



## GRIDIRON WARRIOR

Scripps Ranch High School junior Atiana Velazquez was all over the field as the flag football team's first season got underway on Aug. 29 against San Diego High. Unfortunately, the team's initial game resulted in a 13-26 defeat. (photos by Jim Wick)



## Muralist likes bringing color into the world

By Jill Alexander

All good things come to those who wait, but Belen Islas has been waiting and waiting.

The Scripps Ranch resident and professional muralist was hoping to start a new and colorful mural project at Jerabek Elementary School, but it's been a long haul.

The idea to paint a mural at the school came about last year.

"The former principal read the article about me in the *Scripps Ranch News* and asked if I could do a mural at the school. I was also thinking at the same time that I would like to do one there," Islas said.

"We've been waiting for school officials to give us the green light to start the project since last fall," she said. "We planned some murals together and I have been working since last semester with the fifth-grade students and most of the school's staff, designing the murals."

But the paint brushes are standing still until she gets the go-ahead.

"The school has the money to do it and I'm offering to do certain parts for free, but the process is complicated because you need a permit, and I think in this case the district is trying to remodel some areas. We don't want to paint the murals and then they are going to get destroyed. It's a group effort with the kids," she said.



Belen Islas

The first design is called "The Leader in Me."

"For that mural, the school community and I worked to create a design that represents kids in the school and also 'Leader in Me' habits," she said.

The "Leader in Me" mural will feature elements of the Leader in Me program:

**Habit 1:** Be proactive (You're in charge)

**Habit 2:** Begin with the end in mind (Have a plan)

**Habit 3:** Put first things first (Work first, then play)

Islas hopes she can contribute to the school as Jerabek is a special place for her family.

"The murals at Jerabek are important to me because our kids spend a considerable part of their lives there. Murals will make the school beautiful and reflect the values of the community. The murals will create a welcoming space and a sense of belonging. They transform

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## New library manager looks toward public interaction

By Kaila Mellos

With the retirement of the previous Scripps Miramar Ranch Library manager, Philip Gunderson has become the new manager for the branch. He has big plans for the future of the library and hopes to grow to know the Scripps Ranch community more.

Formerly the integrated library system coordinator for the San Diego Central Library, Gunderson started the Scripps Miramar Ranch position in late May. He is excited to work in a different format and be more involved with residents in this position.

"The integrated library system

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*'It's nice to interact more with the community and see the direct effects of our work in the community.'*

—Philip Gunderson



Philip Gunderson, Scripps Miramar Ranch Library manager (courtesy photo)



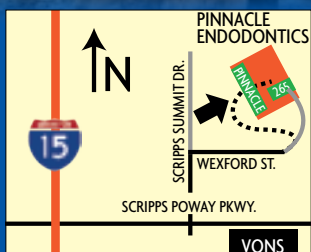
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**LIBRARY MANAGER**

Continued from Page 1

coordinator position was in the support services division,” Gunderson said. “It was doing a lot of technical work behind the scenes, like working with our database vendors and catalog provider, and running technical reports for statistics for library admin. As the branch manager, I’m now more public-facing and interact with the public daily.”

Gunderson has been in the library system since the 90s and has slowly reached this exciting new position.

“I’ve been a longtime library employee. I’ve worked in the library department since 1994, working my way up from library aid physician and shelving books to branch manager,” Gunderson said.

Since he has never been in a position like this, he faces a learning curve regarding what he can now do for and with the library.

“I think I’m most excited about learning event programming and being able to put on events for patrons in the community, whether that’s for kids or adults. This is an entirely new domain for me, and I’m looking forward to learning the ins and outs of how that works,” Gunder-



son said. “It’s allowing me to explore aspects of librarianship that I didn’t get the chance to with the previous position. It’s nice to interact more with the community and see the direct effects of our work in the community.”

As the first big event of Gunderson’s manager role approaches, he is thrilled to be able to dive into the responsibilities. The Scripps Miramar Ranch Libraries’ 30th anniversary is being hosted in conjunction with the Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library.

“I think this event will be great to see the poten-

tial of possible events I am planning for the future and to celebrate the library,” Gunderson said.

The main public celebration will take place on Saturday, Sept. 30, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and is a communitywide event for all to enjoy. There will be fun, educational activities for all ages and new programs and equipment shown off, including a 3D printer, laser cutter, vinyl cutter and multimedia laptop in the new Idea Lab space.

For more information about this event and others upcoming, visit [sfrol.org](http://sfrol.org).

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# Library plans 30th anniversary events

Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library (SRFOL) organization is hosting two special events this fall to celebrate the Scripps Miramar Ranch Library's 30th anniversary.

The SRFOL wants to thank the Scripps Ranch community and especially the SRFOL members for their unwavering support of the library over the last three-plus decades. From the original storefront library to the ceremonial book brigade to today's multi-functional library, the library has grown over the years. Today, the library offers, with the support of the



## Fire Safe Council holds golf tourney

The annual Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council fundraiser is coming up on Saturday, Oct. 7. This is the 16th annual golf tournament.

It will be held at Oaks North Golf Course, 12602 Oaks N. Drive, at 8:30 a.m. with a shotgun start.

Sponsors and golfers are still being sought. It is not too late to sign up. Visit [srfiresafe.org](http://srfiresafe.org) to sign up.

## Fire commemoration

The Fire Safe Council, along with the Scripps Ranch Civic Association, are putting together a commemoration of the 2003 Cedar Fire. Two events are being planned. One will be on the anniversary of the fire, Oct. 26, to be held at the Scripps Ranch Community Center from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Fire Chief Colin Stowell and San Diego Police Northeastern Division Capt. Holden will be there to speak about how things were in 2003 and how different they are in 2023.

The second event will be an expo in Jerabek Park on Sunday, Oct. 29, from 3 to 6 p.m. Planned participants and activities include the Burn Institute, a fire extinguisher company to service your extinguishers and show how to use them. New ones will be available to buy. There will be other booths with information, probably SDGE and United Policy Holders.

Stay tuned for more information. Visit [srfiresafe.org](http://srfiresafe.org), email [srfiresafecouncil@gmail.com](mailto:srfiresafecouncil@gmail.com) or call (858) 201-3711.

SRFOL, even more books, community spaces, both indoor and outdoor, programs for children, teens and adults – and now an Idea Lab.

## Celebration for all ages

Mark your calendar for Saturday, Sept. 30, when Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library presents a communitywide celebration from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Everyone is invited to join the festivities.

There will be fun activities for children, teens and adults including a variety of lawn games (think giant Jenga, ladder golf and a cornhole competition) and refreshments for everyone.

