



# El Rodeo



## Cesar L. Chavez shares his grandfather's legacy



Chavez speaks to El Rancho students about the selflessness and advocacy of his grandfather for the farm-working community.

By MARISSA ARMSTRONG  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This past Monday, El Rancho enjoyed an inspirational visit from Cesar L. Chavez, grandson of the late Cesar E. Chavez.

During his presentation, Chavez told the assemblage of El Rancho students of his grandfather's legacy, relating anec-

dotes from his grandfather's childhood, as well as stories of his years as an activist for ill-treated farm workers. From the start, Chavez expressed his gratitude for being "able to learn about a lot of his [grandfather's] values firsthand." Chavez went on to say that he "can feel [his grandfather] always," and that it is what motivates him "to go on and teach others about his [grandfather's] life and what he stood for."

Chavez also expressed a desire to make a positive difference in the lives of the future generations. In his address, Chavez tried to make his grandfather's story relatable to young people. "When students see somebody in person talking about Cesar...it pulls them closer to the realization that Caesar was...a normal person. He didn't have much education; he grew up poor. But that didn't stop him from making great change," said Chavez. He states that his purpose in sharing his grandfather's story is ultimately to help people "draw...inspiration" to become better.

Chavez also made his visit a family affair. His wife accompanied him and his three young sons helped in his presentation. Chavez expresses hope that his sons will also learn from their family legacy. "I hope that they [his children] can...learn things that I have learned and really be able to associate different things that Caesar has done in their lives."

Chavez's visit has certainly inspired El Rancho High school students and reminded them that no matter how humble our beginnings, everyone can make a difference.

## Ellen Ochoa Prep Academy set to STEAM ahead this fall

By NAYELI HERNANDEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Scheduled to open August 2016, the El Rancho Unified School District's magnet school is expected to bring a significant change to the city of Pico Rivera.

The Ellen Ochoa Prep Academy, a name selected by the Naming Committee at the ERUSD Board of Education Board Meeting on March 15, will be a California Academy of the Arts, Science, and Engineering (CAASE) Magnet School. The name is reflective of the astronaut, Ellen Ochoa, with a focus on STEAM while also being inclusive of all students with the use of the state name. STEAM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics.

The academy is expected to prepare 100% of the students enrolled to be college and career ready considering its primary focus on STEAM education.

The Naming Committee was made up of one parent and one student from each middle school in the district. The

committee also consisted of the President of the El Rancho Administrators and Supervisors Association, Sam Genis.

The school is named after the first Hispanic woman to go into space, Dr. Ellen Ochoa, who is currently the Director of the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. Ellen Ochoa Prep Academy will be the first high school in the nation to be named after the retired astronaut. Originally from Los Angeles, California, Ochoa is described by Superintendent Martin Galindo as "indicative of what we want to have in our students."

Ellen Ochoa Prep Academy's mascot was unanimously selected to be the hawk because it is symbolic of flight, vision, foresight, intelligence, and focus. All qualities that are believed to represent the school appropriately. The committee also narrowed down the school colors to dark red and white or dark red and gold; ultimately coming to a decision of the latter.

The academy's principal has also been selected and will be Mr. Elias Vargas, who has almost ten years of experience in the El Rancho Unified School District.

All work toward the magnet high school has been in effect since the beginning of the month and is expected to be complete in time for the 2016-2017 school year.

Both Vargas and Galindo believe that this new magnet high school will give families and students in the Pico Rivera community another choice of schooling and attract more students to the district.

"Curriculum-wise, they offer the same thing. The only thing that the magnet high school wouldn't offer would be many of the sports that could happen here at the high school," said Galindo.

The superintendent says that although the school will have clubs, it will only begin with about eight to start off before becoming larger. The academy will offer some sports, but it is not clear which ones, only that it won't be as many as the ones offered at the Ranch.

When plans for the magnet school began, it was said that only the top 125 eighth graders would be allowed to attend the academy. However, Galindo set the record straight.

"I've heard that before, 'it's only the top,' no, anyone can apply, as long as they'll be in ninth grade," said Galindo, "the goal is to be inclusive. I believe that any student, as long as they're willing to work hard, can be anything they want to be."

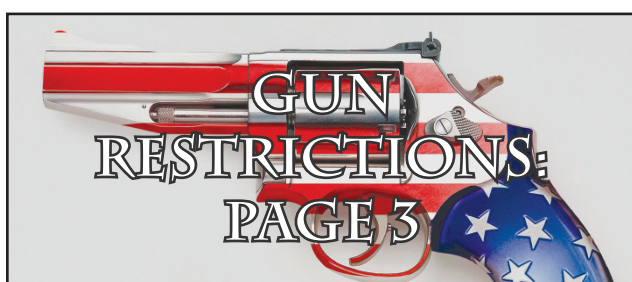
Vargas also stated that there won't be a particular "type" of student strictly allowed into the academy.

"We are open to all students and families that are interested in a smaller learning environment, motivated to pursue higher education, eager to develop their talents, and pursue their own interests," said Vargas.

Galindo has also assured that student applicants from Pico Rivera will indeed receive priority over students from out of the community.

As principal of the academy, Vargas hopes for the school to become, "a high school that parents can choose to send their son/daughter to if they feel that it meets the needs of their son/daughter," in the long run.

Applications for Ellen Ochoa Prep Academy opened Tuesday, March 22, and are available on the district website.



Justice once again



BY CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Teen court's March session included cases of marijuana possessions on school campuses.

This was not a normal El Rancho Teen Court session. The jury included students visiting from another school. This wasn't the first time these students witnessed one of El Rancho's teen court session but this time, these students were also able to participate in the questioning and the decision making.

Two defendants who have previously been evaluated by El Rancho's Teen Court also participated as part as the jury to fulfill their community service hours.

The first defendant was caught with marijuana after leaving the school campus and attempting to come back. The other was caught with marijuana in his possession on school grounds when a group of students crowded around him.

Both guilty defendants received fairly high hours of community service due to the extent of the actions committed. One defendant seemed to be a little sneaky in trying to hide certain facts. As soon as the jury caught this they acted upon it and took the defendant's behavior into consideration in their decision.

While one defendant was accompanied by his mother, the other defendant was accompanied by both his parents.

The parents were very disappointed in their children, and family counseling was given in order to try to repair the relationship of the kids and their parents.

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## El Rodeo

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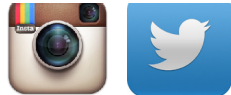
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# How to ask your date to Sadies

BY JENYFER LOPEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Sadies Hawkins dance is going to be held on April 8<sup>th</sup> and some girls are beginning to panic because they want to ask that one special someone in just the right way.

Girls are unsure whether their desired dates will say “yes” or “no” and questioning and re-thinking the outfit they will be wearing.

Stressing over this will not help you figure out these decisions. The best thing to do is just to keep calm and relax.

If you are the type of person who is shy and prefers to keep to yourself, then I would suggest asking that special someone in a simple way by just asking them in person. “Just go for it, there’s nothing to worry about,” says sophomore Bianca Barrales.

To the people who are outgoing, I would recommend asking the person in a creative way. For instance, spending some time with them and having your friends show up with colorful balloons and spelling “Sadies” on them. You can also wear a t-shirt and once you get the chance to ask him, unzip your sweater, so the shirt reads “Sadies?”

If you do ask the person to Sadies and if for some reason they say “no”, or are not able to go, then worrying about it should be the last thing to do.

Showing up to the dance with your friends would be a great idea, or if you choose to not go anymore then go out with your friends: have a movie night, eat, get fat, and simply just have fun!



“Honestly I think going to Sadies with your friends is better and a lot more fun”, says senior Kendall Furlough. Sadies with friends is not a bad thing at all. Having fun, dancing, and simply just having your picture taken with friends would be a fun Sadies night.

If you are the type of person who would prefer to just stay home doing home-

work or watching a movie, I would highly recommend attending the Sadies Hawkins dance. Not only would it be fun, but it will also give you some great high school memories that you will never forget.

“Sadies is so fun, I’m going again this year and it’s going to be my third year going,” says senior Eileen Paredes. For example, last year’s dance had great food, the

music had good rhythm to dance to, and the photo booth was a blast. The price was also reasonable, not expensive like Prom or Winter Formal.

So if you haven’t asked yet, start thinking of creative ways to ask that special someone or your friend to the Sadies Hawkins Dance.

# Drama president Daniel Lopez preps original skit

BY ISAAC CARLOS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Advanced Drama is proud to present Roommates, a serialized skit written and directed by Drama President Daniel Lopez, which will be performed every other Thursday in the Little Theater during lunch for just a fifty cent admission.

The “pilot” of Roommates will be performed sometime in April. Drama will then continue the series “every other week” until the finale on June 2nd (date is subject to change).

