



Thursday, June 3, 2010

# El Rodeo



El Rancho High School - Volume 58 - Issue 9  
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## Diaz and Chapman Take Zucker Honors



Mr. Diaz and Ms. Chapman proudly display their teacher of the year checks, given by Ms. Natalie Zucker.

BY BRIANNA MORALES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Ms. Mary Chapman and Mr. Justin Diaz received the teacher of the year award, which is given by Natalie Zucker.

"I want to let the teachers know that they're appreciated," said Zucker.

According to Mr. Genis, the

teachers that received the awards are extremely deserving of them.

"Ms. Chapman is ASB advisor, so she's always dedicated. It's 27/7. It's not only during school, but also after school with ASB and all the activities she helps out with. With Mr. Diaz, he has a strong connection being that he is part of visual and performing arts; he really motivates the

students because he puts the students who are not going to college in a certain pathway that is important to them," said Mr. Genis.

Both recipients are honored and surprised to receive the award.

"I'm so honored. It's a really prestigious award that is given to a select few, and to know that my colleagues nominated me for this award means

the world. It's something that I'll always remember for the rest of my life," said Ms. Chapman.

"It was a complete surprise, and I would not have guessed that I would be considered for the award," said Mr. Diaz.

Ms. Chapman is almost certain about what she will use her award money for. "I'm not sure what I

want to do with the money yet, but I think I want to go sky-diving," said Ms. Chapman.

Mr. Diaz, however, is still unsure about what he will do with his newly attained money.

"My first thought is to just go spend it all on one thing, but I might have to think about it for a little while," said Mr. Diaz.

Feeling that teachers have specific duties to bestow upon their students, Mr. Diaz said, "It's the duty of the teacher to help the student develop academically and socially; the teacher should do whatever he or she can do to guide the student in the right direction."

Ms. Chapman is aware how students and teachers become connected.

"I love working with students and seeing them outside of the classroom makes them connect to you in a different way because you catch them doing things they like doing, as opposed to always in your classroom," said Ms. Chapman.

Wishing to thank everyone, for she knows she would not have received the award without everyone else, Ms. Chapman said she "appreciates everyone always being there and being helpful."

Since he was a student at El Rancho, Mr. Diaz employs the methods of his former teachers into his own ways of teaching.

"What the teachers that I had did for me is, essentially, what I'm trying to do for my students," said Mr. Diaz.

## Environmental Scholarships Awarded to Eco-Friendly Students

BY REBECCA GALLEGOS  
& JOSE REYES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

On Thursday May 27, four neighboring high schools came to El Rancho to receive scholarships "for students who have come up with really good environmental ideas or done environmental scholarship-worthy type of events or participated in projects to help the environment," said Assistant District Attorney Jacquelyn Lacey.

This year's recipient was Jonathan Sandoval.

"I am very happy to receive this scholarship," he said. "I think I got it because of my participation in the Green Team as well as my efforts here to better the school as well as the environment," said Sandoval.

Principal Genis was happy that Sandoval received this scholarship.

"I think it is well deserved especially with the hard work he did with the Green Team," said Genis.

In 1988, a company called Grow Group had an explosion due to negligence and created a cloud that was really big and cruel to the environment.

The District Attorney filed



Jonathan Sandoval and students from four neighboring high schools pose with their environmental scholarships.

a felony case against the corporation and they had to plead guilty.

As part of their probation, the company had to contribute \$270 and put it towards scholarships.

That money is invested and the interest that is made off of it goes towards the scholarships.

"Every single dollar helps. It is very difficult to go to school, because college is very expensive. Most people cannot work their freshman year of school because they are getting adjusted from being away from home," said Lacey.

Along with the scholar-

ships, ten new trees were planted on the El Rancho Campus.

"We are responsible as human beings for the environment, we have to take care of it, if we do not then I am all going to go to waste," Lacey added.

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NEWS

El Rancho Hosts Annual Relay for Life



ABEL MARTINEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On May 22, the Relay for Life was held in the

Don Memorial Stadium. The relay is a fundraising event held by the American Cancer Society, and its goals are to raise money for cancer research,

spread cancer awareness, and to unite groups and communities to fight against cancer. There were hundreds jam-packed in the stadium to not

only commemorate those who have been taken by cancer, but to honor those who have been fortunate enough to survive. The field was crowded with the tents, canopies, and barbeques of all those that chose to participate. Among the groups involved were El Rancho's Leos Club, the Key Club, One Hope, the Team Circle of Friends, Team Fight On and many more. Each group had a symbol that represented their survivor in which they carried for each lap. Entertainment was provided with performances by the El Rancho High School Chora-leers, the Drill Team of South Ranchito Elementary, face painting, and vending booths. The event officially began at 9 am, starting with the survivors taking their inaugural lap around the track. Following the survivors, anyone who wanted to take a stroll on the track

was more than welcome to. From night to the early morning of May 23<sup>rd</sup>, people walked around the track. The Luminaria Ceremony was held when the night arrived. Participants gathered around with one another to remember those who have been taken by cancer. Candles were placed inside and the bags lined the edge of the track in remembrance of the survivors. There were a number of bags coordinately placed on the home bleachers of the stadium to illuminate the words "HOPE" followed by the words "CURE." Silence instilled the stadium as all the participants took to the track for a few laps to honor those who have fallen to cancer. After 24 hours of reminiscing, celebrating, and walking laps around the track, the event wrapped up Sunday morning with a climactic final lap by of the participants.

