

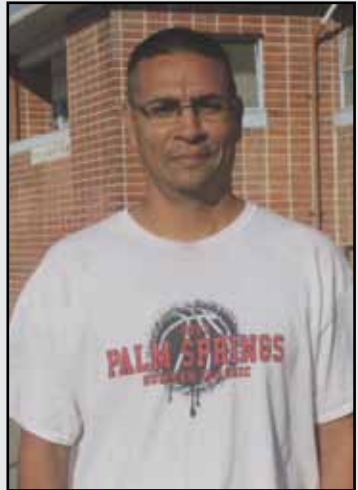


# El Rodeo



El Rancho High School - Volume 62- Issue 4  
www.erusd.k12.ca.us/elrancho

## Elliott takes on a new challenge as Athletic Director



Elliott prepares to take on four positions at El Rancho.

By MICHAEL GARCIA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's Basketball coach, track coach, and teacher, Ray Elliott, will become El Rancho's new Athletic Director at the beginning of the next school year due to the resignation of former Athletics Director, Mr. Lawson. Mr. Elliott is excited about taking on the new position but disappointed that Mr. Lawson chose to retire.

Lawson will not entirely be leaving the school campus and his presence will offer some ease to Elliott. "[Mr. Lawson leaving] is kind of sad but he'll still be there to maybe help me and offer advice on what to do in certain situations," says Elliott.

Elliott is anxious because he knows there is a lot to learn in order to keep the Athletics department in good shape. This shouldn't be a problem for Elliott because he has already proved to be good at the three positions he currently holds.

Elliott will be juggling four positions next year at one time, but he seems to not be bothered. He has a strong work ethic and is willing to put forth his time. Elliott says, "The extra workload shouldn't be a problem, because I'm so used to doing so many different things [like] running basketball tournaments [and] running track meets."

Elliott appears to be prepared and is pushing the thought of becoming the new Athletic Director aside for now as he focuses his attention on the start of the varsity boys' basketball season. "I've started to think about things, but I haven't really thought things through because right now I'm busy with teaching and basketball," says Elliott.

With the start of Track and Field season, which Elliott also coaches, Elliott will begin to attend those practices to help his runners be successful for the upcoming season.

Elliott's enthusiasm remains high as he prepares for the beginning of next year.

## Leal-Robles signs with George Washington

By CLAUDIA GONZALEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After thirteen years of dedicating her time to softball, senior student-athlete Aiyana Leal-Robles, was finally able to sign her National Letter of Intent to George Washington University on November 13.

The signing took place in the faculty center as Leal was accompanied by her friends and family, including her coaches and some members of the El Rancho staff. After signing, Leal delivered a heartwarming and emotional speech as she thanked all of those that helped her along the way. "Thank you to everyone who has ever been there for me and supported me... I'm definitely going to miss being a part of El Rancho. I'll miss the blue pride but I'll be able to take it with me 3,000 miles away."

Leal first received a full scholarship to George Washington University as a sophomore and has continued to make her coaches proud. Jen Shroeder, her throwing coach, says, "Aiyana's accomplishments always make me feel so proud and not just because of the softball player that she is or because of the college that she's going to but because of the person I've watched her grow up to be."

Coach AJ Reyes, girls' softball coach, expresses his excitement towards Leal's accomplishments. "I'm very proud of her as a coach. I look at her as a younger sibling so it makes me proud that I helped



Senior Aiyana Leal-Robles smiles after signing her National Letter of Intent to GWU.

her in some ways to a four year school that's built for athletes."

Leal's parents have put an enormous amount of dedication over the last thirteen years into her softball career, whether it was driving her to her games or just being her number one supporters. Mrs. Leal, mom and El Rancho art teacher, says "The last thirteen years have been tumultuous, so many ups and downs, stress, pride... it's all been a roller coaster but it's been worth it." "I'm super proud of her and I don't want her to stop here."

Leal views leaving high school as a way to explore and experience new surroundings. "I look forward to the distance, just the different area, meeting new people and getting the best education possible while playing the sport that I love."

Leal is the epitome of a student athlete; she continues to show that in order to succeed as an athlete, education must always be prime. "Any free time I have I spend it doing homework... during the week I'll stay up till 2 a.m. completing homework."

Like any senior, Leal cannot wait to start a new chapter in her life and attend college. "It's relieving and just exciting. I'm ready to go, I want to go now."

Leal has a bright future and promising career ahead of her, but she still has some unfinished work to do before she leaves, including her high school softball season. "I'm looking forward to playing with my team one last time."

We all hope the best for Leal as she carries on her blue pride and "raises high" on the George Washington University softball field.

## Sarco runs his way to State

By ODALYS CHAVEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This year's cross-country run has come to an end. The team made it to CIF prelims, and the Varsity boys were extremely close to making it to State finals. They came in 11<sup>th</sup> place, just four spots away from qualifying for State finals.

Steven Avelar says that it was a great fast-paced experience and feels proud of being a part of this year's achievements with his team.

