scripps Mesa Fireworks show is scheduled for July 3 this year for the residents of Scripps Ranch, Mira Mesa and all of San Diego. The fireworks show will begin at 9 p.m. over Wangenheim Middle School, 9230 Gold Coast Drive.

miramesafireworks.org

SUMMER EVENTS

Continued from Page 5

Live Nation, Siwa Presents XOMG POP! LIVE Tour will make a San Diego stop at The Observatory North Park on June 28. Highly successful pop group XOMG POP! was created from JoJo Siwa's Emmy-nominated hit TV show Siwa's Dance Pop Revolution, where JoJo and her mom Jessalynn hand-picked the nation's top singers and dancers to become pop music's next big sensation.

LiveNation.com

JUNE 29



'You're a Good Man Charlie Brown'

Based on the beloved comic strip "Peanuts" by Charles M. Schulz, with book, music and lyrics by Clark Gesner, "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" will run for three performances from June 29 to July 1 on the Ray Charles Stage in the Con-

rad Prebys Theatre at the Dea Hurston New Village Arts Center.

newvillagearts.org

JULY 4

The Commodores

Celebrate the 4th of July at The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park with the Commodores! Then relax and stay after the concert for a front row seat to the Big Bay Boom fireworks display on San Diego Bay. These legends of Motown put on one of the best live shows around, with hit after hit.

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Farmer's Market: Traditional Filipino Cuisine

By Jill Alexander

After managing a fast-food restaurant and then creating authentic Filipino dishes, Hershy Abas is now running his own business: Kalyefornia.

He offers traditional Filipino dishes such as adobo,

DSB BAND

Continued from Page 1

while others are involved with various recording studios.

Del Castillo has been a Journey fan forever, and was influenced by the likes of Marvin Gaye, other '60s artists, and of course, Perry.

"As an artist when living in LA, you're also looking for a constant stream to outlet your music, and I found a nice niche when tributes were popular in 2006," he said.

While Journey's music might be decades old, people still love it and DSB likes to play its songs, Del Castillo said.

"The songs are 40 years old, but people love the music of Journey and I think now it's multigenerational. You have young teens who recognize songs from movies out there now and then the generation of 20s-30s, and then original fans of when it first came out. It's really music for all ages," he said.

Del Castillo said he met members of Journey once while in Las Vegas.

"I have met them all – but not Steve Perry – and it was one of the best moments of my life, shaking hands with those who are most responsible for what we do," he said.

DSB has been able to sustain and continue to "keep it organic."

"All the guys are world-class musicians, and the nice thing is that Journey is not putting out new music, so we stick to the core that made them popular, and that continues to resonate with the public," Del Castillo said. "Our objective is to play Journey music with integrity and accuracy. We're still trying to emulate their recordings and may throw in a live ending, but for the most part, we play the way people remember it."

The DSB concert on July 14 will be sponsored by U.S. Bank. Those attending may bring picnic baskets, cloth blankets and low-back chairs so everyone can see the band. No pets are allowed, and no plastic tarps are allowed since they kill the park's grass. Visit symphonyinthepark.org.

turon, chicken sisig as well as pancit Canton, a vegetarian noodle dish. All are sold at the Scripps Ranch Farmer's Market on Thursdays.

"All of my food is traditional, and I make everything in a commercial kitchen and then take it to the market," he said. "Some is prepared onsite at the market, too."

The 35-year-old relocated to San Diego from his native Philippines in 2018. Abas started Kalyefornia in November 2023 after leaving his job of four years at McDonald's as a general manager and after a short stint at a medical company.

"I moved to San Diego to make a new start after growing up in the Philippines," he said. "My mom had a local restaurant like a local café that served breakfast and lunch ... sometimes I would help out."

Without his mother's knowledge, he opened her café at night and added karaoke, "finger snacks, and bottled beer," resulting in the place becoming a huge hit.

