



SPORTS

Winter action underway

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SCRIPPS RANCH NEWS

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Puppy Love

Valentine's Day is right around the corner and the rush is on for romantic dinners and important gifts. It's a special day for affection, of course, but every day is special for those with pets, especially those lucky enough to have a new puppy in their home. Puppies provide a different kind of affection.

Dogs are loyal and give love unconditionally. They are fun on good days, but they are incredible on bad days. They are enthusiastic and soothing, and their antics are delightful. Some Scripps Ranch residents are experiencing the joy of having a new puppy in their household and agreed to share their thoughts about their love for their pups:

Shannon Higgins sent adorable photos of Silas, her mini Australian shepherd puppy, along with his best feline friend Gideon, a Maine Coon.

"Silas is such a fun-loving, playful little guy," Higgins explained. "We love watching him interact with our cat, Gideon – two different species of animals, years apart and yet they manage to get along and become best friends. We can learn a thing or two from our pets."

While puppies can be a handful, a beautiful pet such as Silas makes it all worthwhile.

"Underneath all that beauty is a smart, sweet and loyal pup. If he hears someone approaching the door, immediately he comes and sits at our feet to protect us," Higgins said. "Around 9 p.m., he lets us know he's ready for bed by making a sound and looking up at the stairs. It's the funniest thing!"

Meanwhile, the Spencer family, Jared and Geri Spencer and daughters Amber and Tiffany, added Daphne
See **PUPPY LOVE**, Page 20



Gideon, a Maine Coon feline, gives a kitty kiss to Silas, a mini Australian shepherd. (courtesy of Shannon Higgins)



Silas and Gideon cuddle on the sofa. (courtesy of Shannon Higgins)

Puppies are fun on good days; incredible on bad days



Lauren Potterat is part of the USC Rocket Propulsion Laboratory. (courtesy photo)

Rocket Science SRHS alumna sets sights on the stars

By David Santillan

A Scripps Ranch High School alumna is reaching for the stars, quite literally, as she and her team attempt to become the first student-run organization to launch a rocket into outer space without any assistance from an outside organization.

University of Southern California junior Lauren Potterat is part of the Rocket Propulsion Laboratory at the university which, according to its website, is an undergraduate research laboratory that designs, builds and tests experimental rocketry and propulsion hardware.

Potterat works in the avionics team division as the embedding software lead, with eight other coders under her direction. Her main job is to inspect the hardware's coding, which enables the team to

See **ROCKET SCIENCE**, Page 2

New brewery to open in Scripps Ranch

By Cynthia Kurose

A trio of veteran beer industry partners are set to open a new brewery and tasting room in Scripps Ranch this spring. Dubbed "Harland Brewing Company," the new facility will feature up to 24 craft beer taps to suit a variety of tastes ranging from blondes to lagers to IPAs. Construction is currently underway at 10119 Carroll Canyon Road with an anticipated opening date of mid-April.

Harland is one of three businesses under the umbrella of Ocotillo Holdings LLC, which also includes wine label Claxton Cellars, as well as Scout Distribution, which focuses on distribution of craft beer, wine, hard cider and hard kombucha. According to Chief Operating Officer Jeff Hansson, the ideation for the businesses came about collectively last year with partners Josh Landan and Anthony Levas. The three had formerly worked together

"We feel like we're good at what we do and we love what we do."

—CEO Jeff Hansson

er at St. Archer Brewing, which Landan co-founded in 2013. Following the brand's sale to MillerCoors in 2015, however, the team noted feeling a sense of loss of the

entrepreneurial spirit that accompanied their business venture, as well as longing for involvement in the beer business, specifically.

"We missed owning a brewery. We missed walking in and smelling the beer being brewed and working with our teams," Hansson said. "We feel like we're good at what we do and we love what we do."

Hansson also noted the team's collective passion for building brands with their friends. Different from their

previous endeavor with St. Archer, Harland has positioned itself as a gritty brand with a strong, masculine feel. The aesthetic, according to Hansson, is Americana-inspired with very clean design elements. Their target audience is craft beer drinkers, and this time around, their vision for the business is to maintain a local focus.

"We're building out our production facilities, so we'll have the capability if we want to sell our prod-

See **BREWERY**, Page 12

Youth add to non-profit's legacy

By Bella Ross

When it comes to the local charity organization Build a Miracle, it's all about keeping the legacy of charitable work going across generations.

The organization, founded by Scripps Ranch residents Chris and Julianne North, is focused on the mission of building homes for underprivileged families on the other side of the border.

"Right now, there is a group of (students) who are almost all young men from Scripps Ranch High School and Cathedral Catholic, and they've all joined together, and their goal is to raise \$50,000 to put a playground at the community center," Chris North said.

That community center, Centro Comunitario Florida IV, was a project constructed by Build a Miracle in the neighborhood of El Florido in Tijuana, Mexico.

For the local Nastri-

‘We build homes
that last generations
and we commit to the families
themselves to break the
cycle of poverty.’

– Chris North

ni family, this cause has lived on through the ambitions of the family's sons. The campaign to construct a playground on the property, organized by Cathedral Catholic student Jake Nastrini, was inspired by a previous effort made by his older brother to fundraise \$35,000 to build a soccer field at the community center. With this, North said, it is clear the spirit of doing good work can be inherited.

Build a Miracle makes this idea central to their mission in many ways. When Chris and Julianne met during their college years at Loyola Marymount University in Los

Angeles, the monthly trips he took to do charity work in Mexico were only lightly organized, Chris said. Now, that same group has become one of the university's largest student organizations.

"The club at Loyola Marymount exists to this day, 35 years later, and they still go down every month but now they come to help us build houses," Chris said.

The lasting approach to Build a Miracle's mission is something North said makes their organization stand out from other home-building charities. While the organization could simply build a few homes and move on to the

next family, North said there is also the concern of providing families with the skills they need to better their situations in the long run. Since the organization started, it has helped produce 18 college graduates from the assisted families, North said.

"We build probably fewer homes (than other organizations), but we build homes that last generations and we commit to the families themselves to break the cycle of poverty," Chris said.

As for ways Scripps Ranch residents can get involved, Chris said the most effective method is gathering one's friends and family members and making a fundraising goal.

"Whether it's between one person, an entire class at Scripps Ranch High or whoever, (the goal is to) raise enough money to either furnish or build a whole home," he said.

Visit buildamiracle.net to learn more.

ROCKET SCIENCE

Continued from Page 1

know where a rocket is and what it's doing during the flight.

Though Potterat has a deep passion for space and technology, she admitted it wasn't something she pictured herself doing while in high school.

"In high school I was a pretty strong pre-med candidate," Potterat said. "I thought that I was going to be a surgeon."

However, she went on to enroll at USC as a computer science major, switching midway through her sophomore year to astrophysics.

Potterat said she was surprised to discover the type of advanced work that was being conducted in the lab, stating that she discovered the group through some of her peers within the major.

"For (the lab) to operate at an undergraduate level is something that I wouldn't fathom – for it to be operating at this level," Potterat said. "Once I joined, the ship was sailed, and I've been doing it ever since."

The lab currently holds the world record for student undergraduate altitude with the launch of the Fathom II Rocket on March 2017, but the team's ultimate goal is to be the first collegiate lab to successfully launch a student-made rocket into space.

"We want to design and kind of show that we are capable of sending an advanced rocket to space," Potterat said. "On a technical scale, (we're trying to) be the first undergraduate student organization that builds a rocket in-house – without industry assistance – that makes it to space."

Potterat is hoping that the passion for space she's seeing at the collegiate level trickles down and sparks a renewed interest in space among high school students and younger students so future generations continue to pursue space exploration.

"I'm a believer in the fact that space is the final frontier," Potterat said.

The lab is currently gearing up for its next launch which will happen during the spring semester. The public can follow this project online through updates on the Rocket Propulsion Laboratory's website: usrpl.com.

"At the end of the day, it's just a bunch of kids having a good time and doing some actual engineering," Potterat said.

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GoFundMe targets van for Ruby

By Ken David

A GoFundMe fundraising account has been established to help the family of a young Scripps Ranch resident stricken with a brain bleed, in an effort to get the specialized van needed to transport her.

In July 2017, Ruby Melchior had recently finished her freshman year at Scripps Ranch High School, having done well in her studies, playing cello in the school's orchestra class and pole vaulting on the Falcons track team. By all accounts, she was a bright, active girl who also volunteered in the community. But Ruby's life and that of her family changed on July 24 of that year.

That's when Ruby suffered a brain bleed from a previously undiagnosed arteriovenous malformation (AVM), a tangle of abnormal blood vessels connecting arteries and veins in the brain. After initial emergency medical procedures were conducted to relieve the pressure from the bleeding and fluid around her brain, Ruby returned to her hos-

pital room where she was initially unresponsive. She was placed on a ventilator and then underwent four hours of surgery to remove the AVM. Ruby spent a month in the intensive care unit and then another four months in intensive inpatient rehabilitation, according to her mother, Robin.

"She was in the hospital a good three-quarters of her sophomore year," Robin said.