Gefry Sarco, however, qualified individually for State. He travelled to Fresno to compete with the best runners in California. Sarco describes it as an amazing experience. "I did well; the competition was intense, but I just went out fast and had fun," says Sarco.

The course was a 5K, which is equivalent to three point one miles. His finishing time was fifteen minutes and fifty-two seconds. This allowed him to place in the 35<sup>th</sup> spot out of one hundred ninety four runners.



Sarco hopes to one day represent the U.S.A. in the Olympics.

Sarco was not disappointed with his results and feels that making it to State was already a blessing. He feels very satisfied with his performance and would like to thank coach Wynn, his team, and everyone who supported him throughout the year for encouraging him to try his best.

"Gefry is very dedicated and had his mind set on the goals he wanted to achieve," says Allysa Villalobos, junior teammate.

Sarco's achievements will definitely set a mark and inspire future runners or athletes to perform at an equivalent level and push their limits.

### INSIDE

Simply Irresistible, p. 2



Top Holiday Gifts, p. 4



Jokes, p. 8



# FEATURES

## Simply Irresistible: Darwin Reyes

BY RUBI MACIAS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Darwin Reyes, an El Rancho junior, is simply irresistible. This intellectual is “openly honest, true to [himself], and comedic.”

Reyes is a true Don. He is a proud member of Teen Court and Academic Decathlon, to which he gives a fraction of his weekends to participate in.

Reyes’ time is not always consumed by school. To have fun, he watches *The Walking Dead*, goes on exciting adventures with his cousin, or just watches movies with his uncle.

Confidence emanates from Reyes. “I would prefer to be seen as a charmer and a clown before intelligent.” Aside from his looks, he cites his wild imagination, spontaneity, and “ability to appeal to the majority of people’s humor” as reasons for his personal attractiveness.

The ideal girl for Reyes has “extreme intelligence, a beautiful smile and isn’t afraid to show it off, eyes that when you look into them you feel like the world means nothing without her, the most adorable reactions like blushing when given a compliment, and confidence in herself.” Jennifer Aniston and Rosie Huntington-Whiteley possess these characteristics.



Darwin Reyes charms every girl with a simple wink and “hello.”

What many Dons do not know is that Reyes has a way with words and can seduce even the most rigid femme fatale. He says his favorite pickup line is:

“Are you an interior decorator? ‘Cause when I saw you, the entire room became beautiful.” Any girl who goes out with this charming nidaria can

expect to have a fantastic time, as Reyes says he plans to have a “romantic moon-lit dinner on a gondola [with] a romantic comedy like *About Time* and end the date after gazing at the stars (like in *The Lion King*.)”

Reyes’ heroes reveal much about his own methods for becoming irresistible. Reyes is inspired by Batman, the “extremely amazing, strong, handsome, intelligent, dark character.” Reyes also admires Sherlock Holmes because Reyes says, “he is the one who inspired me to pursue a life of psychology and to become a detective just as he was, along with Batman.”

So how can a girl get an unattainable boo like Reyes? The man himself gives us the answer. “You should try being funny and if you make me laugh, you are golden. Just be yourself. Don’t change who you are because who you are is beautiful, just like me.”

Dons, make sure to get this hunk before anyone else. He promises to have more to offer than the average man because the ideal woman wants a man like him; “a man that not only can be there for her and listen, but is also an analytical man that can partake in her problem-solving. An intellectual man is a man that may also be a gentleman and not barbaric, vulgar, and rude.”

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### Where are they now?

Alumna Andrea Muñoz returns home to continue her travels

BY ANGELICA GAMEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

It was only a year ago when University of California, Santa Barbara freshman Andrea Muñoz came home from her trip to Amsterdam, Paris, and London. Now she is preparing to embark on her next journey to Berlin, Dresden, Prague, Olomouc, Krakow, Budapest, and Vienna.

Muñoz graduated from El Rancho with the class of 2013 but is returning to Pico Rivera to travel with the Gadabouts, El Rancho’s official travel club, after having a memorable trip last year. “I decided to go again this year because of how much fun I had on the last trip,” says Muñoz, “I just really like traveling.”

Last year was the first year that Muñoz traveled with the Gadabouts. She was looking forward to visiting Paris and London but also ended up enjoying her time in Amsterdam. “I think [I enjoyed Amsterdam] because it was the first place that we visited and it was also really pretty and fun,” says Muñoz.

Muñoz is ready to have another great experience and looks forward to visiting Berlin. “Our tour director from last year was from Berlin so she told us a lot about Berlin and I’m excited to see it for myself,” says Muñoz.

The Gadabouts’ next trip will be in June 2015 and they will be traveling to Greece, Italy, and . “If [the trip] does not interfere with my classes then I am definitely



Muñoz enjoys her time with her friends in Europe.

going to consider it,” says Muñoz.

Muñoz encourages everyone to go, even if they have already graduated from high school. “[The trip] is an awesome opportunity to be able to travel to different places,” says Muñoz, “it is a lot of fun and they will not regret going.”

When Andrea is not traveling with the Gadabouts, she attends UCSB.

