



El Rodeo



El Rancho High School - Volume 61- Issue 4
www.erusd.k12.ca.us/elrancho

El Rancho welcomes Chinese exchange students

BY PATSY VILLASANA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

For three years, El Rancho has been hosting students from various locations in China. On Monday, the Ranch welcomed thirty-nine sophomore students and four teachers from Beijing Experimental High School.

The students, considered to be an "elite" group that is "academically advanced", are visiting through the American AP Enrichment Program. Although their school is attached to Beijing University, upon graduation, almost all of them will attend universities overseas.

"They consider [American] universities to be very good... They will attend UC Berkeley and other local schools," stated Mr. Genis.

The education in China is strongly focused on academics. Attending El Rancho has provided the exchange students with the chance to experience sports and clubs unavailable to them in their high school.

Along with school, the majority of the exchange students are residing in Pico Rivera with their host families. Participating in the foreign exchange program provides "dynamic cultural



The American AP Enrichment Program gives "elite" group of students a chance to learn alongside Dons.

opportunities" for students to explore each other's traditions.

More cultural opportunities may be soon approaching, with El Rancho considering the possibility of sending its Dons to schools in other countries for a week. For now, El Rancho is working on hosting a range of grade levels.

"We hope to be receiving some seniors from China...

hopefully we can start having them next fall." said Genis.

Foreign seniors who attend El Rancho have the opportunity to stay for a full school year and graduate from the Ranch. The students may also choose to continue living in the U.S. as long as they further their education by attending college.

To accomplish this, El

Rancho must complete an I-17 application and contact the Department of Justice for permission to host the foreign students, who are then required to submit an I-20 application for permission to attend school in America.

El Rancho's exchange students will attend classes for another two weeks before returning home to Beijing.



California testing gets critical

BY SAVANNAH GUERRERO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson proposed a new focus on standardized testing. By replacing fill-in-the-bubble tests with computerized testing.

According to the California Department of Education (CDE), Torlakson recommends changing the student assessment system starting in the 2014-2015 school year. This includes replacing Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) bubble-in tests with (SBAC) the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium.

"The SBAC focus is on assessing students annually in grades three through eight in English language arts and mathematics and once in grades ten through twelve under current federal requirements." States CDE.

Replacing the usual STAR tests with computerized SBAC tests will impact how teachers educate their students. Teachers no longer have to teach around straightforward standards. Calculus teacher and head of the Mathematics department Mr. Francis says "The new standards are more about centering the student on engaging with mathematics as apposed to the teacher just explaining the mathematics directly to the student."

"As somebody who studied mathematics in college I think these are designed more like a mathematician would think about the standards as apposed as a politician would think about the standards," says Francis. "Math is a connected subject and if we don't teach it that way it's harder for the students to really grasp it."

What makes the newly developed Common Core State Standards unique is that they were designed to prepare students further than college. According to the CDE, "the Common Core standards provide for additional skills and knowledge necessary in a global economy and technology-rich workplace."

Torlakson also proposed 12 recommendations to the Governor and Legislature in *Recommendations for Transitioning California to a future Assessment System* found on the CDE website. These Recommendations include: a break from STAR testing to be replaced with SBAC, and a science addition to SBAC.

Decathletes looking to make it to state competition



Decathletes dedicate their time to compete in many events and showcase their knowledge of these subjects.

BY ISABEL RAMIREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This year, El Rancho hosted the first round of the Academic Decathlon in which 50 schools from the Los Angeles County competed. The Academic Decathlon team will be quizzed on the following ten subjects: music, language and literature, art, history, economics, math, science, essay, speech, and interview.

The Academic Decathlon team has been preparing since

last summer. Over the past few weeks they have been dedicating about twelve to thirteen hours a day to study these subjects. "It has definitely been a journey unlike any other. The team has grown together. We became more than just a team. We became a family," says senior Bryan Marquez. "When you're crammed into a tiny room with eight other people you're forced to bond and this, in essence, where the strength of the Decathlon originates. I love my team and my

school and I am very proud to represent El Rancho. Blue Pride!" says junior Jesse Sanchez.

This Saturday, February 2nd, the decathletes will be quizzed on seven of these subjects at the Galen Center at USC from 2:30-4:00 pm. After the individual exams, the Super Quiz takes place. The Super Quiz separates the team by their respective slot: Varsity (C slot), Scholastic (B slot), Honors (A slot) and orally quizzes the team on six of the seven subjects in an auditorium with

seven seconds to answer each question. The competition is open to the public, so please attend and show your support for the team.

The following week will hold the banquet where the scores will be announced and the medals will be awarded. Usually the 1st place winner receives a score of at least 40,000 points and is guaranteed to compete at the state level. El Rancho usually places top 5 in this competition and is allowed to move on. Their main competition is West Torrance, South Torrance, and Torrance High School and they are definitely looking forward to face them at this year's competition.

Academic Decathlon advisor, Ms. Oase, says, "They are a family and uphold a positive image of El Rancho High School." She firmly believes that they will do well in the competition and in life. When asked about who gets chosen to partake in this team, Oase says, "Recruitment is constant."

This exceptional team of students has dedicated their time to compete in these events and to show their acquired knowledge on these subjects. No one can truly understand the amount of effort and heart they put in. They are definitely amazing individuals and we are fortunate to have them represent El Rancho. "Myself and the team would like to thank the staff for their constant support. Without their help we would be lost," says Oase.

