



El Rodeo



El Rancho High School - Volume 62- Issue 1
www.erusd.k12.ca.us/elrancho

Faculty makes plans to improve API score

BY MARISOL ALMAZAN
EL RODEO STAFF MEMBER

In 2012, El Rancho's API Score was 751 and the growth target for 2013 was an increase of 5 points. However, instead of El Rancho increasing its API scores, the scores decreased.

API Scores are ranged between 200 and 1000 points and represent a school's performance level based on the results of statewide testing.

Dr. Yvette Ventura said "It has been a few years since we have seen a decrease in our API scores." Ventura was disappointed with the drop of the score. "Each year our goal is to show improvement and this past year our score decreased by 1 point from 751 to 750," says Ventura.

Ventura believes that the reason why El Rancho's API Scores showed a small decrease was because of the addition of the New Common Core Standards.

"Last school year we introduced the New Common Core Standards to our staff," said Ventura. Starting in 2014-2015, students will no longer take the CST/CMA. Students will take the Standards Based Assessment during their junior year in high school which is all online. "No more paper tests," says Ventura.

Ventura feels that since last year's staff focused a lot on preparing for this new system of testing, the API scores decreased.

"In addition, we switched to a new testing schedule in order to not conflict with the AP testing. In the previous year's students tested with their teachers in each subject and this past year they tested with their 1st period teacher," said Ventura.

In order to increase El Rancho's API Scores, Ventura believes that there has to be a change of priorities.

"To improve our scores [we need] to evaluate the data (scores) from the previous school year," says Ventura. By evaluating the data Ventura hopes to be able to identify the areas that the students need to improve in by subject area. "Since we are moving away from the CST/ CMA test to the New Common Core Assessments, our focus this year will be on how to improve our CAHSEE scores," Says Ventura.

Ventura believes that it will be huge for the El Rancho Students to undergo this change. "I think it will be an adjustment moving from a traditional test to an online testing format," said Ventura, "but I feel that our students will do very well. It will be new but our teachers are working on developing new curriculum in order to prepare our students."

Ventura hopes the API scores increase next year.

Kwek quickly connects to El Rancho

BY ODALYS CHAVEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After seven years of working at El Rancho High school, Mr. Genis has made the decision to transfer and become Durfee Elementary's new principal. As a result, the Dons were introduced to a brand new Principal, Jessica Kwek. Kwek, pronounced "quick," was a former Assistant Principal at Huntington Beach Union High School and Fountain Valley High School.

As Kwek explored the idea of becoming a principal she researched El Rancho and became excited about becoming a part of "The Ranch."

"Everyone has been so nice and welcoming to me," says Kwek, "Every day I think about it and I just can't get over it." She says that this has been the school where she has felt the most welcomed and feels very appreciative toward the Dons.

Kwek is 32 years old. She worked as a Spanish teacher for seven years and says that she has always been a very motivated and focused individual. These traits helped her become a principal at such a young age.

Kwek encourages students to make the most out of their high school years and set goals for themselves. If students encounter any challenges, Kwek encourages them to feel free enough to talk to their teachers, counselors, deans, and especially her. "Our goal is to prepare students for college and to make sure we



Kwek sits at her new desk after a warm welcome from El Rancho students.

are doing everything we can to support you guys," says Kwek.

Kwek is currently in the process of learning what the school can improve upon and wants to hear what the students think. "I want students to definitely share with me those things they want changed," she says.

Kwek was born in Detroit but her family moved to California when she was two. She attended the new Ridgeview High School in the city of Bakersfield. She participated in cheerleading, sports, ASB, Academic Decathlon, band, and Drama. She even

earned the honor of being Valedictorian of her graduating class. She highly encourages all students to try new things and then find something they are good at so that they can fully pursue it.

Kwek is currently attending UCLA and working on her doctorate. She is a very busy woman but still enjoys things such as walking on the beach, Disney films, and a good book. Kwek's favorite food is French fries. On her playlist Pitbull and Taylor Swift can be found.

Although she reads multiple types of educational books,

Nancy Drew mysteries were an important part of her childhood. Her favorite actress is Meryl Streep and she is a fan of Wonder Woman. Kwek loves dancing and is an avid salsa dancer. She enjoys traveling and defines her perfect vacation as relaxing with a book on a beach in Costa Rica.

Kwek's parents are both educators and she has always been a very driven person. She says, "I was always involved in leadership, which is why I am a leader today." Kwek hopes to use the power she possesses to make El Rancho a better place.

Dons' legend Ernie Johnson passes away

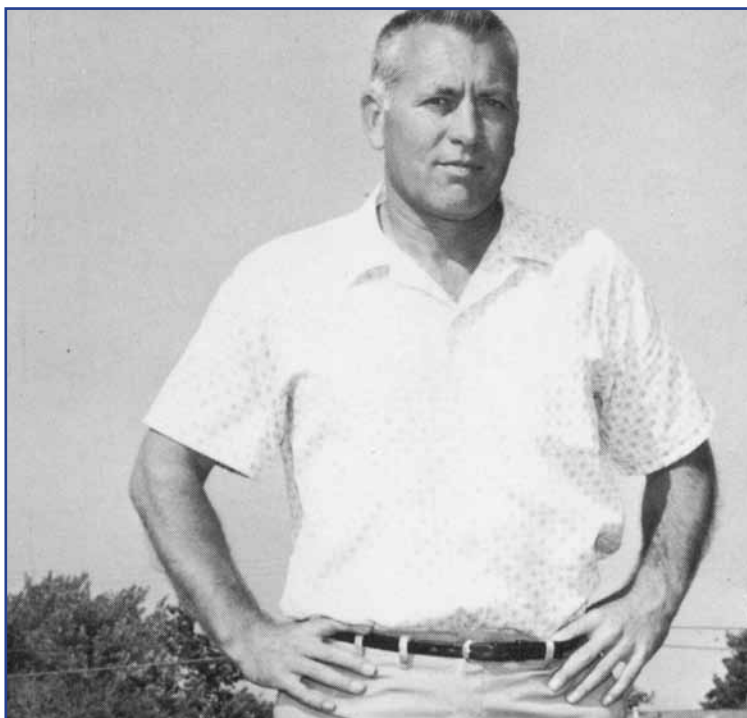
BY LAURA EDITH CASTRO-SPENCER
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Ernie Johnson passed away at the age of eighty-seven on September 15, 2013 in his home in San Juan Capistrano. Johnson is one of the best football coaches to have ever walked the hallways of El Rancho. Johnson worked at El Rancho from 1956-1968.

During his time at El Rancho, Johnson led the El Rancho football team to nine League Championships. Johnson also led his team to three Southern Section championships. In 1966, Johnson's team made it to the National Championships where they became champions.

Johnson's team record of 108-31-5 reflects his admired coaching abilities. According to the website Touch Down Newport, Johnson "wanted to win because he wanted his players to know that anyone could become successful through dedication and hard work."

Johnson was known throughout Pico Rivera. "He was the King of Pico Rivera,"



Ernie Johnson will always be remembered as a legend at El Rancho.

said Reggie Fields, a former player. Fields told the Whittier Daily News in 2011 that "[Pico Rivera] could have been another little town without an identity" if Johnson hadn't begun coaching at El Rancho.

Johnson was a former

Marine during World War II. Johnson was also a member of the Army Intelligence Corps during the Korean War.

Although he suffered some injuries during the war, Johnson continued to find ways to help encourage younger gen-

erations to find success. One way he did this was by coaching El Rancho's football team.

Mr. Raul Elias had the opportunity to play under Johnson's authority. "He worked us very hard and set very high standards for us," said Elias.

Johnson taught football players lessons on and off of the field. "[Johnson] gave us hope for the future," said Elias, "he taught me how to work harder than the next and enjoy it." Elias says that without El Rancho football, he would probably be in jail.

In 2011, El Rancho dedicated its football field to Johnson and created an "Ernie Johnson Day," to commemorate his hard work and dedication to the El Rancho and Pico Rivera community.

Johnson will truly be missed by his family and people he helped and inspired. A ceremony in Johnson's memory took place during last Friday's football game.

With Johnson gone, society should know that he has brought pride not only to El Rancho and its memorable football team, but also to Pico Rivera and its people.

WORLD

Negotiations help calm crisis in Syria

BY CLAUDIA GONZALEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On August 21st, it was widely believed that the Syrian government chemically attacked its own people in the Syrian capital, Damascus. Thousands of civilians, including children were killed in an instant.

The killings started back in March of 2011 in the Syrian city of Deraa, when protesters rose up to challenge the dictator running their country. Civilians felt the need to protest because they wanted democracy and greater freedom.

The government responded by opening fire to the protesters, killing four people. Soon after, the Syrians began to dump the bodies of activists and their family members on the sides of roads after kidnapping, raping, torturing and killing them.

Civilians began to fight back after the troops began to shoot at every protest. As a result, the people demanded that the President, Bashar al-Assad, resign, but he refused to.