"When she figured it out and saw that the place was making money, she said I needed to return to school,"

he laughed. "But I didn't want to go back to school ... she said I could do better, so I had to stop and respect my mom."

After a few years, Abas landed in San Diego where he would scope out places like farmer's markets to see how they were doing things while he continued to work.

"I went to a lot of markets, and I liked what I saw," he said. "I liked the crowds and communicating with people."

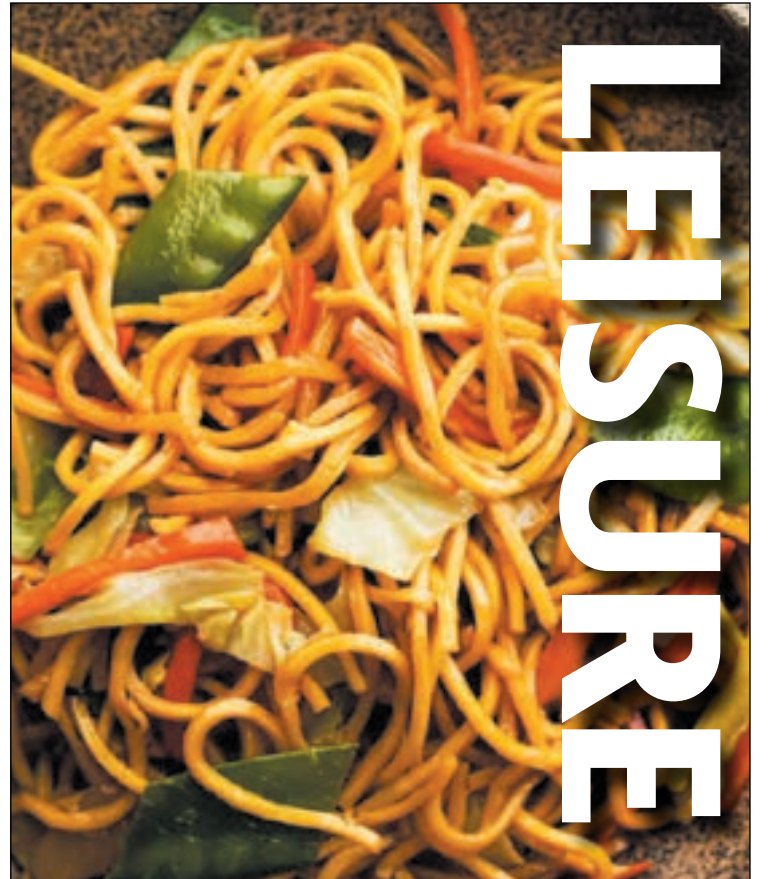
After living "paycheck to paycheck" Abas wanted to become his own boss but only had \$1,000.

"I was eventually able to start my own business and slowly bought all the baking stuff I needed," he said.

Today, Abas sells his food at Scripps Ranch Farmer's Market as well as other markets.

"Scripps Ranch is a good place to sell even though it's my smallest market ... I like it and don't need two jobs anymore," he said. "I've been doing the markets for about six months and really like it. ... The Scripps vendors make me feel like I am family there."

Abas hopes to bring his mother to San Diego from the Philippines in a year or so



Pancit Canton is one of the dishes offered at the Kalyefornia booth in the Scripps Ranch Farmer's Market. (photo courtesy of Kalyefornia)

since she expressed interest in helping him run the business.

"I am happy now, but I'm still learning ... I don't want to get overwhelmed and would like to do events too at some point," he said. "My mom is retired but still likes cooking,

and that's how she was able to raise me and my siblings."

Visit Hershy Abas at the Kalyefornia booth in the Scripps Ranch Farmers Market, held from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. each Thursday at 10045 Carroll Canyon Road.

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SCRIPPS RANCH WOMEN'S CLUB

Meet the Women's Club scholarship winners

By Mary Rea
Publicity Chair

The Scripps Ranch Women's Club (SRWC) awarded its 2024 General Scholarships to Piper Brentnall and Nora Lutz primarily based upon their impressive academic achievements and community service. Jenna Spitzberg received the coveted Kimbra Sellers Business Scholarship which is earmarked for an outstanding student with an interest in business.



