



# EL RODEO



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## Cristian Roldan wins Gatorade National Soccer Player of the Year



Roldan expresses gratitude to family, friends, and mentors in his acceptance speech.

BY MIKE MENDOZA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On May 21st, Cristian Roldan joined the ranks of athletes like Dwight Howard, Peyton Manning, Derek Jeter, and Kobe Bryant by being awarded the Gatorade National Soccer Player of the Year.

A press conference was held in the El Rancho gymnasium with words coming from: El Rancho High School's principal, Sam Genis; El Rancho's Boys soccer coach, Dominic Picon; Gatorade program director of marketing from the Gatorade company headquarters in Chicago, Nancy Laroche, *USA Sports Today* writer, Chad Konecky; retired professional soccer player and current soccer color announce for *ESPN*, Alexi Lalas; and the player of the year himself, Cristian Roldan.

The Gatorade National Player of the Year has been awarded to 243 athletes since 1985 to "celebrate the nation's most outstanding high school talents for their athletic achievement, academic excellence and exemplary character."

After 1,500 hours of searching, Roldan was selected out of 400,000 high school soccer players to win this award. Roldan is the only Gatorade National Soccer Player of the Year recipient from Los Angeles County. "His statistics speak for themselves," claims coach Picon.

"Observing Cristian for the last four years, I look at one of his main qualities, and that is [his] humbleness," says Mr. Genis.

Before the trophy was handed over to Roldan, Alexi Lalas took the stand to celebrate Roldan's achievement. "This is a family, something everyone needs along the way... his teammates, his fellow students, his teachers, his coaches have all enabled him to get to this point."

Lalas adds that, "its much more than what he actually does on the soccer field... [Gatorade and] I are celebrating much more than an athlete... When you get right down to it, there is so much more than kicking a soccer ball on the field. And it's so much more that make them not only a good soccer player, but as a good person."

Roldan thanked "everybody." Roldan says that winning the player of the year award was "really the cherry on top of everything."

Roldan finished off by saying that he "knows [he] represented El Rancho the right way."

## Baseball team reaches CIF title game for first time in ER history



Baseball team ends up as runner-up for the CIF Division IV title after a tough loss to Oaks Christian.

BY ANGELICA GAMEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Dons participated in the CIF division IV finals this past Saturday at UC Riverside, something the El Rancho baseball team has never done, but ended their season as the runner up. The Dons lost to the Oaks Christian Lions 0-4.

The Dons' CIF run didn't come easy. The Dons had to participate in a wildcard round after ending season on a 2-5 run which caused them to drop from first place to third. Coach Frank Llanes didn't give up on his boys and used their losing streak mid-season as a lesson. "I think that its purpose was to keep us humble, to keep us grounded, to give

us the realization that we can't just show up to the field, we have to mentally be ready to play, we can't assume that the other team is going to be afraid of us, we have to go out there and earn everything that we get," says Llanes.

The Dons put their season behind them and began to focus on the post season. They faced Anaheim in the wildcard game. "We felt pretty confident as a team because we worked hard and we [knew] that regular season was over and it was post season now, it's all for grabs in playoffs," say senior captain Joey Sanchez. The Dons worked hard and moved onto the first round of CIF playoffs after defeating Anaheim 6-2.

It only got harder from there. The Dons still managed

to defeat Don Lugo 3-2 and went on to the second round of the playoffs. They faced Alhambra and it was a close game but the Dons won 1-0 taking them to the quarterfinals. In the quarterfinals they met El Segundo and were able to continue their winning streak, defeating El Segundo 6-4. The Dons then traveled to Baldwin Park to play in the semifinals where the Dons won 5-4.

All of the playoff games leading to the finals were close games. "[We would be] pretty relieved but not surprised because we [knew] we could get it done and we got it done...we [knew] that we [were] better than other teams from the start," say Sanchez. The Dons got it done and moved onto the CIF division IV championships.

The Dons had to face the Lions in the finals. Regardless if they won or lost, many of them were happy to have gotten this far. "It means a lot, we worked hard all year long just to get to this point, we made it this far, never gave up and kept on working, working and believing," says senior Julian Vizcarra.

The Lions had a 28-3-1 overall record going into the championships. They are ranked number ten in California and number one in the CIF Southern Section. The Dons had a feeling that it was going to be a tough game. Sanchez knew Oaks Christian was a good team. "Their pitcher's being drafted, he throws around 98 mph, it's going

[Continued on pg. 6]

## Garcia and Oase take Zucker Honors



Anna Garcia and Kristen Oase show-off their well-deserved oversized checks.

BY ANDREA MUNOZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Kristin Oase and Anna Garcia won this year's Natalie Zucker Teacher of the Year awards. "Garcia is a veteran; she's

been here for many, many years. She teaches students that their roots are deep and there are a lot of things to be proud of," says Frank Llanes.

Garcia was very humble about receiving the Zucker award: "Thank you to my fam-

ily, friends, and my colleagues for the support and acknowledgement of my many years of teaching here at El Rancho... I have had many rewarding experiences as a teacher in general. This award will be one of the most memorable among them."

Oase said, "It is an honor to be recognized by the staff because there are a lot of great teachers on this campus."

She went on to say, "The background work the Zekos did made the day extra special."

"[Oase] is an awesome sauce," added Oase's student Melody Carbajal.

Garcia is going to "take the family to see a show in the fall: Cirque du Soleil, my favorite."

"I will probably be spending the money on my honeymoon because I'm getting married in the summer," said Oase.

"Oase is deserving of the award because she gives all of herself; whether it be through teaching, participating in activities, or listening to students' personal problems... She should be teacher of the decade," said English teacher Charissa Zeko.

Principal Sam Genis also commended the Oase and Garcia by adding: "We had about 12 to 13 nominations... They are both deserving [of this award]; Oase really works hard with academic decathlon and not only that but she is a class advisor and puts a lot of time here at El Rancho, time that she doesn't get paid for."



## COLLEGE

## Meza lends insight on how to handle college

BY MIKE MENDOZA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

For more than thirty years here at El Rancho, Mr. Meza has been passionate about his teaching job.

Meza is “a product of the sixties,” he graduated from Whittier High School in 1967. After graduation, he went on to pursue his plans of attending a four-year university.

Meza attended Cal State University, Hayward, now known as Cal State University East Bay, with the intention of majoring in business administration. After two years though, Meza found it “boring.”

With Hayward having an excellent History program and Meza having already taken some History and Political Science classes, he decided to drop business to study History and become a lawyer.

If it weren't for his History professor, Dr. Nominikos, Meza would never have entered the education business. “She always said, ‘You know, I think you need to consider teaching. You'll never get rich, but you'll have a great life, and you'll always be reading’ even though I was thinking about law school.. That was always secondary on my mind. She was instrumental [in my decision to teach].”

After graduating from CSUH, Meza entered a four



After more than forty years, Meza continues enjoying how students at the Ranch revitalize him and help keep him “young.”

month hiatus. In those four months, he made the decision to attend Whittier College for their fifth year education program. “I never regretted it,” Meza says.

Meza went out to search for a teaching job. At that time, however, the economy was distinctly similar to what it is now. He applied to school districts ranging as far south as San Diego and as far north as Sacramento. No teaching job was available.

Finally, Meza found an opening at the El Rancho Unified School District. “I had a contact that knew someone at the district.” He offered a teaching job “not at the high school,

but at the continuation school.”

Meza got the job and went on to teach at Salazar Continuation School for five years, from 1974 to 1979. Finally, in the school year of 1979-1980, Meza began teaching at El Rancho High School.

For more than forty years, Meza has been doing what he loves. “I have always loved to study, I love to read, I love to present.” Meza applauds the students of El Rancho. His appreciation for the students is a major contributor as to why he enjoys teaching at El Rancho, “I enjoy their attitude, I enjoy their humor... [they] revitalize me... and keep me young.”

To the exiting seniors,

and pretty much any student aspiring to attend college, Meza gives his advice on college life and life after college.

His advice on college is that, “it's all about time management. Being able to manage your time in such a way that you're going to be able to do a good job in the classroom and get you're assignments done, and yet have fun. If you're not having fun in college, you're not doing it right. If you have that balance, I think you'll be fine.”

His advice on life after college. “It's key to getting paid for doing something you love. I think that's one of the keys to having a good life. I think I've been successful in doing that.”

“If you need an advanced degree,” Meza says, “try to not take any time off. Go straight into Master or Doctoral work after your four years.”

The economy and the job market are currently in down slopes, and as a result, many college graduates who receive their Bachelor's degree enter the low-paying work force.

Meza is optimistic that in four years, both the economy and the job market will have improved.

Just in time for seniors graduating high school. If you do “have to take that route of low pay, keep studying, keep working, and keep your ears and eyes open. Things will improve. The economy will improve,” Meza encourages.

## Art Institute sets students up for success

BY KARINA CERDAS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Art Institute is an educational system of for-profit art colleges. There are over fifty schools across the United States and Canada. The Art Institutes specialize in hands-on training that is up to date with current “real world” job market. The schools have a variety of certification options, ranging from basic certificates to Master's Degrees.

The programs offered at The Art Institutes range from fashion, media arts, culinary, and design. All the programs are run by faculty members who still actively work in their specialized fields. This is to help students learn what is currently happening in their field, as well as make every student a stronger candidate for the job market.

Each program is hands-on. The students will put their own skills to work with independent projects. For example, in the culinary program, students are trained in industrial-sized kitchens. By the end of the curriculum, students eventually run a real on-campus restaurant that is open to the public.

In 2012, the eight Art Institutes in California worked together to create a single college of art and design within Argosy University. The school is known as The Art Institute of California—



The programs offered at The Art Institutes range from fashion, media arts, culinary, and design.

a College of Argosy University.

The Art Institute of Hollywood, California was founded in 1991, and accredited in 2002. As of April 2013, approximately 1,821 are attending the school in Hollywood. The founder of the Hollywood campus, Sabrina Kay, was featured in a New York Times article in 2005. Aside from founding AI Hollywood, Kay also founded Fremont College, Premier Business Bank, Fremont Private Investments, Fashion Umbrella, and LAdesigns.

Every summer, The Art Institutes offer a program called “Summer Studio.” The program is designed for high school students who are considering enrolling in the school. It is a one-week program that lets the high school students dorm on campus and get the

complete “Art Institute student” experience. The students are assigned career related assignments and are also given the opportunity to work with some of the instructors. For example, media arts students are encouraged to create and edit their own mini movie.

AI's mission is to help students become highly employable and teaches everything from resume writing to communication skills.

Applying to these schools is open at any time, but if selected, the student will not start attending until the start of the following new quarter. There are no required classes students must take in high school to apply to the Art Institutes.

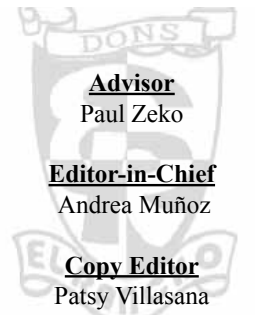
In order to apply, a student needs a high school transcript

proving that he or she is a high school graduate. An Associate's Degree is also acceptable for older, out-of-high school applicants.

Admission representatives will speak to the student one on one to discuss the student's interest in the school, ensuring the student is a good fit for the chosen program. Once the student is accepted to the school, the student will start off with basic classes introducing them to their new major. These fundamental classes are designed with the assumption that the student has no previous exposure to their field of study.

The Art Institutes let students create art and helps make the experience even more special. These schools give students all the skills and tools they need to successfully get their dream job.

## 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

## STYLIN' WITH STYLE'M

By  
DON DINERO

Throughout the school year we have been highlighting businesses in Pico Rivera.

Now we highlight a business that was created by one of our own senior class member Erik Reyna. A flair for fashion, an eye for design, and a strong do-it-yourself ethic leading the charge, El Rancho's Erik Reyna's clothing line is quickly going from high school hobby to rewarding business.

When Reyna started STYLE'M Clothing in January his goal wasn't to change the fashion trade, but to create fresh and exciting threads for his peers. "Everybody's always looking for something different," Reyna said. "I don't like having things that other people have. What we try is throw in a bunch of unique things together and style up the moment."

Reyna started STYLE'M in January with \$150 for twenty-five



Reyna hopes his pieces allow his peers to stay unique and "style up the moment."

shirts. Reyna stuck to that model, only turning out 25 pieces for ev-

ery design to keep demand high. And with every new product the

quality is constantly improving, Reyna said. Despite the reaction

to Reyna's self-taught business acumen and designs, the senior remains humble, acknowledging everything he has left to learn.

"It never hurts to learn more," he said. "I want to practice sociology and psychology. How do people work? What do they like? Why do they wear that shirt? Why would this be their favorite shirt? That's what I want my product to be." A sponge for anything that can add to his developing business sense, Reyna soaks up what he can from his graphic design and economics classes at El Rancho; in this way he can design his products, while also understanding how to market them.

