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# El Rodeo



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## Mrs. Linares Bids Farewell to El Rancho

BY CHRISTINA PEREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

As El Rancho High School prepares for another academic school year, Mrs. Linares, Assistant Principal of Curriculum, bids her farewell. Upon departing from El Rancho, she will be receiving the position of Assistant Principal at North Park Middle School.

"I'm leaving for professional growth and discipline," Linares continues, "plus I love that age group just before they start high school."

Before embarking on her journey as a tenth grade teacher, many people may be surprised to realize that Mrs. Linares was unaware of the location of El Rancho. "I never knew where Pico Rivera was, I had never heard of it in my life!" she exclaimed.

Mrs. Linares began teaching at The Ranch with a group of kids called DPA, District Preparatory Academy, also known as 8 1/2 grade students. After two years, she transferred her talents to Freshmen Team. "These guys were right with me. They could fight, debate, and argue," Linares said. She then

reminisces about how she had never been a scholastic student.

After attending night classes at Cal Poly Pomona for her administrative credential, Ms. Ellis, former Principal of El Rancho, offered Mrs. Linares a job as an Assistant Principal of Curriculum. She adds, "maybe in the future I wanted to do something with my credential, but then Ms. Ellis proposed a new position for me."

Like many other teachers, Mrs. Zeko, sophomore Honors English teacher, believes Mrs. Linares "always tried to do what she thought was best for the students and the teachers, and people appreciated that."

As she reflects upon her experiences at The Ranch she asserted that her number one memory will always be the students. "Also how lucky I've been to work with the teachers," she adds.

Mrs. Chodos, El Rancho's librarian, additionally believes Mrs. Linares offered a great deal of support. "She has always been a positive person and always makes people feel good," as she adds.

At North Park, Mrs. Linares hopes to prepare the students with the qualities that are required



Mrs. Linares reflects on what being a Don has meant to her.

CHRISTINA PEREZ

for becoming an El Rancho Don.

"I love El Rancho, it's all I know, but I'm not scared to leave. It might be sad even though I will be going down the street," she replies. Mrs. Lin-

ares anxiously awaits working with students again and dealing with disciplinary challenges.

In her final adieu, Mrs. Linares would like to express her gratification to the "teach-

ers, and more importantly, the students for teaching me all that I know. I really want to help the North Park students get ready for El Rancho life for I know what it takes to be a Don."

## L.E.A.R.N. Provides After School Activities



Seniors, Jairo Haro and Chris Zarate, learn basic songwriting from Mr. Parra.

NAOMI ORTEGA

BY PARICK RUBALCAVA  
EL RODEO STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Recently, El Rancho has been given the privilege of being host to several after-school activities, taught by an extensive list of teachers. These activities range from the arts, to science, even to fitness. The activities are held on different dates, all between Monday and Thursday, and take part in the instructor's room.

As for the funding of these activities, Mr. Genis, superintendent of El Rancho, said, "[the activities] that are going on after school usually come out of my budget. The PREP program, a branch off of the LEARN pro-

gram, are paying for this...it is saving me some money, because with the budget it is very difficult to maintain these kind of activities without their help...[putting together these activities] was not too difficult, because the LEARN program did most of the organizing and most of getting it together. Of course, with our input, they were able to put that fully together. We are very fortunate to have the LEARN organization here."

The teachers taking part, as Mr. Genis claimed, "were pretty eager; it's [the] teachers that are dedicated."

But could the average student find these activities enjoyable? "I am hoping

that happens," said Genis, "the middle kid is always left out."

"These after-school programs are very important," Mr. Genis concluded, "we need some activities for kids after school kids that are not athletic."

An example of one such activity is Mr. Para's Song Writing Club, which takes place in Z-4 on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Mr. Para, who has been writing his own music for 18 years, said that his club is "about students interested in sharing their own original music that they write. It is also about learning basic guitar, [and] it is about sharing your music in front of people. I'm go-

ing to help them get it together, and get it ready for performance. And we're also maybe going to start performing around school."

"I think what we can hope to learn is collaboration, working with other song writers," Para continued, "Learning about talent that they do not know about. Maybe they can find something they're good at."

Another club looking to fascinate the students of El Rancho is Mr. Halverson's Science and Electronics Club. Mr. Halverson, who is heading both the Science and Electronics club and Science Tutoring Lab, meets with his club on Wednesdays between 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM in M-1.

"The club starts out by introducing the students to Electronics in as fun a way as possible," Halverson explains. "And that's why I've decided to start with the game."

The "game" Halverson is referring to is called the "130 in 1", which is a machine designed to be able to accommodate 130 different electronic projects. The "130 in 1" is rather large and requires the student to move bits of wire through its circuits. With this "130 in 1," electronics such as amplifiers, metal detectors, radio transmitters, can be constructed.

"The game is a starting point. It's fun and you can play with it," said Halverson.

Halverson, who has been creating electronics since the age of 13, further explains how an

advanced project would be conducted: "let's say they wanted to build a great, big digital clock. Well, I can show them how to design it. It's up to the students."

"It is fun," Halverson concludes, "Science is fun. Electronics [are] fun."

These are only two of the activities available to students, so there is much more for students to explore and enjoy after school. Club leaders are very dedicated to making their club as informative and pleasurable as possible for their students. These clubs cover a wide spectrum of interests and are highly recommended for any student fascinated with any topic covered.

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## NEWS

# Green Team Cracks Down on Litter Problem

BY JUAN OLIVARES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Green Team, whose members are Carlos Figueroa, Robert Pedroza, Raziell Ruelas, and Jonathon Sandoval, introduced their plan for recycling at the Welcome Back Assembly held on Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. Their plan to recycle is to set up recycling bins, which should help reduce the litter at El Rancho.

"Over the past two years that I worked here, I knew what needed to change was the litter problem," said Junior Dean, Mrs. Garcia. "Over the summer, [I] asked the administrators what we can do to change the problem and the only thing I could think of was to create a PSA (Public Service Announcement) because [I] knew it would catch people's attention."