The 2024 SRWC General Scholarship recipients are Piper Brentnall (left) and Nora Lutz (right) with Scholarship Committee Co-Chair Betty Robertson at the SRHS Awards Ceremony. (photo by Jim Wick)

General Scholarships

• **Piper Brentnall:** Piper plans on attending Tulane University in New Orleans with a double major in Environmental Science and History and envisions either pursuing a PhD in Ecology/Conservation or an Environmental Law degree.

• **Nora Lutz:** Nora will be attending Scripps College in Claremont, Calif., majoring in Biology/Pre-Med with plans to attend medical school.

Kimbra Sellers Scholarship

• **Jenna Spitzberg:** Jenna plans to attend the University of California, Santa Barbara, with a double major in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies and Political Science with a minor in Business. Ultimately, she plans to attend law school and pursue a career in helping marginalized communities.

In June, our three scholar-

ship winners and their mothers were honored at a luncheon at Gianni's, hosted by the Women's Club. The SRWC is proud to support and empower these outstanding young scholars as they prepare for college and a future filled with opportunities.

SRWC Community Awards

The Women's Club also provided donations to Scripps Ranch schools and community groups that requested funding in 2024 for their various projects. Through these monetary contributions, we endeavor to make a difference and support our local community.

Community donations from the Women's Club this year were awarded to the following community groups and schools:

• **Dingeman Elementary School** – STEAM Program/Ozobots (small robots that allow children to learn about

coding)

• **Scripps Ranch High School** – Science Team

• **Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library** – Book shelves for the children's wing; sponsorship of concerts

• **Scripps Ranch Theatre** – summer camp/program for kids

• **Symphony in the Park** – summer concerts

June was a key month for our club as it marked the culmination of months of dedicated work by many of our members to identify Scholarship and Community award recipients. The Women's Club was represented by two scholarship committees, and we are very grateful to their commitment of time and effort! The SRWC General Scholarship Committee was co-chaired by Betty Robertson and Barbara Hunter, and included Jeanette Bossi, Barbara Hanson and Annette Stewart. The Kimbra Sellers



Kimbra Sellers Scholarship winner Jenna Spitzberg with committee chair Lynn Parke. (photo by Jim Wick)

Scholarship Committee was chaired by Lynn Parke with support by committee members Judy Gagnon, Mary Ann Harper, Helen Smith and Sharon Worman.

SRWC President Renie Martin and Vice President Sally Anderson were directly involved in the application review and selection process for our Community Giving Program. Thank you Renie and Sally for your hard work and dedicated efforts!

June was also highlighted by several major social events. A pre-theatre cocktail party was held at the home of Pam and Sandy Madigan and immediately after the party, we attended the production of "Vanity Fair" at the Scripps Ranch Theatre. The good times continued with our Annual Summer Celebration

hosted by Lyn and Greg Cobb. This evening was truly a special occasion which brought together members, friends and significant others to appreciate and enjoy our friendships, old and new. Thank you to the Madigans and the Cobbs for their hospitality by generously opening their homes for these major club events!

SRWC members will gather July 17 for the Annual General Meeting where our new board will highlight the programs and activities planned for the next year. We will also be entertained with a photo show featuring our year-in-review.

If the Women's Club sounds enticing, please contact Lynn Parke at lparke@san.rr.com. We also encourage you to visit srwomensclub.org.

SCRIPPS RANCH WELCOME CLUB

Newcomers find friends at the Welcome Club

By Denise Stewart

A few years ago, after their retirement Bev Macho and her husband moved to Scripps Ranch from Texas. They had some family already here, but like most folks they needed to make social connections in their new community. So, Bev joined the Welcome Club. She had fun times

with the group, made new friends and just got elected to the office of president.

