



# EL RODEO



El Rancho High School - Volume 62- Issue 2  
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## California advances school assessment with computer-based testing

BY RUBI MACIAS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Assembly Bill 484, a new law aiming to replace STAR testing with allegedly better computer-based testing, was signed on October 2 by Governor Jerry Brown.

The Bill has earned increased attention from teachers, parents, and students who have strong opinions regarding its efficiency. Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction and one of the strongest supporters of the bill, said Assembly Bill 484 is meant to get rid of "outdated assessments."

Assembly Bill 484 proposes to remake California's student tests in order to get a more accurate and modern assessment of individual knowledge. The Smarter Balanced Organization is the state-led organization that developed these tests to "accurately measure student progress toward college- and career-readiness."

These Smarter Balanced tests, although only made for English and math, are designed to accurately measure student performance and progress based on the Common Core Standards. States will begin administering these assessments in the 2014-2015 school year.

Although the law is new, it has already gained opposition. Many parents are concerned that the tests are too underdeveloped and are only made to assess language and math skills, leaving out all other essential subjects. Susan Aparicio, El Rancho senior decathlete, asks, "Why not test the sciences? Is Smarter not advanced?"

The main concern with Assembly Bill 484 is that it eliminates STAR testing for the 2013-2014 year. Educators are worried that a whole group of students will not be assessed this year.

Supporters of the bill argue that this new testing is better because the Smarter tests were specifically designed to coincide with the new Common Core Standards, which have clear and concise standards for all American schools and promote equity among the states.

Mr. Elias, El Rancho Economics teacher, supports the Common Core Standards because he teaches to the standards already and says, "they prepare students for the work force... and help the U.S. catch up with the world."

For El Rancho students who have had to take language tests with old-fashioned recorders, this increased trust in computers is a positive prospect. The main concern that remains in America regarding Smarter Balanced tests is that the efficiency of these new tests is yet to be determined.

## Viva Las Vegas! Seniors take NPR once again



Following into the footsteps of their predecessors, the "Lucky #14" seniors stole Night Pep Rally yet again, with slot machines, bunnies, Elvis Presley, extravagant attire, and a lot of class spirit. The theme of this year's NPR was "City Lights Lively Nights!" Students came out to support their class and cheer their way to victory. This year, however, the seniors swept up the competition with 473 points leaving the New Orleans Sophomores in second with 433 points, the Cairo Juniors in third with 427 points, and the Honolulu Freshmen in fourth with 373 points.

## Dons look to extend their winning streak

BY ANGELICA GAMEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho football team is having a great start in league after victories against Whittier High School and Pioneer High School. They will try to extend their winning streak as they face the California Condors tonight at California High School.

After their bye week, the Dons began league against the Whittier Cardinals and came out victorious. "It was important for us to go out there and start league off with a 'W,'" says Lopez.

The Dons' defense came out strong just when the team needed them to. "Our defense got it together and played assignment football like they were supposed to," explained senior captain Jesus Verduzco. Although the Dons won 17-3, Araujo feels the team could have "done better overall."

After the game against the Cardinals, the Dons began to focus on their Homecoming game against the Pioneer Titans. Araujo felt "pretty confident" going into the game against the Titans as long as the Dons "play[ed] as hard as they've been practicing."

The Dons did play hard and earned a big 62-21 victory over the Titans. Lopez knew that they had to expect a "much im-



Junior, Robert Robledo attempts to break a tackle during victory over the visiting Pioneer Titans.

proved [football team]," but the Dons had a good game plan that helped them earn their success.

The seniors have played a big part in the team's victories. "We have incredible senior leadership on the team this year," says Lopez. Verduzco and senior David Ramos have been helping the team out defensively. "[They] have been playing lights out on the defense and that's a big reason for the success we've been having," explains Lopez.

Winning two games in league is already something the Dons are proud of. "We are the first team in like seven years to [start]

2-0 in league," explains Ramos.

Before their success began, the Dons ended preseason against Troy High School. "I thought it was pretty good since everyone expected us to get blown out and we actually stood in there with them," said senior captain Ryan Araujo.

It was a close game against Troy but the Dons fell short 36-34. "We made some mistakes and learned some lessons so hopefully we don't have those issues down the road if we were to encounter a close game like that," says coach Vinnie Lopez.

The Dons' next three games

will be challenging. They will start off with the Condors tomorrow night and then face Santa Fe, and end league with La Serna.

Not only will the next three games be challenging, but these games will also be crucial if the Dons want to take league. "They have to keep working hard...and believe that we can go out and win a Del Rio League championship," says Lopez. The most important thing for Lopez is that "the team takes it one week at a time but continues to believe in themselves and just keep getting better each week."

If the Dons want to be certain about taking league, they will have to win their last three games. "[We have to] be focused throughout the season and play hard every single game," explains Araujo.

Verduzco doesn't want to look too far ahead in season. Verduzco says that they need to take one game at a time and "just do what they have to do."

The Dons will begin these important games with the Condors. "The team has been working really hard and we are ready to win," says Ramos enthusiastically.

The Dons will face the Condors tomorrow night at seven o'clock at California High School. Go support the Dons as they work to add another win to their record.

# COLLEGE

## College Night delivers helpful tips



UC Irvine representatives inform students and their parents of tuition rates, scholarships, dorming, and application deadlines. College Night is a great opportunity for students to learn more about the college of their choice.

## College Advice to the College Bound

BY JESSE SANCHEZ

The beginning of autumn for high school students marks the beginning of yet another long year of research papers, science projects, and Problems of the Week (trademarked by Mr. Francis and Associates), but for seniors it is time to prepare for a new endeavor: college applications. What has seemed like an instant to the eyes of the Class of 2014 has actually been four years of blood, sweat, and tears but the biggest challenge still lies ahead. To help the current senior class achieve a better understanding of what the do's and don't's are of the application process, El Rancho alumni have been asked to give their words of wisdom about their experiences.

First and foremost: "Stop and breathe." Jacquelyn Escobar (UCLA Class of 2017) advises seniors to "take every day as it comes" and essentially take a moment to relax so as to not stress themselves even further. Take time to consider which colleges you plan on applying to but don't be afraid to apply to colleges "just because you think you won't get in." Luis Aleman (UCI Class of 2017) recommends that seniors apply to their dream schools if that is



Colombia University is a popular option for seniors this year.

where they truly feel they belong. El Rancho has sent students everywhere from Stanford and UCLA to Yale and MIT. Alex Castro-Spencer (UCLA Class of 2017) wishes she had not limited her sights to just UC, Cal State, and CA private schools after seeing many of her friends head out of state for greener pastures. However, she warns seniors to "not apply [to colleges] based on reputation." Every student is different and big name colleges may not be the best fit for some people. "You will end up where you are meant to be," or so says Monserrat Marquez (Yale Class of 2017), so don't stress.

After multiple conversations with alumni, these are the top 10 pieces of advice mentioned. 1. Keep an

agenda or calendar to remind you of important deadlines for applications and scholarships. 2. Apply early! Draft personal statements now and have them proofread by a few teachers (or even recent graduates) who you trust will give you constructive criticism. 3. Be honest. Just because you don't have a 4.5 GPA and didn't spend your summers feeding homeless orphans in African jungles doesn't mean colleges won't accept you. Admissions officers simply want students that are *passionate* about their interests and can convey that in writing. 4. Ask for recommendations early. Keep in mind that teachers are going to be asked by dozens of students for recommendations and those take time. Two weeks

in advance should suffice but the earlier the better. For students using the Common App, teachers can't begin writing recommendations until the entire application is complete. 5. Keep all your important information in the same place. A folder containing your transcript, social security number, login/password lists, parents' tax returns (for financial aid), or other important documents should be kept handy. 6. Visit colleges if you can to see if you feel a connection towards the school. A few bucks worth of gas is better than wasting \$70 and a few weekends on an application for a college you don't even like. 7. Apply for all the scholarships you can. The College Career center website has several links to scholarship search engines that can provide a list of several scholarship opportunities. 8. Write essays on a word processor to spell check and edit before putting them on the application. 9. Have your personal statement read by a classmate or teacher you feel doesn't know you that well to see how your essay would come across to strangers. 10. HAVE FUN! Senior year is meant to be enjoyed and could possibly be the last time you see your friends for a good while. Make it count.