Mrs. Garcia established the Green Team because the quad at El Rancho was beginning to "have this mass pile of trash." It was getting out of hand and the Green Team had to find a way to try to get the attention of the students. "We make the videos because the kids here at the school get bored easily and the videos give them, some sort of entertainment and



*Green Team members having a good time while informing students about recycling.*

JUAN OLIVARES

we get our message across," said the members of the Green Team.

"Our plans for the future are to get more big bins, get bins for all the classrooms, and get more videos out there for the stu-

dents," said Garcia. "We are also going to get a waste company to come and recycle the bottles and they will cut the school a check so that we can use it for sports or anything that the school needs."

The Green Team is a good way for the school to clean up because all the trash that would have been on the ground is not going to be there anymore. "The seagulls will also be gone and none of the

students will be bothered by the seagulls trying to get their food," said the Green Team members.

"The Green Team will definitely be successful because we have already seen a massive decrease in the amount of trash after lunch," said Garcia. "The students are really into this and [I] believe if we keep it up and we keep doing our films, keep doing our posters, and keep getting our message out there, then they will be successful."

The Green Team members agree that they are going to be successful because they have "already sold their first one-hundred shirts and the campus is obviously cleaner now, which is not a coincidence."

The Green Team is expecting much from the students of El Rancho and they want to send a message out to everyone to make El Rancho a better environment for learning and to make things much cleaner. The Green Team is on the path to success because they have inspired many people to pick up after themselves and think more about recycling. They have also done many things to help with the environment and they have many plans for the future.

## Link Crew Lights Up the Night

BY JUAN OLIVARES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Link Crew's annual "Welcome Back Dance" was held on September 18th in the El Rancho cafeteria.

The dance got off to a great start and the Link Leaders were excited to inspire Freshmen and others to come out of their shells and dance. At the dance, Link Leaders sold glow sticks and sodas to the students.

The music at the dance was "awesome" according to some of the dancers; people rarely saw anyone leaning against the wall. Many students were dancing their hearts out. Junior Link Leader, Abigail Bermudez, said, "A lot went into this dance, like getting the glow sticks, getting the link leaders to donate soda, and getting all the posters up to advertise the dance."

Link Crew did all they could do to try and make this night as fun as possible by bringing things that the students would like, for

example, the music, the glow sticks, and the drinks. Link Crew has "gone above and beyond to entertain all the students," said Junior Link Leader, Jennifer Romo.

"I thought that the dance had a very good turnout. Although the DJ played the same types of songs repeatedly, it was nice to see that everyone was dancing, and not simply on the wall," said Junior Link Leader, Bianca Gutierrez.

The energy in the room was high and the majority of the people were dancing until they could not dance anymore. The people also looked as if they really enjoyed the glow sticks because people kept buying them and finding creative ways to wear them on their shoes or on their shirts.

Freshmen Andy Arias, Paige Sairomento, and Luis Torres all agree that the "dance was awesome, but the DJ should have played more songs that were not techno." Other people also agreed with this statement, but, in the end, the "dance had a lot of energy and it was a lot of fun."



*Senior, Oswald Lopez, (left) learns about the Art Institutes at College Night.*

BRIANNA MORALES

## College Night is a Success

BY BRIANNA MORALES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday, September 22, hundreds of El Rancho students and parents gathered in the new gym to partake in this year's college night.

After collegebound students attended a financial aid workshop in the cafeteria with their parents, crowds exited the cafeteria, made their way to the new gym, and began walking from booth to booth.

With all of the college representatives aligned in a circular formation, students were able to visit a variety of booths which all shared a main goal: to inform potential college candidates

of the institution represented.

"We had an excellent turn out," said College and Career Center counselor, Mr. Ortiz. Likewise, many students are encouraged to go to college night because "it's so informative" and "it's an awareness of the schools out there," said freshmen counselor, Ms. Sell.

"Informative" seems like the best word to describe the events of college night. "I walked around and talked to representatives of different colleges gaining information about their different majors and minors."

"I kind of want to go in the mathematics or science field and I found some really good

schools from the brochures they had and they answered a lot of my questions about credits, test scores, and applications" said, Junior, Arthur Juarez.

Many students appreciate college night and see the importance of it. "[College night] was extremely helpful," said Junior, Kevin Zamudio. "I learned a lot about my options for college".

Freshman, Paloma Martinez, best described the importance of college night, especially for the younger students. "It's a way for [underclassmen] to already have a plan written out for them." Junior, Rachel Gamboa, added, "[College night] made me open my mind to other colleges."



*Link Leaders at the Welcome Back Dance*

JUAN OLIVARES



## ENTERTAINMENT

The Killers Enter a New *Day and Age* in L.A.

BY: NAOMI ORTEGA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

As The Killers come to the end of their *Day and Age* Tour, they wowed fans at the Santa Barbara Bowl and Hollywood Bowl. The Las Vegas native band stayed true to their roots by setting the stage with palm trees and flashing lights that very much resembled that of the Las Vegas strip.

"I can't believe it's really them! I've been watching them on YouTube for so long and now I'm finally here," said enthusiastic long time fan, junior, Leticia Martinez at the first appearance of the band.

The Killers opened both concerts with their first single off of *Day and Age*, "Human." Leticia and I both agreed on the opening song being our favorite moment. The anticipation to finally see them came to an end and the concert began.

The setting at the Santa Barbara Bowl was great. The venue was just the right size and the sound and performance were amazing.

All was well until Brandon Flowers, lead singer, showed a lack of character. Towards the end of the concert Flowers completely lacked the energy and connection with audience, which he is usually known for.

At most concerts he is seen running back and forth on stage and trampling on speakers, but at the Santa Barbara Bowl the only time he was seen running was right off stage, after their encore of "When You Were Young," without even thanking the crowd.