Debby Mayer, the new Welcome Club membership chair, has a similar story that started in New York and goes on here.

The new Sunshine chair, Vicky Bergman, followed her daughter here from Louisiana and found the

Welcome Club helped her call The Ranch home.

Welcome Club is an active group with a full calendar year-round, but summer has special evening outdoor gatherings called TGIs. There was one this month and others are scheduled each month until the weather cools in the fall. The potluck suppers and congenial festivities in local

backyards are a summer favorite.

The usual monthly Gadabout for June featured a movie followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant. This activity goes on all year since it doesn't depend on the weather.

Morning Coffees are enjoyed regularly, also. These events delight the crowd with an array of brunch

See **WELCOME CLUB**, Page 11

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HAPPY 4TH OF JULY
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Volunteers took a moment for a photo-op at the recent Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon sponsored by Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library. (courtesy of SRFOL)

LIBRARY NEWS

Volunteers honored at luncheon

By SR Friends of the Library

The many dedicated volunteers who help make the Scripps Miramar Ranch Library so outstanding were recently honored at a volunteer appreciation luncheon sponsored by Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library. The volunteer committee, headed by JoAnn Sloan, created a festive decor. In the spirit of the “Hats Off to Volunteers” theme, attendees were invited to wear their finest chapeaus. Volunteers ranging from teens to octogenarians enjoyed camaraderie and a scrumptious buffet lunch.

Summer reading time

Readers of all ages – kids, teens and adults (and those

who “read” by having stories read to them) – are invited to participate in the ever popular Summer Reading Program! This year’s program, themed “Read • Renew • Repeat,” is conservation-focused and aimed at protecting, maintaining and re-storing the city’s diverse habitats, ecosystems, wildlife and natural resources. Complete a combination of 10 books, hours or activities to start claiming prizes. Earn a badge for each book read, reading for one hour or completing an activity. Mix and match the type of badges as you see fit! Collect 10 badges and receive a prize. Bonus: Those who log their books, reading hours and/or activities will be entered into a grand prize raffle drawing. Sign up at

sandiego.beanstack.org/reader365. The Summer Reading Program is sponsored in part by Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library.

Special programs, events

In addition to encouraging everyone to read, summer reading time brings a wealth of exciting programs and events for kids, teens and families, sponsored by Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library! Most require online registration (sandiego.librarymarket.com). Programs about insects and animals, robotics and sewing workshops, art classes, music and magic performances, and much more! For complete details and updates, including recommended ages, for these and regular ongoing programs, visit srfol.org.

WELCOME CLUB

Continued from Page 10

dishes, savory coffee and the enjoyment of friends. June’s Coffee will be hosted by a new member of the club. July will feature a Coffee at poolside hosted by a team composed of a new member and another with more tenure. Coffees are already scheduled for August and September.

Our local theatrical treasure, Scripps Ranch Theatre, entertained a group of Welcome Club members with “Vanity Fair” this month. Before the play, there was a potluck supper at a member’s home. That gathering with each new play makes a pleasant start to a delightful Saturday evening. Like most evening activities, escorts are invited to take part.

June’s second Monday monthly club meeting featured a demonstration of stretching

exercises that help with balance and feeling well. Gary Kite holds stretch classes on Tuesday mornings at the Community Center each week for those who take care to feel well.

An annual Welcome Club celebration in July will bring out a large crowd of members for their traditional Salad Supper. Held outdoors at the Community Center, the ladies will feast on delicious homemade summer treats. After dinner, lavish prize baskets donated by activity groups will be awarded to the luckiest members.

While these special events happen, the routine daytime meetings of book clubs, trail walkers, craft makers Mahjong enthusiasts and hikers make the Welcome Club an excellent source of enjoyable occasions shared with pleasant friends. Members appreciate both the convenience and regularity of these events.