Student winners of the 30th anniversary essay contest will be recognized at 10:30 a.m.

Be among the first to preview the new Idea Lab at the library where you'll be able to explore your creative instincts with such equipment as a 3-D printer, laser cutter, vinyl cutter and multimedia laptop. Plus, the first 30 kids (under age 18) will receive a gift certificate for a free children's or young adult book from Grace's Book Nook.



This is a view of the Scripps Miramar Ranch Library on opening day, March 13, 1993. (photo by Marilyn Pelton/courtesy of SRFOL)

Everyone will have an opportunity to sign the anniversary banner and write a note about a favorite library memory.

## Country Living Celebration

The celebration will continue on Saturday, Oct. 7, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. with a fun, adult (21+) event with food, drink and a live band. All library-loving adults who'd like to party and celebrate the library are welcome to attend the Country Living Celebration under the Stars event, hosted by Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library. This event will include a barbecue dinner

and dessert plus wine, beer and non-alcoholic beverages.

The Those Guys band, led by Scripps Ranch's own Jerry O'Mara, will play in the courtyard for the listening and dancing pleasure of all attendees. Take advantage of the opportunity for a preview tour of the new Idea Lab, stop by the memory table, sign the anniversary banner and participate in the scavenger hunt (prizes will be awarded). Then capture a memory at the photo booth. There is no charge for this event. To register, email [president@srfol.org](mailto:president@srfol.org) by Wednesday, Oct. 4. Space is limited.

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TREATS AT THE BOOTHS!



# Welcome Club's events keep perking along

By Denise Stewart

There were several routine occasions for Welcome Club members to gather in September, but the general meeting, a coffee gathering, a Gadabouts trip to a movie and lunch, a potluck along with a night at the theatre, and lastly a TGI garden party, were the highlights.

The book clubs met, the bunco group played their game, the crafters enjoyed their creations and the walkers trailed among the trees as usual.

Among the highlights: self-defense instructor Gail Brian made her second presentation to the club at the meeting on the second Monday at the Community Center. Gail reviewed her basic strategies that enable women to have confidence in their ability to protect and defend themselves should a dangerous situation involve them. Practice and training in the use of practical weapons like car keys was a benefit to the group.

In the middle of the month, JoAnn Farmen hosted a Welcome Club favorite gathering. Coffee and brunch dishes



Becky Carlquist (front, with white shirt) entertained the Welcome Club with an evening TGI among the hummingbirds in her yard. (photo by Diane Rider)

filled the dining room while the ladies grouped under the trees and friendly chatter filled her garden. More than 30 members gather for this morning social event hosted by different members each month.

Scripps Ranch Theatre presented a surprise performance to begin their new season and Bev Macho, on short notice, put another pre-play potluck together. The group enjoyed it before they went on to the performance. More of these evening

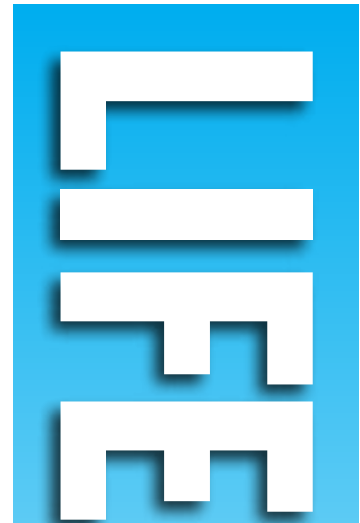
events will take place as the theatrical season unfolds.

Many moviegoers remember the first two Greek Wedding flicks. This month local ones joined up to laugh at the third edition before they went to lunch together. Pam Savelsberg organizes these Gadabouts for the Welcome Club and schedules a fun occasion every month.

To celebrate the last of the warm summer evenings, Sue Cauble hosted a TGI party at her home. The potluck dishes created by members dazzled

the crowd, and the comfortable mixing of members and their guests also makes a TGI an evening event looked forward to.

The Welcome Club is still renovating its website, so while that might not be available, check around among your neighbors if you want to know more about the group. It has been part of Scripps Ranch's social life for more than 40 years. Chances are a neighbor is a member and can answer your questions.



## Gardeners focus on fruit trees

By Denise Stewart

Being successful at growing fruit trees in your own backyard is the focus of the Sept. 26 meeting of the Scripps-Mesa Garden Club. The meeting at the local library at 6 p.m. will feature Eric Hoffman who will share his techniques in correctly planting and frugally irrigating a variety of trees in his Scripps Ranch garden. Hoffman harvests abundant crops of a variety of fruits each season.

Local gardeners meet monthly at the library Community Room or at nearby gardens to share experiences and to learn from Master Gardeners. Those interested in learning more about the club, and getting acquainted with a variety of garden topics, are encouraged to check the club's website: scrippsmesagardenclub.com.

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Bryson Hagan happily offered lemonade, water and Gatorade to his customers at his lemonade stand. (photo by Eric Hagan)



Evan Mandalia, Hunter Williams and Maci Mandalia set up their lemonade stand all by themselves, including hand-picking the lemons off the tree. They raised over \$60 and donated every penny to Regalos Para Abuelos. (Katie Mandali)



Reese Tatum and Cody White served fresh lemonade and cookies with smiles. (photo by Robyn Ise)



Sophia and Nathaniel Chiang had so much fun creating their first lemonade stand! They offered freshly baked chocolate chip cookies and strawberries for free with the purchase of a cup of freshly squeezed lemonade on ice. (photo by Jessica Chiang)

### LEMONADE STAND CONTEST

These photos of adorable Scripps Ranch children were submitted for the 2023 Scripps Ranch News Lemonade Stand Contest. This year's winners are Sophia and Nathaniel Chiang, earning a delivery of delicious cookies from Sweet Treats by Jess Bakery. A big thanks goes out to everyone who participated!



Emily Moritz (6), Ava Moritz (9), Kaylin Moritz (12) and Maxwell Meerschaert (6) donated 25% of their lemonade stand proceeds, totaling \$75, to the Rancho Coastal Humane society (photo by Rachel Moritz)



(left) Maddy Slapnicka and Jojo, dog of customers Tina and Mike, enjoyed a cuddle at the lemonade stand.. (photo by Cara, Maddy's mom.)