All the fighting in Syria soon turned into a civil war as civilians began to organize themselves into rebel groups. Since then, the United Nations has estimated more than 100,000 deaths in the clashes between President Bashar al-Assad's government and rebel forces who want him out. They have also estimated two million people that have escaped from Syria to neighboring countries, over one million of those being children.

Throughout this time, the United States has been working with allies to provide Syria with



The Syrian chemical attack affected people of all ages. Photo Credit AP/Sham News Network

humanitarian support, but the nation has refused to resort to military action. Things took a turn on August 21st when the Syrian government gassed over 1,000 people, killing off a vast population.

When President Obama addressed the nation on September 10, he said that chemical weapons have been internationally banned since 1997 by the United States Senate. "We know that Assad's chemical weapons personnel were prepared for an attack in an area where they mix tear gas and gas; they distributed gas masks to their troops."

Although there are videos and evidence of the chemical attacks on the internet, President Bashar al-Assad denied any military use of chemical weapons.

During his speech, President Obama said, "When dictators commit atrocities they depend upon the world to look the other way until those horrifying pictures fade from memory, but

these things happened." "The question now is what the United States of America and the international community are prepared to do about it... it is not only a violation of an international law, it is also a danger to our security."

To avoid another use of chemical weapons by the Syrian government or any other country, President Obama has decided, after careful deliberation with Congress, to respond to the Assad regimes use of chemical weapons with a targeted military strike which will ultimately deter Assad from using them.

When asked why the United States should get involved in this, President Obama said, "Over the last two years my administration has tried diplomacy... but chemical weapons were used by the Assad regime, however over the last few days we've seen some encouraging signs."

Since Obama refuses to send any troops to Syria he has

spoken with Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, and the Russian government is now willing to join the international community in pushing and convincing Assad to give up all of the chemical weapons they obtain.

As of now the United States, along with the leaders of France, Britain, China and Russia, will work to put forth a resolution at the UN Security Council demanding Assad to destroy his chemical weapons.

At the Geneva conference, the U.S and Russia ordered the destruction of chemical weapon production and mixing/filling equipment in Syria to be due on November 30th, in addition to the inspections from the Hague's chemical arms agency.

It is expected that by June 30, 2014, the complete destruction of Syrian chemical weapons arsenal will be completed.

Japanese government attempts to solve nuclear crisis in Fukushima

BY RUBI MACIAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Deformed fruits and vegetables from Japan, who supplies four percent of American food imports, could become a problem after the produce was affected by radiation from a nuclear plant. After two years, Japan has still not successfully contained the radiation problem that began when the devastating 2011 tsunami damaged a Fukushima nuclear plant. The Japanese government took responsibility for solving the problem, but all proposed solutions have been unsuccessful.

The power plant was considerably damaged immediately after the tsunami and it was not until the next day when radioactive material began leaking into the ocean. The leaking has been an unsolved problem for more than two years.

Interest in the situation increased dramatically in the last month when people realized the radioactive material has continued leaking and has become a problem for all countries dependent on the Pacific Ocean.

In 2012, an investigation



Japan's radiation has affected America's fruits and vegetables.

Photo Credit thehive.com

and report by the Nuclear Accident Independent Investigation Commission concluded that although the tsunami did damage the power plant, "the accident was clearly 'manmade.'" They believe it was the combined lack of effort from all groups associated with the power plant that allowed the accident to occur. The building was not built to withstand much impact and several people knew this before 2011, but nothing was done about it.

Once the Japanese government acknowledged their need to take action, they evacuated the area around the power plant for risk of radiation exposure. Since the summer of 2011, workers have been clearing this ground of radiation while oth-

ers worry about cleaning the ocean, a task made more difficult when Typhoon Man-yi struck on September 16 of this year.

In early September of this year, the Japanese government decided its solution would be to build an ice wall barrier to contain the radiation. This will cost them \$320 million. The decision has been met with criticism because this method has never been used on such a large scale and it does not do anything about the radiation already contaminating the water.

Immediately after the disaster, the Japanese knew the consequences of the radiation could be severe in the future. Their predictions were proven right when deformed fruits and vegetables were found last month

in villages surrounding the power plant. Some weeks later, twelve minors in the area were found to have thyroid cancer, which prompted the government to give checkups to 360,000 children.

According to the University of New South Wales, contaminated water will reach the U.S. west coast in 2014. Although the radiation levels are high in Japan, when the polluted water reaches U.S. shores, it will be much less dangerous because it will be diluted.

The problem with finding a concrete measure for the ocean's radiation level is that it is constantly changing. Mycle Schneider, a nuclear expert, knows that the accident is severe. He claims that the damage will be unpredictably serious because water is leaking from the entire area and the Japanese need as much help as they can get. Effects from this accident may go very far into the future.

Foreign countries must take action and help Japan. The problem is not just local and, according to Mycle Schneider, requires the help of an international task force. It is estimated that within ten years, the radiation will be spread evenly throughout the ocean.

El Rodeo

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

El Rodeo, the student newspaper of El Rancho High School is an open, public forum for student expression and an opportunity to discuss its audience's issues of concern. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the position of the school board, administration, sponsors, parents, student body or advertisers. The Editorial Board, which consists of the editor-in-chief, section editors, and assistant editors, will determine the content of *El Rodeo*.

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

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

OPINION

Dons wave goodbye to their free time

BY NICOLE ZARATE
EL RANCHO STAFF WRITER

With a new journey comes new memories for Dons this year, but most importantly a new schedule. During the 2012-2013 school year, students were informed about the new schedule.

Students and staff were all notified that over the past years El Rancho had lost a tremendous amount of school hours due to tutorial release during the last twenty minutes of class time. Tutorial began three years ago, which allowed those students with passing grades to be released from their classroom early. Students grew fond of this schedule because it gave them free time in between classes to go eat, visit the library, or just spend twenty minutes with their friends until the next class started. For teachers, this schedule was also beneficial due to the fact that they were able to have their own free time to grade papers or simply prepare for their next class.

Since El Rancho lost a great amount of school hours, every-



one who attends the 2013-2014 school year must adjust to the new schedule without tutorial release. Every Monday and Friday school used to begin at 8:50AM. Now unfortunately on Monday school begins at 7:50AM and on Friday school begins at 8:15AM. During the school week, Tuesday through Thursday, school begins at 7:50 AM and is also extended to 3:05 PM school release.

The majority of the stu-

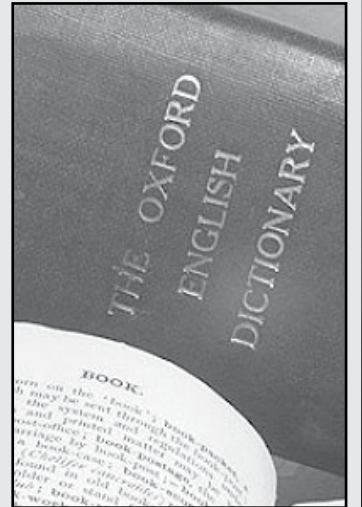
dents who are used to the old schedule argue that the new schedule is "terrible and should at least change the schedule to six classes a day" instead of having four block classes. There are still a small proportion of students that do not mind the new schedule and actually find it beneficial because now "with longer periods, more work can be done."

The senior class at El Rancho finds this schedule change

ridiculous and feels the most affected by the change. It is very difficult to adjust to the schedule due to no late start, which affects students' attendance.

It is unknown whether or not the schedule will change after this school year or until those hours that had been lost are made up, but until then, students must continue to cope with the new schedule and enjoy the rest of the school year.

Meaningless additions to the dictionary



BY NICOLE ZARATE
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Today, the English language has become so diverse and complex that it's bound to be the future's dull education. Last month, the Oxford Dictionary announced that 'twerking' and 'selfie' were officially added to their English dictionary.

"Twerking" is defined as a "dance to popular music in a sexually provocative manner involving thrusting hip movements and a low, squatting stance" and "selfie" is as "a photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically one taken with a smartphone or webcam and uploaded to a social media website."

These words have gained their popularity through social media websites and celebrities such as the pop singer, Miley Cyrus, who is best known as Hannah Montana. Miley Cyrus has contributed to the 'twerking' craze with her exotic music videos, which were highly criticized by many fans. Many people have opinions toward the new words added to the dictionary, yet the majority of the opinions via social networks have been negative. These words evolved without any meaning and somehow have become part of the English language. It's as if anybody can come up with a meaningless word and still be able to gain a spot in the dictionary. Teenage society has become so involved with social networks that people are beginning to support idiotic activities and contribute to such dull education for the future. Intellectual ideas have somehow been lost in today's education, which scares many.

Most parents want their children to grow up with a good education for their future, but how will this be possible if words such as 'twerk' are being acknowledged. Those that are actually making a difference and improving the educational curriculum should be the ones getting credit. It is clear that social networks have impacted society in many ways, whether it is for better or for worse, and will continue to contribute to the social realm.

iPads for every LAUSD student: a wise investment or a waste of money?