Welcome Club has a website at scrippsranch-welcomeclub.com

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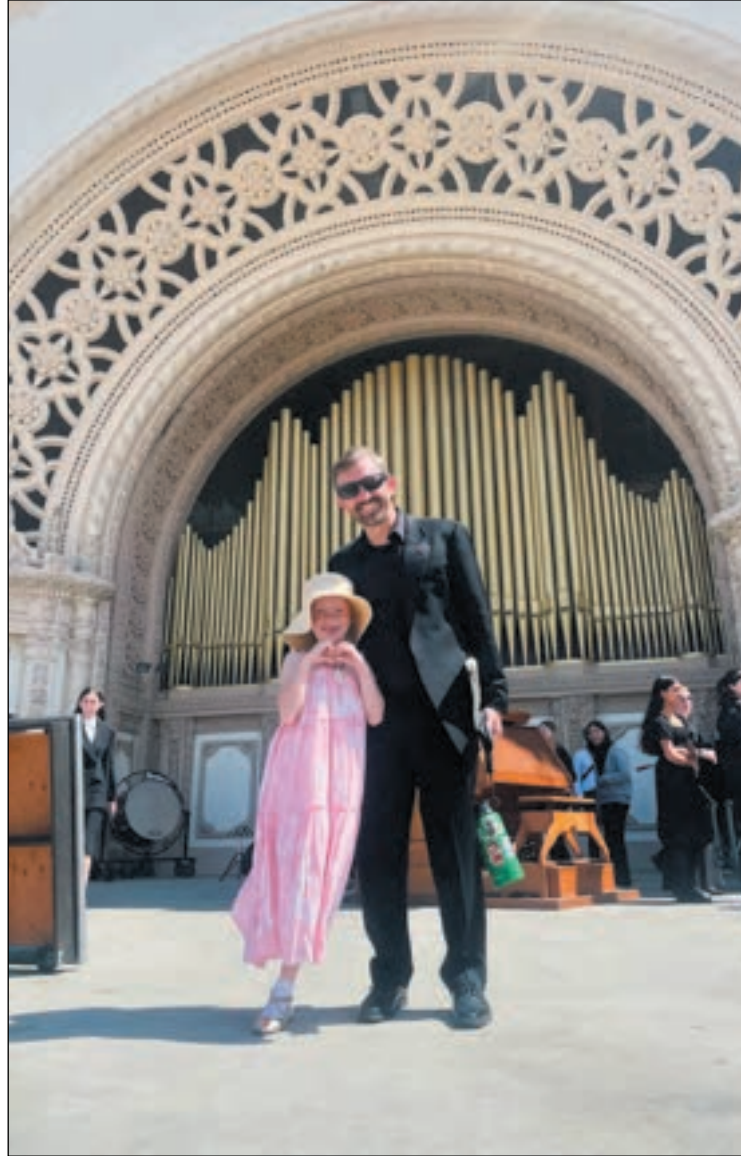



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A GOOD DAY

Scripps Ranch High School (SRHS) orchestra director Russell Shedd takes a moment to pose with his daughter on stage at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park on May 19. The SRHS orchestra performed live at the Organ Pavilion on this day – the first ever high school orchestra to perform with the organ at the Pavilion. (courtesy of Russell Shedd)

ENGAGEMENT Battaglia and Kelly



Cameron Battaglia and Delaney Kelly

Congratulations on the engagement of two Scripps Ranch kiddos, Cameron Battaglia to Delaney Kelly. They are looking at this time next year to wed. Both Cameron and Delaney graduated from Scripps Ranch High School (SRHS) in 2018. Delaney's parents, Tom and Melinda Kelly, are longtime Scripps Ranch residents. Cameron's parents Peter and Trisha have been in Scripps Ranch for 24 years. Delaney and Cameron both went to San Diego State University after graduating from SRHS.

GARDEN CLUB Summer garden tours

By Denise Stewart

Evening tours of local gardens bring local plant enthusiasts together each month during the warm weather. To enjoy and share the products of their efforts, Scripps-Mesa Garden Club has a schedule of monthly garden visits.