(pictured from left) EJ Horton, Judah Horton and Cadence Linner. After visiting Maui and witnessing the wildfire devastation first hand, some neighborhood children put on a "Lemonade for Lahaina" fundraiser selling homemade lemonade, "Surfs up sugar cookies" and "Beach Bum Brookies." Over 30 pounds of lemons were squeezed, 12 dozen sugar cookies were baked and two dozen Brookies were made. The amazing Scripps Ranch community showed incredible support to help those dealing with that aftermath. Together, they raised \$2,550! (photo by Jami Lindner)



(above) Peyton Hebert sold various flavors of lemonade and bracelets at her stand in the park. (photo by Cortney Barnes)

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# Enter the Home Lighting Contest

Some might say it's much too early to think about this year's winter holidays. But we know for a fact that, for some Scripps Ranch families, it's never too early. That's why we are providing this early announcement about the extremely popular Scripps Ranch News Home Lighting Contest for the 2023 holiday season.



It's not too early to consider entering this year's Scripps Ranch News Home Lighting Contest.

This annual lighting contest has provided a joyous experience for local residents in the past years, sparking a warm holiday tradition for all of Scripps Ranch to enjoy.

The Scripps Ranch News Home Lighting Contest not only allows entrants a way to showcase their outdoor light decorating skills; it provides a convenient opportunity for those who appreciate holiday light decorations to tour the outdoor home displays.

Scripps Ranch News will publish a map of entry locations in the December edition of the newspaper – and will provide updates online.

Anyone whose home is within Scripps Ranch and decorates the outside of their home with holiday lights this season is eligible to enter the contest. Prizes will be awarded to the top entrants.

Judges will drive to the properties in the contest to view the lighted displays. All entry displays must be accessible to the public for street

viewing. When judging is complete, the top displays will be photographed.

The winners of the contest will be announced on ScrippsRanchNews.com and photos of the winning displays will be published in Scripps Ranch News.

Deadline to enter is Dec. 4, 2023. Contest rules and other specifics are provided in the online entry form. Those wishing to enter may fill in the form at scrippsranchnews.com/lighting-contest.

## SUSTAINABLE SCRIPPS RANCH

# Upcoming events in October

Sustainable Scripps Ranch wants the community to be aware of these events in October:

### Earth Friendly Gardening

**Saturday, Oct. 21, 10-11a.m.:** Scripps Miramar Ranch Library, 10301 Scripps Lake Drive.

How earth friendly is your garden? The things you do in your garden have wide-ranging impacts. This talk will help you evaluate your current gardening practices and will suggest additional practices you can adopt to make your garden more earth friendly and sustainable. Making one significant change such as proper irrigation or mulching can have numerous positive effects on you, your garden, wildlife and the environment around you. If you're interested in saving time and money creating a healthier environment, this talk is for you.

Garden Share to follow from 11a.m. to 1 p.m.

### Stargazing

**Friday, Oct. 20** (rain or clouds cancel). Sunset 6:09 p.m. East end of Stonebridge Parkway at West Sycamore.

Half moon visible through the star party and Jupiter, Saturn well positioned for the



event. For deep space, check out the Owl Cluster in Cassiopeia.

### Clean Up Day

**Saturday, Oct. 21, 8 a.m.-noon** or until the dumpsters are full. Clean up your neighborhood and place trash in dumpsters at: Scripps Ranch Technology Business Park on Meanley Drive or the Scripps Ranch Community Center at 11885 Cypress Canyon Road. They will be collecting regular household batteries. Please consider ways to keep items out of the landfill if they are still usable. Donate to a charity or consider Buy Nothing Scripps Ranch.

Sustainable Scripps Ranch is a standing committee of the Scripps Ranch Civic Association. To learn more about Sustainable Scripps Ranch, visit [scrippsranch.org/ssr](http://scrippsranch.org/ssr) or email [SustainableSR@scrippsranch.org](mailto:SustainableSR@scrippsranch.org).

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## LEISURE

## Farmer's Market: Fresh-cut flowers for all

By Jill Alexander

In between being a stay-at-home mom to three kids, all under the age of five, and a wife, Nikki Roach – along with husband Alec – runs their flower business Lilac Valley Farm. They offer locally grown, fresh-cut flowers from their farm to your home using sustainable practices to provide high-quality, seasonal flowers.

“That’s why we grow flowers in between taking care of the kids and everything else,” Nikki said. “It offers peace and some Zen. It takes lots of energy, but we love it.”

You can find flowers and more at their booth at the Scripps Ranch Farmer’s Market on Thursdays.

“We sell floral bouquets wholesale to florists and produce markets, and we sell retail at the Scripps Ranch Farmer’s Market, and directly to our customers via social media,” she said.

They started the business in 2021 and are the only employees of Lilac Valley Farm along with the “occasional help of our children.”

While they don’t have a storefront, they are in the



Lilac Valley Farm offers fresh cut flowers at the Scripps Ranch Farmer’s Market each Thursday. (Lilac Valley Farm photo)

process of opening a “you-pick” farm in Ramona and currently grow their flowers in Escondido, Valley Center and in Ramona.

They became interested in flowers a while ago and haven’t stopped smelling the roses, so to speak.

“My husband and I have been gardening for the past 10 years. One of my husband’s first jobs was working for a soil company where he learned how to make compost, and has applied that knowledge to our gardening,” Nikki said.

When Nikki’s father was diagnosed with cancer and was going through chemotherapy, he asked her and her husband to build a garden at his house.

“We built a greenhouse and about 10 garden beds with different flowers and vegetables, and this is when he urged us to turn our passion for growing food and flowers into a business. We opened our business shortly after he passed away from cancer,” she said.

It helped with the grieving process by offering clarity as

well as “being cathartic, having our hands in the dirt and a place to throw our energy — into starting a business,” Nikki said.

They’ve been at the Scripps Ranch Farmer’s Market for a few months and love it.

“A friend introduced us to the Scripps Ranch Farmer’s Market, which is right down the street from my previous marketing job of 10 years, so we are familiar with the area and loved it,” Nikki said. “We also love the organizer, Bev, and feel the community she has created is like a second family.”

In between working the flower farms, Alec works full-time for Precision Garage Doors, while Nikki runs the house, the social media sites and marketing for Lilac Valley Farm.

Right now, they are simply “selling what we’re growing and having fun doing it.”

Visit the Lilac Valley Farm booth at the Scripps Ranch Farmer’s Market, held from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. each Thursday at 10045 Carroll Canyon Road.

## SRSRC Oktoberfest scheduled Sept. 30

The annual Scripps Ranch Swim & Racquet Club Family Oktoberfest celebration is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 30, 4-9 p.m., at 9875 Aviary Drive.

Oktoberfest is a membership benefit for members of the Swim & Racquet Club, but guests are welcome when accompanied by a club member. Guests will be admitted for \$10 per person, or may enter with a guest pass. Guests who are under 4 years of age are free. Guest passes are available at the Aviary front desk.