BY DAVID HUGHES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Los Angeles Unified School District is planning to give iPads to all the students in the school district which will cost the district over one billion dollars.

LAUSD plans to give iPads to over 650,000 students. Each iPad has a price of \$678. They come equipped with educational tools, a GPS tracker, a case, and a three-year warranty.

Instead of buying expensive iPads by Apple, LAUSD could buy cheaper alternatives like the amazon Kindle Fire,

which can do almost everything that an iPad can do, but with a cheaper price of only 160 dollars.

The money being used to fund the purchase of all of these iPads could be used to pay for teacher salaries, school supplies, and school clubs.

The school district is trusting kids from K-12 to use these iPads. After a few weeks of testing the schools will soon allow the children to take the iPads home. Since not every child in the school will pay attention, students could just go on websites during class and teachers probably won't find out about it.

In 2012, over 9,500 teachers received layoffs notices. The money that the LAUSD used to buy iPads could have helped keep those teachers that received layoff notices.

The Los Angeles Times reportedly said that money that the school board used to pay for these iPads was a direct cut from the school construction bonds. Construction bonds for schools are used for construction purposes such as a new gym, new tiles, etc.

These schools' construction bonds were approved by Los Angeles voters who had no idea that they would be voting for these iPads. This raises the suggestion

that voters should receive more information so they would have a better understanding on what they are voting on.

LAUSD is virtually wasting its money by ripping off their construction budget on iPads that little kids will probably break or lose in a week.

The misuse of funds doesn't stop with the iPads; the school district is also planning on buying keyboards for all of the students, which will cost the district another \$5 million dollars to fund. Money should be more wisely spent in schools, and not foolishly spent on flashy new tablets.

FEATURES

Clubs & Organizations

Academic Decathlon
Faculty Adviser: Kristin Palomares

Animal Advocates
Faculty Adviser: Marcella Lamar

Annual Staff
Faculty Adviser: John Crone

California Scholarship Federation
Faculty Adviser: Herb Ortiz

Choraleers/Choralettes
Faculty Adviser: Jacqueline Dodd

College Bound Athletes
Faculty Adviser: Frank Llanes, Ben Meza

Color Guard
Director: Reggie Cordero

Concert Choir
Faculty Adviser: Jacqueline Dodd

Dons 4 Christ
Faculty Adviser: Paul Brandt

Executive Commission
Faculty Adviser: Mary Chapman

Gadabouts
Faculty Adviser: Charissa Zeko

Gay-Straight Alliance
Faculty Adviser: Nadline Segal

Key Club
Faculty Adviser: Jim Sorenson

Leos Club
Faculty Adviser: Kathy Metaxas & Desiree Palacios

Marching Band/Instrumental Music
Director: Reggie Cordero

Mu Alpha Theta
Faculty Adviser: Steve Francis

MESA
Faculty Adviser: Peter Halverson & Joy Tanigawa

Newstaff
Faculty Adviser: Paul Zeko

Pep Commission
Faculty Adviser: Mary Chapman

Pepsters
Faculty Adviser: Kenia Kemp

Teens For Change
Faculty Adviser: Maribeth Sythe

Thespians
Faculty Adviser: Stan Wlasick

UC Partners
Faculty Adviser: Herb Ortiz

Gadabouts get set to embark on next journey

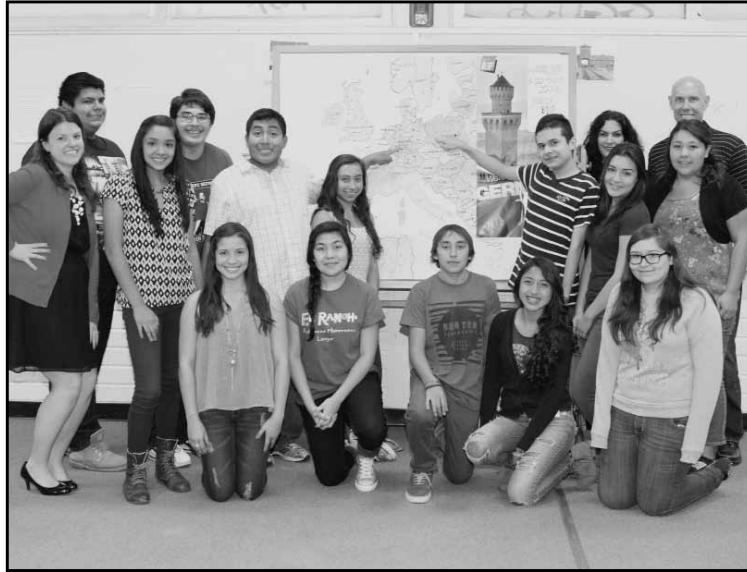
BY RUBI MACIAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Many El Rancho students set traveling goals, and the Gadabouts club exists to help them fulfill these. Every year, the campus travel club takes a group of students on an EF Tours trip to foreign countries. EF Tours organizes trips worldwide to educate and culture students and adults.

On December 12th, the travel club will set off to Germany, the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, and Austria. They will return on December 23rd.

Olympia Martinez, a senior signed up for the trip, says, "the Gadabouts expose you to new opportunities and experiences while facing different customs, culture, and history."

Sophomore English teacher Mrs. Charissa Zeko, who plans the trips each year with her husband, Digital Photography teacher Mr. Paul Zeko, looks forward to "soaking in the history" and "eating all the yummy authentic dishes" of the countries the Gad-



Gadabouts discussing plans for next trip to Greece, Italy & Turkey.

abouts will be visiting in December.

Zeko is also enthusiastic because of the small number of travelers this year. This allows her and Mr. Zeko to "experience the trip with each traveler."

Since 2006, the Gadabouts club has worked with EF Tours. The advisers can guarantee that all trips have been enriching, es-

pecially to students who have not experienced other cultures.

The price of each trip is around \$3100, and EF Tours offers monthly plans for those who cannot pay all at once. The travel club often has different opportunities for members to fundraise for their trip, if need be. The prices of trips vary, but include transportation, hotels, breakfast

and dinner, tours, and attraction entrance fees.

For the teachers who go on the trip, Zeko says one of the most enjoyable experiences is seeing El Rancho students "come back changed" with "knowledge and an understanding of different countries and their cultures." She urges students who are thinking of traveling to get where they want to be, whether it be with the Gadabouts or alone.

For students considering traveling with the Gadabouts, Zeko says "now is the best time to go." Dons should not be afraid to look into the tour itself and attend club meetings.

The advisers do all they can to make the process easy. They hold meetings to give students guidelines on the necessities of traveling to each country, depending on the season.

The next Gadabouts trip will be to Turkey, Greece, and Italy in June of 2015. Dons should definitely look into the trip and begin saving up for the experience of a lifetime.

Zombie Apocalypse? I think Yes!

BY NAZARELY NARVAEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Most teenagers are frightened by a zombie apocalypse, but Michelle Benavidez is excited to create her own zombie apocalypse. "I enjoy all types of makeup, but I love monster and injury makeup the most," said Benavidez. Her obsession with monsters has been evident since she was a little girl, "I used to steal my mom's makeup and make a mess," she admits.

Benavidez began experimenting with make up around the age of 15. "Around Halloween, I made a fake wound out of make-up. I'd rather make it myself than buy it at an expensive store. It was a pretty bad makeup job, but I enjoyed the process," said Benavidez.

Benavidez's skills have improved greatly; she started with making small scars to a point where she can now create an entire wound on someone's face.

Benavidez aspires to be-

come a great special effects artist and work with other great artists. "Greg Nicotero is my inspiration. He's worked in famous films such as *Kill Bill*, *The Hills Have Eyes*, and *Scream*. He's the makeup supervisor of *The Walking Dead* as well," said Benavidez.

Benavidez's experience with makeup has made her become highly observant to makeup in films, "The first thing I judge in a movie is the makeup, if I see that the makeup is unconvincing I can't seem to enjoy the movie," said Benavidez.

Benavidez named *X-Men* and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* as good examples of movies with well-done makeup. "The actress who played Mystique in *X-Men* had 110 separate prosthetics that covered 60% of her body. *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* had a charming character design for the Grinch," said Benavidez.

She is interested in attending El School of Professional Makeup, the top makeup school in Los Angeles. Their students



Michelle Benavidez's love for special effects occurred at a young age.

have the opportunity to learn all aspects of makeup, from fashion to television work, "El School of Professional Makeup is at the top of my list," said Benavidez.

Benavidez named *Naimie's* to be her favorite place to buy supplies. "The most I've spent on makeup was \$80 from my

birthday money," she admits. Buying makeup can be very expensive, but if one is smart and uses what he has to his advantage, making ends meet will be possible. Makeup is an art. It is something that society sees every day. Without it, people's reactions wouldn't be the same.

Welcome Back Class of 1993!

REUNION

BY CLAUDIA GONZALEZ
EL RANCHO STAFF WRITER

On Friday October 18, El Rancho's class of 1993 will kick-off their 20th year reunion at the Homecoming game. The festivities will begin at the football game on Friday and end on Saturday with a cruise of the Marina Bay.

