



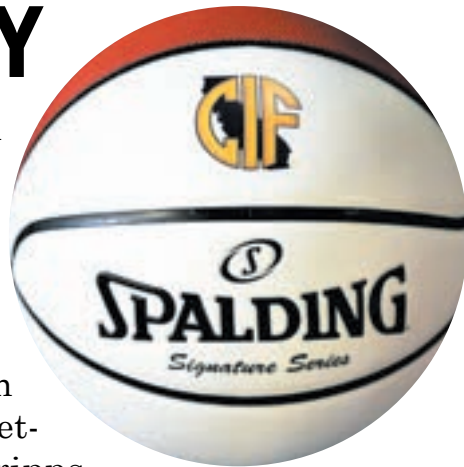
## STATE CHAMPIONS!

### Falcons mens BASKETBALL

Jax Leatherwood of Scripps Ranch gets his hand on a shot attempt by a Justin-Siena High player. (photo by Jim Wick)

## HISTORIC VICTORY

**T**he Scripps Ranch High School Falcons mens varsity basketball team captured the 2022 CIF State Boys Basketball Championships – Division IV by defeating Justin-Siena High of Napa 46-37 on March 12 at Golden 1 Center in Sacramento. This is the first State basketball championship in the history of Scripps Ranch High School. More photos on pages 22 and 23.



(photo by Jim Wick)

## A cut above

### Sam Zubatiy competes in fencing at the national level

By Terry L. Wilson

**S**cripps Ranch High School junior Sam Zubatiy hopes to be an Olympic medalist in the sport of fencing someday. With saber and foil in hand, he is off to a good start.

Zubatiy is slicing through the competition with his latest victory, winning first place at the Battle of the Bay regional competition last February in San Jose, and second place at the Junior Olympics National Team Competition in Salt Lake City.

In 2021, he finished in the top 10 in the nation.

"I began fencing little more than five-years ago," said the now 16-year-old champion. "I train at the La Jolla Fencing Academy and hope someday to make it to the Olympics."

Fencing dates back to the 15th century when civilians carried swords. Many things have changed, yet some remain the same: like weapons of choice.

"In fencing you have three different types of weapons: a foil, epee, and saber. I do saber because, in my opinion, the saber is the most aggressive and fast," Zubatiy said. "The epee is the heaviest sword, the foil is a lighter thrusting weapon, and the sabre is a cutting and thrusting weapon like a



Sam Zubatiy (courtesy photo)

cavalry sword."

In order to register the scores, fencers' swords and uniforms are electronically sensitive, as are the scoring areas of the body, and are connected by a body cord to the scoring box. When a strike is registered, an audible tone sounds and light illuminates.

With three different weapons come three different uniforms. Although all fencers wear the same base layers, the uniforms are made according to a fencer's target area.

"An epeeist wears an all white uniform and can only score using the tip of his weapon, so they don't wear any electrical gear," Zubatiy said.

"There is a sensor on the tip of the epee, and when

See **A CUT ABOVE**, Page 20

## Yanni's celebrates 20 years of excellent cuisine

By David Barak

**Y**anni Pihas and his wife Denise, two long-time San Diego area restaurateurs, have succeeded in a sometimes difficult industry for three reasons: good food, dedicated service and the strong support of the community they serve.

The husband and wife team own Yanni's Bar & Grill, a popular Scripps

Ranch restaurant that serves up both Greek and Italian food.

According to Yanni, "The beauty of the Greek and Italian cuisine is the honesty of the food, that it's very simple and it's prepared with love and care – and that's what we're trying to recreate over here."

Their first local restaurant, Yanni's Bistro in Poway, opened in 2002 and remained in that location for 12 years.

They took advantage of an opportunity in 2014 to move to a better location at 12015 Scripps Highlands Drive, where their current restaurant is located.

Rather than risking a drop in food and service quality by running two restaurants, they opted to close the Poway location. That move didn't have a negative impact for their business since most of their customers

See **YANNI'S**, Page 18



Yanni and Denise Pihas in one of their restaurant's patio areas. (photo by David Barak)



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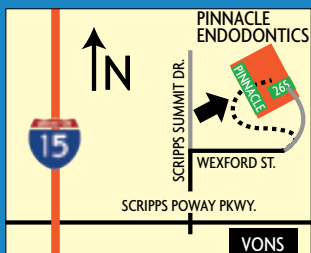
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- 5) Cover all vent openings with 1/16-inch to 1/8-inch noncombustible corrosion resistant metal mesh screens. Do not use fiberglass or plastic mesh as they can melt or burn.
- 6) Caulk and plug gaps greater than 1/16-inch around exposed rafters to prevent ember intrusion.
- 7) Caulk exterior siding dry rot, gaps, cracks or plug gaps greater than 1/16-inch in siding, and replace any damaged boards.



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- 8) Install weather stripping to gaps greater than 1/16-inch in garage doors to prevent ember intrusion: UL Standard 10C.
- 9) When it’s time to replace your windows, replace them with multi-paned windows at least one pane of tempered glass.
- 10) When it’s time to replace your siding or deck, use approved compliant non-combustible materials. Stay safe and alert.

For more information about the Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council, visit [srfiresafe.org](http://srfiresafe.org), or email [srfiresafecouncil@gmail.com](mailto:srfiresafecouncil@gmail.com).

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Members of the Rady Children's Hospital - Scripps Ranch Auxiliary Unit during a Cheers for Children event in 2020. (courtesy of Rady Children's Hospital - Scripps Ranch Auxiliary Unit)



Rady Children's Hospital - Scripps Ranch Auxiliary Unit members enjoy camaraderie while raising funds and supporting Rady Children's Hospital. (courtesy of Rady Children's Hospital - Scripps Ranch Auxiliary Unit)

SCRIPPS RANCH NEWS

# Rady Auxiliary unit celebrates 50 years

By Ashley Shah

This year marks 50 years in which the Rady Children's Hospital - Scripps Ranch Auxiliary Unit has been serving the hospital.

Rady Children's Hospital is a non-profit organization that primarily serves children in San Diego, and there are auxiliary units across San Diego that help raise funds for the hospital and support it in any way they can.

"Across San Diego there are 20 units with about 1,200 members," said Scripps Ranch Auxiliary Unit Publicity Chair Nancy Fleischman.

In celebration of their anniversary, the members will have a champagne toast as well as cake prior to their monthly meeting.

"Our celebration will take place on April 18, which is exactly one day before the first ever meeting for the Scripps Ranch auxiliary unit happened 50 years ago," Fleischman said.

Current active and supporting members are invited to join.

"We are being cautious about the amount of people because of COVID. We are hoping that for our 55th or 60th anniversary we are able to have old members join as well like we did for our 40th anniversary," Fleischman said.

The unit was first formed with 35 members.

Now, there are 30 active members, and 25 supporting members.

In 50 years, the unit's mission has stayed the same. However, fundraising, and activities have changed.

"When the unit first started, they would do horse shows to raise money for the hospital," Fleischman said. "There were also unit-wide fundraisers that would happen. There was a thrift house, similar to Goodwill or Salvation Army, in which clothes were donated and

sold. The proceeds went to the hospital."

Since those days, the unit, and all units, have grown in the work they do for the hospital.

