



EL RODEO



El Rancho High School - Volume 61- Issue 5
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Dons hope to reclaim CIF soccer title tomorrow afternoon

BY LESLIE CHINCHILLA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho boys' soccer team, currently ranked number two in state, finished season in first place and will be playing the CIF finals for the third consecutive year. They will be playing against Channel Islands High School this Saturday at noon at Warren High School.

In their second round league game against Pioneer, the boys dominated by getting a shutout. The Dons easily won the game by a score of 4-0.

After their win, the Dons faced the La Serna Lancers. The game was a struggle for the boys, and the Lancers scored a goal against the Dons. The team was unable to score a goal of its own and lost the game 0-1.

Despite the loss, the Dons bounced back as they faced Whittier during their last league game. The boys had a solid game and they earned a 6-1 victory over the Cardinals.

The win gave the Dons an overall league record of 9-1-1, which was enough to earn them first place in the Del Rio League.

Before CIF could begin for the Dons, their starting goalie, senior David Lopez, was injured. Because of his injury, Lopez will not be able to participate in the CIF finals. "It sucks because it's my senior year..." says Lopez.

The injury allowed senior Gonzalo Contreras to take on the role of starting goalie for the Dons.



Senior Augustin Hernandez looks for the pass to senior captain Cristian Roldan.

"I was pretty nervous, but I have to step up and show them what I can do," says Gonzalo, "I have to prove to the team that I can do the same thing that [David] can."

In the first round, the boys faced Glendale High School. The Dons played well and defeated Glendale by an impressive score of 6-0, giving Contreras his first CIF shutout.

The boys moved on to the second round of CIF and faced Littlerock High School. Although Littlerock had an early goal, the boys did not allow many goal-scoring opportunities to their opponents. The Dons remained calm despite being down and scored five goals, while not allowing any more goals against them. The team won the game by a final score of 5-1.

In the quarter finals, the Dons' opponent was La Sierra High School. The boys were aggressive throughout the game and earned another shutout with a 5-0 victory and a spot in the semi-finals.

The Dons clenched a spot in the finals with a dramatic 3-2 overtime victory over Century High School. Senior captain Cristian Roldan led the team by scoring all three goals.

So far in CIF, the team thinks they are doing well. "Now that the teams don't know how we play, it's so much easier to play the way we play and score a bunch of goals," says Roldan. "We are actually playing like a team and not individually, together and with passion," adds junior Carlos Castillo.

However, the boys believe they can improve individually and as a team in order to win CIF. "More communication with teammates, making better runs, and scoring more," are things senior Jaime Moreno thinks he needs to improve on. As a team, junior Jeffrey Valenzuela thinks they need to, "...work on transition from offense to defense."

The team hopes they can work on these things in order to win another CIF ring. For the team, becoming CIF champions would be an amazing experience. "I already get butterflies just thinking about it, so it would mean everything to me," says Castillo. Valenzuela says, "It'd be a dream come true." "It would mean everything, that's how I would end my high school career..." adds Roldan.



Decathletes earn Trophy at the county competition.

Decathlon team advances to state competition

BY ANDREA MUNOZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho Decathletes will advance to the state competition after placing fifth in the county competition out of 52 schools.

This will be the fifth time in a row for the Decathlon team to advance to the state competition.

The success the decathletes have does not come easy, "Decathletes start in the Summer, they have a summer school class... when school starts we have morning practices three days a week and we start with a few after school practices and as we get closer to the competition it becomes every day, says Kristen Oase, Decathlon coach.

Multiple teachers assist the Decathletes including Wlasick, Elias, Diaz, Lamb, Sorenson, Zeko, and of course Oase.

"It's a community effort, we have multiple teachers assisting the team and I just put all the pieces together," says Oase.

Each teacher helps the Decathletes with a certain subject for the county and state competitions.

"A lot of the success that we have had in Decathlon is because you have a teacher to go to," says senior Jaquelyn Escobar.

The Decathletes' hard work payed off in the county competition, as they earned a total of seventeen medals.

In social studies Jesse Sanchez received silver; in essay David Juarez received silver and Jacob Rodriguez received bronze; in interview Bryen Marquez received gold; Andreas Moghimi received silver and Robert Brown, Jacob Rodriguez, Monserrat Marquez, Jaquelyn Escobar received bronze; in speech Andreas Moghimi, Bryen Escobar, Jesse Sanchez received silver and Monserrat Marquez, David Juarez, Robert Brown received bronze.

Former ER Teacher and YA author returns to Ranch for Teen Read Week

BY SAVANNAH GUERRERO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Young teen author and former El Rancho teacher Carrie Arcos kicked off Teen Read week by visiting El Rancho to talk about her novel *Out of Reach*. Arcos also met with 400 students at the gym to teach a writers workshop.

With help from librarian Jene Chodos and funding from Principal Sam Genis, students from every grade level got together in groups to read Arco's debut novel which was a National Book Award Finalist for Young People's Literature this year. English teachers Charissa Zeko, Dawn Lam, Christina Mata, and Stan Wlasick all had this novel assigned to their students.

Mrs. Zeko explained "One freshman class, one sophomore class, one junior class, and one senior class meet each Friday, and run a literary circle focusing on figurative language, character analysis, theme and conflict."

"This gives the kids an opportunity to meet different grade levels. The younger kids got a chance to see a little bit higher level thought and analysis from the older students, and it gives the older kids an opportunity to



English teacher, Mrs. Zeko works alongside Arcos at literary circles.

be mentors to the younger kids."