The reunion committee is led by one of El Rancho's own staff member, Lourdes Serrano. They have been planning this event since May.

This is not the first time the class of '93 has reunited.

Back in 2003 the class of '93 celebrated their 10th year reunion.

Among those who will attend the reunion are Alex Arevalo, CEO of his own tortilla company, and Randy Flores, a Baseball World Series winner for the St. Louis Cardinals.

For many alumni, reuniting with their class after 10 years will bring back bittersweet memories. "I have mixed emotions, but I'm mainly excited," said Serrano. "The downside is that a lot of friends have passed away... it's exciting and sad at the same time." Another member of the

committee, Yvonne Berumen, said, "We have seen so many changes in the last 20 years... here is an opportunity to stop time for a second and celebrate us."

The cruise will consist of live entertainment and dinner. Entertainment is set to include a D.J, belly and Aztec dancing and a surprise band. "I want to see everything but the one I'll enjoy the most, just because it has a little bit of a Mexican heritage, is the Aztec dancing... the Aztec dancing will be made up of alumni" said Serrano.

After months of prepara-

tion, the reunion committee hopes that the entire class will enjoy the celebration. "This committee has worked very hard to create an ambiance of class, elegance and enjoyment," said Berumen. "Don't miss out on celebrating the class of 1993 in 2013... you may find that you will find more friends by coming, I know I did."

Tickets to attend will be on sale via PayPal and through Cashier Checks or Money Orders from 8/1 through 10/14 for \$105 per person. For more information and updates please visit the El Rancho Class of 1993 Facebook page.

CITY VIEW

“Where the World Began” Pico Rivera



Saturday, October 26 5-8pm
Pico Park
9528 Beverly Blvd., Pico Rivera



Pico Rivera in the 1930's

Pico Rivera is a fast-growing city of about 65,200 people in a more than eight-square-mile area located on the eastern border of the Los Angeles basin and southern border of the San Gabriel valley.

Called *Sejat* by Native Americans who believed that the world began in the area where the city is now, Pico Rivera today has changed from its original forested and bucolic state into an urban region easily accessible by car (via the Pomona, Santa Ana, and San Gabriel freeways), plane (via Los Angeles International

Airport), and train (via the Union Pacific Railroad, Southern Pacific Line, and the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company).

The towns of Pico and Rivera, from which the city originated, officially began in the 1880s when the Union Pacific, Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe railroads built rail lines through the region. Blessed with fertile soil, both communities became known for their walnuts, avocados, and other crops, and retained their agricultural character through the mid-1940s. When a growing in-

flux of new residents came to Pico Rivera after the end of World War II, development began supplanting farming as the landscape became dotted with housing subdivisions, schools, stores, and churches.

As the population grew, so did residents' collective sense of civic duty and desire to blend the two separate towns. On January 7, 1958, the majority of voters in Pico and Rivera voted to incorporate as one municipality and with the decision becoming official on January 29, Pico Rivera became Los Angeles County's 61st city.

El Rancho Teen Court profile



El Rancho Teen Court is a partnership between the El Rancho Unified School District and the City of Pico Rivera that provides an opportunity for young people who commit non-serious crimes to be questioned, judged, and sentenced by a jury of their peers. Actual Los Angeles County Superior Judges and Los Angeles County Probation Officers preside over the courts.

The Los Angeles Teen Court is an early intervention program that provides an opportunity for selected juvenile offenders to be questioned, judged and sentenced by a jury of their peers. There is no lawyer role-playing. Teen Court cases teach the juvenile offender and the student volunteers: 1) The rules of the law that apply to the particular case; 2) The consequences of the offense; and 3) How due process is observed by court procedure.

All cases are heard in the Pico Rivera City Hall Chambers located on 6615 Passons Blvd. Pico Rivera during the first Wednesday of the month at 3:30 PM.

Our Teen Court offers a convicted juvenile offender the incentive of having no record of a criminal conviction if the sentence imposed is completed within a six month period. If the juvenile offender fails to comply with the conditions of informal probation for the entire six month period, the offender is transferred back into the traditional juvenile justice system for adjudication. This informal probation/early intervention program is authorized by Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 236 and 654.

Bench Officers

Judge Olivia Rosales,
 Superior Court of Los Angeles County

Judge James Horan,
 Superior Court of Los Angeles County

Probation Officers

Vanessa Alvarado, DPO
 Whittier Police Department

Court Psychologist

Rebecca Gonzalez-Marin,
 PSY.D.

Doctor of Clinical Psychology
 Mental Health Consultant and
 Psychotherapy

Court Judicial Officer

Benjamin Meza

Court Attorneys

Dominic Picon,
 Attorney At Law
 Blanca Pacheco,
 Attorney at Law

School Officials

Raul Elias, Coordinator

Jessica Kwek, Principal
El Rancho Teen Court
Foundation

Raul Elias, President

Bingo for Justice



PROCEEDS
 SUPPORT EL RANCHO HIGH SCHOOL
 TEEN COURT

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

El Rancho Teen Court Calender

September 4 2013	Teen Court convenes at 3:30 p.m. in the City of Pico Rivera Council Chambers
Wednesday	
October 2 2013	Teen Court convenes at 3:30 p.m. in the City of Pico Rivera Council Chambers
Wednesday	
November 6 2013	Teen Court convenes at 3:30 p.m. in the City of Pico Rivera Council Chambers
Wednesday	
December 4 2013	Teen Court convenes at 3:30 p.m. in the City of Pico Rivera Council Chambers
Wednesday	
January 1 2014	Teen Court convenes at 3:30 p.m. in the City of Pico Rivera Council Chambers
Wednesday	
February 5 2014	Teen Court convenes at 3:30 p.m. in the City of Pico Rivera Council Chambers
Wednesday	
March 5 2014	Teen Court convenes at 3:30 p.m. in the City of Pico Rivera Council Chambers
Wednesday	
April 2 2014	Teen Court convenes at 3:30 p.m. in the City of Pico Rivera Council Chambers
Wednesday	
May 7 2014	Teen Court convenes at 3:30 p.m. in the City of Pico Rivera Council Chambers
Wednesday	
June 4 2014	Teen Court convenes at 3:30 p.m. in the City of Pico Rivera Council Chambers
Wednesday	
	Last Teen Court for the school year convenes at 3:30 p.m. in the City of Pico Rivera Council Chambers

CAMPUS

El Rancho welcomes new teachers! (and one familiar face!)



Carreon returns to The Ranch.

BY JAZMIN HERNANDEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Dons, welcome back to a new school year. This year, El Rancho welcomes several new teachers. Some of these teachers have previously been teaching at other local schools that some students here at El Rancho might have attended.

Many teachers may have known Ms. Lilia Carreon. She graduated from El Rancho in 1984. "I have a special place for El Rancho. So I know if I would have taught anywhere it would be here," she says, "It's

kind of weird when you're a student and then [the teachers] become your colleagues," she says.

Carreon has returned to El Rancho and has been teaching for twenty-two years. El Rancho has been the only school where she has taught. She left for three years to work with the El Rancho Unified School District. Under the Teach an American History Grant, she trained history teachers. Carreon says, "The grant is used to provide professional development for high school, elementary, and middle school teachers." She says, "So I was working with teachers from Pasadena and from El Rancho and we worked with Huntington Library and professors from USC and we had different professors around the country present lessons to our teachers. So I helped organize that."

Carreon has only focused on history as a teacher. She has taught world history, economics, geography and government. She says, "I've always loved El Rancho." She believes that El Rancho has the "best staff" she has ever worked with. Carreon considers the staff her long-term friends. "I love the students from El Rancho, I've enjoyed working with them. They are the bright spot of my day. My job is to help them be successful in any way I can," she says.



Chita-Williams comes to us from North Park Middle School.

Students who attended North Park Middle School might recognize Ms. Roxana Chita-Williams. Chita-Williams worked at North Park Middle School for five years. She currently teaches both health and biology for special education students in classroom B-203.

This is her twelfth year teaching. Prior to North Park, she taught in the Los Angeles Unified School District. Chita-Williams is still adapting to El Rancho. "[The] Science Department is a good team to work with," says Chita-Williams. She feels very welcomed at El Rancho.



Mr. Jose joins staff after six years at Burke Middle School.

Mr. Jesse Jose teaches English to special education students in L-1. Jose has been working for the El Rancho Unified School District for fifteen years. For the past ten years, he has been a substitute teacher for many of the schools in this district. For the last six years, he has been at Burke Middle School. He says, "So far, I feel very welcome; the students are great." Jose says, "The English Department and the Special Education Department have been very supportive."

Jose is getting into the spirit at El Rancho as he continues to adapt to the school.



Ms. Delgado moves over from Rivera Middle School.

Ms. Rosa Delgado also teaches special education students. She teaches English in B-107.

Delgado has taught at Rivera Middle School for five years, as well as Birney and Valencia Elementary School. She says, "I love this school, I really do. I think the staff is great; they're all very supportive."