"We have a lot of unit-wide fundraisers, and ways to support the hospital. We have the ice-rink at Liberty Station; making brown bags filled with water and food for families waiting in the emergency room; the clothes closet next to the emergency room for kids that need new clothes; and more," Fleischman said.

Besides their unit-wide fundraisers and support, each unit in San Diego holds a fundraiser for a center of

their choice in the hospital.

"When the units first started, we weren't able to choose where we wanted the proceeds to go. Now, we get to choose, which makes the fundraising even more special because we have a connection to the center," Fleischman said.

This year, the Scripps Ranch unit will hold its fundraiser on June 4. The members will raise funds for the Peckham Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders.

"We chose the Peckham Center because we have two children from members in our organization that received treatment from that center. It is so heart-warming to be

able to give back to the center that gave so much to us," Fleischman said.

The event will take place in the evening.

"The theme is golfing. We are doing a play on nine holes. We will have our 'watering hole,' which will be a bar; cornhole, but with golf balls; and more," Fleischman said. "There will be opportunity baskets, paddle raising, and opportunities to donate."

The unit is hoping to raise \$50,000.

"It really just comes down to how many people come out and support. Brandy [coordinator of the event] has put so much work into

See **RADY AUXILIARY**, Page 4

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Rotary Club holds blood drive April 27

There is a dire need for blood donations in San Diego, so the Rotary Club of Poway-Scripps and the San Diego Blood Bank have joined forces to hold a blood drive.

The event will take place April 27 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Vons parking lot at 10675 Scripps Poway Parkway. The public is invited to participate by scheduling an appointment at sandiegobloodbank.org/donate or by calling (619) 400-8251. Appointments are mandatory and donors will need to bring a photo ID.

The project was the brainchild of the club's past president Karen Herreros. "This project has become near and dear to my heart. It allows the club members to participate and set an example; it gives our Rotarians a chance for masked, distanced and safe fellowship; and best of all, it saves lives," Herreros said.

Efforts from this blood drive aid the San Diego Blood Bank which must collect more than 350 units of blood each day to meet the needs of patients who are battling life-threatening blood disorders and cancers, suffering from trauma like burns or accidents, and even complications from childbirth. One pint of blood can save up to three lives.

RADY AUXILIARY

Continued from Page 3

the event, and it's going to be a lot of fun. It is for a great cause as well," Fleischman said.

The Scripps Ranch unit has raised \$372,610 since it began keeping records in 2001.

"I would be confidently sure that in the past 50 years our unit has raised at least half a million dollars for the hospital," Fleischman said.

The Scripps Ranch unit meets once per month from September to June.

To get involved with any auxiliary unit, contact the auxiliary office at (858) 966-5887.

"A lot of miracles happen at Rady Children's Hospital. They think of the most innovative and creative ways to help take care of the kids and their families. It is such a rewarding experience to be a part of an organization that helps out with that," Fleischman said.

Residents and businesses are encouraged to purchase tickets and help sponsor the Chip'n FORE event. Visit [rhascrippsranchnews.com](http://rhascrippsranchnews.com).





Miramar Ranch Courtyard, circa 1900.



Evan's Pond with the Scripps Miramar Ranch library in the background. (photo by Riley Apon)

# History shines as library tour returns

By Nick Ng

With spring as the symbol for life's renewal, head librarian Matt Beatty of the Scripps Miramar Ranch Library believes it is time to revive the library tour.

The tour sends attendees back in time to San Diego's pre-Columbian history and forward to the events and people that shaped the Scripps Ranch community.

"It is my goal to give attendees a sense of what an unusual building the library is and to give them a sense of the history of the land on which it stands," Beatty said. "I think that this library is special in a

way that no other library in Southern California is."

The library building echoes the post-modern architecture of the E.W. Scripps Mansion, which was demolished in 1973. The mansion once stood where the nearby Scripps Ranch Swim and Racquet Club stands today. The customized stained-glass window art, forged by artist Robert Spaulding, reflects Scripps Ranch's eucalyptus trees and rocky landscape. The library also houses artifacts from the Meanley House that once stood just southeast of the building. These include the wooden doors that separate the children's area from the reference area.

Former head librarians Nancy Corbin Assaf and Trevor Jones, along with many volunteers, gave tours of the library until the COVID-19 pandemic hit San Diego in March 2020.

Following his promotion to his current position at Scripps Miramar Ranch Library last year, Beatty began to consider himself as a "caretaker of what is a neighborhood treasure." He and other staff members have been slowly restarting several programs, including the Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library concert series and the children's story hour. The tour is another addition to bringing back some normalcy to the library

community.

The live tours will cover the history of the library and nearby properties, including some history of the Scripps family that established residence near it in 1900, as well as the Kumeyaay people who lived in the area before the Spaniards arrived in San Diego. Beatty will also cover the stories behind the antique photos that decorate the library's interior, the remains of the wall of the Meanley House, and Evan's Pond that is in front of the library.

The Meanley House was the home of Tom Meanley and Nackey Scripps Meanley, who were the son-in-

See **LIBRARY TOUR**, Page 6

## Garden tour leads off the spring season

By Denise Stewart

The March meeting of the Scripps-Mesa Garden Club's featured a tour of a member's unique garden right here on the Ranch. The host gardener described it as "The Mediterranean meets the tropics."

The front garden has palms, grasses, yellow monkey flowers and mounds of spreading

See **GARDEN TOUR**, Page 6



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## SUSTAINABLE SCRIPPS RANCH

# Rooftop solar progress threatened

By Lynn Owens

**B**y most measures, California is the most solar state in the U.S. And, in 2016, Scripps Ranch (i.e., ZIP Code 92131) was already the number 1 most solar-saturated ZIP Code area in California, with solar panels on 26 percent of Scripps Ranch homes.

Installing solar has always been something of a leap of faith, because even with rebates and such, the typical solar installation requires 11-plus years to recoup initial costs. Part of the cost savings come from “net metering” – the ability to sell excess generation to SDG&E at a reasonable price. Rooftop solar owners were guaranteed that net metering rules wouldn’t change until 20 years after the installation date.

But now it’s 2022. SDG&E is still paying a shareholder dividend of nearly 3 percent, and the CEO of SDG&E’s parent company, Sempra Energy, made \$23 million

in 2020. However, SDG&E, together with Consolidated Edison and PG&E, are pushing hard for new government-guaranteed deals. In 2021 they tried, unsuccessfully, to get favorable changes through the California legislature. Now, they are lobbying the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC):

1. They want to charge a monthly solar penalty fee of about \$57 per household. This alone makes solar uneconomical for small installations. Each household currently pays a minimum of \$11.20/month even if it generates excess electricity.
2. Drastically reduce the credit consumers receive for selling excess power back to the grid, from about 25 cents per kilowatt hour down to about 5 cents.
3. Reduce the net metering protections from 20 down to 15 years and eliminate protections completely for users who accept battery rebates.

The utilities claim these changes are needed for “fairness” to low-income house-

holds who could not traditionally afford solar. However, these changes together make solar less affordable than ever for low- to middle-income families and, practically speaking, will slow new solar installations to a trickle. Meanwhile, California – and the world – need solar to reduce greenhouse gases and slow climate change. Rooftop solar spares open space from turning into huge solar farms and keeps clean electric genera-

tion close to home.