This will be the second serialized skit Advanced Drama has performed in the thirty-six years Mr. Stan Wlasick has been teaching at El Rancho. The first was a spin-off of the Real Housewives shows on Bravo. The serialized skit was titled “The Real Housewives of Pico Rivera” and the cast “took an episode” from a Housewives series and “changed the lines” of the episode to be more relatable toward Pico Rivera citizens, according to Wlasick.

The skit Roommates, however, is an original idea written by Honor Thespian Daniel Lopez. Lopez came up with this idea for a skit earlier in the school year and presented his vision to the advanced drama class. The advanced actors loved the idea and soon began

## Roommate Wanted!



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DANIEL LOPEZ!

planning episodes to present during lunch as a laugh-out-loud series.

The skit will feature many bizarre characters for the two main characters, Daniel, and Jacob, to come across, such as Mr. Cervantez, the Boss, Lupe, Andrew, two repo “men,” and Whiskers. “I love Lupe! ‘Pero like, why?’” Roommates cast member Linette Valenzuela said, “I love being a part of the series. I may have what is considered a small part, but it kills, and I’m so proud.” Lopez says, “The odd characters presented create hilarious situations the two main characters have to go through, thus changing and shaping their relationship.”

“The series is bound to be a hit,” said actress Abigail Toscano. “It has a good plot line and every time we rehearse in class, I’m almost in tears from laughing so hard.”

“I really hope a lot of people come to see the series,” said actor Jacob Amavizca. “The series tells a great story between two best friends and it is really funny. I’m proud of Daniel [Lopez].” “Yeah,” actress Xcaret Estrada agreed. “And who can forget the theme song? Everyone will crack up and love it when they recognize it! It will be a hit, just like the show!”

# 4 POINT/COUNTERPOINT

## To restrict guns is not to abolish them

By MICHAEL NEELY  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution grants its citizens the right to bear arms, but is often misinterpreted by our society, such as many citizens unknown to the militia aspect of the amendment.

The Amendment itself explicitly states, "A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." The terms, "well-regulated militia" is interpreted by a wide variety of ideologies, but the words, "well-regulated" themselves are self-explanatory. The Founding Fathers would not allow any citizen to have access to weaponry because they finished fighting a very bloody revolution and witnessed the consequences.

According to *www.shootingtracker.com*, 372 mass shootings occurred in the U.S. in 2015, with 475 people killed and 1,870 wounded. Even worse, about 13,286 people were murdered in 2015 by firearms and 26,819 injured. On record, this nation

possesses the most gun violence in out of every country. It is imperative that we decrease the number of deaths that occur every year.

President Barack Obama has stated his plans to increase background checks for gun purchases to assure the prevention of further injuries and murders as a result of the insane amount of gun violence prevalent today. There are only some state and local background checks implemented today and no federal ones.

It is very easy to obtain a gun in this country. There are minimal background checks and only a wait period is necessary, such as California's week-long wait period to prevent any possible suicides. With the implementation of more in-depth background checks, a license to carry a gun, such as a driver's license with a car, and limits on how many guns a home can possess, only then can we dramatically reduce the violence that has plagued our countries for years.

More gun restrictions are neither a new or radical idea. After the 1981 attempted assassination of President Ronald Reagan, a law commonly referred

to as, "The Brady Bill" mandated federal background checks for all gun purchases and heavily discounted gun violence throughout the 1990s. However, it was changed in 1998 to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) that imposes background checks, but not at the federal level anymore and it is usually done within minutes.

Most of the protest against more gun restrictions are conducted by the National Rifle Association (NRA) which argues how we are somehow taking away peoples' Second Amendment rights to own guns. However, if a person is a respectable citizen, has no criminal record and abides by the rules of society, and then, of course, he/she can own a gun. The national government would not take anyone's guns away; it would be restricting the people who have easily obtained weaponry to no longer commit mass murder and harm us all.

According to conservatives and right-wing ideologies, the argument of, "guns shouldn't be restricted because you can kill someone with anything. You could kill someone with a pencil if you try hard

enough" is correct, but you can't commit mass murder with a pencil; that's the major difference between guns and other items.

People tend to gravitate toward this idea of, "all or nothing" with restrictions when it's not true at all. Cars have constraints, such as age limits and traffic laws, yet millions of people drive them because they had licenses and passed a test to be able to drive them, and when they make an enormous mistake while driving, they pay the consequences and may have their licenses revoked. This can be the case with guns, they will still be a right of every citizen but will be regulated along with everything else in this country, which isn't a bad idea. It's a safe idea.

Controlling gun purchases and sales will of course not entirely prevent every murder. However, if we can save a high percentage of deaths and wounds by making it harder for deranged individuals to obtain firearms, then it merits every legislative document. "We're all human aren't we? Every human life is worth the same, and worth saving"- J.K. Rowling.

## Why gun restrictions are not necessary



By TIM RIESGO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

One of the hottest topics in politics is whether or not gun restriction laws are necessary for America. There was a time where I believed we needed gun restrictions to dramatically decrease the amount of deaths committed by a firearm. However, abolishing the right to own a firearm is not exactly the right way to solve the problem. In fact, abolishing guns would do more harm than good.

I understand that many school shootings have erupted recently along with the San Bernardino shooting late last year. Believe me, these shootings were horrific, painful, and left many families in tears. However these unlawful acts were committed by criminals, and criminals will go leaps and bounds to get their hands on these lethal weapons. A law abolishing the right to bear arms would not barricade these criminals at all; it would actually benefit them more, and we would see an even bigger rise in crime.

A common thought among many

Americans is if guns are taken away, shootings will become almost nonexistent. But what these common believers fail to understand is that a criminal is a criminal, meaning they are not going to abide by the law. If there is a law that states guns are illegal, they will find a way to get firearms on the black market. Criminals do not follow the law, hence why they are considered a criminal.

If the government were to take away these American's guns, you would put society in great danger. People may become more hesitant toward committing a mass shooting if they know they are outnumbered and would fall to their death immediately. There is always that "what if" factor when targeting these victims. However if it is the other way around, criminal activity will rise because it will become even easier to take someone's life knowing they would not have to enter a heavy gunfight. Allowing legal guns to continue to be in the hands of these Americans could even stop crime as the mass shooting could possibly be prevented and hopefully, save innocent lives from being taken away.

Many proposals have been pushed

by the Obama Administration like the pushing of more background checks and tests to determine if one may be suspicious of becoming a criminal. Put a million background checks in front of these criminals that is not going to stop them. For example, the San Bernardino shooters would pass every single background check. They had no previous criminal record, and were at the time good citizens, so these background check proposals are not exactly the problem. In fact, those proposals hurt those who abide by the laws and use their firearms maturely. People are going to argue and say "oh well who needs guns", but to some of these good American citizens, it has become a hobby for them to collect or to go to firing ranges, and to take away or to make it harder for them just makes no sense. Sadly there is no way to predict who will become a mass shooter because it is utterly impossible, and these tests and background checks will do absolutely no justice.

Taking away the guns of our society is just unconstitutional. In the constitution, the second amendment clearly states "A well regulated militia, being necessary to

the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed". Many may criticize me for the "well regulated militia" section of the second amendment, but clearly the times have changed. No one is going to be able to revolt against the government in 2016 because of the advancement of technology. Therefore an American Militia could never happen. It is not a valid reason to take away an individual's rights. We as Americans have the right to bear arms and shall do so freely because it is a constitutional right of ours.

Many have been affected by these horrible occurrences, and I understand how people feel. But restricting guns is not the answer. We should not be taking our anger out on firearms, we should be doing everything possible to track down these criminals and bring them to justice. Sadly we do not live in a perfect world. Mass shootings are only one of the many problems America faces everyday. Society must understand that taking away guns only puts everyone's life at risk, because in my eyes, guns do not kill people, criminals do.

# Bernie Sanders is the best of the rest



BY SOL MENDEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The United States of America is going through a political revolution, or more like a political “mess-of-a-’lution.” You turn on the television and see a corn-husk yelling at a crowd of broad-minded racists! (Well, that’s an oxymoron.)

On the Democratic Party, you see a botox-loving, money-sucking mosquito who only supports Gays to keep her straight supporters happier than Niel Patrick Harris at a gay pride parade. But please do not lose hope because that is not so American. There is a particular candidate that seems to have a glow every time he speaks about his political views; that candidate is Bernie Sanders.

Bernie Sanders, according to my understanding, is like Cesar Chavez to those who have common sense. Although, he looks old enough to have been alive when Thomas Paine wrote Common Sense, fear not. Bernie has been active in many events in American history. Bernie has always been an activist for black lives, women rights, and immigrant acceptance. Wait; there’s an actual candidate who stayed awake in history class. He believes in a platform that will allow America to prosper.

He believes in free tuition, free citizenship, free woman’s rights, free health care and free equality. EVERYTHING IS FREE! EVEN COMMON SENSE! However, not exactly. Sanders considers himself a Democratic-Socialist meaning that he is originally for the people and is

also inspired by the GOOD socialist ideas.