Ruby has returned to school now, but she needs the help of an assistant. As the GoFundMe account states, the brain bleed and subsequent procedures left her unable to play the cello, piano, run track or even attend school without assistance. She is unable to control the movement of her arms and legs, has double vision that she didn't have before, and has paralysis on one side of her face, affecting her speech.

"Her life has just been turned upside down," Robin said.

Erika Fellars, a former Scripps Ranch resident and Ruby's piano teacher back in

See **VAN FOR RUBY**, Page 4



Ruby Melchior (center) enjoys a recent family outing with her brother, Jun (left), and father, Paul (right). (photo courtesy of Robin Melchior)

NEWS



Wild Winter Book Sale set

Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library will present a special book sale on Saturday, Jan. 26, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Scripps Miramar Ranch Library.

In addition to a huge selection of nearly new and gently used recent bestsellers, classics, scads of mystery and romance, children's books, fiction and nonfiction, this sale will include rare, out-of-print, antiquarian and collectible books — all at bargain prices.

Shoppers will also have the choice of saving even more by filling a large bag for one low price.

All proceeds help support the library and are used to purchase new books and media for the library's collection.

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

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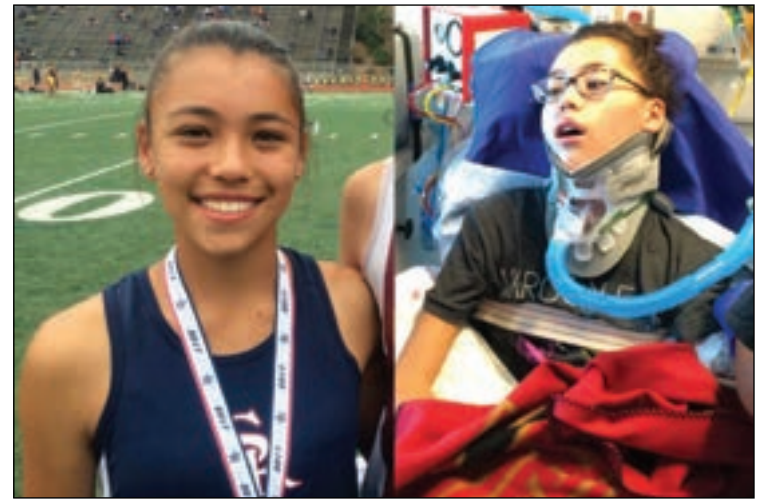
Continued from Page 3

2009, heard about what happened to Ruby and what her family was going through. Fellars visited Ruby in the hospital and reached out to Robin, eventually learning about the need for a specialized \$75,000 van.

Ruby recently got a motorized wheelchair, which is necessary because she can't move a non-motorized chair on her own. The motorized chair is great for Ruby, but it weighs a lot more than a regular chair, leaving Robin, Ruby's younger brother, Jun, and Ruby's father, Paul, struggling to load it in and out of a regular, non-modified minivan.

"It's a lot. Between therapy and other appointments, she has six to nine appointments per week — outside of school. So, we're all over the place," Robin said. "If we go to two places, that's bringing the chair in and out four times. In the rain, the ramp is slippery and it's very hard to control the chair."

The GoFundMe account was established by Fellars and her husband to help the Melchiors buy a new van that can be modified with a proper ramp, rubber floor mats to aid maneuverability and more room for assisting



Scripps Ranch High sophomore Ruby Melchior suffered a brain bleed in July 2017 and now needs a wheelchair and assistance to attend school, medical appointments and other activities. (photo courtesy of Robin Melchior)

family members to move around.

"I told my husband, Todd, what the family was going through, and he said, 'We need to do something, this isn't right, they can't go for the next 20 years doing this,'" Fellars explained. "We thought, we'll do what we can. We started the fund with some of our own money to get it moving."

Robin appreciates the support of the Fellars.

"Erika has been just wonderful," she said.

Fellars said the goal is to raise \$75,000 to cover the cost of a new van for Ruby and to get the necessary customizations done to it at a mobility center. To learn more or contribute, visit

gofundme.com/let039s-get-hot-wheels-for-ruby (bit.ly/2FvvsCL).

NEWS UPDATES

Local teen boys are civic minded citizens

Lionsheart is a group of Scripps Ranch teens who are focused on doing good in their communities. They volunteer year-round and strive to become leaders of a new generation of civic minded citizens. The Class of 2021 is led by local employer and mom Melanie Durkin.

Twenty of the boys came together recently to make a difference in the families of patients being treated at Rady Children's Hospital. One of the young men, Cathedral Catholic High sophomore John Merkin, organized a drive to gather and package more than 300 individual bags of snacks that social workers at the hospital will distribute to families sitting with their children for long stretches at a time. Many come unexpectedly or have their other children with them. These snacks ease some of their burdens. Many of the group's teens will ultimately earn the nationally recognized Presidential Award this coming spring for serving 100 hours.

Connell Persico donates \$1 Million Endowment

Alliant Educational Foundation (AEF) announced a \$1 million gift from retired Alliant International University administrator and professor Connell F. Persico for an endowed scholarship program to provide, in perpetuity, financial support to LGBTQ students focusing on underserved communities.

"With his generous gift and visionary spirit, Dr. Persico has created a lasting legacy for Alliant," said AEF CEO Valin Brown. "This gift adds to the impact of the existing Connell Persico Scholarship, which shares Alliant Educational Foundation's goals of boosting diversity, equity and inclusion."

S.T.E.P. provides special 'shopping' day

City Councilman Mark Kersey joined Support the Enlisted Project (S.T.E.P.), a Scripps Ranch based non-profit serving junior enlisted and transitioning veteran families through a financial crisis, with a holiday shopping day Dec. 14. Supported with a toy drive hosted by Councilman Kersey, struggling military and veteran families had the opportunity to "shop" for holiday toys, clothing, baby necessities like diapers and wipes, small household items and other basic needs. Visit stepso-cal.org.

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Policies have changed since the Cedar Fire

By Heather Karpel

At the time that it occurred, the 2003 Cedar Fire was the largest wildfire in California's history.

Its acreage has only been exceeded in recent years. Pushed along by Santa Ana winds, the Cedar Fire burned terrain at a phenomenal rate. It covered 29 miles between midnight of Oct. 25 and 10 a.m. on Oct. 26. By approximately 8:30 a.m. on Oct. 26, the fire had made its way from Cleveland National Forest to Scripps Ranch. The extensive damage caused by the fire prompted action on several fronts.

Firefighting and disaster response agencies took what they learned from the challenging conditions posed by the Cedar Fire and scaled up resources, adapted policies and advanced their communication systems.

The timing of the Cedar Fire posed a unique resource challenge. The fire was first reported to the Monte Vista Emergency Command Center at 5:37 p.m., and for safety reasons



Firefighting and disaster response agencies learned from the disastrous Cedar Fire of 2003 and scaled up resources, adapted policies and advanced their communication systems.

helicopters were not authorized to operate at that hour. In acknowledgment of this limitation, San Diego Fire-Rescue now owns three helicopters that have been adapted to drop water at night if circumstances require it. The helicopters have specially trained pilots to fly them.

The military can be a tremendous resource during fires and according to the San Diego Fire Department, since the Cedar Fire the approval process for use of military planes and helicopters has been expedited. To ensure effective coordination

between city and state firefighters and the military, Cal Fire now trains with Navy and Marine pilots at Camp Pendleton.

Many other advancements have been made in the areas of emergency response, such as the development of a regional cooperative dispatch system that locates firefighting resources and ambulances based on availability and proximity. In practice, this would mean that for those residents of Scripps Ranch who live closer to the Poway fire station, Poway could easily be called upon to help.

There has also been a response within the Scripps Ranch community. Following the Cedar Fire, Scripps Ranch residents Kristin Rayder and Jerry Mitchell decided to form the Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council (SRFSC). The council's primary goal is to educate the Scripps Ranch community about fire safety and prevention, however, it has also been involved in innovative evacuation planning. Working with the Department of Homeland Security, the San Diego Fire Department

and the San Diego Police Department, the SRFSC has developed maps which have served as a conceptual model for all of San Diego County. They were distributed – and updated maps are coming.

“We worked three whole years,” said SRFSC President Kristin Rayder of their collaboration with the different departments. “It was really an exciting endeavor because they came up with great ideas and they produced a huge map

See **POLICIES**, Page 6

Fire safety tips for Scripps Ranch

By Heather Karpel

From full-scale research studies to the experiences of local neighbors, there is much to be learned and shared about fire safety. Dr. Jon Keeley, senior research scientist with U.S. Geological Survey, and Kristin Rayder, president of Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council (SRFSC), have some facts to share with residents — and some of

them are directly from this area's fire history.

Dr. Keeley has been studying fires for more than 40 years. He was on the ground in Scripps Ranch after the Cedar Fire and has been consulted by Cal Fire and the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on the most recent wildfires.

His current focus is on how

See **FIRE SAFETY**, Page 6

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POLICIES
Continued from Page 5

of Scripps Ranch so we could figure out how many people lived where, how many cars [there are], and then provide the most efficient escape route for everyone.”

Rayder also spearheaded the development of a safety evacuation system. The system involves tagging houses with different colored flags, with the intention of saving firefighters time and effort.