What can you do? Educate yourself, tell your neighbors, and contact California Gov. Gavin Newsom. Newsom has the power to stop these changes, but only if he’s convinced that the people of California see what a bad deal this is. See solar-rights.org for more details.

To learn more about Sustainable Scripps Ranch, visit [scrippsranchnews.org/ssr](http://scrippsranchnews.org/ssr) or email [SustainableSR@scrippsranchnews.org](mailto:SustainableSR@scrippsranchnews.org).

## GARDEN TOUR

Continued from Page 5

yellow cassia. The backyard is DG base with kangaroo paws, jasmine vines, hibiscus, a water feature, raised vegetable and herb bed, and dwarf citrus. There was even more to see on the side yards.

A short business meeting and refreshments followed the tour.

Coming up in April the group will meet at the Community Room at the Scripps

Miramar Ranch Library at 6 p.m. The topic will be snakes and how to rid your garden of them and other pests. Patrick Brady, the Snake Man from Poway, will share his experience with the critters and how to stay safe.

The Garden Club has a website that features advice to hobbyists and newsletters that will provide you with more information about the club and its doings: [scrippsranchnews.org/gardenclub.com](http://scrippsranchnews.org/gardenclub.com).

## LIBRARY TOUR

Continued from Page 5

law and daughter, respectively, of E.W. Scripps. They were given 100 acres by the Scripps family home to build their home, and Evans Pond and the library are on that estate.

“The manager who was most involved in the planning of the current library was Nancy Assaf,” Beatty said. “She managed the older, smaller library off Scripps Lake Drive, and played a major role in the planning of this building. She related to me how the community gathered to move books hand-over-hand from the old building to the new one.”

In early 1986, Anna Tatar, who was the San Diego Library director at the time, offered Assaf a job at the new Scripps Miramar Ranch Library.

“It was a beginning level librarian position, so no one was very interested in applying for it. There was no promotional value to it,” Assaf laughed. “It took six years to work out all the details that they wanted for the new library. They wanted a lot of special things: the site, the Evan’s Pond, the parking situation. People were thrilled when we opened the new library for business in 1993.”

Assaf remembers attending fundraisers with the Friends of the Library at the house before it was demolished in February 1988.

“We stood on the property. They had a ranch, animals, and horseback riding,” she recalled. “The Friends [of the Library] had a party in the house as the last hurrah for the home. Then it was closed down, things were taken out and brought over to the new [library].”

Assaf hopes that the tour will also educate attendees about the amount of time and labor needed to create the community it is today.

“The Scripps Ranch Library is fortunate to have a large, dedicated [Friends of the Library] group who have been involved in developing our goals to being an integral part of the community,” Beatty said. “They developed a very popular concert series and recently bought high quality furniture for our courtyard. This has proven quite fortuitous since the chairs and benches have been utilized heavily during the pandemic.”

The tour will start at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 16. It will last about one hour.

Contact Matt Beatty for more information at [MBeaty@sandiego.gov](mailto:MBeaty@sandiego.gov) or call (858) 538-8157.

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# Local Girl Scouts honored

**S**cripps Ranch Girl Scouts Shreya Bharath and Meilani Davidson are two of the Emerging Leader Girl Scouts who were honored during Girl Scouts San Diego's 22nd Annual Cool Women event – a celebration of current and future local female leaders making the community a better place. The March 24 ceremony recognized 30 Emerging Leader high-school-aged Girl Scouts poised to lead with cour-



Shreya Bharath



Meilani Davidson

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## WELCOME CLUB Springing back with fun activities

By Denise Stewart

Now that it is safe to gather again, the Scripps Ranch Welcome Club is returning to its busy monthly schedule of activities. The calendar promises many opportunities for local ladies to have pleasant experiences here on the Ranch and around the city.

March started off with a Coffee Klatch in the Community Park. That event drew a cheerful crowd to celebrate the arrival of spring and Mardi Gras among friends.

The book clubs are meeting again. Trail Walkers continue to benefit weekly from the fresh air, exercise and friendly chats. Bunco games have resumed also.

At its March regular monthly meeting, the members benefited from a demonstration of self-defense techniques for women. A social time with tasty treats followed.

Theater Night is back on the calendar. Members are looking forward to the season's selection of live theater and pre-play dinners. Welcome Club has enjoyed the talented performers at Scripps Ranch Theatre since its early days and is glad to be back front row, center.

Another of the club's celebrations of the season will take place at Balboa Park's Japanese Garden. A tour of the cherry blossoms will be enjoyed along with lunch at the Tea House.

April's Welcome Club schedule looks



Scripps Ranch Welcome Club members enjoy a Coffee Klatch in Community Park to celebrate the arrival of spring and Mardi Gras. (courtesy of Scripps Ranch Welcome Club)

equally pleasurable. The monthly meeting will feature a Speed Meet and Greet that will enable newer members to get acquainted with other newcomers and veteran members of the club in a relaxed, but organized manner. The gatherings of the groups mentioned above will continue and seasonally appropriate events will be added to the calendar in the coming weeks. Another Coffee Klatch, Theater Night, and Salad Supper are already on the list.

For more information about Welcome Club, check the website [scrippsranchnwelcomeclub.com](http://scrippsranchnwelcomeclub.com) where you will find contact information. The club has been active for more than 40 years and is always open to new members and new ways to enjoy our circle of friends.

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Easter Vigil, April 16, 8:00 pm  
Easter Sunday, April 17, 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am

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# Local Irish dancer will compete in Belfast

By Nick Ng

A Scripps Ranch dancer will be flying to Belfast, Northern Ireland, to compete in the solo competitions in the 2022 World Irish Dance Championships in April.

Maggie Gergurich, 11, who is a sixth grader at Marshall Middle School, has been practicing Irish dancing at Rose Academy School of Irish Dance since she was five years old.

"It's really exciting because I really want to go to the World [Championships]," Maggie said. "It makes me nervous because I'm going to this giant competition with a bunch of people from all around the world, and I get to dance against them and they're all really good dancers who are qualified to go."

The World Championships is like the "Olympics" of Irish dance, as Rose Academy owner Patricia Rose-Toy described it. About 10 percent of each age group qualify for the Championships each year.

"Many dancers compete their entire dancing career without achieving that world-qualifier status," Rose-Toy said. "Maggie was able to achieve this goal at such a young age [and it] is a credit to her talent as well as her work ethic."

In 2019, Maggie reached the highest level of open championships and placed sixth in the regional championships, which qualified her to compete in the World Championships in Dublin, Ireland, in 2020. However, the event was canceled due



Maggie Gergurich is headed to the 2022 World Irish Dance Championships in Belfast, Ireland. (photo by Wendy O'Dwyer)

to the COVID-19 pandemic. In November 2021, Maggie won third place in her age group, which qualified her for this year's World Championships.

Maggie attends dance classes five to six days a week, and she often practices at home.

"She challenges herself to always improve the hardest 'trick' and is able to add her own style to the dances," Rose-Toy said.

Like most dance competitors, one of the biggest challenges Maggie faces is to correct her dance steps. Sometimes fixing the details can lead to "more fixing."