Out of Reach is about a girl named Rachel who ventures out to find her brother, Micah, who has an addiction to Meth. Bringing Tyler, a friend of Micah with her, Rachel searches for her brother and on the way, finds herself as well.

The students get to discuss the book within their peers, while meeting new people. Sophomore Jennifer Reyes said, "It helped me understand their opinions on the book and get a different view of how they saw it." Most students enjoyed their time in groups and getting different perspectives from their classmates.

The students all listened while the charismatic Arcos spoke about the development of characters, the use of symbols, and her inspiration on writing *Out of Reach*. Arcos explained that her novel was inspired by her younger brother, Nathan, who had an addiction similar to the character in her novel, Micah.

Arcos began teaching at El Rancho 1999, and in 2007, she left to pursue her Masters at Cal State LA. She began to write while living with her husband and kids in Los Angeles. Arcos says "I always wanted to be a writer, I can remember when I was a little kid in school, writing and reading

was always my thing, but I think I was always scared to venture out into it. My mom used to tell me the phrase: 'to be a writer you have to have something to say' and for the longest time I was kind of timid about, well what do I have to say? What can I really add to all the great literature that's already out there? So in the story of Rachel, Micah, and Tyler came to me, I kind of felt like I had a fresh take on the whole idea of addiction and what it does to families."

Arcos had a warm welcome by the students as they all worked together to create their own character and scene with guidance from Arcos. "It's funny I haven't been here in 5 years, but seeing the students, they're the same. They're my students. This can totally be like if I was still teaching here. They were awesome. The teachers were great, and the students were amazing to sit and work through what I put them through," Arcos says.

Arcos plans to release a new book in the summer of 2014 called *There Will Be a Time*, a story about a boy living in Eagle Rock while dealing with the grief of losing his twin sister. "I feel like I have more compelling stories within me," says Arcos.

IN-DEPTH

Immigration reform sweeping the nation

By JAVIER GARCIA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On February 12, President Barack Obama conveyed the need to refurbish the nation's immigration laws, pressuring a divided Congress to send him an immigration reform bill. Four months have passed since Obama was re-elected for a second term, in which he has devoted considerable deliberation to immigration reform. During his state of the union address in Washington in which Obama bestowed his economic goals, Obama subtly implemented key principles, such as stronger border security, and legal immigration paving the way for undocumented immigrants currently living in the United States to apply for citizenship.

"Real reform means establishing a responsible pathway to earned citizenship... a path that includes passing a background check, paying taxes and meaningful penalty, learning English and going to the back of the line behind folks trying to come here legally," Obama said.

The call for stronger border security is a legitimate element for an efficient immigration system. Over the years, the construction of an airtight fence stretching from San Diego to the Gulf of Mexico demanded by lawmakers has become too unrealistic. During a speech on immigration reform, Obama has emphasized relying on a combination of barriers, border patrol agents, and tougher employee sanctions to combat those who break the law.

The call for direct action was met with bipartisan attention among Congress members, who quickly move ahead while the nation's attention is emphasized on the issue. A group of eight senators dubbed "the gang of eight," have released a framework, which



Students across the nation speak out for the right to claim citizenship.

is a basic structure underlying a system, translating a concise document into a complicated bill.

Senator Jeff Sessions said he feared this bill would not include efficient provisions to halt immigration instead amounting to "amnesty only," hence making citizenship easier for illegal immigrants. "There's a lot of overconfidence about this bill," he said.

In a recent survey conducted by the Washington Post, approximately 70% of the American people said that immigrants living in the U.S. undocumented should be allowed to become citizens if they meet certain requirements. A similar poll compared 64% of voters who say immigrants should be given a chance compared with 27% who support deportation. The poll also found that two-thirds of white voters and 44% of Republicans favor a path to citizenship. Republicans have also argued amongst Congress that they should not consider legislation without policies that would prevent a future wave of unauthorized entries.

In the last five years, state legislators have released a patchwork of laws in hopes to reduce illegal immigration, creating legal means for the non-citizens to obtain driver licenses

as well as marriage licenses.

Labor and business advocates have met for the last several months in an effort to create a legal system that would benefit foreign workers, bringing them into the country for low-wage jobs. Many supporters argue that this move will greatly reduce the incentive for illegal immigration.

This new proposal will allow American companies that cannot find U.S. workers to hire foreign workers who will enter the country under a new immigration-worker visa. This deal would directly create a federal expert bureau that will make recommendations on the number of foreign workers allowed into the country.

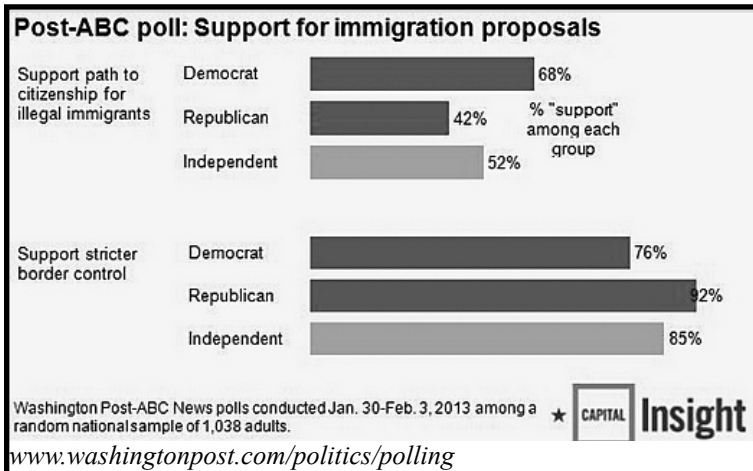
"Fixing the immigration system will create a more at-

tractive labor supply, will lower the cost of business, and we will have more customers," said Natalie Gochmour, chief economist in a Salt Lake City chamber.