Key Club Leads Dons in Penny War



BY ARLETTE LOPEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

PENNY FIGHT!!!!!! "Pennies for patients" was a collection of money for patients with cancer. On April 26th AVID and Key Club announced a penny war competition and lasted until May 14th for three weeks. A Penny War is a collective of pennies from each class or club. The most box with pennies wins but to make the other classes or club lose points, students could sabotage their boxes with silver coins or dollar bills. The accumulation of classrooms and clubs in each grade level had to collect the most pennies they possibly could, and pennies alone, in order to claim the title of "grand winner." The first week of the drive AVID/Key club were in first place with \$11.84, second place were freshman with

\$0.00, third place were juniors with negative \$27.66, forth place were sophomores with negative \$57.89 and last place were seniors with negative \$226.92. The second week seniors are right back up in first place with \$77.24, second place were sophomores with \$25.60, third place juniors with negative \$3.04, forth place AVID/Key club with negative \$19.99, and last place were freshman with negative \$84.21. The last week AVID/Key club came back up in first place with negative \$8.15, "It was a group collaborative effort between AVID/Key club" said English teacher Ms. Larios. Second place were juniors with negative \$30.70, third place were sophomores with negative \$32.29, forth place were freshman with negative \$104.21, and last place were seniors with negative \$149.68. "All the credit goes to the students and teachers who positively influence them," said Ms. Larios. The grand total was \$1,329.65; this big check was sent to the Leukemia Lymphoma Organ Society. Ms. Larios would like to say "thank you to everyone who participated and helped make this a successful drive. It was great to see how students came together competitively for a good cause."



Nine Hits the Stage Tonight!

BY BRIANNA MORALES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho High School's Drama Department and Choral Department have joined forces for the Spring musical, *Nine*, which will run from June 3<sup>rd</sup> to June 5<sup>th</sup>. Since the middle of April, Mr. Wlasick has been directing *Nine*, and promises "an evening of laughter, an evening of tears, an evening of dancing, [and] an evening of singing." Wishing to showcase the talents of the actors was the primary reason why Mr. Wlasick decided that *Nine* would be this year's musical. "I chose *Nine* because I have an actor who not only is a very good actor but he is an excellent singer, David Hernandez. So, I wanted to find a show that we could use to showcase his talents, as well as some of our other students. There is a wonderful part for Desiree Martinez to entertain and show what a great singing voice she has. Jennifer Ramirez is able to emote and display her singing talents, and Carlos Figueroa can put his comic talents to the test with a French accent, singing a major production number," said Wlasick. "Audiences can expect to see an awesome group of kids who have put their heart and soul into this production. And as far as the story goes, they are going

to go on a journey with Guido to find his meaning of life," said the musical's choreographer. In terms of choreography, the dance numbers in the show are "pretty exquisite," according to Elysse Mendoza. So, due to the complexity of the dance numbers, audiences can also expect "to see their peers in a whole different way," said Lorenzo Luna. Complete dedication has been required from all cast members to learn choreography, master notes in various songs, and memorize lines. "I have worked very hard for this. I have missed three weeks of Taco Tuesdays," said Luna. David Hernandez who plays Guido Contini, a man struggling to find an idea for a movie while attempting to maintain stable relationships with the women in his life, is confident that *Nine* will please audiences. "When people come to see *Nine*, they can expect to see a show worth more than ten dollars," said Hernandez. Irvin Cisneros best described the essence of the play. "*Nine* shows to appreciate women, shows how strong women can be, and shows to 'Be Italian.'" Confident that the show will come together seamlessly, Mr. Wlasick urged audiences to "Come and see *Nine*! Buy your tickets now before we sell out!"

El Rodeo

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OPINION

Students Debate Arizona's New Immigration Law



REBECCA GALLEGOS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Is it right to assume that when someone breaks a law, he or she will receive a punishment appropriate for the law being broken? It seems not only reasonable but necessary for a society to keep its citizens in check and to deter people from a life of crime. Illegal immigration is everywhere, and yes some say it is unavoidable and good; however when one crosses into another country illegally, he or she is breaking the law. Now, there are a myriad of reasons people flee their native country and relocate themselves elsewhere, however this does not justify their illegal entrance into another country. Illegal immigration occurs all over the world, and by no means is it a recent occurrence. People these days think

that going into another country illegally has no consequences as long as they do not get caught. Illegal immigrants who choose to relocate themselves in the United States reap the benefits of being undocumented. For example, some working middle class citizens cannot get affordable health care, but the government hands it out to the poor, **illegal** immigrants. The money for the benefits illegal immigrants receive comes out of the tax payer's wallet. Illegal immigrants do not pay taxes and yet they receive the benefits. Everyone who is not a supporter of illegal immigration criticizes the government for not doing anything about this problem. However, as soon as someone does take a stand, she is criticized for being the only one brave enough to incite change. Jan Brewer, Arizona State Governor, passed law SB 1070 that will help "deter the unlawful entry and presence of aliens and economic activity by persons unlawfully present in the United States," and pandemonium ensued. Now everyone assumes that this law will automatically lead to racial profiling. No one stops to think about other things such as deporting criminals and drug traffickers whose only interest is