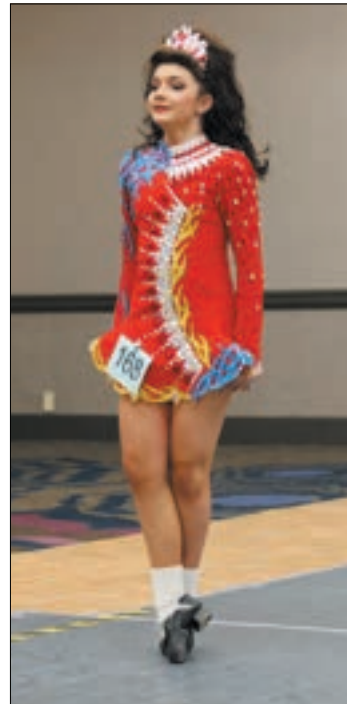
"When you're drawing a picture, you start out with a sketch and you add all the

details," said her mother, Mary Ann, who also teaches at Rose Academy. "Every time Maggie fixes one correction, we always add another bit of correction on top of it."

Mary Ann explained that in the competition, dancers perform two rounds, and about half of the dancers get called to dance in a third round. Maggie's goal is to get to that third recall.

"If she doesn't get it this year, she'll try to do it again in future years," Mary Ann said.

Features of Irish dancing include repetitive quick cross-over steps, taps, heel clicks and low kicks. While most are not sure why Irish dancers keep their upper

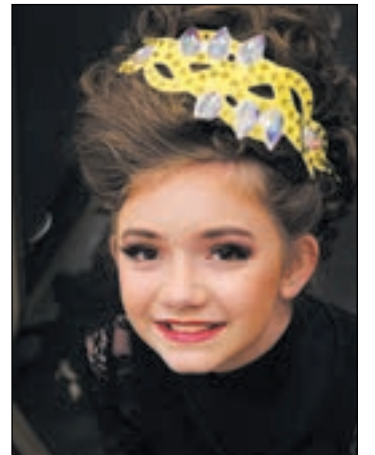


Maggie Gergurich in action (photo by Patricia Rose-Toy, Rose Academy of Irish Dancing)

body rigid and arms to their sides, Rose-Toy said it was a way for the Irish to keep their traditions and culture alive when the British occupied Ireland for centuries.

"Spaces were tight!" she said. "They would still gather for ceilis (parties with dancing and merriment) in their small homes. It was helpful to keep the arms down to save space. If a British soldier were to peek in the windows, they would only see heads moving around inside if the arms were down. The soldiers would have no idea that people were dancing, and feet were flying!"

Maggie's parents, Mary Ann and Matt Gergurich, were also professional Irish dancers who performed on "Lord of the Dance" with Michael Flatley in the late 1990s to the mid-2000s. Mary Ann's mother, Mau-



Maggie Gergurich (photo by Wendy O'Dwyer)

reen Bakke, was also an Irish dancer who had inspired her to pick up the tradition.

"Maggie has surpassed what I did as a dancer," said Mary Ann, who had achieved fifth place when she was her daughter's age. "It impresses me on how much drive she has."

"I like Irish dancing because it's just fun and I make a bunch of friends at the competitions," Maggie said. "A bunch of people in my family have a dance [background]. I get to see what they did, and now they get to watch me dance now."

The World Championships will run from April 10 to 17. Besides the competition, Maggie and her family would like to visit a few places of interest in Belfast, including the Titanic museum.

"I love dancing at the Rose Academy. Everyone's really nice and they feel like my family," Maggie said. "Ms. Patricia helped me a lot throughout the six years of dancing. ... and I can't wait to learn more from her."

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# Pageant builds confidence; helps with college

By Kaila Mellos

**F**our young women from Scripps Ranch competed in the 2022 Miss San Diego Pageant and Scholarship Association on March 27 at the Young Actors Theatre in Spring Valley. The local participants are Anneke Barrow, Jayden Baggerly, Ava Isabella Nevel and Danielle Chazaud.

The event has three titles, all awarded with scholarship money: Miss San Diego, Miss San Diego County and Miss San Diego Outstanding Teen.

The competition is in direct association with the Miss America organization system, according to Trishaa Camp, the competition's executive director. Camp is also the cheer coach at Scripps Ranch High School.

"We mentor the young ladies, getting them ready," Camp said. "Whether they win or not, they learn a lot. They learn how to interview, how to look people in the eye, how to shake hands, how to interact within their community."

Camp meets over Zoom



Miss San Diego Pageant and Scholarship Association participants in 2020. (photo by Christi Ransom Photography)

with each contestant to go over everything they will be doing, from what they are wearing to their talent.

"I will do one-on-one consultations, and they'll come in and say, 'this is the outfit I would really like to wear.' ... I will give advice like 'can you add a jacket to that?' ... We do a mock interview to get them ready," she said. They will also go through whatever talent that they

want. I just try to help them put their best foot forward and prepare them to go in front of a panel of judges."

Each contestant participating comes in with a platform she represents.

"Our past Miss San Diego, Mary Kohaut, her platform was supporting the first responders and our military," Camp said. "That is very close to her heart because her brother is in the

service. She wanted to use her platform to bring attention to the military families."

When a contestant registers to participate in the competition, there is a \$35 registration fee that goes toward the Miss America organization, and a \$75 fee that is given back to the local organizations running the competitions. The competition also relies on donations and volunteer work as

it is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The scholarship trust fund that is the grand prize for three girls is all raised through donations from the community. Miss San Diego usually receives around \$1,000, while Miss San Diego Teen gets about \$500 in scholarship money depending on donations.

"When they tell us what college they've applied to and get accepted, we cut a check to defray housing costs or books or anything like that," Camp said.

"We're always looking for people that would like to join our organization that would like to come on and assist," Camp added.

While the pageant helps with scholarship money, it also helps build confidence.

"This organization teaches women it's okay to embrace your femininity but also assert yourself," Camp said. "Meet people, shake their hand, look them in the eye, don't apologize, be in the room, be part of the conversation. I think that whether an individual wins or not, there's a lot of growth that happens to go through this."

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**Masks not required at SDUSD starting April 4**

The San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) sent a reminder to parents that all students, staff and visitors must wear masks while indoors at all schools and other district properties until Spring Break. After students and staff return to campus on April 4 following Spring Break, masks will continue to be strongly recommended but no longer required, according to the district. All other COVID-19 mitigation strategies, policies and safety precautions will remain in place. SDUSD stated it supports each individual in their choice to continue wearing a mask or not after April 4, and fully supports the decision of all students, families and staff. Harassment or bullying of anyone based on this personal choice will not be tolerated, according to the SDUSD message.

**Flu cases increase**

While influenza activity continues to be mild in the region, there has been an increase in cases over the past weeks, according to the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency. Sixty lab-confirmed influenza cases



(courtesy of County of San Diego)

were reported in San Diego County the week ending March 12, up three from the 57 infections reported the week before and 29 more than the 31 cases reported the week prior. A total of 1,721 flu cases were reported through March 12, more than double the 722 that had been reported at the same time last year.