A short term goal for Reyna is to get STYLE'M moved to stores all over the West coast, and eventually the world. An adamant supporter of grassroots artists and designers whose raw talent and dedication propelled to the top of their field, Reyna is poised to join them as fashion's next innovator.

## Pepe Electrifies Pico Rivera

By  
DON DINERO

Asked to review a performance by Pepe Aguilar seemed to be a job on Sunday May 26, 2013 at the Pico Rivera Sports Arena. Although my name is Don Dinero I am not a fan of "Mexican music." Any music group that has a tuba is questionable to me but I sat in an arena that may hold over 5,000 people and I was taken. First, I found out this arena is world renowned for its Mexican rodeos; I did not even know such things existed. Then I learned it is an established venue for Mexican music stars the same as the Hollywood Bowl, Music Center, etc. So, I sit prepared to be bored to death and I witness an exciting rodeo with bull riding, roping and music with tubas and bass, known as "Banda" with amateur sounding horns and a big drum. One of the spectators explains to me that the Banda



Aguilar captures "not only the old but the teenagers" as well.

music, with its tuba and drums, is similar to American jazz in that it is "Umpa" music from Germans who immigrated to Mexico and whose sound was incorporated to Northern Mexico's music to create that distinctive sound similar to how Africa and Ireland contributed to American jazz, ok

the spectators schooled me.

Then a very tall singer dressed in a Mariachi suit began to sing with an operatic voice and not only the old, but the teenagers in the crowd begin to sing along with the tall Mariachi. The entertainer narrates his performance in both English and Spanish, describing Mariachi music as being similar to American country western music about unrequited love. He then mentions that his songs are from the internal love specialist Joseph Alfred Jimenez, who is Jose Alfredo Jimenez, my grandmother's all time favorite.

I loved the music and the crowd and especially that the event referenced the city of Pico Rivera over 23 times. They made me proud of not only being Mexican but of coming from the city Pico Rivera. Can we deal with our community's budget problems by becoming the Nashville of Mexican music, from Sunday's concert? Just a thought.



Next year's Entrepreneur officers plan to outshine their "outstanding predecessors."

## Following a Tradition Of Service

By  
DON DINERO

Business and community members speak of the monumental presentation presented by the Entrepreneur Club in 2012 to the city council of Pico Rivera. Monumental in the sense that those high school students had prepared a comprehensive and valid study revealing that the city of Pico Rivera's public transportation system was inadequately servicing the largest employer in the city of Pico Rivera: the El Rancho Unified School District. The study included a cluster map of 3,000 households in Pico Rivera and a study which revealed that the current public transportation system was inadequately serving its student population resulting partially in a three million dollar loss in revenue to the community. Their studies also included a statistical best practices study that demonstrated how the student body of El Rancho High School possessed three million dollars in disposable income. The studies and presentations were hailed as college-level studies and an unprecedented presentation from the Pico Rivera City Council for its depth and clear economic mission.

In 2013, with the graduation of its clubs' officers, how did the next generation of members fare? Remarkably, a notch higher than its processors. The mission for these members was to realize the plans of their graduating class-

mates and how did they measure?

The club received two contracts from local businesses to promote their businesses with the student body providing substantial discounts and support for the school's athletic program.

They secured a fundraising program that would provide fifty two thousand dollars annually to affordable student transportation that would support the school district's budget.

Local businesses support budget cuts to the campus newspaper through the sale of advertisements of local businesses in the newspaper, bringing the needed prestige to improve the El Rancho High School "brand" to attract and counter a diminishing student population.

The new Chief Executive Officer of the Entrepreneur club cited "developing a better relationship with local businesses" as her goal for 2013 and 2014 and increasing her membership by fifty percent. Executive Vice President Arenas' mission is to "outperform our outstanding predecessors." The new officers for the 2013-2014 school year are: Chief Executive Officer: Susan Aparicio  
Executive Vice President: Analye Arenas  
Secretary: Emily Peyton  
Chief Financial Officer: Rubi Macias  
Aggressive goals for an aggressive club.

## Pico Rivera by Rubi Macias



## Graduation by Analye Arenas





# SENIOR FEATURES

## Don pursues dreams in filmmaking

BY DENIS COREA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Mykeko Carmona is venturing into a new world, the world of film, an unusual but unique profession.

Carmona, or, as he likes to be called, "Keko", played football in his freshman year, participated in track during his sophomore year, and has wrestled since freshman, for which he spent his junior and senior years on varsity.

Carmona will start his journey by attending the Art Institute of California in Santa Ana. Carmona chose the Art Institute because he feels "they do a great job integrating all of the different fields; it gives an appreciation for the different types of art and the chance to network with fellow colleagues."

Going into the Art Institute, Carmona will be studying Digital Filmmaking and Video Production. "I like how

films can capture acting and emotion... and how films are immortal," says Carmona.

Carmona's biggest influences have been his mom; Quentin Tarantino, director of *Django, Inglorious Basterds* and *Pulp Fiction*; and Alfred Hitchcock, director of *Psycho*.

"My mom has always been there for me and supported me in what I wanted to do. Tarantino and Hitchcock took film and evolved it to a whole other level," says Carmona. "I'd like to be working for an independent film company, making documentaries as well as screen writing and doing some freelance photography."

Carmona also adds how he recently finished a documentary about fellow El Rancho Dons Chris Rivera, Rick Islas, and Angel Penya. He is currently writing a film inspired by the lyrics of Black Flag, an 80's punk band. You could find his work on vimeo.com, a website



Carmona is working on a Black Flag-inspired documentary.

on which you can upload videos.

Carmona is excited and ready to leave El Rancho to pursue his dreams. "I can't wait to graduate and do what I have been so fond of all of my life. Maybe one day, I'll actually become a famous director," says Carmona.



Bethran hopes "to work with athletes" as a nutritionist.

## Bethran makes the "right decision" to attend Idaho

BY ISABEL RAMIREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Senior Pearl "Tabby" Lynn Bethran will be attending the University of Idaho as a nutrition major this fall.

Bethran will be majoring in nutrition because she is interested in "staying healthy and fit." She chose Idaho over Cal State LA, Sacramento, and San Bernardino because she plans to play volleyball. "They [also] offer a really good nutrition program," says Bethran.

Going into college, Bethran has a future plan set for herself. "I basically want to work with athletes and eventually marry an NBA player," says Bethran.

Bethran is glad to leave her hometown of Pico Rivera but will most definitely miss family and friends. "I will try to visit during the holidays and the summer, but it's going to depend on my volleyball schedule," says Bethran.

Although attending school out of state may be a tough task for prospective students, Bethran is "a little nervous, but I'm glad I'm going with a close friend of mine."

Bethran concluded, "I would like to thank my coaches for encouraging me to leave when I had my doubts. I know now that I made the right decision."

## Arias gains Polytechnic acceptance

BY SAMANTHA GURROLA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Andy Arias, a senior here at El Rancho, is taking a big step and going out of state to Rensselaer Polytechnic School in New York.

Many people dream of going to New York and Arias is one of the lucky ones. "I'm going to Rensselaer Polytechnic in New York," says Arias.

Arias wanted to go to a Polytechnic so he would be able to study engineering. Arias says, "I'm still undeclared but because it is a Polytechnic I'm definitely going to be an engineering major."

With Arias being ranked number eight in his senior class, he had been accepted to top schools.

"I got accepted to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Cal Poly Pomona, and a school named Drexel in Philadelphia," says Arias.

Going out of state for college can be a tough decision for many. Arias says, "I applied to school far away because I be-

lieve it provides the best opportunity for me to grow as a person."

"My final decision was made when I finally visited Rensselaer and at the end of the day I decided, even before visiting the other schools, that I wanted to go there," says Arias.

With Arias being successful in his schoolwork, he still found time to do extracurricular activities. "At school, I was involved in Link Crew, Leo's club, and El Rancho's soccer and tennis teams," says Arias.

"My high school career was pretty fun, I always found something to do with my friends and with soccer it always brought me joy," said Arias. "My most memorable moments here were the night pep rally, state championship, and the CIF one too."

College can be a place where you can start fresh and experience new things. Arias adds: "What I look forward to most in college is meeting new people and starting a new life



Arias knows he will "definitely" major in engineering.

style... what I'm going to miss the most out of leaving California is weather, family, and friends, but at the same time New York is going to be exciting," says Arias.

### The Class of 2013 has been accepted to these schools:

- California Maritime Academy
- California State University:
  - Bakersfield
  - Channel Islands
  - Chico
  - Dominguez Hills
  - East Bay
  - Fresno
  - Fullerton
  - Humboldt
  - Long Beach
  - Los Angeles
  - Monterey Bay
  - Northridge
  - Pomona
  - Sacramento
  - San Bernardino
  - San Diego
  - San Francisco
  - San Jose
  - San Luis Obispo
  - San Marcos
- University Of California:
  - Berkeley
  - Davis
  - Irvine
  - Los Angeles
  - Merced
  - Riverside
  - San Diego
  - Santa Barbara
  - Santa Cruz
- Academy Of Art University
- Amhurst College
- Asuza Pacific University
- Biola University
- Brown University
- Carleton College
- Columbia University
- Concordia University
- Cornell University
- Daemen College
- Dominican University Of California
- Drexel University
- E.I. School of Professional Makeup
- Grand Canyon University
- Iowa State University
- Loyola University - New Orleans
- Massachusetts Institute Of Technology
- Mount Olive College
- Mount St. Mary's College
- Northern Arizona University
- Notre Dame De Namur
- Oregon State University
- Pace University
- Rensselaer Polytechnic
- Rochester Institute Of Technology
- Soka University
- St. Johns University
- St. Leo University
- State University Of New York At Oneonta
- University of Colorado
- University of Illinois
- University Of La Verne
- University Of Miami
- University Of New England
- University Of Portland
- University Of San Francisco
- University Of Southern California
- University Of Tampa
- University Of The Pacific
- University Of Virginia
- Wesleyan College
- Whittier College
- Yale University

## Word on the Street

### What has been your favorite high school year?



"Sophomore year because that is the year I met my AVID family." -Agustin Campos, 12



"Senior year. Everything was much better like night pep rally, winter formal, and simply all the activities. This year was also the best because we won the CIF and State Championship." -Miguel Vilchis, 12



"Senior year was my favorite because it's our last year and I have made the best of it. I feel like our class has gotten closer." -Tiffany Moran, 12



"Freshman year was my favorite. High school was all new to me and I met a lot of new people." -Joseph Sanchez, 12



# SENIOR FEATURES

## Ramirez to participate in disability program

BY ANDREA MUNOZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Senior Maria Ramirez will participate in the California Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities on July 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento on the CSU Sacramento campus.

This program will help individuals develop leadership skills and teach them how to reach their academic, career, and independent goals.

It will also give them a chance to talk with policy makers and educate on ways they can improve the lives of young people with disabilities.

Roberta Jimenez, a counselor who works with students with any kind of disabilities here on campus, encouraged Ramirez to apply for the leadership program.

Jimenez says, "Maria has a learning disability but fights



Ramirez enjoys three years at ER. Ramirez is looking forward to the overall experience, "I was so upset with my disability at first and this is a chance for me to learn more about it and learn to do more things even though I do have a learning disability... I will be able to see how others with certain disabilities are affected at school or with their families."

Ramirez has learned to embrace her disability: "Others are shy and embarrassed but I want them to know that you cannot fear a disability because it will help you in many ways in your future."

Ramirez concludes, "I would like to thank those who helped me around the school year especially Alexandria Castro-Spencer, Naomi Zaldate, Elizabeth Rodriguez, Daisy Santa Ana, and Samantha Herrera for accepting who I was and I hope that I become a leader to those with disabilities."

strongly to not let it keep her from doing what she wants to do."

Ramirez had to write a two-page essay explaining why she wanted to be a part of the leadership program along with an extensive ten page application. She also needed two letters of recommendation.

Ramirez felt really excited and proud about being accepted, Ramirez says, "I have a lot of support from Pastor Paul; faith is the one thing that keeps me going. I also have support from Ms. Jimenez; she is my number one supporter."

## Ochoa looks forward to joining U.S. Navy

BY PATSY VILLASANA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

For three years, senior Isabel Ochoa has set her sights on becoming an active member of the U.S. Navy and law enforcement K9 officer after she graduates from the California State University of Los Angeles.

"[I was inspired] when I visited a WWII battleship and saw the sailors who were managing it," said Ochoa about her first experience in a military environment.

Ochoa decided to begin her training early and entered the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy Explorer program. "[The program] helped me gain self-confidence and physical and mental strength."

"Isabel will do well [in the Navy] because she finds fun in everything she does; she's a good leader," said freshman Sonya Ochoa, Isabel's sister.