### College Deadlines

CSU/UC application	November 30, 2013
SAT Test/ Subject Exam	Register by November 8, 2013 for December 7, 2013 test
ACT Exam	Register by November 8, 2013 for December 14, 2013 test
Gates Millennium Scholarship	January 15, 2014
HSF generation 1st degree scholarship program	January 20, 2014
FAFSA (financial aid)	March 2, 2014

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Paul Zeko

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Angelica Gamez  
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**Copy Editor**  
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**Section Editors**

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**Comics**

Rubi Macias

**Reporters**

Cely Anaya

Julius Arias

Robert Garcia

Julia Ortiz

Breanna Perez

Nichelle Renteria

Nicole Zarate

**Photo Editors**

Debbie Barajas

Danielle Hernandez

Evelyn Garcia

Sol Mendez

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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.

## FEATURES

**The Adventures of Señora Welch***Mrs. Welch loves traveling.*

BY LAURA CASTRO-SPENCER  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

While most people are confined to the borders of their hometown, Mrs. Mary-Helen Welch has taken the opportunity to travel the world and still manages to teach Spanish at El Rancho.

While attending Cal State Long Beach in 1984, Welch took the opportunity to study abroad. “[I] studied in Salamanca for four weeks, and I learned about the literature and culture there,” said Welch, “I also studied in Mexico for four weeks toward the end of college.”

In total, Welch has been to ten different countries, including England, Germany, France, Italy, Czech Republic, Austria, Spain, Portugal, Hungary, and the Netherlands.

Welch’s favorite countries to visit were Italy and Spain. She loved Italy because the “people [in Italy] were really friendly and the architecture was so beautiful.”

Welch enjoyed her time in Spain because “[She] loved the beach area and visiting the art museums like the Prado Museum.” The Prado Museum contains some of the world’s finest collections of Spanish Art, which was created from the 12th century to the early 19th century.

Welch and her husband join the El Rancho Gadabouts on their many journeys around the world. “My husband and I plan on going with the Gadabouts to the Czech Republic, Poland, Austria, and Hungary this winter,” said Welch.

Welch’s husband, Mr. Bryan Ebert, has had the pleasure of accompanying his wife around the world. They’ve been everywhere from New Mexico to Portugal and from North Carolina to the Czech Republic.

Welch and her husband are madly in love. “We’ve been married twenty-one years and I’ve loved every minute of it,” said Welch.

Even though traveling the world is an exhilarating experience, Welch has always had a soft spot for home. Welch lives with her husband, seven parakeets, and a bilingual speaking parrot named Treasure.

“I teach Treasure new words every week,” said Welch, “Right now, he’s learning how to say good-bye when I leave for school.”

Mrs. Welch has had the opportunity to travel the world and experience new and exciting things that many never have the chance to partake in. Mrs. Welch has grown tremendously from her travels, but she also continues to learn from her students at El Rancho.

**Holidayy wins sophomore princess**

BY RUBI MACIAS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Stacey Holidayy, an El Rancho sophomore, made school history last Friday when she won this year’s tenth grade Homecoming Princess title. This victory was not only important to her for the title, but because she wants to “make a difference [and] make a change for all the people that are like [her].” Holidayy is a transgender student who was born male but identifies herself as a female.

Although Holidayy does confess that she enjoys the positive attention this event has brought her, the nomination came as a surprise. It was not until after Homecoming nominations took place that Holidayy’s friends and peers went up to her claiming to have voted for her for Homecoming princess.

Holidayy’s strategy to get students to vote for her as sophomore Homecoming Princess was simple. “I would just tell them to vote,” says Holidayy.

Students chanting at the 2013 Night Pep Rally displayed public support for her campaign. Fellow nominees showed support after the rally and, according to Holidayy, “one of them [even] came up to [her] to offer her friendly words encouragement.”

Holidayy admits that she has received negative comments from students. “I have

*Stacey Holidayy poses as sophomore Homecoming princess.*

to ignore all the negative attention that I get and just think more positive,” says Holidayy.

Optimism has been with Holidayy since the time that she found out that she was nomi-

nated. She admits that she “felt good about [herself]” when she was nominated, and [she] had the confidence that she would win. Holidayy said that if she had not won this year, she would run for the princess title again.

Throughout the process of running, Holidayy has always had the support of her friends and family. Her friend Nadine Martinez said, “She’s one of those people you can just go up to. She’s very social.”

Stacey Holidayy also has some teachers supporting her. Physical Education teacher Ms. Stacey Salway said about Holidayy, “[She sure can] dance and make me laugh!”

Holidayy’s main source of support has been her mother because “she has been there since [Holidayy] came out to her, and she supports [her daughter] more than anyone.”

Holidayy shows gratitude towards her mother for understanding and helping her “with everything.” Including helping Holidayy picking out a dress. That was Holidayy’s favorite part of the experience in preparing for Homecoming.

As sophomore princess, Holidayy strives to become a trendsetter and hopes that people will look at her victory as inspiration to “feel more comfortable being themselves and not having to hide it.”

**The Songwriter’s Club gives a call to all Artists**

BY NAZARELY NARVAEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Hey Dons, hear that? Not if you haven’t attended one of the Songwriter’s Club gatherings in H-4 on Thursdays during lunch. The Songwriter’s Club, led by Mr. Robert Parra, invites artists of all kinds to contribute to their weekly jam sessions. “Students come in and they can play whatever they want,” Parra explains, “Visual artist can come and show their work but mostly poets, rappers and singers.” Parra, a digital photography teacher and a performer himself, sets no boundaries to the live performances, calling it “an art show/music kind of thing.”

The Songwriter’s Club started off with Parra teaching kids how to play the guitar after school through the LEARN Program. Five years later, the club that started with seven school bought guitars, has evolved into weekly talent showcase.

The Songwriter’s Club gives students of all grades an opportunity to express themselves, without having to worry about criticism. The club’s purpose is to give students a place to share their love of music and art with each other. “I was one of those students who started playing guitar in high school and you know, I wish I had a place to go to and to play my music,” Parra explains. “They didn’t

have that in my high school.” The clubs’ doors are open, welcoming uprising musicians to those who are more experienced.

“I still get nervous when I perform,” senior Anthony Aguilar, a two year club member admits, “But once you do it, it releases tons of emotional stress.” Every performance needs an audience. A performance is not necessary in order to participate in the Songwriters’ Club. “Whenever someone starts playing and singing everybody is quiet and respectful,” Parra says, “Kids just want someone to listen to what they’ve got.”

Being a part of the audience shows an immense amount of support for local musicians. “You always have to support your local music scene because who knows, maybe one day you’ll have to pay 100 bucks for a ticket,” Robert Garcia, a senior and one year club member says. “It makes the musicians feel confident about what they do.”

Occasionally the club holds performances out in the quad, giving El Rancho students and administrators a wider look into the Songwriter’s Club. “Playing out in the quad for the first time would have to be one of my fondest memories,” Aguilar says, “The adrenaline and the rush when you perform make up for the nervousness that comes before.”

Parra admits that finding

*Robert Mercado demonstrates his guitar skills to the Songwriter’s Club every week.*

musicians who are committed to perform in the quad can be difficult but he is surprised by the amount of eagerness performers have. Parra is touched by the bravery students have when deciding to perform. “People are supportive; I think they see it as a chance to express themselves and they respect other people for it. Even if they like what they did or not, I think that they admire their courage.”

For the past five years the Songwriter’s Club has helped form some of El Rancho’s best musicians, who have been encouraged by the support they

have received. A warm round of applause motivates up-and-coming musicians to continue performing even after graduating from El Rancho.

One of the club’s main goals is to fill H-4 with fresh talent and a great audience on Thursdays during lunch. “I’m just trying to get new blood and new people to come down and perform. Just come on down during lunch. You don’t even have to perform to participate; you just have to be part of the audience. Maybe one day you will come up and perform,” Parra says.

# BUSINESS

## Big Business and Construction Put City Economy on an Upswing

BY DON DINERO

An influx of community projects and business investment has led to a marked increase in Pico Rivera's economic development over the past year.