**Election workers needed for June 7**

The Registrar of Voters is seeking temporary election workers for the June 7 Gubernatorial Primary Election. Election workers can earn up to \$20 an hour depending on the position. There is a particular need for election workers to manage the operations of ballot drop box locations and site managers for vote centers around the county. Ballot drop box locations will be open for nearly a month and vote centers will be open for up to 11 days instead of one. For more infor-



**SRHS Band at The Rady Shell**

The Scripps Ranch High School Full Band and Orchestra is scheduled to perform a live concert in The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park downtown on Saturday afternoon, April 30. There will be no charge to attend. Scripps Ranch High will be among select high school instrumental ensembles from throughout San Diego Unified School District. Each group will have approximately 12-15 minutes on stage and the entire concert will take place between 1 and 4 p.m.

mation, call (858) 565-5800 or email [pollworker@sdcountry.ca.gov](mailto:pollworker@sdcountry.ca.gov).

**Golf classic will Benefit Villa De Vida**


The Poway Chamber of Commerce announced that non-profit Chamber member Villa de Vida has been selected as the beneficiary for the ninth annual Mickey Cafagna Memorial Golf Classic. Villa de

Vida is a special needs living community whose mission is to enable adults with developmental disabilities to live and explore life fully. The golf tournament will take place April 8 at the Rancho Bernardo Inn, and is open to the public. For more information, visit [birdease.com/powaychamber](http://birdease.com/powaychamber), call (858) 748-0016 or e-mail [jessica@poway.com](mailto:jessica@poway.com).




**Postcards mailed to registered voters**

The Registrar of Voters mailed more than 1.9 million postcards to registered voters in San Diego County informing them of their voting options for the June 7 Gubernatorial Primary Election. This will be the first countywide election conducted under the Voter's Choice Act. Under the act, every active registered voter will automatically receive a ballot in the mail and will have three options for returning that ballot: by mail, to one of the Registrar's secure ballot drop box locations, or at any vote center in the county. Ballots will start going out in the mail the week of May 9, giving voters nearly a month to mark their ballot and return it before Election Day. Voters also have the choice to vote in-person at any one of over 200 vote centers located across the county, which will be open over multiple days. Learn more at [sdvote.com](http://sdvote.com), call (858) 565-5800 or toll free at (800) 696-0136.




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**COLORFUL ROCK GARDEN:** Numerous brightly colored stones with encouraging messages adorn a vibrant rock garden outside Robert E. Dingeman Elementary School in Scripps Ranch on March 4. The rock garden was started just before the schools shut down due to COVID-19 in 2020. Since then, it has grown with new rocks that were painted by families and students at home during a family art night conducted over Zoom. (photo by Lisa Shadburn)



**ENERGETIC PERFORMANCE:** Young actors perform a spirited dance in a scene during Maranatha Christian School's production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella" on opening night March 11. (photo by Lisa Shadburn)



**RAINY MORNING:** Students and children were greeted with wet weather on a rare rainy morning March 4 during student drop-off outside of Robert E. Dingeman Elementary School in Scripps Ranch. (photo by Lisa Shadburn)

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APRIL 3

**Velocity Irish Dance**

Velocity Irish Dance is a high-octane production that displays the next generation in Irish tap. Poway Center for Performing Arts on Sunday, April 3, 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 3, 7 p.m. Call (858) 748-0505 or visit powayonstage.org.

APRIL 6

**AAUW presentation**

Join AAUW Poway Penasquitos for a presentation by Christine Paik, Poway Unified School District communications officer and Korean-American author of a children's book. Learn how San Diego will observe Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May. Wednesday, April 6, 6:30 p.m. at the Ranch Bernardo Swim & Tennis Club. Please RSVP to aauwboard@gmail.com. All are invited! Visit powayarea-ca.aauw.net.

APRIL 8

**At the Mingei**

Mingei International Museum will open two new exhibitions featuring artists with a deep connection to the museum. Located in Balboa Park, Mingei's exhibitions, Fold,



(SeaWorld photo)

**EMPEROR IS OPEN**

SeaWorld San Diego's new Emperor ride is now open. Named for the emperor penguin, the Emperor coaster mimics the penguin's diving ability. Each of the floorless ride cars hold 18 riders in three, six-person rows. This is the first seating configuration of its kind in North America. Visit SeaWorldSanDiego.com.



Vase - "Serpent Lady Pink" by Niki de Saint Phalle

Twist, Tie Paper Bag Hats by Moses and Niki & Mingei will

feature the work of artists Niki de Saint Phalle (1930-2002) and Moses (1931-2015). Visit Mingei.org.

APRIL 9

**'Art with a view'**

The Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (MCASD) will reopen. After a major renovation and expansion by Selldorf Architects, MCASD will inaugurate its La Jolla flagship building with a week of activities and celebrations. Public Opening:

April 9. Visit mcasd.org.

APRIL 10

**Easter Bunnies**

Bring the kids and take photos with Mr. & Mrs. Easter Bunny on April 10, noon-3 p.m. at Mesa Town Center, 8915 Mira Mesa Blvd., intersection of Mira Mesa Boulevard and Greenford Drive. Includes a magic show; Easter craft activity; face painters; balloon artist; train rides around the outdoor shopping center. Face-



book: @Mesa-Town-Center.

**Hutchins Consort**

The "Pleasure of Your Company" music series, sponsored by the Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library, welcomes the Hutchins Consort on April 10, 2:30 p.m. in the Scripps Miramar Ranch Library Center, 10301 Scripps Lake Drive. This string octet performs on a custom acoustically designed violin-family of instruments. No charge, although donations are appreciated. COVID precautions may include required masks. srfol.org or call (858) 538-8158.

APRIL 22



DakhaBrakha

**A slate of brilliant international artists**

La Jolla Music Society presents international performers in April, including Ukrainian folk "ethno-chaos" group DakhaBrakha, whose members had been caught up in the conflict of the Russian invasion of their homeland. (April 22) Visit LJMS.org.

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# Big Band music is alive and swinging

By Terry L. Wilson

**T**he era of big bands provided the soundtrack for “The Greatest Generation.” Bandleaders like Tommy Dorsey, Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw and Chick Webb transformed popular music in the United States throughout the first half of the 20th century.

Proving that some things are timeless, the beat of the Big Band era lives on thanks to a few Scripps Ranch musicians and their friends of the Moonlight Serenade Orchestra.

“We are first and foremost a big band in the style of the 1930s and 1940s,” said Scripps Ranch resident Bob Tutelman, musical director for the orchestra. “There is a new generation showing an appreciation for Big Band music. Big Band arrangements in the ’30s and ’40s had a unique style, and I am seeing a renaissance with the younger generation wanting to hear big band music.”

“Our namesake was a famous Big Band arrangement by Glenn Miller. ‘Moonlight Serenade’ was a sentimental number. It is a very famous and timeless piece of music,” said Andrew Hilliard, business manager/secretary of the Moonlight Serenade Orchestra. “The orchestra started



The Moonlight Serenade Orchestra performs in the summer Twilight In The Park concert series at Spreckels Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park. (Courtesy of Moonlight Serenade Orchestra)

about 25 years ago as a community band activity in Chula Vista ... over time it has grown into the big band that it is today, consisting of saxophones, trumpets, trombones a rhythm section; and a very important part of the band are the vocalists.”