Ochoa completed the required six weeks of pre-academy, which included intense workouts and basic law enforcement training classes, before moving on to the Stars Explorer Training Academy every Saturday for eighteen weeks.

"The Academy's training is run military style; it's based off of the Marine Corps' system," stated Ochoa. "If you join, be ready for a lot of yelling and pushups; they will push you to your limits, but you learn self-control."

Training for the military can be too much to handle for some people, but many believe Isabel has found a career to match her passions.

"Isabel is a good match [for the Navy] because she has the abilities to work hard and play hard, and she has a sense of when to use either one," stated Mrs. Bauer, Ochoa's Marine Biology teacher.

Ochoa strongly suggests to start mentally and physically preparing yourself now if you plan on joining the military in the near future. She enrolled in



Joining the Navy has been a three-year long dream for Ochoa.

Rio Hondo's Intro to Law and Criminology classes last year to gain experience in these subjects and also raise her GPA.

Upon graduating from the Explorer program, Ochoa received an Explorer I.D., allowing her to work at the Pico Rivera Sheriff's Station and attend physical training and meetings with Explorers from other police stations.

Ochoa chose to attend college after high school before joining the Navy because she "didn't want to miss out" on collegiate experiences.

"I'm excited; I won't have to wake up early anymore," commented Ochoa.

These four years will also give Ochoa time to prepare for living in the military, in which she will spend eight years. Ochoa is still trying to decide on what to major in at Cal State LA, although she is looking forward to working as a K9 handler.

While Ochoa has focused on creating an impact around the world, she's already created one while attending El Rancho.

"I'm going to miss Isabel's kindness," stated sophomore Vanessa Quevedo. "She gives others motivation to do things they never thought they could do."

## Senior Don leaves for OSU

BY KARLA VIRAMONTES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Honor crest recipient Andrea Villapando is wrapping up her senior year to graduate this June with the rest of her senior class peers.

However unlike the majority of the seniors who plan on staying in California to earn their college degree, Villapando took the initiative to apply to out-of-state schools.

One school in particular that really caught Villapando's attention was Oregon State University. Not only was she interested in attending this school, but the university gladly offered Villapando admission to attend in the fall. While many students might be too reluctant or scared to study outside of California, Villapando says, "I just wanted to see what it would be like. I want to see how it feels [to be alone]."

Villapando also adds that the reason for why she chose to attend OSU in the fall was because, "it is not too far, but it is



Villapando is eager to live in the "very green" state of Oregon.

far enough to be out of state, and also because it's very green." Villapando is very excited to become a student at Oregon State University, though she admits that she will miss many of the people that she will be leaving behind here in California.

Throughout her four years at El Rancho, Villapando took many honors and AP classes for different subjects in which she excelled. However Villapando has decided that she wants "to major in biology."

As an El Rancho Don, Villapando has had many experiences and will take many memo-

ries with her. One extracurricular activity she was involved in was band. Villapando has been involved in El Rancho's band since her freshman year as a clarinetist.

"Without a doubt, a memorable experience I had here at El Rancho was being part of band and playing the clarinet," said Villapando.

Though being in band was something she really enjoyed, Villapando also participated in several more activities. She says, "I wasn't only in band, but I was also a part of the social justice club and the California Scholarship Federation for my junior and senior years."

After gaining four years worth of experience here at El Rancho, some advice that Villapando wants to give to next year's seniors is to "start applying early and do not procrastinate."

Although Villapando holds many memories of her time spent at the Ranch and will miss her loved ones, Villapando is ready to attend Oregon State University and begin a new chapter in her life.

## Word on the Street

### Which teacher are you going to miss the most and why?



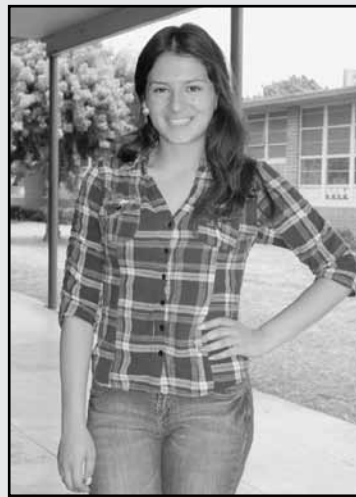
"The teacher I would miss the most would be Mrs. Bauer because her class was very fun and educational." -Andrea Cedillo, 12



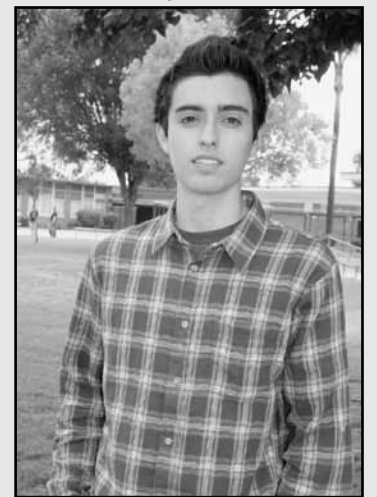
"The teacher I'm going to miss is Mr. Crone because he's a good teacher & I enjoyed being a part of yearbook staff." -Kamille Mancina, 12



"The teacher I'm going to miss the most would be Mr. Elias. He has taught me so much about money and has made me a better person." -Leo Duron, 12



"I'm going to miss Ms. Jurado the most because she has taught me so much about history, has made me a better person, and her class was fun." -Esmeralda Reynoso, 12



"The teacher I'm going to miss the most is Ms. Fig because she's always there to help you and she is a crazy, cool teacher who loves cats and tattoos." -Raymond Cervantes, 12



## SPORTS

**Baseball team reaches CIF title game... [continued from pg. 1]**

Senior Andrew Banuelos preps for his next swing.

### ER Golf team works to improve for next year

ANDREA MUNOZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Senior Andrew Banuelos was named Del Rio League Golf Champion for the 2012-2013 season.

The golf team overall came in last in the Del Rio League. The team had a rough start to season: "It started off kind of slow; no one was really excited," says Banuelos.

Freshman Erick Cortes says, "We could have done way better and should have come in stronger."

The team had a few obstacles along the way. "We had to forfeit the Pioneer game," says senior Joshua Juarez.

Individually Banuelos excelled during league. "Last year during finals I told myself I was going to win league," says Banuelos. And that is exactly what he did.

Banuelos, also a basketball player, came into golf right after the winter sport, although many may see this as a disadvantage, Banuelos didn't feel like it hindered him at all.

Being Del Rio League champ did not come easy to Banuelos, "I practiced every day on my own," Banuelos adds, "It feels like an accomplishment because I have left something here at El Rancho."

Banuelos says, "It was a good and fun team and it is a great memory."

The underclassmen have looked past this season and are working to improve for the next year. Freshman Leanne Caudejon says, "I have to practice more and be serious about it." While Cortes adds, "[We'll be] back to back Del Rio League champs."

to be a good matchup hopefully we come out and surprise them," says Sanchez. Oaks Christian's pitcher Phil Bickford did what was expected and it became a tough game for the Dons.

The first inning ended even at 0-0. Sanchez knew that the Dons couldn't afford a bad inning but the second inning became a "two-out nightmare" for the Dons as the Lions brought in three runs. Bickford then helped the Lions keep this lead as he struck out some runners keeping the score at 0-3 in the Lions' favor going into the fourth inning.

It looked like the Dons had some hope in the fourth as the Lions' runner was pickled with Sanchez throwing it to senior Anthony Herrera to get the second out of the inning. Then another runner was picked off while stealing second from a throw from Herrera to Sanchez getting the Dons the third out. Vizcarra also got on base that inning but unfortunately that was as far as the Dons went.

Going into the sixth in-

ning the Dons were still down 0-3. Senior Leo Duran tagged a runner out at third but the Lions brought in another run putting the Dons down 0-4. The Dons still received some momentum that inning as the ball was hit to Sanchez who gave a short flip to senior David Corrales for the second out and was then quickly thrown to first baseman Herrera for the double play. The Dons remained scoreless the rest of the game and they became the runner up team after the 0-4 loss.

Regardless of losing in the championship, the Dons made El Rancho history going further than most expected since they began their CIF run as a wildcard team. "We kept on believing, we had to play to get to the CIF play offs and no one thought we were going to go this far, we just kept on believing," says Vizcarra.

Sanchez is also satisfied with how far they've made it. "I'm very happy with my team, we work together as a family ...it's just a great feeling...we



The baseball team huddles last time before the game.

made history, no other [El Rancho baseball] team has been here before but the 2013 El Rancho baseball team," says Sanchez.

Some of the credit for the Dons' season has to go to Llanes. "As a coach I give them a direction to follow, their efforts are way more important than me," says Llanes, "if they don't follow the directions that we set for them as coaches then we would not have the success that we earned," he adds.

To the players, Llanes impacted them a lot more than he thinks. "I feel like he has impacted us a lot, he just [had] us believing in ourselves all the time every

game and he [didn't] tell us that these playoff games [were] big games, he just [said] 'oh it's just another game, we gotta do what we gotta do, this is El Rancho baseball,'" says senior Nick Vasquez.

Some credit for the Dons also goes to coaches Meza, Solis, and Placentia. "We would not have the success if it wasn't for Meza, Solis, and Placentia," says Llanes.

The Dons lived by their motto "24 strong" and went into CIF as the underdogs and came out as the runner up team. The Dons made history at El Rancho and this season is something that they will remember forever.

## Tennis team fights for CIF title

BY LESLIE CHINCHILLA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The boys' tennis team finished in third place in the Del Rio League and earned second place in the CIF Division Five playoffs.

The Dons had an overall 13-7 record, but maintained a 7-3 League record. The record allowed them to play a wild card game against Arroyo High School in order to advance to the first round of CIF.

The team defeated Arroyo and next faced Summit High School in the first round. The team successfully defeated their opponents in order to move on to the second round. The Dons also won their next three CIF games; in the semi-finals, the team defeated a fellow Del Rio League team, La Serna. In doing so, the team earned a place in the CIF Division Five finals. The team faced Santa Fe, another Del Rio League rival, in the championship game.

The Dons had previously defeated Santa Fe once during League play, but, unfortunately, they were unable to defeat them again in CIF. The team was not satisfied with its overall performance during the game. We could've done better, says senior Edgar Ibarra, who was ranked number two in the Del Rio League this season. Coach

### Daniel Becerra named MVP at boys basketball all-star game

BY MIKE MENDOZA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, Daniel Becerra was named the all-star Most Valueable Player. Becerra says that his "hard work [has] finally paid off," the MVP award topped of what Becerra calls a "great year." Becerra and the El Rancho's basketball team finished second in the Del Rio League standing with a record of 7-3, qualify-



Boys' Tennis team ends up as runner up for the CIF division V title.

Cynthia Lippstreu adds, "We expected to win again, that's what I think, but they came hungry to defeat us that second time."

Apart from competing in CIF as a team, three members of the team also qualified for CIF as individuals. Ibarra, Robert Mercado, and Armando Rodriguez each played a game on May 22. However, they were unable to win their games. "Unfortunately we lost, but after our game Ms. Lippstreu drove

to school, and I put on my toga and I had an Ultimate Taste Challenge for Chef Luna, and I think I did pretty well," says Ibarra.

Overall, the Dons are satisfied with what they accomplished this season. "We had a good season. I think people enjoyed it," says Lippstreu. Rodriguez adds, "I don't think we were the best physical team, but, together, we were the best team..."

Losing the seniors will be hard for the team. "I'm very sad

[about the seniors graduating] because all of my friends are leaving," says Joshua Briseño, who believes he can work on his backhands, while Lippstreu says other areas of improvement include, "being on offense more, being more aggressive, and hitting more angle shots."

The Dons had an impressive season and the underclassmen will attempt to find more success next season as well.



Daniel Becerra receives honors for high school basketball career.



# SPORTS

## Volleyball team recognized for their sportsmanship



Volleyball gained recognition from Templeton's principal for their good sportsmanship while battling Templeton in first round of CIF.

By ANGELICA GAMEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After ending the season with a 3-0 streak the Dons successfully made it to the first round of CIF playoffs but their season ended there.

Even with the team having a tough season, the Dons managed to make it to CIF. "We all knew we were going to make it but it felt good because other people didn't think we were going to make it because of our bad start," says senior captain Daniel Becerra.

Senior Eric Calderon had a different reaction after making CIF. "I didn't feel so great

because we barely made it and I felt that we should have made it for sure," says Calderon. "We should have gotten a better seat instead of traveling four hours away," he adds. The Dons had to travel four hours to Templeton High for the first round of CIF.

The Dons were unable to win that game but they still left Templeton with good sportsmanship and Templeton's principal, Andrew Cherry, responded with an email to the Dons' principal Sam Genis acknowledging them. "If the outcome of that game would have been decided on pure effort and the will to win, [the Dons] would

have destroyed us," says Cherry.