Socialism? Are people afraid of socialism, still? It’s 2016 already! Socialism is not the scariest thing in America. For now, a terrifying thing in America is American Horror Story: Trump Campaign (luckily, not produced by FX). But is socialism terrifying? Or are the “10%” (wealthy people who hide their money underneath the mattress) scared of having some equality enforced, let alone, wanted? You know, for people who often hide their faces and money, the 10% have fear? Whoa, that’s a surprise. I thought they would always hide things like their money, their faces, their expenses, and fear.

I know what you’re thinking, and you’re probably like, “but Bernie is Jewish...” Yes America, Bernie is Jew-

ish, Catholics are Catholics, and Christians are Christians, and I hope you know how this continues. I think Bernie being Jewish is not a real problem. I mean, at least, we are aware he follows some culture, unlike most white people.

He’s a passionate man, but not Hitler-Trump passionate. He is a genuine person who wants the best for the country he was born into. Sanders doesn’t sit on a bed of Benjamin Franklins hoping that the people will watch him Nay Nay or face pout his way to the primaries. We need a president who understands the common man because this is just a common world with common people. For the 2016 campaign, let’s do America a favor and get clowns off the podium. Bernie Sanders is the closest thing we will have to real politics.

# A look at Clinton’s unsteady platform

NAYELI HERNANDEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Memes, GIFS, and lies. What do these three things have in common? You guessed it! They all provide for Hillary Rodham Clinton’s campaign.

Hillary Clinton is a “leading feminist icon” and a fighter for the people. At least, according to her campaign.

Clinton portrays herself as a “hip” progressive that is going to save us all, yet, she has trouble keeping up with which Hillary will be elected.

In the 2016 Presidential Campaign, Clinton is pro-choice, a supporter of gay marriage, a savior to immigrants, a fighter for women, and so much more. But this hasn’t always been the case. Let’s go into just how revolutionary Hillary Clinton has always been.

Back in 2003, Clinton admitted to being “adamantly against illegal immigrants.” She also added that “people have to stop employing illegal immigrants.” In this year’s election, Clinton has done everything in her power to “support” immigrants with trends, such as “Hillary Clinton is just like your abuela” and speaking against Trump’s ideology with a triumphant “¡Basta!”

On a college tour in Albany of November 2002, Clinton was asked if New York should recognize gay marriage. She replied with a terse, “no”. Up until this election, Clinton has been recorded, multiple times, stating that she believes marriage should only be between a man and a woman.

Although I will be the first to defend Clinton because she receives sexist questions that differ from those of her male counterparts, that doesn’t mean she is deserving of the feminist vote.

Recently, a past client of Clinton’s revealed that when she was a twenty-seven-year-old lawyer who took the case in 1975, she lied about her in court documents, going to great lengths to discredit rape. Hillary Clinton did not defend a twelve-year-old rape victim correctly and only tried to cover up any evidence that proved any such thing happened.

Hillary Clinton’s views revolve around what makes her seem more “relatable” to millennials. Clinton believes that teenagers and young adults only care about memes and popular dances, so she does exactly that. She underestimates the interest that this generation has in politics and global issues.

How many more whips, nae nae’s, and empty promises backed by backwards stances, do we have to endure? Maybe a Jewish Democratic-Socialist has the right idea in sticking by what he believes.



El Rancho High School

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## Mac 'n' cheese loving Nina is *Simply Irresistible*



BY MATT ZAMARRIPA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Her love for macaroni and cheese is “realer” than the eyelashes on some of the girls at El Rancho. With sugar, spice, and everything nice, mac ‘n’ cheese lover, Nina Calvaruzo is simply irresistible.

Nina may be lactose intolerant, but that does not stop her notorious addiction for cheese when she is devouring food from her favorite restaurant, the Cheesecake Factory. Cheese is not her only addiction. Nina can spend hours everyday watching her favorite show, *Degrassi*, when, famous rap star, Drake, was still on the show of course.

Although Nina is only a junior, she is an avid supporter of Bernie Sanders. “I feel like Bernie Sanders is an amazing guy. He has always stood up for African-American, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual rights, and women’s rights more than any other candidate.

Aside from feeling the Bern, Nina happens to be a Will Smith fan. “I have always thought he was funny, even to this day. Whether he is on or off the screen he seems to be doing or saying something funny,” Nina adds.

Her favorite television program is Bob’s Burgers. “Tina is just an interesting character. The way she handles situations sums up my entire life dilemmas,” said Nina.

Nina’s dreams may seem like your typical basic girl fantasies, but if given one wish, she would wish to be adopted by Kim Kardashian. She would eat hamburgers and do exciting stuff with her, such as play *loteria* and roast Kanye. “She

likes food just as much as I do,” said Nina.

Speaking of food, do not let Nina’s pasty exterior look fool you. From being half Sicilian, Nina happens to know how to cook great Italian food; lasagna, fettuccine alfredo, and meatballs. Any of you lucky girls or guys can be fortunate enough to get asked out to Sadie’s by this amazing girl.

Frankly, not many people know that Nina is pansexual. Being pansexual has helped Nina become the sophisticated and gentle person she is today. “Gender is not an issue for me, I like who I like,” said Nina.

She enjoys the sweet sound of music. Her favorite groups include Fetty Wap, Antonio Aguilar, and The Spongebob Squarepants sound track. She has grown up listening to all these groups for quite a while.

Nina is a hard person to annoy, but her biggest pet peeve is when people do not understand her sarcasm. “I cannot stand when people can’t take my sarcasm because that’s half of what I am.”

Many people may find raccoons ugly or disturbing, but Nina says otherwise. Nina used to raise raccoons years back when her father was a pest control worker. She helped nurture and feed baby raccoons and even teach them how to swim.

Even though she can’t handle the cheese, she manages to be a cheesy person. “The cutest thing anyone can do for me is give me a self-made piece of art. Regardless if it’s bad or not, art is art.” With all that said, Sadie’s is just around the corner, and any one of you can be lucky enough to get asked by this cheesy, Will Smith-loving, raccoon nurturing girl.

## Multicultural Literature class learns about Latino culture

BY MATT ZAMARRIPA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Although waking up at 4:00 a.m. and arriving at school by 5:00 a.m. does not seem all that tempting, some El Rancho students seem to have no difficulty fulfilling this task. El Rancho’s newest elective, Multicultural Literature, and students from Ms. Aguilar’s and Ms. Mata’s class were invited to go on a trip to visit the National Chavez Center in Keene, California.

“Visiting the center was one of my best experiences. It was really cultural. I

loved everything about it, from the farming and visiting the photo gallery to enjoying the nice setting and shopping at the gift shop,” said senior Diego Del Real.

“As a teacher I had a lot of fun,” said Ms. Aguilar. “I’m teaching about Cesar Chavez right now, and I feel it is really important, since we’re a Hispanic community, to know about the past involving Hispanic heritage. A lot of students didn’t know much about Cesar Chavez, and once we went on the field trip I think we really got to experience what he did,” she added.

“We went on a hike all around the



National Chavez Center sanctuary

grounds, and I liked seeing the actual history. We got to experience the history where the UFW, (United Farm Workers), was created. All of us got to see the housing and the hospital that has been there from the beginning,” said Mrs. Sedano. “I had a lot of fun, and I heard students enjoyed it as well. I would really recommend those that did not attend the field trip to go one day,” she added.

“I really liked the setting and the environment. The trees and flowers were really beautiful. I thought it was really nice and considerate how the Center provided lunch for vegetarians as well. My favorite part of the trip was visiting the photo and art gallery. We were able to see old photos of the actual events that occurred during the time of the UFW’s peak,” said Junior Jazmin Cabrera.

## Word on the Street: Who is your favorite teacher and why?



“My favorite teacher is Mr. Francis because he interacts with the students and makes sure that we do the best that we can do. He always offers to help outside the classroom; his door is always open so we could always receive help from him. He is a pretty cool guy.”

-Jair Hinojosa 12th Grade



“Taking an AP class as a freshman and being exposed to the new high school experience was challenging, but I had Mr. Rojo, and it turned out being a great experience. He is a great person and someone you can talk to, not only as a teacher but as a friend. He taught us things by making them fun. He made us understand the things by bringing his personality into it.”

-Sebastian Caracano 10th Grade



“Mr. Wright even though he makes you write a lot of paragraphs, but it makes you think about real things that are happening in the world, not just historical events, but current issues. Through that, we learn things that are important and other teachers might not focus on such things. I like his sense of humor because it makes the learning easier.”

-Andrea Cordova 10th Grade



“Mrs. Moghimi because she has helped me my first year of high school. Her son is my sister’s boyfriend, so we knew each other before, but now I know her more and I like having her as a teacher. She is really sweet and patient; she doesn’t get mad, and she is just great. She teaches French in a simple and fun way. She makes it easy for the kids to actually understand.”