She also says, "[the school] is very huge and there are so many things going on all of the time, a lot of activities."

In her class, she feels "there is a lot of student participation." Overall, Ms. Delgado holds a very positive opinion of the school.



Library Corner

Match the title and author to the books' first lines. The first three students who bring the correct WRITTEN answers to Mrs. Chodos in the Library will receive a prize. ONE entry per student.



- "It is my first morning of school. I have seven new notebooks, a skirt I hate, and a stomachache."
 - "It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen."
 - "On the last day of summer, ten hours before fall...my grandfather took me out to the Wall."
- 1984 by George Orwell
 - The Butter Battle Book by Dr. Seuss
 - Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson



WORD ON THE STREET

Who do you think will win the World Series?



"Dodgers obviously."
-Kevin Ageiar 9th



"Dodgers because they are in 1st place already."
-Precious Marquez 10th



"Dodgers because of their good pitching."
-Luis Perez 11th



"The Dodgers because they've been having a good year and have a solid hitting line up."
-Joseph C. Jimenez 12



"Dodgers because that's my team"
-Jesus Verduzco 12

CAMPUS

Dons show school spirit during September



Andrew Chandler, Daniel Martinez, and Coach Lopez display Blue Pride.



ASB members relaxing after a morning of hard work at the Welcome Back Assembly.



Power 106 player shoots over Mr. Francisco.



A group of friends pose after the Welcome Back Assembly.



Ivan Sanchez roots for his class.



El Rancho staff member attempts to dribble around a Power 106 player.



David Gonzalez rushes to get the win for the senior class.



Students enjoying their time at the Welcome Back Dance.



Amber Garcia getting Dons to show some school spirit.



Joey Salinas and Mr. Wlasick satisfied after a well-performed skit.

COLLEGE

Save money in college with the *Pay It Forward* plan

BY LAURA EDITH CASTRO-SPENCER
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The average college graduate is in debt approximately 26,600 dollars by the time he finishes his bachelor's degree. That translates to 3,000 hours spent working a minimum wage job to pay for a college education that will, in the end, give you a piece of paper that states you're a bit more qualified to work than you were 26,600 dollars ago.

8.8% of college graduates will remain unemployed after their four-year college education is complete, while 37.8% of students will be working a part time or full time job that didn't require a college degree to begin with.

Many students agree to a payment plan that leads them to working 3,000 hours minimum wage or a job that doesn't require a college degree in the first place.

What these college stu-



High school graduates save money with the Pay It Forward. USNews.

dents could have done was look into Oregon State's new Pay It Forward plan.

The Pay It Forward program allows students to attend an Oregon state college without taking out any loans or owing mon-

ey to the school. After they get their degree, the student will pay back the state a small percentage (.75%) of their income for the next twenty or twenty-five years.

For example, someone who got their four bachelors degree

would pay three percent of income for the next twenty or twenty five years. This program allows students to pick their majors based on their interests and skill rather than financial conditions.

Mike Mendoza, a 2013 El Rancho graduate and incoming freshman at Oregon State College, says that this new program is "helpful" to nonresidential students. "It was one of the many reasons as to why I picked

Oregon," said Mendoza, "Oregon offered me the major that I wanted along with 5,000 dollars for being an out of state student." According to Time Magazine's July Issue, Oregon state colleges also allow students the freedom of not being burdened by college debt, permitting students to focus on their studies rather than financial problems.

El Rancho seniors Ivan Zamora and Aaron Gamboa believe that the program encourages fellow seniors to take a look at colleges outside of Cali-

fornia that offer lower tuition through scholarships and grants.

The Pay It Forward program allows "more students the opportunity at a college education," said Zamora, "students who were limited due to money don't have to worry about that anymore." The program not only helps students, but their parents find peace of mind when it comes to deciding what college to go to. "[This program] will help my parents out a lot," said Gamboa, "we won't be [bombarded] by student loans and financial aid." "If other colleges were offering this program, my choosing process would have been longer," said Mendoza, "but in the end, it still would have been Oregon."

Many of the best economic minds believe that the Pay It Forward Program is the way to go. For further questions or information visit Mr. Ortiz in the College and Career Center, or attend college night on October 3rd in the old gym.

Moghimi makes the most of her *mo-ments*

Moghimi's bond with French students propels her to continue teaching and inspiring students.

BY DAVID HUGHES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Mrs. Angela Moghimi-Danesh, commonly known as Mrs. Mo, is the French teacher in O-8 who teaches French 2, 3, and 4. Mrs. Mo attended Cal State Dominguez Hills and went on to the University of La Verne to receive a Master's degree in Education.

Although the decision to attend CSUDH wasn't Moghimi's initial plan, she doesn't regret it. Moghimi's dream school during high school was to attend the University of Southern California, where she attended an orientation workshop, but didn't qualify for financial aid and her parents could not afford to send her there.

Moghimi also wanted to attend a school in France and was planning to travel to Aix-en Provence when her grandmother became ill with Leukemia. "I decided to attend Dominguez Hills so I could spend as much time with my grandmother as possible before she died," says Moghimi.

Moghimi attended CSUDH for five years. "They offered a wonderful teaching creden-

tial program and I majored in Spanish Literature and French Literature," says Moghimi.

Moghimi received her BA and teaching credentials at CSUDH. She then attended the University of La Verne where she received her Master's degree in Education after an eighteen-month program.

Moghimi graduated from college in 1982 and began teaching at Carson High and Gardena High. She was offered a job at Rolling Hills High School in Palos Verdes, CA but had an interview on the same day with El Rancho. "[I] had just signed to take over a Spanish position for Janice Salazar, a former beloved El Rancho Spanish teacher," says Moghimi.

Moghimi began teaching French when Edwina Rollo retired. Moghimi has been teaching at El Rancho since 1983. Although she stopped teaching Spanish, she still admires Spanish and French equally.

Throughout her life, Moghimi has learned five languages. "Languages are my thing," says Moghimi. Moghimi grew up speaking German to her grandmother and parents. She grew up

in a Hispanic neighborhood near the Los Angeles airport where she learned Spanish quickly.

Moghimi studied French in high school and for five more years in the university. "I have family that lives in France so it is a big part of my life," says Moghimi. She also married into a Farsi speaking family, making that language a necessity. "You learn what you desire out of necessity," says Moghimi.

Moghimi is proudest of her children, Jacob and Andreas Moghimi. Jacob graduated from El Rancho last year and is currently attending the American Jewish University. Andreas is going to graduate with the class of 2014 and is currently the band's drum major and a member of the Academic Decathlon.

Moghimi believes in making the most out of every opportunity. She made the most out of attending CSU Dominguez Hills and now has been teaching for 31 years. "My students feel my love for knowledge and for teaching and I think it is contagious," says Moghimi, "We are a family in French class and there is no where I'd rather be than with my family."

SUPER DONOR

BLOOD DRIVE

El Rancho High School

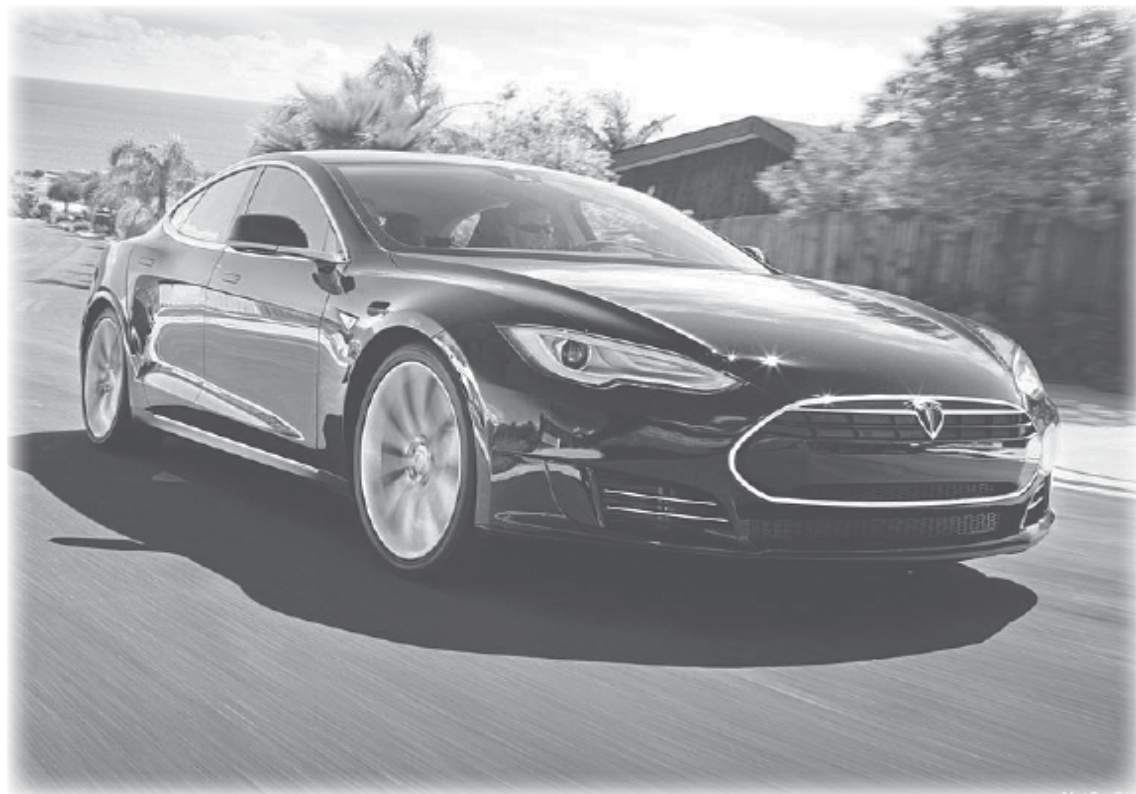
Date: Monday September 30, 2013
Time: 8 am - 3 pm
Location: New Gym
Contact: Mr. Sorenson, Key Club Advisor to sign-up (Room Q2)

Before Donating

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

IN DEPTH

Tesla soars in prestige within the car industry



By MICHAEL GARCIA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

company, Compaq, for \$307 million in 1999. Off that lump sum, Musk became an instant millionaire, receiving \$22 million.