harming the U.S and its citizens. The federal government's failure to secure the United States-Mexican border is what led Arizona to enact law SB 1070. This law does not permit officers to stop anyone just because he or she looks illegal. Probable cause is necessary to first stop a person, then if the officer has reason to believe the suspect is illegal the officer may ask for proof of legality. If people fear that police officers will racial profile, then this is not the fault of a law or immigrants. What does it say about our society if we cannot trust our own law enforcement? Why is it that now, U.S. citizens will rise to protect illegal immigrants, but not defend our police force? Do they have no faith in those who are supposed to be brave and protect us in order to keep our country safe? The Hispanic community is one of the more prominent groups fighting against this law, simply because Arizona has a high population of Hispanics. It is near the United States-Mexican border and many illegal Mexican immigrants usually come to the U.S. looking for work. American citizens are expected to carry some sort of identification card with them at all times, so why shouldn't an immigrant?



NATALIE RANGEL  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Illegal immigrants cross the United States' borders for a reason. They are searching for a better life. No one would intentionally break the law unless they saw no other means to make their lives better, if not for themselves, then for their families. What true risk are a few people to our population? To Jan Brewer, the governor of Arizona, this is something to stand against. With the passing of law SB 1070, enforcement officers have the authority to prosecute anyone believed to be an illegal immigrant. If one does not have immigration documents in hand, the officer has broad power to detain them until their immigration status can be proven. With so much power in their

hands, it seems more than likely that the law enforcement near bordering states will be tempted to abuse their power. They can detain anyone on false accusation and the person in question can do very little to protect themselves against them, because it is "the law" that immigration documents be carried at all times. Documents of that importance, such as passports, green cards and birth certificates, are usually left at home, stored away safely, not in wallets or purses where they could easily be stolen or damaged. To renew such items, or report them stolen for that matter, can be a real hassle. So how can a police officer expect someone to carry these documents on their person at all times? Highly unlikely that one would take their immigration documents with them on a small errand such as going to the store for a carton of milk. But if these documents are not in hand when a police officer pulls you over? Then off to jail until your citizenship can be identified. This bill will profit no one. It will only increase frustration between law enforcement and the Hispanic community, cause people to take action when action does not need to be taken and make Arizona appear like a racist state.



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FEATURES

# Gutierrez and Farias: Skateboarding at Smith

BY NAOMI ORTEGA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

From a 360 flip down the gnarliest gap to a lipside down handrails, skateboarding juniors, Phillip Farias and Jimmy Gutierrez have been skating for over six years. Skateboarding originated in the 70s and continues to be a popular sport. “Six years of skating and we still suck,” jokes Farias. The boys spend anywhere from two to six days a week at the skate park at Smith Park and various other locations. Skating takes hours upon hours of practice and strong determination. “You can’t expect to land every trick on your first try,” Farias continued to say, “It’s a good adrenaline rush when you do though.” With skateboarding, just like any other sports, there are injuries involved. All the practicing naturally leads to a couple of bumps and bruises. The worst injuries the guys underwent were sprained ankles, two at a time for Farias. They are also left with scars along their arms. Gutierrez argues that skateboarding has become a



trend. “You see guys come for a month or two then you never see them again,” said Gutierrez. Real skateboarders are committed to the sport, and not just the style,” said Farias. The new wave of skateboarders who are only following the trend don’t bother Farias and Gutierrez much. They both agreed that skateboarding is not something they will be giving up in the near future. Farias went on to say people will see him when he is old and yell, “Hey! Look at that grandpa skating!”

## Three Languages, Two Cultures, One Girl



BY ALYSSA MENDOZA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Salom malaecome chai mehoy is Farsi for *Hello, welcome, do you want tea?* You may be thinking “What’s Farsi? Who even speaks that?” Well Natalie Manssoureh Janbakhsh speaks it. Janbakhsh (pronounced Jan-baw-sh) is a Mexican-Iranian El Rancho student who is fluent in this language. Janbakhsh said “Before my grandmother passed away she would always give me Farsi lessons. She showed me how to read and write it.” The Persian Language, Farsi, is the most widely spoken language of the Iranian branch of the Indo-Iranian languages, a subfamily of the Indo-European languages. It is the language of Iran (formerly Persia). “Both cultures are pretty dominant in my family,” said Janbakhsh, “The only difference is that my mom’s side of the family [Mexican side] is more af-

fectionate like ‘Hey mija!’ and my dad side of my family is more quiet and conservative.” Natalie is a girl who knows how to liven up a crowd. She is a sweet and talented girl that loves her cultures. Religion does play a big role in her life as well besides culture. “I am Catholic.” Natalie began to say, “when I’m with my mom I go to Sunday church as a catholic and with my dad it is different.” “Some people go to a mosque but I don’t because my dad really isn’t religious. When my grandma was alive we would pray 3 times a day.” said Janbakhsh, “The earliest we would pray was before sunrise.” “My Iranian culture is amazing. In America, the New Years holiday is only 2 days but in the Iranian culture it is a thirteen-day holiday! The last and final day we have a HUGE! Celebration like a BBQ.” Natalie also said “I enjoy Persian food more than Mexican food because it is so good. It’s my favorite.” Besides being able to speak, read, and write more than one language, Janbakhsh does look the part. She is blessed with the thick long hair and eyelashes most girls desire and would kill for. But looks aren’t everything. This talented sophomore enjoys hanging out with friends, and she recently tried out for El Rancho’s Colorguard. Culturally diverse is a good thing in the long run because she can enjoy the best of two worlds. So whenever you are looking for a Farsi lesson or any good New Years parties look for Natalie Manssoureh Janbakhsh a girl of two cultures with a heart of gold.