The Killers, (left to right Mark Stoermer, Brandon Flowers, Ronnie Vannucci, and Dave Keuning), have done a lot of growing up since this photo was taken during the *Hot Fuss* era.

I was left disappointed in my favorite band, but they redeemed themselves with a fantastic show at the Hollywood Bowl.

Flowers stepped up his game running in between the audience and stopping between songs to talk to his fans. All the

energy he lacked in Santa Barbara was found in Hollywood.

At the Hollywood Bowl the sound was, once again, amazing. The Killers lived up to their reputation as great live entertainers with the use of the lights, fireworks, and confetti that fell upon

the audience as they came to an end of "All These Things That I've Done." The crowd roared for an encore and The Killers delivered with "This is Your Life," a collaboration with The Psychedelic Furs of "Pretty In Pink," and finally left the audience in awe

with "When You Were Young."

"It was epic," said El Rancho alumni Juan Ortega as the show came to its conclusion.

The Killers put on a beyond amazing show. I wouldn't mind seeing them again, or just Brandon Flowers.



BY DANIELA AGUILAR, EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

## Capture the Moment With the New iPod

Apple's new iPod Nano makes a breakthrough with a video camera! It's not the only upgrade Apple made; it installed FM radio.

The video camera allows you to alter your clips with a special effects department and lets you upload it to YouTube, Mobile Me, and Facebook. The lens of the camera is located on the back, recording either landscape or portrait with a larger screen. Along with that, it has a built-in microphone that will play back with sound but cannot take still images or zoom.

Interrupted while listening to a radio show? The FM radio on the Nano can pause, rewind as far as 15 minutes, and fast-forward into the broadcast. With a clean, audible sound, it has good reception. Your earphones are the antennas. The benefit of it too is the ability to tag music; which means you can purchase the song once you connect it to your iTunes. Another way to get a hold of a song you like is Voice Over, program that makes your iPod talk to you and tells you the name of the artist and song that is currently playing. Yes, you can tag the songs as well and not to mention, it has a clear sound when it gives you the information of the track.

Sold in 9 vibrant colors, it all comes down to an affordable price. An 8-GB costs \$149.00 and the price for the 16-GB iPod Nano is \$179.00. The Apple Company made a great change on this product.

## Burton's Latest Creation

BY PALOMA BUENOSTRO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Newest Tim Burton Film, *9*, is set in a post apocalyptic time and all that's left are nine rag doll-looking creatures. Created by a scientist, their objective is to destroy a huge machine they call "The Beast" (also created by this scientist). Directed by Shane Acker and produced by Tim Burton (*Nightmare Before Christmas*, *Coraline*), Timur Bekmambetov (*Wanted*), and Jim Lemley (*Wanted*, *Red Eye*), the PG-13 animated feature pulled in just a bit over \$15 million opening weekend.

Though *9* is an animated film, don't let that fool you. *9* starts off very dark just like any other Tim Burton film. Immediately you are pulled in and throughout the movie you begin to wonder "what is the purpose of these rag dolls and what are they after?" You find the answers to these questions within the first 30 minutes of the movie. Unlike the first half, the remaining portion of the movie lacks adventure and mystery. The movie was just way too short (79 minutes). Much more action could have been added.

ed. It feels as if all the suspense gets built up so much and then it just doesn't deliver very well. On the plus side, the sound effects in this movie were amazing. Considering it is an animated film, it's really astonishing that you can hear every detail. Because of its amazing sound it's a movie I would recommend watching in theaters. Although the film was "cute" and all, I wouldn't take kids to see it. Just because it's a cartoon you shouldn't assume it's a movie targeted for children. *9* had a great story line but is not one of my favorites of Tim Burton's films.

Overall Grade: B





## FEATURES

## Anderson is Back and Ready to Inspire

BY: PRISCILLA AMAVIZCA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Who would give up retirement to return to the days of work? Mr. Doug Anderson is one of those people. He is a teacher of much experience and accomplishments. Though he had decided to retire from his teaching career at El Rancho in 2009, Mr. Anderson has returned and is ready to keep on "going for a couple more years."