The Dons' coach Adelaida Picon appreciated the principal's praise. "That was very nice of them to do and we definitely do always want to compete at that level and I'm very proud that our boys were able to earn that respect," says Picon. Although she was proud of them, Picon would have preferred to win that game.

The Dons didn't simply hand the win to Templeton, but made them earn it. "If we would've kept up the intensity and kept that hard work like we did in the first set, it would have been a whole different story," says senior Andrew Hernandez.

The Dons lost to Templeton 3-1.

Senior captain Cristian Roldan and other soccer players on the volleyball team recently won the State Regionals, therefore losing in the first round of CIF for volleyball was not what they were used to. "It was different because of the mindset that the volleyball players have and that the soccer players have," said Roldan. "It was different, but overall I like the experience and I love volleyball," he added.

The Dons' season may not have been as long as they hoped but there were plenty of memories made. Hernandez will always remember the second La

Serna game. "We knew that we had to beat the next three teams and La Serna was the first... knowing that we did do it... that was one of the best memories that we had," said Hernandez.

Now the only thing left for the senior volleyball players to do is help next year's team out. "They need to start building their relationship more than their skill at first," says Hernandez. Becerra hopes they put more effort and heart out on the court.

With new people coming onto the team, the team is going to have to improve a lot. "We're going to have an inexperienced team, we're going to have a lot of players from JV, hopefully they help us out and step it up," says junior Alex Roldan.

The Dons also hope that they get more practice time next year. "We definitely want to start earlier than what we did this year," says Picon. Picon feels like the team starting right at league hurt them, but they had to start late because they had a lot of soccer players on the team.

Even though their season is over, Picon is still proud of her team. "They should feel proud because for having little playing experience they were still able to accomplish big things," says Picon. Picon also wants to wish good luck to the seniors. "They will go to high places; I'm very proud of them," says Picon.

The Dons' season is over, but next year they hope to keep improving and get further than they did this year. Hernandez would like to thank his team for being there for him and Calderon would like to thank the coaches and everyone who supported them.

## Burbank defeats Dons in first round of CIF



Softball breaks their huddle to get set for first play of the game.

By LESLIE CHINCHILLA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The girls' softball team ended their season with a League record of 5-5-0 and were able to make it to the first round of CIF.

The team looked to make an impact during the second round of League play. After an intense final three League games, the team earned third place; Santa Fe tied with the Dons for the third position of the League.

By earning third place, girls were given an opportunity to play a wildcard game in order to advance to the first round of CIF.

The Dons faced Pioneer Valley High School in the wildcard game. The game was extremely close, as there were not many runs. Ultimately, the girls were able to defeat Pioneer Valley 1-0 and advanced to the next round.

"The pitcher was throwing really hard, so we tried to adjust as well as we could. We

did come back and it wasn't a blowout like everyone said it would be," said senior captain Bri Ramos about the game. "It was a really close game, and I'm glad we held them," adds junior captain Aiyana Leal-Robles.

After the win, the girls faced Burbank High School in the first round of CIF.

The team made a strong effort to beat Burbank. Unfortunately, the girls came up short and lost the game by a score of 2-7.

"[The loss] was hard and tough, and the team was really good," says Leal-Robles. However, she said she was proud of the girls for working hard.

Despite losing the game, the team is proud of everything they were able to accomplish throughout the 2012-2013 season.

"Overall, I think we did really well. I'm very proud of my girls and all we've accomplished," says Ramos. Leal-Robles adds, "I'm really proud of us. We went pretty far and I'm not upset at all. We worked hard."

"...I'm just really happy with what we did and how we did it," concludes Ramos.



Diakite was awarded "most valuable player."

### Diakite signs letter of intent with Biola

By SAMANTHA GURROLA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Senior Khadidja Diakite has had a great year in basketball.

Ending season with a three-way tie for first place and making first team for Del Rio League, it seemed like Diakite couldn't have had a better end to her season.

Sophomore Sarah Gurrola says, "Khadidja is a hard dedicated worker, she worked hard every practice and played her heart out each game."

But it didn't stop there; she got invited to play in the all-star game with the other Del Rio League basketball players, which she played but came out short in overtime.

Although she did not get the win she ended up getting awarded most valuable player. "[Khadidja] is a great team leader and she pushed herself over the limit," says teammate, junior, Anabel Martinez.

On May 9<sup>th</sup> she met up with Biola University basketball head coach, Dr. Bethany Miller, and signed her letter of intent. Biola University will be giving Diakite a scholarship to help pay for her 2013-2014 school year, in exchange for participation on the girls basketball team.

Congratulations Khadidja Diakite for a successful year in basketball.



## CAMPUS

## Dons turn pennies into dollars to help fight cancer

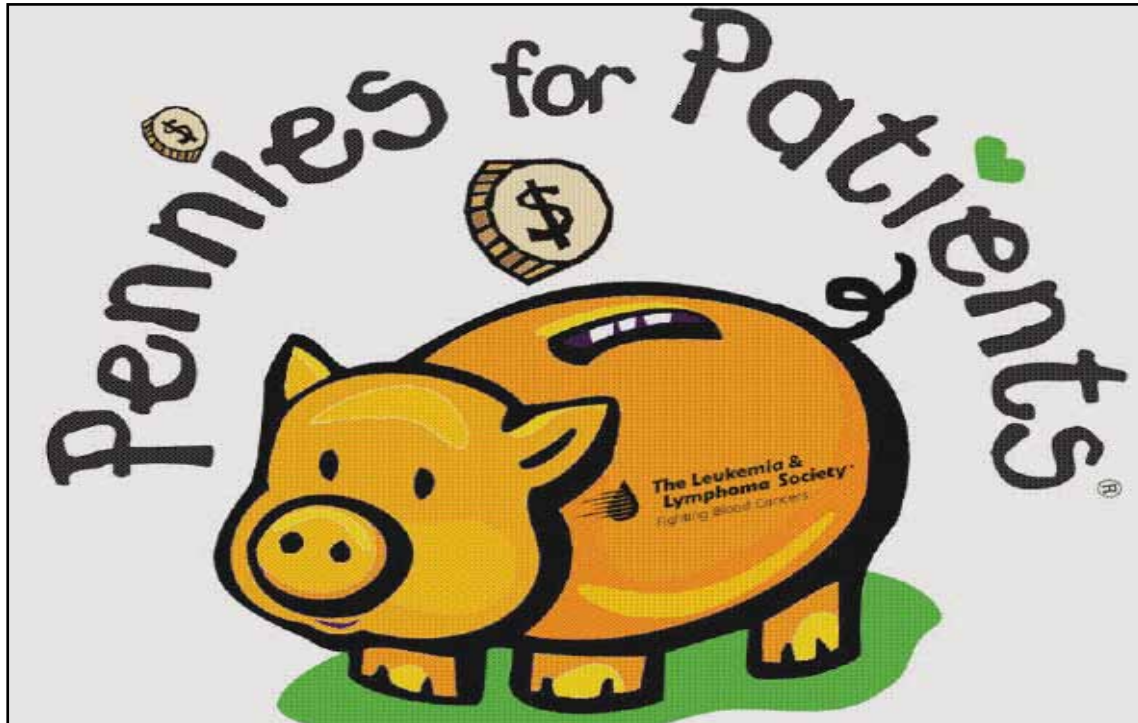
BY SAVANNAH GUERRERO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Teachers and students unite to raise over 3,000 dollars for the Pennies for Patients program, dedicated to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

LLS and School and Youth program strives to involve students of all ages to join together and help fight against blood cancers.

The drive was hosted by AVID and strived to make an impact due to a former AVID student who recently was diagnosed with Leukemia. Sophomore English and AVID teacher, Stephanie Senteno-Tapia says: "The AVID club was really encouraged by Mrs. Lugo-Gonzales in Attendance. One of my former AVID students, Joaquin Lugo, was diagnosed with leukemia last Christmas. When we first found out, they had said they weren't going to make it. There was a change of events and now he is in remission. That's what really sparked wanting to do this drive and making it a success."

Committee Chair Jaelene Rodriguez assigned each volunteer to a second period class to pick up the donated money on Tuesdays and Fridays. Roderiguez says: "It was hard work and a bit stressful, but it's for



El Rancho Dons show compassion by donating money to help fund cures for blood cancers.

a great cause! I couldn't have done it without Mrs. Senteno."

Second period teachers hosted a competition for whoever collected the most money, the prize being a pizza party. The winner was Mrs. Tejeda with 481 dollars collected. AP Spanish teacher Mrs. Lugo took second place with 287 dollars. Senteno-Tapia says: "Mrs. Lugo was second class winner and her class alone brought a tremendous amount of money." Lugo says: "It was a

team effort. This was done with the purpose of helping others."

Each day students worked very hard to achieve their goal. Lugo says: "I had one young man donate all of his birthday money; others would empty their wallets into the collection every day and others collected money from other students and faculty."

Lugo wanted to encourage her students to look beyond themselves and help others. Volunteers and sub-committee of Pen-

nies for Patients drive was Sabrina Moreno and Odayls Chavez, as well as many other AVID students. These students collected change throughout lunch time and during second period.

Moreno says: "I wanted to give back to the community and help out those in need. It's real important to me. If I was in a bad situation, I would want people supporting and helping me. Chavez also believes that volunteering time for a good

cause is important. Chavez says: "I feel like I'm very lucky to find myself in a healthy condition and since it is in my power to help others I decided to do it and try to make a difference."

Chavez agrees that her volunteer work has given her a new perspective. "Volunteering has taught me to be more selfless, and to appreciate the things that I would otherwise take for granted like my good health condition. I have become more aware of those who suffer from diseases and poverty. It has truly inspired me help them make things more bearable through volunteering," Chavez says.

With hard work and determination, spare change formed into the thousands. Senteno-Tapia says: "We had done Pennies for Patients in the past, but this year we really wanted to surpass and we raised over 3,000 dollars."

Lugo says: "As usual, El Rancho Dons surpass expectations. I'm so proud of our students' generosity and sense of charity."

AVID hopes to host the drive again next year and raise more money. "It was really great to see and I feel very proud of our students. I'm thankful for the support of the teachers and staff that helped make this drive a success." Says Senteno-Tapia.

## 2012-2013 King of the Ranch



The seven nominees entertained Dons during lunch in an effort to earn the title of "King of the Ranch." The competition included a catwalk and a special talent demonstrated by each contestant. The final votes were tied between Eric Calderon and Jesus Flores, both of whom competed during the Farewell Assembly on May 31st to determine the winner. After battling to pop each other's balloons that were attached to their ankles, Jesus Flores came out on top and was crowned as the 2013 King of the Ranch.



The Board of Education was "unanimous in its selection of Mr. Galindo" for our next superintendent.

## ERUSD selects new superintendent

BY PATSY VILLASANA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Mr. Martin Galindo has been tentatively selected as the El Rancho Unified School District's new superintendent. Galindo's achievements include a position as a local district superintendent, elementary school principal, and teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

"[Mr. Galindo] is a leader that will accomplish goals

decisively... He is a real person who will be a strong addition to our district," said Mrs. Delia Alvidrez, ERUSD's Board of Education President.

Galindo, who was raised in Pico Rivera, is excited about returning as superintendent.

"My family always held education as a top priority... I'm looking forward to coming back home and continuing that tradition [as superintendent]."



# CAMPUS

## Dodgeball tournament at the Ranch



The annual dodgeball tournament was held in the quad throughout the week of May 13-May 17. The competition began with twelve teams with team names such as the Dodgefighters, Spaceballs, Italian Stallions, Deuces, etc. On Friday, the Gryffindors were announced victors of the 2013 Dodgeball Tournament.

## Seniors vs. Staff Week and Senior Picnic



As the school year is coming to an end, ASB organized the annual Senior vs. Staff week where the teachers and seniors went head to head in various competitions. Nine bus loads of seniors arrived at El Dorado Park in Long Beach and engaged in activities such as: watermelon/pie-eating contests, sac races, softball and basketball tournaments. Seniors received their yearbooks as well as complimentary ER backpacks and water bottles.



# SENIOR WILLS

I, Deanna Nunez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My "Blue Pride" and unforgettable memories here at "The Ranch" to my brothers Andrew and Erik.

I, Luis Torres, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My ASB cubby to Amber, Water Polo Ball and cap to the team, and my sarcasm and amazing wit to Lillian in Activities.

I, Jenine Casillas, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My guidance, love and support to my best friend Genesis Cervantes (11th grade) through 2013-2014 Senior year. Distance can't keep us apart.

I, Damon Roulhac, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My jumping spikes to Martin Ruelas, my receiving hands to Javier Carillo, and a fist pound to Aiyana Leal-Robles.

I, Roberto Hernandez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My CIF and State rings to Patricia.