COLLEGE LIFE

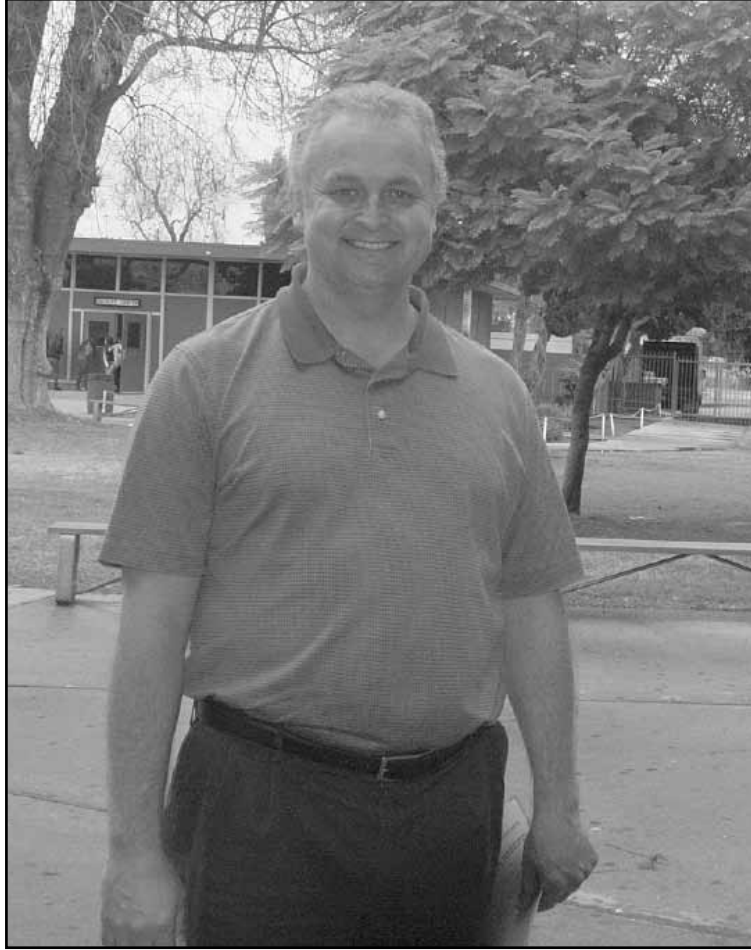
Crone captures ER's special moments

BY ISABEL RAMIREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

UCLA undergrad student and El Rancho's yearbook advisor, also known as our "camera guy", Mr. Crone, earned a Bachelor's degree in English Literature at UCLA and completed his Master's degree in Cal State Long Beach in the same subject. Interestingly, what many do not know is that he pretty much taught himself how to run the yearbook staff.

Crone graduated top ten of his class in high school and his goal was actually to become a pilot. He aspired to join the U.S. Air Force Academy but failed to earn a spot because of its competitiveness. On the other hand, he applied to three UC's and got accepted to all of them and decided to enroll at UCLA that following year. His goal was to major in engineering but the three years of math and biology made him feel unmotivated.

"All of my friends were English and History majors," Crone says. The reason why he hung out with them was because he actually liked what they would discuss. Crone made the change in majors. "My friends



Crone's goal after high school was actually to become a pilot.

were supportive and helped me to read and write well the first year of my major," Crone says. Crone accomplished his Mas-

ter's degree in English Literature at Cal State Long Beach and earned a teaching credential. In 1992, Crone received

a call from El Rancho to teach sophomore English. To help secure his job, he agreed to become the yearbook advisor. With no prior knowledge in how to run this program he pretty much taught himself how to do the job. Crone liked computers but did not have any knowledge towards photography, captions, or quotes. Consequently, he took "adult" classes at Cal State Fullerton and a couple of programming classes at Cerritos College. He also grabbed many books and began to do lots and lots of reading in computer technology.

In his third year of teaching at El Rancho, Crone became interested in creating the Don Page. More knowledge in technology and the "digital age" definitely gave him an edge. It took him the next six to seven years to completely unveil the Don Page. As he was becoming savvy in technology, he drifted into the VAPA curriculum.

"Yearbook is awesome. I am privileged to get to meet a special group of teens," Crone says. Crone has been teaching El Rancho for a little over 20 years and has truly become a Don.

Whittier Poets excel in liberal arts



Whittier College is situated on 74 hillside acres and houses 29 academic and administrative facilities.

BY SAMANTHA GURROLA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Known to express and embody Quaker ideas into their academics, Whittier College is a four-year independent, liberal arts school.

Whittier College was founded in 1887 and was chartered by California in 1901. The college was named after John Greenleaf Whittier and its campus consists of small classes, with 29 academic and administration facilities.

While attending Whittier College, you are on a two-semester and/or January interim

session. They offer self-designed majors by going into the Whittier scholars program, where they can further their degrees into Bachelors of Art degrees.

They also offer 30 majors and 30 minors.

With class sizes as small as 19 and a school that has "85 percent of their undergraduates participating in the liberal arts programs, their faculty consists of 100 professors. The faculty at Whittier College has been recognized by organiza-

tions such as The National Association of Academic Advisors and Council for the Advance-

ment and Support of Education.

This college aims to prepare students from diverse backgrounds to excel in a complex global society. Whittier educators speak out to students to be "active citizens and effective communicators who embrace diversity and act with integrity," an idea inspired by the Quakers.

Every school has a statue or building that is iconic. But for Whittier, it is a rock. In the 1920s a group of seniors decided to put a big rock in the front of the Whittier campus as a prank. It is now a campus icon, where student groups can reserve a day

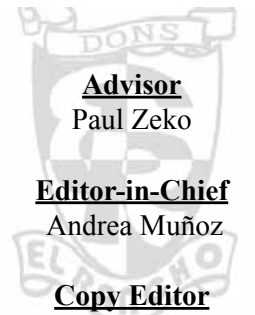
in which they can paint the rock to show off their organization.

Whittier College opens their doors to the community to participate in functions provided by the school on a day-to-day basis. They host many of their events in the Ruth B. Shannon Center for the performing arts, which was opened in 1990. It was built to bring performing groups together to show the different areas of the performing arts. Some activities include lectures by internationally known speakers, as well as music, art, theatre productions by Whittier College students and Mrs. Zeko's sophomore English classes have also performed poetry presentations at the Ruth B. Shannon Center for the past two years.

As many colleges do, Whittier College offers their students an opportunity to take their studies elsewhere and study abroad. The students are given five different continents to choose from to study for a semester, year, summer, or a January interim session of international. This opportunity allows students to "achieve proficiency in a second language, meet major or minor requirements, complete general education, and take courses not available at Whittier College."

Focusing on building character into their students, Whittier College has four goals they want each student to achieve in their liberal education programs: community, communication, cultural perspective, and connections. These four things are key to achieving what Whittier College is looking for in their poets.