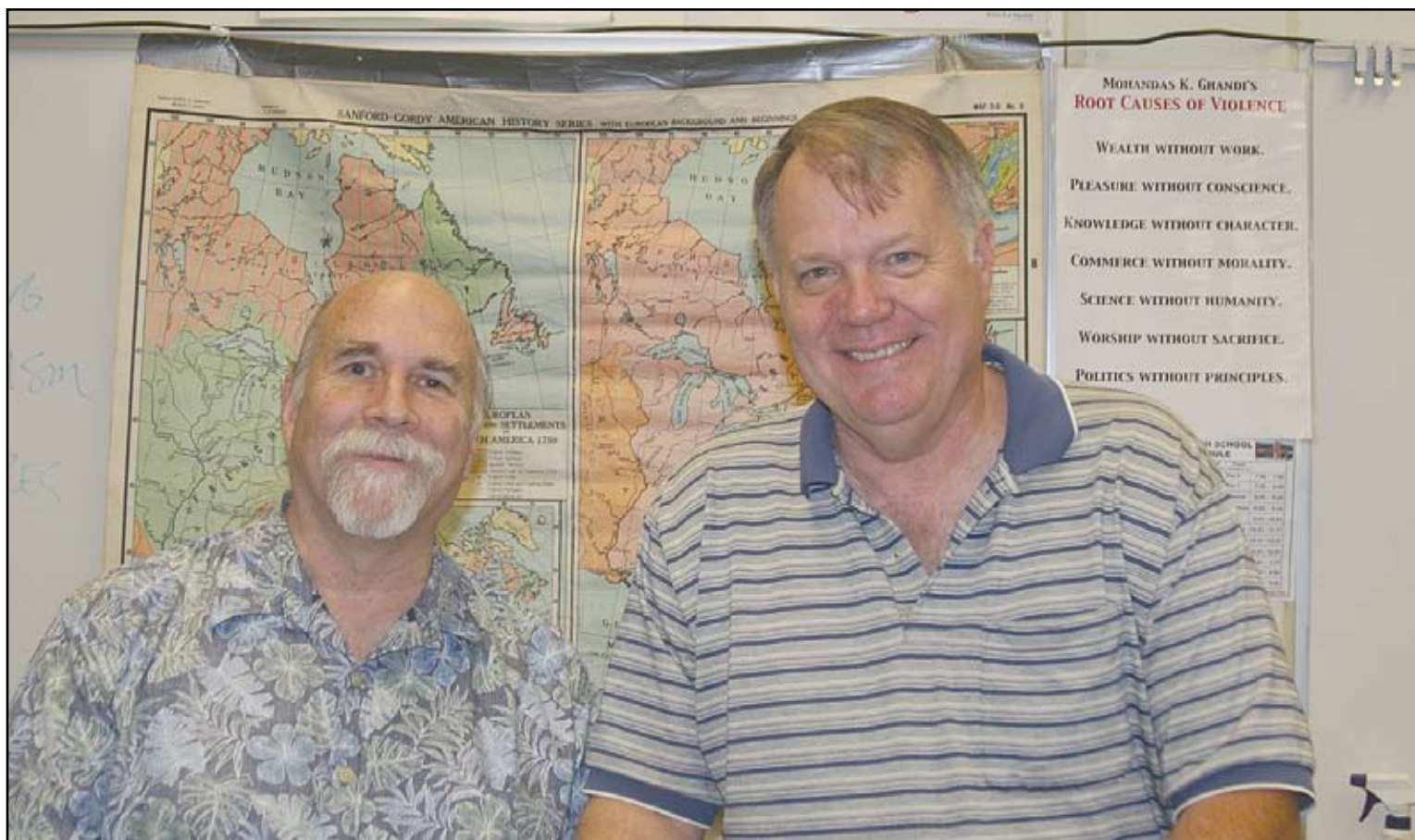
Anderson has taught at El Rancho for 38 years. "It feels as if I haven't left," he said, but he is, overall, happy to be back at El Rancho.

Anderson decided to return to The Ranch because he enjoys teaching Team with Mr. McMullen. He instructs the Junior Honors U.S. History Team class because he enjoys the "cultural aspects" such as the sports and music.

Besides returning to El Rancho to continue teaching, Anderson says that if he was on his retirement, he "would probably be pretty bored."

He likes the faculty and the environment El Rancho contains. Anderson is content with taking his time getting ready for his job, and that his decision are easing him into retirement.

Mr. Tim McMullen, Anderson's collaborator for the Ju-



Mr. McMullen and Mr. Anderson reunited to continue teaching their honors classes.

PRISCILLA AMAVIZCA

nior Honors class, says that he is "ecstatic" that his colleague is back to "continue tradition."

McMullen explains if Anderson had not returned, major changes might have occurred for the Team class, or have not continued at all. Their honors class

is one of the most traditional classes remaining at El Rancho.

Since Anderson's first year as a teacher, he was able to accomplish many things, such as "starting the Decathlon with Mr. Dyson back in '82." The founding of the well-known ABA is

another great achievement for Anderson, standing for the "Anderson Basketball Association."

He also considers his ability to teach Team and instructing water polo for a bit of time to be great accomplishments.

"I think students," says

McMullen, "are incredibly lucky to have Anderson continue [his] class because of his skill and dedication as a master teacher."

Anderson plans on continuing his teaching career with McMullen until they are both ready to retire.

## The Ranch Ropes in Five New Teachers

BY: ARLETTE LOPEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

One of the new teachers on campus is Mrs. Baleski, who is now part of El Rancho's Special Education Program. She is a former graduate of Bellmi High school and of USC where she was a flag girl for three years.

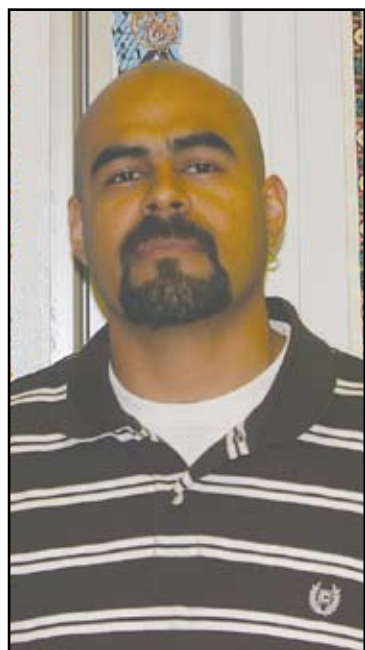
Before coming to El Rancho, Baleski said, "I love being here because we use the gym as a facility, I love working at the gym because I didn't [have] that opportunity at the other school; I also love the staff and the principal."

She has a grandson who is seven years old and means the world to her. Baleski has three passions in her life, which are the lord, her grandson, and to work out; "I love to work out, it [used] to be my number one passion," Baleski states.

She advises students to "be the best person they can be and to live today thinking about the future."



Mrs. Baleski



Mr. Cruz

Mr. Cruz is also a member of the Special Education Program. "I love El Rancho because it reminds me of my old highs school," says Josue Cruz, who is a graduate of Fillmore High School and of UCLA.

Before coming to El Rancho, he taught at Santee Education Complex in South Central. Cruz describes that there is nothing hard about being a teacher "it's just fun."

He balances his work and life style by keeping a "pattern." His after school activities are attending night classes and working out. Cruz advises to every student to "play sports and be involved."

Mrs. Werner is a first time teacher of the special education program. She is a graduate of Cal State Long Beach. Before coming to El Rancho she taught at Los Alamitos High School as a CAHSEE math teacher.

This year is her first time teaching a special Education class. Werden said, "I love El Rancho because every one is kind. I love the school spirit," Her after school activity is photography.