The Zeitgeist Oktoberfest Band will play fun German, Polka, Oktoberfest, and all kinds of party music, and lead the Chicken Dance, stein-holding contests. Enjoy the four-person rock wall and two-person extreme jump, inflatable 18 foot slide, four-person wrecking ball game, pony rides, jumpee, 12-player foosball table, carnival games, and an area of larger than life board games, hi-striker, guess the pumpkin’s weight and shuffleboard in the beer garden and more. Food trucks will be on-site.

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# Catch this ‘over-the-top’ play

The Roustabouts Theatre Co. presents “The Savoyard Murders,” a new production written and directed by Omri Schein and co-directed by Phil Johnson, which is running through Sept. 30 at Scripps Ranch Theatre, 9783 Avenue of Nations on the campus of Alliant University in Scripps Ranch.

This uproarious murder mystery will keep audiences on the edge of their seats with its scandalous secrets, over-the-top theatrics and unforgettable characters.

Set in a magnificent Victorian apartment, “The Savoyard Murders” unveils a tale of a diverse group of theatre enthusiasts who find themselves trapped for hours on end. Little do they know that amidst the opulence, a delectably executed murder awaits discovery, along with a sinister suspect. As the plot thickens, flamboyant person-



“The Savoyard Murders” features characters with flamboyant personalities, each plagued by their own idiosyncrasies, who become entangled in a web of suspicion, leading to a thrilling climax. (photo by Daren Scott)

alities, each plagued by their own idiosyncrasies, become entangled in a web of suspicion, leading to a thrilling climax.

“The Savoyard Murders” features an exceptional cast including Elliott Goretsky, Taylor Henderson, Phil Johnson, David McBean, Durwood Murray, Daren Scott and

Wendy Waddell.

“The Savoyard Murders” runs through Sept. 30 at Scripps Ranch Theatre. Shows are Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday Matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets are available for purchase at [theroustabouts.org](http://theroustabouts.org).

# Duo Decorus performance set

The “Pleasure of Your Company” concert series, sponsored by the Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library (SRFOL), welcomes back Duo Decorus on Sunday, Oct. 15, at 2:30 p.m. in the Scripps Miramar Ranch Library Community Room.

Comprised of violinist Päivikki Nykter and cellist Cecilia Kim, this virtuoso ensemble will perform works by Beethoven, Boccherini, Glière, Ligeti and Bartók.

This duo has delighted audiences with their performances since 2009. That they are friends on and off stage is apparent in their seamless and graceful ensemble playing.

Join them for an afternoon of these lovely, rarely heard violin and cello duets performed in the intimate setting of the library’s Community Room.

There is no charge for the concert, which is sponsored by SRFOL, although donations are appreciated.

Scripps Miramar Ranch Library is located at 10301 Scripps Lake Drive. Overflow park-



Duo Decorus will perform live on Oct. 15 in the Scripps Miramar Ranch Library Community Room. (courtesy of SRFOL)

ing is available on Meanley Drive off Scripps Ranch Boulevard. Visit [www.srfol.org](http://www.srfol.org) or call (858) 538-8158 for information.



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# MRE plans 50th Halloween Carnival

By Ashley Shah

**M**iramar Ranch Elementary School (MRE) will hold its annual Halloween Carnival on Oct. 21 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

“The event is open to everyone. The entire community of Scripps Ranch and San Diego are welcome to come and support our school,” said Kevin Werner, director of the carnival.

There is no entrance fee for the event. However, attendees may buy tickets for the activities and items at the carnival to help raise money for the school.

“This year is our 50th anniversary of the carnival, so we really wanted to incorporate some new ideas,” Werner said. “We are raffling off Disneyland tickets. We are inviting all of the elementary schools in our area to sell merchandise. We have brought in some new games. We are really looking forward to seeing our new ideas play out.”

In addition to the new ideas, there will be a haunted house, costume contests, a cake decorating contest, a

*“We are really looking forward to seeing our new ideas play out.”*

—Kevin Werner

bake sale, a pumpkin patch, dancing and more. Food trucks will be on campus for hungry attendees.

The Halloween carnival is the biggest fundraiser for the school.

“About 1,500 people attend this carnival. We are hoping to raise \$13,000 as a profit. The money that we take home is used to fund many of our school programs, such as our arts program, science activities, movie nights, after school nights and so much more,” Werner said.

Months of planning go into the carnival.

“This is my second year planning this event alongside the team. It is great to be able to work with people that I have worked with in the past. Our planning this year has been even better now that we know how to do this event,” Werner said.

An equally important com-



ponent of the team working to plan this event are the volunteers.

when it first started in the '70s to share their experience, and come out,” he said. “It is important to honor the history by bringing out the ones who were there when it first started.”

To be a part of sharing the history of the event, contact Werner at (619) 376-3794 or email miramarhalloween-chair@gmail.com.

“I can’t wait to see all members of the community there, from those who were there 50 years ago to those who attend MRE now,” Werner said.

## More school autumn fun

• Jerabek Elementary School is planning a **Trunk or Treat** event for students and families on **Oct. 26** from 5 to 7 p.m. in the school parking lot.

• The annual Ellen Browning Scripps Elementary School **Fall Festival** is scheduled for **Oct. 27**, according to the school’s website. The event usually features a costume parade, pumpkin decorating, food, more activities for kids and a silent auction.



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# CyberPatriot team ready for competition

By Ashley Shah

The Scripps Ranch High School (SRHS) CyberPatriot team, a subdivision of the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFJROTC), will compete in the first cyber security competition of the season on Oct. 19.

"In these competitions, we

are put in a company situation. We have to secure a company's web station. For example, this could be on Windows, or Linux. In addition to that, we are also expected to connect the computer to a network. For example, we connect the computer so that it can send packages to other computers," Commander Veer Chopra said.

There are five competitions in the season.

"The first three rounds are available to anyone. After the first three rounds, you can qualify for the semi-finals. After semi-finals, the teams that make it to the finals compete to see who wins the entire CyberPatriot competition," Sergeant Aarav Maheshwari said.

All competitions are national.

"The way the competitions are done nationally is that CyberPatriot headquarters sends virtual machines that we can use on our own computers. The machines have vulnerabilities that we can fix, such as viruses or insecure passwords. We also do the networking part of the competition on these machines," Chopra said.

In addition to the main components of the competition, there are company sponsored competitions.

"Last year, we had some Boeing sponsored competitions. During the competition, you are responsible for the company sponsored competition as well," Maheshwari said.



Veer Chopra



Aarav Maheshwari

The team competed last year, placing first in the All Service division, the division for JROTC, as well as placing second overall at nationals.

