

TODAY'S FOCUS: EDUCATION

# Football team accepts Ice Bucket Challenge



Murrieta Mesa football players and varsity head coach Justin Schaeffer (top row center) do the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge Aug. 22 at the school. More than 70 people took part in the challenge and raised \$756 during the event. ANDREW FOULK PHOTO

## MURRIETA STUDENTS SHARE ROBOTICS EXPERTISE IN CHINA

Chance encounter at world championships leads to summer trip to Xi'an and Beijing

JOE DYTON  
• SPECIAL TO THE U-T

Murrieta Valley High School's NightHawk Robotics Club members had the experience of a lifetime when they shared their expertise in China this summer.

The NightHawk Robotics Club designs, builds and programs robots and competes against other high schools. Murrieta Valley has one of the few robotics teams in the Inland Empire, so it mostly competes in San Diego, Orange County and Los Angeles.

The local focus changed in April after a chance encounter at the VEX Robotics World Championships at the Anaheim Convention Center.

Franz Froehlich was driving the NightHawks' tank robot around the convention center and caught the attention of Terry Sy, executive director of China ROBOTC. The two got into a conversation about the robot and the NightHawks' accomplishments. From there, Sy brought up the possibility of an internship with China ROBOTC for Froehlich and classmate Bryce Longacre.

The next thing they knew, they were sending their passports to Sy's travel agency to get visas and Sy wired them \$4,000 to build a tank for China ROBOTC. Longacre and Franz

spent 31 days in Xi'an and Beijing, China along with their instructor, Kevin Bradley, who spent 24 days there as a consultant.

They observed, judged and taught at a pair of robotics camps.

"(Sy) asked me to put together a presentation for the students regarding how we do things at our school, as well as a presentation for the teachers on how they can get up and running," Bradley said. "It was the trip of a lifetime and we are so very grateful for Terry and China ROBOTC."

The trip wasn't all work. Bradley, Longacre and Franz took in a number of sights, including the Terra Cotta Warriors, Muslim Quarter, the Bell Tower, Tiananmen Square and the Great Wall. Bradley loved every second of it, but says it'll be the people he'll remember most fondly.

"Terry and all of the employees of China ROBOTC made sure we experienced many different facets of the Chinese culture," Bradley said. "They were beyond generous and made us feel welcome with every activity we were involved in."

"Bryce and Franz were even there for one week longer than I was preparing for the robotics camps that we helped run. I didn't hear either one complain once. They were doing what they both love to do, just half way around the world."

## CALENDAR

### SAN MARCOS

**Sept. 1**  
**English as a Second Language instruction**

1 p.m., San Marcos Branch Library, 2 Civic Center Drive

The San Marcos Branch Library will offer an English as a Second Language class for adults. The class will focus on reading and writing in English, according to the library. Call the library at 760-891-3000 for an appointment.

**Sept. 3**  
**Government Affairs Committee Meeting**

8 a.m., San Marcos Chamber of Commerce, 904 W. San Marcos Blvd.

San Marcos Chamber of Commerce will hold its Government Affairs Committee Meeting. For more information, visit [www.sanmarcoschamber.com](http://www.sanmarcoschamber.com), call 760-744-1270 or email [info@sanmarcoschamber.com](mailto:info@sanmarcoschamber.com).

### ESCONDIDO

**Sept. 2**  
**Kiwanis Club of Hidden Valley-Escondido meeting**

7 a.m., Cocina del Charro, 890 W. Valley Parkway

The Kiwanis Club of Hidden Valley-Escondido will hold its weekly meeting at Cocina Del Charro. For more information, visit [www.hvkiwanis.org](http://www.hvkiwanis.org).

### ENCINITAS

**Sept. 1**  
**Workplace English for Spanish Speakers**

6 p.m., Encinitas Branch Library, 540 Cornish Drive

The Encinitas Branch Library will hold a free Workplace English for Spanish-Speakers class. The class will focus on English language arts, vocabulary, conversation and interview skills for general labor workers. For more information, visit [www.sdcl.org](http://www.sdcl.org).

**Sept. 2**  
**French Conversation**

1 p.m., Encinitas Branch Library, 540 Cornish Drive

French Conversation for adults with intermediate and advanced proficiency will improve fluency with weekly conversational practice, according to the Encinitas Branch Library. For more information, visit [www.sdcl.org](http://www.sdcl.org).

**Tuesday Movie**

4 p.m., Encinitas Branch Library, 540 Cornish Drive



**Sept. 12**  
**'The Untitled John Mayer Project'**

8 p.m., Old Town Temecula Community Theater, 42051 Main St.

The Old Town Temecula Community Theater presents "The Untitled John Mayer Project," a story set to the music of Grammy Award-winning songwriter John Mayer. Tickets are \$30 in advance or \$25 for rush tickets, available 30 minutes prior to the performance. For more information, visit [www.temeculatheater.org](http://www.temeculatheater.org). **FILE PHOTO**

A movie will be screened at the Encinitas Branch Library. Snacks will be provided. For more information, visit [www.sdcl.org](http://www.sdcl.org).

### VALLEY CENTER

**Sept. 3**  
**Preschool Storytime**

10:30 a.m., Valley Center Library, 29200 Cole Grade Road

Preschool Storytime will

feature stories, songs and fun. For more information, visit [www.sdcl.org](http://www.sdcl.org) or call 760-749-1305.

### CARLSBAD

**Sept. 3**  
**Baby Rhyme Time**

1:30 p.m., Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane

The Carlsbad City Library will hold Baby Rhyme Time. The 20-minute inter-

active program for babies and a caregiver introduces them to books, simple songs and finger plays. The event is for babies as old as 18 months. Tickets are required. For more information, call 760-434-2897.

**Sept. 11**  
**Library Board of Trustees Meeting**

Have a news tip or an event you'd like to see in print? Send details to [Temecula@UTSanDiego.com](mailto:Temecula@UTSanDiego.com)

4 p.m., Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane

Carlsbad City Library has scheduled a meeting of the Library Board of Trustees. For more information, call 760-602-2056.

### VISTA

**Sept. 3**  
**Zumba fitness class**

6 p.m., Brengle Terrace Park, 1200 Vale Terrace Drive

The Vista Recreation & Community Services Department is hosting Zumba fitness classes led by Jan Saddington. The cost is \$71 for residents and \$85 for non-residents for 10 classes. Five-class and monthly packages are also available. Registration is required. For more information, visit [www.cityofvista.com](http://www.cityofvista.com).

### TEMECULA

**Sept. 7**  
**Live music in the Pavilion**

1 p.m., Oak Mountain Winery, 36522 Via Verde

Oak Mountain hosts live music. For more information, visit [www.oakmountainwinery.com](http://www.oakmountainwinery.com).