In May, Sal Castillito hosted the club at his garden. Castillito is an epiphyllum lover and dazzled the group with more than 300 plants, many of which were in extravagant bloom. His garden is also home to several rare fruit trees and tropical flora.

In June, Karen Lopez will share her buds and blooms with the club. In August, a tour of the Glenn's outdoors will include both the areas of professionally designed landscape and the wooden growing boxes used by the residents for their personal crops. Karen Nickel will host that event.

When the weather cools and the days shorten, the Garden Club will return to the local library Community Room on the fourth Tuesdays at 6 p.m. for monthly meetings. Each month a speaker will share their gardening knowledge with the group. Master gardeners are often featured.

Information about the club and local garden interests are featured on the website: scrippsmesagardenclub.com.



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IMPACT Foundation awards 19 scholarships

By Ashley Shah

Todd Durkin, founder of the IMPACT Foundation, awarded 19 IMPACT scholarships this year.

“The scholarships are given out to high school seniors who will be pursuing athletics in college. In addition, these students have shown academic achievement, community service, character, extra-curricular activities, etc.,” Durkin said.

Eleven students from

Scripps Ranch High School were awarded the scholarship: Nate Bottomley, who will attend the University of Tennessee; Lauren Bucky, who will attend Loyola Marymount University; Charlize Fernandez, who will attend the University of Miami; Sadie Keegan, who will attend Purdue University; Michelle Kramer, who will attend Baylor University; Juniper Le, who will attend UCLA; Tyler Luke, who will attend Samford University; Norah Lutz, who will attend Tulane University; Moriah Mingo, who will attend Bluefield University; Dahlen Vilbrandt, who will attend UC Berkeley; and Rowen Wimmer, who will attend the University of Utah.



Todd Durkin

Three students from other high schools across the nation were awarded the scholarship: Gianni Alejandro Martinez Drab – Mystic, Ct., who will attend Northeastern University, Boston; Tate Gordon – Mystic, Ct., who will attend the University of Connecticut; Felice Mullinax – Columbia City, In., who will attend LeTourneau University.

More than \$15,000 were awarded in IMPACT scholarships this year. The scholarships range from \$500 to \$1,500.

“It is an honor to be able to provide these students with a scholarship,” Durkin said.

Durkin began the IMPACT Foundation more than 10 years ago.

“In 2012, Hurricane Sandy crushed the eastern seaboard, including the Jersey Shore, which is where I am from. I still had family there, and I was not able to connect with them. It was because of that I knew I had to start making a difference, so I started the IMPACT Foundation,” Durkin said. “In one week, we had raised around \$80,000. All of the money that was raised went right back to those affected by Hur-

ricane Sandy.”

Since 2012, he has been able to raise more than \$350,000 to award in scholarships, to families in need and to those dealing with mental health issues.

“After the pandemic, we have been trying to raise money to go into programs for suicide prevention. Recently, we lost two young athletes to suicide. They were students that I knew and helped train. We cannot lose any more kids to suicide,” Durkin said.

The funds come from fundraisers that Durkin hosts, donations, or from online sales from todddurkin.com.

Durkin is the founder and business partner of Fitness Quest 10 in Scripps Ranch, an author, trainer and motivational speaker.

“On July 6, we are having a book signing for my latest book called ‘True Strength.’ I will be giving a talk. We are going to have a question and answer session. A portion of the money from these events goes back to the foundation,” he said.

This event will be held at the newly opened Fitness Quest 10 location at 10625 Scripps Poway Parkway in Scripps Ranch Marketplace.

SRHS Valedictorian

Continued from Page 1

Anirudh Nayak
Salutatorian
4.82 grade
point average



Anirudh Nayak

During his time at SRHS, Nayak invested time in the Cyberpatriot competition through AFJROTC, and Math Club.