## Falling Up Takes Off at El Rancho

BY JOSELYN GONZALEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Senior, Julian Gomez a bass player and guitarist junior, Mark Catano had never met until last semester in Ms.Dodd’s class, History of Rock. “We did a project where we had to cover a song from a Beatles’ album and that’s the day when we officially became friends,” said Gomez. In other words, that’s when they became one and “jammed” out together. Both Gomez and Catano are in a band called Falling Up. “I was thinking of a name for our band, so I thought of an oxymoron and Falling Up came up to mind. I thought it was clever,” Catano said. “I’ve met guitarists, but I never got along with them until I met Mark,” Gomez said. “He was the first base player I had ever met and I really got along with him,” Catano said. Gomez and Catano inspire each other to create music. “When we come up with songs we just



sit together and start playing and go with the flow,” both said. This duo practices after school in Mr. Parra’s Songwriters Club. They have recorded three songs with the help of Mr. Parra. “Julian and Mark are great musicians and I was grateful to help them record,” Parra said. Falling Up classifies their music under a hard/progressive/funk genre. Their songs have no lyrics it’s just instrumental. “Neither of us write or sing so as of now we’re pretty instrumental. We are looking for someone who could just write to our songs or even a drummer to just jamm out!” Catano said. Falling Up will be playing in the Songwriters Club Music Showcase hosted by Mr. Parra on June 12, at 3:30. You can check them out at [myspace.com/rushinchilipeppers](http://myspace.com/rushinchilipeppers).

### EL RODEO - SENIOR WILLS 2010

**Example: I, Andre Olguin, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My letterman sweater to Jerry, my volleyball shoes to George, and finally my mad dancing skills to Elaine.**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

**The news staff reserves the right to edit inappropriate material or excessive length. LAST DAY TO SUBMIT IS TOMORROW!!**



# CAMPUS

## David Hernandez Takes First at Talent Show



On top David Hernandez winning first place. Bottom left to right is Allie Aguilar in second place, and Elise Mendoza coming third place.

CHRISTINA PEREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Decorating the main gymnasium with silver music and a pitch background, El Rancho held its second annual talent show last Wednesday night. Fifteen acts that were made up of students of different grades performed on stage in hope of winning the first place trophy. Mr. Wlasick, Ms. Oase, Mr. Vargas, and Mr. Carreon sat

front row since they were chosen to judge this year’s talent show. The show began with the playing of the Star Bangle Bandert by Nash Rivas on his double-neck electric guitar. The night followed with other student bands performing to their style of music. Another performance of the night was Senior Vice President Allie Aguilar who danced a solo to a slow lyrical song. “I was really suprised I got second since I had thought of the dance right before the show,” says Aguilar. During intermission, Link Crew and Executive Commission sold tasty bacon hot dogs, ice cold soft drinks, and sweet homemade bake goods. The final act of the night was El Rancho’s drama student David Hernandez who took the night and audience by singing “I’m your Man” by his favorite singer Michael Buble. “The reason I did talent show was for my girlfriend. I wanted to do to something special for her by pulling her out from the audience. I really did not think I was going to win, but it showed me that I really do have talent,” says Hernandez. The show was an overall fun event since it gave students the chance to perform in front of all their friends on school campus.

## Wonderland Spectacular Dazzles Audiences



The Choir Department, the drum line, and the color guard all unite for one spectacular night. COURTESY OF LAUREN MILLER

BY BRIANNA MORALES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Choir Department, the drum line, and the color guard all joined together to create a Wonderland Spectacular last Saturday in the main gym. It was a show filled with singing and dancing with bright colorful wardrobes that portrayed the beloved children’s fable, *Alice in Wonderland*. Many worked tirelessly to ensure the show was top notch and up to the visual and performing art department’s standards. They stayed long hours after school to form an ultimate show. Lauren Miller, a former Choraleer, helped to choreograph the show along with a select group of Choraleers. The director of the choir department, Ms. Dodd, worked endlessly and was always there

for her performers, according to Choraleer, Angelina Wilson. The show was “up-beat, exciting, interesting, fun, and memorable,” according to Choraleer Alyssa Nunez. Their end of the year show was not only an opportunity for the visual and performing arts departments to put on their very best show, but also an opportunity for them to showcase their multiple talents.

Health & Fitness Club

Want to get in shape this summer? Come to our Health & Fitness Club after school Monday thru Thursday fro 1:30 to 3:30. The club will offer three different activities everyday: weight training/lifting, exercises like aerobics and body works, as well as outdoor sports. Get the benefits of going to a gym without having to pay the monthly fee! Come sign up in room A-207!

Music Production Club

The music production club is all about giving students the chance to produce their own beats, write their own lyrics, collaborate on songs, and even creating their own songs. They will learn the basics of composing music by studying music and producers. At the end of the summer each summer each student will turn in their song and they will be recorded on a CD. For more information go to A-207

The "Cook Off" Club

The "Cook Off" Club is all about having students interact in the Culinary Arts area. Students will be allowed to prepare 20 different types of food ove the course of 5 weeks. This club will provide all the necessary tools for students, for free! If you are interested in learning how to cook, or just want to keep busy during the summer join us! For more information visit us in room A-207. Can't wait to cook with all of you!