The presence of national tenants like Panera Bread, PetSmart and the announcement of a Norms Restaurant signal a city-wide emphasis on economic development.

"We were excited because a national tenant of that nature typically will go to a different demographic with a higher median income," said Pico Rivera mayor Gustavo Camacho. "The fact that they came here proves that our community can support it, but also that there's a region that comes through our city to shop."

The city recently completed various construction projects, including renovations to Beverly Boulevard, Rosemead Boulevard and the Passions Underpass Project; with future renovations to Durfee Avenue are currently in planning stages. Through a series of grants and volunteer work, the



city also recently renovated several city parks and implemented new play areas for children with more renovations on the way.

For some, the arrival of more national chains to the city proves that the recent construction projects have achieved their main objective.

"What you see is major improvements in the city, and we're already starting to see the results," said city man-

ager Ronald Bates. "Pico Rivera has become a more attractive place to do business."

Aesthetics and accessibility attract business, but an important factor in bringing big business to the city hinged on public safety, Camacho said.

"We still have challenges, but we are experiencing a historic drop in crime rate in our community," Camacho said. "Because of [local busi-

nesses] safety, I'm a firm believer that has initiated a lot of investment in the community."

Camacho initiated a summer-long public safety campaign advising residents to "Hide it, lock it, or lose it," a slogan geared toward curbing burglaries or other forms of property crime. Since the campaign began on June 1, crime rates fell from 57 percent to 20 percent, according to Camacho.

With its 16,000 square feet of reading materials and computer access, the new Pico Library presents another key development for the city, officials said.

"It's a phenomenal facility that's going to be amiable to the community here in December," Bates said. "We had plenty of community input with the design. Art is a big part of both the outside and inside of the library. The building is so energy efficient. It already has a gold rating and it may have a platinum rating."

A collaborative effort between Pico Rivera and the Los Angeles County, the Pico Library is expected to open to the public December 14. Initially, Camacho insisted the library open in September while the county wanted an opening date closer to March 2014. Both sides compromised on December and Camacho has high hopes for the project.

"The library is going to be our focal point," he said. "It's going to be the foundation of many opportunities because it's going to be the resource for our community."

### The Chamber Supports Intern Program



Shown here left to right are Mary Ann Bakotich, Chamber Executive Director, Emily Peyton, Vice president of the Entrepreneur Club and Charlene Dimas-Peinado, Chamber President

BY ANALYE ARENAS

The Chamber of Commerce has always been generous to our city and now they have opened a new door for young scholars and entrepreneurs with its own internship program.

This "gives them an edge in the academic school year", says Executive Director MaryAnn Bakotich. The fact of the matter is that our city has an abundance of resources that we have not taken advantage of. This intern program would help students not only learn

about different business but gain experience as well. "There are no boundaries", says Co. President of The Chamber of Commerce.

The internship program will not only help students but local businesses as well, students in the program will already be educated in making proper business plans. "Most businesses do not have business plans when they begin" confesses Mary Ann. She believes that, with the help of the program, businesses will benefit as well. "This city has potential and is business friendly" says Co. President. "Not all cities and Chambers work together, but this one does."

The interns produced by this program would help decrease the cost of allocated staff, they would fill in the spots and not have a shortage of cost. The Chamber has also mentioned a possible grant in the future for students with this partnership. This is only the beginning of a possible partnership with the Chamber of Commerce.

### G-Stage Brings Fashion to Pico Rivera



BY ANALYE ARENAS

As any girl knows, the recently opened G-stage has embedded itself into the Pico Rivera business family with a wide variety of clothes and accessories. G-Stage, first opened in 2004, strives to lead the fashion industry and keep their customers satisfied with their purchases. When first entering this newly opened store, you are greeted by friendly sales associates and a colorful array of different types of clothing. Everything from cardigans, high waisted shorts, business wear, dresses, handbags, shoes, and cosmetics are available. G-Stage provides a way for you to define your own style at an affordable cost. G-Stage continuously restocks their

merchandise to keep the inventory "fresh". Rest assured that you will always expect something new every time you enter. They keep up with the new and upcoming trends as well as seasons. At the moment their store is filled with all the burgundies, beiges, deep yellows and infamous fall colors. G-Stage also provides plus sizes for the curviest bust or waistline. No matter what the case is, you will always leave looking your best. If you want to check out any of their stylish items, you can visit their website at [www.GStageLove.com](http://www.GStageLove.com) or visit your local G-Stage located at the Pico Rivera Town Center.

### We Scream for Ice Cream!



BY ASHLEY TORRES

Elado, located at 6033 Rosemead Blvd. Pico Rivera, is a brand new ice cream shop that opened its doors a little over a month ago.

This ice cream is something you have to try! It's all natural, handmade ice cream from original Mexican recipes.

As you walk through the door, you're greeted cheerfully by an Elado employee. The menu varies from Mangoneadas to a simple single scoop ice cream.

There are also a variety of flavors from simple vanilla, cajeta and strawberry cream flavor is to die for, so rest to sure you'll find your favorite flavor.

The ice cream is very high-quality since it's handmade and two scoops in a cup will definitely fill you up. The atmosphere is very light; it's a place where you can go and hang out after school with your friends and enjoy some delicious ice cream. It is owned by a previous El Rancho student that has ventured into entrepreneurship.

They have successfully created their own business and are slowly but surely, making their way towards the top. Their ice cream resembles familiar Mexican flavors. Elado has a very customer-friendly atmosphere with smiles all around. Go support your fellow El Rancho graduate today.



BY EMILY PEYTON

Panera Bread Bakery is now in the Pico Rivera Towne Center and seems to me that they are getting a lot of business. The employees are very friendly and welcoming. The food is simple and delicious. The bread is baked fresh, on display and is very appealing. The pumpkin spice muffin is to die for at this time of season. Having fresh baked bread does make a difference and the

quality is worth the price. They have a diverse food choice and are family friendly because they have kid meals for children. It is not overly priced because you get your money out of what you are purchasing. The service is amazing they bring the food to your table like a restaurant. The vibe in Panera is very calm and inviting. The bakery-café has a feeling of being very homelike. They often play music acoustic music, or soothing. A good thing about Panera is that they have a private room that has doors and could be used to hold a meeting like a conference room. Another plus is that they have free wifi. The best item I have had on the menu has to be the Steak and white cheddar Panini.

CITY VIEW

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# Papa Johns owner lenient about hiring

BY ANALYE ARENAS  
Of course everyone knows they have "Better ingredients. Better pizza," as their slogan exclaims, but what makes the Pico Rivera Papa Johns so different from all others? A new Papa Johns has just opened its doors here in Pico

Rivera and the owner, Grace, believes in "giving chances," (referring to having enough trust and expectations in the people that she hires). When hiring, she does not look at people's past but towards their future, all she looks for is eagerness to work and the motivation

to learn. She doesn't rely on experience because she believes everyone is capable of success. Papa Johns still has excellent customer service. An example of her hiring ethic is seen through Papa Johns' Marketing Manager, Sergio who is only twenty-two and yet is able to

properly market and advertise the store's business. "Opportunity, learning, and coaching," says Grace. "That's all there is to it." Grace recently donated fifty pizzas to Rivera Elementary School and hopes to work with El Rancho in the future, "I want to work with schools in the

future, it's not about the money, it's about helping," says Grace. She believes both sides would benefit. There is nothing that people love more than pizza. If you want to get a taste of what they have to offer, go down to the new Papa Johns in Pico Rivera at 8646 E. Whittier Blvd.

# CAMPUS

## Volleyball Team Proudly Puts on the Pink

BY JAZMIN HERNANDEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

In order to help students become aware of breast cancer, the girls volleyball team has supported Breast Cancer Awareness during the month of October.

Adelaida Picon, the girls volleyball varsity coach, says, "Last year it was brought to my attention that the girls have wanted to do this for years, but because it's a lot of time consuming it was hard to do."

This is the second year the girls volleyball team has done something to recognize breast cancer. "Last year's girls came up with the idea to sell t-shirts," says Picon. This year, the girls have decided to sell t-shirts again and all the funds that are raised go to the Whittier Presbyterian Women's Center.