“Starting from freshman year, I had been involved with Cyberpatriot. There were great mentors in it. We were able to go to nationals one year; it was one of the best things I was a part of in high school,” he said. “I had always had an interest in math, so being a part of the Math Club really helped my interest go further. I was a part of it for all four years, and was the president.”

Outside of his commitments at SRHS, he was involved with the First Tech Challenge (FTC).

“I was involved with FTC for a couple of years. I was the programming lead and vice-captain,” Nayak said.

He shared his advice in learning how to manage extra-curriculars and academics.

“During the pandemic, when I started high school, I was unfocused. I did not have a clear plan to finish my work. However, as I took on more things, I found it helpful to have a Google document to list out what I had to get done each day. Organization helped me a lot,” he said.

As his time at SRHS came to an end, he wanted to thank his parents and teachers.


“My parents made a lot of sacrifices to help me. They are the reason I was able to accomplish so much,” Nayak said. “I would also like to thank Ms. Scalero. I had her for two years. Her style of teaching was enriching, and it forced me to be more dedicated. She works hard and expects us to do the same.”

Nayak will attend UCSD to pursue computer science.




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Xander Schauffele at the 2024 Farmers Insurance Open PGA golf tournament at Torrey Pines Golf Course. (photo by Jim Wick)

Xander wins first major PGA title

Xander Schauffele, 30, who formerly played on the Scripps Ranch High School golf team, captured the 2024 PGA Championship on the course at the Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville, Kentucky, on May 19.

Schauffele, ranked number two in the world as of June 15, birdied on the final hole in a tight contest to finish one stroke ahead of Bryson DeChambeau.

The victory earned Schauffele \$3.33 million, and he was presented with the huge Wanamaker Trophy.

This was his first major PGA tournament win, although he had seven other career victories.

He also won a gold medal for golf in the 2021 Summer Olympic games in Tokyo.

With this exciting victory, Schauffele broke the label of being the best golfer in the world without a major championship victory.



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MUSTANG CHAMPIONS

Both the Marshall Middle School girls flag football team and the Marshall boys flag football team won their 2023-2024 San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) Middle School Western Division Championships, respectively, this spring. It was reported that Marshall Middle School athletic teams combined to win the overall SDUSD middle school sports title for the 2023-2024 season.

RUN & RIDE

Continued from Page 1

Grayfox Drive from Red Cedar Drive to Vista Valle Drive; Vista Valle Drive from Grayfox Drive to Pinetree Drive; Canyon Lake Drive from Pinetree Drive to Aviary Drive; Scripps Lake Drive from Red Cedar Drive to Scripps Ranch Boulevard; Hibert Street from Trenea Street to Scripps Ranch Boulevard; and Aviary Drive from Scripps Ranch Boulevard to Red Cedar Drive.

Free shuttles to the start of the running events will be available beforehand in the parking lot of the business complex at Meanley Drive.

Visit runride.org to register.



HAPPY TEAM

These happy teammates from the Scripps Ranch Softball Association 8u Falcons All-Star team enjoyed a fun moment of comradery following a game at the Irvine Summertime Classic held June 7-9. The Scripps Ranch players traveled to Irvine for the tournament where they exchanged gifts with their softball big sisters and played multiple softball games. (photo by Lisa Shadburn)

Another successful SRTL season

By Hector Trujillo

Scripps Ranch Little League (SRTL) held its closing day of the 2024 regular season on June 1 with the sportsmanship awards ceremony as medals were handed out to one player on each team from tee ball to juniors. These players exemplified the characteristics of good sportsmanship throughout the season.

Awards were also handed out for youth umpires, as were awards for the outgoing board of directors members who were recognized for their dedication and service.

“We’re really about the kids playing more baseball before the summer kicks in too much,” said SRTL president Avi Barat.

Later that same afternoon of June 1, there was a coaches’ home run derby as well, plus two other events that were open for kids outside of Scripps Ranch Little League: the MLB Pitch, Hit & Run event and the T-Mobile Home Run Derby.