The Art of Photography Club

This club is all about the artistic elements of photography, taking pictures, learning techniques, and using originality to create a photo story. This club will provide the proper tools for success and all the student needs to bring is CREATIVITY. Each week the club will introduce a new form of photography to help expand the student's knowledge. For more information visit us in room A-207 and capture the fun The Art of Photography Club has to offer.

Creative Crafts

This summer, GEAR UP will be hosting an Arts & Crafts club called "Creative Crafts." All students are more than welcome to let their imaginations run wild! We will be making fun projects such as: Tie-Dye shirts, tote bags, clocks that actually work, and much much more! If you're interested stop by the GEAR UP office in A-207 and sign up! It's FREE!

Gear Up This Summer!

### INSTANT SUMMER READING LIST

**Question:** What was your favorite book when you were a teenager?

Match the answer to the teacher and you will have your instant summer reading list.

1. Pride And Prejudice by Jane Austen

2. Animal Farm by George Orwell

3. Vogue magazine

4. Go Ask Alice by Anonymous

5. The Crucible by Arthur Miller

6. Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand

7. The Pigman by Paul Zindel

8. The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

9. Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

10. Interview With The Vampire by Anne Rice

11. The Stand by Stephen King

12. The Stranger by Albert Camus

13. Catcher In The Rye by J.D. Salinger

14. Ender’s Game by Orson Scott Card

15. The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien

16. Breakfast At Tiffany’s by Truman Capote

17. Island Of The Blue Dolphins by Scott O’Dell

18. Tripods trilogy by John Christopher

19. Gone With The Wind by Margaret Mitchell

20. Hunger Of Memory by Richard Rodriguez

21. Deenie by Judy Blume

22. The Dark Tower: The Gunslinger by Stephen King

23. novels by Dean Koontz and John Grisha

a.Oase

b.Chavez

c. Figueroa

d. Kiralla

e. Castagna

f. Katsumura

g. Wlasick

h. Zook

i. P.Zeko

j. Chodos

k. Leal

l. Senteno

m. Leonardi

n. D.Diaz

o. J.Diaz

p. D.Picon

q. Crone

r. Kemp

s. Brown

t. Hartman

u. Carreon

v. Francis

w. Elias

ANSWERS:

1-L, 2-m, 3-r, 4-k, 5-e, 6-s, 7-d, 8-c, 9-n, 10-b, 11-i, 12-a, 13-w, 14-o, 15-h, 16-g, 17-f, 18-q, 19-j, 20-p, 21. u, 22. v, 23. t



FEATURES

Spotlight on Mr. Ortiz

EMMA LEAL  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Other than being the advisor of CSF, UC Partners and Advanced Placement, Mr. Ortiz, who is usually located in the Career Center here at El Rancho, has different interests and hobbies that he enjoys doing.

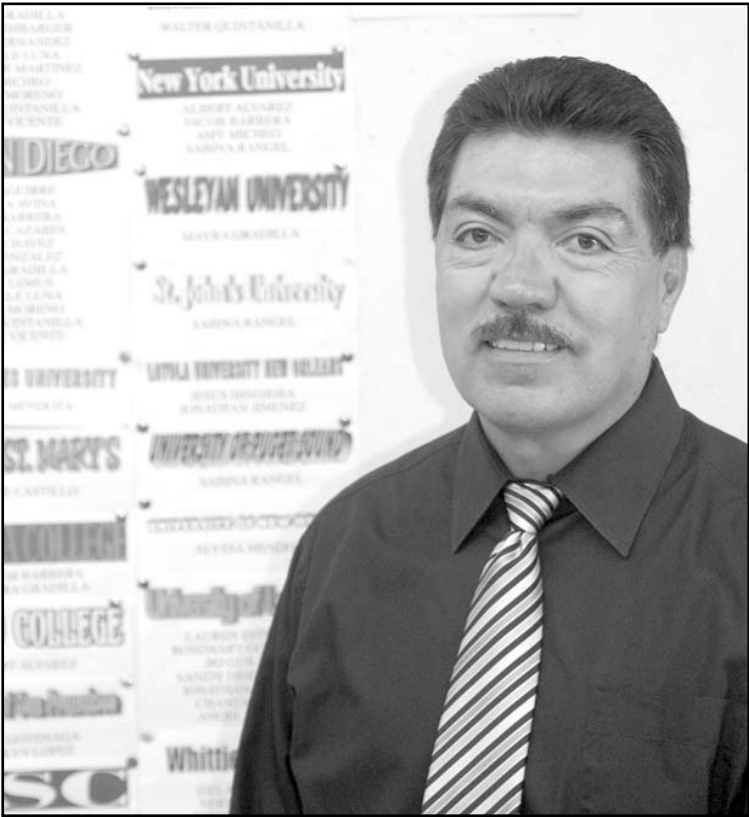
“One of my hobbies is working out. I have two exercise machines at home and I enjoy walking my dog,” says Mr. Ortiz.

When someone talks about Mr. Ortiz the thought of patience should also come into one’s mind. Though he may be a quiet and serene man his wild side would be considered hiking. Mr. Ortiz says, “I like the outdoors and I really like going on hikes, it’s fun.”