I, Vianey Sanchez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my Choraleer locker to my lovely sister, Taylor Gonzales; my soprano spot in Choir to the lovely Sara Dickinson (I don't care if you're a second and I'm a first, I believe in you to keep Choraleers alive); and my heart and love to my one and only best friend, Jessica Ramirez.

I, Andrew Prieto, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: I leave my shot put to Richard Ayala and my discus to JP Flores. My right tackle position to Adrien Perez.

I, Daisy Santa Ana, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my running flats to

Ashley Grajeda, my year-book seat to Adrian Orozco, and finally my skills at annoying Wynn to Ana Galicia!

I, Briana Rivera, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

I, Marissa Leiana Perez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: all my many memories at ERHS to each Junior, Freshman, Sophomore, and of course the incoming Freshmen. I am glad to have been a part of anything I could possibly do, from ASB to Drama. I definitely believe that high school had its ups and downs but it will never be forgotten.

I, Daniel Castanon, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my promoting responsibilities to Noah Vargas and the senior patio to Ryan Palomar and friends.

I, Adam Luis, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

I, Brandi Mercedes Wood, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my half of the room and pet rat to Sandi-Rose Wood. I'm going to miss you little one. I LOVE YOU!

I, Frankie Mejia, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my swag to Saul, my baseball skills to Rolando, my baseball glove to Aaron.

I, Julissa Elva Carrasco, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

hereby bequeath the following: My Christian Louboutins to Priscilla, my whole season of House Wives of Beverly Hills to Debbie.....wait I'm taking those with me, and lastly I leave my AMAZING CHEER skills to Karina.

I, Samantha Sheila Herrera, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: I leave my ability to miss school frequently and continue to maintain a 3.8 GPA to my dearest Cilla Martinez. May you use this skill to your advantage. To the future Mr. President, Jacob Fanshaw, I leave you my social skills. I pray they help you make friends. And to Mr. Steven Rodriguez, I leave you a bottle of Aspirin for the hundreds of headaches I've caused you over 2013...I'm sorry about that.

I, Angelica Alondra Torres, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my Drama Locker to Sandi-Rose Wood, my Bag of Treasure to Joey Salinas, my motherly duties to Brenda Brito, my love and obsession for Thespian Troupe #2164 to all of you Drama kiddos. Remember, "Ohana means family, family means no one gets left behind or forgotten."

I, Salvador Francia, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my running shoes to my favorite teacher Mr. May.

I, Jacob Moghimi, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my acoustic metronome to Brian Fuentes, my whistle to Cesar Damian Haylock-Perez, and lastly, my limited edition Blue-Ray copy of *The Jurassic Park* series to Fernie Sida Sida.

I, Victoria Paredes, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: the couch in Ms. Eaves' room to Vicky and all the blankets to

lowing: my "Senior Advice" to Mariah Martinez, my spot on the Senior patio to friendly & new Dons class of 2014, my addiction to Slurpees and chicken burgers to Jenna Soto, schedule of all the easy and fun teachers to Taylor Gonzalez, to Mrs. Valle I leave my strength, positivity, love and wish her the best in life.

I, Hector Herrera, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my Senior locker to Angel.

I, Sergio Chavira, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my puzzle and locker to Ms. Eaves and R-5, as

I, Christian Ceballos, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my "ultimately cool," red locker painted by Ms.Eaves and Sylvia to Jesus Dominguez. May it serve you well as her classroom staff.

I, Ashley Valli, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my purse full of ALL my belongings to my best friend, Ashley Porras. That includes the keys to my house and my invisible car.

I, Salvador Francia, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my running shoes to my favorite teacher Mr. May.

I, Victoria Paredes, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: the couch in Ms. Eaves' room to Vicky and all the blankets to

keep her warm, I also leave my love to Sylvia and Denise in R-5, my old package of old granola bars to Ms. Eaves, I also leave my "spilled milk stains" to Food Services.

I, Alan Gallo, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my Taco Boy franchise to Nathan Murillo, my awesome iPhone 5 to Doug Herrera, and my rad letterman to Humberto Aponte.

I, Alexander Reyes, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my sandwich with three mayos and ketchup to Samantha Moreno, my passion for colorguard to my sister Jackie Reyes, and my cratchetness to Jenna Soto.

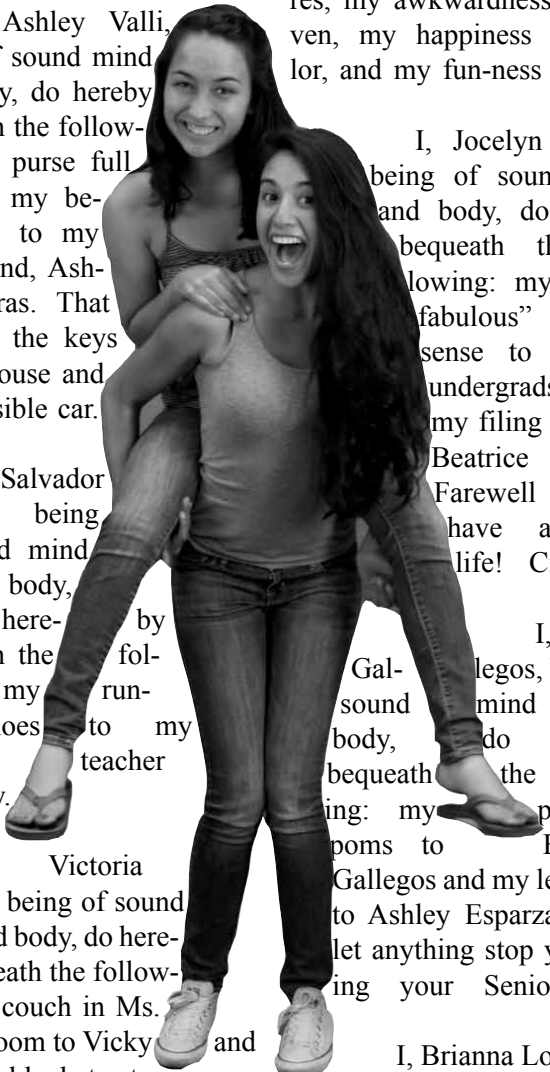
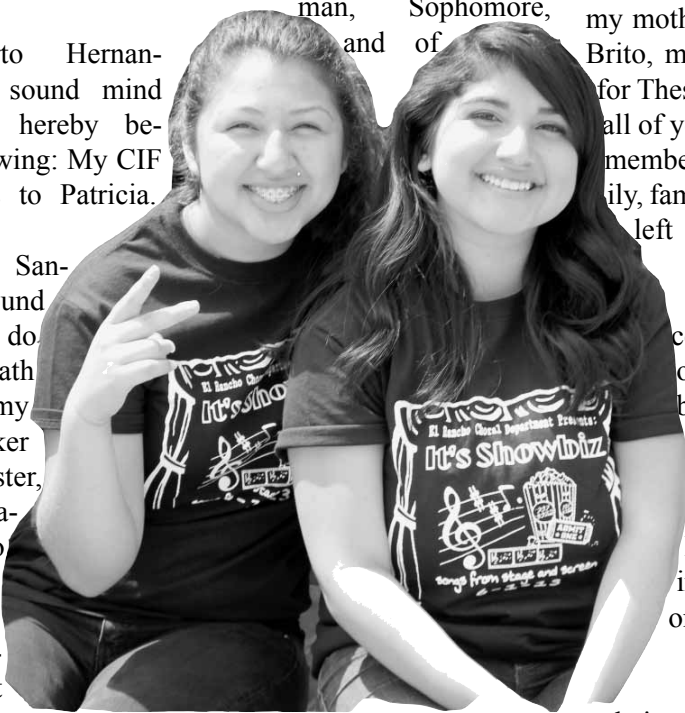
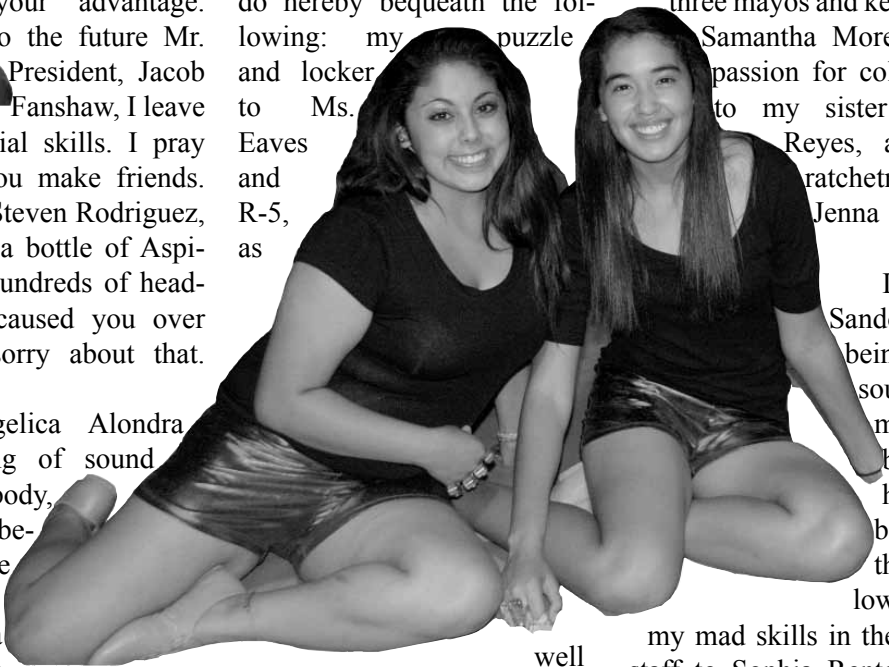
I, Perla Sandoval, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my mad skills in the annual staff to Sophia Renteria, my hang out spot to next year's Seniors, and my memories to all my underclassmen peers that I shared them with.

I, Raymond Candia, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my immense amount of energy to Mrs. Colmenares, my awkwardness to Steven, my happiness to Taylor, and my fun-ness to Joey.

I, Jocelyn Govea, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my "super fabulous" fashion sense to all the undergrads and my filing skills to Beatrice Flores. Farewell all and have a great life! Ciao! ;-)

I, Dana Gallegos, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my pom-poms to Bailey Gallegos and my letterman to Ashley Esparza. Don't let anything stop you during your Senior year.

I, Brianna Lopez, be-





# SENIOR WILLS

ing of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my knowledge to Liliana, Kim, and Alex. Lots of love to my beloved teachers, you know who you are. I leave a prom picture to Ms. Sell. I also want to congratulate my fellow seniors. Class of 2013!

I, Barbie Salmeron, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: Give Justin Gonzalez our good friendship skill, Miriam Hernandez being social with everyone, Desiree all my hard work skills, Natalie my wonderful Mexican dancing skills.

I, Asucena Guzman, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my good friendship skills to Justin Gonzalez, my cute stripe sweater to Elvia, my weirdness to Miriam, my kindness to Mrs. Sedano, my hot buns to Robert C., and finally my jokes to Saul and friends.

I, Jasmine Lopez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my love to the wonderful and amazing track & field team! Best of luck next year! Love you guys!

I, Jasmine Leon, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my bunny to Sabrina because I know she'll love it. :3

I, Amber Price, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: all my reading books to my best friend, Sara Dickinson.

I, Desiree Barriga, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my lost minutes to the current 9th, 10th, and 11th grader.

I, Linda Flores, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: to Ms.Figueroa, my everlasting questions; to Natalia Perez, my never ending faith in God; to Miguel Flores Jr., my "talent" in art; to the library staff, my last checked out book; to Ms. Sell, my debt of a memorable 4 years; to Mrs. Moghimi-Danesh, my passion for languages and curiosity.

I, Julian Torres, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my intelligence and love to my cousin Anthony Tabares, who will be attending El Rancho HS in the Fall of 2014 (class of 2018).

I, John Olivas, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my lucky socks to Ruben Ruiz, my math skills to Mr. Melgar's newborn baby, my eating and pooping skills to Elias, my basketball IQ to Mr. Elliott, my lucky underwear to Mrs. Elliott, and my heart to Rebecca Guzman.

I, Brennan Hernandez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my good grades to Gustavo and his friends- including Jesus- so they can graduate with a 3.0 or higher, my randomness to Lisa and Jasmine Leon, & my craziness to everyone else so you can be silly & have fun in high school!

I, Noelle Gonzalez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my will and to moments of the past.

I, Andre Hernandez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: the responsibility of leading the track team and guiding them to Martin Ruelas and Kendrick Conner.

I, Alyssa Campos, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: the Senior patio to next year's Seniors; Victoria Ruiz,

I, Jose Lara, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my sarcasm

Avilla. May you cherish our spot, and make many memories, through all obstacles always remember the good times we had at the patio, THE SPOT!

I, Julissa Diaz, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: all my love to those who never had the chance to feel loved. I leave with you my memories.