This year, the team as a whole consists of about 20 people. There are about five members for varsity, there is a junior varsity team and two novice teams.

"We have teams of five because four people work on systems, such as Linux and Windows. The fifth person works on the networking section of the competition," Chopra said.

The SRHS team meets about once a week.

"Our team is student led. Aarav and I work together to teach the team how to work on the systems. In addition to the weekly meetings, the members practice for hours on their own time by researching the topics

and using practice scenarios," Chopra said. "We are so proud of our team and the work that they are dedicated to putting in."

The team has goals as the first competition nears.

"For the first competition, right now our main goal is to sustain the knowledge we have. We want to aim for the highest award. We want to continue to work hard throughout the season," Maheshwari said.

The team also has overall goals for the season.

"Our main goal for the year is to do well in the competitions. In addition, another main goal is to educate the public about cyber security. We want people to be aware of this new world of cyber security," Maheshwari said.

For more information about the team, visit: [ca-935th.com/cyberpatriot](http://ca-935th.com/cyberpatriot).



This is the conceptual rendering for a proposed mural at Jerabek Elementary School. (courtesy of Belen Islas)

## MURALIST

Continued from Page 1

simple areas into vibrant and meaningful environments where young minds can thrive," Islas said.

It's the school where her daughter attends kindergarten and where her oldest son attended.

Islas painted several murals in Los Angeles where she resided before moving to Scripps Ranch about two years ago.

"Creating murals brings a profound personal fulfillment. It allows me to connect with the community and improve or beautify a place. I use muralism as a tool to make a positive impact on the world around me. Painting murals is a very rich experience. It allows me to make a meaningful social impact and helps me grow as an artist and person," she said.

The murals started by fluke, Islas said.

"Creating a mural was an unexpected but fortunate turn in my art career. In 2020, I had planned several art shows when the whole world came to a halt because of the pandemic. During that time, I found painting murals to be the answer to my problems," she said. "Through murals, I found a new sense of purpose which was to bring colors during those dark times and maybe inspire some hope for those who see my work. Since then, I made muralism an essential part of my artistic practice, allowing me to connect with the world around me in a meaningful way."

For now, the freelance graphic designer is working on other fine arts projects for installations in Los Angeles

and hopes to do many in Scripps Ranch.

"Most of my work is collaborating with people, and the community and creating something that reflects them and the place and makes them feel better," she said. "Scripps Ranch is an amazing place; I want to leave my work here."



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## FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

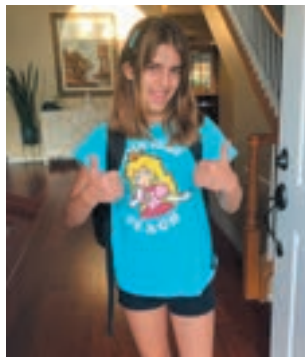
Parents sent in these memorable and fun photos of their students on the first day of school for the 2023-24 school year.



Kamryn Sablad, 8th grade, Marshall Middle School (photo by Catherine Sablad)



Fairbrook neighborhood, Jerabek Elementary (photo by Rachel Moritz)



Stella King, 6th grade at Marshall Middle School (photo by Christine King)



Vincent Taylor, Kindergarten, EBS Elementary (photo by Jennifer Taylor)



Madelin Zrelak, 12th grade, Scripps Ranch High (photo by Danielle Zrelak)



Happy First Day of High School Addy! (photo by Kevin Miller)



Drew Bidermann, 5th grade and Luke Bidermann, 3rd grade, EBS Elementary (photo by Kristi Bidermann)



Grace Pelletier, 10th grade, Scripps Ranch High (photo by Monika Pelletier)



Iris Maline, Miramar Ranch Elementary (photo by Courtney Davies)



Gretchen, 1st grade and Charlotte, Kindergarten at EBS Elementary (Photo taken by Howie Do)



Easton and Kendall Hancock starting their new adventure at Marshall Middle School. (photo by Branaca Elsberry)



Emma Turek, 6th grade and Kyle Turek, PreK, St. Gregory the Great Catholic School (photo taken by Dad)



First day of school buddies at Dingeman Elementary. Luke Koba, Leo Davis, Nicolas Atkinson, and Pax Simon. They are all starting 4th grade in Mrs. Harris's class! Friends since kindergarten! (photo by Sandra Atkinson)

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Activities include field trips, swimming, group games, hw/study time, and allows for participants to use the tennis, pickleball, and basketball courts!

Participants will check-in on campus and walk with staff to SRSRC. Available after school until 6:00pm.

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Contact the Marshall Program Director, Jon Oates, at Jon@SRSRC.com.

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Kaylin, 7th grade; Ava, 4th grade; and Emily, 1st grade



Arbel & Ofri Dagan, 5 year old twins, first day in Kindergarten at Dingeman Elementary and first time in USA (photo by Reut Dagan)



Cora Pehau, 4th grade and Leila Pehau, 7th grade (photo by Allyson Pehau)



Rocco Serra, Jerabek Elementary - Big man on campus: 5th grader!! (photo by Nathan Serra)



Ella Pearl, 10th grade, Scripps Ranch High (photo by Lisa Pearl)



Twins Matthew and Mikaela Weng about to start UTK at Jerabek Elementary (photo by Kimberly Krieg)



Fairbrook neighborhood, Marshall Middle School (photo by Rachel Moritz)



Fairbrook neighborhood, Scripps Ranch High (photo by Rachel Moritz)



Elise Scanlon (5), Kindergarten, The Cambridge School (photo by Glaiza Scanlon)