El Rodeo



Advisor
Paul Zeko

Editor-in-Chief
Andrea Muñoz

Copy Editor
Patsy Villasana

Section Editors

News

Andrea Muñoz

College

Patsy Villasana

Business

Patsy Villasana

Campus

Andrea Muñoz

Features

Isabel Ramirez

Sports

Samantha Gurrola

In-Depth

Andrea Muñoz

Reporters

Cely Anaya

Karina Cerdas

Leslie Chinchilla

Angelica Gamez

Javier Garcia

Savannah Guerrero

Samantha Gurrola

Cindy Martinez

Bridgette Mota

Andrea Muñoz

Isabel Ramirez

Patsy Villasana

Karla Viramontes

Photo Editors

Alexis Mercado

Alexis Quinones

El Rodeo is published monthly except during vacations by the El Rancho High School journalism class. The *El Rodeo* offices are located at 6501 S. Passons Blvd., Pico Rivera, CA 90660 in room X-1. The paper is printed by *The Gardena Valley News*.

El Rodeo, the student newspaper of El Rancho High School is an open, public forum for student expression and an opportunity to discuss its audience's issues of concern. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the position of the school board, administration, sponsors, parents, student body or advertisers.

The Editorial Board, which consists of the editor-in-chief, section editors, and assistant editors, will determine the content of *El Rodeo*.

Student journalists on the *El Rodeo* staff will make every effort to publish following the legal definitions of libel, obscenity and invasion of privacy. Consistent with California Education Code section 48907, the staff will refrain from printing material that may incite students, be a violation of school regulations or disrupt school operations. At the beginning of each semester, journalism students will be reminded of the legal, financial and ethical implications of each article they write.

Ed Code 48907 affirms the right of high school newspapers to publish whatever they choose, so long as the content is not explicitly obscene, libelous, or slanderous. Also, there shall be no prior restraint of material prepared for official school publications except insofar as it violates this section.

BUSINESS

A constantly changing economy forces students to step up their game

BY DON DINERO

Over 125 El Rancho High School seniors met at the campus faculty center earlier this month to listen to the financial advisory staff of Credit Union of Southern California speak about money and credit, two very important topics for future graduates.

The financial professionals from the Credit Union of Southern California covered a range of topics relevant to meeting the financial challenges facing our graduates in this new economy including the functions of money, the various saving and investment options available to students, the difference between banks and credit unions, how to establish credit, and the importance of maintaining good credit for that first car or student loan.

Organized by the El Rancho Social Studies Department, the El Rancho Entrepreneur Club, and the Credit Union of Southern California, the event aimed to educate the class of 2013 on the



The event aimed to educate the class of 2013 on the socioeconomic challenges waiting after graduation.

unique socioeconomic challenges waiting for them after graduation.

“Hispanic youth must begin increasing their financial literacy—the ability to save and invest money,” said economics teacher Raul Elias. “In tomorrow’s

economy a college degree is yesterday’s high school diploma.”

Business communication trainer, Clare Whitmell echoed Elias’s sentiments in a column for the Guardian, asserting that in a changing workforce, uni-

versity is no longer the end of an education, but a new beginning.

University is a great opportunity to make long-lasting contacts, but your first degree is not the end of your education,” she wrote. “Learn new skills and keep

up-to-date with new communication tools and technologies.”

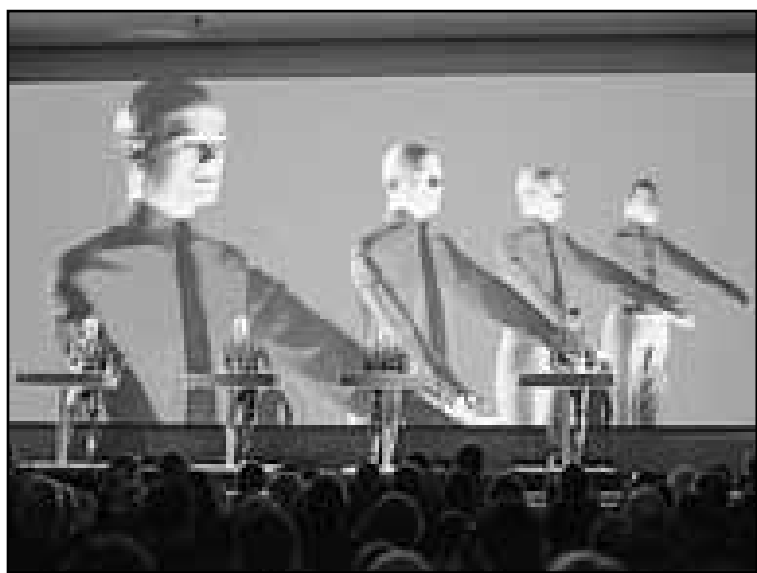
With so many graduates pouring into the workforce in the next few years, the market looks to get even more competitive. That means for soon to be graduates, flexibility and adaptability is key.

“While your parents may have changed careers once or twice it is expected that tomorrow’s workforce may have to change careers seven times,” Elias said.

And for Hispanic students, the pressure is even greater. Studies revealed Hispanics pay more in taxes and mortgages due to lack of understanding, Elias said.

With workshops like last month’s Credit Union presentation, El Rancho hopes to combat the statistics and send students into the world with a winning formula.

“Our education system must add another R to the 3 R’s of education,” Elias said. “: reading, writing, and arithmetic, with the fourth R for “Return on investment.”



Artists want to be known and it is a successful and enjoyable business.

The business of art in the modern world

BY RUBI MACIAS

From generally neglected murals on the streets of Los Angeles, to high-class galleries in the nice parts of town, art is found everywhere today. Many question whether our constant exposure to art has made us more conscious of art or more neglecting of it. The accessibility makes it easier for artists to spread their work, but it also makes it easier for others to steal work without giving credit.

Many types of art can be appreciated both in museums and from home. The purpose of an art gallery is to not only expose people to new artists, but to give them the unique experience of seeing works up close. Although art galleries exist on the internet, many find this impersonal and incomparable to being in the same room as authentic works. According to El Rancho’s Ms. Leal, art galleries help both artists and customers “network with other artists and art critics.”