Among these legislations, both parties have condemned Obama's misguided attempt, stating that amnesty, which is a government pardon for breaking a law, only rewards the many for breaking the law, and that those living in the country illegally ought to pay penalties and be made to wait for a green card. They have also stated that the pathway to citizenship should not be long or tortuous, which could discourage immigrants from seeking citizenship.

The movement for reform is a rare one, as Republicans who once favored harsher measures towards illegal immigration have learned the cost of these views in political elections. Labor Democrats, who once viewed proposals as threatening to American jobs, are now dominated by strong Latino Democratic support.

"You would be hard-pressed to find a single elected official who has not, in the last year, uttered the words, 'our immigration system is broken'", said Sylvia Manzano, member of the independent firm, Latino Decisions, that specializes in the public opinions of Hispanic voters.



WORD ON THE STREET

What effect do you think Obama's immigration reforms will have on our country?



"It would allow Hispanics coming from Mexico to get an education. Most of them don't get the kind of education given here and it would give them a goal worth fighting for" -Nick Barrera, 12



"I think it will have a good effect since more immigrants will have a chance to a better education." -Diana Orta, 12

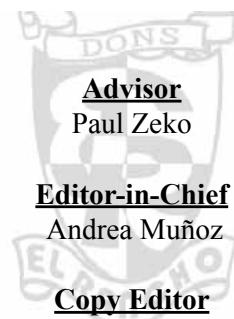


"I think that it is a great thing and opportunity because immigrants get a better chance to have an education and also become citizens." -Denise Rodriguez, 11



"I think Obama's immigration reforms will have a positive effect on the country because immigrants will have a better opportunity to better the economic status and have more opportunities both in jobs and education." -Rocio Barrios, 10

El Rodeo



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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

State of the economy at El Rancho: Dons feel economic impact

BY EMILY PEYTON
EL RANCHO ENTREPRENEUR CLUB
ANALYST

In an update to last year's comprehensive look into El Rancho students' spending habits, the El Rancho Entrepreneur club found the average Don's wallet to be just a little more empty this year.

The 20-question survey, distributed to El Rancho social studies and science classes representing all grades, found the average student allowance suffered a 10 percent decline, falling to \$16.75 compared to \$18.64 in 2012.

With a little less spending power at their disposal, students said the economy might be improving, but not fast enough.

"This year I had to apply for fee waivers because money was a little bit tight," said junior Andrew Gomez, afraid that the



Students at the Ranch suffer \$1.89 loss to their average amount of spending money.

economy's sluggish progress would impede his education.

"In a year and a half I'll be applying to colleges and I think

tuition prices will continue to rise and I'll have to pay more."

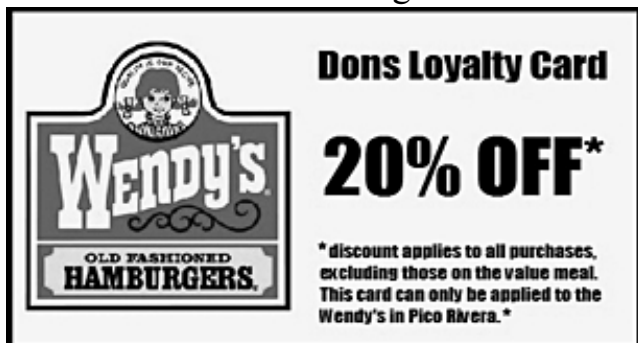
The survey found that fast food remains at the top of students' financial priorities list, with the majority of students eating out one to two times per week in average groups of four.

But despite their affinity for a cheap and easy meal, student responses revealed they recognize the health risks involved in fast food, with the majority worried about the food's fat and health content.

Survey data went on to show Dons' increasingly thrifty behavior to compensate for less spending money, with 66 percent of Dons expressing their willingness to use coupons for fast food.

Surprised by students' responses to their latest survey, the Entrepreneur Club plans to continue monitoring students' spending habits throughout the year for accurate, up to date figures on El Rancho's spending power.

Purchase a \$3.00
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Card is valid until August of 2013



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Join the El Rancho High School Entrepreneur Club!



Learn how to:

- start and manage a business
- prepare a winning business plan
- market and promote your product/service
- finance your business
- improve your communications skills
- dress for success

Benefits of Membership:

- Each new member is provided a free student savings account
- Members will be working with local businesses and organizations
- Members are promoted among local businesses and organizations for job opportunities
- Members are provided greater name recognition opportunities
- Members are provided college letters of recommendations

How to Join: Attend our meetings held on the first and last Thursday of each month at 3:15 pm in X-6

Pico Rivera's pets are smarter

In case you haven't noticed, there has been a new addition to the Pico Rivera Town Center. What was once Borders has now become PetSmart. As one of the largest pet retailers of pet services, PetSmart stores are stocked with approximately 10,000 pet supplies and products. Now many dogs and cats, as well as other pets, have been in and out of these doors. But what exactly is PetSmart? To clear up any confusion, PetSmart sells pet merchandise, not the pets themselves. They provide a wide variety of services, from veterinary services to training. PetSmart has lined up professional groomers that are available seven days a week; they guarantee that not only will your pet feel great but look just as good. Their accredited training can ensure your pet achieves positive behavior. Although they do not sell the pets they urge people to adopt, PetSmart has partnered themselves with PetSmart Charities helping homeless animals find homes and families. PetSmart has saved over five million animal lives by successfully



PetSmart manager John Woodward strives to provide Pico Rivera with "accredited" pet services.

having them adopted, and the number is still growing. PetSmart Charities Inc, established in 1994, is an independent, non-profit animal organization, as well as the largest funder of animal welfare efforts in North America. So what drew PetSmart to become a member of the Pico Rivera community? A dense population of

people can ensure not only good business to them but just as many pets to help and satisfy. PetSmart is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM, and Sundays from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. To find a pet near you to adopt visit your local PetSmart today or visit their website at www.petsmartcharities.org.