I, Maricruz Argueta, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my eyebrows to all those girls who do not know how to shade in their eyebrows correctly.

I, Jazmin Soto, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my good grades to Gustavo and his friends- including Jesus- so they can graduate with a 3.0 or higher, my randomness to Lisa and Jasmine Leon, & my craziness to everyone else so you can be silly & have fun in high school!

I, Noelle Gonzalez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my will and to moments of the past.

I, Andre Hernandez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: the responsibility of leading the track team and guiding them to Martin Ruelas and Kendrick Conner.

I, Jose Lara, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my sarcasm

mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my Call of Duty skills and my swag to Mireya Cruz and to Julian, I leave you the spot.

I, Chris-tian Polanco, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my speedos to Yaya, and some stress relief pills to "Mrs." Strinden.

I, Ashley Hidalgo, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my baked goods to my favorite Junior- Ivvana Gaona, my great advice to Veronica Vega, my athletic abilities, my characteristics of being an outstanding student/ath-

I, Samantha Gurolo, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my sarcasm

I, Alexandra Martinez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my heart will go to my amazing boyfriend, Gabriel Hernandez, my "Most Improved" basketball trophy and knowledge to Anabelle Martinez, my photography skills to Mr. Crone, my sarcasm and swag to Mr. Pringle :b , my jersey (#10) to Leanna Espinoza (best friend), and my high school experience to the amazing El Rancho High School!

I, Robert Espinoza, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my drumming skills and my lucky charm (quarter) to Kristi Tellez Espinoza.

I, Gerardo Gamez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my sarcasm

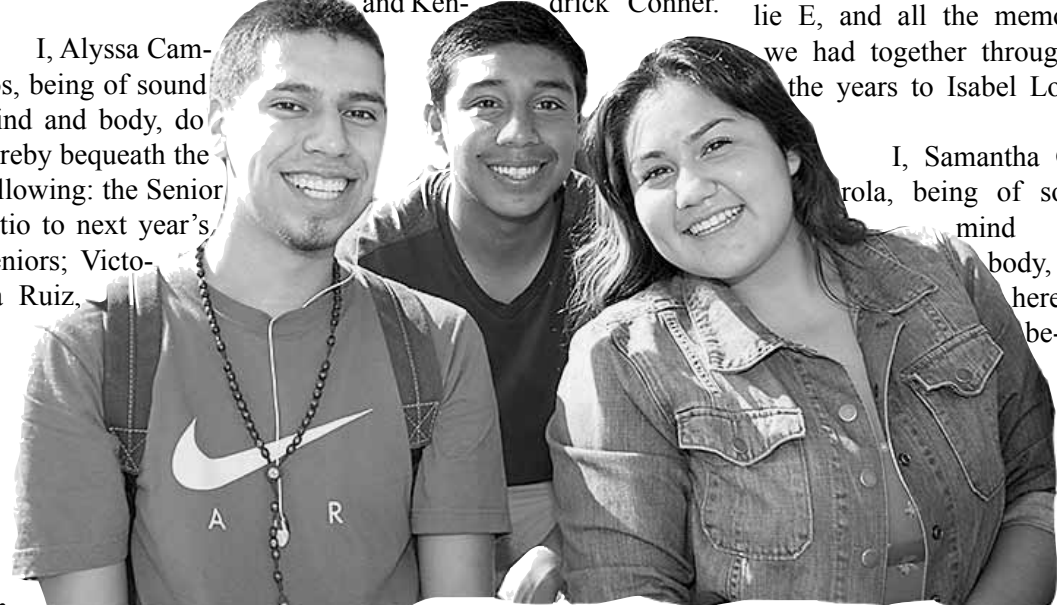
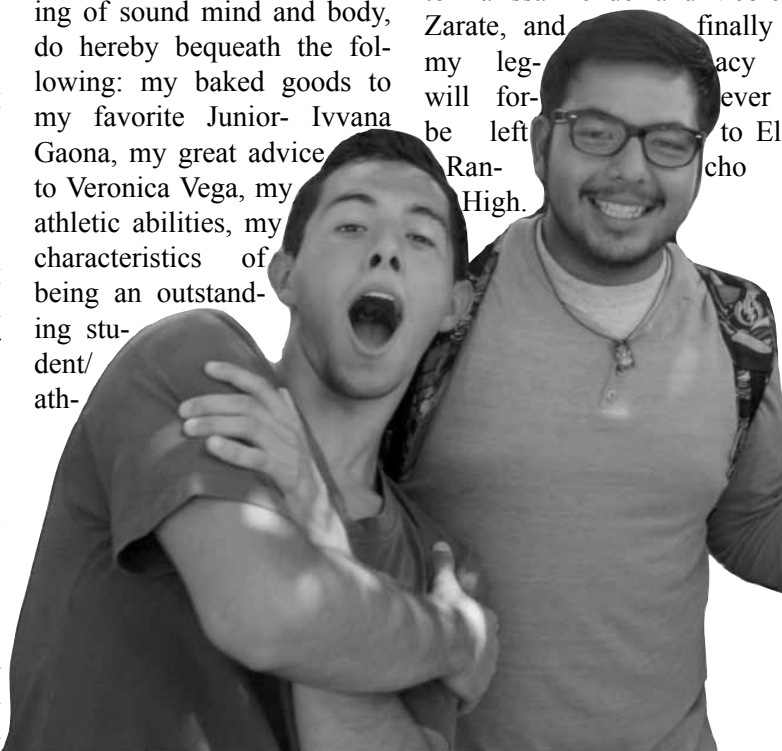
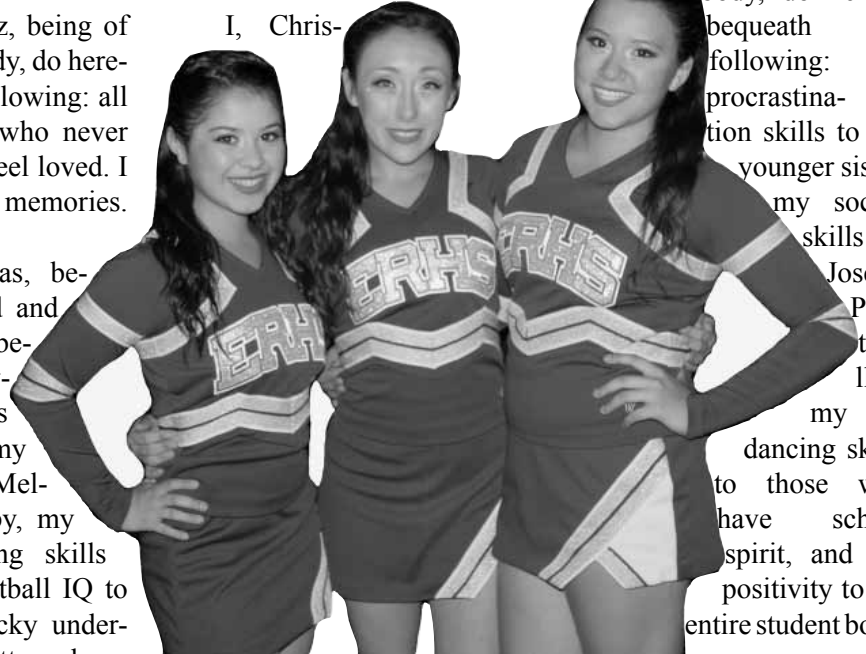
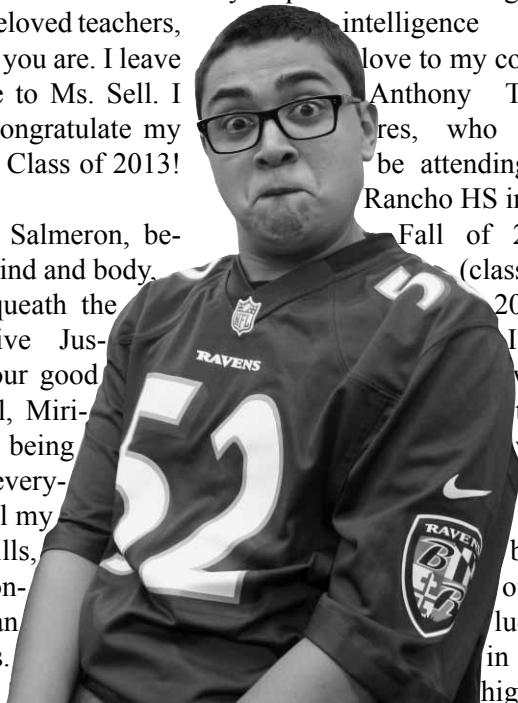
to my sister Sarah, and my spot as a "square" to Natalie.

I, Miguel Vilchis, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my procrastination skills to my younger sister, my soccer skills to Jose Portillo, my dancing skills to those who have school spirit, and my positivity to the entire student body.

I, Hazel Estrada, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my sarcasm and awesomeness will go to Mr. Pringle, my knowledge shall be passed on to Marissa Mendez and Nicole Zarate, and finally my legacy will forever be left to El Rancho High.

I, Robert Espinoza, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my drumming skills and my lucky charm (quarter) to Kristi Tellez Espinoza.

I, Gerardo Gamez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my sarcasm





# SENIOR WILLS

do hereby bequeath the following: my grape V's (Jordan's) to Ashely Miller.

I, Natalie Sanchez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: all my love and blessings so she'll become the successful young lady I know she will be to Amber Hernandez, my cutie. I love you girl.

I, Osiris Arteaga, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my yearbook editor position to Sophia Renteria, my sarcastic remarks to Mr. Melgar & Mr. Picon, & my love to Mrs. Lugo.

I, Kathleen Canchola, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my varsity number 14 to Andrea, my lucky shooting streak to Melody Carbajal, my awesome diving skills to Christina, and finally my favorite saying to Briana a.k.a Dimplz.

I, Adrian Corona, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my twerking skills to Anthony, my cleats to "Harsh," and my backpack to Rudy.

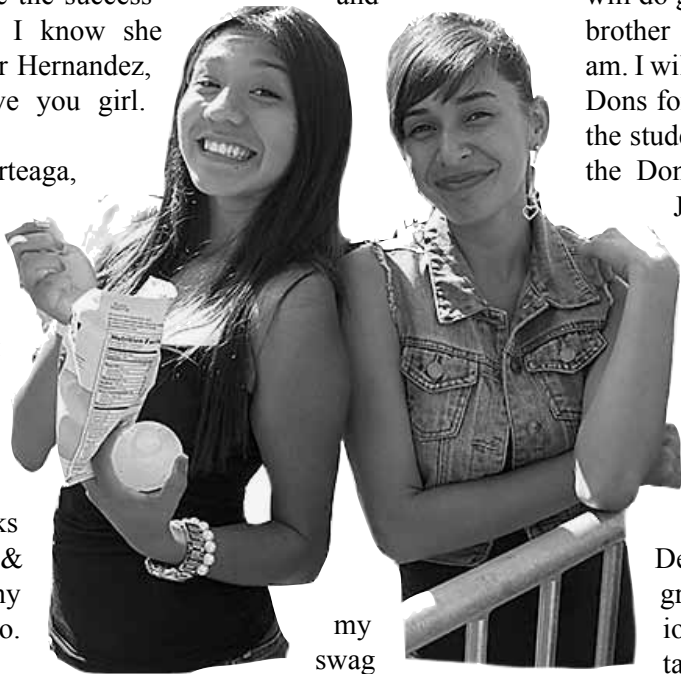
I, Edgar Ibarra, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my tennis racket to Ricardo Ibarra, my Blue Pride to Alyana, and my cashew clusters Susanne.

I, David Lopez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my black adidas goalkeeper jersey, my goalkeeper gloves, and my spot on the varsity soccer team to Jose "Chonchis" Ortega.

I, Nick Vasquez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My athletic abilities to all up and coming centerfielders, may you all be the next great "Mayor."

I, Miriam Gonzalez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my awesomeness and weirdness to Rocio Lopez, my loud screams to next years seniors, and my headaches and hand cramps to my lovely teachers.

I, Leobado Duran, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My away baseball jersey and my driving skills to Debbie, my dancing skills to Ryan, I'm going leave Debbie to Priscilla, and



my swag to Esteban.

I, Antonio Fernandez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My running skills to all Track & Field and Cross Country runners. I will miss both teams very much. Good luck to all runners on your next season.

I, Joseph Matthew Ramirez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: To coach May I leave my letterman jacket in memories of all my hard work. To the varsity wrestling team and coaches, I leave my sweat and injuries and



good luck for next year. To my good friend Jerry Berry, I leave my Rob-cape in

memory of all the medals we earned. Lastly, to my cousin Emilio, I leave him all my teachers who made

it possible for me graduate.

I, Anthony Araujo, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: I will leave my spirit to my brother that he will be in El Rancho next year and he will do good at school and my brother will be blessed like I am. I will leave my spirit to the Dons for Christ that someday, the students will come ad join the Dons for Christ to have Jesus in their hearts and will be blessed.