Several clever people have noted the yearning some of us

have for art and have found ways to make money off it. These business people have found new ways to make art more mainstream and bring more attention to the artists themselves, to prevent others from stealing it. Websites such as Etsy and deviantART allow artists to create accounts and sell original works (if they so choose to). When asked to comment, Ms. Leal cleverly pointed out that “the internet and social media has allowed artists to reach a broader customer base.” Disney has also begun selling prints and original paintings based on its movies. These and countless other businesses seem to be emerging as people learn to appreciate human talent.

To artists, it is more important to have their work be known in any way possible. An interesting fact Leal mentioned is that artists want to be known because many are commissioned by the wealthy, just like they were in the past. They want their talent to be recognized because art is a successful, enjoyable business for them.

Wendy’s and Pico Rivera: A real value



Mr. Ross has been operating the Pico Rivera Wendy’s franchise since 2007, and three other franchises.

BY ANALYE ARENAS AND MARIA FLORES

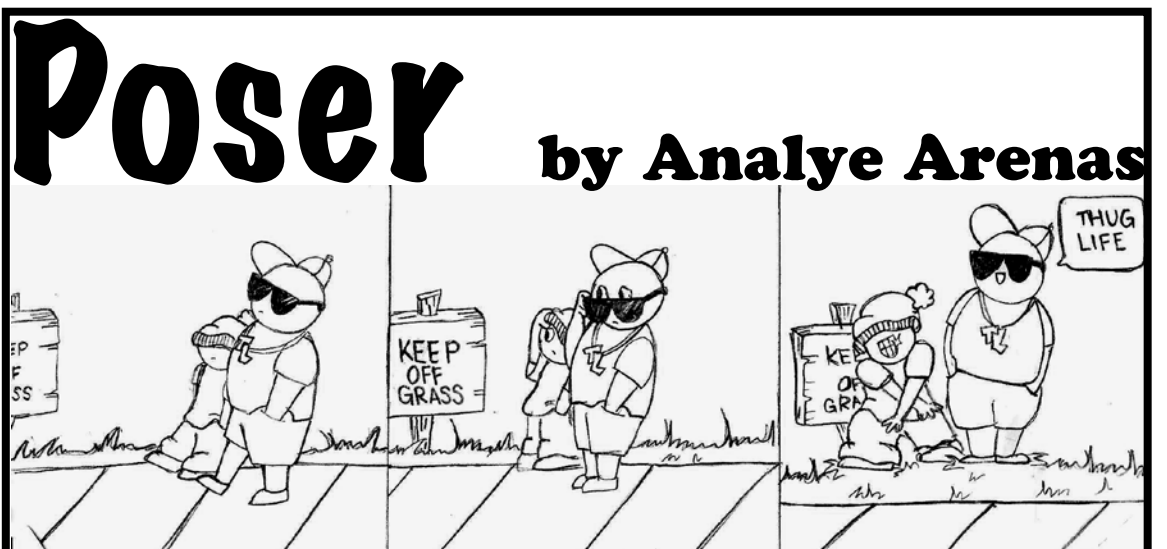
Pico Rivera is a “gold mine” according to Ron Ross, owner of the Wendy’s located in the Pico Rivera’s town center. Location, traffic, and industry are all major elements that were contributed to make our city the ideal spot for commerce. Mr. Ross has been operating the Pico Rivera Wendy’s franchise since 2007. With three other franchises at hand he proudly admits that the best

by far is located in Pico Rivera.

When asked to why he chose to form a relationship with El Rancho High School, he was thrilled at the idea of getting involved. He believes that the key to a restaurant’s success is due to its customers. Besides advertising in schools, he would really like to get involved with sports teams in a chance to give back to the community, “You have to spend money to make money” admits Mr. Ross. Its a win-win situation. For someone who has been in this

business for some time Mr. Ross tells us his “secret” to success, “It’s just practice, that’s all it is”.

Quality is Wendy’s recipe. With a wide variety of options on their menu Wendy’s is “ a good product in itself” says Mr. Ross. The 25% of Pico Rivera’s population that has never gone to Wendy’s needs to know about the menu. According to Wendy’s customers, they “ don’t cut corners on quality.” So let’s go invest for ourselves and gain back our money!



IN-DEPTH

Gun control proposals divide the Nation

By JAVIER GARCIA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The U.S. gun hysteria is sweeping the nation, correlating our second amendment right with furious gun control debates, down to unforeseen school shootings.

For decades, gun restrictions have closely followed American history, beginning with federal laws following the assassinations of influential political visionaries, then stalking political campaigns of Bill Clinton and Al Gore.

On Dec. 14 2012 the tone of gun control broke its way back into politics, in the shadow of the Sandy hook massacre in Newtown, Connecticut, taking the lives of 26 victims, when a heavily armed gunman forced his way into an elementary.

"We don't benefit from ignorance. We don't benefit from not knowing the science of this epidemic of violence", said President Barack Obama.

In retaliation to the Connecticut massacre, President Obama has stated, "There is no excuse for inaction," and is initiating an extensive plan of gun control proposals limiting gun access, pledging congress to enact new limits on guns and ammunition.

On Wednesday January 16, Obama formally spoke in a white house ceremony unveiling his proposals in dealing with "active shooter situations," calling on congress to pass legislation to ban high-capacity magazines used in assault rifles, limiting them to 10 rounds.

Universal background checks for American civilians are also called for, requiring gun show sellers to thoroughly employ such checks. An estimated 40% of background checks federally licensed gun dealers are required to ensure is said to oc-



Gun control broke its way back into politics following the Sandy hook massacre in Newtown, Connecticut.

cur at gun shows and in private sales. These checks are essential ensuring potential buyers have not been convicted of a felony, domestic violence, or committed to a mental institution.

Obama's legislation which includes 23 executive actions, was met amongst a sharply divided congress, in which most republicans along with some democrats convey strict opposition, condemning Obama's new agenda for violating the second amendment right to bears arms.

While responding to congress in order to pass such measures, Obama admitted getting congressional support "will be difficult," urging Americans to pressure congressman into supporting such bans. "Ask them what's more important: doing whatever it takes to get an A grade from the gun lobby that funds their campaigns, or giving parents some little piece of mind when they drop their children off for first grade?" he said.

In addition to the new legislation, Obama has cleverly signed three executive orders, that don't require consent of congress, including the tracing of all weapons seized by law enforcement, providing more fed-

eral records to the background check system as well as thoroughly researching gun violence.