“If you have self-evacu-

ated then you put a yellow door hanger on the door to let the police know they don’t have to waste time going up to your door and trying to evacuate you because you’ve already left,” Rayder explained. “If you put a red door hanger on your door, or you have your neighbor do it, then they know they need to come and help you because you can’t evacuate. Then we have the blue door hanger to let them know you have a pool in your backyard and we’re free to access your water.”

Since the Cedar Fire, there have been a number of advances in fire safety at the state, regional and community level. The responsibility also lies with individuals, though, because the majority of fires are human-caused. Rayder reminds residents to be mindful of suspicious activity and potential arsonists.

“If something doesn’t feel right about someone’s behavior, call 911 and report it, because it’s better to be embarrassed or overly cautious,” she said.

FIRE SAFETY
Continued from Page 5

climate affects fire regimes (fire regimes are the patterns associated with a specific ecosystem over time), and how this varies across California.

Keeley has published research on factors that made communities vulnerable, or resilient, during the Cedar Fire and others that occurred around that same time.

“We compared what the homes looked like relative to the homes that didn’t burn prior to the fire and we evaluated what characteristics were associated with homes that burn versus those that

‘You can get out there in the summer and clean off your roof and get rid of all the dead litter.’

–Dr. Jon Keeley

don’t, and the ones that burn,” Keeley said. “The only characteristic we found consistently significant was whether or not they had a tree overhanging their house and, of course, that’s got to be a concern to people in Scripps Ranch.”

The thing to note here

is that it was not typically the tree itself that burned in this scenario. It was the dead litter that dropped off trees hanging over roofs. They were ignited when embers were blown onto the roofs.

“That’s an important message because it tells us there are things you can do,” Keeley said. “You can get out there in the summer and clean off your roof and get rid of all the dead litter.”

One thing Keeley suggested is to use small mesh in vents in the roof because the temperature difference between the outside and inside causes embers to be drawn through attic vents.

Another piece of advice Keeley offered is to keep at least 10 to 15 feet of space between shrubs as a general rule. More specific parameters can be evaluated on an area by area basis.

Rayder of the SRFSC wanted to emphasize a fact about Spanish tile roofs that she learned from a resident’s experience. Spanish tile roofs are known for being more fire resistant, however, to be effective the ends need to be capped so that the embers can’t get underneath and reach the wood.

The California Conservation Corps is assisting the SRFSC with Scripps Ranch’s fire planning. They advised clearing dead grass, sticks and logs from underneath eucalyptus trees because of the “ladder effect” in which fuel on the ground carries fire from the base of the tree upwards.

“The one thing that’s helpful is their [eucalyptus] leaves kill grass,” Rayder said. “You’ll never see grass under a eucalyptus because nothing can grow, but if you do have stuff that dies underneath you have to get rid of it. Also, go up a few feet and make sure that’s taken care of as well.”

Both Rayder and Keeley emphasized the role that the public plays in prevention, and the importance of awareness and vigilance.



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Canine lovers propose off-leash dog park

By Laura Hogan

Finding an open, legal and safe place to let your dog off-leash is a challenge in Scripps Ranch.

Many dog owners currently take their dogs to Meanley Park, 10368 Meanley Drive, where a blind eye is turned to taking the dogs off-leash. Although it is not an official City of San Diego off-leash dog park, it is labeled an open dog park on Google Maps. Meanley Park cannot be turned into an official dog park due to a water tank that sits only 18 inches below ground. The water tank's location prohibits the land from being designated as open space; therefore, a fence cannot be built. This problem led local Scripps Ranch resident and dog owner Beca Tomcho to search for a dog park solution.

Tomcho said many dog owners in Scripps Ranch use unapproved land, including fields meant for sports activities, which has led to conflict within the community.

"There are very responsible dog owners and some who are not. We are hoping to create a safe and legal off-leash space to take some of the conflict away," Tomcho said.

While a dog park may relieve disputes over illegal, off-leash dogs, the proposed location has some residents concerned. One of the only available locations for the dog park is Hendrix Park, located on Aviary Drive, just south of Scripps Ranch Boulevard. Hendrix Park is lined with homes and apartments that abut a pond.

Tensions rose at a recent Scripps Ranch Recreation Advisory Group Meeting held on Jan. 10 where the renovation of Hendrix Park and the proposed dog park were points of contention. The meeting was not an official forum for the proposals, but served as an informal workshop for the project.

Landscape architect Leigh Kyle presented an overview for the process which would first include assessing the scope of the project, then planning and implementation. Kyle and her team have completed an initial survey of the park and have identified three areas that are potential spots for playground equipment, picnic tables or a dog park.

Tomcho presented some of her own ideas and made the case for a dog park in



Hendrix Park could be the site of a neighborhood dog park for Scripps Ranch. (photo by Laura Hogan)

Scripps Ranch.

"We would like – and we feel there is a need – for a safe, legal dog area. A socialized and exercised dog is a better neighbor," Tomcho said. "By having a fenced in area we do not impose on others' children and people who may be afraid of dogs."

Additional benefits, according to Tomcho, would include strengthening the community by giving both individuals and their dogs the opportunity to socialize with one another.

"I see the dog park as an opportunity to be reasonable and conscientious and be good neighbors. Ultimately, we all want to have healthy, happy pets, family and community," Tomcho explained.

Many of the residents who live near Hendrix Park attended the meeting and shared their concerns over a dog park being built near the pond. In the 1970s, local residents combined funds to pay for the park's establishment. The deed was handed over to the city for main-

tenance after its purchase from a developer. Local resident Chris Eshelman said she thinks it would be wonderful to restore the natural beauty of the park, but is not a proponent of the dog park.

"Many of us feel – as original neighbors – that it's important to preserve Hendrix Pond as a nature park, which was its original intent when it was established," Eshelman said.

Other concerns include the environmental impact of the dog waste on the pond and the local wildlife, as well as noise and light disturbances to the neighborhood.

An official forum on the dog park at Hendrix Pond will be held in early February at the Scripps Ranch Library. More details will be posted on ScrippsRanchNews.com as they become available.

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Aquabots team wins first place

By Daniela Alvarez

Most children enjoy playing with Legos, but a group of Miramar Ranch Elementary School fifth graders, known as the Aquabots, took the beloved interlocking bricks to the next level. The Aquabots were awarded first place in Strategy and Innovation for Best Robot Design in the First Lego League Robotics (F.I.R.S.T.) SoCal regional competition at Legoland on Dec. 9.

The Aquabots are comprised of Joshua Frantz, Brady Nelson, Sasha Repkin and Liberty Morgan.

Aquabots coach and electrical engineer William Frantz spent his fourth year leading a team of four students, including his son, in creating a robot made of Legos to compete against 55 other teams from fifth to eighth grade. Prior to the regional competition, the Aquabots competed at a local San Diego high school against 15 teams.

"It was our first year making it to regionals, so we were all really excited to win for best robot design. And our trophy was made of Legos!" Frantz said.

The theme for the 2018 competition was "Into Orbit" – very fitting for the young innovators. Aside from designing, building and programming a robot, student participants had to identify and research a



The Miramar Ranch Elementary School Aquabots won first place in Strategy and Innovation for Best Robot Design in the First Lego League Robotics SoCal regional competition. (courtesy of William Frantz)

problem relating to space and space travel. Last year's theme was Hydro Dynamics, which inspired the Aquabots' name.

Students were instructed to build and program a robot that could act autonomously by fetching, building or engaging in another type of physical action. Robots then had to move on a 4-foot by 8-foot mat that had graphics made for the robot to detect. Teams were judged on teamwork, cooperation, design and research.

Frantz noticed the greatest challenges in this competition were keeping students inspired and working hard. Students spent several weeks planning, designing, building and programming what would become their end result.

"It's hard for the students to stay motivated when they realize it's actual work, but in the end, they love it and love Legos," Frantz said.

While this was their first time at regionals, Frantz and the Aquabots are still riding on the excitement of their first-place win. Frantz is especially awaiting another chance to compete and prove what else the Aquabots can bring to the table.

"I know what to expect now. Compared to the first year we participated, we got the highest score, but receiving an award made me realize we've evolved and we can push that even further and definitely advance past regionals," Frantz said.

Frantz plans to compete again next year, but this time with more students.



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SCHOOL NEWS



Colorful birds created by Marshall Middle School art students hang at Liberty Station.

Students participate in Birds Without Paradise

Art students from Marshall Middle School participated in the Birds Without Paradise cross-border art collaboration project which opened Jan. 11 at Liberty Station. Students from San Diego and Tijuana created colorful birds that were installed in Tijuana and are also now on display at Liberty Station. The artworks were created with indigenous materials, including corn husks, and decorated with brilliant colors by 350 schoolchildren with the participation of their teachers in seven schools.

The Scripps Ranch students attend classes taught by Ms. McDonald and Ms. Forrest at Marshall Middle School.



St. Gregory the Great Catholic School students line up their quarters.

Quarter Race record set

This is the fourth year that St. Gregory the Great Catholic School has partnered with Cross Catholic Outreach in a mission to feed the hungry with a special service project called The Great Quarter Race. Students in kindergarten through eighth grade are encouraged to earn quarters throughout the month of October by doing

extra chores at home and encouraging others to donate their change to this cause.