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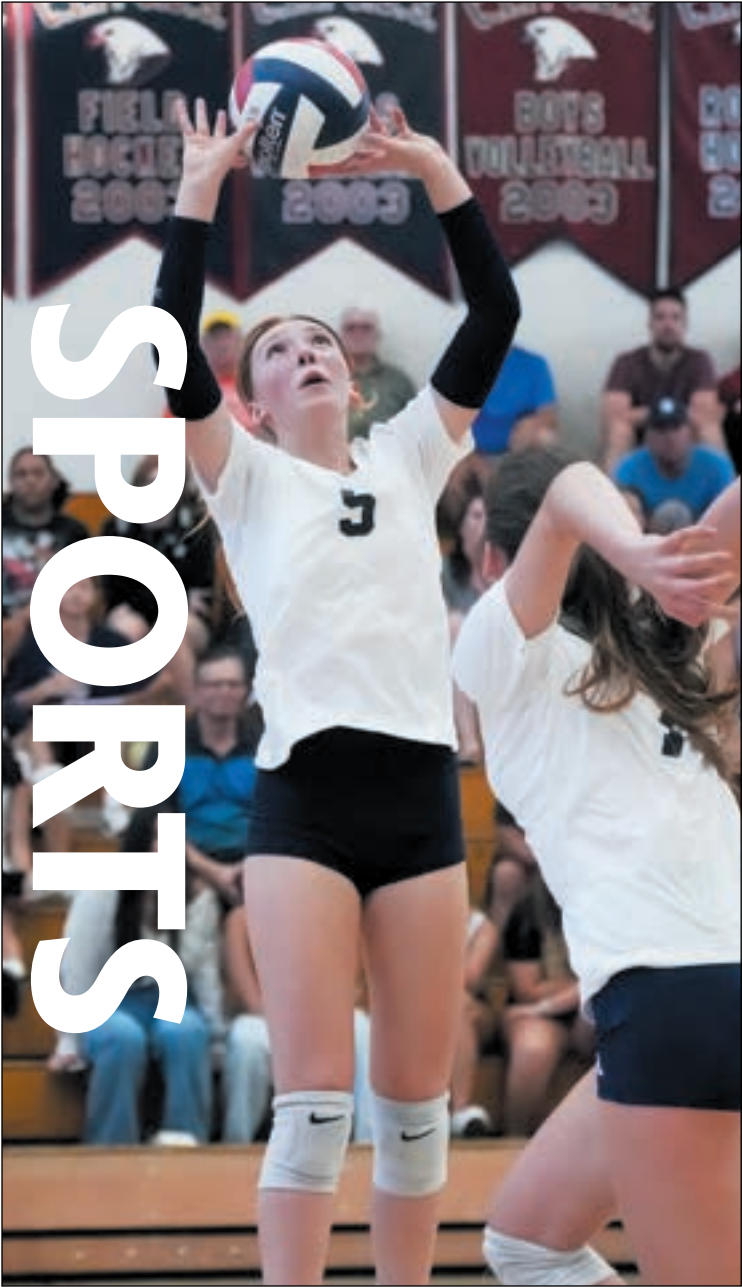
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Ella Fournier sets the ball for Audrey Hilliard in a 3-2 victory against Vista High on Aug. 29. (photo by Jim Wick)

**SPORTS**

# Womens volleyball team is back

By Hector Trujillo

Despite starting off the season with a shut-out road loss to San Dieguito Academy on Aug. 23, the Scripps Ranch High School (SRHS) womens volleyball team was able to regain its footing by beating Vista High School in dramatic fashion 3-2 at home on Aug. 29.

The Lady Falcons followed up that win with a dominant 3-1 victory at Granite Hills High School on Aug. 31 before falling to Academy of Our Lady of Peace on Sept. 1.

“I’m really excited to have a couple of returning seniors along with a lot of new young talent on the team,” said head coach Roni Hooper. “We’re really going to focus this year on being competitive and having good ball control.”

The three captains for this season’s squad are senior middle blocker Audrey Hilliard along with senior libero Lauren Peranignian and sophomore middle blocker Bryce Leatherwood who are playing alongside six sophomores, six juniors and a senior.



Elyse Taschner in action against Vista. (photo by Jim Wick)

“We’re really excited to have a group together for a couple of more years,” Hooper said. “We’re in the Eastern League this year

but still looking to be very competitive.”

Prior to becoming head coach in 2015, Hooper was the assistant under Ronni Olsen for five years. She also played for Olsen and was a Lady Falcon herself, winning back to back CIF championships in 2003 and 2004.

As part of this season’s schedule, SRHS will be hosting the 30th annual Scripps Ranch Volleyball Tournament on Sept. 22 and 23.

The Lady Falcons will play a total of 23 matches this season which includes a separate tournament appearance on Oct. 13 and 14 with league competition starting on Sept. 26 at home versus Mission Bay High School. Scripps Ranch will follow up

See **VOLLEYBALL**, Page 15

## Team hopes to make waves

By Hector Trujillo

The Scripps Ranch High School mens water polo team looks to improve on last season’s 10-10 record, having already started play in 2023. The Falcons saw a marked

improvement from 2021 to 2022 by winning three more games and will play a total of 13 matches this regular season. “We’re a young team playing behind two seniors,” said head coach Brad Oestreich.

The two seniors are Kai Sarti-Guerrero and Dario Rissolo, whose experience will be an integral part of the success that the Falcons will have as they lead the 32-player roster.

“We played some tougher teams at the beginning, getting us ready for league games later in the season,” Oestreich said. “This is our last ‘COVID’ high school class. The senior class this year were freshmen (during the pandemic), so I think the team will be consistent with five to seven guys per year. Our depth is growing after this year.”

SRHS opened the season Aug. 12 with a dominating 17-3 victory over Escondido, followed by losses to Mar Vista and Westview High School, but was able bounce back with an impressive 23-3 road win over Mount Miguel on Aug. 29.

“We got moved down to division three, which is fantastic,” Oestreich said. “I think it’s a lot better for the team. We have our sights on CIF and doing well in league. I think our biggest challenge for league this year will be La Jolla Country Day (LJCD).”

The third-year coach and father of two played water polo and swam for Scripps Ranch High School from 1996 to 1999.

The match versus LJCD is See **WATER POLO**, Page 15



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# Team hopes to regain its throne

By Hector Trujillo

After seeing its three-year CIF-SD reign come to an end during last season's playoff loss to Torrey Pines High, the Scripps Ranch High School field hockey team has gotten off on the right foot in 2023.

The Lady Falcons defeated their first two opponents with solid defense and great ball control starting with a 1-0 home win over San Marcos on Aug. 22, followed by a 3-1 road victory over Rancho Buena Vista High School on Aug. 30.

"I feel like we dominated, and we had a ton of opportunities, we just had some struggles finishing," said head coach Elizabeth Jacobs after the season opener versus San Marcos.

Scripps Ranch will play a total of 20 regular season games with 11 of those being at home and nine on the road including a match versus St. Ignatius College Preparatory in San Francisco on Oct. 13. League play will kick off at home against La Jolla High School on Sept. 28, followed by a road match against Canyon Hills on Oct. 2.

"Our goal is to always win



Scripps Ranch High School junior Emi Okuna controls the ball during a 4-3 victory against Canyon Crest Academy. (photo by Jim Wick)

CIF," Jacobs said. "We always have our sights set on that."