"Besides selling the shirts, the girls wear their pink socks and pink shirts during the Pink out game," says Picon. The "Pink Out" game was against Pioneer on Tuesday October 22. She says, "We have the Pink Out game where everyone in the audience will wear their pink shirt and the volleyball girls will also wear a pink shirt with their number."

This Tuesday, a pep rally will be held at lunch, Picon says, "We will have a representative from the Whittier Presbyterian Women's Center handing out pamphlets and we will have Mr. Lopez's wife selling shirts to promote Breast Cancer Awareness."

The girls volleyball team



The girls volleyball team show their pink pride for Breast Cancer Awareness before their Pink out Game.

wants everyone to be aware that cancer is very common and there is a possibility that it could happen to anyone. Picon says, "Our goal is to get the word out."

The volleyball girls go all out when promoting Breast Cancer Awareness. "We have participated in a 5-K as a whole program," says Picon, "As a team we have participated in the Kids 4 Kids in Downtown Los Angeles. Every year we try and go there. We support different types of organizations, not just Breast Cancer Awareness."

Picon took the volleyball girls (along with some of their family members) to the Women's Center in Whittier Presbyterian Hospital last year. She says, "We took a tour and they showed us everything, from the entire process of what a woman goes through while getting scanned, to when they learn that they have breast cancer and how is it that they fight it."

The volleyball girls not only promote Breast Cancer Awareness because they want to help, but also because many of the girls on the team have relatives who have had some type of cancer. Picon says, "We do have parents who had breast cancer in our program and that is one way of honoring them."

"Its about cancer in general and how it affects women. Also, we recognize all types of cancers," says Picon.

Picon also plans to promote cancer awareness with the boys volleyball team. She says, "Right now, since we are in the fall season, [when] it's girls' volleyball, we do breast cancer. In the spring we are going to try to incorporate prostate cancer since it's the boy's season of volleyball."

"Every month there is some type of cancer awareness. Breast cancer is well-known because it affects many women," says Picon.

## Strayhorn's students shoot for the stars



Mr. Strayhorn helps his student prepare for a rocket launch.

BY NAZARELY NARVAEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Students got busy in Mr. Strayhorn's general science class by participating in the second annual "Reach for the Stars" rocket launch last week. Students were to build a rocket out of cardstock and masking tape which was launched by a machine.

The students had to record how long their rockets remained in the air and would later calculate the speed it had when it hit the ground. According to Strayhorn, students would determine the altitude "by noticing the angle [of the rocket] from a designated distance and by using basic trig."

By participating in this project, students "learn about the center of mass, the center of force, and the center of pressure. The concept while they are building the rockets is that...the more of the weight that goes into the nose cone [the tip], the heavier the nose cone, the more stability," stated Strayhorn. Having weight at the tip and good sized fins was crucial in how stable the rockets were as they flew through the air.

Students were to calculate their rockets' impact velocity and the speed it had when it hit the ground. "We were testing how high it would go in the air and how long it would stay in the air," said Senior William Parrish, "I was surprised, I thought mine was going to break but it turned out to be sturdy rocket."

Some rockets remained in the air for about five seconds and may have reached up to about 130 feet, "like a thirteen story building," according to Strayhorn. Unfortunately, some rockets broke as they reached the ground and had to be sent to the cemetery: a white trash bag.

Students enjoyed themselves during the process of making the rockets and some took it a step forward by decorating it. Those whose rockets made it over the tree located in front of room X-1 received candy as a reward.

Mr. Strayhorn wants his students to participate in the "Reach for the Stars" rocket launch for many years to come and would like for it to become an El Rancho tradition.

The students' enthusiasm, along with Strayhorn's guidance, is what made the experiment successful. Junior Drew Ramirez dared to say, "This is one of the best projects I've done."

# WORD ON THE STREET

What was your favorite Night Pep Rally performance and why?



"My favorite performance was the Lady Gaga one with Joey and the Drama Club because he just had everyone going and everyone was laughing and having a good time. [It] kind of made the night."



"My favorite Night Pep Rally performance was the teachers because I found it very funny how they copied the movie *Hocus Pocus*."  
-Balram Kandoria 10th



"My favorite performance was the Sophmores' because you can tell they put a lot of creativity and effort into it."  
-Sabrina Moreno 11th



"Joey's performance with the Drama Club was the best because I felt like I was connected to him."  
-Gabby Limon 12th

# CAMPUS

## Homecoming Week for Dons



Cairo Juniors skit participants prepare to deliver a performance that is sure to make their class proud. Nerves stir as the Homecoming senior princesses are about to be announced.



Krystal Sanchez and Jaime Freerksen enjoy the Night Pep Rally.



Seniors at their last Night Pep Rally proudly sport their class colors.



Student happily displays her school spirit.



Dons ready to defend against Pioneer.



ASB members are satisfied after a successful Homecoming Rally.



Amber Hernandez participates in the senior's skit at the Night Pep Rally.



Pepsters parade at the Homecoming football game on a firetruck as they wave to a raging audience.



Seniors proudly representing their class.



Participants at the lunchtime runway demonstrate their Blue Pride with a fashion overload.



The sophomores smile confidently after their performance.



Mrs. Palomares enthusiastically dances with a student during the Homecoming Rally.

# HALLOWEEN

## Top ten horror films of all-time

BY NICOLE ZARATE  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

1. *Psycho* (1960)  
The movie is centered on a secretary who receives \$40,000 and decides to leave town with the money in hope to start a new life. Unfortunately, she ends up at a motel being the first guest in weeks and finds herself being surrounded by danger.
2. *Repulsion* (1965)  
The film is based upon a girl named Carol who lives with her sister Helen and her husband Michael. Although, living under the same roof, Michael tends to bring out Carol's dislike towards men. One day Carol meets a man named Colin who finds an interest in her, but she cannot overcome her dislike of men, which causes her to go mad.
3. *Night of the Living Dead* (1968)  
On an ordinary night, the dead comes back to life and begin to eat the living, which causes chaos. Many people try to barricade themselves away from the zombies in order to survive, but only some make it out alive.
4. *Suspiria* (1977)  
A young American dancer travels to Europe in hope to join a ballet school, but when arriving another young woman is fleeing the school in a hurry to her apartment. When the young woman finally arrives to her apartment she is brutally murdered. The American girl then realizes that the ballet school had much more in store for her.
5. *Nightmare on Elm Street* (1984)  
This film is centered on Freddy Krueger's revenge against the children's parents who had murdered him. He haunts and eventually kills their children.
6. *The Texas Chain-saw Massacre* (1974)  
The film is based upon the character, Leatherface, who is raised within an unordinary family that love to kill. Throughout the movie Leatherface captures and brutally tortures his victims who are never seen again.
7. *Don't Look Now* (1973)  
Married couple John and Laura Baxter had just recently lost their daughter before running into two elderly sisters who claim to be psychic and insist to overview the daughter's spirit. Laura is convinced, although John does not like the idea because secretly he was experiencing his own psychic flashes of his daughter. The film continues on with John's intense visuals of the dead.
8. *Halloween* (1973)  
The main character, Michael Myers stalks and murders his own sister, which begins his killing streak. Many of his victims are known to be the people who had bullied him in the past, therefore he finally gets his revenge.
9. *Eraserhead* (1977)  
In a post-apocalyptic society, Henry Spencer and his girlfriend Mary are expecting a child of their own. Unfortunately, the mutant newborn drives Mary insane so she leaves the baby with Henry, which causes him to go crazy.
10. *The Exorcist* (1973)  
This film is about a teenage girl (Linda Blair) who is possessed by a mysterious entity, so her mother seeks the help of two priests to save her. The Exorcist is a 1971 novel by American author William Peter Blatty, who also wrote the film adaptation.