The musicians come from various parts of San Diego including four from Scripps Ranch. Most of the band members are retired business professionals, with a few in their 40s.

“Our specialty, of course, is Big Band music, as is our commitment to perform that music true to the

original style in a live performance,” Hilliard said. “You can listen to music on the world’s best stereo, and I can tell you, there is no comparison to hearing music from a live orchestra. The visceral experience of standing in front of a live performance is night and day above a piece of recorded music. The sound of a live orchestra can go from a whisper to a roar.”

“Big Band music is happy music. People love to dance to our songs,” Tutelman said. “Our music has many different sounds. We can have

everyone playing at once, putting out a big sound that gives everyone a rush of energy; or we can have part of the group playing softly behind a soloist. Everyone in the band wants to give our audience an unforgettable experience as only a big band can do.”

The Serenade Orchestra Foundation has a 501(c)(3) status that reaches out to students in the community by giving them an opportunity to learn about Big Band music by playing along with a member of the orchestra. They have done this before in Tierrasanta and Claremont Mesa with excellent results.

“We are starting this program with Scripps Ranch High School because four of our 30 regular musicians live in Scripps Ranch. So, it seemed like a good place to expand,” Tutelman said.

Mary Murphy’s Champion Ballroom, 4255 Ruffin Road, presents the Moonlight Serenade Big Band Orchestra on the First Friday of each month.

The Moonlight Serenade Orchestra also performs at Balboa Parks’ Twilight In The Park Concert series at Spreckels Organ Pavilion.

For additional information about the Moonlight Serenade Orchestra, email [msosandiego@gmail.com](mailto:msosandiego@gmail.com) or visit [www.themso.com](http://www.themso.com).

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# ‘Taming’ the nation with an interesting twist

By Ashley Shah

“The Taming,” written by Lauren Gunderson, inspired by Shakespeare’s “The Taming of the Shrew,” will be the second to last performance for Scripps Ranch Theatre this season. It will run from April 15 to May 1.

“In my opinion, this is one of Lauren Gunderson’s best plays. It’s very witty,” director Marti Gobel said.

**‘This play is definitely a comedy. It’ll be a fun ride.’**

—Marti Gobel

This comedy centers around the main question of what our nation would look like had women been the founding fathers.

“This play offers a look into something we have never seen, which is a female as a president, but it does it in a humorous, light way,” Gobel said.

The play begins in modern day Atlanta, Georgia, at



Director Marti Gobel (courtesy photo)

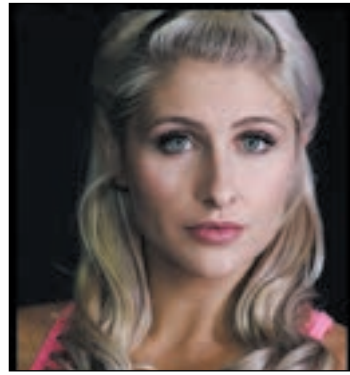
a Miss America Pageant. “Contestant Katherine of the pageant is using her platform to discuss issues our nation is facing,” Gobel said.

To further her aspirations, Katherine meets two other women at a pageant event who she believes can help her.

“She meets a high level aide to a southern Republican senator, and [also meets a] bleeding-heart liberal. Katherine tries to unite these two characters for her future plans,” Gobel said.

Patricia, the aide to the Republican senator, is played by Katee Drysdale.

“I really liked the idea this play presents,” Drysdale said. “It shows that if we



Kylie Young plays Katherine. (courtesy photo)

could forget political divides and recognize that both sides don’t really have bad intentions, we could have an opportunity to converse and fix a lot of what’s broken in our system.”

Bianca, the bleeding-heart liberal, is played by Sutheshna Mani.

Through a series of events, Katherine is able to get these two women together, and explains her plans.

The rest of the show takes place in a “fever” dream that Patricia has.

“In the dream, they are taken back to the Constitutional Convention in 1787, and each character plays a founding father. They work on rewriting the Constitu-



Katee Drysdale plays Patricia. (courtesy photo)

tion,” Gobel said.

Katherine is George Washington; Patricia is James Madison; Bianca is Charles Picknee.

Kylie Young plays Katherine.

“The rest of the play is Katherine basically living out what happened back then,” Young said.

Casting for “The Taming” began in December.

“I remember reading the description of the show, and loved it. It really shows how crazy dreams are possible. I loved Katherine’s character as well. She’s a very complex, layered character,” Young said.

Rehearsals began in mid-March, and will continue



Sutheshna Mani plays Bianca. (courtesy photo)

until opening night.

This play provided Gobel a unique opportunity.

“I actually have acted in this play before. When I was in the play, it was directed by a male. I wanted to direct it a different way, and see it from the female lens,” Gobel said. “When I acted in the play, we were casted to act like men, but I wanted to see this as women acting as women.”

Tickets for the play can be purchased by visiting Scripps Ranch Theatre’s website, scrippsranchnews.org, or by calling the box office: (858) 395-0573.

“This play is definitely a comedy. It’ll be a fun ride,” Gobel said.

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#BlissfulLife



# Traditional food from scratch

By Terry L. Wilson

A visit to the Scripps Ranch Farmer's Market is akin to treating yourself to a culinary trip around the world with each food booth tempting your taste buds with an exotic treat from a faraway land to a homemade pizza from down the street.

Allan Balestrini came to the U.S. from South America 16 years ago, bringing with him an array of gluten-free arepas from his Arepex Grill booth.

"We sell arepas, which is a Venezuelan food made of ground corn with my unique toppings," Balestrini said. "Arepas are like a flat tortilla that you can open like a pita bread pocket. Arepas can be fried, but we grill them the traditional way, making them lower in fat."

***My wife has been with me from the beginning. Together we have built the business and grown the business...'***

—Allan Balestrini

"We have pork, chicken; and a fried combination with cheese, avocado, black beans and sweet plantains which is a fruit that tastes like banana. So, we can be vegan with meat options."

Both the vegetarian and meat options are filled with shredded mozzarella and cheddar cheeses, and hunks of fresh avocado.

"One of the meat options we have is the chicken king.



Arepas from the Arepex Grill booth – both the vegetarian and meat options – are filled with shredded mozzarella and cheddar cheeses, and hunks of fresh avocado. (Facebook)

It takes five hours to cook," Balestrini said. "We add bell peppers, garlic, onions and turmeric. We have another one that is very popular, also with pork with garlic, that takes one hour to cook."

The griddled corn rounds are a tasty treat on their own, even better when stuffed with meat, chicken and black beans combined with Balestrini's homemade spices.

"The outside part of the arepas may seem like baguette bread, but it's white corn," Balestrini said. "When they're ready, they are very crispy on the outside and creamy on the inside. When they come out all the heat from the inside steams the cheese inside. It is very tasty."

Balestrini has something at the market for every taste bud, from mild to fiery.

"Our arepas are not very spicy," he said. "For my customers who like their food spicy, I have bottles of Sriracha along with mild, creamy Venezuelan cilantro sauce."

Balestrini believes that everything should be fresh and healthy, right down to

the hand-rolled dough.