He continued on a forward path by co-founding the online money transfer system, PayPal. It was sold to Ebay for \$1.5 billion in stock. At the time of the sale, Musk was the largest shareholder in Paypal with 11.7% of the shares. His third creation was that of the space travel company, SpaceX. Musk holds the position as CEO (Chief Executive Officer) and CTO (Chief Technology Officer). The company was successful in creating the first private spacecraft to fly into Earth's orbit. NASA saw potential in SpaceX so they invested somewhere between \$1.6 billion and \$3.1 billion in it to have it provide the spacecraft to transport goods to the Interna-

tional Space Station. Not only has SpaceX flourished in the science industry, it has also been used as a film location for Iron Man 2.

Finally, Musk arrived at co-founding Tesla Motors. He is currently the CEO and product architect. Even though Tesla is already 10 years old, it has barely begun to mass-produce its cars within the previous two years.

The company has only developed three different models of cars: a sports car, a luxury sedan, and a luxury SUV. The car that has come to represent Tesla has been its luxury sedan, the Model S.

The Model S is an electrically powered car that can get over 200 miles per charge. It has also proven to be near one of the safest cars available, having received a 5.4/5 on its crash tests and a 99/100 from Consumer

Reports for an overall rating. The only thing preventing it from receiving a 100/100 is that on long drives, the Tesla needs to stop and charge for an extended period of time. Also, how is it possible to receive a 5.4/5 on a crash test? During the testing of the crush capacity of the roof, the machine doing the testing broke before the roof could collapse. It was also nearly impossible to flip the car without human intervention. This vehicle can be purchased for around \$70,000 before taxes.

Somewhere in the midst of Tesla's upcoming, Musk also helped start the world's largest provider of solar power systems, Solar City. His cousin, Lyndon Rive, is a co-founder and the current CEO. Musk is the largest shareholder of the company.

Musk's primary goals are to expand space exploration and to increase the amounts of sustainable energy. Just recently, he proposed an idea for a solar-powered transportation system, the Hyperloop. In theory, people aboard it will be able to travel from San Francisco to Los Angeles in less than 30 minutes. Musk decided to leave it up to the engineers of America in hope that the science community comes together to make it possible. He said that if there was little progress in the future years then he might consider stepping in and leading the project.

For now, Musk is busy heading SpaceX and Tesla, for which Musk reports he invests 100 hours a week of work into the two companies. Not to mention, Musk is only 42 and already a billionaire.



The Nokia Lumia 1020: The camera with a smartphone

By NAZARELY NARVAEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Nokia launched their new Windows Phone 8, the Nokia Lumia 1020, on July 26, 2013. With a 41 megapixel camera, the device holds the characteristics of a point and shoot camera rather than those of a regular smartphone. The 1020 features a Pure View Carl Zeiss fabricated lens with a reinvented zoom and a Xenon flash to accompany it. It is slimmer than other Nokia models, weighing in at 5.57 oz., with a 4.5-inch display. It also has a 1.2 mega pixel front facing camera along with a scratch resistant Gorilla Glass screen. The 1020's battery has a maximum standby time of 15 days and 13 hours of 3G talk time.

The Windows 8 operating system allows users to download various music apps like Nokia Music, Xbox Music and Pandora. The Nokia Lumia 1020 has access to the Nokia Pro Camera app, allowing you to have full control of exposure, white balance, focus and shutter speed, just like a DSLR camera. There are other camera apps like the Panorama app and the Nokia Smart Cam app which allows one to take precise action shots.

With Windows 8 on the Nokia Lumia 1020, Office 365 is already installed thus allowing Microsoft Word, Power Point, One Note and Excel to be utilized on the road. Writing an essay or starting a power point will be available at a tap of a button. Setting up a SkyDrive account will allow the user to save documents and photos and be able to work on them from anywhere just by logging into Skydrive.com.

AT&T has priced this phone at \$199 with a two-year contract. AT&T is currently the only carrier with this phone but there are high hopes that it will become available with T-Mobile soon. Some cons of this phone would have to be relying on third party API's to connect to popular apps like Instagram and YouTube, since the Microsoft app store is still in development. Another con relates to its 32 GB of internal memory, the phone lacks a micro SD card slot, making it impossible to expand the phone's memory.

iPhone 5s vs Galaxy S4

By JULIUS ARIAS, EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The latest installments to the Apple and Galaxy series of phones are the Galaxy S4 and the iPhone5s. Both phones will feature minor additions from their past models. They will be of improved speed, camera functionality, and graphics.

The S4 will feature a 5-inch screen and an improved processor that can support an LTE network. It will also be equipped with a 13-megapixel camera. Some new features of the software are the "Smart Pause" and "Air View." The "Smart Pause" pauses a video automatically when the viewer looks away and resumes when the viewer resumes watching. The "Air View" allows the user to utilize hand gestures to navigate through pictures or messages. The phone will also include a feature that allows the phone to be unlocked by simply looking into the front-view camera. The S4 was released in late April and was purchased by over twenty million customers within the first two months following its launch.

The newest iPhone, the 5s, will feature plenty of new specs to accompany a 64-bit processing chip, the A7. The smart phone will also include an M7 chip that will prevent excessive battery loss due to the increased amount of energy that the A7 will require.

The newest physical addition to the outside of the phone will be the Touch ID ring built into the home button. This is a fingerprint sensor that will allow users to unlock the phone with ease. The flash was also improved, and now includes a second LED light that adjusts to the lighting of the environment, which allows for optimum photo quality. The color spectrum has changed to gray, silver, and gold, but the body of the phone will remain the same. The new software, IOS 7, will be an entire makeover to the appearance of the iPhone's home screen and to several other aspects of the phone's settings. The phone was made available this past week.

Both phones represent the latest technology, but it seems that there is constant controversy over which is better. Depending on the preferences of the buyer, one phone may be of greater use than the other.

Which do you prefer, iPhone or Galaxy?



"I prefer Galaxy well because iPhones are pretty much burned out even though I have an iPhone." - **Mayra Jimenez 10th**



"I'd prefer a Galaxy just because of the fact that iPhones crack too easily and I'm a clumsy person." - **Robert Mercado 12th**



"I'd probably prefer a Galaxy because android technology is more modified." - **Nicolas Bernal 11th**



"Preferably I would choose a Galaxy S4 since everyone has iPhones." - **Ruben Barragan 10th**

SPORTS

Dons take on Troy tonight in final pre-league match

BY ANGELICA GAMEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With only one more game before league, El Rancho's football team has a 2-2 record. The Dons lost against Diamond Ranch and Bell Gardens. The Dons will face Troy tonight, have a bye week, and then play their first league game against Whittier.

Before their first preseason game, the Dons scrimmaged for two quarters against Trabuco Hills. Trabuco Hills is a division one school and the Dons made it a close game but fell short, 14-0. "Trabuco Hills is a good football team and we went in there and we played well with them," says coach Vinnie Lopez. Lopez believes this game was a good opportunity to show how good El Rancho's football team can be.

The Dons won their first preseason game 49-19, but lost their next game against Diamond Ranch 42-14. "It was a close football game, much more than the score would lead you to believe," says Lopez, "it was a good chance to play a good football team...and learn how to come back from being down," he adds. Senior captain Jesus Verduzco says that there were little mistakes they should've capitalized on. They hope to fix those by league.

Last Friday the Dons faced Montebello High. With the help of senior Jose Portillo's field goals, the Dons led 23-21 in the fourth quarter but Montebello



Boys Varsity football team preparing before win against Montebello

came back and took a lead of 29-21 with less than a minute left in the game. The Dons managed to tie the game at 29 and Portillo made the field goal that allowed the Dons to win the game 30-29.