Students assembled on the promenade and lined their quarters. Older students partnered with younger "buddies" to assist in placing and counting the quarters. St. Gregory students surpassed the last total by 1,000 quarters, raising 7,527 quarters to feed the hungry.

School district reports major data breach

Families with students attending schools in the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) received an email notification Dec. 21, the last day before winter break, regarding a major data breach of the district's information systems. According to the email, all important information of students and their families was "potentially" exposed including addresses, Social Security numbers and contact information. The breach might go back as far as January 2018. The perpetrators gathered network access log-in information from staff and used the information to log into the district's network services, including the district student database.

Scripps Nature Camp offers outdoor adventure

By Bella Ross

The Scripps Nature Camp may be the solution for parents in Scripps Ranch who find their children seem to be aching for adventure.

The idea is based on Scandinavian forest schools, where preschool-aged children spend the bulk of their days outdoors.

“Unlike most American preschools, the focus of this type of early education is not to teach academic facts, but to give kids the opportunity to play freely in nature,” according to the Scripps Nature Camp website.

The camp, targeted toward 3 to 5-year-olds, brings this notion close to home. Co-founders Ivan Flores and Pamela Enciso started the camp in Scripps Ranch in hopes of giving children new ways to explore their communities and learn unconventionally.

“Scripps Ranch has a lot to offer and many people in the community have no idea,” Enciso said. “It is an introduction to learning and exploring for the children.”

The duo takes children to different locations weekly,



Children and their parents enjoy Scripps Nature Camp maypole activities. (Courtesy of Rene Wischhusen)

with some of their favorite sites being Lake Miramar and the Penasquitos Canyon Preserve. Days out include light hikes, with fun stops along the way.

“At Lake Miramar we like feeding the ducks and we’ll bring some vegetables to feed the ducks. We like climbing the trees and we’ll teach the children what (natural fruits) they can eat or can’t eat,” Enciso said.

The program also has an emphasis on introducing

children to the Spanish language; however, children of all cultural backgrounds are encouraged to enroll.

“The main lessons and curriculum are done in English,” Flores said. “We do songs, we do stories, we do circle time and we teach kids different things via Spanish as well.”

While the program does not focus on academics, Enciso said one of the big benefits of the camp is allowing the children to exercise their



Youngsters take part in a Scripps Nature Camp outing. (courtesy of Rene Wischhusen)

independence. This shows even in the small things, such as having the kids carry their own backpacks.

“All the children carry their backpacks and water, so they’re learning about independence,” Enciso said. “They bring their own water, their own lunch and their jacket.”

To enroll in the program or learn more information, visit the Scripps Nature Camp website at www.ScrippsNatureCamp.com.

FAMILY



Family celebrates Chinese New Year

The Collins family of Scripps Ranch will hold a Chinese New Year celebration at their business, Collins Family Jewelers, 8220-A Mira Mesa Blvd., on Saturday, Feb. 2, starting at 9 a.m. The public is invited.

While Chinese New Year is officially Tuesday, Feb. 5 this year, the local Feb. 2 celebration is scheduled on a Saturday so that more people may attend the event. The Collins family provides this celebration annually for the community. This is the Year of the Pig, the Chinese zodiac sign for both Bill and Cynthia Collins, owners of Collins Family Jewelers.

The event will include traditional lion dancing, martial arts demonstrations and firecrackers. A troupe of high school-aged performers will be inside the lion costumes and others will perform on drums.



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Scripps Ranch Welcome Club is energized for 2019

By Denise Stewart

During the holiday season, Scripps Ranch Welcome Clubbers enjoyed a holiday Coffee Klatch, a gift exchange, a dinner-dance, a shoreside lun-

cheon and interesting group festivities. Some of the events are pictured here.

Welcome Club gals are re-energized and now looking forward to more fun in this new year. They took a hiatus during January from the business meeting, but

the cards were dealt, games were played, dice were rolled, trails were walked, books were discussed, and coffee got "klatched" at Diane Rider's home all the same.

February's calendar is full of the regular social events club members enjoy. On

Feb. 8, all the winter birthday celebrants will gather at Ann Schiebelhut's home to commemorate another year on this earth. The friendship, food and laughter always make it a special day for all the birthday girls and their friends.

The monthly meeting on Feb. 11 will celebrate the club's thirty-something birthday with a special presentation by its Co-President Dorothy Mildice. An award-winning photographer, Dorothy will again entertain the group with a visual feast and historical enlightenment on the ruins of the Native American settlements in Arizona. That treat will be followed by another: the club's annual birthday cake.

February's calendar is full of the regular social events club members enjoy.

Co-President JoAnn Farman will host a Valentine Coffee at her home. Since she has created spectacular table settings for many gatherings, including a donut hole Christmas tree for the Holiday Coffee Klatch, we know this will be an event with a unique personality.

And, as always, an invitation is extended to all local women who want to meet the members and try out the opportunities for friendship and fun that the Welcome Club offers.

Should you want to learn more about the group, please check out the Welcome Club's website scripps-ranchwelcomeclub.com or this newspaper's website. There you will find contact information. You are "Welcome" to join the fun.

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Scripps Ranch Theatre presents "Dancing Lessons," starring (from left) Michelle Marie Trester and Andrew Gumm. (photo by Ken Jacques)

Scripps Ranch gets 'Dancing Lessons'

By Ken David

Theater fans are in for a night of smiles and interesting characters when Scripps Ranch Theatre (SRT) presents Mark St. Germain's "Dancing Lessons," Jan. 25-Feb. 24.

Dancing Lessons is described as a heartwarming and humor-laced story of Ever Montgomery, a young man with Asperger's syndrome, who seeks instruction from Senga Quinn, an injured dancer, so that Ever can prepare for an upcoming awards ceremony. As the lessons and a relationship unfolds, both student and teacher make interesting discoveries about each other and themselves.

Director Megan DeBoard noted that at first look, the characters in the play — there are only two — are the type of New York neighbors who live in the same building two floors apart but have never communicated.

"As you get to know these characters, you see that they're both a little socially

awkward; they almost don't have the patience for each other's unique personalities," she said.

But that awkward stage of the relationship changes over time.

"It's not quite a romantic comedy, but there's maybe a little bit of romance and a lot of comedy," DeBoard said. "Mainly, it's a lot of communication and learning how to communicate with someone who isn't like you, and what kind of friendship can grow from that."

The dancer, Senga, will be played by Michelle Marie Trester, who has starred in previous productions at SRT. Ever will be played by Andrew Gumm in what DeBoard said will be his first performance at the local theater.

A native of Oahu, Hawaii, DeBoard completed her undergraduate studies at Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego, where she is now the director of the theater department and has directed numerous plays. Her local directing experi-

ence also includes plays at Grossmont College, San Diego Junior Theatre, Cygnet Theatre and Diversionary Theatre. "Dancing Lessons" marks DeBoard's first time directing at SRT.

"What I love about 'Dancing Lessons' is that the entire play takes place in a New York studio apartment, so we don't have walls that are getting in the way of various sight lines," she said. "We're just able to live in this New York apartment, and hopefully the audience will feel like they're peeking in the windows."

Scripps Ranch Theatre is on the campus of Alliant International University, 9783 Avenue of Nations. "Dancing Lessons" runs Jan. 25-Feb. 24. The Jan. 26 "opening night" performance will be followed by a post-performance reception including snacks and the opportunity to meet the cast and production team. To reserve seats, call (858) 578-7728. For ticket price information, visit scrippsranchtheatre.org.

SR Garden Club prepares for the spring season

By Denise Stewart

The Scripps Mesa Garden Club meets most months at the Scripps Ranch Library at 6 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month. During the growing season, sometimes trips to gardens are held instead of the indoor meetings.

January's meeting featured the topic "Bats." Don Endicott, a local resident and expert on the winged creatures, gave a multi-me-

dia presentation on how vital bats are and how they contribute to our environment. Bats are under threat from pesticides and loss of habitat in our urbanized area. Mr. Endicott shared information and specimens from the city's Natural History Museum with the club.

Coming up as the warmer weather returns: a talk on organic seeds by Bri-jette Pena of San Diego Seed Company. She will

cover seed starting, different types of seeds and the history of the industry. Ms. Pena has many years of experience in the seed business and is recognized as a local authority on the subject.

Bob Gale, a master gardener, has recently assumed the leadership of the Scripps Mesa Garden Club and is open to inquiries about the club's events. He can be contacted by email at rgale1943@gmail.com.