As the new year unfolded, Vice President Joe Biden presented to the public press efforts which aim to prevent mass shootings such as background checks, as well as bans on assault weapons and high capacity gun magazines. "The world has changed, and its demanding action", said Biden.

To contribute to making sure a school massacre never happens again, the National Rifle association has called upon arming school guards in hopes to best protect children. The NRA vice president Wayne LaPierre quoted, "it's not about protecting your children. It's not about stopping crime. It's about banning your guns...PERIOD!"

"Attacking firearms and ignoring children is not a solution to the crisis we face as a nation... only honest, law-abiding gun owners will be affected and our children will remain vulnerable to the inevitability of more tragedy", stated the NRA in a group statement.

As gun control draws vigorous debates among some of the most pro-second amendment states, California, which

has some of the toughest law's in the country, has been divided. All across California, gun enthusiasts celebrate their love of their second amendment right, denouncing Obama's proposal as "Misguided." Hoisted banners reading, "Gun laws don't stop criminals, bullets do" speak fearfully for the people who say these restrictions would leave them defenseless against criminals.

Daniel Silverman, an information consultant from California, who helped organize a rally in Sacramento protesting efforts to restrict gun ownership, said "a gun... is only a piece of plastic, aluminum and steel that does harm in the hands of good men and women."

Networks of churches also held events to draw attention to the impacts guns have, planning a gun violence prevention Sabbath centering attention on community members who have lost family members as a result of guns.

Taylor Jones, whose 15-year old daughter Breon was killed in a Lakewood shooting five years ago at a masonic lodge spoke and said, "At that moment, in the twinkling of an eye, everyone's lives, some of their destinies where interrupted."

A history of recent mass school shootings

April 1999 - two teenage schoolboys shot and killed 12 schoolmates and a teacher at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, before killing themselves.

October 2006 - a truck driver killed five schoolgirls and seriously wounded six others in a school in Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania before taking his own life.

April 2007 - student Seung-Hui Cho shot and killed 32 people and wounded 15 others at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia, before shooting himself, making it the deadliest mass shooting in the United States after 2000.

August 2007 - Three Delaware State University students were shot and killed in "execution style" by a 28-year-old and two 15-year-old boys. A fourth student was shot and stabbed.

February 2008 - a man opened fire in a lecture hall at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois, killing five students and wounding 16 others before laying down his weapon and surrendering.

July 2009 - Six people, including one student, were shot in a drive-by shooting at a community rally on the campus of Texas Southern University, Houston.

February 2010 - A professor opened fire 50 minutes into a Biological Sciences Department faculty meeting at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, killing three colleagues and wounding three others.

April 2 2012 - A gunman kills seven people and wounds three in a shooting rampage at a Christian college in Oakland.

Dec. 14 2012 - A shooter opens fire at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, killing several people including children

WORD ON THE STREET

Following the Sandy Hook Elementary school shooting tragedy, do you agree with Obama's decision to impose a 10-round magazine limit?



"No I don't, I think that it violates our right to bear arms." -Jose Lara, 12



"I don't agree with Obama because criminals will still find a way to kill. Like last year there was more deaths by hammers than guns." -Robert Figueroa, 11



"I agree because this way people will notice that the law has way more control over them and their decisions." -Kimberly Ramirez, 10



"Yes I do agree because if this is passed on as a law people wont go killing others so it'll reduce the deaths." -Amelia Sanchez, 9



"I think it's worth a shot. I wont stop the crazy people from committing crimes. I think we shouldn't be allowed to have guns at all." -Brian Ramirez, 12

FEATURES

Gadabouts return home after 11- day journey

BY KARLA VIRAMONTES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

At the end of their eleven days in Europe, all seventy-seven Gadabouts safely returned back to Los Angeles. Many students were happy to be coming home and many were sad with the idea of leaving. One thing for sure is that all Gadabouts had an amazing experience.

After the eleven-hour flight landed in Amsterdam, half the students met their German tour instructor, Fransizka, and the other half was introduced to their English instructor, Joel. Right from the start they took a walking tour around Amsterdam, where they had the opportunity to see and explore the Flower Market, try new food, and go souvenir shopping. Tour director Fransizka said, "I was amazed at how many people weren't scared of trying new food such as the chips with peanut butter. Seeing forty-five people in front of the chips store was really funny." Besides exploring the city, they also had the opportunity to go inside the Anne Frank house.

On the third day, the Gad-



In Europe, the gadabouts visited many different landmarks including the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France.

abouts traveled to Brussels and saw the Atomium, a significant figure in Belgium, and saw the Grand 'Place later on in the evening. Throughout the day, the students had the luxury of trying Brussels' famous waffles. Although the Gadabouts only stayed in Brussels for a day, junior Karina Arreola said, "I absolutely loved Belgium. I loved seeing the Grand 'Place, walking around the souvenir shops seeing different people, and especially trying the waffles. The waffles were very delicious."

Continuing their journey,

the next place they went to visit was Paris. For many students, it was their favorite place out of the whole trip. On the first day, the Gadabouts visited the Notre Dame Cathedral and later, went on a night cruise around the City of Lights. After, they went to the top of the Eiffel Tower and saw the whole city lit up at night.

Tour instructor Joel said, "I enjoyed seeing the excitement of all the students as the Eiffel Tower first came into view." Not only did they go up the Tower, but they some students went to Versailles and got to experience

it and see it for the first time. On the last day, the Gadabouts headed to The Louvre, a very famous museum, where they saw many paintings and sculptures of famous European painters. Besides this, an ample amount of Gadabouts enjoyed eating crêpes, and buying accessories for themselves and their loved ones.

On the last three days, the Gadabouts headed towards London. Here, they visited places such as the Tower of London where Henry VIII lived, Westminster Abby where Prince William and Kate Middleton were

married, and Big Ben. While many students had the opportunity to go on the London Eye and see the city, another group of people went ice skating near the London Tower. Fransizka says, "My favorite part in London was seeing the students skating. It was really fun and funny."

On the last day, many students were very excited about having have gone on a tour of the Wembley Stadium. They explored the whole stadium, inside and out. Joel says, "This was my first time taking the kids to Wembley, and I know they enjoyed themselves as much as I did. Not only that, but I also remembered everybody walking in the rain, the march of death towards the fish and chips."