-Daniella Llamas 9th Grade

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## Advice from ER teachers

BY MATTHEW MARROQUIN  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

You can usually count on teachers to help you do well in your classes, but what about helping you with your everyday life? The *El Rodeo* staff sought out advice from teachers on issues many students face.

### How should students handle unreasonable teachers/professors/bosses?

"The student needs to perform their responsibilities to the best of their ability and hopefully the unreasonableness will pass. If not, and it's a job, they should move on to another job. If it's a teacher, unfortunately, they're going to have to wait out the semester, or maybe the school year, but they still need to take care of their responsibilities to the best of their ability."

- Mr. Francis

### If students are struggling financially, should they focus solely on academics or try and find work?

"When you become mature, as an adult, I think that it's important to balance both out and know that in the end, if you learn to balance both out, you will succeed in both as well. I get frustrated when teachers

tell students that academics is everything, because how is school going to feed you. I mean it can, but I know a lot of successful people who have not graduated college."

- Mrs. Valle

### What is the best advice you can give to a student who does not wish to continue his/her education but instead wants to immediately enter the workforce?

"I would advise them to do what they are passionate about and realize that just because they enter the workforce doesn't mean that that is all they can do. Students should realize that there is a life beyond just work."

- Mrs. Qureshi

### What advice can you give a student who still doesn't know what he/she wants to do after high school?

"My advice would be, stay in school and figure it out because the longer you stay in school, the longer you have to have a childhood and the longer you have to avoid adult responsibilities. Who wants to, when they're at the age of 18, start paying for an apartment, gas, and electricity, when you can extend your childhood a little longer?"

- Mr. Sorenson



BY CAROLANNE PRECIADO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho Don and Cal State LA Golden Eagle alumnus, Elizabeth Gregg, never thought she would be back at El Rancho High School teaching English.

Growing up with Hispanic parents who were faithful to their culture, Gregg had a tough time convincing her father to attend college. "My dad grew up in Mexico and had the idea of gender roles, and how the women's role was taking care of the housekeeping and the kids, while the men went out to go work," says Gregg. Yet, she and her three older sisters did not want to fall into the stereotypical customs that her dad had set out for them.

Gregg graduated high school in 1998 with an impressive G.P.A of 3.85. Her favorite subjects in high school were

## Mrs. Gregg returns to *The Ranch*

English, literature, and creative writing." We had the liberty to write what we wanted, share what we wanted," says Gregg. Gregg says if it wasn't for Mr. McMullen, who taught English literature and creative writing, she would not be where she is today. "He introduced me to a lot of different authors that I had not known about and ended up falling in love with..".

As her senior year came to an end, Gregg committed to California State University of Los Angeles where she would major in English. Gregg found herself editing for a creative writing magazine during her junior and senior year in high school. There she learned how to express herself through literature.

On her spare time, Gregg enjoys watching *Star Wars*, reading books, reading comic books, going to rock concerts, arching, and watching space rockets take off in person. She also adores watching 80's movies, specifically John Hughes *The Breakfast Club* and classic horror films. Yet, her absolute favorite movie of all time would be *Kill Bill: Volume 1 & 2*. To get to know more about Gregg, you can find her in H-4 doing what she loves best, teaching.

## Much more than a good actress: Pauline Munoz

BY ISAAC CARLOS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Pauline Muñoz may be known to some as the woman hysterically crying during last spring's *Every 15 Minutes*, but there is so much more to Muñoz than good acting.

Munoz is the Records Clerk at El Rancho, the person who keeps track of everyone's grades, transcripts, and records. She is very busy all day performing her school duties and even attending to other jobs when necessary. In July, she will have officially worked at the high school for ten years. Before becoming Records Clerk, she was a substitute in the El Rancho



## Baby

El Rancho veteran, Mr. Phillip Rojo, Dons as one of their favorite teachers much about him. Philipp Rojo graduated in 1991, and says that the Ranch has "incredible people" and that he is "proud to be a part of it." Rojo graduated from UC Irvine and "stumbled" his first time around town. He was "aces." Rojo's interests outside of school include his soccer supporters group and playing drums during games and volleyball. He is "really excited for Vol 2018." Lastly, Rojo lives by "It is not what you get, it is what you accomplish if you don't care who gets it."



Charlene Brown, Whittier College graduate and enthusiast of food, loves watching good people accomplish even greater things. When asked what her favorite memory here at El Rancho is, the first Blue Pride Day comes directly to her mind. Brown recalls the "hundreds of students" who "worked all Saturday to make the campus beautiful." The AP teacher states that she enjoys watching a good crime drama, as she knows "the good guys will win." Outside of education, Brown affirms that writing is one of her passions. "It gives me an opportunity to process the world through words." For twelve years, Brown has helped her students discover their capabilities and surpass them and will continue to do so for many more years. Furthermore, Brown lives by "Be happy with what you have while working for what you want" - Helen Keller.

## It's time to show some appreciation to our teachers

NAYELI HERNANDEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Students know the rhythm and drill of high school by now. Come in, sit down, listen for seven hours and go home. Students have each other's backs at all times because they understand one another; they know the struggle. But what about teachers? Who has their back?

It's not exactly a secret that teachers receive meager salaries. Often, teacher salaries are the butt of a joke. However, this situation is particularly dire within our own district.

The El Rancho Unified School District has made many controversial decisions throughout the years. One major decision being the refusal to shut down schools and lay

off teachers while the budget is tight. Due to the implementation of a budget-cutting political move, teachers have experienced freezes, furlough days, and layoffs.

Of course, events like this are not the fault of by teacher unions, but that can be done. Some unions are not, and there is only so much that can be done when poorly paid teachers are the ones who are being laid off.

Many teachers have careers that surpass the teaching profession. Students hardly realize that teachers, even though some are in clubs, team coaches, head coaches, and more.

El Rancho High School teachers are "blue" and are extremely loyal to the district. They develop la-

School District. She also taught preschool in her earlier life and enjoyed it, but wanted to contribute to her community more.

She loves her job because she enjoys giving 110% to her community. She likes the idea of one day owning her own bakery or even a party planning business, while

specializing in weddings, but says that she would still be extremely happy if this is her last job because she loves it so much.

She grew up as a Christian and is a dedicated and proud pious woman to this day. She grew up with and met her current husband, Richard Muñoz, in church and the idea still makes her happy to this day. She has two children, Samantha, age 19, who graduated from El Rancho in 2015, and Natalie, age 15, currently a freshman at El Rancho High School.

will always be a teacher to the world. She is a very hard worker and is a very dedicated woman. Her name is L. Her name is L. Her name is L. plan to do something.



## Staff Guess who?

Rojo, is remembered by most teachers, but so few get to know graduated from El Rancho in is a special place filled with s "glad to have been a part of vine and says that although he in college, his second attempt outside of the school setting in- p Black Army 1850, where he writes soccer chants. He states s Angeles FC joining MLS is an amazing what you can accom- the credit" - Harry S. Truman.



BY VANESSA GOMEZ AND MATTHEW MARROQUIN  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS



When asked what she is most enthusiastic about, LMU soon to be grad, UCR grad, and Be a Leader project Manager, Alma Renteria, responds simply with "Politics; I'm definitely a political junkie." Renteria spends her time out of El Rancho watching shows like *House of Cards* and *Scandal* in order to sate her political appetite. She also serves as the school board president in her city of Lynwood. Renteria believes that education is a human right that should be guaranteed to all states. She loves serving as the school board president as she feels she gets to "really make a difference." If given the opportunity, Renteria says that she would like to swim with sharks, given that she has always said that her spirit animal is a shark. All in all, Alma lives by the quote "Think like a queen... A queen is not afraid to fail. Failure is another stepping stone to greatness" - Oprah Winfrey.

## Teachers

economy was in sham- mentation of this po- ve had to undergo pay and mediocre pay raises. ce these should be taken out there is only so much nions are stronger than so much effort contrib- teachers is a social norm. n campus have du- additional teaching ca- gnize the efforts of me are supervisors to id of departments, etc. School teachers "bleed loyal to the school and stng bonds with other

faculty members and students but are hardly ever given a mere 'thank you' for the extra hours they put into their students and career. Imagine having to stand up and speak to hundreds of different students on a daily basis but never have complete attention. The commitment teachers have to their careers, students, and school is completely phenomenal. Through every pay cut, every disrespectful student, every unacknowledged effort; teachers still wake up every single day and show up at this school, even when they aren't required to. The next time you see a teacher, thank them for their work, acknowledge how great their lesson was or how much effort they put into their class. They will appreciate your appreciation for them.