The Dons have added new members to their roster including juniors Sergio Gamiz and Richard Cuellar. Both of these players were moved up from junior varsity and had to adjust to the varsity level. "The big difference [between JV and varsity] is speed...you have to have a stronger mentality to play with varsity," says Gamiz.

To keep up with the varsity team, these boys had to work extra hard. On his off time, Cuellar works on his footwork so that during the game he is

"two times better than the other team." The new team members should be adjusted to the varsity level by the start of league.

With league just around the corner, the Dons have set goals for themselves, beginning with winning league. "This year we have a lot of senior leadership and so as long as we stay healthy and continue to play to our potential, we're going to be okay," says Lopez. Verduzco hopes to make their season one to remember, which can happen with the league title.

Two teams the Dons hope to beat during league are La Serna and Santa Fe. La Serna earned the Del Rio League title last year and if the Dons want to take it away from them this year, they will have to beat them.

Santa Fe is another rival for the Dons. Verduzco plans to get a victory from each of these teams by playing disciplined, hard, smart, and fast.

Defense is going to be a big part of this season. "Defense wins championships," says Lopez, "if we go out there and play well defensively and we keep the other team from scoring, it will help us win a championship," he adds. With nine defensive starters returning, a lot is going to be expected from them.

Other than defense, focus is also going to help the Dons have a great season. "Everybody staying focused on each game one game at a time [will help]," says senior captain Ryan Araujo. Araujo also believes that his team has to continue playing hard and continue fighting no matter what during league.

The Dons will be playing away tonight at Fullerton High School. They will be playing against Troy High School.

The Dons hope to end their preseason with a win to go into league strong. The Dons' next home game will be against Pioneer on the 18th of October. "Just come out and see a football game, you guys will see a good game," says Lopez. Verduzco wants to make sure that everyone goes out to support the team at their games. Verduzco says that having more people at the football game makes a difference.

Boys Water Polo begins season with new coach

BY BREANNA PEREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho boys' Varsity water polo team gets a fresh start as well as a new leading coach, Mr. John Pringle. Pringle has helped the team begin the season with a 6-2 record along with placing third in El Rancho's Tournament. Pringle also chose seniors Ricardo Robles and Daniel Gomez to lead this year's team as co-captains.

Robles, Gomez, and Pringle have one specific goal in common: winning league and making it into CIF. "[We hope] to compete for a league title and have a good win in CIF. I think we're good enough to win a game [at CIF], but it depends on matchups and a little bit of luck," said Pringle. Luck can only go so far for the team, considering the alternating wins and losses that they've had since season started.

The Dons began their preseason with a loss against Montclair High School on September 5th with a score of 11-12. The Dons redeemed themselves at their second away game on September 10th against Bell Gardens High School with a score of 23-4. The team emerged victorious in their most recent match against Chino Hills High School with a score of 14-7.

Throughout this past month, the team has been trying to im-



The water polo team practices to dominate during league.

prove for each game. "[The team] spends about 2-3 hours of practice putting in hard work," remarked Robles. The Dons have been training since the 12th of August.

As the team continues to demonstrate their strengths, they also acknowledge areas in need of improvement. "Hopefully we can get faster [compared to] last year and get in better shape," says Gomez. "I hope we could communicate more and do better fully as a team," says Robles, "everyone needs to work on their

own individual aspect." Mr. Pringle's coaching experience makes the captains' hopes of progress a strong possibility for the team.

Although Pringle may appear to be a new coach, he actually coached at El Rancho between 2007 and 2010. He also gained coaching experience from Schurr High School and Pasadena Poly High School.

Getting players used to Pringle's coaching techniques didn't seem to be a problem. "There are a lot of se-

niors that want to make their season worth-while, so we're on the same page," says Pringle.

As for the remainder of the season Pringle says that they have high expectations that they're working toward. "I'm doing my part and they're doing theirs," says Pringle.

The Dons have a couple of tournaments left before their first league game. You can support the Dons at their first league game at El Rancho on the 15th of October. They will be facing La Serna.

Sports Results

Football:

Marina- W
Diamond Ranch-L
Bell Gardens-L
Montebello-W

(G)Volleyball:

Cantwell-L
Norwalk-L
Montebello-W
Valley Christian-L
Bell Gardens-L
Bellflower-W
Mark Keppel-W

(G)Tennis:

St. Lucy's-L
Los Altos-W
Norwalk-W
Montebello-W
Paramount-L
Bellflower-W
Mark Keppel-L

(B)Water**Polo:**

Montclair-L
Bell Gardens-W
ER Tour. - 3rd Place
Warren-W
Chino-W
Rowland-L

X-Country:

Woodbridge
Invitational:
Boys: 6th place
Girls: 10th place

SPORTS

Girls' volleyball looks to start strong in league



Miriam Arellano jumps up to block the ball on their game against Village Christian.

BY ANGELICA GAMEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The preseason is coming to an end and the girls' volleyball team has a 3-4 record. The Dons defeated Montebello High School, Bellflower High School, and Mark Keppel but lost their other four games.

The Dons began their season with losses against Cantwell and Norwalk, eventually earning a victory against Montebello, only to be defeated by Village Christian and Bell Gardens.

The loss against Village Christian only prepared the team for its next match. "The game against Village Christian helped us by not only preparing us mentally but also giving us an idea of what we need to work on so that when we do face a hard team

we will be prepared," remarked senior captain Romy Ramos.

The game against Bell Gardens was a bit more frustrating for the Dons. "The game against Bell Gardens was one of the most disappointing games for me," says Ramos, "I know for a fact we could have done better." Senior Iliana Almeda believed a win would have been attainable. "It was those little mistakes that cost us in the end and we're working on it as best as we can," says Almeda. The Dons fell to Bell Gardens three to nothing.

After playing Bell Gardens, the Dons earned another victory against Bellflower. "It was by far one of the best games we played as a team," claimed Ramos, "[and] coming together is what led us to that win."

Ramos realizes that they

didn't have the best preseason. "Like all sport teams, we have our good and bad games," says Ramos, "I know we have great potential and we can be a strong team when we come together and play to our potential."

The Dons hope to put preseason behind and start focusing on league, which is about to begin. "Preseason is the perfect time to see where our team stands and where we can try to improve," says Almeda. Ramos hopes her team starts focusing on its main goal. "Whatever happened during preseason, we must forget about it and focus on our goal, which is to become league champions," says Ramos.

One team the Dons hope to gain against during league is La Serna. "I'm not sure why they are the toughest team to

beat but as long as we come together as a team, we can beat them," says Ramos. Almeda says they just want to put an end to La Serna's winning streak.

In order to be able to beat La Serna, the Dons must work hard to reach their level. "Even if it means waking up at five in the morning for practice, we will dedicate ourselves to become the best we can," exclaimed Almeda. Ramos believes they can win against La Serna. "We must first believe in ourselves and that we can beat La Serna in order to keep an optimistic attitude no matter what the score is, and keep pushing until the end," commented Ramos.

After losing six seniors from last year (three which were starters), the Dons had to replace them with new players. Sophomore Miriam Arrellano and junior Elyssa Torres were both moved up to varsity. Arrellano played on the freshman team and Torres played on the junior varsity team last season.

The transition to varsity was something that both Arrellano and Torres needed to adjust to. "Varsity is such a faster version of the game," says Torres. The upperclassmen have helped Arrellano improve. "The upper class encourages me to push myself to be at my best and improve my skills," says Arrellano.

With the help of Arrellano, Torres, and other new team members, the Dons hope to come back during league. "I know our team has potential," says Almeda. The Dons will have their first season game on the 8th of October against Santa Fe High School. They will be playing at 4:30pm at Santa Fe High.



Girls work on their running techniques during practice.

X-country team strives to make it to state

BY NICHELE RENTERIA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Based on their achievements from previous seasons X-Country is looking forward to continuing their successes. They participated in the Woodbridge Invitational where the boys came in sixth place and the girls came in tenth place. Their goals for this year are to win league and go to state.

The Dons have been working hard and practicing since May of this year. Coach Wynn is really looking forward to this year's season saying that the team's goal is to win on all levels.

The X-Country team competed at the Don Bosco Invitational but was not able to finish due to the extreme heat. The junior and sophomore boys and girls didn't get a chance to run.

Wynn knows that winning league isn't going to be easy. "Our plan is to fight for league at every title," says Wynn, "we have a shot but it's going to be everybody working together and getting it all done, that is always going to be our goal."

Wynn and the runners were excited going into the Woodbridge Invitational. They practice after school in order to get ready for league. They have been putting a lot of time into workouts in order to get in shape.

X-Country's top runners are senior Geoffrey Sarco and junior Melissa Gutierrez. Captains this year consist of seniors Sarco, Elias Powell, and Ana Galicia. "My goal is to hit a 14:40 for the three mile and to help my team out," says Sarco.

One team the varsity team hopes to "take down" is California High. "Everyone is looking at Cal-High as a dominant force, given that they did take 2nd at state, but I know that my group and myself together can take them down," says Sarco.