She has two daughters the oldest is twenty-three and the youngest is twenty-one. She tries to have activities with her daughters to have a good relationship with them.



Mrs. Werner



Mrs. Jensen

"I am happy I am back," says Victoria Jensen, who is a returning teacher at El Rancho High School.

Once again, she's here to teach 10<sup>th</sup> grade English for another year. Jensen said, "keeping up with the grades is the hardest thing about being a teacher."

Before coming to El Rancho, Jensen taught at Vintage High School in Napa. She received her degree at Whittier College.

After school she likes to go home and be with her husbands and two and a half year old daughter.

Another new teacher to El Rancho's Staff is Ms. Salway. "I received my masters at the University of La Verne," says Physical Education coach Stacy Salway who is a graduate of Las Cruces High School in New Mexico.

She also attended Western New Mexico and New Mexico State University. During her high school and college years she played basketball and volleyball.

Before coming to El Rancho, she taught at Rivera Middle School for eight years. Salway says, "I love El Rancho because I see familiar faces and work with a great staff."

Salway said that the hardest thing about being a teacher is having the weather "over 100 degrees because I can't do anything with the kids." She advises the students of El Rancho to "stay in shape and have a healthy attitude, which leads to a healthy future."



Ms. Salway



FEATURES

It's More Than Just a Club



COURTESY OF MR. CRONE; MS. CHAVEZ INSTRUCTING THE LINK CREW ON HOW TO INTERACT WITH THE FRESHMEN.

BY JOSE REYES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Link Leaders; advised by a group of teachers, including Mrs. Chavez, and Ms. Melgar; met up during the summer to begin their training, in order to prepare themselves for the incoming Freshman class. Link Crew is a program that helps incoming freshmen become familiarized with the environment in high school. The Link Crew's training

was held in El Rancho's Cafeteria during the summer and taught the future Link Leaders how to interact with their freshmen, and how to help them feel less awkward in a new environment at El Rancho. The question still remains though, what exactly is Link Crew?

"Link Crew is actually a national program from the Boomerang Project and Whittier High School has it. A lot of other high schools have it too." Mrs. Chavez said.

Link Crew is a program that other high schools have used to help their freshman transition from their old middle school environment to a new high school environment. A couple of the teachers first saw it in a high school in Vacelia, and they thought it was a good idea. The person who sparked it all however, was Ms. Ellis, the previous principal at El Rancho. The freshman that go through the program, and have a Link Leader to help them through-

out the school year, are more likely to be confident and secure about entering a new school. Also, they're more likely to participate in school related activities.

"We've noticed over the years, that the kids come in and they're a little bit more at ease, and that gives them the confidence to do more things, like Night Pep Rally, and participate in games and then go to games and go to dances, so I think that what Link Crew has done, is made the freshman transition a more smooth one," said Chavez.

Students questioned why the Link Crew program was necessary, "It was necessary because we always noticed that freshmen felt left out." Ms. Melgar said.

The program appealed to teachers because they noticed that the Freshmen were nervous on the first few days. When this program was started, the teachers noticed that, slowly the nervousness that the Freshmen had felt was gone and that the Freshmen had confidence when coming to El Rancho.

Link Crew has set many goals for the Class of 2013. "We still want to be involved in classrooms; we still want to help tutor; we still want to have social events for the freshman; it's now that we actually have a club to fund-raise, that we can get more involved in the freshman class." Said Melgar.

The Freshman class is the most important class, because they will be the students that the new Freshman will look up to.



Johnathan Sandoval

Looking for Some Hot Stuff?

BY MARI DUENAS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Are you a hot single girl who's not looking for anything overdramatic and wants something quite simple in a guy? If so, Jonathan Sandoval, best known as Johnny B Green, might be the one for you!

Johnny B Green is a senior attending El Rancho High School and is searching for his ideal girl. Johnny loves to go to rock shows, enjoys doing homework and loves to recycle, which explains why he joined the Green Team at El Rancho. "I just like to kick it foo'." Sandoval says, stating that as one of his favorite things to do.

B Green is a boy who loves spending time with his buddies from the Green Team at the riverbed of Pico Rivera. Therefore, Johnny says that for his first date with a girl, he would like to spend time with her at the famous riverbed and show her around!

He is a big fan of staying up all night and eating at fast-food Mexican restaurants, especially when it comes to weekends. He says his favorite place to eat with a girl would be at El Atacor located in Pico Rivera at three in the morning because he finds the food to be extremely delicious and the timing to be just perfect!

Things to have in common with Johnny are to like Star Wars, Grind Core, and most definitely long walks on the beach. These are things he enjoys very much and he would expect his ideal girl to appreciate these things as much as he does.

"What is all you expect in a relationship?" We ask. "A girl who is just down to kick it and is able to carry on an intellectual conversation." He says. He is not asking for much in a girl and that all he wants is for her to be up for anything and to definitely have a sense of humor since he is quite humorous himself. Any girl looking for an interesting guy like Johnny B Green should give it a try and take all chances because he might be worth every minute of their time and he might even become the boy of their dreams!



Mr. Sorenson

Key Club Keeps Traditions

BY JONATHON RAYA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Advisor, Mr. James Sorenson and members of the Key Club are ready for another year of community service. On Monday, September 14 they met and discussed their plans for this year.

The plans range from building membership to participating in Relay for Life, which will take place later this school year.

"We need to build membership because the club is small this year and we want to do the events we did last year such as Relay for Life," said Mr. Sorenson.

Most of the events are the same as last year but there is one event he does want to try this year.

"I would like to do a beach cleanup this year," Sorenson said.

The beach cleanups will take place on a weekend

if the club decides to do one.

"I'm looking forward to donating to UNICEF because I want to make it a competition and break last years total," Sorenson said. "Our goal for this year is five hundred dollars."

Mr. Sorenson has a big goal for this year's UNICEF money collection. While Sorenson looks forward to collecting donations for UNICEF, one member looks forward to the Relay for Life.