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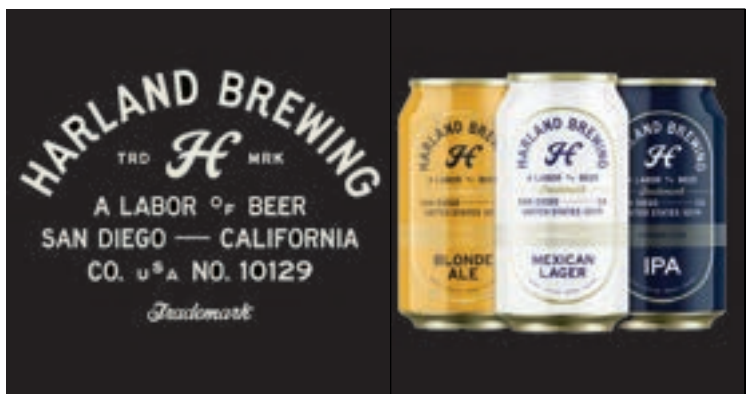
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Harland Brewing Company, a new San Diego beer brand, plans to open a new production facility and tasting room this spring at 10119 Carroll Canyon Road in Scripps Ranch. (image courtesy of Harland Brewing)

BREWERY

Continued from Page 1

ucts in other counties in California, but right now, San Diego is 100 percent the focus,” Hansson said. “We wanted to build a brewery that we’re very proud of where we can just make great beers and sell to bars, restaurants, hotels, concessionaires and grocery stores in San Diego.”

Production facilities for the new business are under construction in Carmel Valley and in Scripps Ranch, just down the road from Newtopia Cyder. Compared to their previous experience producing their brews within a business park in Miramar, Hansson said that the Harland team is excited about its new location

in Scripps Ranch because it has a genuine community, neighborhood feel.

“We’re really excited about being in Scripps Ranch,” he said. “This is a great fit for us [and] we’re really excited to try to immerse ourselves in to the community as much as possible.”

While no food items will be produced on-site at the new tasting room, Hansson said that the team will be working to contract with food trucks to have light bites available for their patrons.

For those anxious to try the new brews prior to the opening of the new Harland tasting room this spring, Public House 131 will soon add Harland to its selection of beers on tap.

For more information, visit harlandbeer.com.



Fred Benedetti and George (Jiri) Svoboda will perform on Feb. 10. (courtesy of thebsduo.com)



Allison Adams Tucker will perform “Jazz Mediterraneo” March 10. (courtesy of SRFOL)

‘The Pleasure of Your Company’ music series is a local jewel

The Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library sponsors the “Pleasure of Your Company” music series at the Scripps Miramar Ranch Library, with monthly concerts on special Sunday afternoons from September through June.

On Feb. 10, the series welcomes back the Benedetti-Svoboda Duo. Virtuoso classical guitarists Fred Benedetti and George (Jiri) Svoboda are engaging and entertaining performers

who have been performing together for more than 20 years. Their music ranges from peaceful melancholy to cascades of furious flamenco ragsueados.

For a change of pace, on March 10, internationally acclaimed vocalist and recording artist Allison Adams Tucker will perform “Jazz Mediterraneo,” her mix of jazz inspired by the sun and infused with the sounds of France, Spain, Italy and beyond. Featuring guitarist Joe Amato

and drummer Claudio Ro-chat-Felix, the program will include gypsy jazz music of Django Reinhardt.

There is no charge for the concerts, although donations are gratefully appreciated by Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library. All concerts are on Sundays at 2:30 p.m., are one hour in length and are followed by a complimentary reception, affording concertgoers an opportunity to meet the artists and mingle with fellow music lovers. Visit srfol.org.

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Women's Club fitness opportunities

By Mary Ann Harper

As we embrace a new year, the Scripps Ranch Women's Club offers opportunities for increased fitness. The accompanying photo shows the Women's Club members who enjoy walking some of the pathways along Miramar Lake. This group of walkers meets on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings to enjoy each other's company and exercise at the same time. This is a casual, open meet-up and those who attend will vary from time-to-time, depending on personal schedules. Often afterwards, the walkers gather for coffee at Starbucks to continue their friendship and conversation.



Women's Club members walking at Miramar Lake are (from left) Michelle Cyphers, Diane Lennert, Connie Curran, Anne McClure, Marianne Marion, Linda Roth with her dog Happy, Liz Erickson and Marty Salkin. (courtesy of Scripps Ranch Women's Club)

In addition, in January, Women's Club walkers will head to La Jolla Shores. There, club members will become beachcombers for part of the morning as they appreciate the sounds of the sea washing across the sands. Group members plan to carpool to the beach to make the outing more convenient. Following the walk, the group will lunch in La Jolla.

Scholarship time:

For Scripps Ranch High School senior girls, now is your opportunity to apply for one of our Women's Club college scholarships. Each year the Women's Club awards several scholarships to senior female students based on strong academics and community service. This application is on our website srwomensclub.org. All needed information is on this website and the deadline for submission is March 30. If you are a Scripps Ranch High School senior girl, this is a wonderful opportunity not to be missed!

Socializing:

Three February highlights for the Women's Club bring opportunities for new experiences in 2019. First is a membership brunch to celebrate our new members on Feb. 2. This brunch, held in a club member's home, features tasty food and drinks.

The second highlight is a Scripps Ranch Library tour on Feb. 7. Club members will learn of the fascinating history of the Scripps and Meanley families, view original artifacts from the Meanley house, and discover our library's many historic and artistic facets. A lunch at Public House 131 follows this tour.

The third highlight is a theater night on Feb. 8. A pre-theater gathering is at 6 p.m., followed by Scripps Ranch Theatre's play, "Dancing Lessons," at 8 p.m.

If you are looking for ways to have a good time, to meet new friends and possibly to give back to your community, Scripps Ranch Women's Club can help you make those connections! To learn more about joining the Women's Club, contact Connie Curran at (858) 775-7703 or Denise Hampton, at (858) 361-7118. More information on the Women's Club can be found at srwomensclub.org.

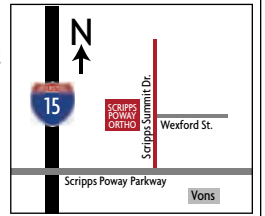
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It's not too late to fight climate change

By Larry Peranich
Sustainable Scripps Ranch member

There has been a lot of bad news about climate change in the news lately. The National Climate Assessment was recently released, stating that flooding has increased in the Northeast and Gulf Coast while reduced snowpack and drought are occurring in the western U.S. Disease carrying insects are spreading into areas that used to be too cold for them, increasing the risk of Lyme disease, Zika, West Nile and dengue. The list goes on.

Is it too late? Should we give up and accept our fate? DEFINITELY NOT! There is a great deal of good news about climate change. We can use this good news to keep our motivation.

Here in Scripps Ranch, the fraction of homes with solar collectors on the roof is one of the highest in the state. Many of our neighbors have put in water-conserving landscaping which also reduces our carbon footprint as about 20 percent of the electricity consumed in the state is used to pump and treat water.

The number of business leaders who accept that humans are responsible for climate change is increasing. Chevron



has stated that, "Chevron accepts the consensus in the scientific communities on climate change." Exxon's web site says, "The risk of climate change is clear and the risk warrants action. Increasing carbon emissions in the atmosphere are having a warming effect." San Diego's city government has, in a bipartisan manner, adopted an ag-

gressive climate action plan to reduce the entire city's carbon footprint. We are also seeing more bipartisan action at the federal level. The U.S. House of Representatives' Bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus consists of 45 Republican and 45 Democratic members of the House as of this writing. Some of these have lost their election and won't be back in the new congress, but a substantial number will remain.

Ten members of the Climate Solutions Caucus, three Republicans and seven Democrats, including our representative Scott Peters, recently sponsored the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. This act is projected to reduce American carbon emissions by 40 percent in 12 years, save American lives by reducing smog, create 2.1 million jobs, increase the GDP and will not place a heavy burden on the poor and working class. A companion bill was also introduced in the Senate by a Republican and a Democrat.

What can you do to fight climate change? Contact your elected representatives and ask them to support effective legislation to save the climate, live sustainably, and keep your spirits up!

Learn more about Sustainable Scripps Ranch at scrippsranchnews.org/ssr.

The Philanthropic Chicks of Scripps Ranch

A vehicle for change powered by women in your own backyard

By Victoria Muschek

Our mission: Make a tangible difference for those in need in and around the Scripps Ranch community by raising money, awareness and hope.

Who we are: The "Philanthropic Chicks" of Scripps Ranch is a community of women making a difference. Moms, professionals, students and retirees, this like-minded group of women of all ages comes together four times a year to raise funds, awareness and hope for those in need of support. Founded by Scripps Ranch local teacher and mother of three, Pam Pond, in 2014, it operates on the simple concept that by carving a little bit of time out of our busy lives, we can have a lasting impact on the lives of others. In four short years, the "Chicks" have raised more than \$28,000 for a dozen deserving groups. From local non-profits to families and neighbors facing challenges, these women are "creating the change they wish to see in the world" with the hope of inspiring others to do the same. Plus, the get-togethers are fun and informative!

How it works: It's free to join and members submit applications describing organizations or persons they would like to have chosen to showcase at an upcoming meeting. When the group is selected, a guest speaker will make a presentation about its mission and members can ask questions. A minimum donation of \$25 is required by each member, but the aid and gen-



The Philanthropic Chicks of Scripps Ranch gather to raise funds, awareness and hope for those in need of support. (photo courtesy of Philanthropic Chicks of SR)

erosity often exceed money. The Chicks have also been able to help sponsor events in the community. One such occasion was in the form of a "tiara booth" at a Night to Remember Prom honoring students with special needs.