Also, as a college advisor he helps E.R students in the necessary things that need to be done to get into college.

For example, he helps students fill out certain paperwork and helps students step by step in signing up for specific tests or exams.

“I enjoy the work I do. I remember when I was in high



school, my college advisor played a major influence in me as a student, at that time, and he somewhat inspired me to be the person I am right now,” says Mr. Ortiz. So, if you ever get stuck

in situations involving test taking or college, calm down and think Career Center. There you will find Mr. Ortiz with answers to your questions regarding your college and career choices.

“Everything” is Art According to Senior Brandy Ortiz



BY LYDIA RAYA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

What is the first thought that comes to mind when you think of senior Brandy Ortiz? Odd, unique, different?

It is true; Brandy is unique in her own right, is not shy in the least bit, and proud of who she is. Brandy Ortiz is very open about self-expressionism, especially in her many styles of fashion and art.

Brandy has been drawing since fifth-grade, though she says, “she only started getting good in middle school.” She has worked hard to improve over the years, because it is her way of “expressing herself” and “the visions and fantasies of her imagination.”

In relation to fantasy, Brandy says that is the primary theme of her artwork; fairies, angels, and other mystical beings that look like realistic portraits. It may strike some people odd that her style of fantasy is drawn to look more realistic, but that is precisely what Brandy enjoys about art—mixing different style “medias” together to create her art. Brandy is very passionate about her art, and manages to transfer that “passion in her heart and mind” into her art with “hard work.”

And though Brandy has her own style of art, she does not stick strictly to that style. “I love looking at other people’s art,” says Brandy. “Because I just love to see the different styles of art, to see what their passion is about,

to see the different perspectives and motives in those pieces of art. “I consider everything to be art; cartoons, poetry, writing, acting, everything; as long as it allows you to express who you really are.” So, what does Brandy plan to do with her unique styles of art? Her plans for her future include attending the Art Academy after her graduation, so she can attain the experience and knowledge needed to go into a career for game design, fashion, or multi-media—a little bit of every style of art. “No matter what people tell you,” Brandy says. “Always strive for what you believe in. Not one person is right; as long as your passion for something is strong in our heart and you know that’s what makes you happy, that’s what counts the most.”

### A “Haystack” Brings Internet Freedom

Jonathon Raya, El Rodeo Staff Writer

Imagine waking up and trying to log into your Facebook, just to find that the website is blocked. Then, trying to tweet, only to have a pop-up appear, saying that your tweet is violating government regulation and will not be posted. This day might be a nightmare for you but in Iran this is what happens when people try to surf the Internet; the government blocks or puts restrictions on certain websites. This may soon change thanks to a program called Haystack.

Haystack is project to bring freedom to the people of Iran when surfing the internet. Haystack is computer program that allows full access to the Internet with no restrictions from the government. To the user of Haystack, it may seem to be a normal Http proxy, (a proxy is a server that acts as an intermediary for requests from clients seeking resources from other servers which means all browsers will be supported) but it is much more advanced. Haystack uses a state of the art elliptic curve cryptography, which is an approach to public-key cryptography based on the algebraic structure of elliptic curves over finite fields, to ensure that no one can read the commutation from computer to website.

The elliptic curve is strong enough in the program that the National Security Agency (NSA) trusts it to secure top-secret data. The code is also so strong that it would take centuries for all the world’s computer to figure out one users browsing sessions and that includes if they had full access to the Haystack source code. Haystack will work on Windows 2000 and up, OS X 10.4 and up and modern Linux.

The only way the authorities can stop the program Haystack is to completely disable access to the Internet. Haystack also has no list of servers which makes it difficult for authorities to discover which machines to block. Haystack is in the beta testing stages and hopes to get it fully working by sometime this winter. Haystack does accept donations of money or flash drives to help distribute the program when it is ready for use.

### Oops!

Lizette Melendrez was elected next year’s Dance Commissioner. The El Rodeo Staff apologizes for failing to include her name in election results.

**El Rancho High School**

**BLOOD DRIVE**

**Salcido Gym**  
**Tuesday, June 8, 2010**  
**8:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

**Please sign-up with any Pepster, ASB Member, Activities Office, Ms. Kemp or Ms. Chapman.**

All Participants will receive a VIP meet and greet voucher – 2010 Vans Warped Tour and a free T-shirt.

Come to give blood at select drives from <<DATE>> to <<DATE>> and get a VIP meet and greet voucher. This voucher, along with your concert ticket, will give you access to an exclusive area at the 2010 Vans Warped Tour (warpedtour.com).

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## SPORTS

# Pringle Recognized for His Dedication

BY MARI DUENAS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After a day of spending a great birthday supporting the girls' varsity swimming competition that took place at California High School, Mr. Pringle was awarded "Coach of the Year" on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

"I feel happy and proud," said Pringle as he reflected on the diligent work that the great group of girls accomplished.

Pringle attended Montebello High School as a young adult, and was part of swimming in high school and in local clubs as well. "Now it's a personal pride to see the area do well and be complete," he said.

Pringle has been working at El Rancho High School for four years; therefore he has been coaching the same students that started out as freshmen.

"It's really cool to get the award with the same class I came into the school with," he said.

For Pringle, some tough things about being a coach are putting emotions aside, since he is "pretty passionate," because he says decisions cannot be made based on emotions.