Overall, despite the rain and the cold weather, all Gadabouts were able to make the best out of the trip and make it very memorable. Arreola finishes by saying, "This was an amazing experience. I'm so glad I went. Time went by too fast; I wasn't ready to leave yet. I wanted to stay more and visit more places. But overall, I'm glad I had the opportunity to visit and experience Europe."

Face Off pours light upon special effects world

BY PATSY VILLASANA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Syfy's make-up competition series, *Face Off*, has poured light upon the captivating and imaginative world of special effects make-up for three seasons. After several weeks of competition, one winning make-up artist is promised the reward of receiving the new 2013 Fiat 500, the position of being a guest lecturer at the MAKE UP FOREVER ACADEMY in New York and Paris, and \$100,000.

Face Off provides viewers with a fresh look into the entertainment industry as well as insight as to how some of Hollywood's most iconic creatures are created backstage. The show has gained



Face Off continues to keep its contestants and viewers guessing.

prominent notoriety since its first season premiered in 2011, with a current average of 2.4 million viewers per episode. Television critics claim the series to be "a mash-up of Project Runway and Iron Chef for make-up and visual effects artists."

The show's contestants include self-taught and school-educated make-up artists who create a full character with make-up prosthetics and costumes over

the course of three days. Each week, the judges inspect the artists' final work and select one artist as the week's winner and another artist to be eliminated.

A panel of three permanent judges and one guest judge inspect the characters created by the competing make-up artists every week.

The permanent panel consists of Ve Neill, a make-up artist whose resume includes Edward Scissorhands, the Pirates

of the Caribbean franchise, and The Hunger Games; Glenn Hetrick, a make-up artist currently known for his custom designs for Lady Gaga; and Neville Page, who participated in the making of the film "Avatar" as the lead creature designer.

Face Off has broken the barrier that has kept the special effects make-up industry out of public view. So far fifty-one independent make-up artists have had the chance to work alongside artists of different backgrounds as well as be mentored by some of the industry's most famous faces.

"It's a great opportunity for [the contestants] to advance their craft.... And they don't even have to be the winner. I still talk to a lot of them; I love being able to help with their progression." stated

Neill, regarding how the show has helped artists reach the spotlight.

Face Off continues to keep its contestants and viewers guessing with every challenge. Artists have faced everything from creating a character to fit the mold of Tim Burton's style to designing characters to withstand dance routines.

This season promises to be the biggest one yet, with fourteen artists and Michael Westmore, Emmy Award-winning make-up artist as the contestants' permanent mentor.

Whether you hold a love of make-up, movies, horror, or sci-fi, *Face Off* has proven its worth to more than two million viewers. New *Face Off* episodes premiere every Tuesday night on Syfy.

WORD ON THE STREET

What are you most excited about for Winter Formal?



"Party bus and after party. And dancing with Brennan Hernandez!" -David Bustamante, 12



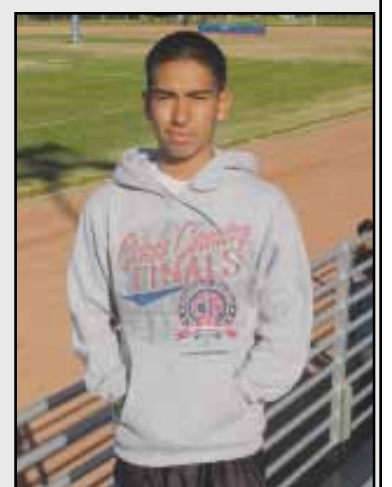
"I'm looking forward to getting all dressed up, arriving in a limo with my closest friends, and having the time of my life with my date" -Kathy Garcia, 11



"Excited about getting all dressed up and enjoying the night with Carlos Tamayo" -Brandy Torres, 10



"I'm excited because is my first time going and it's something new to experience" -Carolina Sainz, 12



"I'm excited for all the fun memories and all the fun "stuff" that will be going on." -Elias Powell, 11

SPORTS

Girls' basketball team having a remarkable season

BY ANGELICA GAMEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With league almost over, the El Rancho Dons girls' basketball team has only one loss. The Dons had a great start resulting in their 6-1 record, but fell short to Santa Fe 55-50 this past Wednesday. They will look to go 7-1 as they face the Pioneer titans tonight.

The team was confident going in to league and their confidence was shown by the results of their wins. They opened league defeating California high 52-36 then went on defeating Santa Fe high 57-44. Their next game was against Pioneer, and they came out big with a 63-16 victory. Their next two games were close, as they defeated Whittier 39-36 and California high once again, 59-56.

One big win for the Dons was against the Whittier Cardinals. "They're our rivals," says sophomore Sarah Gurrola. Senior captain Khadija Diakite believes that Whittier is their biggest challenge. "They have been our biggest competition for years," says Diakite. Because the Cardinals and the Dons have some rivalry, "it was a great and big win," says senior captain Arit-Cielo Gomez. The Dons will still face the Cardinals one more time at El Rancho.

The Dons' league closer will be against the Cardinals. "It's extremely important and big but we need to get through other games before we worry about



Senior Aileen Rodriguez blocks out opponent in hopes that her team retains the ball.

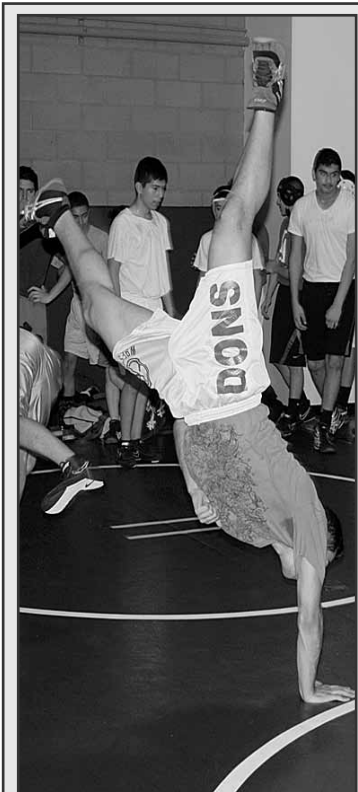
them," says Gomez. The team hopes to improve some things by then. "We are going to have to play together as a team and communicate on defense," says junior Anabelle Martinez. They also hope to get more rebounds. "Defensively, we have to crash the boards," says Gurrola. After improving on these factors, they hope to pull through with a second win against the Cardinals.