I, Joshua Brambilla, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: A new section to the beautiful Deana Bocanegra, my great sense of fashion to Jocelyn Huerta, my impeccable taste in men to Gema Montano, my dept. to Jacob Amavisca, and lastly my completely confident and ignorance to other people's opinions to Andrea Moran.

I, Betsy Cerdas, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my shadow to my brother, my constant quest for answers to the young intellectuals continuing their high school career, and our lunch spot to incoming freshmen; good luck and watch out for seagulls.

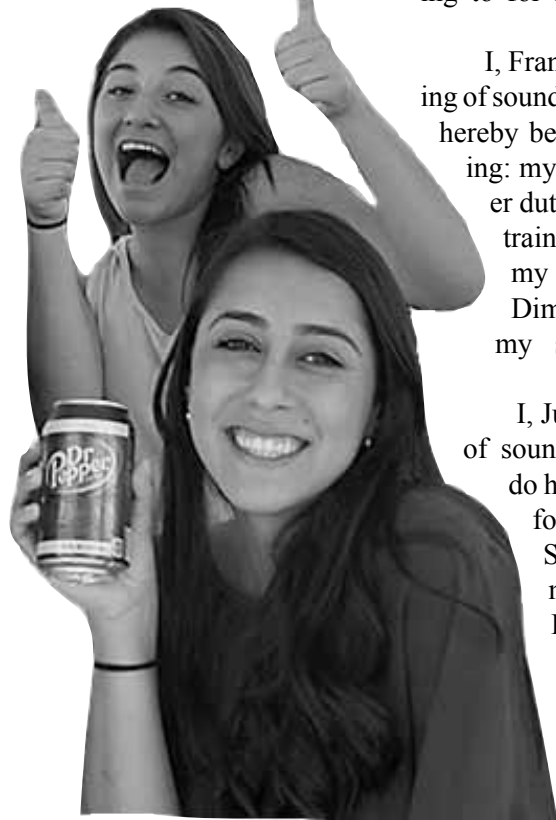
I, Jesse Viduya, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my volleyball racket to Sophia Renteria.

I, Mike Mendoza, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my journalism computer to Laura Edith Castro-Spencer, my nickname- BIG Mike- to Mrs. Lam, my *Star Wars* saga Blue-ray DVD collection to Naomi Zaldate, and ultimately, my gratitude towards the teachers that have helped me along my high school career- Mrs. Chavez-Diaz, Mrs. Lam, Mrs. Zeko, Mr. Correa, Mrs. Qureshi, and Mr. Meza

I, Miguel Felix, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: leave my math skills to Eddie Diaz; give Debbie Astancion my perfect Spanish;

leave my 800 meter speed to Juan Carlos; donate my basketball skills to Gio and Eli Powell; give my prayers to all El Rancho Sports teams to win and lastly my thanks to Mr. Sanchez and Mrs. Katsumora! Class of 2013! We started from the BOTTOM now we're HERE!

I, Ariel Salazar, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my dodge ball skills to future dodge ballers, my positive attitude to everyone who feels like the



world dislikes them, and finally my love to everyone who needs it.

I, Maria Ramirez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: I give my academic commissioner to Elisa Valeria Ornelas and I give my materials to Ivan Chavez and my leadership. I hope that Dons For Christ will become bigger and people can spread the word! Finally, to those who are embarrassed to tell your friends that you have a disability, don't because you will be accepted and loved in the end!

I, Brianna Ramos, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my moose calls and courage to Jannessa, the love of my life to JD, my brains to Perky, my constant calls of little one to Alicia, my sense of humor to Scilla, my ability to figure out what's right and wrong to Destiny, my voice to Jackie, my role as team bonding event coordinator to Gen-

nah, my heart to Anissa, my motivation and drive to Randi, and most importantly the first hook in the bin and the role as glue to my Yaya Leal Robles.

I, Isaac A. Ramirez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my backpack of odd guitar knowledge to David, my positive outlook on life (not Seattle and the Smiths) to Jesse, my tolerant sense of humor to Andreas and his pillowcase, and finally my passion for music worth listening to for my brother Jacob.

I, Francisco Sanchez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my volleyball manager duties to Anthony, my trainer skills to Rudy, my snicker doodles to Dimitric and finally my stories to Bryan.

I, Juan Navarro, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my Puma Swag to nobody, my Salvadorian Flag to Mr. Melgar, my book on how to become the worst president to Luis and finally my Sultan Staff to Nand.

I, Albert Castillo, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my swag to "Ayyo-manda" since her swag isn't as bright as mine and she's lame. Also, leave the duty of continuing "The Elites" to "Ball Master Gomez" and "Kemistry Kim."

I, Cindy Martinez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my awesomeness in newspaper to Cely (who has always helped me), my paisa attitude to Victor German (go Mexican or go home!), and my ability to do homework at the least minute to the lame nephew-ew Angel. Also I leave my mean but playful sarcastic come-backs== to Frankie.

I, Krystal Zavala, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my experiences, my favorite book from junior year, and a personal heartfelt letter to my sister, Marie Zavala.



# SENIOR FAVORITES



**Favorite teacher:**  
1st: Bauer  
2nd: Retana  
3rd: Pringle



**IMAGINE DRAGONS**

**Favorite band/artist:**  
1st: Imagine Dragons  
2nd: The Strokes  
3rd: The Killers



**Favorite Social Network:**  
1st: Instagram  
2nd: Twitter  
3rd: Facebook



**Favorite radio station:**  
1st: Power 106  
2nd: KROQ  
3rd: AMP Radio



**Favorite theme park:**  
1st: Disneyland  
2nd: Six Flags  
3rd: Knott's Berry Farm



**Favorite book:**  
1st: Frankenstein  
2nd: Of Mice and Men  
3rd: Catcher in the Rye



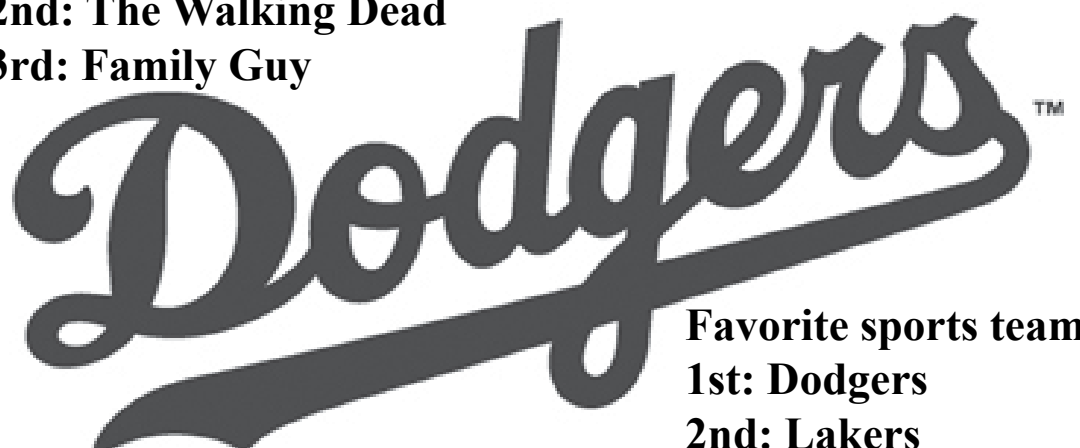
**Favorite restaurant:**  
1st: Olive Garden  
2nd: Wing Stop  
3rd: In-N-Out



**Favorite TV show:**  
1st: Awkward  
2nd: The Walking Dead  
3rd: Family Guy



**Favorite movie:**  
1st: The Dark Knight  
2nd: 21 Jump Street  
3rd: Pulp Fiction



**Favorite sports team:**  
1st: Dodgers  
2nd: Lakers  
3rd: Kings



# ADVERTISEMENT

## Messages to the graduating class of 2013

**Mayor Gustavo Camacho**



El Rancho Graduates of 2013: On behalf of the Pico Rivera City Council and our residents, congratulations to each student who worked diligently over the years to gain honor in achieving commencement. You are to be commended and I hope you are pleased with your efforts. These achievements have earned you a place in the history books, and you are in good company. I encourage each of you to maintain your diligence and focus on the next chapter of your lives as the school year concludes and work hard to reach your potential. Pico Rivera is proud of you!

**Raymond Chavez**



Try as you will not to make mistakes, you will make. But the biggest mistake you can make, is not to try at all.

Raymond Chavez

Assistant to the City Manager

City of Pico Rivera.

**Mr. Elias (alumnus)**

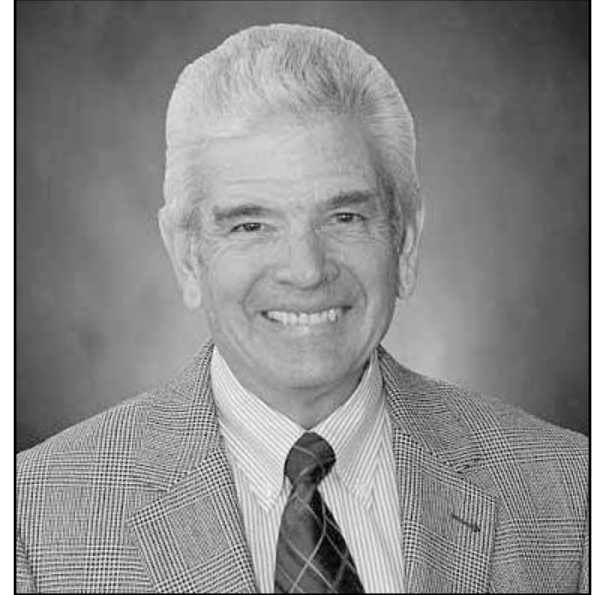


“We represent a fraternity which believes in justice and truth and honorable action in your community who are endeavoring to be better citizens [and] to make a great country greater. This is the only institution in the world where we can meet on the level all sorts of people who want to live rightly.”

**Councilman David Armenta (alumnus) City Manager Ronald Bates**



Congratulations to the El Rancho High School class of 2013. May your endeavors be successful, your journey through life be filled with happiness, and always remember you are a Don for life.



It takes courage to grow up and become who you can be.

Ronald Bates, Ph.D.

City Manager

City of Pico Rivera

# Bingo for Education



## June 15, 2013

## 6-9p.m.

## El Rancho Cafeteria

## Every 1st & 3rd

## Saturday of the month

## 6501 Passons Blvd

## Pico Rivera, CA 90660

## \*Must be 18 to play\*

Design by: Susan Aparicio



# FEATURES

## Cadena says good-bye after 39 years



Cadena will continue life "wherever the road" may take her.

BY BRIDGETT MOTA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Elisa Cadena will retire at the end of this school year after teaching in the El Rancho Unified School District for 39 astonishing years. She began teaching in the smaller grade schools such as Maizeland Early Learning Center (Preschool), South Ranchito Elementary School, Rivera Elementary, Meller Elementary, North Park Middle School, and El Rancho High School. She has "worked with most grade levels and [has] enjoyed every level."

Cadena received a Bachelor of Arts from the Immaculate Heart College in Los Angeles. She majored in Spanish, and acquired a minor in French. She says she also "earned a Master's Degree in Chicano Studies at the California State University of Los Angeles".

During her years at El Rancho she has taught Spanish 2 and French 1. In her Spanish class she taught her students, "at least 1,700 words including vocabulary and functions concerning meals, lodging, transportation, normal commands, instructions and expressions of courtesy". In French 1 she taught her students "to develop basic skills in listening, reading, speaking, and writing. [Her students learned at least 1,000 words] which...[included] basic objects, colors, time, days of the week, greetings, numbers, frequently used adjectives, verbs, and classroom expressions."

Cadena says, "Working with students has been rewarding. The greatest satisfaction for me, was that 'AH' moment, when a student finally understood what I was trying to convey. Now it's time for me to move on. I will miss getting up early and rushing to work every morning...NOT!"

Junior Deneue Guzman says, "She's a great teacher. I'll miss her jokes. She had very good comebacks. Every time we walked into class, she always had a smile on her face." Junior Brittney Avina says, "I'm going to miss her making me get involved in class when I didn't want to."

Mrs. Cadena now believes that it is time to begin another phase in her life where she can enjoy quality time with her son, daughter, and grandchildren. She wants to "be able to do things [she hasn't] had [the] opportunity to do, such as travel."

She would love to visit places in the United States such as the National Parks and Eastern Coast. Outside of the United States she would like to go to Canada, islands around the Caribbean, Brazil, and Nicaragua. Cadena adds: "I have plans, but who knows; wherever the road may take me."

## Drama department celebrates individual success

BY SAVANNAH GUERRERO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Senior Nina Marquez from the Drama department is nominated for Best Female Actress in the 43<sup>rd</sup> annual Music and Arts and Commendations for Youth.