Future meetings: The first few meetings of 2019 are already scheduled, mark your calendars: Wednesday, Feb. 6; Wednesday, April 10. All friends, neighbors and families are welcome to attend. All meetings are held at 7 p.m. and we pride ourselves to keeping it to one hour. Meetings are held at Crown Point Clubhouse, 11441 Caminito Magnifica. (Gate code will be posted on gate box.)

Past beneficiaries: Challenged Athletes Foundation; Monarch School – dedicated to educating students im-

pacted by homelessness; A Night to Remember Prom for Teens with Special Needs; Just in Time Foster Youth; Refuse 2 Lose – Steve Pratt Scholarship; Build A Miracle; Becky's Gift; American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

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SRHS WINTER SPORTS

Winter sports teams at Scripps Ranch High are rounding out their regular season schedules and even baseball players are tuning their skills for their upcoming spring games. Photos here include soccer, water polo, basketball and baseball. Meanwhile, the wrestling team is experiencing both team and individual success, and the roller hockey team is having an outstanding season.



*Photos by
Ralph LoVuolo*



Abigail "Abby" Stewart keeps her eye on the ball during a 2-0 victory over La Jolla High on Jan. 11.



Joshua Boamah maneuvers past University City High defenders as the Falcons gained a 3-1 victory on Dec. 15.

SPORTS



Sara Reed looks to pass as the Lady Falcons defeated Ramona High 13-11 on Dec. 14.



Olivia Pennington controls the ball for Scripps Ranch in action against Poway High on Dec. 7.



William Van Duren is at bat for SRHS during the Jan. 5 SRHS Alumni Baseball Game.



Former Falcons player Jon Aviles takes a swing at the SRHS Alumni Baseball Game.



Meki Shaw drives to the hoop against Morse High during a 45-39 victory on Jan. 5.



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Winning is in the effort

By Terry L. Wilson

Students from Primal Jiu Jitsu in Scripps Ranch ended the 2018 tournament season by winning 14 gold medals and three silver medals at the Golden State Brazilian Jiu Jitsu (BJJ) open tournament.

The prestigious event was held at Torrey Pines High School on Nov. 18, 2018. More than 600 competitors from around the state squared off in divisions ranging from beginners to master level players for men, women and children.

Jeff Tirshfield a veteran competitor and black belt instructor at Primal Jiu Jitsu was quick to praise the success of his students and teammates.

"We took second place in the Kids Division in team competition," Tirshfield said. "We took 14 golds and three silvers with the kids, and the adults also did tremendously well. They received five golds and two or three silvers. So, everyone did great."

The owner and chief instructor of Primal Jiu Jitsu is Damien Davis, a former champion competitor who sees competition as a path-

YOUNG MEDALISTS FROM PRIMAL JIU JITSU

GOLD MEDALS GIRLS DIV.

Natalie Nguyen

White Belt, age 7

Amber Spencer

Grey Belt, age 11

GOLD MEDALS BOYS DIV.

Daelen Davis

Grey Belt, age 10

Jackson Klein

Grey White Belt, age 10

Nick Nguyen

White Belt, age 10

SILVER MEDALS GIRLS DIV.

Abby Pittman

White Belt, age 9

Tiffany Spencer

Grey White Belt, age 9

SILVER MEDALS BOYS DIV.

Dallas Barksdale

White Belt, age 10

Doug Barksdale

White Belt, age 10

JT Pittman

White Belt, age 11

way for personal growth on and off the mat.

"Winning medals and trophies are great, but the real victory is in the effort. Life is challenging, and you are going to meet challenges on many levels. Learning how to deal with things that sometimes don't go your way is one of the benefits of training in martial arts. All that anyone can do at work or school or in the dojo (martial arts

school) is to give whatever they're doing the best effort possible. If you do that, then you're a winner even if you don't go home with a trophy," Davis said. "The students are the most important part of our equation. We're not here to live our dream; we're here to make our students' dreams more important."

Thirty-year-old Josh Conboy is a brown belt that devours competition. After competing for years, he is now making the transition to instructor level status.

"Every time I compete, I get a reality check," Conboy said. "Learning how to adjust your techniques to fit the person you're fighting is a process that comes with time."

Conboy is now tasked with passing his knowledge to the younger students as he continues to work his way toward earning a black belt.

"A black belt isn't just something you strap around your waist," Davis said. "A black belt is the education that comes with earning one. That's how we try to make a difference. We focus on education first and the belt second."

Visit primalbjj.com.



Cody Feldman works the ball upfield as he and his Falcons teammates push toward the 2019 CIF playoffs and hope to earn a championship. (photo by Ralph LoVuolo)

Falcons share desire for playoff success

By Michael Lancia

The Scripps Ranch High School varsity boys soccer regular season is coming to a close, and CIF playoffs are almost here. The program has been very consistent in the last few years, making CIF finals appearances two years in a row, but fell short in both matches in previous seasons. This year the Falcons look to snap this streak and bring one home for all of Scripps Ranch.

With six returning se-

niors, they hope to go out on a high note and make it the most memorable year yet. Matt Guthrie, senior and scoring leader this year, wants to capitalize on his final season playing soccer.

"This year being my senior year is really fun. It is going to be my last year playing the sport I love with so many of my friends," Guthrie said. "I am going to miss playing soccer with a bunch of tremendous players, but in the end, I hope we finish the season on a strong note."

Not only does the team have a load of talent, the players have great comradery and know how to play well together. Dani Furman, sophomore goal keeper, is enjoying every moment of this season.

"What I like the most about this season is how we play together as a team, and how we can come back after being down," Furman said. "We all have each other's backs out there and never get down on ourselves."

This kind of chemistry is what has brought the program a variety of deep playoff pushes, and all eyes are on the players as they plan to end up on top. Cameron Davies, senior center back, only has one thing on his mind: redemption.

"I'm hoping that we can run the table in playoffs and win a CIF championship," Davies said. "We lost in penalty kicks last year and, for me, this year the only goal is to avenge last year's loss and win one for all my former teammates who got robbed of the championship they deserved."

Hopefully, this is the year they can seal the deal and make it happen for all of the Scripps Ranch community in their pursuit of the 2019 CIF title.



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Keith Davis played baseball at SRHS. (photo by Ralph LoVuolo)



Keith Davis at SRHS graduation. (photo by Ralph LoVuolo)



Keith Davis was a star receiver on the SRHS football team. (photo by Ralph LoVuolo)

SRHS alumnus steps up to play at ASU

By Ken David

Keith Davis, a Scripps Ranch High alumnus and a former standout Falcons athlete, is adjusting to his first year at Arizona State University and his first season as a member of the Sun Devils football team.

“It was pretty fun, a good year,” Davis said. “We played hard and practiced hard each day; it was definitely a learning experience.”

The ASU Football website describes Davis, jersey number 26, as a player with promise.

“Highly productive walk-on wide receiver prospect,” his bio says. “Versatile athlete who thrived on both sides of the ball in high school.”

Davis finished his two-year varsity career at Scripps Ranch High with 102 catches for 1,774 yards and 17 touchdowns in 19 games. He was a team captain and was twice named Most Valuable Player. He earned San Diego Union-Tribune Player of the Week honors after scoring six touchdowns — four receiving, one rushing and one interception return — in a 62-21 win over Mission Bay.

Davis spent the 2018 season at ASU as a redshirt freshman receiver, taking reps and making strides in practice, but not seeing any game time this year. He said he put in more time in the weight room and feels he got better each day in practice. He hopes to move up the roster next year.

“I’m trying to get on special teams, just to get on the field for sure, and try to work my way up on the depth chart,” Davis said.

The head coach at ASU is Herm Edwards, who brings NFL experience to the Sun

Devils locker room.

“He’s the one that recruited me,” Davis said. “He’s a really good coach and does everything that helps a team win. And he’s fun too; he’ll dance around in practice sometimes, just to get the energy up.”

Davis said he immediately noticed the difference between his Falcons days and those as a Sun Devil.

“Now you’re playing at a (Division) 1 level. You play against better competition, really, so you have to make

every opportunity count”, he said. “It’s a different jump, you know, how you’ve got to approach things and it’s more strict. It’s a big jump in the beginning, but you get used to it.”

In addition to football, Davis also hopes to play baseball at ASU, like he did as a Scripps Ranch High outfielder.

“That’s what I’m trying to do,” he said. “I’m trying to walk on because I love baseball as much as I love football.”

Student life has also been a place to step up for Davis, who is living on campus and currently focusing on business and communications studies.

“It gets hard sometimes because you’re always tired,” he said. “But it’s just a process, you know.”

Noting that ASU is a big campus, Davis said planning time for long walks and getting to class on time is important. Regarding the Arizona heat, that’s just another part of the adjustments



Keith Davis lines up as receiver during practice with Arizona State. (photo courtesy of Keith Davis)

Davis has made so far during his college experience.

“At first the heat was pretty bad, but you get used to it. It’s more of a dry heat, so you just drink a lot of water,” he said.