He is very serious about being involved with the group of students he coaches. "I like to be able to do anything I want my kids to do," he said.

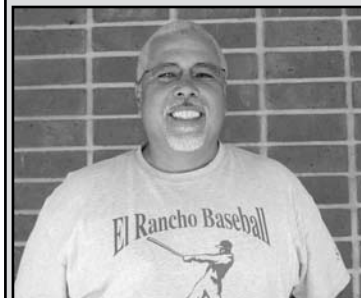


To be a great coach, according to Pringle, you have to love what you are doing and love working diligently. "Since this job doesn't pay big bucks, for

some people it's a lot of sacrifice but I'm proud of this work and that is not why I do it," he said.

Pringle is "happy to see that the girls have grown competitive,

and they committed themselves to something they think is worthwhile," therefore he feels extremely proud and knows he deserves the award for "Coach of the Year."



## Llanes Eats, Sleeps, and Drinks Baseball

BY ERIKA MORALES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Mr. Llanes had been an assistant coach since 1990, until four years ago when he became head coach. Llanes played baseball during his high school years, which is where others saw his potential for coaching.

"It's actually a funny story," he says. He began some coaching in his ninth grade year. There weren't enough assistant coaches for his team, so all the players took turns filling in. That is when a fellow teammate told him, "You walk like a coach, stand like a coach, talk like a coach..." This was one of the reasons why Mr. Llanes decided to become a baseball coach.

After playing in high school, he played for The Brewers, a semi-professional league in Whittier. There he met Coach Ed Calderone who ended up being one of the coaches who inspires him today. Along with Calderone, some other coaches who have inspired him are Coach Benjamin Meza, Joe Torre, and Tommy La Sorda the current and previous coaches for the Dodger's.

"I definitely eat, sleep, and drink baseball," says Llanes. "I tell my players that if they want to do well, they have to think that way." Another tip he gives his players is to, "take advantage of the moment," meaning to not think too far ahead, or too far in the past.

"This season we had one of our most successful starts, and one of our most disappointing finishes."

left this year with fond memories.

"I would like to thank all the kids and all the coaches for all their hard work because they have made this first year very memorable and very enjoyable," said Mejia.

## April Athlete of the Month: Richard Rios-A Class Act on and off the Field



BY ARACELI CABRAL  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Bases are loaded and junior Richard Rios is up next to bat.

Rios has played baseball since the age of three when his father signed him up for Little League. Now, his most memorable baseball moments are from his freshman year was "when I made the team here at El Rancho and [when we made the] playoffs last year," said Rios.

Rios often practices to improve his game and to become a better player. "Everyday, I practice at school and I usually hit at my garage every night," says Rios.

Although Rios finds the time to fit baseball in his schedule, his life is constantly busy with AP classes. "I just try to set time on everything: base-

ball, family, [and] school," said Rios. "My whole family has supported me and my coaches, too."

Playing baseball has positively helped Rios in struggles throughout his life. "[Baseball has] shown me how to work hard and to accept failures, and how to bounce back from those failures," Rios said.

Rios looks forward to playing next year and is dedicated to working hard for the team. "I just have plans to work hard in the summer and have a good senior year and make it to division one," said Rios. His future plans are to play in division one at Stanford University.

He wants to continue succeeding in his goals and has recently achieved Athlete of the Month in April.

## First Year Head Track Coach Mejia Leads Team to Championship

BY GUILLIANA BRAVO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Many students may already know Mrs. Mejia from math class or as the Girls' JV Basketball coach, but this season, Mrs. Mejia is the track team's new head coach.

"Everything went well. It's a challenge to take on and take care of all the athletes and make sure they're students before athletes, but it was a very good experience," said coach Mejia.

Coach Mejia encouraged her students to try harder to the best of their abilities.

"She did a great job; it's tough to handle a hundred and plus athletes, but she just embraced the

fact that there were so many of us and she enjoyed working with us" said senior, Daniel Herrera.

A great accomplishment for Mrs. Mejia as it is her first year coaching the Track Team was winning the Del Rio League. On Friday, May 2, the El Rancho Track and Field Team won their Del Rio League titles.

"We were undefeated at all four levels; girls varsity, boys varsity, boys junior varsity and girls junior varsity," said Mejia.

"She never stressed about it everyone just listened to her; whatever she had to say, we all followed," said Herrera.

Mejiaplans on returning next year as the track team's coach and





IN MEMORY

This is for you Manny



Photo courtesy of Robert's Photography.

By JOSE REYES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On May 7, El Rancho High School lost an individual who touched the lives of many. His name was Manuel Alvarez Jr., also known as Manny or Big Red, and was a friendly, cheerful individual who never let on how truly ill he was. He was well known for his bright red hair, enormous smile, and rubber band balls. “Manuel was an extraordinary guy who touched the lives of many at El Rancho, as well as in the community,” Said Gloria Martinez, an Attendance Office secretary. “Whenever you needed help, he was right around the corner to lend a helping hand without hesitation.” She added. “I remember every morning I’d come into work and answer the phone and Manuel would get a paper airplane; he always made it a point to throw an airplane into my hair because I couldn’t tell him anything [since I was on the phone.]” Said Penny Torres, another office secretary. “I remember he would always call me ‘Centavo,’ since