Jacobs is in her second year as head coach after previ-

ously serving as an assistant coach to Jane Morrill, who was among the coaches named CIF State Model

See **FIELD HOCKEY**, Page 16



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## VOLLEYBALL

Continued from Page 14

that game with a road match against Patrick Henry High School on Sept. 28 and return home to take on Coronado on Oct. 3. The Lady Falcons will then travel to El Cajon on Oct. 5 and take on Christian High School for the second time this season before facing Clairemont at home on Oct. 10 and Mission Bay on the road on Oct. 12. Scripps Ranch will close out the regular season with a home match against Patrick Henry on Oct. 17 followed by a road game versus Coronado on Oct. 19.

## WATER POLO

Continued from Page 14

on Thursday, Sept. 21. That will be followed by another road game against Canyon Hills on Sept. 28, with Scripps Ranch returning home to take on High Tech San Diego on Oct. 5 – a team it soundly defeated both times last season by scores of 12-6 and 18-11, respectively. Scripps Ranch will close out the regular season with three straight road games versus La Jolla High School on Oct. 23 followed by a rematch versus High Tech San Diego on Oct. 26 and closing out against Del Norte High School on Oct. 27.

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Fifth grader Emi Baird clutches the ball while splashing along a water slide during a fun Scripps Ranch Softball Association 10u fall practice. (photo by Lisa Shadburn)



Alex Ariauo executes a stiff arm as he tries to avoid the Mt. Carmel High defense during a 29-10 Scripps Ranch High victory on Sept. 8. (photo by Jim Wick)

## FALL SPORTS

The autumn sports scene is alive with action as young athletes practice and compete in Scripps Ranch. Activities include everything from SRHS Falcons football to Scripps Ranch Softball Association fall practice.

Scripps Ranch High goalie Elliott LaPlante blocks a shot during a 4-17 loss to Westview High on Aug. 22. (photo by Jim Wick)



Nathan Bamford placed third overall in the 5000m for Scripps Ranch High during the Ian Cumming/Tim Latham Cross Country Invitational on Sept. 8 in Chula Vista. (photo by Jim Wick)

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## FIELD HOCKEY

Continued from Page 15

Coach of the Year in March of 2022.

Among the players that continue to make an impact each game this season are senior Anika Sitapati who is instrumental as a center-mid with an ability to score and assist, and constantly being involved in the attack. Junior standout defender Emi Okuna has made immense strides in her level of play during the off season along with senior midfielder Piper Brentnall who uses her speed to exploit one on one opportunities.

"I have a better understanding of how to motivate and get us mentally prepared," Jacobs said. "We are there physically and it's just about getting our minds right."

The team also has the services of new assistant coach Courtney Enge who graduated from and played for Scripps Ranch High School along with goalie coach Taylor Edwards.

Scripps Ranch won the CIF San Diego Section Open Division field hockey championship in 2018, 2019 and 2021 with 2020 being cut short due to the COVID pandemic.



# WORDS & PICTURES

## Poway Symphony Orchestra sets 20th anniversary schedule

The Poway Symphony Orchestra announced the program of three concerts for its 20th anniversary performance season for 2023-2024. Music Director and Conductor John LoPiccolo has planned some very special music this season. The line-up of concerts includes:

**Nov. 19.** The season's opening concert will feature Eugene Drucker, violinist and founding member of the world-famous Emerson String Quartet.

**March 24, 2024.** This celebration concert includes two orchestral masterpieces that will showcase the talent of the orchestra including "Scheherazade" by Rimsky-Korsakov.

**May 26, 2024.** The season will close with a return to classical gems, including the delightful "Piano Concerto in A Minor" by Robert Schumann, featuring Ching-Ming Cheng as soloist.

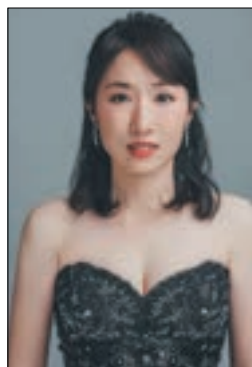
The Poway Symphony Orchestra formed in 2004. This 65-member semi-professional orchestra brings symphonic music to the North County San Diego area. The Orchestra performs music of the great composers of history and with nationally renowned guest artists.



The Poway Symphony Orchestra (courtesy photo)



Eugene Drucker



Ching-Ming Cheng

All performances are at 4 p.m. on Sundays at the Poway Center for the Performing Arts, 15498 Espola Road. Tickets are on sale by calling (858) 748-0505 or online at powaycenter.com or visit powaysymphonyorchestra.org.



## SD Junior Theatre opens new season

San Diego Junior Theatre, the nation's longest-running youth theatre program, presents its 76th season, "Unstoppable You!" – a collection of six carefully curated plays and musicals. This season celebrates characters who will stop at nothing to follow a dream, stand up to bullies, achieve a final goal, create a better life for their family – or just make it through recess!

"The Sound of Music," Oct. 27-Nov. 12, 2023

"Tomás and The Library Lady," Jan. 12-21, 2024

"Puffs," March 1-17, 2024

"Diary of a Wimpy Kid, The Musical," April 26-May 12, 2024

"Disney's Finding Nemo, Jr.," June 28-July 14, 2024

"Mean Girls: High School Version," July 26-Aug. 11, 2024

All Shows Subject to availability.

The final Saturday performance of each production will be ASL-interpreted.

Since 1948, Junior Theatre's mission has been to provide engaging, innovative, high-quality theatre education and productions for children of all cultural heritage, ages, abilities and levels of interest.

Junior Theatre productions are performed in Balboa Park's Casa del Prado Theatre, at the corner of Old Globe Way and Village Place. Visit juniortheatre.com or call the box office, (619) 239-8355.

## A.J. Croce honors father's legacy at a special night of music at Humphrey's By The Bay



A.J. Croce performs Croce Plays Croce, on Saturday, Sept. 23, 7:30 p.m. at Humphrey's Concerts By The Bay. This will be a special night of music featuring a complete set of classics by his late father Jim Croce, some of his own tunes and songs that influenced both him and his father.

This special event features such timeless songs as "Operator," "You Don't Mess Around with Jim," "Time in a Bottle" (a song written for A.J.), "Rapid Roy (The Stock Car Boy), and "Lovers Cross."

The Croce Plays Croce show has become a touring hit and with two more albums celebrating a 50th anniversary, there is a

special production.

Jim Croce found long-overdue success in 1972 following years of struggling to make a name in the music business. That year he released his debut album, You Don't Mess Around With Jim, which topped the Billboard Album chart for more than a month, spawning the hit singles "You Don't Mess Around With Jim," "Operator (That's Not the Way It Feels)," and "Time in a Bottle."

His son A.J. not only appropriately honors his father's legacy, but further illuminates the power of the Croce pedigree with an iconic identity all his own.