"I'm looking forward to Relay for Life because it is always fun and it's a great way to support the fight for Cancer and Cancer research," said Ivan Briseno, a Key Club member.

Other events planned for the Key Club include participating in Trick-or-Treat for Hunger, helping with the Pico Rivera Haunted House, and participating in Christmas basket distribution.

Simply Irresistible

BY ARACELI CABRAL  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Whether you know her as Abigail or Abby, Junior Abigail Bermudez is the down-to-earth girl with an outgoing attitude.

Many would describe her as sweet, charming, funny, and smart. "I love to have fun," says Bermudez. "I can be a little childish at times."

Bermudez is a "showers singing," novella watching, ketchup loving girl for a passion for music. Her unique personality tied with her trendy style of fashion makes her "simply irresistible."

In her daily routine she balances tennis, Team, friends, and family. She also participates in her local church, and is also a member of this year's Link Crew. "I'm in a Christian all-girl band," shares Bermudez.

Bermudez looks for a long, strong, and trusting relationship. "I expect it to be like a legit friendship," she adds, "like best buddies and be childish without a care in the world."

"My ideal date would be going to a theme park and spend most of the day there, [then] later watch the sunset at the beach and eat cheeseburgers on the shore with lots of ketchup," Bermudez says.

If you think you are right



Abigail Bermudez is all smiles.

for Bermudez, guess again. "I like guys who are intellectuals," Bermudez adds. "Looks don't matter that much." She looks for 5% looks and 95% personality. If you are interested in Bermudez, win her heart with your amazing personality and a bag of Hot Cheetos or a scoop of Rocky Road ice cream.



## CAMPUS

## Reopened, Renovated and Ready for Use

BY BRIANNA MORALES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Among other changes for a new school year, restroom renovations, which are more than a few strokes of paint, but rather complete with new stainless steel stalls, are taking place in order to “make more facilities available for students” said Mr. Steven Rodriguez, Assistant Principal of Business and Activities.

Restrooms, which had been shut down for years, such as the B building restrooms, are now open, renovated, and available for student use.

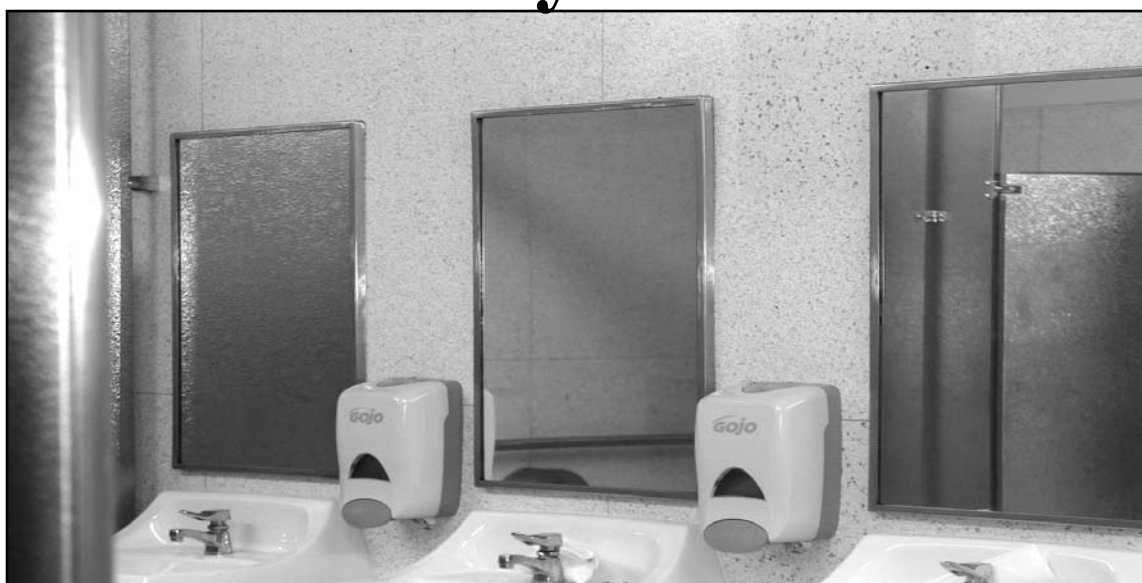
Similarly, restrooms which were being used as stor-

age room are now being “Re-furnished, remodeled, and made ADA [American Disability Act] accessible” said Rodriguez.

Because the new renovations were made to comply with the ADA, “students and faculty with special needs or accommodations will have equal accessibility,” added Rodriguez.

“[The restroom renovations] have been a thorn in the side of this office for a while. The work that the district and contractors did is beautiful; they’re really nice. They were able to preserve the look of the original restrooms,” said Rodriguez.

Teachers, as well as students, have recognized the restroom renovations as a good thing. “For the amount of stu-



The B building restroom, which is just one of the newly renovated facilities.

EMMA LEAL

dents on campus and the size of the campus, it is necessary,” said Teacher Ms. Kristin Oase. “Any-

time a school campus is given a face lift, it improves student and school morale,” added Oase.

The restroom renovations are to be complete by the middle of this month.

### New Gym Provides Much Needed Space

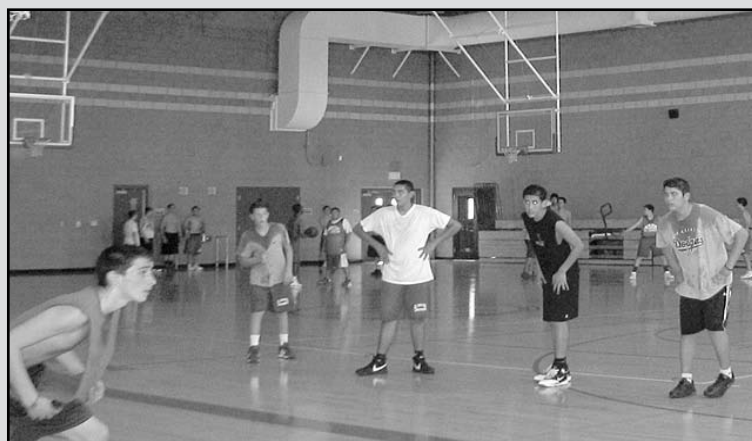
BY EMMA LEAL  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

“It’s finally open!” Principal Sam Genis said.