GULLIBLE



FEATURES

A good nights sleep: beneficial to the brain, and body

BY SAVANNAH GUERRERO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Sleeping well every night is essential to a healthy body and a healthy mind. But most teenagers are not getting their recommended seven to nine hours of sleep per night. The amount of shut-eye you get can affect your stress levels, performance in school, weight gain, and even depression.

Not sleeping enough can make it difficult to concentrate throughout the day, which can result in poor listening skills, and learning abilities, according to the National Sleep Foundation. Psychology teacher Mr. Rojas explains, "Teenagers in general need more sleep than adults do because it is a period of time when their bodies are growing. Brains are developing certain parts of the brain particularly the frontal lobes, an area known for decision making and good judgments." Rojas adds, "The more sleep [you get] those kind of things can develop without having to access resources that aren't there."

As the brain struggles to keep up the daily lives of teens, lack of sleep makes it tiresome to try to focus in school. "A lot of times they're so tired and they don't pay attention; they just want to put their head down and sleep," says Health teacher Mrs. Sythe. The frustration of trying to stay awake and



Reasons teens do not get their full rest can vary from having a stack of homework to electronic devices.

not concentrating, stress levels increase. "You need to rest your mind and body," says Sythe.

Rojas explains, "If you're not really getting enough sleep, you're not allowing your brain to recover, you're not allowing your body to recover, and therefore your cognitive abilities or your abilities to think through things are impaired." Your brain is forced to run on low energy, so it's not going to function efficiently. "That causes you to perhaps, have to try a little harder at things in what you normally would be capable of doing had you had a normal pattern of sleep in a given week." Rojas adds.

The importance of sleep doesn't mean to get as much rest for as long as you possibly can. It means to get the right amount

everyday and to keep it stable. Sythe says, "Too much sleep can cause you to feel fatigued. Some people are geared to less sleep, and more sleep." The ideal sleep for teenagers is eight to nine hours a night Sythe adds.

The reasons that most teens are not getting their full rest can vary from having a stack of homework to complete, or electronic devices we use everyday. "Maybe because you have had to stay up late, because you had a lot of things to do, you were working late, you had a lot of homework to do, you're in college and you're pulling an all-nighter, or you're an AP student and you're pulling an all-nighter, and you want to go to sleep but you can't, or you think you can't because you have all these things

to do." Rojas says. Internet, cell phones, late night texting, TV's in bedrooms, and video games can really distract us from getting our well-needed sleep, says Sythe.

Sleep deprivation can take a toll on your mental health. According to the Mayo Clinic, not enough sleep can be a factor of behavior problems and mood swings. Harvard Health Publications state: "Sleep problems are particularly common in patients with anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)." Research at Harvard have shown that a high percentage of patients with depression have symptoms of sleep problems. An estimate 90% of children that suffer from major depression, experience some kind of sleep problem.

Did you know...

About North Korea's nuclear activity?

BY MIKE MENDOZA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

In the last few months, North Korea has been active with its nuclear weapons program.

North Korea's advancements first began on December 12, 2012 when it successfully launched a long-range rocket into orbit. This successful launch came after numerous failures and served as a proving point on demonstrating that they have the technology to build intercontinental ballistic missile.

Confidence rose in North Korea and began to threaten the United States. The New York Times says that "[North Korea] has no interest in talks on denuclearization and that it will forge ahead with its missile and weapons development, with the goal of attaining the capability to hit American territory."

February 12, 2013, reports came in of a 4.9 magnitude earthquake in North Korea. United Nations Security Council diplomat commented on the "earthquake" possibly being North Korea's third nuclear test. North Korea confirmed a third nuclear test, defying world powers.

Many to believe that their nuclear and missile programs are directed against their "archenemy", the United States.



Villasana adapts to working with a range of special effects materials.

Senior Villasana heads to Hollywood

BY ISABEL RAMIREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On January 20th, senior Patsy Villasana attended the International Make Up Artist Trade Show in Pasadena and was selected as a winner of a \$16,000 scholarship.

Villasana's sister Crystal Teegarden, El Rancho graduate '99, is a self-taught beauty makeup artist, and introduced Patsy to the makeup industry. "I've been wanting to be a make-up artist since I was twelve," says Villasana. Various makeup schools from around the country held booths at the convention including the E.I. School of Professional Makeup who had a raffle that awarded four "exclusive" scholarships each worth 16,000 dollars.

This particular scholarship fully covers a one-year program that includes classes such as beauty, high fashion, theater, and special effects makeup. With special effects makeup, there are several classes such as sculpting and prosthetics. In addition to the scholarship, airbrushing

and body painting classes are included. The E.I. School is located fifteen minutes away from the Sunset Strip in Hollywood and became famous for being the world's first makeup school.

Teegarden actually encouraged Villasana to sign-up for the raffle. Three days after the convention, Villasana checked her email and realized that her name was selected as one of the winners of the scholarship. "I was confused because I had forgotten that I actually entered. Even when I signed up I wasn't sure what the grand prize was. I thought I would get a free t-shirt at most," says Villasana.