Many things have led to

the Dons' successful season. "We've improved as a team with our chemistry and knowledge of each other as players, which is very important in basketball," says Diakite. The team's bench is also a factor in their success. "We make some shots that help extend the lead and win the game," says Martinez. The bench has a responsibility when they enter the court. "I feel like I need to bring the tempo of the game up,"

says sophomore Ashley Miller, "this role can be pretty hard, but working as a team makes it so much easier," she adds.

The team wants to prove a point ending this season. Diakite believes that this year they have a chance to change El Rancho's reputation and be recognized as the best team in the Del Rio League. They would also like to go far in CIF but they will have to take it one game at a time.



Wrestling team practices for next competition.

Wrestlers work toward making CIF

BY KARINA CERDAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On Saturday, February 2, 2013, the Del Rio league teams will wrestle in one tournament to determine who goes to the CIF state championship. The top three wrestlers go to CIF and fourth place goes as an alternate.

Last year El Rancho hosted the competition and will do so again this year.

There are fourteen different weight classes that start from 106lbs to 275lbs. In the last seven year's competition, wrestlers qualified at the CIF competition at Moorpark High School.

Unfortunately this year's team has been plagued with injuries; wrestling is a long grueling sport. "Staying injury free is tough," says coach Casey May.

"The team collectively as a team isn't doing very well but some individuals are doing well," says senior Gerardo Bermudez.

The team is striving to build the rich tradition that once was a staple for El Rancho wrestling.

They are trying to change the culture here, but it takes time. Last year was coach May's first year as head coach of the wrestling team.

Coach May had previous experience because he also wrestled while in high school at Santa Fe.

"I have a passion for the sport, it is tough and challenging, mentally and physically," says coach May.

The team's goal is to "get as many people possible to CIF," says Bermudez.

"Wrestling is such a small window of opportunity and with hard work and dedication you can achieve greatness in this sport.

What you put in is what you get out. You can't hide behind teammates, the work you put in, it shows on the mat."

Boys' basketball team off to impressive start



The boys' basketball team lines up to recite El Rancho's alma mater after their game.

BY ANGELICA GAMEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's boys' basketball team is looking good as the end of league approaches. They are now 5-2, with their only losses being to California High. They will be playing

home tonight against Pioneer.

The Dons started off league against the California High Condors. They had a good lead but the Condors came back and took the game into overtime. Senior captain Daniel Becerra believes that "it shouldn't have happened". They lost 57-53.

The Dons came back

and headed into the La Serna game on a two-game winning streak. Some team members believed that game was one of the best games so far this season. Senior Rick Islas believed it was a good game because they "haven't beaten them in a long time." Junior Matthew Casings said that "it was a team ef-

fort." The team effort paid off as they defeated the Lancers 66-58.

El Rancho's Dons and the Whittier Cardinals both faced each other with a 3-1 record and they were both fighting for their fourth win. Senior Rick Islas was confident going into the game because of their winning streak and believed they would win. The Dons knew what they needed to do that game and they came home with a 54-47 victory.

The Dons had one shot left at the Condors. Not turning the ball over was senior Kelvin Conner's game plan. The Condors and Dons were both fighting for first place, but unfortunately they fell to the Condors 64-53.

Many things are going well for the Dons right now. "Our shooting has improved and we're getting rebounds," says Becerra, "we're also playing together as a team," he adds. There are still things they feel the need to improve on. "We need to work on free throws, it ends up killing us at the end of the game," says Islas. Free throws aren't the only thing they want to improve by the end of season. "We have to finish games the way we start them," says Becerra.

With league almost over, the Dons wait to see how far they will get in CIF. Becerra hopes to see many people out there supporting them at their games as they wrap up their season.

SPORTS

Boys soccer team strives to finish on top

BY LESLIE CHINCHILLA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With the second half of season beginning, the El Rancho boys' soccer team is looking to once again win league. The team is currently in first place with sixteen points and a 6-0-1 record.

The boys began their season with a 2-2 draw against California High. The team was down 2-1 in the second half, but junior Jeffrey Valenzuela tied the game before the end of regulation. In extra time, neither team was able to score, so the game ended in a draw.

The boys were not satisfied with the result because they believe that they did not play to their full potential. Senior captain Christian Roldan says the tie was frustrating because the team "...didn't show up to the game."

"We weren't expecting that [tie]," says senior Miguel Vilchis about the game. "It was a difficult game," adds senior Mauricio Lopez.

Despite the disappointing tie, the Dons finished the first half of season strong.

They were able to defeat Santa Fe by a score of 4-2. They followed the Santa Fe game with another win against Pioneer. The game was intense throughout, but the Dons emerged victori-



Senior captain Cristian Roldan and Augustin Hernandez look for another goal to maintain their lead.

ous with a 3-2 score. The team then defeated the La Serna Lancers by a score of 5-1. To end the first round of season, the Dons defeated Whittier by a 6-1 score.

The boys also redeemed themselves by defeating California High 4-0 during their first game of the second round of league.

Although there are some things the team needs work on, scoring is something that they are doing well. Roldan thinks that even though the team has not touched the ball as well, scoring goals is helping them win games.

Currently, the Dons have scored the most goals in their league. "We're doing really great," thinks junior Carlos Castillo.

However, the team believes they need to improve in order to keep winning. "We need to work on playing as a team more, communicating, playing smart, and having each other's backs," says senior Miguel Vilchis. Lopez adds that they need to increase their communication on the field. Additionally, Roldan believes that in order for the team to go far in CIF, "...possession is the way to go."

As a team, they have a main responsibility to win, but some players also have individual responsibilities they feel they need to do. When Castillo walks onto the field, he feels like he needs to, "...play as a teammate, pass the ball, and make runs off the ball," in order to help the team. These things may end up contributing to the team's success.

The team hopes that the improvements will help them achieve their goals. "I want us to win Del Rio League again and to make it to CIF," says Vilchis.



Coach Carbajal gives girls uplifting directions.

Girl's water polo team looking to make a splash in CIF

BY ANDREA MUNOZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho girls' water polo team is currently fighting for second place in the Del Rio league.