"We do each arepa by hand, so one may look different from the next. The dough looks white like it's from flour, but it's actually the white corn, just like we made it back home," Balestrini said.

"My wife has been with me from the beginning. Together we have built the business and grown the business together. We have expanded with a catering service. We do weddings, birthdays, corporate events and of course, farmer's markets," Balestrini said. "We love the Farmer's Market at Scripps Ranch. The manager, Bev, is very supportive and the people who shop here are very nice. It's a great crowd."

For more information about Arepex Grill, visit [www.arepexgrill.com](http://www.arepexgrill.com).

*The Arepex Grill booth can be found at the Scripps Ranch Farmer's Market, held from 3 to 7 p.m. each Thursday at 10045 Carroll Canyon Road (next to Newportia Cyder). There is plenty of parking across the street at the National University parking lot.*

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**YANNI'S**

Continued from Page 1

were already coming from Scripps Ranch. Yanni's Bar & Grill opened July 1, 2014.

"We didn't really lose any customers from the previous location, so we brought most of those. We just have always had the support of the community. We've been very community entrenched the entire 20 years," Denise said.

This year will mark the 20th anniversary of the Pihas family's first entry into San Diego dining with a restaurant.

The food is the main attraction, of course. Yanni and Denise are careful to use the best quality ingredients they can find. They receive deliveries of fresh food every day of the week, and Yanni does some of the shopping himself.

"I go to the market almost every day, sometimes twice a day, to several different locations to source ingredients," he said. "What we serve is what we eat, and we would never serve something we would not eat ourselves."

A staff dedicated to its work and its customers is

another reason for the restaurant's success. Many of the employees have been with the restaurant for more than a decade.

"We have people from the old location. One of our employees, actually, is still here who was part of the opening team at the other place. So, she's been here over 20 years now," Yanni said.

Because many of the customers are regulars eating there once or twice a week, the staff has gotten to know their preferences.

"We have our regular guests and, because we have



This etched stone sign was presented to Yanni and Denise Pihas on the fifth anniversary of their first restaurant's opening. (photo by David Barak)

our long-standing employees, some of them, they put the wine on the table before the guests even sit down," Denise said. "They know what they want. We pride ourselves in knowing who's our regular guests and we take care of them – and even if someone's a new guest, having them have such a good experience that they start telling their friends and neighbors about us, and we feel like that the best form of advertising is word-of-mouth."

COVID-19 presented the same risks to the business that other restaurants faced, but Yanni, Denise



One of the gifts presented to Yanni and Denise Pihas by one of their customers. (photo by David Barak)

*"The beauty of the Greek and Italian cuisine is the honesty of the food..."*

—Yanni Pihas

and their employees met the challenge head-on. A lot of what helped the restaurant survive the pandemic was the good will of their guests.

"[The customers] were so generous to our staff and the employees. Every day, like when you just got ready to throw in the towel, someone would either financially do something that was way above and beyond, or we had guests that would bake us things," Denise said. "Some of them are still doing it for our kitchen. I'm talking CEOs of companies that are baking for our employees. We had people purchasing gift certificates and huge amounts of money and not

using it because they just wanted to give us money to have cash flow. And then they started using it after COVID. Just so many unique ways that people were just so generous to us throughout that. And that just helped us to keep going. And that's been like that the whole time, because we have guests that have been like our PR firm, that they will bring in their best friends, people out of town."

Ultimately, for Yanni and Denise, running Yanni's Bar & Grill isn't just a business venture.

"We don't have to entertain at home because I feel like we have that social outlet here. All of our guests, we consider them friends, and vice versa," Denise said.

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# Volleyball team stays competitive

By Hector Trujillo

The Scripps Ranch High School mens varsity volleyball team enters the second half of the regular season hoping to emulate the same performance it had to start the first half, which saw them win their first five games.

Not only did the team go undefeated during that stretch, but the team did not drop a single set in any of those matches which were all played at home.

“Our team goal from the beginning of the season is to make the open level play-off and qualify for (state playoffs),” said Scripps Ranch High School volleyball coach Lance Taschner. “We are in one of the toughest divisions,

which means we could have up to three teams competing to get into the open division.”

After the team started off with victories over Helix, Bonita Vista, El Capitan, Rancho Bernardo and a rematch with El Capitan, they dropped their next two matches against Francis Parker and Poway High School, which saw them finish their first seven games with a 5-2 record. That was the team’s best start to a season since 2015 when it started 6-1.

The second half of the season will be crucial in deciding whether they are able to meet their post-season aspirations with several matches against familiar foes and teams they have yet to face.

“Our toughest opponents will be Cathedral Catholic and Francis Parker,” Taschner said. “The strongest part of this team is the fact that we are pretty much all juniors and that we have a lot of players that play high level club volleyball.”

Scripps Ranch plays Cathedral Catholic twice in the second half of the season, with the first match on the road on April 7 and the second at home on April 26, along with one remaining match versus Francis Parker on April 20, also at home.

Among the team’s stand-out players so far this season are juniors Blake Taschner, Ethan Hornyak, Brody Erickson, Ryan Rodil and Jax Leatherwood. The team is made up of 14 juniors, one sophomore and one senior.



A Falcons player leaps to hit his serve in volleyball action against Ramona High on March 15. (photo by Jim Wick)

# Mental approach is the key for baseball

By Hector Trujillo

The Scripps Ranch High School (SRHS) varsity baseball team is playing winning baseball and is over .500 after their first nine games of the season as they enter a week-long break before their next game on March 31 against Patrick Henry High School.

The team started off the season with an impressive blowout 11-0 win over Mira Mesa High School on Feb. 24, but then fell at home to Torrey Pines High School 5-0 the following day. After the shutout loss they bounced back going on a three-game winning streak over Clairemont, San Pasqual and Grossmont High School, outscoring their opponents by a combined 28-8 during that span playing on the road.

“We’ve got guys that can play all over the yard,” said SRHS head coach Chris Lamb. “We’re definitely more versatile than we were last year. We do have a lot of pieces this year that should lead to a successful season for us.”

After the victory at Grossmont, the team stumbled in the next two games, first against Steele Canyon by a 2-1 score followed by a 3-1 loss to Santana High School. Once again, they were able to right the ship quickly, coming out with a 5-4 win over Granite Hills High School at home.

SRHS still has two-thirds of its schedule left to play including their league games starting on April 4 with a

three-game series versus St. Augustine High School.

“It’s an approach thing and a mentality thing with our group this year,” Lamb said. “We’re playing with a bit more of a togetherness

than we did last year. Playing with more of an energy and more of an attitude will help us this year for sure.”

The team finished with a 12-16 record last sea-

See **BASEBALL**, Page 20

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## Teams impress in So Cal State Cup

By Hector Trujillo

There were some noteworthy performances by Scripps Ranch Soccer Club (SRSC) squads that competed in the recently concluded 2021-2022 Southern California State Cup.

The Scripps United Girls Red 2010 team finished in second place after making it to the finals of their age group. The Scripps United Boys 2012 team made it to the semi-finals, and the Scripps United 2010 team made it to the round of eight.

"We're proud of all our teams for their hard work, and we would like to extend a special congratulations to three teams that did exceptionally well," said Scripps Ranch Soccer Club director Danielle Jackson Schumman.