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Players on the Scripps Ranch Falcons fifth grade girls competitive SOL Basketball team celebrate their victory. (courtesy of Keith Purcell)



The 2018 Scripps Ranch Falcons fifth grade girls competitive SOL Basketball team includes (front row, from left) Coach Chad, Layla, Sierra, Hayden, Nesreen, Jillian, Rachel, Natalia; (back row, from left) Coach Amy, Katrina, Amelia, Mia, Bryce, Hadley, Kristine and Head Coach Keith Purcell. (courtesy of Keith Purcell)

Team wins championship

The Scripps Ranch Falcons fifth grade girls competitive team won its division in the 2018 SOL Basketball League at Al-

liant University. This was the team's first season playing competitive basketball and the players captured first place.



Soccer players honored coach Ouying Zhang with a hill run and potluck meal on Dec. 9. (courtesy of Lisa Divona)

Players honor Coach O with hill run

Players formerly coached by Ouying Zhang, a revered and popular local youth soccer coach who succumbed to lung cancer in December, honored her memory with a hill run and potluck meal at Canyonside Park on Dec. 9, 2018.

Canyonside has a hillside that Zhang, known as Coach O, incorporated into some of her practices. It was a difficult hill to run and the girls had a love/hate relationship with "The Hill." It was a tough run and the players dreaded the days they had

to do it. But they also knew it was an important part of their conditioning, so they always powered through to make their coach proud. Coach O always taught them to work hard and the hill was part of that lesson.

Coach O loved having team parties and potlucks, too. After she passed, parents wanted to give the girls an opportunity to get together to support each other. They came up with the idea to meet at Canyonside Park and hold a potluck. The girls decided to run the hill again

in Coach O's honor.

The players ran to the top and, on the way back down, they threw flower seeds along the trail. Coach O's husband and children joined the event. Her son was the first to make it to the top of the hill and back down again. He even went back for a second time.

Coach O was a two-time Olympian and played on the Chinese National Team in three Women's World Cups. She coached girls soccer with the San Diego Soccer Club.

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Chemistry is formula for success

By Michael Lancia

The 2019 Scripps Ranch Falcons varsity baseball season is almost underway. The Winterball preseason has begun, as the players get back into the busy baseball schedule.

With 10 seniors having left from last year, you can expect to see a lot of new faces on this year's squad. The players, as well as head coach Chris Lamb, are excited for the new season.

"The thing that I see differently from this 2019 team is that they have a sense of unity that is unparalleled," Lamb said. "There are no egos and they really want to do well for one another. Combine that with their hard-working attitudes and it makes for an exciting group to be a part of."

The players' hard work has not gone unnoticed, as three of the players have already committed to colleges to further their baseball career. They include Harrison Rodgers, Will Van Duren and Spencer Roos.

Team captain Harrison Rodgers, who has recently committed to Colorado Mesa University, believes "this year is different from all the other years because, as I've seen the other classes come through the program, I have learned the do's and don'ts, so I feel that this is the most experienced we have been and can be the most successful."

The Scripps Ranch High School baseball winning



Harrison Rodgers makes a play during the Jan. 5 Scripps Ranch High School Alumni Baseball Game as the Falcons prepped for regular season competition. (photo by Ralph LoVuolo)

mentality never seems to fade, as year after year the Falcons put together a strong season.

Cal State San Marcos commit and Falcon's ace Will Van Duren has nothing but high expectations for this year's team and is already excited for CIF playoffs.

"I expect to have a winning season as well as good team chemistry on and off the field," he said. "I am also looking forward to making it to playoffs and hopefully winning CIF to see all of our hard work pay off."

The great team chemistry is what sets this Scripps Ranch team apart from oth-

er teams, as many of the players in the program have been playing together from a very young age and have created lifelong friendships. Coach Lamb finds team chemistry a high value in a team's success and expresses his love for coaching.

"What I love most about coaching? I would have to say building relationships with our players and watching them grow as both young men and baseball players. Being able to watch the joy they have when they succeed, and being there for them when they don't, is what it's truly all about," Lamb said.



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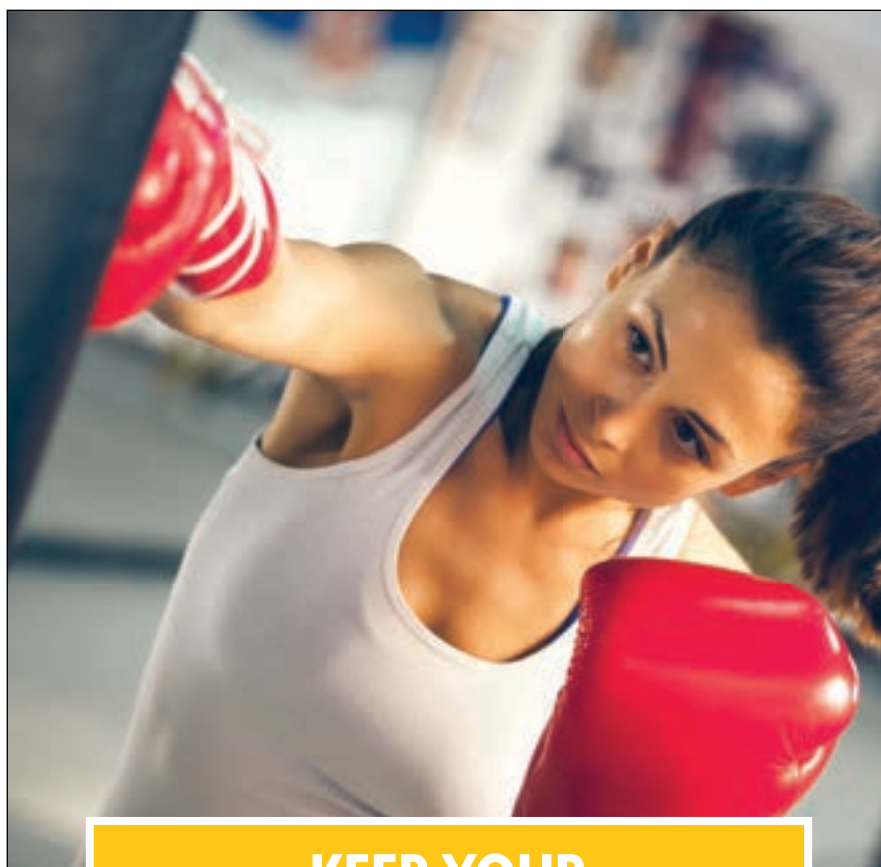


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New puppies brighten local homes

PUPPY LOVE

Continued from Page 1



Silas demonstrates his unbridled affection for feline friend Gideon. (courtesy of Shannon Higgins)

to their family. This is what they had to say about their new puppy who is about 13 weeks-old.

“She already has a bucket of toys and will make herself so dizzy playing that she falls over. After playing so hard she will pass out on her back with her legs going every direction.

“She tries to exert her will on the colder mornings and sits by the door rather than quickly going for her potty break, but she is starting to understand the faster she potties, the sooner she will be able to go back inside to the warmth.”

The Lyons family is enjoying two four-month-old Bichon Frise puppies, and each of the daughters in the family has been given one pup. Geddy is owned by



Daphne, a new puppy added to the Spencer family on Jan. 7, takes a doggie nap. (courtesy of Spencer family)

Jocelyn Lyons and Solo is owned by Audrey Lyons.

“Solo is always there when I need him. It was a bit difficult in the beginning, as he is my first puppy ever, but we both eventually learned the ins-and-outs of having a puppy. I can’t imagine my life without him now,” Audrey said.

“I love the small quirks of Solo that makes him unique. Like how he sleeps on his back, and how he likes to lay down in small holes, like under the pillow or between my back and the couch,” she added. “When I arrive home, he’s always there, wagging his tail and jumping up on me. ... he always is ready to cuddle on my lap.”

Geddy also brings a little added sunshine to their home.

“Whenever I walk through



These two fluffballs are Geddy (left) and Solo. (courtesy of Amie Lyons)

the door, he brightens up my day by just wagging his tail. He brings joy into my life, even when he wakes me up at 3 in the morning,” Jocelyn said.

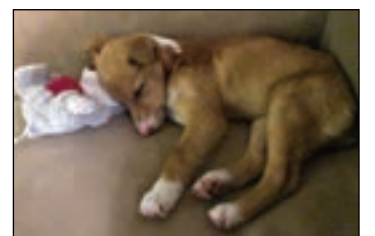
“Geddy is a very unique dog. He sits like a prince and it’s very regal-looking,” Jocelyn explained. “Sometimes, he runs and jumps into his bed like he’s had a long day at work. ... When he’s hot from running and playing, he lays down on the kitchen tiles like superman flying in the air. When he lays on his back, his ears flop back, making him look like a fox. Whenever I carry him, he puts his head on my shoulder.”



Ted is an adorable golden doodle. (courtesy of Donna Mirabella)

Donna Mirabella and her family, which includes four children attending Scripps Ranch schools, recently purchased a cute golden doodle puppy from a breeder in Utah.

“His name is Ted and our family adores him,” Mirabella said.



Harper naps with his stuffed toy. (courtesy of Alana Butler)

Rounding out this Scripps Ranch puppy parade is Harper, a 4-month-old cutie recently adopted by the Butler family. He was adopted from Baja Dog Rescue, according to Alana Butler.