The girls' water polo team had a rough start with a loss to La Serna. The team was able to recover and now has a record in league of 3-1-0.

The team has been working very hard this season. "It's a very young team but they are very smart and eager to learn," says coach Meghan Carbajal.

This is Carbajal's first year as head coach for the water polo team. "I am very excited and I am working to get through challenges," says Carbajal.

This first year for Carbajal will serve as a learning year. "I am working hard and this is the start of a new program," says Carbajal.

"Coach Carbajal has a different way of coaching," says senior Zoe Bautista.

"The team is a well rounded group of girls who want the same goals for season," says Carbajal.

The team's goal is to win the rest of their games and make it to CIF. "This year is fun and it is less stressful," says Zoe Bautista.

Senior captain Julissa Diaz says, "I wish I would have started my freshman year."

This year has also taught the girls a lot more.

The team is working hard to improve for the remainder of the season. "Individuals needed to learn to step up and trust each other," says Carbajal.

Senior captain Julissa Diaz says, "I am confident about the team and the season so far." Diaz is also working on making it through league and to CIF. "We have been through a lot and worked too hard to quit now," says Diaz.

Bautista agrees with Diaz and says, "We stuck together since the summer and have been through a lot and we are working to finish strong."

Second round of league gives Lady Dons hope



Senior Naomi Zaldate fights for possession of the ball to defend El Rancho's half of the field.

BY LESLIE CHINCHILLA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Currently with a 2-1-4 record, the El Rancho girls' soccer team is aiming to finish season strong.

The girls began season with a disappointing 2-1 loss to California High. The Dons were down 1-0 in the first half, and then down 2-0 in the beginning of the sec-

ond half. However, the girls were able to come back and scored a penalty in the second half. The team played well until the end of the game, but was unable to tie.

After the loss, the girls managed a tie against Santa Fe with a 1-1 score. Next, the team got their first win of the season against Pioneer by a score of 2-0. The Dons then lost 2-0 against La Serna. To end the first half of

season, the team was able to get their second season win by defeating Whittier with a 2-0 score.

The team started the second half of season with another 2-1 loss to California High. Like their first game against California High, the Dons were down 2-0 until they scored a goal in the second half. The rest of the game was intense as the girls did their best to tie the game. Despite not being able to

tie in the end, the team believes the game was one of their best.

"Even though we lost, we never gave up, and we fought until the last whistle blew," says senior captain Elisa Martinez. "We set the pace of the game, but we just couldn't pull off the win and put balls away," thinks Coach Coria. Junior Karina Arreola adds, "It was a very intense game."

The team believes they have not yet played to their full potential. Coach Coria says that even though the team has not played bad, they have been "inconsistent." "We haven't been playing to our full potential," adds Martinez. In order to play to their full potential and win, the team thinks they need to make improvements.

"We can improve on the number of shots we take and just getting them in the goal," says senior Noemi Zaldate. Coach Coria thinks the girls need to have, "Confidence going to goal." Additionally, Arreola believes the team needs to "...put the goals away and play our hearts out in round two."

Although the team has not gotten the results they would like, they are confident that they will be able to end season with positive results. Zaldate says, "We have the talent and heart to finish strong this season."

"I am so grateful to be leading these girls and no matter what happens, I will always be proud of them," concludes Martinez.


The girls' next opponent is Pioneer, who they will face today.

CAMPUS

Exchange students experience the life of a Don




In the past week, our exchange students from Beijing, China have acquired their blue pride spirit at the Ranch without a moment's hesitation. Several have already made a place for themselves in Chef Luna's kitchen as well as Mr. Cordero's musical ensemble. "It's been very easy.... [The class] was excited to have them," stated Luna. "Now they're happily together." Luna's plan for having the visiting students and his class work together includes "blending ideas together from Beijing and [El Rancho]." In addition to cooking up cultural exchanges, our visiting students have also held a presence in Mr. Cordero's band room. "They were pretty excited to give it a shot," said Cordero. Since musical interests for students in China are typically geared towards classical influences, the exchange students were eager to join Cordero's jazz band. So far, Dons are striving to leave a lasting impression of blue pride on the exchange students and hope to continue welcoming foreign students in the coming years.




FRIAR TUX SHOP

Fitting you for life's celebrations



GO FIT GO FORMAL

VISIT OUR DOWNEY LOCATION!
 1033 LAKEWOOD BLVD. DOWNEY, CA
 562.861.5316
 LOCATION ACROSS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



Dons Stay Connected

BY BRIDGETT MOTA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Technology is advancing everyday, changing, updating, and modernizing. Colleges today often allow use of the Internet in the classroom for assignment purposes, and the Ranch is not far behind. This would "open the doors to technology and allow [us] to do more things in the classroom", says Dean Mr. Rodriguez. One reason El Rancho decided to add this new service is for the students to "keep up with the advancement of technology," says Dean Mr. Rodriguez. When using the Wi-Fi, students are strongly advised to ask their teachers for permission to use their electronics for classroom purposes. If students are caught using their electronics for non-school purposes, or are a cause of disruption during class time, or anywhere on campus, a teacher or administrator has the right to confiscate the device and it can be returned on a Thursday from 3:30 to 4:30 according to the ERHS handbook. "Both staff and students have a responsibility to use the technology wisely," says Rodriguez. Although students will have access to Wi-Fi any time at school, according to the ERHS Handbook 2013, "From the moment a student enters the campus grounds to the time that the student leaves the campus grounds, power must be turned off and all devices are to be out of sight (any visible electronic devices may be confiscated," (Page 42). The use of Wi-Fi is contradictory to what the Unified School District has set for all levels of schools. Having Wi-Fi at El Rancho is a privilege and should not be abused by the students. The use of Wi-Fi could be used effectively on campus. Many students are able to use their tablets or laptops to complete homework assignments or to research topics for essays and other projects. Students have Internet access to apps such as Google Documents that allow them to utilize their information with a Wi-Fi connection. Students can also use the Wi-Fi for presentations such as PowerPoint or Prezi. All students on campus have access to the Wi-Fi known as "ERHS Student". The Wi-Fi is protected with a pass code that the students' English teachers should have given out. If not, the students can ask their teachers or someone from the office.