## Who gave birth to zombies?



BY DARWIN REYES-VIVADOR  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

What makes zombies so frightening is not their distorted limbs or gruesome facial features but the overwhelming numbers in which zombies travel and the fear of becoming a zombie. George A. Romero is credited for the modern-day variations of the cannibalistic monsters for his amazing film released in 1968 called *Night of the Living Dead*. Although Romero was the first to bring life to the rave of flesh-eating zombies in 1968 through cinematography, he defi-

nately was not the first in history to talk about zombies; he just brought them back. Romero's purpose for creating such a horror film during the Vietnam War was to bring relief and draw attention away from the war by presenting horrific undead cannibal human beings as opposed to killing "commies in nam." The origin of zombies comes from Haitian folklore and a mixture of voodoo and religion. In the Haitian culture and folklore the tales of zombies were of humans under voodoo spells mindless and controlled by a witch, but never dead or cannibalistic. Orig-

inal Zombie tales within Haitian culture were meant to cause fear in their youth-fears of: loss of individuality, consumer capitalism, science, technology, and global terrorism. These fears somewhat correlate with the modern-day zombie where many fear that technological advances are frightening as to what extent doctors can achieve such as stem cell research or the first full face transplant by the Spaniards in 2010. Haitian folklore zombie films began to emerge in 1932 with the film *White Zombie* and ended in 1943 with *I Walked with a Zombie* and during this

time span most zombie films were not so much fear-striking but a bit humorous and provided somewhat of comic relief with blackface. The trend of zombies being associated with comic relief has followed zombie history even now exemplified by the Verizon Zombie or AMC's commercials for *The Walking Dead*. Zombies have transformed and have been perceived in many ways through modern pop culture, cinematography, video games, and television. Zombies have changed from Haitian men under spells to undead cannibalistic soldiers to just about any form to perceive a human who once was, the idea that the person who once was isn't there anymore and their body is just an empty shell just like the lost generation. Zombies vary in the sense that they aren't even dead anymore as *Left 4 Dead* exemplifies not the undead zombies but as Badger from *Breaking Bad* would state, "they're not even zombies! They're just infected!" Zombies have evolved throughout time and one will notice some changes within the zombies of *The Walking Dead* as people begin to die from hemorrhages their face is dripping blood from their eyes and mouth. Now you know the journey that led to your beloved *The Walking Dead*.

## Prize! Word Search

The first five people to complete the word search go and see Mr.Zeko in X-1 to claim your prize!

### Word Bank

- |                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. Boo          | 9. October   |
| 2. Candycorn    | 10. Pumpkins |
| 3. Chocolate    | 11. Scared   |
| 4. Dons         | 12. Skeleton |
| 5. Dracula      | 13. Spiders  |
| 6. Frankenstein | 14. Spooky   |
| 7. Ghost        | 15. Witch    |
| 8. Halloween    | 16. Zombie   |

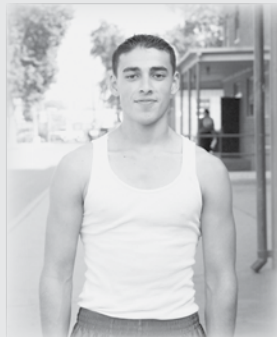
a	t	u	o	y	y	k	e	r	d	f	w	m	h	q	t	h	t	f	h
m	z	k	z	o	p	u	h	s	s	c	a	r	e	d	l	g	n	k	a
i	f	o	m	z	l	f	e	r	q	o	e	j	c	i	d	s	s	e	l
g	u	r	m	n	k	i	o	c	t	o	b	e	r	z	r	y	c	f	l
d	p	l	l	b	v	a	a	c	p	z	p	l	r	k	a	z	e	r	o
d	j	u	s	p	i	d	e	r	s	e	o	w	e	z	r	s	h	a	z
e	y	g	m	d	v	e	s	v	r	h	a	l	l	o	w	e	e	n	m
s	e	z	k	p	s	b	o	s	q	d	d	y	z	h	s	c	r	k	o
p	d	w	f	z	k	r	w	f	l	q	r	o	k	a	n	h	d	e	d
i	w	y	g	b	r	i	e	r	c	c	a	n	d	y	c	o	r	n	x
d	o	e	t	x	t	g	n	n	v	s	c	t	t	k	l	c	e	s	b
e	i	i	o	c	t	w	w	s	x	k	u	r	o	a	s	o	n	t	k
k	t	o	h	u	l	f	k	y	a	e	l	r	g	z	d	l	u	e	f
r	d	h	y	r	o	y	k	d	m	d	a	m	h	a	k	a	h	i	r
d	y	d	y	d	v	y	p	l	k	o	u	n	o	l	n	t	u	n	u
s	h	i	s	k	e	l	e	t	o	n	h	n	s	v	h	e	s	n	w
w	f	r	b	b	s	e	q	s	e	s	d	t	p	f	a	z	k	r	
y	s	w	y	o	m	f	d	i	k	f	t	g	w	y	z	t	e	w	e
y	u	e	e	d	o	v	s	l	k	c	s	p	o	o	k	y	s	t	d
p	o	j	n	n	u	r	w	d	h	f	q	t	y	r	t	p	d	f	e

## WORD ON THE STREET

What is your favorite horror film?



"Mama because it has a lot of pop-ups and it's suspenseful."- Armando Velasquez 9th



"Nightmare on Elm Street because I like the suspense; it keeps me interested."- Dominique Patino 10th



"The Saw Series because they always leaves me on the edge of my seat."- Crystal Rodriguez 11th



"Halloween. I think it is still a scary movie and I like Michael Myers."- Parlox Rodriguez 12th



# ENTERTAINMENT

## Brewery Art Walk showcases L.A artists' talent

BY CLAUDIA GONZALEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

What is the first thing you think about when you hear the word art? For many people art means a form of expression, but to hundreds of participating resident artists living in the Brewery complex, art simply means life.

The Brewery Art Walk, located in Downtown LA, opens twice annually and gives artists the opportunity to display their artwork for the public eye.

Those who attend the event have the chance to view new works, speak with the artist and purchase artwork directly from the artist's studio.

Freedom of expression has huge value to these artists. Their whole environment is full of artistic qualities that go from "plants planted in boots" to a "crowned beaver" in the center of a studio.

Mr. Parra, Digital Photo/Imaging teacher at El Rancho, is no stranger to this art walk. "I've known about the art walk for twenty years, since I was going to college... whenever the opportunity comes up I'll go check it out."

The art walk consists of a lot of artist that reach out to young



Eric Rosner displays his colorful artwork to L.A resident and visitors.

adults. Mr. Parra said, "Some of the artists that live there are doing some of the newest artwork... you see a lot of contemporary stuff that is going on at the moment and a lot of cutting edge art."

The artists vary from photographers, painters, sculptors, shirt designers, landscapers, jewelry designers and art textures.

Each individual artist that opens their doors strongly shows a deep passion for their work. Winifred Johnson is a contemporary American artist whose work consists of surreal narratives. She said, "Whether any-

body else likes it, whether I get any attention or not, nothing is going to stop me from painting."

Senior, Esteban Torres, attended the art walk and said, "The art work was amazing, it really makes you look at art in a whole different way."

Each of the artists has a unique quality that makes them different from the rest, but one in particular stood out. Los Angeles native, Keith Collins, displays his artistic ability through art texture in which he creates pictures through carpets. "It's a God given talent... it's some-

thing that is really special to me."

Designer turned artist, Michael John originally started off in the Los Angeles fashion industry and after twelve successful years he went on to do art pieces that convey his messages through embroidery appliqué and even buttons on pieces of fabric. "I was always that kid that would do different drawing classes... it was kind of natural that I would end up this way."

Just like any artist the resident artists that live and display their artwork in the Brewery Art Walk all show a genuine love for what they do. Collins said, "I just love art, just love it, it is very simple."

All artists show that everything is possible if you have faith in what you do. Many of them still have dreams in their artwork that they would love to accomplish. Winifred Johnson shows that her age of 71 doesn't stop her from dreaming of a "one woman show at the Whitney or a retrospective at MOCA."

Their studios open twice a year during spring and fall for two days for those unknown artist that are looking for inspiration or those that just plainly love art. For more information about the event visit the Brewery Art Walk page online.

## Cuhna goes above and beyond

BY DAVID HUGHES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Many students have trouble making time for schoolwork and after school activities because of their tight schedules. If there is anyone who manages his time well, it's junior Michael Cunha. He plays in a flux metal band while taking honors and AP courses, and despite all this, he still manages to rank number seven in his class.