The past few months, students at El Rancho have been introduced to a new gymnasium.

About four to five years ago, the idea of opening a new gym was brought up to the Board of Education.

Julie Ellis, the former principal of El Rancho, initi-



E.R. basketball teams using the new gym.

EMMA LEAL

ated the plan due to the overpopulated El Rancho campus.

Raul P. Salcido, a former

member of the Board of Education, also helped with the development of the new gym.

As a result, the gymnasium was constructed and named in his remembrance after his sudden death in August 2005.

The wrestling, basketball, and JV/Freshmen Volleyball teams now occupy the gym which has a practice room for the wrestling team and courts for the basketball and volleyball teams to practice on.

Also, the gym is wide, which allows space for students to condition comfortably.

In regards to conditioning; Amber Calvillo, a

sophomore on the JV Volleyball team said, “It’s great because it has air conditioning and it keeps us cool.”

Obviously, the installation of air conditioning has made students love the new gym. However, the creation of the new gym has mainly given students more time to practice.

Students at El Rancho say that the overall benefit of the gym is that it contains cool air. So, if you ever wish to explore the new gym with air conditioning its doors are finally open.



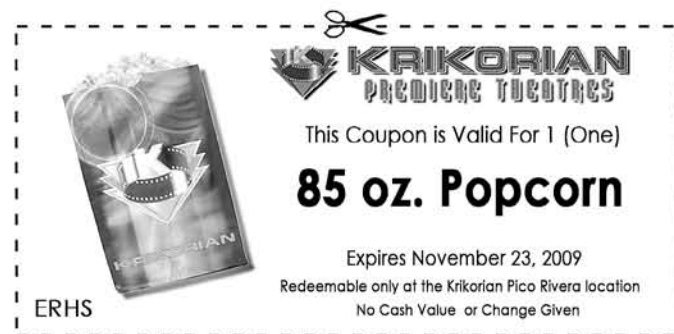
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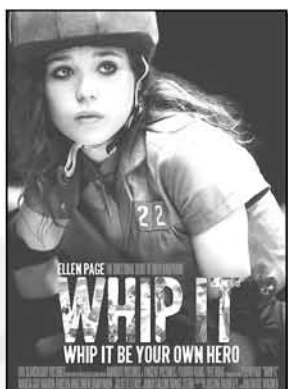
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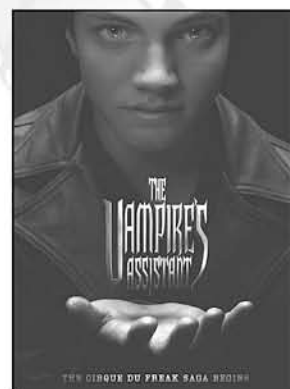
Opens October 2<sup>nd</sup>



Opens October 16<sup>th</sup>



Opens October 23<sup>rd</sup>



Opens October 23<sup>rd</sup>



CAMPUS

Teachers Show Their Spirit at Rally



Teachers, Ms. Oase and Mrs. Zeko, go for the win during a competitive race at the Spirit Week Pep Rally.

COURTESY OF DON WEB PAGE



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WORD ON THE STREET

How do you feel about the new schedule?

“It’s easier ‘cause the day goes by faster.”

**Berlin Diaz-10th Grade**

“I kind of like it ‘cause I don’t have to go to the same classes every day.”

**Alexis Ramirez-11th Grade**

“I like it. It’s way easier than last year. It’s pretty chill!”

**Alex Luna-12th Grade**

“It was confusing but like everything, you get used to it. It’s different, but I like it now.”

**Paola Gonzalez- 12th Grade**

Pepsters Ready to Show off Some New Tricks

BY ERIKA MORALES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho Pepsters have plenty of ways to get the student body involved and excited this year. They have been practicing all summer long, trying new tricks to wow the crowd at games, and pep rallies. The team consists of varsity song, varsity yell, junior varsity song, and junior varsity yell. The junior varsity song and yell teams combine to create captivating stunts. Emily Gonzales, an eleventh grade junior var-

sity yell leader says, “Practice was hard, hot, but fun.” The girls have been practicing a stunt called a straight up full, which is where three girls put the “flyer” in the air with only one push. Pepsters are looking forward to showcasing their new stunt at the Night Pep Rally. The varsity song leaders are eager to participate in the upcoming Homecoming Week. Senior, Bianca Marentes, shares that her team is practicing a new turn called a “toor” to show in their performances. Another new thing they would like to contribute to the pep ral-

lies is a “show routine,” says Marentes, in which they display their technique and dance skills. Five new Pepsters make up the team this year. They have experience in some kind of dance technique, whether it is from participating in another cheer team, color guard, drill team, or the J.V. Squad. The Pepsters of this year have added plenty of new tricks to keep the students at El Rancho entertained. They are pushing forward to make their routines fresh and new. Their hard work will reward to both them and their audience.





## SPORTS

## Girls' Tennis Team Finds Success on New Courts

BY REBECCA GALLEGOS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho's Girls' Tennis Team has new sources of motivation this year: brand new tennis courts, beside a brand new gymnasium.

New courts came at a great time for Girls' Tennis because the previous courts and nets were in desperate need of repair. Every time it rained, water would pool on the courts and the girls would have to use brooms to sweep away the water. One net was completely broken and had to be held up by duck tape, which was not an attractive sight for visiting teams.