Villasana was unsure of what this particular scholarship offered until she called admissions director Tracy Van Slyke for more information. Slyke will contact Villasana in March to start the application process. If all goes well she will start her program this August.

Villasana plans to provide freelance special effects makeup for film, television, and theater productions.

Career focus on translating across the globe

BY PATSY VILLASANA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 43.2% of the people living in California in 2012 reported that they had been raised to speak more than one language. That same year, 72.6% of the people living in Pico Rivera made that same claim.

Due to these high numbers, employment for translators and interpreters is expected to increase faster than any other occupation throughout the next decade. People with multilingual skills in English, Spanish, French, Japanese, Korean, and Chinese remain some of the most sought after employees, and job competitiveness depends on a worker's choice of specialization.

Employments in law and health offices experience the highest demand of translators and interpreters, and interpreters for the deaf should continue to have a steady stream of job opportunities, as there are never nearly enough people to fill these positions.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics defines an interpreter's duties as "converting information from spoken language into another spoken language, or sign language" and a translator's duties as "converting written materials from one spoken language into another."

Most interpreters specialize in simultaneous interpreting, which requires them to lis-



Law and health offices have the highest demand of interpreters.

ten or watch and speak or sign at the same time that someone else is speaking or signing. Simultaneous interpreters work in pairs with a partner, with each one interpreting for about thirty minutes and then resting while the other interprets.

It is also common for interpreters to have knowledge in the subject being discussed so they can anticipate the end of a speaker's sentences, such as earning a degree in law, health, literature, and others.

A popular option for translators is rewriting news and magazine articles, books, and poetry into different languages. These translators must read the original language fluently to grasp any cultural slang and usually

only translate the text into their native language. With almost all translation work being done electronically, translators often have little to no client interaction.

Whether you choose to interpret or translate, wage earnings for either job position continue to grow steadily per year.

For a first-timer, hourly wages start at \$9.40 and can increase to \$26.00 for the more experienced. While overall yearly wages can easily exceed \$100,000, salary varies depending on experience, skill level, education, employer, and certification.

Interpreters and translators who are skilled in either Japanese or Chinese earn the highest wages, the average being \$37.64.

TEEN READ WEEK

Eighth annual Teen Read Week a huge success



Teen Read Week has become an annual event here at El Rancho. Activities over the past five days have included everything from Literature Circles to performances in the Little Theater. In an effort to get students interested in discovering new pieces of literature, guest speakers discussed reading with various classes. Lunchtime on Tuesday provided students with free READ tattoos from ASB. Dons were also able to get in touch with literary works through Mrs. Nelson's Book Fair which will continue on through Friday in the library until three p.m.

WORD ON THE STREET

What's your favorite book and why?



"My favorite book [series] is *Harry Potter* because it is very exciting to read." -Delon Viray, 12



"My favorite book is *The Fault in Our Stars* because it has a bitter humor. It's bitter sweet in a heart-wrenching way." -Alexandria Castro-Spencer, 12



"My favorite book would be *Where The Wild Things Are* because it is a really interesting book and has a lot of imagination." -Fernanda Hernandez, 11



"My favorite book is *Old Yeller* because I am an animal lover and it is a good story." -Eddie Rosales, 10



"My favorite book is *Of Mice and Men* because of the way Lenny is taking care of George. It shows true friendship." -Erika Hernandez, 10

SPORTS

Player Profile: Cristian Roldan heads for Washington



Senior Cristian Roldan takes the ball up field in attempt to get another goal.

By MIKE MENDOZA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The name Cristian Roldan rings a bell to all those at El Rancho. Playing for El Rancho all four years, Roldan is the boys' soccer team captain, and he has recently signed his letter of intent with the University of Washington.

The University of Washington initially made contact with

soccer coach, Dominic Picon. Scouts first saw him in action at a San Diego soccer tournament

Although Roldan received multiple scholarship offers from schools like UCI, UCR, LMU, Dominguez Hills, Chico State (just to list a few), Roldan made it official on February 7th, 2013, that he would be a Husky, playing soccer for the University of Washington. He will be re-

ceiving \$36,000 for his Freshman and Sophomore year-an 85% athletic scholarship- and \$41,000 his Junior and Senior year- a full ride athletic scholarship.

By playing for a Division 1 PAC-12 Conference school, Roldan expects a lot of pressure coming from the team and his classes. That, however, does not worry him. "Overall, I think it'll be well worth [all the pressure and time]."

The defining factor in choosing Washington over any other school was his visit to the campus. "When I visited the campus in Seattle, it was just so much more better than any other school I went to." While on his visit to the campus, Roldan had the opportunity to play soccer with the current University of Washington soccer team. "Playing with the guys... was just the ultimate feeling. That really concluded the whole trip, and I thought that would be the right place for me."

As for all the attention Roldan has been receiving in spite of all his accomplishments, "it's [been] nerve racking... it just feels overwhelming, but it feels great."




Attention Seniors

Have you received a
College Acceptance Letter(s)?

We want to acknowledge you!

Please bring in your Acceptance Letter(s) to Dr. Ventura-Rincon so we can scan and post in the main office.



Valley Christian ends girls' CIF soccer hopes

By LESLIE CHINCHILLA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho girls' soccer team was able to finish season in third place by winning two out of their last three league games and also made it to the first round of CIF.

In their second round league game against Pioneer, the girls were able to defeat their opponents by a score of 1-0. The match was tied, but the Dons were able to put away a goal in the second half.

Following their game against Pioneer, the girls faced their rivals, the La Serna Lancers. The game ended in a 0-2 loss for the Dons. Although they didn't get the result they wanted, the team was happy with how they played. "I was frustrated with the loss because I think we could have won, but I'm glad that the girls tried their best," says senior captain Elisa Martinez.