Michael takes many challenging courses including AP Psychology, AP Calculus AB, AP U.S History, and English Honors.

Michael practices playing guitar almost every day after school. "Practice makes perfect," says Cunha. "I taught myself how to play guitar at age eight. When I learned how to play, I wasn't really inspired by anyone, I just played guitar while learning my favorite songs by Metallica and Avenged Sevenfold." Not only does Michael play guitar extremely well, but he also built a guitar that took two years to make.

The practice time that Cunha spends playing guitar paid off because Michael was hired by two indie game designers to make a soundtrack for their games. Sadly, these games never came out due to financial issues that the designers had. "I'm not planning on doing soundtracks for video games until the summer, so I could use that time for my band, Oblivion," said Michael.

Michael's band, Oblivion, has been around for seven years and has already released two albums: Oblivion and Obliv-



Cuhna shows he has no limit.

ion II the Reptile Revolution. (You can download these albums for free at bandcamp.com)

The members of Oblivion are juniors Manuel Vazquez, Armando Osorio, and Joseph Cuenca. "I have known Michael since preschool and this band gave purpose to my life," said Manny Vazquez who sings vocals. Drummer Armando says, "Even though I barely started to play drums, Michael has been a great mentor."

Michael says, "These guys are my back bone. They are the reason I am as good as I am."

Oblivion records their albums in a recording studio. "I have a recording studio that took me five years to build," said Cunha. Oblivion's pianist, Joseph Cuenca says, "Michael and I are also animating a cartoon. He is such a good guy and I couldn't ask for a better friend."

You can see Michael and his band debut their song, "Bubba Gump Shrimp Co." at the talent show on November 14.

Rob Zombie thrills fans with *The Great American Nightmare*



Zombie to appear on Nov. 2

BY ROBERT GARCIA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Rob Zombie is heading to the Pomona Fairplex for a chance to present *The Great American Nightmare*. *The Great American Nightmare* consists of three-haunted houses, the Bloody Boulevard and live performances from The Vandals and True Sounds Of Liberty (both punk rock bands from Long beach, California). The three haunted houses are based on Rob Zombie's films: *Haunt Of 1000 Corpses*, *Lords Of Salem In Total Blackout*, and *The Haunted World Of EL Super Beasto 3D*.

The show begins with an opening band/musician (in this case, Duane Peters, a punk pop singer/songwriter from Anaheim). Peters played his hits songs *Yer Country*, *Go Back Home*, and *Hunns Anthem*. After his performance, the more well-known punk rock band The Dickies (from the San Fernando Valley) performed their hit songs *Banana Splits*, *I'm on Crack*, and *Killer Clowns From Outer Space*. The Dickies were followed by T.S.O.L. The band played their hit songs *Abolish Government/Silence Majority*, *Code Blue*, *Crybaby*, *Wash Away*, and *Flowers by the Door*. The 1980 punk rock band The Vandals entered the stage to a roaring crowd and played their hit songs *Happy Birthday to Me*, *Anarchy Burger*, *Urban Struggle*, and *How*. Rob Zombie's *The Great American Nightmare* will be at the Pomona Fairplex from October 10 through November 2 on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

## Dates and line up

10/26: Motionless In White, Butcher Babies, Ghost Town  
10/27: Reel Big Fish, Goldfinger, with special guest  
10/31: Andrew W.K., Mod Sun, Beware of Darkness  
11/1: MAJOR EDM HEADLINER to be announced on September 25, Dirtyphonics, Fei-Fei  
11/2: Rob Zombie, Eagles Of Death Metal, Powerman 5000, 45 Grave

## Pearl Jam strikes a comeback



BY DAVID HUGHES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After a four-year hiatus Pearl Jam returns with their new album, *Lightning Bolt*. After 20 years of history, Pearl Jam has witnessed the rise and fall of grunge but has managed to survive as a band. The first track on the album, "Getaway," is a proper reintroduction of Pearl Jam to its old fans. The song reminds listeners that lead singer Eddie Vedder is still as strong and passionate as he was when the band started in 1990.

The second track on the album "Mind your Manners," will probably be the most played at concerts and radio stations. "Mind Your Manners" brings a youthful side from the members and it will definitely be performed at many concerts. The lyrics to the album's third track, "My Father's Son," sound like a continuation of Eddie Vedder's Mamma-son Trilogy. Just like, "Mind Your Manners," this song is very fast and sounds like their classic song, "Alive," both songs having dark lyrics.

"Sirens" is a nice break from the faster songs with its medium to slow tempos. The piano

sounds very beautiful and Mike McCready can still deliver his signature guitar solo. The bands self-titled song, "Lightning Bolt," picks up the pace from "Sirens" to deliver a song deserving the title of the album. The drums and guitar tone in "Infallible" sounds like a song from Queens of the Stone Age's latest album *...Like Clockwork*, specifically, "I Appear Missing." The song also includes a very harmonic sounding chorus halfway through the song that boosts Vedder's singing. "Pendulum," is a nice follow up to, "Infallible," with a very macabre sounding voice that Vedder uses to make the song sound scary and depressing. "Swallowed Whole," sounds like it should be on Eddie Vedder's soundtrack to the movie, *Into the Wild*.

The "Let the Records Play" intro sounds like a classic country rock bass beat that is delivered by bassist Jeff Ament. Eddie Vedder fans remember "Sleeping By Myself" on his album, *Ukulele Songs*. This time around the whole band plays this song with a very well deserved mini Ukulele solo near the end of the song delivered by Eddie Vedder. While listening to "Yellow Moon" Vedder's vibrato can be easily felt. With a nice acoustic and electric guitar counterpart by Mike McCready and Stone Gossard, this song sounds like the band is really working together on this one. The final song on the album, "Future Days," is a nice end to the album with a beautiful acoustic guitar and piano, with Eddie Vedder singing his part twice for a very good sounding double track.

Pearl Jam will be performing in LA at the Sports Arena on November 23 and 24.

## SPORTS

## Girls' volleyball team looks to finish strong

BY ANGELICA GAMEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

It has been hard for the girls' volleyball team to win during league as they fall 0-6. They will work for their first win against the La Serna Lancers.

Unfortunately for the Dons, winning a game in league has been a struggle. Senior captain Romy Ramos knows that her team is "working hard to make sure that this second half of league will go a lot better." Ramos knows that her team has a lot of potential but they need to come together and show it.

Going into league, the Dons' main goal was to win league but things have changed. "Right now our goal is to prove to ourselves and our coaches that we, as a team, can come together and win," explains Ramos. She believes that "they will come together not only as a team but as a family."

The Dons began league with the Santa Fe Chiefs, where they fell three games to one. "I feel like we let our mistakes get to us and dug ourselves into a hole," said Alameda. Ramos believes that "it could have been a close game if we just played our game and shook off our errors."

The Dons had another chance to play Santa Fe and they tried to earn a victory. They hoped that after learning from a few mistakes that may have cost them the first game, they would be victorious. "We need to be able to shake off our mistakes and



The girls' volleyball team sets up against the Pioneer Titans.

not let them get to us mentally," says Ramos. The Dons ended up losing to the Chiefs again.

After playing the Chiefs the first time around, the Dons moved on and faced their rivals: the La Serna Lancers. Going into the game, Ramos felt that they would be able to win against the Lancers if they prepared them-

selves emotionally and trusted that they "had each other's back."

Things didn't go as planned and the Dons lost three games to none. "We all made our mistakes but not all of us shook it off and kept playing. Some [girls] let their mistakes get to them mentally," says Ramos.

Alameda didn't like the out-

come of this game either. "I'm not satisfied and I'm sure the coaches aren't either," admits Alameda, "but we did what we could."

The Dons will be able to redeem themselves when they play the Lancers for a second time on Tuesday. "We will improve our plays and minds as well when it comes to challenges," says Alameda.

Ramos looks to "give it her all" to help her teammates out. "We have to be more aggressive and fight for every point," says Ramos.

The Dons lost the two games that followed to California High School and Whittier High School. They hope to turn things around and have a better outcome compared to the first half of league.

Although they've been struggling in league, the Dons did end their preseason well with a win against Warren High. "It was the first game that we, as a team, actually came together as a team and played our game," says Ramos.