my name is Penny, and he would always say I was his ‘Centavo,’” She concluded with a smile. Manny also helped Mrs. Roberta Jimenez when her son was battling cancer. “He helped me a lot when my son was going through his battle with cancer and always told me to stay positive and that he would pull through in the end.” Jimenez said. “I’ll miss his smile and his ability to brighten up the room,” Jimenez said with tears. Manny was very upset to have found out that Mrs. Jimenez’s son had succumbed to his illness. Mrs. Cruz, twelfth grade counselor, was devastated to hear of Manuel’s passing, “I’ll miss seeing his smile, and also his enthusiasm and eagerness for school.” Cruz said. “ROTC is having the Baccalaureate Ceremony and a tribute for Manny and I want students and seniors to know about it because not that many students go, but hopefully with this tribute to Manny they will.” Says Principal Genis of El Rancho. “I’ll miss seeing his smile and his rubber band ball in hand,” Genis added. Manuel was also involved in El Rancho’s Link Crew and a member of the El Rodeo News staff. “I know the laughter will come back, but today it hurts because we’re missing so much: our daily chocolate, the latest in rubber band balls, his infectious smile, his whistling ‘birds,’ but most of all his enthusiasm for all things El Rancho,” Said Mr. Zeko, Advisor of the El Rodeo newspaper. “I can write inspirational quotes on the board all day, but he was a living example of how to live an inspired life.”

Our “Son”

By GLORIA MARTINEZ

Manuel Alvarez Jr., known at the Ranch for his bright red hair, “therapeutic rubber band balls,” and that enormous smile was an incredible young man. He touched the lives of so many individuals here at the Ranch as well as in the community. There wasn’t a soul out there that didn’t know Manuel- he was such a trust worthy soul. He would strike up a conversation with anyone that he came into contact with no matter the location; bus stop, market, where ever he went, he made friends. Manuel was an inspiration to all of us; in one way or another he made an impact on our lives. What a coincidence that whenever you needed help, guess who was right around the corner to lend a helping hand, guess who was right around the corner to lend a helping hand without hesitation? Yep! That was Manuel, an angel in disguise. When your spirits were low, he had a way to bring a smile to your face and brighten your day.



Gloria Martinez, Alexis Hernandez, and Penny Torres

Prayer for Red

By LYDIA RAYA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

It’s Friday, the day of temporary freedom from this place  
Of hours of boredom and forced food for the mind and future.  
Tomorrow would have been the day we picked up the pace  
Of our slowed, bored minds, if not for the news  
That we heard all over our youthful prison today.

May seventh, two thousand and ten.  
Just the other day, I was thinking of all the moments  
My dear friends neared their ending point of adolescence.  
For another close friend, this day is another of those moments  
But the end point for life came as well for another friend.

It’s noon now. Lunch is here. And the broken heart won’t stop crying.  
How could she? Our loss was a kind, humorous guy,  
Who had overcome so much and still had something worth his trying.  
Ani-ue hands a paper box to me, as I want to break as well.  
And he says softly to me, “Say something good for Red. This is his prayer box.”

Red. Manny. There must be some other alias I’m missing of his,  
But that’s all I need to let people know who we had lost this fateful day.  
Especially Ani-ue’s card-playing crew and our news writing crew.  
His families have been reduced by one each, replaced with salty streams of the eyes,  
And I see the paper box in my hands, and I tell everyone now:

“Say something good. It’s a prayer box for Red, for Manny.  
We loved when he came in for Journalism, being silly with his stories,  
When he came in, challenging the guys to a game of Yu-Gi-Oh! cards.  
But he’s moved now. To a home where he won’t suffer from illness anymore.  
So, wipe your grieving tears away, and hold onto the memory; we’ll see him again someday.

“He lived a good life, all because he had you  
As a friend, as a mentor, as a rival, as family.  
So don’t be in such melancholy, he’s still in good hands.”  
And now, I give you the paper box.  
Reach your soul through to his. It’s a prayer box for Red.

At the age of 12 he experienced a severe medical condition that thank God he was fortunate to overcome. In his later years, complications took a toll on his life, but he wasn’t one to complain. Looking at him you couldn’t have imagined the struggles he was dealing with on a daily basis. He carried himself with a will, strength and determination to overcome all obstacles to fully succeed in life. He continued to be an exceptional student and lived life to the fullest. He was so amazed and thrilled that he had finally reached his senior year. He enjoyed school and his many friends so much. He was active in activities such as Link Crew, El Rodeo staff and his favorite course was Vocational Office. As a senior, he was so looking forward

to finally being able to attend his prom, senior picnic, graduation and grad night with all of his many friends and continue his dream of finally going to college. Unfortunately on May 7, 2010, all those dreams came to an end. The eternal gates of Heaven opened and lit the path for our beloved Manuel. Manuel Alvarez Jr. - Rest in Peace. You will continue to forever live in our hearts.

Farewell my Friend

It is not very often one comes along an individual with red hair and freckles, and it is not very often one comes along individual with a great willingness to help out every single person he comes across in life. You always made sure that everything was taken care of and every person’s needs were accommodated for. While we were fortunate enough to call you not only a member of our staff, but our friend, we did not thank you enough for your humorous remarks and frequent acts of kindness. We hope that plenty rubber bands are up there for you so you can make the biggest and best balls of string possible. We miss you, but you will always be with us.

-Brianna Morales  
Editor in Chief of El Rodeo