Tickets: [ajcrocemusic.com/tour](http://ajcrocemusic.com/tour)



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# UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 22

## 'Passing Conversations'

PowPAC presents "Passing Conversations," a comedic drama. Acclaimed playwright Terrence returns to his Connecticut home at the insistence of his wife Lillian, during the final days of his terminal illness. During an autumnal Saturday morning in the beauty of the garden patio, multi-generational family and friends stop in to see Terrence and have the conversations that so many of us wish we could with someone we love. Runs through Oct. 8 at 13250 Poway Road. Box office: (858) 679-8085.

[powpac.org](http://powpac.org)

## Urban Campout fundraiser

On Friday, Sept. 22, Girl Scouts San Diego will host its fun fundraiser, Urban Campout: Adventures Await, at its Balboa Park Campus. More than 400 guests will experience a one-of-a-kind glimpse into the outdoor fun and adventure of Girl Scouts, complete with archery and other games, plus gourmet fare, a silent and live auction, local spirits, dancing and costumes.

[sdgirlscouts.org/urbancampout](http://sdgirlscouts.org/urbancampout)

SEPTEMBER 23

## Food, Wine & Brew

San Diego's wildest tasting event returns to the San Diego Zoo on September 23 when more than 3,000 attendees will enjoy sampling a multitude of mouth-

watering menu items and refreshing beverages from more than 100 restaurants, dessert shops, brewers, wineries and other vendors. The San Diego Zoo Food, Wine & Brew Celebration is a yearly gala that serves up fun, entertainment, food and beverages. Guests must be at least 21.

[zoofoodandwine.com](http://zoofoodandwine.com)

OCTOBER 1

## Poway Fun Festival

The Poway Chamber of Commerce presents its annual Poway Fall Festival, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Midland Road in Poway. Offers day of family-friendly festivities including about 200 vendors, food trucks, live music and performances, beer & wine garden, a dedicated kid's zone and classic car show.

[www.poway.com/poway-fall-festival](http://www.poway.com/poway-fall-festival)

## HalGLOWeen and Autumn Festival

Celebrate HalGLOWeen and Autumn Festival during Kids Free Month at the San Diego Zoo and San Diego Zoo Safari Park. The San Diego Zoo and the San Diego Zoo Safari Park are celebrating fall with a wide range of seasonal activities and entertainment, along with immersive wildlife experiences, and both wildlife conservation parks are inviting guests ages 11 and younger to visit for free throughout the entire month of October: Kids Free month. San Diego Zoo HalGLOWeen: After the sun sets every Friday, Saturday and Sunday in October, guests can enjoy a multitude of Halloween-themed experiences, including live music and performances, culinary treats and interactive fun. At the San Diego Zoo Safari Park, guests can enjoy Autumn Festival every Saturday and Sunday in October, with special fall-themed entertainment, activities and culinary comforts.

[sdzwa.org](http://sdzwa.org)

OCTOBER 7

## OB Oktoberfest

The Ocean Beach Oktoberfest is set for Oct. 6-7 in Ocean Beach where Newport meets the beach. The all day and night, two day event will feature live music from both local and nationally touring artists including Afroman, Ballyhoo!, Paging the 90s, Band of Gringos and more. Party goers can also look forward to a 4:20 happy hour, Oktoberfest-themed contests and games including a Mr. & Ms. Oktoberfest



## SUNSET PIER WALKS

Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego is holding its annual Sunset Pier Walks, giving guests the opportunity to experience breathtaking sunsets while taking a stroll on the iconic Ellen Browning Scripps Memorial Pier. During Sunset Pier Walks, guests will join Birch Aquarium naturalists on an exclusive walking tour of the Scripps Pier – which is normally closed to the public – and learn about fieldwork being conducted by Scripps Oceanography researchers. The 90-minute tour features hands-on science stations where guests can scoop up plankton, examine samples under the microscope, dissect a squid and learn about local shark research. Sunset Pier Walks run on select Saturdays and Sundays through Dec. 10. Advanced registration is required.

[aquarium.ucsd.edu/events/sunset-scripps-pier-walk](http://aquarium.ucsd.edu/events/sunset-scripps-pier-walk)



competition, the traditional stein holding contest, brat eating and more. Attendees 21+ can enjoy traditional German brews, local beer, wine, spirits, and delicious local bites.

[OBOktoberfest.com](http://OBOktoberfest.com)

OCTOBER 14

## Knife sharpening

The Seven Oaks Woodworking Club will sharpen knives, scissors, garden and other hand tools on Saturday, October 14, at the Seven Oaks Community Center, 16789 Bernardo Oaks Drive, Rancho Bernardo. Drop off between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.; pick up late Saturday or Monday. Cash or check. Chainsaws, power tools and saws not sharpened.

[7oaksrb.com](http://7oaksrb.com)

OCTOBER 15

## Pancake Breakfast for SRHS track

The Scripps Ranch High School cross country team is hosting its annual Applebee's Pancake Breakfast fundraiser on Sunday, Oct. 15, 8-10 a.m. Cross country team members are servers and bussers for the event

for a full, plated breakfast. Last year's event drew many team members and their families for a fun and successful event. Funds raised during this event are used to pay for invitational races, uniforms and the end of season banquet. Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased at the door on the day of the event. 9480 Mira Mesa Blvd.

OCTOBER 20

## Haunted Ghost Town

The Heritage Ranch and Ovation Theatre announced the return of The Haunted Ghost Town, an immersive, family-friendly experience opening Oct. 20 at the Heritage Ranch in Encinitas. This haunt will transport visitors back to the Gold Rush era to explore the doomed mining town of Bitter Gulch and come face to face with the souls who remain trapped there. Set among restored historic buildings, this experience combines authentic details, rich storytelling based on local legends and the dark history of the Gold Rush, and bone-chilling performances by professionally trained actors in period-specific costumes. Less scary experiences suitable for young children offered 5-6:30 p.m. followed by more spine-tingling presentations recommended for ages 12+ from 7 to 9 p.m., with the last entry at 8:45 p.m. 450 Quail Gardens Drive in Encinitas.

[hauntedtown.org](http://hauntedtown.org)

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by Brent A. Stringfield

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UPCOMING 2023 SHOWS



**CIRQUE MECHANICS:  
ZEPHYR**

**SAT. OCT. 7** 7:30PM



**JARABE MEXICANO: DIA DE LOS  
MUERTOS CELEBRATION OF LIFE**

**SAT. OCT. 14** 7:30PM



**THE RAT PACK:  
ONE MORE TIME!**

**SAT. NOV. 4** 7:30PM



**JAKE SHIMABUKURO:  
CHRISTMAS IN HAWAI'I**

**SAT. DEC. 2** 7:30PM