Senior Iliana Alameda also thinks that they played a good game. "We bonded a bit in the sense [that] we have each other's back [which] that led to great plays," explains Alameda. Alameda was proud of her team for not giving up.

The Dons began their second round of league and will face each team one more time. They will be playing La Serna on Tuesday at 4:30 in El Rancho's main gym.

## Tennis team aims to get out of third place

BY MARISOL ALMAZAN  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With the 2013 tennis season coming to an end, the girls varsity team looks forward to maintaining their 5-3 record and remain ranked top 3 in order to qualify for CIF.

The Dons have one thing in mind: winning league. Senior Captain Roxanne Sierra says "Our goal since the start was to do better than we did last year and win league, and I feel that we have done a lot better, even though we lost [3] games."

Sierra knew that those games weren't going to be easy. "Since the beginning of the season we always knew that Cal High and Whittier were going to be tough schools to beat," said Sierra.

These games were also disappointing for Sierra. "When we played them and we lost, it was very disappointing because we tried our hardest," she added.

Senior Captain Veronica Torres agrees with Sierra about feeling disappointed. "It was disappointing to know that we couldn't beat them, but I know that if we practice more and improve our strategies, we can beat them next time," says Torres.

Torres believes that the whole team has really improved. "Overall, I think the girls and I have really improved as a team but also in our strategies," says Torres.

Torres knows that the girls are working hard. "We come to practice everyday and work very hard to win as many games as possible," says Torres.

Individually, Torres and Sierra have their own strategies to help them become better athletes. "I never miss practice and whenever I feel that I am not doing well in a certain area, I make sure to practice it the very next day," says Torres. With this strategy Torres hopes to encourage her teammates to also work on their weaknesses.

Sierra has also been working very hard to become a better athlete. "I put a lot of time and effort into my practice," says Sierra.

Sierra also hopes to set an example for her teammates. "I do all the workouts that I'm supposed to do and when I'm weak in a certain area I always try to improve it as best as I can," says Sierra.

Both Sierra and Torres agree that if they keep working hard on their strategies and try to become better athletes, the team will make it to CIF and win.

Coach Cynthia Lippstreu is a strong believer in her team. Lippstreu believes that if the girls continue to work hard in their remaining games, they will maintain 3rd place and advance to CIF.

The team's rank isn't final until their last match. "We will not know until the very last



Senior Natalia Sanchez practices for her next match.

day what our rank is, but if the girls continue to play with perseverance, I believe they will make the top 3," says Lippstreu.

The girls' tennis team will have their last match before Pre-Lims against the Whittier

Cardinals. They lost to the Cardinals the first time but hope to come out stronger this game and get a win. They will face Whittier at 3:15 at El Rancho's tennis courts. Their Pre-Lims will begin on the 31st of October.

## Sports Results

## Football

Troy-L (36-34)  
Whittier-W (17-3)  
Pioneer-W(62-21)

## Water Polo

La Serna- L (11-8)  
Santa Fe-W (27-6)

## Tennis (G)

Pioneer-W (13-5)  
Santa Fe-W (11-7)  
La Serna-W(11-7)  
California-L(14-4)  
Whittier-L (12-6)  
Pioneer (2) W (12-6)

Santa Fe (2)-W(13-5)

La Serna (2)- L (11-7)

California- L (10-9)

## Volleyball(G)

Warren-W (3-2)  
Santa Fe-L (3-1)  
La Serna- L (3-0)  
California-L (3-0)  
Whittier- L (3-0)  
Pioneer-L (3-0)  
Santa Fe-L (3-0)

## X-Country

Woodbridge Inv.  
- Boys: 6th Girls:  
Cluster #1- Boys:  
3rd Girls: 2nd  
Clovis Inv.- Boys:  
3rd Girls: 13th  
Cluster #2- Boys:  
2nd Girls: 3rd

# SPORTS

## A "Fresh" perspective of the X-country team



Frosh x-country team working on their drill during practice.

By ODALYS CHAVEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Often overshadowed by their varsity counterparts, the El Rancho freshmen cross country team is ready to take a stand and train hard to make it far into league this fall season.

Top freshman runner, Heaven Vasquez, says that the boy's freshmen team is doing very well and working hard. She also says that the freshmen girls have a lot of potential and simply need to push themselves further.

Freshman, Esmeralda Morales, runs at a varsity level and describes the experience as a great one. "They are all great teammates. They are very supportive and push me every day during practice to do my best," says Morales.

The varsity team, on the other hand, is doing well, but perhaps not as well as the top teams like Arcadia, Senior captain, Jeffrey Sarco, says. "The team needs to pick up the pace and work on their chemistry," says Sarco. However, he is sure that the team is capable of making it to the next level.

Sarco acclaims the freshmen team, yet he still believes that there is always room for improvement.

"We are going to fight for a league title; that is our goal," says coach Wynn. The team will accomplish this by making sure that everyone is motivated and pushing to do the best they can.

Wynn says that if they had Esmeralda Morales run with the freshmen instead of varsity, the team would have placed second in their last race. The same goes for, freshman varsity runner, Donald Brown, who could have earned the freshman team first place.

Wynn, however, says that since everyone tries to make varsity, upper level teams perform well at the expense of lower teams. Consequently, if everyone performed on his/her respective level, varsity would suffer.

The freshmen could essentially have a higher performance at their meets, but they sacrifice key elements for the benefit of the whole team. The freshmen contribute to the overall school image as much as the varsity runners do. It is no good to have an excellent varsity team when they cannot motivate their younger athletes to meet equal standards. Therefore, the performance of freshman reflects on the varsity team's work.

Whether they are on varsity, JV, or freshmen, they are all still on the same team, working to achieve the same objective. That goal, as Coach Wynn said is to "win league, win league, win league."

## Jimenez hauls in the hardware

By CLAUDIA GONZALEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Andrew Jimenez, a senior in the Special Education Department, competed this summer in the Special Olympics at Bellflower and earned eleven metals: four gold, five silver, and two bronze. Every year from February to June, he competes in the events of freestyle, backstroke and relay events.

Andrew faces the battle of autism and has Hydrocephalus, which means that he has water in his brain. As a result, Andrew has had eleven surgeries on his head and is non-verbal.

After being diagnosed, instead of being put through medication, his mother signed him up for swimming, which was used as water therapy. Maria Ramirez, his mother and Resource Specialist Program Aid at North Ranchito says, "One thing led to another and I put him on Special Olympics, not knowing he was going to win metals."

In spite of all of this, Andrew has earned a total of 19 metals and a countless amount of ribbons in the last two years. "To be able to win all of these medals is awesome... with everything he's been through and to come this far," said Ramirez.

On October 21<sup>st</sup>, Andrew competed in the 25-meter freestyle, 50-meter backstroke and the relay team, in which he won first place. Dr. Yvette Ventura, Assistant Principle of Curriculum, said, "I don't think we have ever had a student who has earned so many metals."

For the past 13 years he has been training at the YMCA and has been competing in the Special Olympics for two years. Andrew was put in Special Olympic baseball and soccer but strongly showed that he would much rather keep on swimming. He has a profound love for aquatics and when asked about how he felt after winning he simply had a big smile on his face.

There are many students



Andrew Jimenez shows off the metals he earned competing in the Special Olympics this summer.

that are overlooked by everyone and don't get praised for what they accomplish. "I just want everyone to know at the school that he's the only swimmer in Pico Rivera that is in the Special Olympics so I would like to know if there is anyone that would like to support him," said Ramirez. "It would be nice if anyone in the swim team could come out to help our athletes."

Maria says that her long

term goal for Andrew is to see him "compete in the summer Special Olympic... the 2015 World Special Olympic will be held here in Los Angeles."