Muñoz loves to hike, she says she never get tired of hiking. She has says wanted to see Paris and hopes travel after she retires. She does not e a favorite color because she genu- y loves them all. Her favorite book *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott. favorite movie is *The Wedding Plan- hence, the hope for a party/wedding nning business. She loves to listen to both jazz and any Christian music.*

BY ISAAC CARLOS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Alexis Lauria is most often recognized by students who show up late to school. Lauria works in the Attendance office as a Bilingual Clerk, but aside from

## Mr. Alonso: the most caring teacher at ER



BY ALEXIS REYNA PARRA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

One of the most caring teachers on campus, Mr. Cecilio Alonso can always be found in room B206 giving advice and cracking a joke or two. Aside, from his everyday life as a teacher, Alonso sees himself as a possible park ranger and a future piano player! "The way I started teaching here is kind of interesting," Alonso said. "I happened to drop off my car to get it fixed and I mentioned to the person who was driving me back to my apartment that I was a teacher, and we were talking, I told him that I wanted to teach closer to Montebello because I was really getting tired of my commute and he happened to be an alumni from El Rancho, and he gave me a tour of the school."

Within a day or two, Alonso went back to the campus, dropped off his resume, and the next thing he knew he was teaching at "The Ranch." Alonso teaches AVID, Biology, and Biomedical Sciences. Biomedical Sciences is a new course brought to campus this school year. "From now on I'm getting trained, I go to a two-week training during the summer, and it's intense," Alonso said.

Aside from teaching science, Alonso is also an AVID and Link Crew advisor. This school year is his first year as a Link Crew advisor, and fifth year as an AVID advisor. He not only advises AVID, but also holds the twelfth grade AVID class.

"Unfortunately, I don't think I will be taking on AVID next year since I'm taking on more of the *Project Lead The Way* classes, so all of it is becoming just a little too much to handle, especially next year when I won't be teaching just one Biomedical Sciences classes but two," he said.

"I was asked to teach the class, and I saw the importance of having a course that

would teach skills that would make students more successful in college," Alonso said.

When asked why he became a Link Crew advisor, Alonso said, "I wanted to do something more, I always felt that the more involved I am, the more I can contribute, and it was another opportunity to meet more students."

"Link Crew is fun, and they have done such a wonderful job," said Alonso.

Alonso's favorite memory from El Rancho is, "Two years ago, when my senior AVID class was graduating, and as I was walking towards the field they were just very happy to see me, and we took a group photo...I'm looking forward to that experience again this year."

Alonso really enjoys teaching, and it makes him genuinely happy, "There are ups and downs, but the interaction with students is what gets me going."

A challenge that Alonso faces every day is himself. "My perceptions of not being good enough for my students, it's an internal challenge of thinking things logically...the feelings are always of inadequacy, unfortunately, but that's who I am," he said.

If Alonso wasn't a teacher, he would be creating landscapes or a park ranger. "Landscapes I would love to do that, to some extent I do a lot of gardening. I could also see myself giving tours in a national park," said Alonso. When he isn't at school or away at training for the Biomedical Sciences series, he is spending time with his kids. "I'm silly with my kids. We're always playing and goofing around," he said.

"My son is very imaginative with superheroes and being a spy. Then I take on the roles of the evil villain, who's chasing him around," said Alonso.

Although he spends most of his time with his kids, Alonso said that, "Usually at night once they're asleep I go for a walk, I like to walk a lot. If not at night, then early in the morning, but I actually like walking when it's pitch black. My wife doesn't like it because she thinks someone is going to kill me, but I don't have any fear I find it relaxing."

In second grade, Alonso began to play the piano and kept playing until the end of high school. "Once I went to college I stopped because we didn't have a piano...but eventually one day I want to get a piano and start playing again," he said.

"I think my students are incredible, amazing, with tremendous potential, and I see them so much better prepared than when I was in high school. I see that the future is bright for them," said Alonso.

## Alexis Lauria has many more adventures to come

work, Lauria is a very intriguing woman.

Lauria will be sixty in August, and she has now been working at El Rancho for eighteen years. She is Mexican-Sicilian-American; her mother is Mexican and her father is Sicilian. She has three kids of her own: Benny, age 35; Lucio, age 33; and Christina, age 27. She has seven grandchildren and loves every single one of them. She says that she is happiest with her family and grand kids.

Lauria attended El Rancho High school and graduated in 1974. She then went to college to continue her education and graduated from UCLA after three years. She was a dental hygienist before receiving her job at El Rancho as a Bilingual Clerk in charge of attendance. She believes this will be her last job, even though she's always wanted to be a school counselor.



When she retires, Lauria plans on traveling and hopes to return to her homeland Sicily and meet the rest of her family. She loves Disco music, enjoys reading Amy Tan and Alex Cross, and never gets tired of watching the *Indiana Jones* movies. Her favorite colors are brown, fall colors and she loves to read, sew, and crochet on her free time. But nothing ever compares to spending time with her grandchildren.

# 10 PICTURE THIS



*Brian Gonzales, Nicole Francis, Lindsay Rodriguez, and Soledad Mendez posing with their moms at mother daughter tea.*



*Stacy and Nina showing thier love for music by wearing shirts of their favorite bands.*



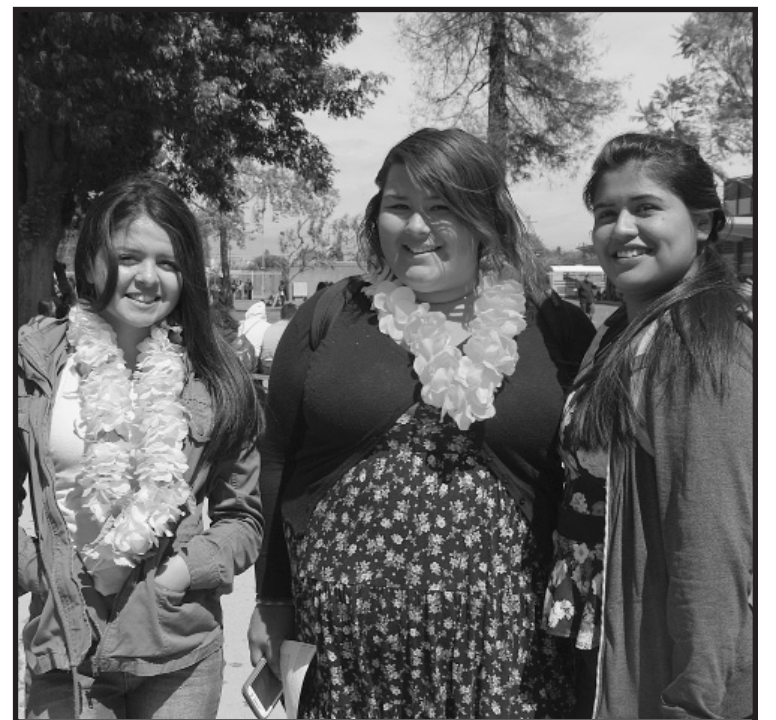
*Crystal Sanchez and Desiree Plancarte smiling at the camera alongside their mothers at the Mother Daughter Tea.*



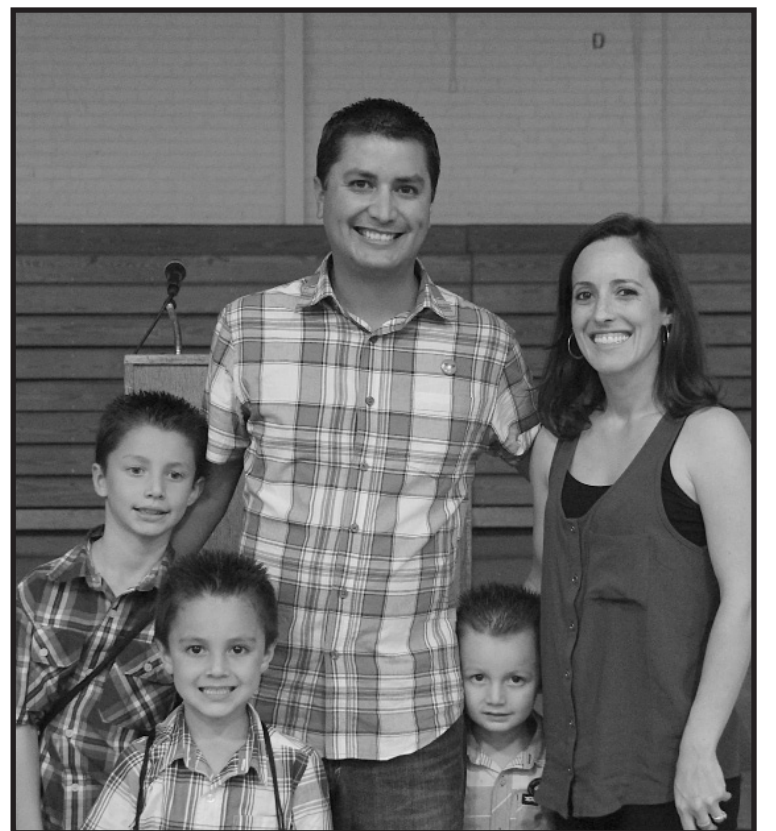
*El Rancho Students showing school spirit with Marvel t-shirts.*