In their final league game, the girls faced Whittier. The Dons were down 1-2 in the first half, but were able to tie the game in the second half. In overtime, the girls dominated the Cardinals and scored three goals. The Dons won the game 5-2.

With the win, the Dons ended league tied in third place with California High School. After submitting an at-large petition, the Dons were able to play a wild card game for a chance to make it to CIF.

The girls traveled to Temecula for their wild card game, where they faced Linfield Christian School. The game was tight as five goals were scored in the first half alone, two for the Dons



El Rancho's girl soccer teams battles it out against Valley Christian.

and three for Linfield. In the second half, the girls scored three more goals. With a final score of 5-3 the Dons were able to secure a spot in the first round of CIF.

In the first round of CIF, the girls faced Valley Christian. The opponents were aggressive and scored a goal in the first half. The Dons did their best to tie the game in the second half, but Valley Christian secured their win with another goal. The game ended with a 0-2 loss for the Dons.

For the team, the loss was very hard to take. "We didn't play our hardest," thinks sophomore Paulina Viramontes. Zaldate says, "We wanted to win more than anything, but, unfortunately, we couldn't get any goals in."

With season now over, the team will be losing seven seniors, which the team has mixed emotions about. "We are losing some very talented seniors so it will affect us, but we still have so much talent on the team," says Freshman Paloma Corona. "I'm really sad

because it's going to be a really hard year without our main players," adds Junior Briana Calderon.

Coach Jessica Preciado says that even though a lot of talent is leaving, "...the team is left with girls that know the game and just need a little experience." "Losing our seniors is going to be hard because most of them were starters, but hopefully there will be other players to replace them," adds Viramontes.

Despite the outcome this season, the girls and coaches are satisfied with their performance. "We played with our hearts and left everything out on the field," says Corona. "I wish I could've ended my senior year by advancing further in CIF, but I had a lot of fun hanging out with the girls and I'm going to miss them," adds Martinez.

Zaldate says, "I was able to play the sport I love with a great group of girls." "We had a good season this year," concludes Preciado.



BLOOD DRIVE

What Type Are You?

Donate blood, and we'll let you know.

El Rancho High School

Wednesday, March 6, 2013

8am to 2pm

In the School Gym

Contact Jim Sorenson, Key Club Advisor to Sign-up (Room Q2)

All 16 year-old students must have signed parent consent.

BEFORE DONATING:

- Be in good health
- Eat a nutritious meal
- Be at least 17 years old (or 16 with a signed parental consent)
- Drink plenty of water
- You can donate blood every 56 days
- Weigh at least 113 pounds
- Bring valid photo I.D.
- No tattoos or piercings within the last 12 months



SPORTS

Boys' basketball team falls short against Huntington Beach

BY ANGELICA GAMEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The varsity boys' basketball team officially ended league 7-3. In their second round of league, they lost to the California Condors and the Pioneer Titans. The Dons did qualify for CIF, but fell short in the first round to Huntington Beach.

A tough loss for the Dons was against the Pioneer Titans. The Dons led the Titans for most of the game but the Titans came out with a big fourth quarter. "It hurt a lot knowing that we had the game...but there's nothing we can do about it," says senior captain Emilio Burgos. The Titans took the win with a score of 59-58.

The Dons then went on and played away against the La Serna Lancers. The Dons played better basketball than the Lancers that night and they brought home a 53-49 victory over the Lancers. "It was our first time in like fifteen years that we beat La Serna at La Serna," says Burgos. The Dons also had a bigger crowd than La Serna that evening. "Having a bigger crowd than them at their own place, it felt great," says senior captain Daniel Becerra. It was a memorable game for the Dons.

The Dons had their season closer against the Whittier Cardinals. They had already won against the Cardinals in the first half of season



Senior Emilio Burgos goes up for a two pointer against Huntington player during first round of CIF.

54-47. This game wasn't much tougher for the Dons as they defeated the Cardinals again, 83-69.

The Dons ended league in second place, one game away from the Condors, who are now the league champs.

"I think we should've won league, but it is what it is," says Burgos. With league out of the picture, the new focus for the Dons was to win CIF.

The Dons faced Huntington Beach in the first round of CIF. Huntington Beach had won a wildcard game before being able to play the Dons. Hunting-

ton Beach came out stronger and left with a win of 53-47. "We let their bigs control our bigs and we couldn't finish in the long run," says Burgos. It was a tough loss for the Dons, tougher for Becerra, whose goal was to make it past the first round of CIF. "I was sad that we lost but I'm glad we were up there, no one thought we would get that far," says Becerra.

Senior Kenny Gonzales also thought it would've been nice to get the win, but he "can't be mad about making playoffs." Now the Dons can only hope for an even better season next year.

To be losing ten seniors is going tough for the Dons. "We're more of a family, and we're losing a big part of it," says Junior Matthew Casings. The Dons are going to have to work harder next season. Casings is going to "stay hungrier and take the more of a leader role."

Becerra knows they will have potential but it will all depend on what they do with it. Regardless of the outcome of season, Becerra also wants to thank the crowd for supporting them; he believes they had the best crowd from the whole league.



Bailee Henry earns full ride scholarship to Mt. Olive College.

Profile: Bailee Henry-Up and coming runner

BY KARLA VIRAMONTES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Just recently, Senior, Bailee Henry signed with Mt. Olive College in North Carolina, giving her a full ride for her athletic ability in Cross Country and Track and Field. That wasn't the only school interested in her. The University of Southern Alabama also offered her a full ride and also considered a few schools in state.