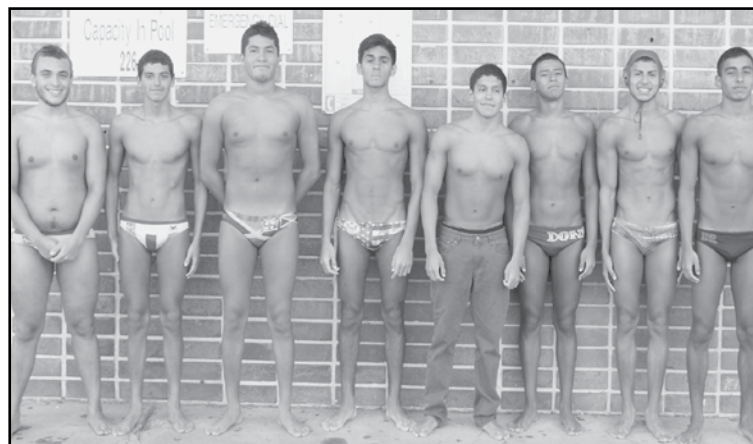
Sylvia Hernandez, SPED Aid said, "We were really proud of him... we were surprised because we didn't know but we were really excited." "I hope he continues to win more metals and try something else."

Jimenez enjoys doing any-

thing that involves water, such as swimming and kayaking; he will also do paddle boarding in the future. He also likes camping and bike riding. His teacher is Mrs. Eaves, from the Department of Special Education, and his favorite metals are his gold ones.

Andrew goes to show everyone that anything can be accomplished with a great amount of effort, patience, and motivation.

## Waterpolo team keeps a positive attitude



The boys waterpolo team is ready to make a comeback after their loss.

By BREANNA PEREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The boys Varsity Water Polo team lost their first league game of the season against La Serna High School with a score of 8-11. However, the game suf-

fered some technical difficulties with the shot clock, and came very close to being forfeited.

During the fourth quarter, the referees had to pause the game for approximately three minutes before resolving the problem. Shortly after the Dons

scored their eighth goal, which made the game come to a tie.

La Serna eventually took the lead, and after several timeouts and with 15 seconds left on the clock, La Serna stalled to pass the remaining time, so they would ensure their win.

Even though, the game didn't go as the Dons hoped, fellow team member Francisco Franco kept a positive attitude. "We let our guard down, but [overall] we did great as a team," says Franco.

Co-Captain, Ricardo Robles, adds, "[It was an] intense game against La Serna, so we know we'll be capable of doing well the rest of league."

That is exactly what the team did during their second league game against Santa Fe High School where they

won with a score of 27-6.

When comparing the start of pre-season to now, there has been a noticeable difference between the teams' chemistry and how they play.

Co-Captain, Daniel Gomez, said, "We trust each other more within our shots and passes." Robles adds, "we've become faster and stronger, which helps us grow and play better as a team."

What the Dons have been preparing for is finally here. "They're in the spot [they] need to be in, and now [they] need to play," says coach John Pringle.

The teams' next home match will be against Cal High on Tuesday October 29<sup>th</sup>.

# FUN ZONE

## Mystery guy's advice



1. My two best friends do not like each other and they often want me to choose sides when they fight. What should I do?  
 - Choosing a side should never be the solution. Resolving the problem between your two best friends should be the first step. Their problems should not involve you unless you have contributed to the problem yourself. Instead of choosing a side, all three of you should put aside differences to avoid further conflict.

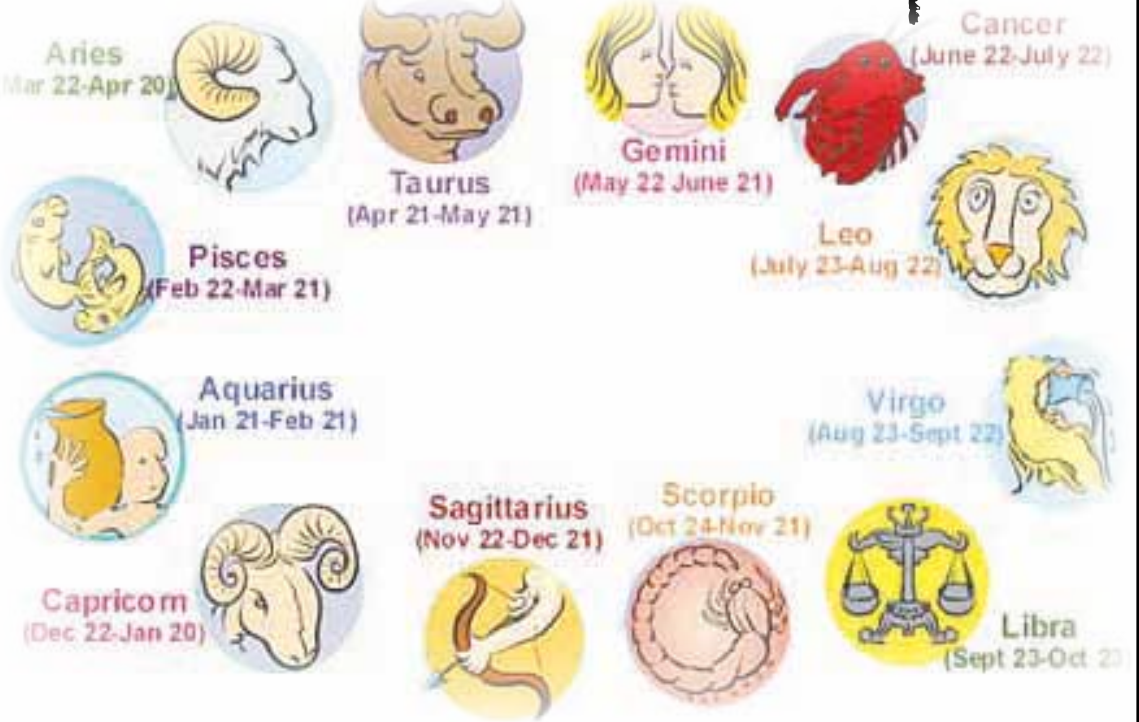
2. I am a junior and there is a freshman that thinks my friends and I like him, what should we do to politely tell him to leave us alone?  
 - Rejection is never a nice feeling, although it is necessary on occasion. Together, you and your friends should let him know how you truly feel of about his presence within your group instead of just avoiding him or giving him

the message in a negative way.

3. My best friend is going out with my ex-boyfriend. I do not like him anymore, but it is still uncomfortable. What should I do?  
 - Ex boyfriends are always the hardest to avoid whether you like or not. Since your best friend is now dating him, maybe you should have a talk with her about how you feel towards their relationship and how uncomfortable you are around them so she understands and agrees to some sort of solution to keep him away as much as possible when you are around.

4. How do I trick my parents into giving me twenty dollars?  
 - You should never have to trick your parents into anything if you do not deserve it. Instead, try reasoning with your parents usually works. Parents like it when you try or show effort to earn what you want.

## October Horrorscopes



**Aries**  
 It looks like a good month to scare your friend. This month will be positive, or maybe a bit risky? Look out!

**Taurus**  
 This month isn't positive or negative. Watch out for obstacles and don't be scared of what is to come!

**Gemini**  
 You seem to have a lot of energy within you. Take this month seriously and avoid getting lost in your thoughts. Oh, and stay away from the woods.

**Cancer**  
 Many things will happen this month. Make sure you succeed in creativity. Take care of your responsibilities; you don't want them to haunt you.

**Leo**  
 Be careful as to what you say. Choose your words wisely! Some dilemmas with your friends may creep up your sleeve.

**Virgo**  
 Take the time to step back and calm yourself. Unwind a little and let your inner creativity ooze out.

**Libra**  
 You seem to be wandering in the past. Retrieve a memory and learn from it. It can benefit you.

**Scorpio**  
 All you need is will-power; choose your battles wisely. Don't be afraid to challenge yourself and do your best.

**Sagittarius**  
 Last year may not have been very satisfying for you,

but don't focus on your past and try to look forward because you never know what might visit you.

**Capricorn**  
 Your social status will be a big part of you and your experiences this month, so go ahead and try new things, but try not to get caught up in the wrong web.

**Aquarius**  
 You seem to be hunting for change and a new beginning but you need to open up your BRAINS (mind) and let curiosity guide you.

**Pisces**  
 BEWARE! Don't let people take advantage of your generosity, even your friends, so keep an eye out.

## El Rodeo Library Corner Halloween issue



What is the title and author of the horror book illustrated in the Word Cloud? The first three students who bring the correct WRITTEN answer to Mrs. Chodos in the Library will receive a prize. ONE entry per student.