Coach Wynn feels that the new incoming freshman team "has potential". Although the freshman boys have not won a title, there are three freshman runners that Wynn feels will possibly change that.

For the last two years, freshman girls have won the league title and are hoping to carry on the past years accomplishments. "They have the right concepts to get better," says Wynn.

Overall, this year's X-Country team's goal is to win League and to try to achieve all their goals for this year. They will have their first "Cluster" on October 3rd at 3pm at Legg Lake.

Tennis captains enthusiastic for new season

BY MARISOL ALMAZAN
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

It's the beginning of a new year and the tennis team is kicking off the new season by welcoming back their senior captain Veronica Torres and a new senior captain Roxanne Sierra. Torres and Sierra have helped their team end pre-season with a 4-3 record.

Coach Cynthia Lippstreu saw that Torres and Sierra had Captain qualities. "Veronica and Roxanne always come to practice and they work hard... they know what needs to be done, so it was only natural to select them as captains," said Lippstreu.

"Roxanne always gets the girls pumped and Veronica always orders the girls around and gets them to do what needs to be done," added Lippstreu.

Tennis is only one of many things Veronica participates in. "I have tennis and then I take part in the Early College Academy," says Torres. "I also take college classes at Rio Hondo after school, so balancing school with tennis gets hard, but I manage," she adds.

Sierra agreed with Torres about managing her time. "I guess



Senior Captains Roxanne Sierra and Veronica Torres take a break after a long practice.

you just get used to managing your time wisely," said Sierra. "I'm in the court year round but I also stay focused in school," she adds.

Sierra said that being a captain meant you had to be responsible. Both Sierra and Torres agree that "being a leader is sometimes pressuring but it all pays off knowing the girls rely on [them], and it feels good to help the girls out and lead them in the right direction."

The two are very excited with this upcoming season because they've worked very hard. "We have to lead the girls to be good players for when the seniors leave this year," said Veronica, "but I know they'll be fine."

Roxanne also said that she is very comfortable with this year's team because "most of [them] have a strong bond since [they've] known each other since [they] were in the JV team."

Both captains believe this season will be "one of the best" they have ever played. They feel that they do not have to worry much. The confidence that they bring into the team helps their teammates believe they will have a great season.

"It's a great way to start the year," said Sierra and Torres, "we're extremely excited for this season." They have their next league game on October 1st.

ENTERTAINMENT

Racist remarks directed at Miss America

BY JAZMIN HERNANDEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Miss New York, Nina Davuluri, took the crown in this year's Miss America on Sunday September 15, 2013. In the 87th year of the competition, Davuluri was one of two Asian-American finalists. She is the first Indian-American Miss America winner. The fact that she has Indian ancestry upset some people.

Shortly after being crowned Miss America, racial comments and insults began to be tweeted about Davuluri. Some have called Davuluri an Arab, a terrorist, a foreigner and many other racial slurs.

Tweets included, "Congratulations Al-Qaeda. Our Miss America is one of you" and "Have we forgotten 9/11?" associating her with the 2001 terrorist attacks on the U.S.

There have also been comments such as, "Miss America? You mean Miss 7-11," associating her with the Indian-Americans employed by the 7-11 franchise. "And the Arab wins Miss America. Classic" has also been said in regards to her victory.

This isn't the first time Davuluri experienced this negative reaction, "It's a difficult situation, and that was something I experienced even as Miss New York," says Davuluri, "That being said, for every one negative tweet or comment that I have



Miss America winner from New York, Nina Davuluri, celebrates her victory despite negative feedback. Courtesy of SourceFed's Tumblr.

seen or received, I have received dozens of positive words of encouragement, support and love."

Davuluri was born in Syracuse, New York. She is American-born and descends from the Telugu of South Asia. After New York, she moved to Oklahoma and later to Michigan.

Davuluri attended the University of Michigan, earning a degree in Brain Behavior and Cognitive Science. Along the way, she has earned the Michigan Merit Award and National Honor Society Award. With the \$50,000 scholarship she won from Miss America, Davu-

luri plans to apply to medical school to become a cardiologist.

Davuluri has moved on from the negative comments and is excited to continue her career, "I have to rise above that...I always viewed myself as first and foremost American," says Nina Davuluri.

She is very happy that she can be an inspiration to others as a woman with foreign ancestry. "I'm so happy this organization has embraced diversity," Davuluri said, "I'm thankful there are children watching at home who can finally relate to a new Miss America."

Luke Skywalker and Han Solo join Disney

BY MICHAEL GARCIA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

George Lucas's collection of films, "Star Wars," was sold this past year for \$4.05 billion to the legendary Walt Disney Corporation. Robert Iger, Chief Executive Officer of Walt Disney, had been attempting to acquire LucasFilm for nearly a year and a half, when George Lucas finally agreed to a deal.

Before Iger even considered purchasing the franchise, he intensively watched all six films, tediously taking notes to ensure there was still opportunity for further installments. As any Star Wars fanatic will know, there were originally supposed to be a total of nine films; there are currently only six. Iger knew that if Disney was to attain LucasFilm, there was still a huge margin for profit. He proceeded to make a deal, knowing that a large amount of money would be needed to acquire such a grand enterprise.

Disney ended up buying LucasFilm for \$4.05 billion, making it their fourth largest purchase ever. Their largest purchase was that of Capital Cities/ABC for \$19.7 billion. The deal also included the ownership of two of LucasFilm's high-tech production companies and the movie franchise "Indiana Jones." Lucas had acquired "Indiana Jones" for LucasFilm for his personal interests (Lucas teamed up with Steven Spielberg to direct "Indiana Jones and the



George Lucas with Disney mascots. Courtesy of the Orlando Sentinel.

Kingdom of the Crystal Skull").

Although Lucas was reluctant at first to sell his enterprise, he later felt that the decision was good. "I'm doing this so that the films will have a longer life," said Lucas in an interview on YouTube. Lucas also said, "I've never been that much of a money guy. I'm more of a film guy, and most of the money I've made is in defense of trying to keep creative control of my movies." Lucas remains humble over his sellout and is not quite ready to retire at the age of sixty-eight. He will now serve as a creative consultant for the production of future movies. Lucas is happy that he gets to sit back and watch the films develop. He said, "It's now time for me to pass the Star Wars on to a new generation of filmmakers." He has high confidence in the filmmakers that they will do an extraordinary job in continuing the legacy of "Star Wars."

George Lucas may be ex-

cited to see what Disney could do, but Robert Iger is thrilled. Iger's success in leading the purchase of "Star Wars" allowed Disney to add plenty of ideas to their stockpile for making money. Iger knows that Disney has taken on much pressure from the millions of "Star Wars" fans throughout the world to make the movie great. His confidence is high that the movie will be a success. He said, "It's a less forgiving world than it's ever been. Things have to be really great to do well."

The seventh film is set to premiere in 2015 and will be titled "Episode 7." The plan is to produce an "Episode 8" as well as an "Episode 9." After "Episode 9" is complete, the plan is to make a new "Star Wars" film every two to three years. It is believed that production for the film is scheduled to start in early 2014, but so far there is no concrete statement saying so. J.J. Abrams, known for directing Star Trek, will direct it.

Spears set to slay Vegas

BY NAZARELY NARVAEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The controversial Britney Spears has grasped the eye of the camera successfully while managing to keep a full head of hair. The 31-year-old pop princess surprised her fans on the show "Good Morning America" by announcing her own show at the Las Vegas resort and casino, Planet Hollywood. The show has assured the singer's residency in Las Vegas for the next two years, the first show being held on December 27, 2013.

Britney Spears made the exciting announcement as she hovered above a dry Nevada lake bed in a helicopter. Thousands of fans stood waiting below, each of them holding up a poster. As they flipped their posters together, they formed a 10-story ad for Britney's Las Vegas show.

Spears is scheduled to perform fifty shows per year throughout 2014 and 2015. The show, entitled *Britney Spears: Piece of Me*, will feature a total of 21 songs, including a mixture of her greatest hits and of her new music.

The show will be directed by Baz Haplin who has worked with various artists like P!nk, Katy Perry, and Taylor Swift. The show is predicted to be 90-100 minutes long; the time frame is still debatable but not restricted. The bar has been set high for the show, meaning that



Poster for Britney's Vegas tour. Courtesy of The Music Universe.

Britney's live performance must be stellar since the show will automatically be up for comparison to Celine Dion's show at the Caesars Palace and Elton John's show at The Colosseum.

A variety of shows, like *Evil Dead the Musical* and *Sin City Comedy*, are set to take place at Planet Hollywood so Spears will be in good company. As soon as the show kicks off, Spears will be performing strictly in Las Vegas. This means that for the next two years, Britney will not be seen anywhere else but there. It is rumored that Spears will be earning \$15 million a year. Tickets have been on sale since September 20th, with prices ranging from \$59 to \$179. The show goes hand in hand with her eighth studio album, which debuts on December 3rd, 2013.