*Diana Torres and Erika Lemus representing their favorite bands.*



*Amber, Amber, and Diana wearing Hawaiian leis for Tiki Tuesday.*



*Cesar L. Chavez and his family addressing El Rancho students.*



*Brandon, Angie, and Alexis showing school spirit on band day.*



*Samantha Leggis and her mother enjoying the entertainment provided by drama at Mother-Daughter Tea.*



*El Rancho distance runner ahead of a Montebello runner.*



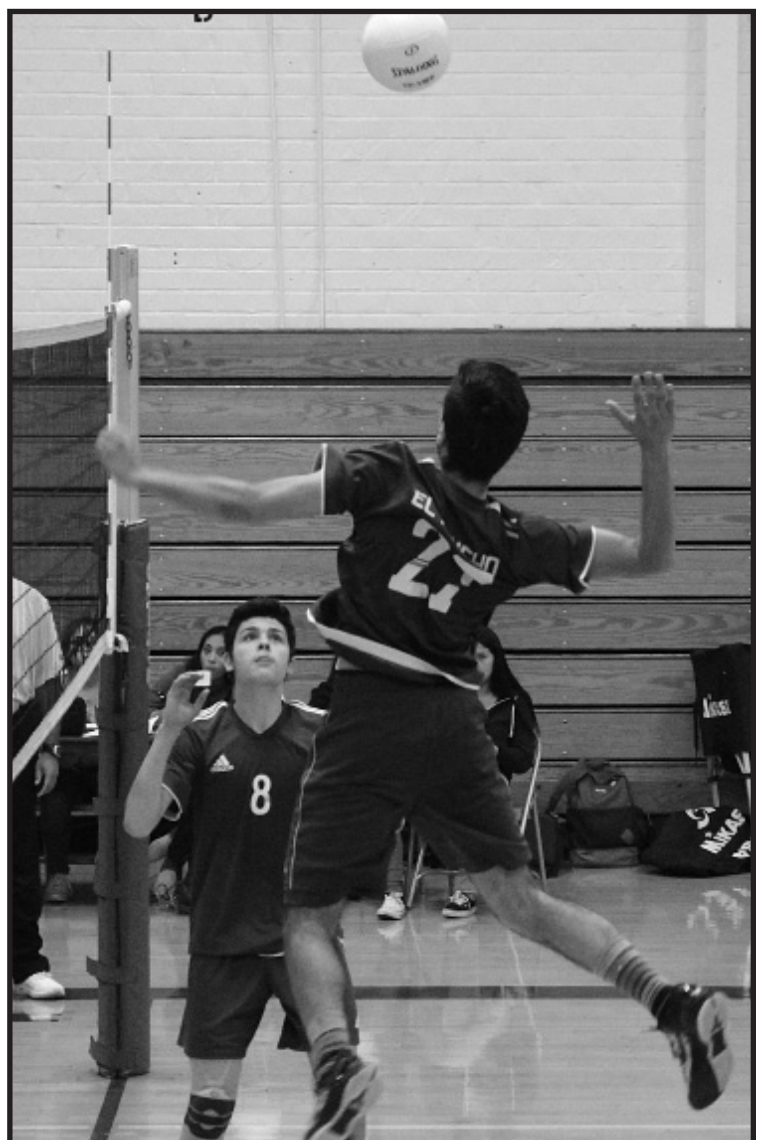
*Andrea and Amber Huizar having a great time with their mom at Mother Daughter Tea.*



*El Rancho students showing school spirit on tiki day.*



*El Rancho Students showing support for their favorite DC characters.*



*Daniel Martinez spikes the ball.*

## Girls swim team prepares for league



*Girls Swim team member takes a dive into competition.*

BY MARISSA MESTAS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Varsity team member, Joselyn Briseno, and Junior Varsity member, Valentina Perez, of the girls swim team are ready to put their hardest dedication into this season's swim meets.

Joselyn Briseno, a sophomore, has been part of the swim team for two years now. "I like swimming because it's competitive. It's a thrill through the whole thing," explains Briseno. "I've always liked swimming. It helps me out on my workouts. I'm glad I am on the team. The swim meets are the hardest part of the sport. I get tired sometimes and almost stop." But that does not stop Briseno from wanting to quit, "I control my breathing, I manage to pace myself right and continue to swim."

Although Briseno has participated in many swim meets, she still puts a lot of pressure on herself. She handles it by singing a song in her head to get her through it.

"The whole team is one big family," Briseno says. "Even though the team may not always win, we don't bring it down on ourselves," Briseno says, "We try our hardest, and say we'll get it next time. When we do win we all huddle up and all say how great we did."

Briseno is starting her second year of swim. Briseno enjoys her time at the meets with the entire team having fun. She hopes one day she can be a part of the Arizona State University team along with a career in lifeguarding.

Valentina Perez, a sophomore on the girls JV swim team has only been a part of the team for one year. She joined the team as a result of her older sister's suggestion.

"I've always liked swimming ever since I was a little girl." However, "There have been times where I get so mad I want to quit, but of course something like that I wouldn't give up. Instead, I ask a lot of questions in case I'm doing something wrong, I can fix."

Perez sees a bright future with swim; she hopes to receive a scholarship. "I've been doing really good on my butterfly and all my other strokes. I usually get top 3 swimmers in my meets." Although Perez has a busy schedule she still balances her schoolwork, practice, and job.

"I practice during six period and I leave at 4:30 to work, so I do my best with the time I have." Perez can handle the pressure, but she explains, "Dedication is the hardest, no matter what you get in the pool and practice. It's all about hard work."

So far the girls swim team, J.V. and varsity, beat Montebello high school, but lost to Paramount. J.V. lost 51 to 91, and Varsity lost 71 to 99. Next up is Downey high school.

## Varsity Baseball off to a solid start

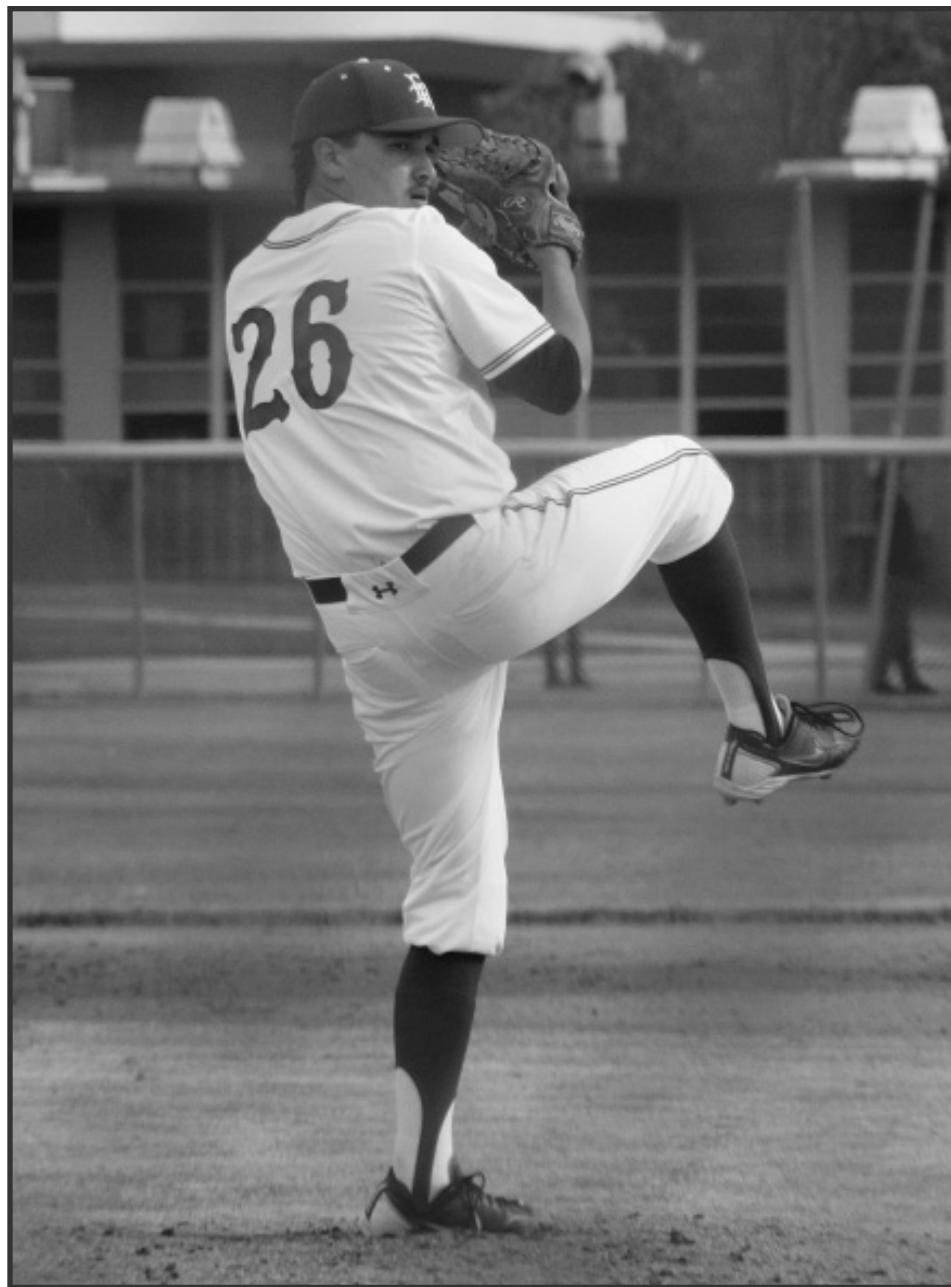
BY TIM RIESGO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This season, the Varsity Baseball team has begun with a solid overall record of 5-5. The Dons are showing early signs of a great team but have been struggling to ignite the offense. "I'm impressed with the fact that we are competing," said head coach Frank Llanes.