The 2024 regular season SRTL division winners were: **MAPS:** The Skull Crushers, under manager John Perryman, going undefeated for the entire season.

Lower Minors: The Golden Goats, under manager Aaron Blair.

Upper Minors: The Green Jackets, under manager

Allan Lum.

Majors: The Royals, under manager Thomas Hancock.

Intermediate: The Mariners, under manager Rash-eed Behrooznia.

Juniors: The Padres, under manager Jared Balastrieri.

The Green Jackets, Royals, Mariners and Padres all represented SRTL in the single elimination Tournament of Champions which consisted of interleague games against other Little League District 32 league playoff winners, hosted by Mira Mesa Little League.

“We also have All-Division teams who play against each other at the MAPS, Lower

Minors, Upper Minors and Major/Intermediate levels,” Barat said. “We had the All-Division games, and that’s another way we get a lot of kids to play some more baseball.”

The All-Stars competition is currently underway and will conclude in mid-July. There are five All-Star teams representing SRTL for the 8-9-10, 9-10-11, Major, Intermediate and Junior All-Star division levels, as well as two 9U tournament teams and two MAPS Little Stars tournament teams.

This is Barat’s third and final year at the helm of Scripps Ranch Little League.

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Soccer signups are now open

Registration for the Scripps Ranch Soccer Club’s upcoming recreational season is now open.

The recreational season is open to children whose birth years are 2019 and older. No experience is required.

Practices begin in August this summer.

Games will be played from September to November this year.

Registration closes July 15. Visit scrippsranchsc.com.

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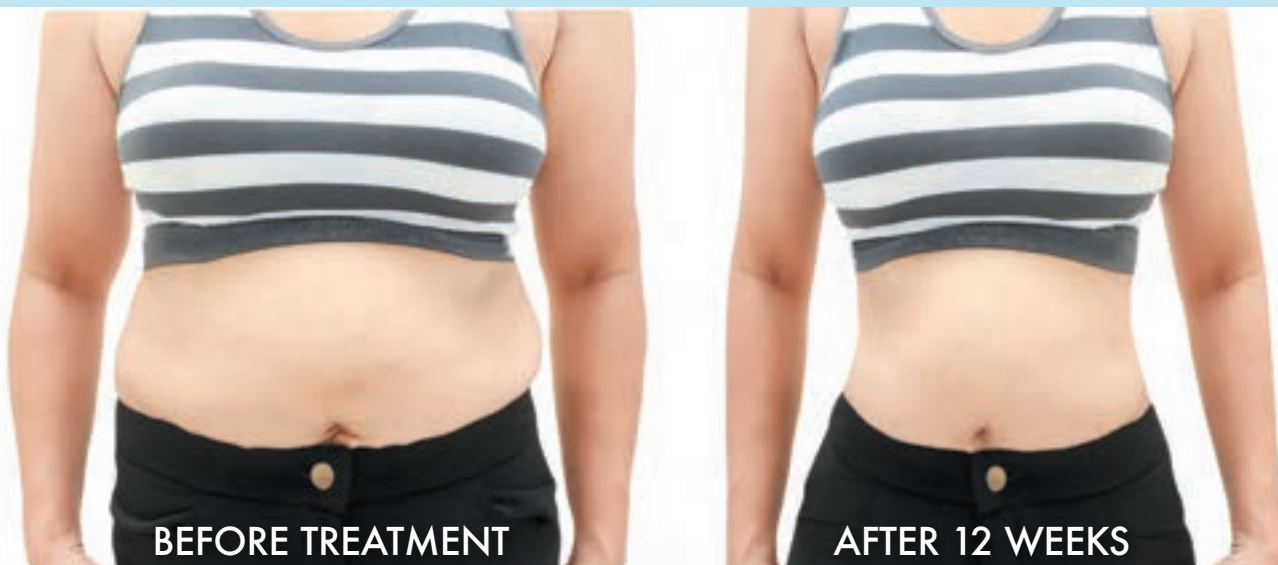
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