Since 1969, M.A.C.Y has been dedicated to recognizing the achievement in high school musical theatres. Founded by John Childress, when he and a Los Angeles Principal realized that athletes usually got the spotlight leaving the talented performing arts students in the dark.

In 2012, the drama department performed *The Unsinkable Molly Brown* and Marquez won Outstanding Achievement from the M.A.C.Y program. This year, Marquez is the first to be nominated for the Best Actress category from El Rancho.

43 high schools compete every year and this year, Marquez and the drama department will be gathering their canes and suspenders to perform "Old Folks" from *70, Girls, 70*.

This year El Rancho's Drama department won Comedy Of The Year.

"Winning Comedy Of The Year was astounding, since we were in competition with two performing arts high schools in Orange County, among many other fine high school drama departments," said Wlasick.

*70, Girls, 70* was a musical Wlasick had always wanted to produce. "This year I had the right group of young people to finally get it onstage. And now that I'm closer to retirement, I plan



El Rancho's drama department earned Comedy of the Year for *70, Girls, 70* at the annual M.A.C.Y event.

on doing all my bucket list plays and musicals," says Wlasick.

This year the spotlight is on Marquez for her performance in *70, Girls, 70*. Marquez says: "It was very surreal when Mr. Wlasick told me about the nomination because you don't ever think you're doing this so you can win an award. In my case, I like to perform and I like being on stage. It's nice to know that my efforts didn't go unnoticed."

Wlasick says: "Nina Marquez is an excellent talent and a beautiful young lady. Her natural instincts are her biggest asset as far as acting is concerned. Even before high school, Marquez was still receiving recognition for her work. While Marquez was attending North Park Middle School, she won an essay and was taken to Hollywood for a week. "They asked me if I wanted to direct, act, or write and I said write because I wasn't sure. Being in this department made me

confident to now say that I want to be an actor," Marquez says.

The summer going into Marquez's ninth grade year, she auditioned for an agency. "They made me do scenes and all that, and I don't now what it was; something sort of clicked in my head and said 'this is really cool' so when I went to El Rancho I knew they had a drama department and I joined," Marquez says.

Marquez developed a huge bond to the drama department. Marquez says: "To me it's really been a family. I've been in it since freshman year, I've seen seniors come and go and now that I'm here, I'm glad that I've gone through it because it changed me as a person in terms of performing."

After three years of performing with the drama department, Marquez says she has more respect for the art of acting. Marquez adds: "It's not just being on stage and saying lines; it's about feeling the character. That's

what Wlasick has taught me, and he is the drama department."

Marquez plans to go to the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York. "I want to go there because it's a school that focuses on acting. I feel that to start a career, I need to start now and AMDA is a "now" type of place," says Marquez.

Wlasick says: "I have watched her grow since her insecure performance in the ensemble *Nine*, through her excellent, multi-layered portrayal in *Strangers on a Train*, to her accomplished, polished performances in *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*, *Fools*, and *70, Girls, 70*. She is a joy to direct and certainly one of the most amazing talents in the past 33 years to have gone through my program. The legacy she leaves is having been the first actress in my tenure to be one of the top five MACY nominees for Best Actress and Best Comedian."

## Don with disability spotlights daily struggles

BY PATSY VILLASANA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Because the Ranch promotes unity among its students, Dons may forget that some of the peers they see every day have disabilities.

One of these students is senior Alexis Villa, who was born with spinal muscular atrophy type 3. SMA III is a muscle-eating disorder that leaves her body unable to gain or maintain muscle.

Although Villa appreciates how cooperative teachers at the Ranch can be when meeting accommodations for disabled students, she admits past

interactions have been troublesome due to social stigmas.

"It's only a physical disability, but people underestimate [me]... They don't take the time to consider the difference between mental and physical disabilities," said Villa.

Staying open-minded will help Dons avoid making premature judgments about students with disabilities. It also helps to make an effort towards becoming more educated about the proper etiquette. This includes asking a disabled person questions about their condition rather than assume or wonder quietly.

"If you want to know

about my condition, just ask... Some people might get offended [if you ask them] but be open and they'll tell you... It's better than having awkward silence."

While some Dons might be uncomfortable asking questions, everyone should practice common courtesy by giving help when it's asked for.

"The most challenging part of my day would be opening doors," stated Villa. She hopes sharing her words can be an "eye-opener" for students at the Ranch. "People don't always hold doors open, so the next time you meet a disabled person, just be willing to lend a hand in any way."



Villa believes common courtesy can break social stigmas.

## A Night of Spoken WORD, 2013



On June 3rd, Mrs. Zeko's sophomore English classes performed their original poetry at the 3rd annual "A Night of Spoken WORD." The event took place at the Ruth B. Shannon Center for Performing Arts on the campus of Whittier College. The evening performance was the culmination of a semester-long collaboration between El Rancho's Mrs. Zeko and Whittier's professors Tony Barnstone and Sholeh Wolpe.



# STAFF FAREWELLS

In all my time at El Rancho every day has been like a piece of cake. Whether there's rain or mud I still see you. If it gets hard I still hear you. When a bird poops I smell you, if the bell rings I taste you; I like the way your campus looks. So many classes and so many places to go. Try a little food maybe it'll make your head grow, maybe that ketchup will start talking to your toe. I will always remember El Rancho and that's all you need to know.

**-Guy Arias**

Being part of the newspaper staff has been incredible. It is always so much fun being in this class with everyone because there is always a lot of laughing and joking around. This has to be by far the best class I have been in because it is just one big team. Having Isabel by my side was one of the best things about this class because she is always just so happy and she knows how to brighten up the room. I am really going to miss this class and for sure I will never forget it.

**- Karina Cerdas**

I can't believe it's going to end! I'm going to miss El Rancho... Not! I had so much fun being in Journalism, even though it was my first year in it. Mr. Zeko is such a trip, but an amazing teacher and advisor. There wasn't a day in the class that I didn't have a smile or wasn't laughing. It's been great working side by side with "THE MAN" Javier Garcia and Savannah "The Cool Kid". They both are excellent journalists and very fun to be around. If it weren't for journalism, I wouldn't know about half the things that happen at El Rancho. I wish I had joined earlier than my senior year; I could have written more articles and been more involved. Well I guess this is my farewell.

Goodbye El Rancho!

**-Denis Corea**

Wow, I can't believe we're graduating. I still remember the first day of my freshmen year when I asked where the Y building was. And now, four years later we're already picking up our cap and gown and buying our gradnrite tickets. Anyway, even though the main reason why I signed up for journalism was because I needed to choose a class for sixth period, in the end, it ended up being one of my favorite classes. This class was very fun, mostly because a lot of my soccer friends were in it and we would always talk about many things. Not only that, but Mr. Zeko also made this class more fun because he would always joke around about many things. I also liked the fact that this class was more of a student led class. It gave us more freedom to explore and try new things. Even though it was a chill class, there were deadlines that needed to be met, people that needed to be interviewed, articles that needed to be written and, and yes, they were a pain sometimes. But even though those things took some time and effort, this class was definitely worth it. Without a doubt I am going to miss

being a part of the news staff and will take many memories with me.

**-Karla Viramontes**

Looking back at these crazy, memories packed four years of high school; I can't help but shed a tear. High school has been a crazy roller coaster. I have made friendships that I will cherish a lifetime and have lost the ones that don't really matter. My time at the Ranch is coming to an end but I will always have these moments to look back at. What I will never forget is my chance at being a part of the El Rodeo newspaper staff. The past two years being on the news-

made me grow fonder of being a part of El Rancho. They staff has gotten closer throughout the year and has taught me how to work with people. I will miss Zeko and the way he would joke around all the time in class. I'm going to miss this school but I'm finally done! Peace out and good luck to all with no tutorial next year!

**-Cindy Martinez**

Joining El Rodeo was one of the defining moments my senior year. I'm going to miss staying up late night working on articles the night before the deadline the next day. I'd like to thank the man Mr. Zeko for allowing to make my published work possible and hope for the best among the next year's oncoming staff. I also want to praise Andrea along with the rest of the staff for their commitment. I am also going to miss the way Alexis and me deliberately changed Denis's computer background. I leave my legacy to fellow staff writer, Savannah through-out all her future endeavors.

**-Javier Garcia**

After going through twenty-one classrooms at El Rancho, I'm proud to have been in Mr. Zeko's twice. I'm going to miss the friends I've made (like the crazy chicks in layout) and the weird moments we had that we'll never speak of again ;) El Rodeo has given me a lot of work but twice as much fun. It's held some of the best moments of my senior year and my only regret is that I couldn't join sooner. If I could sneak myself onto next year's roster, I would do it all over again. But I believe the time I've spent writing for El Rodeo was the best I could make it. I'll miss Samm's sarcasm, Andrea's outspokenness, and Isabel's unpredictability... I hope next year's journalists enjoy reporting for the newspaper as much as I have and learn to love (or at least tolerate) the hours spent editing, the deadlines, and Mr. Zeko's feathering ;)

**- Patsy Villasana**

One semester, three issues, and, one marvelous experience. Although I entered the newspaper staff midway through the year, I have enjoyed every second of it. The already present staff and Mr. Zeko accepted me with open arms and I made it my duty to perform at a high level for them. One of the best things about joining journalism was being able to work with the people I know and enjoy, and of course, getting to meet new and wonderful people. I have enjoyed my short amount of time as an El Rodeo writer, so I would like to thank the entire staff and the

fantastic Mr. Zeko for making it a wonderful experience.

**-Mike Mendoza**

Being a part of the El Rodeo has brought many great memories and laughs to my senior year. Mr. Zeko has to be one of my favorite teachers here at El Rancho, even though he never fails to crack a couple of jokes about me, which are sometimes mean, he is still the best and real funny. I have spent numerous amounts of hours after school to get the school newspaper out and I do not regret any second of it because I became so close to the people in layout that I consider them to be like another family to me. Patsy's such an amazing person and so bright, with out her newspaper would be difficult and Andrea is an awesome editor-in-chief, she works her butt off and puts so much time and effort in making sure the newspaper runs smooth and easy. And I can not forget about Isabel she is one funny girl and always makes layout a lot of fun and entertaining. Newspaper has allowed me to meet many new people and made it easier for me to approach someone new. Thank you Mr. Zeko and the rest of the El Rodeo staff writers for making journalism more fun and feel more like a group of people hanging out rather than a class.

**-Samantha Gurrola**

Family. This staff has become like a family to me. I have

had such a wonderful experience and have built great memories especially when the layout girls and I would stay late working on the newspaper. Seeing our hard work be put out on the paper was definitely worth that time. I will miss all of my peers as well as Mr. Zeko's funny/sarcastic remarks. Thank you Mr. Zeko for all your great advice! I will also like to praise our editor in chief, Andrea Munoz, she is truly one amazing gal. I definitely encourage those who enjoy writing to take this class and be part of El Rodeo.

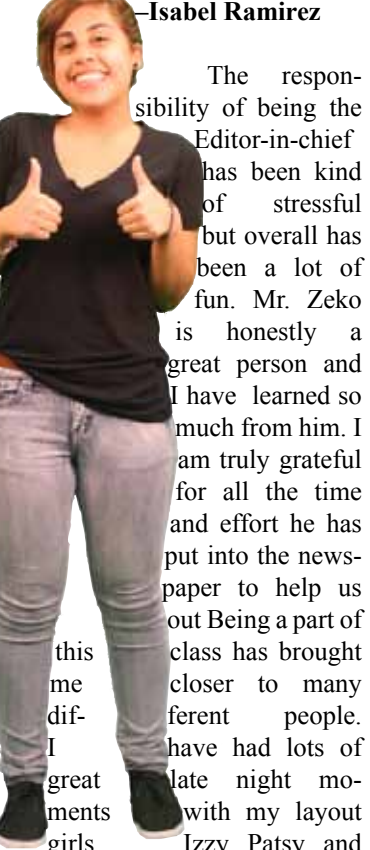
We did it Class of 2013!

**-Isabel Ramirez**



The responsibility of being the Editor-in-chief has been kind of stressful but overall has been a lot of fun. Mr. Zeko is honestly a great person and I have learned so much from him. I am truly grateful for all the time and effort he has put into the newspaper to help us out. Being a part of this class has brought me closer to many different people. I have had lots of great late night moments with my layout girls Izzy, Patsy, and Samm. I feel like all of the hours I have put into the newspaper have been well worth it. I will miss my role and all of the newspaper staff I was able to work with.

**-Andrea Munoz**



## Thank You!!!



A big thank you to Mr. Elias for helping us keep the newspaper in print. We couldn't have made it this far without you. We greatly appreciate all the extra effort you put into keeping the newspaper going this year.

*Sincerely, the El Rodeo Staff*