This season's pitching staff has been dominant since opening day. Ace pitcher, senior Vincent Fuentes, has been able to shut down his last three starts going 2-1 with a 0.38 ERA and 21 strikeouts. Overall, the entire pitching staff has led the Del Rio league in earned runs, only giving up nine earned runs over a short span of eight games, and delivering 52 K's in the process. "I'd put up our pitching staff against anybody in Division 4," Llanes said

The offense overall has been improving, but from time to time, cannot drive in the runs late in the game. "Our hitters are working hard every day, they're just hitting into bad luck," said Llanes. Statistically, the offense has been led by sophomore Jason Vela. Vela has dominated with a .423 batting average and a team-leading 5 RBI's to start the season.

There is much optimism going into the rest of the season. The varsity baseball team members have faced some tough losses but feel they can play their way through and take home the CIF Southern Section Championship. "We want to be the best team in Division 4; we wanna be the best in the Del Rio league. We play for rings... the best is coming," said Llanes.



*Senior pitcher Vincent Fuentes pitching on opening day.*

## Boys Tennis looks to take league



*Captains Ricardo Ibarra and Alan Guerrero before their game.*

BY SAMANTHA BERROSPE  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The boys varsity tennis team currently holds a record of five wins and

four losses heading into Del Rio league.

The boys tennis team did well during its preseason. "We're still struggling here and there," co-captain senior Ricardo Ibarra said. "But other

than that we're doing pretty good," adds co-captain senior Alan Guerrero.

Last year, the boys tennis team almost made it to CIF, but after a close loss to Santa Fe High School, the privilege to proceed to playing in postseason was destroyed. This year, the team members decided that they will do their very best to not only rank higher in Del Rio League, but also make it to CIF as a whole.

Although the boys may face some challenging obstacles along the way, neither coach nor players will lose faith. "I am hoping [the team] does well this season. I think they'll do very well due to their improving scores throughout games. It might even take us to CIF as a team if we place first in the league," says varsity Coach Eduardo Galindo. Galindo has great trust and faith in his boys this year encouraging them by saying, "Win league, and take league. This is your season!"

This year, both Ibarra who was the 2015 singles champion and Guerrero, are looking for another fantastic season since it is their last year playing tennis at El Rancho. Although both are a bit devastated to be leaving their teammates in June, they could only hope for a chance to win the title of "Del Rio league Champs" as a legacy and also an encouragement for the following tennis teams to come. All we can say is good luck to our boys varsity tennis team members in their upcoming season, and also to the JV boys tennis who were undefeated during their preseason. We hope both tennis teams make El Rancho proud with their wins this year. As varsity captains Ibarra and Guerrero would say to their teammates, "Never give up" and "Get it in!"

## Track overcomes hurdles



*Track hurdlers race to the finish line against Montebello.*

BY KATHELEEN MADERA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Track has had a successful season so far. The team as a whole has won two meets and it has great talent in every event.

Senior Vincent Cuevas says, “We have a really strong guys team, and although we lost a lot of varsity girls this year we have a good team overall. Many people have been improving and beating their personal records. I’m really looking forward to the South Pasadena meet because they give out really big medals if you win and I was very close to winning so I’m pretty sure I can win this year.”

Cuevas has been placing a lot of dedication into the sport in order to increase his chances of success. “I have been working on my diet and nutrition and working out.”

The team’s large size could be considered a strength or weakness. Hav-

ing a large team makes it difficult to organize, but since it’s a big team, it is a big family and the members get closer.

Senior Samantha Guirado says, “I hope we all get to have fun and keep giving it our all to let it be a good experience and a good season.”

“I joined track thinking it was going to be a one-time thing, but it ended up being my life. I am really sad that I have to go, but I’m working leaving proud by breaking my record,” says Cuevas.

Leaving track is “bitter-sweet” for Guirado. “As my high school experience comes to an end, so does track, but it’s been fun for me and it will remain as a good memory.”

Their next meet is home against Cal High on Wednesday April 7th, so stay to support our track team members as they look to win more meets and medals.

## Boys Volleyball team dominates pre-league

BY KATHELEEN MADERA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The boy’s volleyball teams are showing great potential for winning league. The varsity team has a current record of 10-4 in their pre-season and the junior varsity team’s current record is 5-2.

“I hope to end the season with league title this year since being captain and being the ‘go to’ for the team puts a lot of pressure, but it is nothing we can’t handle,” says senior and varsity captain Javier Torres.

“I am looking forward to the Santa Fe game since that match has slipped through my fingertips not once, but twice. I’m looking to win this time around.

This being my last year means I’m going to be leaving [the team] with all I have learned, in hopes of leaving them with the motivation they need to be successful next year. My advice would be that anything can be done but as a united team.”

Senior Damian Ramirez agrees that the goal of all team members is to finish season with a ring on their fingers. “We have a power house team yet lack the energy on the court sometimes, but we have had great games.”

“It sucks that it is my last year playing a sport I love, but I’m giving my all to achieve our goals this season. My advice for my fellow teammates is to never lose love for the sport and always stay focused and determined to pull off the win.”

Although its next game is during spring break against La Serna, you can definitely take time to support our boy’s volleyball team as it pursues the league title.



*Volleyball team rallies up before the game*

## Golf team strives for perfect season



*Captain’s Erick Cortez & Nathan Sanchez with their golf team.*

BY JULIAN LOPEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho Dons golf team is off to an undefeated, 5-0, start. The Dons are looking forward to bringing the Del Rio League title home.

“We just want to have fun,” said senior captain, Erick Cortez. “For a lot of us, it’s our senior year.” Although many of the golfers are seniors, Cortez’s co-captain, Nathan Sanchez, is a junior. “Throughout the season we have lost a

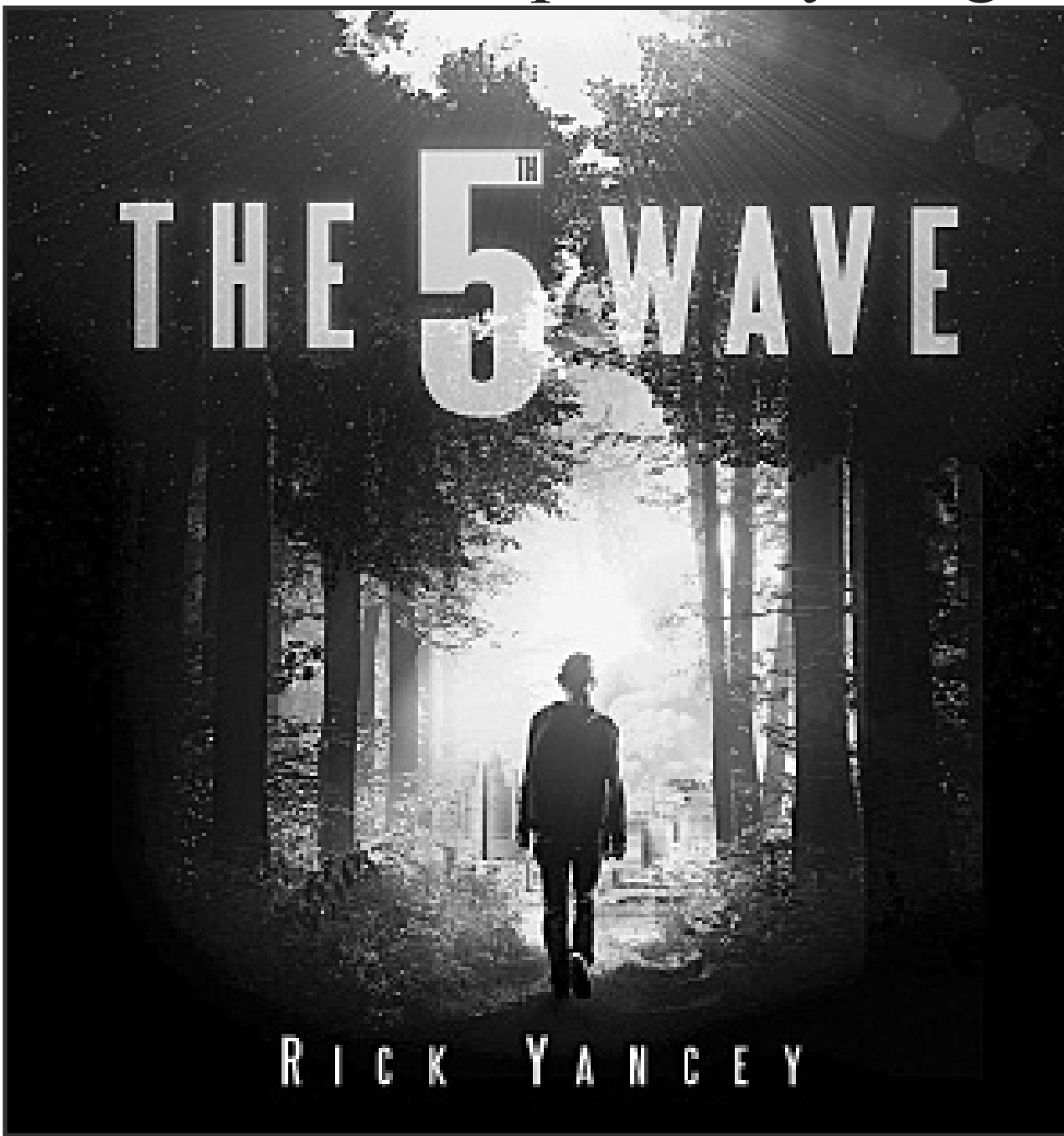
couple of guys,” said Cortez. “A lot of guys have stepped up to fill in for those that are out and have been playing well.”