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Home design ideas trending in 2019

(StatePoint) Usher in the new year with a crop of inspiring fresh ideas for home design.

To help you keep up with the latest décor trends, celebrity interior designer Taniya Nayak has pulled together the top five home design trends for 2019 to provide inspiration no matter your personal taste.

1. Natural and organic. Bring a touch of Mother Nature into your home with this trend that accentuates earthy, organic elements. Nayak recommends adding layers of textures, like natural raw jute, and incorporating muted tones, such as terra cotta, moss green or mustard, to achieve this nature-inspired style.

2. Feminine and free. This style embraces a pastel palette of pale blue, pink and cream to achieve a romantic and glam look. Infuse this trend into your space by creating a striped accent wall with soft-hued tones or alternate different paint finishes, such as eggshell and satin, in the same color for a dimensional effect. Bring



These rising trends for 2019 will provide the necessary inspiration to update your home's interiors. (StatePoint)

the look to life with fresh greenery and indoor plants.

3. Eclectic and bold. "Own your own style and show it off ... make a statement," Nayak said. An easy way to achieve this bold trend is to paint a door, an accent piece or even a ceiling in a bright color, like Jester Red

or Ceylon Yellow. Unsure if bold colors are for you? Take a look in your closet to see which shades you tend to gravitate toward most.

When it comes to achieving clean, sharp paint lines, one of Nayak's go-to tools is a premium painter's tape like FrogTape brand painter's tape that delivers the

sharpest paint lines possible. Treated with patented PaintBlock Technology, FrogTape is a foolproof way to get professional-looking results and eliminate the need for touch-ups.

4. Fluid and fashionable. Create a space that exudes
See **DESIGN IDEAS**, Page 22



Home sales slowed countywide in December

A dramatic reduction in inventory contributed to one of the slowest months for home sales last year across San Diego County, according to housing statistics compiled through the San Diego Multiple Listing Service by the Greater San Diego Association of Realtors® (SDAR). "December can be a slow month, historically, but as we enter the new year we are continuing to watch for an improved base of home sales inventory," said SDAR President Kevin Burke. "Sellers may continue to have the upper hand, yet buyers will hopefully have more choices with which to bargain."

Scripps Ranch home sales for December 2018

Single family homes sold: **15**

Median price of single family homes sold: **\$942,800**

Attached homes sold (condominiums or townhomes): **8**

Median price of attached homes sold: **\$506,250**

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DESIGN IDEAS

Continued from Page 21

effortlessness by infusing repetitive patterns and fluid transitions of the same color. According to Nayak, the best way to incorporate varying shades of a single color is to use a paint sample strip like you might find at a paint supply store as guidance to achieve a serene look throughout the space. Otherwise, stick to a single shade and carefully play with patterns. For example, pair striped dining room chairs with a patterned rug for a fashion-forward statement.

5. Luxe modern. A little design secret to keep in mind: mixing metals is back and in a big way. Nayak encourages DIYers to complement metallic accents instead of matching them. She suggests creating a palette of two to four metal tones and distributing them throughout the space in ways that are intentional and maintain balance. For a look that is glam, yet modern, consider pairing rose gold with pewter or brushed gold and stainless steel.

See more trend information and ideas at FrogTape.com.

Upgrades to add beauty and comfort

(StatePoint) While a simple home upgrade once meant a new area rug or fresh coat of paint, these days, there are new and unexpected ways to update your space in order to add beauty and comfort to your home.

Think smart

New technology can add unexpected convenience and luxury to your everyday life. Virtual assistants like Amazon Alexa, Google Assistant and Apple HomeKit can help make your space cozy, comfortable and secure, giving you the ability to control light bulbs, door locks, blinds, music and more with voice commands. Companion apps also allow you to control home elements through your phone from anywhere.

Particular about your shower? Create the perfect experience every day by programming temperature and water flow settings to your liking.

Enjoying family movie night and don't want to get off the couch? With a WiFi-enabled SIMPLEconnect smart fan from Hunter

Fan Company, for example, you can turn the light and breeze on and off with simple voice commands.

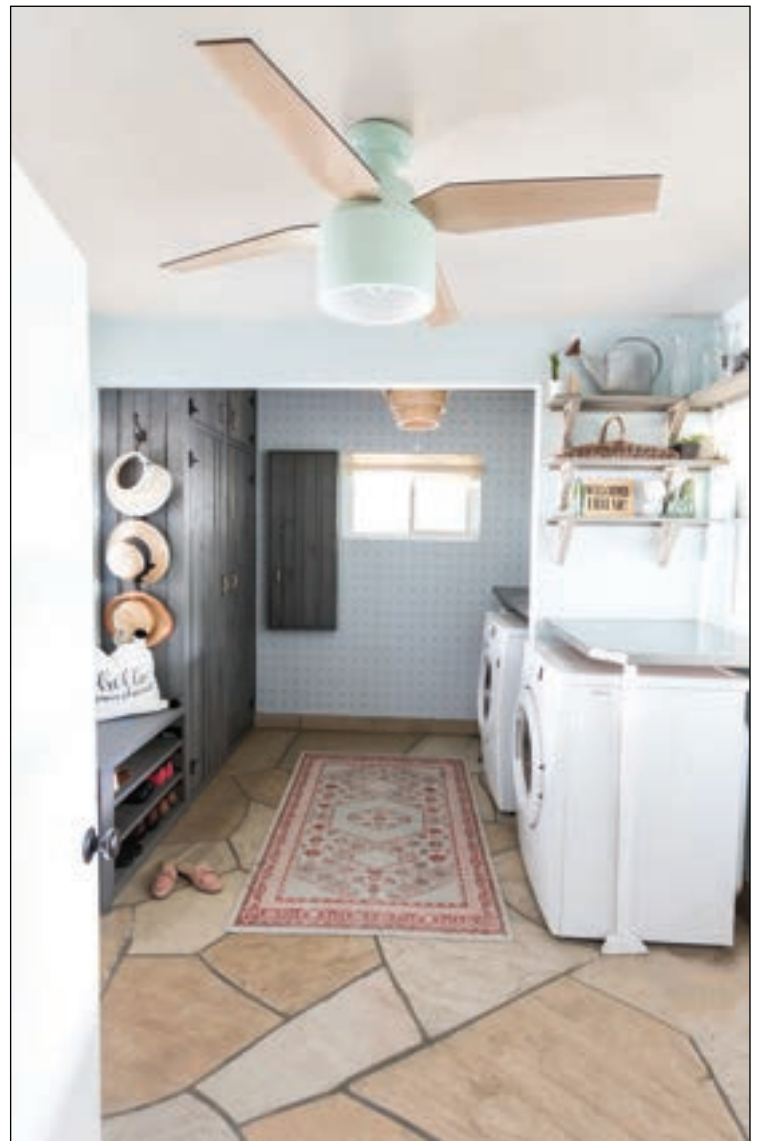
Living gallery wall

Add vitality and beauty to your space with a living gallery wall, whereby plant life becomes a work of art. Known as a vertical garden, there are many ways to go about it, whether it's affixing planters in a pattern to your wall or hanging a flat panel of succulents and moss and bordering it with a picture frame. This will create a lively visual and a healthy one at that – adding oxygen to the rooms of your home, or even nutrition, should you choose to plant herbs.

Add a breeze

Whether you live in an old house where central air is non-existent or you just want to add some ventilation to your space with a low-key upgrade, there's no need to call in an HVAC team. Adding a ceiling fan to the landing of your staircase, for example, can help pull and circulate cool air

See **UPGRADES**, Page 23



Thinking outside the box when updating your space can go a long way toward adding beauty and comfort to your home. (copyright Diana Elizabeth Blog for Hunter Fan Company)



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Before tossing rusted items, remember this process for countless common household items. (copyright Boonchai/stock.Adobe.com)

Rust repair made simple

(StatePoint) Rust is unavoidable. If left unchecked, it can lead to costly damage to homes and automobiles. Rust occurs when moisture and metal mix with car-

with the grain.

The next step is to seal the surface from oxygen to stop the corrosion process. Once the surface is free of loose rust and debris, a coating designed specifically for rust prevention, such as RustProof M/D from Martin

Senour Automotive Finishes, is ideal. For maximum protection, apply a second coat after two to five hours. If necessary, wait another two to five hours before applying an additional topcoat layer for extra UV protection.

A rust-free backyard is just a few steps away.

bon dioxide in the air. This combination causes immediate damage to the metal. With some mild weather and a little elbow grease, a rust-free backyard is just a few tools and simple steps away.

First, use a wire brush, steel wool or sandpaper to remove any loose rust, flaking paint and debris from the surface. For surfaces with an identifiable grain pattern, be sure to brush

UPGRADES

Continued from Page 22

into the upstairs space. Or, consider transforming the traditionally neglected laundry room into a space that's comfortable for getting chores done. The addition of a ceiling fan can create a breeze and alleviate the heat created by the dryer. Low-profile versions like the Cranbrook from Hunter Fan Company, are a good fit for the small square footage of a laundry room.

For more design or upgrade tips, follow Hunter Fan Company on Instagram at @Hunterfanco or visit it-saHunter.com.



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