Henry was recruited by the school with the help of a former La Serna student who now attends Mt. Olive College. She says, "They got my times and saw that I was running well and phoned me because they got the information from her." From then on, it was that they were very interested in having Henry attend their school.

Flying from California to North Carolina was a drastic change for Henry. She says, "It was a huge transition. There were two-way highways and farmland whereas here in the city there are streets and freeways and cars everywhere. I really liked it because I felt surrounded by more nature. It was just really different. I liked the change."

She also had the chance to visit the school for three days. She was able to experience many things. She says, "We took a tour of the campus, I got to sit in a class and talk to a professor in the major that I want to major which is kinesiology and anatomy. I also got to run with the girls there for track."

Comparing high school level running and college level running, she says, "It was kind of intense because the day when we ran, it was their day off so we only ran a 40-minute run. But running with girls at the college level, it was different."

Though she is going to the school where they were impressed with her running ability, there will always be challenges. Henry says, "I'm used to having the girls running behind me here, it's going to be challenging trying to get up there myself because I know that there are girls faster than me there. It's going to be a challenge to try and get myself to the top with the pack."

Henry was able to choose the college of her choice and is happy with it. Although she's content with her decision, it's very far away from home. Henry says that as if right now, she sometimes already feels independent because isn't always living with her mom, so it won't affect her that much. She says, "I feel I will be ok out there, but I know that I will have my moments where I will be homesick. I'm going to leave so many things behind like family, church, my best friend but I know that everything that I am going to be leaving, it's always going to be here."

Henry concludes by saying that no matter how important a sport can mean to a person, academics matter a lot. She says, "Academics are really important, so stay on task in the classroom, because if you don't have grades then you can't be in the sport you love. And athletically, keep showing up to practice, don't slack off at all, because the more you push, the better you will get."

Girls' basketball team takes Del Rio League title

BY ANGELICA GAMEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The girls' basketball team ended league in a three way tie with the Whittier Cardinals and the Santa Fe Chiefs. The Dons ended league with a record of 8-2 with a tough loss in their season closer against the Cardinals. They continued to the first round of CIF but lost against Aliso Niejo.

The Dons had it fairly easy when they faced Pioneer. They came out with a 73-24 win. The Dons then had to face the La Serna Lancers. They defeated the Lancers 59-31.

The Don then faced a tough challenge as they played their last league game against the Whittier Cardinals. Things did not really go the Dons' way as they lost to the Cardinals 47-45. "We were supposed to win that game," says senior captain Khadidja Diakite, "but things happen in basketball that you can't control," she adds. If the Dons came out with the win, they would have been the only team earning the league champs title. "It was a disappointment," says senior captain Patty Ayala. Despite their loss to the Cardinals, the Dons still earned the title of league champs.

Becoming league champs is a big achievement for the Dons. The last year they accomplished this was in 1992 "We finally get to put a number up there," says junior Anabelle



Senior Griselda Yaber dribbles alongside Aliso Niejo player.

Martinez. This accomplishment also makes Coach Randy Shigezane proud. "They can look up there and see 2013 and say 'that was my year, we won it...' they will never forget that," says Shigezane. It took hard work to accomplish this. "They sacrificed more than anyone can understand," says Shigezane.

Unfortunately, during the Dons' last league game against the Cardinals, Diakite suffered an

injury. "I couldn't really play at all but I tried to keep playing because I didn't want to let my team down," says Diakite. Diakite was going to try to help lead her team to the second round of CIF.

The Dons played wildcard Aliso Niejo in their first round game. Aliso Niejo came out strong and outscored the Dons 56-40. Many factors led to this. "We were tired from season," says Diakite. Most can also agree

that injuries hurt them, but Diakite says that you "have to deal with them and adjust." The Dons ended season with two losses, but Shigezane looks at it differently. "Unless you win the championship, you are always going to lose your last game," says Shigezane.

Regardless of their season ending earlier than expected, the Dons can still say that they had a great season. "We accomplished our ultimate goal, which was to win league," says Diakite. The Dons had a great season in general. "I can't be displeased, we won twenty two games," says Shigezane. Now the Dons will have to begin to prepare for next season and try to accomplish what this year's team accomplished.

The Dons will be losing eight seniors next year who are going to be difficult to replace. "We're going to have to step it up," says sophomore Ashley Miller. Shigezane knows that it's going to be tough, but he also has faith that they will have another successful season. "We're going to work hard," says Martinez. With hard work, Martinez also hopes to accomplish better goals next season.

The Dons became a close family this year. "We made a lot of memories, and became a family," says Ayala. After this season, Shigezane also knows that they can leave, and they will still have these friendships forever.

FEATURES

Dons get a head start on college credits

BY BRIDGETT MOTA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This year El Rancho gives a warm welcome to the Rio Hondo Early College Academy as it returns to our campus.

The College Academy is designed for students who want to take college courses as they are enrolled in high school, in an effort to get ahead. Students earn college credit if they are able to earn a passing grade in each class. In total, these cohorts of students' take Counseling-College and Life Success 101, Public Speaking 101, Art of Mexico 108, Counseling-Career and Life Exploration 151, English 101, Sociology 101, and English 208, earning possibly up to 22 college credits, which is almost one year's worth in college.

The program is very beneficial for students who can't afford to take college classes now because the program offers the classes free when normally the students would have to pay \$46 per unit of class they take, and the average unit of each class is three.