The Dons are 4-0 against pre-season opponents and 1-0 against league opponents.

“We’re looking forward to playing

Cal High and La Serna,” said Sanchez. “Those teams seem to be our strongest competitors in league play.” The Dons next game is Thursday, March 24th at Montebello. League play will resume on Wednesday, April 6th, at Pioneer.

## The 5th Wave captivates young readers



BY MARISSA ARMSTRONG  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Rick Yancey's best-selling novel, *The 5th Wave*

pleases audiences both on the shelves and on the big screen.

A new trend has recently developed in the Young Adult (YA) literature scene, a shift toward action and adventure, filled-to-the-brim-with-teen-angst dysto-

pian novels with sassy female protagonists. This new genre includes such blockbusters as Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games* trilogy and Veronica Roth's *Divergent* series. Despite these series' success, some argue that this new stem plot is becoming a little too familiar and wearing out its welcome with audiences, as well as those who argue the absolute opposite. This YA best seller will surely please both sides of the debate.

The reason for Yancey's immediate success with *The 5th Wave* is his fresh new approach to the trope. He keeps such core elements as a sassy heroine with fighting skills akin to that of a Navy Seal, as well as the darker theme of a corrupt government in need of an overthrow. However, Yancey brings a whole new element to the table in *The 5th Wave*, aliens. But no not the typical green, buggy-eyed characters you see in old cartoons. Yancey chooses to use otherworldly antagonists who look just like humans, evil alien clones of a sort. By choosing to do this, Yancey makes an interesting statement about modern government, likening political leaders to the deadly and sociopathic alien antagonists from the novel.

This new theme of alien invaders also serves to attract audiences of both the masculine and feminine persuasion. As opposed to some other recent YA novels, such as *Twilight*, Yancey is careful to employ a perfect balance between action and romance. While some may argue that YA novels focus more on cheesy relationship building than the actual plot, *The 5th Wave* does not suffer from this problem. The romance sequences are fewer and farther between than in most YA novels, and well placed.

The novel also has no problem getting down to the nitty-gritty when necessary; some of the action sequences can get pretty violent. Not in the gory sense, such as in *The Walking Dead*, but let's just say the many action sequences will have you at very high levels of anxiety. A combination of alien-assassins vs. human shootouts and the protagonist's desperate quest to rescue her little brother will have you turning pages faster than you can count them.

Lastly, *The 5th Wave*, like *The Hunger Games*, is driven by a touching sense of familial love between siblings, and in this case, between the protagonist and her little brother who is kidnapped by the foreign invaders. Toward the end of the novel, this particular plot point becomes quite the tearjerker.

Overall, this unique, action-and-romance-rich YA novel, with its cast of loveable and diverse characters, is one of those stories that stays with you even after you have finished.

## Ask The Mask

BY THE MASK  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

**I have been with my boyfriend for about 1 year and a half, and my family does not like him. He is such a nice guy and it sucks making excuses as to why he can't come over. What should I do?**

*-It's time for you to make a choice. Is this guy important enough to face your family members and let them know that he means a lot to you. If so, they need to respect that, and if not, then maybe you might not have as strong feelings toward him as you think. Hope this helps!*

**I've been best friends with this person for a very long time and I feel like I'm starting to like him, and I think he is starting to like me too. I am afraid that this might ruin our friendship. What should I do?**

*-Dealing with these types of situations is difficult, but you have to prioritize and take risks. Do you think your friendship is more important than risking a relationship and having it end badly? In the end it's up to you. Even if you decide to try it out and it doesn't work, you can try to not make it awkward. You never know, this could turn out really great.*



**My best friend and I both like the same person, but this guy likes me. We have been talking and hanging out in secret and I don't want to keep doing this. What should I do?**

*-If she is truly your best friend, and you are truly her best friend, then you should both try to stay away from this guy. You should not choose a guy over a true best friend. Anything could happen and you could end your relationship with this guy. He won't be there for you, but your best friend will be.*

**I work, I study, and I volunteer. In general I am a very busy person, and I am starting to become overwhelmed with so many things that I have to do. What can I do to not be so overwhelmed?**

*-Organize your time! Make a plan, write in your agenda. Believe it or not, writing things out and planning what time and what day you're going to do something really helps. If you have a lot of things on your plate, you should prioritize and see which activities to let go. There's always time, you just have to make time.*

**I am starting to have a low self-esteem, everything I wear or do people criticize me. It's driving me crazy and making me really sad, any advice?**

*-People are going to criticize you no matter what you do, whether it's good thing or bad. Most people just like to talk because maybe they have self-esteem issues too. Nevertheless you should not worry about what other people say about you. You will live much better and happier not paying attention to other comments and not letting them bother you. If you just do that, you will feel much better!*

# Make a visit to Mimo's



By HUGO MARTINEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

You know those places where you always drive by and say, "I'm going to go there one of these days," but never end up going there? Mimo's Cafe in Uptown Whittier just might be one of those places.

Not to be confused with the chain restaurant Mimi's Cafe, Mimo's is located at 6735 Greenleaf Ave, Whittier, CA 90601. This eatery offers the typical American menu; burgers, sandwiches, salads, steaks, and most breakfast foods.

Friendly staff members welcome you and immediately strike up a nice conversation, which might seem annoying and overbearing to some; however, they are just trying to give you some of their own personal favorite items on the menu. This is extremely helpful for those of you who literally take forever to order at a new place you've never been before.

The inside of the cafe is cramped and hot, so immediately after ordering food, go outside to the broad array

of tables in the shade. The tranquil nature of Uptown Whittier will make conversation comfortable and peaceful.

In a group of three to five people, everyone's food will be brought to you in about fifteen minutes, which is a great plus for those of you who go to Uptown to hang out right after school.

Mimo's restaurant does its best to prepare its food with fresh ingredients so customers are very likely to get a satisfying bang for their buck. The bacon burger I ordered tasted very flavorful and was on a toasted bun, so the beef patty, bacon, lettuce, and tomato stayed put and didn't make a mess. Three burgers, fries, and drinks came out to a total of \$27.88 tax included.

A really irksome problem is that the restaurant lacked wifi. Come on! It's 2016 and the vast majority of cafes have internet available for their customers, get with the program Mimo's! So if you're craving a burger and don't mind the "dead spot," then Mimo's Cafe is the place to hang out. You might even have a real conversation!

# WINNERS OF THE EL RODEO ART CONTEST



CONGRATULATIONS TO SENIOR DIEGO GONZALEZ ON HIS DIGITAL ART SUBMISSION!



CONGRATULATIONS TO SENIOR KALEENA HUDSON ON HER DIGITAL ART SUBMISSION!



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Must present valid high school student/faculty ID with offer at the time of purchase. Entire coupon/flyer must be surrendered at the time of purchase/use. Not valid with any other offers/promos. Discount applies before sale taxes. All items purchased with this discount are final sale. Offer ends Dec. 31, 2016. Promo subject to change or cancellation without prior notice. Restrictions may apply.