ER Girls' Tennis wants teams to come to El Rancho and see that they mean business, and play to win. Beat up courts and an old parking lot were a contradiction to the girl's commitment, so when the new courts were built the girls were excited. Senior, Venessa



The Girls' Varsity Tennis team is getting ready for their season.

REBECCA GALLEGOS

Lopez, says the "The courts make me want to play better to show that El Rancho not only has nice

courts, but good players as well."

Coach Lippstreu believes that the new courts brighten up

El Rancho's campus. "They are the nicest [courts] in the area," says Lippstreu. There is now a

new reaction to El Rancho's Tennis team. When other schools visit, "They see a nice fence and a brand new parking lot and think that El Rancho is a nice school," Lippstreu said. The other teams enter El Rancho from the back of the school and marvel at the grandeur of the new gymnasium and courts. They now see El Rancho's Tennis team as devoted athletes who are contenders for the Del Rio League Championship.

Previously, when schools had visited El Rancho, they saw old courts with holes and a broken net. These small imperfections took away from the El Rancho Tennis team's hard work and conditioning, and put the focus on aesthetic appeal. Senior, Karla Pereira, is "thrilled about the new courts," and goes on to say "the courts make it look like El Rancho has money and cares about tennis." Now when opposing teams play on the new courts and look across the net, they see a dedicated tennis player with a desire to win.

## Football Team off to 3-1 Start



The Dons at their home game vs. Bell Gardens.

ALYSSA MENDOZA

BY PATRICK RUBALCAVA  
EL RODEO STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

The El Rancho Dons Varsity Football Team currently holds a record of 3-1. They started the season defeating the number five-ranked team in the San Gabriel Valley, the West Covina Bulldogs, with a convincing score of 28-17.

For their second game, El

Rancho traveled away to battle the Cerritos Dons. As Cerritos led a drive in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, El Rancho's defense was able to end their hopes of a comeback and get the ball back with a minute left in the game, thus sealing the victory. With this, El Rancho improved to an impressive 2-0.

Despite their excitement over their past two victories, the

Dons were still unable to defeat the Bell Garden Lancers, losing 14-17. "It was definitely a learning experience," said senior, Varsity linebacker and running back, Tate Harshbarger. "We knew it was going to be tough going in."

Disappointed with their home loss against Bell Gardens, the Dons looked to bounce back into their winning ways as they took on the Montebello Oilers, again, at home. If El Rancho was disheartened by their loss to Bell Gardens, they certainly didn't show it, as they decimated the Oilers with a score of 42-7. "Everyone played a good game, everyone fixed their mistakes," said Harshbarger.

The Dons are currently sitting on top of the Del Rio League Standings, surpassing Whittier, La Serna, Santa Fe, Pioneer, and Cal High. But what about the next couple of weeks? "We're looking to improve on the details and come back harder next week," said Harshbarger.

## Girls' Volleyball Remains Confident

BY JACKIE MONTEON  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Despite a few early losses, the El Rancho girls' volleyball team sets its sights on a league title. The captain of the varsity team, Alessandra Ramos, junior and now MVP said, "I feel confident about this season because our team is strong and dangerous."

The first game of the season was against St. Paul, who gave them a hard time. During the games against St. Paul, the Dons' volleyball teams only had one win from Junior Varsity.

The second game of the season was against Montebello High. The Dons won in all three levels, which gave the team high

aspirations to continue winning. When it came to the game against Downey High, all three levels lost but the team remains confident.

All levels defeated Bell Gardens and only Varsity and freshmen defeated Paramount High. Girls' volleyball came in first place at the Pioneer tournament.

The girls' volleyball team has been training hard and has been trying to improve their skills. The key players of the volleyball team, according to the coaches, are varsity's Alex Ramos, Jessica King, and Katherine Gonzales-Lopez. The Junior Varsity's key players are Cielo Gomez, Jasmin Castillo, and Gabrielle Penaranda. The key players for the freshmen team are Alex Sanmaniego, Aileen



JACKIE MONTEON

Rodriguez, and Dana Gallegos.

"When we play we have the mentality that we will do good and we are eager to play like beasts," said Ramos, captain of the varsity team. The team and the coaches A. Picon, F. Sanchez, T. Lopez, and A. Marquez are all hoping for the best results from here on out. Results and upcoming game days are also posted in on the ERHS Don Page.

## Wynn Takes Time to Get on Track



Wynn working with his cross-country team.

JOSELYN GONZALEZ

BY JOSELYN GONZALEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Coach Tirrell Wynn will not be coaching the El Rancho track and field team this school year. Wynn was not able to complete the BTSA program, which supports the professional development of newly credentialed teachers to complete the requirements needed for the California Multiple and Single Subject Credentials. He only completed some of the BTSA program. Several obstacles that interfered in completing this program were his personal life, coaching, and school work.

Coach Wynn feels frustrated because he is letting kids down because of his mistake. Senior, Juan Urrieta, says, "It's too bad he's leaving, but we are still going to try our best to win."

"This is an opportunity for me to teach the kids that if you make choices in life, it's on them, and they are responsible for it," Wynn said.

As of now, Wynn does not know who will be the new head coach for the track and field

team. Senior, Daniel Herrera says, "No matter who will be our coach, our goal is just to win it."

Wynn will still be a P.E. Teacher at El Rancho, but does not know how this situation is going to work.

Despite Wynn's absence with the track and field team this year, they will be incapable hands of the new head coach.

Right now, he is focusing on his cross-country team. Last year was his first year coaching and taking over cross-country.

"I took over a winning program from a winning coach. Parents and students expected nothing less than winning. I felt like I had to prove myself as a coach. If kids don't believe in you as a coach students will not have the potential to do as well," Wynn said.

The cross-country season has started off well, with their first race on September 12, at Don Bosco Tech in the Santa Fe Dam.

Varsity boys finished second place in their division and fourth overall. Varsity girls placed fourth in division and seventh overall, and Frosh Soph boys won their division.