By taking these classes "you are finishing some of the General Education classes you need to take when you are working towards either an Associates Degree or Bachelor's Degree", says Mrs. Chavez, formally in charge of the program. This also boosts a student's GPA as these classes are added to transcripts for colleges to look at. The classes act just like any honors or advanced placement class, giving the student an extra GPA point if they pass with a C or better.



Jose Guterrez teaches Counseling 101 to El Rancho seniors.

To get accepted to this program, students must submit an application that consists of an essay, must have two letters of recommendation, and a parent agreement form. After the applications are reviewed, the students apply to Rio Hondo College and take their college placement test shows their English and Reading levels that can qualify or disqualify them from the program.

The first class that many of the new junior and seniors took as they were accepted to the program last summer was College Counseling 101 with Mr. Alvarado. This class helps the students mentally prepare for college. The class includes learning about financial aid, the different college systems, transferring from community colleges to California state colleges or universities of California, and more. It also helps students who are not familiar with the system to get an early idea of what college can be like. Students in total saved \$138 by taking this college class here at El Rancho.

Most students in the fall took a Speech 101 class with Dr. Woodenburg. The class was designed to help students increase their ability to communicate more clearly, and confidently, in a variety of settings that include making presentations, speaking in work settings, and speaking informally. On the long run, this could potentially help students as those who speak more clearly, and more effectively are perceived to be brighter and well organized, increasing their chances of getting into a job they are applying for.

During this spring semester, the students are currently taking Art of Mexico 108 with Mrs. Robertson.

The classes are identical to those offered at Rio Hondo College. A tutor from the PREP program is assigned to any Rio Hondo program being run at El Rancho to help the students especially in power sessions, which are held after the class before a test to study what was learned. The classes are taught here at El Rancho from 3:15 to 4:30 pm every



Francisco's love of basketball led him to recruit for ESPN.

More to Mr. Francisco than meets the eye

BY KARLA VIRAMONTES,
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Current teacher, Joel Francisco has been working at the Ranch for 18 years now. Years before he got the job, Mr. Francisco went to Wilson High School in Hacienda Heights. After graduating, he attended Cal State Long Beach and earned his Bachelor's degree. During his time at Long Beach, he definitely enjoyed college. He says, "College was really fun. I had a lot of good times with friends of mine on the water polo team. We rented a house and a bunch of us lived together and had a really good time."

Not only was it enough to be in school, but he was also involved by being part of the water polo team. While in the team, Francisco says that his best memorable experience was, "...the road trips we took for water polo, sometimes up to Stanford."

Besides being in water polo, he says, "I was also involved in some Slam and Jam basketball leagues as well. So

pretty much I'm just a sports guy."

After graduating from Long Beach and wanting to pursue more on his education, Francisco got his Master's degree at Walden University of Minnesota online, majoring in history.

Though college was enjoyable for him, it wasn't always. Just how there was time for friends and sports, there had to be time for homework and schoolwork. The worst part of college Francisco says, "As I got into my major, the endless nights of staying up late studying and writing papers."

Now that he has earned his bachelors and master's degree, he teaches history and has been for the past 18 years. Besides being a teacher, he has been married for ten years and has three boys. It isn't enough to be a teacher, but Francisco also scouts for ESPN. Francisco says, "I scout high school basketball players for ESPN. I'm their West Coast recruiting coordinator."

In his free time Francisco spends time with his family, takes care of his kids, helps coach a little bit, and says that he loves to surf. At the Ranch, he says that the time he has been working as a teacher he has met some great kids and not only that but he was also the water polo coach at the Ranch for 12 years and he enjoyed the experience.

Francisco concludes by saying, "My greatest memory here at El Rancho is winning the water polo league championship in 2002 taking down La Serna and Whittier because that was the first time in 17 years."

Francisco continues to enjoy teaching and being involved in sports with the school faculty.

Trendsetters of the Month



Junior, Brianna Olivares

Shirt: Walgreens
Sweater: Tilly's
Pants: Hollister
Shoes: Wet Seal
Necklace: Gift
Hair turban: made herself
Brianna makes comfortable clothing cute by adding accessories such as; bows, turbans and jewelry that she makes herself! Brianna makes and sells these accessories on her Etsy shop (www.etsy.com/brianaelizabethh).



Junior, Brian Guervo

T-Shirt: Target
Button Up shirt: gift
Pants: H&M
Shoes: Ontario Mall
Bag: vintage online shop
Brian has a very cool, relaxed, and vintage style that compliments his personality! Brian completes all his daily looks with the cool and American classic Converse Shoes.



Senior, Andre Hernandez

Prescribed Ray Bans: Lens Crafters
Shirt: Thrift Store
Windbreaker: Thrift Store
Pants: gift
Shoes: gift
Andre prefers to wear unique and vintage clothing that people usually don't head towards and he looks great doing it. He shops at malls and lots of thrift stores looking for items that are rarely seen being worn by the majority mass.



Sophomore, Ashley Magana

Shirt: Target
Button Up: Marshalls
Pants: American Apparel
Shoes: Old Navy
Ashley frequently shops at H&M and Nordstrom, when she goes shopping she looks for casual clothing that has something about it that makes the clothing piece different from the basic teenage girl attire. Ashley knows how to make anything cute by adding rings to her outfit.



Sophomore, Janelle Mercado

Cardigan: Thrift store
Dress: Downtown LA
Thigh-High Socks: Marshalls
Shoes: Vintage Doc Marten Shop
Janelle likes to think of her style as "hip and suave" with her girly and vintage clothing. Janelle loves to shop from a variation of places such as thrift stores, the Rose Bowl Flea market, and H&M. When she shops, she is always on the look out for unique clothing pieces that are vintage or have a Japanese doll feel.