The Scripps Ranch United 2010 Girls went undefeated during pool play in their five matches with four wins and one draw, outscoring their opponents by 15 goals during that period.

Similarly, the SRSC 2010 Boys went undefeated during pool play in their five matches, also finishing with four wins and one draw and on top of Classic Cup Flight A, outscoring their opponents by 24 goals combined.

As for the 2012 Scripps United Boys team, they went undefeated during pool play by winning all of their five matches, scoring 12 goals while only giving up four to finish first in Flight H of Classic Cup.

The Scripps Ranch United 2010 Girls made it all the way to the final of their Clas-



The SRSC Boys 2012 team at So Cal State Cup (courtesy of SRSC)

sic Cup bracket, falling 2-0 to Los Angeles Soccer Club Girls; with the boys making it to the quarterfinals before falling to United SoCal Downey in a 4-2 match. The Scripps Ranch United 2012 Boys would reach the semifinals in their respective bracket before falling to United SoCal Los Angeles in dramatic fashion 1-0.

Jackson Schumman provided a quick update on the SRSC's current season.

"We're in the midst of spring soccer season. We have 30 teams with more than 200 kids who play weekly games in this fun, quick soccer experience," she explained.

The last games of the spring soccer season are on March 27.

As for the summer and fall recreational season, registration opens in April and teams are formed the first week of August. Children with birth years 2004-2017 are welcome to play and no experience is necessary. Games kick off after Labor Day and run into November.

### A CUT ABOVE

Continued from Page 1

the sensor gets pressure it activates a light for a touch score," he explained. "Because I do sabre fencing, I wear a jacket that indicates different target areas, like arm, hands and the head. I also wear a special electrical rigged wire mesh mask for safety and to record points."

Strains, sprains, bumps and bruises seem to be the worst case scenario for fencing athletes, and according to Olympic stats, fencing is safer than water polo.

"Fencing is a very safe sport. Before any competition, every weapon and piece of gear is checked," Zubatiy said. "Actually, the sabers aren't sharp. In fact, they're pretty dull. It would have to be a really strong hit to feel something or even get a bruise."



Sam Zubatiy (right) in action during a recent competition. (courtesy photo)

Most sports have a series of warm-up drills, some unique to that specific sport. The art of fencing requires some fancy back-and-forth footwork called advances.

"We do a lot of footwork drills to perfect our advances and retreats because we attack on a straight line and we retreat on a straight line. There is a lot of footwork in the sport of fencing, but it also requires a lot of mental discipline as well," Zubatiy said.

"We have something called 'right of way.' This is where our footwork is important. Basically, the first person to advance, or attack, has the right of way, forcing the opponent backwards. The fencer that makes contact with his blade gets the touch, winning the match."

After high school graduation, Zubatiy hopes to get a fencing scholarship to an Ivy League college and from there, maybe Olympic Gold.

### BASEBALL

Continued from Page 19

son, going 4-8 in league play, losing all three games against St. Augustine which will make those particular matches of heightened importance this time around.

Their following league matches will be against Coronado High School, followed by Mission Hills and

La Jolla Country Day, with a three-game series against Madison High School starting on April 18. SRHS then faces off with back to back three-game stints against Point Loma and Cathedral Catholic High School, respectively, before traveling to Coronado and ending the regular season against Canyon Crest Academy in two non-league contests.

Among the team's top players this season are right-hand pitcher Tyler Bremner who has committed to the University of California, Santa Barbara, and is already garnering lots of attention.

"He's got Major League scouts coming every single game," Lamb said. "It gives the other guys a chance to play in front of scouts."



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The Scripps Ranch High School roller hockey team lost in overtime to Cathedral Catholic High 3-4 in the San Diego Championship game on Feb. 28, narrowly missing a third consecutive championship title. (photo by Jim Wick)



Scripps Ranch High School long jumper Lia Nicks competes in the first meet of the season at the Mt. Carmel Field & Distance event on March 5. (photo by Jim Wick)



Daniela Sexenian drives toward the hoop in the Scripps Ranch High womens basketball victory against Sierra Pacific in a State Round II game. While SRHS lost to Del Norte High in the CIF San Diego Division I Championship game, it later advanced to the CIF State Girls Basketball Championships Division III Semifinals before losing to La Salle. (photo by Jim Wick)

## WINTER SPORTS SEASONS END; SUMMER SPORTS SEASONS BEGIN.




Taylor Lyda-Savich runs the bases as two 12u teams from the Scripps Ranch Softball Association faced off in a spring recreational softball game on March 10. (photo by Lisa Shadburn)




Norah Lutz drives down the field during the Scripps Ranch High womens lacrosse team 13-4 victory over San Dieguito Academy on March 15. The team was undefeated at press time. (photo by Jim Wick)

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Lamont Wilkerson, a key player in the championship game, moves into the lane. (photo by Jim Wick)



Caden Flint looks over the court. (photo by Jim Wick)



Jax Leatherwood blocks a shot. (photo by Jim Wick)

# HISTORIC STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON

**T**he Scripps Ranch High School (SRHS) mens varsity basketball team worked through a long, demanding season to capture the 2022 CIF State Boys Basketball Championships – Division IV title.

The team defeated fourth-seed Justin-Siena High of Napa 46-37 to capture the State crown on March 12 at Golden 1 Center in Sacramento.

The game was a low-scoring, tight thriller most of

the time. It was tied at 14 after the first quarter, and Scripps Ranch was ahead by one point at halftime 22-21. The Falcons broke out with 12 points while holding Justin-Siena to just 4 points in the third quarter. Scripps Ranch held on to keep the lead for the victory. The excellent defensive play was key. Jax Leatherwood, for instance, had 8 blocked shots. The outstanding play of guard Lamont Wilkerson was equally vital. He finished with 19 points.

Head coach Brock Flint and his staff, all the players, basketball parents and volunteers, and all other Falcons and fans involved, helped bring this historic State basketball championship to Scripps Ranch. Not only is this the first State basketball championship in school history, SRHS is now the first San Diego Unified School District school to win two State championships in one school year – with the football team's State championship. In addition, SRHS

is only the fourth school in California to win both a football and a basketball State championship in the same school year.

The Falcons came up just short of winning the 2022 CIF San Diego Section Boys' Basketball Division III Championship title, losing to San Dieguito Academy 46-57 in the title game on Feb. 24. Fortunately, SRHS qualified for State competition. To get to the State championship game, the Falcons beat Dos Pueblos

75-70 in Round I, defeated Los Angeles CES 66-54 in Round II, Golden Valley 70-57 in the Regional Semifinals and defeated Valley Torah 68-54 in the Regional Finals.

The SRHS players on the championship roster are Ashton Prater, Nate White, Lamont Wilkerson, Rowen Wimmer, Caden Flint, Chase Weber, Jax Leatherwood, Jaiden Schube, Jared Balaoing, Achraf a Damlaj, Jona Dawson and Dean Paley.



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Chase Weber (left) and Caden Flint shut down a Justin-Siena jump shot. (photo by Jim Wick)



Chase Weber enters the key. (photo by Jim Wick)



Jaiden Schube drives toward the bucket. (photo by Jim Wick)



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