UCSB was not Muñoz’s first choice. She decided to attend UCSB because it is a research university and she also likes how it is right by the beach.

Now that Muñoz attends UCSB, she does not see her family and friends very often. “Not being home every weekend is fun but after a while it is sad because I don’t get to see my friends and family,” explains Muñoz. When she does come home to Pico Rivera, Muñoz spends her time hanging out with family and friends.

Muñoz’s plans to continue travelling with the Gadabouts as long as her college schedule allows her to.

### El Rodeo Library Corner Christmas Questions

The first three students who bring the correct WRITTEN answers to Mrs. Chodos in the Library will receive a prize. ONE entry per student.

#### Fill In The Blanks

1. “Bah!” said \_\_\_\_\_. “Humbug!”
2. “Christmas won’t be Christmas without any presents, grumbled \_\_\_\_\_.”
3. “Then \_\_\_\_\_ thought of something he hadn’t before! What if Christmas, he thought, doesn’t come from a store. What if Christmas... perhaps... means a little bit more!”
4. “One can never have enough socks,” said \_\_\_\_\_. “Another Christmas has come and gone and I didn’t get a single pair. People will insist on giving me books.”
5. “And \_\_\_\_\_ has made a magic so that it’s always winter in Narnia--always winter, but it never gets to Christmas.”



- a. The White Witch
- b. Jo
- c. Dumbledore
- d. The Grinch
- e. Scrooge

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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

# Chef Luna brings joy to less fortunate

BY EVELYN GARCIA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This Thanksgiving, El Rancho's Chef Luna accomplished his biggest turnout at his annual event to feed the poor during the holiday season. Luna was able to feed over 250 people in Downtown Los Angeles.

This five year tradition continued as Chef Luna and his student volunteers passed out food, water, and blankets to people in need. Some of the food Luna and his students made included cooked rice, mashed potatoes, punkin rolls, and a variety of desserts.

Luna told the Whittier Daily News that he "tastes everything [before it's sent out] and if it's not delicious he doesn't take it out there."

Many people were thankful for Luna and his student volunteers for supplying them not only with the necessities, but with something more to be thankful for this Thanksgiving holiday.

One hundred volunteers appeared for the preparation of the food, and twenty-five as-

sisted Luna with the distribution.

The number of volunteers has increased over the years. In 2012 only eight volunteers joined this act of charity. Next year Luna hopes the number increases even more than the turn out this year.

A majority of the less fortunate got teary-eyed in appreciation of the generosity with supplies and food being donated, thus giving volunteers an emotional experience that they will carry with them for years to come.

As well as giving the needy food, Chef Luna and volunteers did not hesitate to donate food to homeless animals. The animals were given food prepared by the Chef himself.

Other than the Chef's student volunteers, many El Rancho alumni joined the contribution. They added to the great success of this event.

With nothing left over, Luna would like to thank all the people who volunteered their time and brought items. He plans to continue this tradition and invites everyone to volunteer in February at a similar event he plans to hold.



Chef Luna takes the time to pose with some of the children who just received clothing, blankets, and food.

Supervisor Gloria Molina,  
the City of Pico Rivera Mayor and City Council  
& the County of Los Angeles Public Library  
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## Pico Rivera Library



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Dedication Ceremony at 10:00 am

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# Key Club lends a helping hand



BY DAVID HUGHES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On the El Rancho campus, there is a club that is dedicated to helping others in the community. This club, known as Key Club, is beginning to be the key to students who want to stand out in their personal essays for college. When students begin applying to colleges, they are one of the thousands of applications that many colleges are receiving. Students' personal essays will stand out when community service hours are included on their essays and transcripts.

Many of the students in Key Club are fulfilling their hours by participating in a variety of activities. In the club's upcoming activity, Key Club advisor Mr. Sorenson, is having his club members participate in the 2013 Tournament of Roses, otherwise known as the Rose Bowl parade.

"The Kiwanis Club (an international organization) has a float in the Rose Bowl parade every year. Key Club members are invited to help with the preparation of the float in Pasadena after Christmas each year," says Mr. Sorenson.

Students participate in outside activities as well as mandatory club events. For "[the] Philippines disaster relief the Key Club planned to make 'donation cups' and collect money for the Red Cross."

Even though the winter holidays are coming, Sorenson

still plans to have an event with his members over the break.

"I'm hoping that the Key Club will participate in the distribution of baskets for the Pico Rivera Christmas Basket Committee. We'll have to see when we meet after the break," says Sorenson. Mr. Sorenson does not decide all of the events; students can also suggest them.

Randy Lazaro, who has been in Key Club for one year, says that he very much enjoys the club and "feels a sense of accomplishment because you're helping those who may be cannot help themselves."

Lazaro adds, "I also enjoy giving back to the community that has given to you."

Junior, Julius Armendariz, recently joined Key Club this year to receive community service hours for his college transcript, and to give back to those in need. "I've donated money to the club and also contributed to the Boxes for Baja last month."

Armendariz is one of the many Key Club members that supports Sorenson as being the club advisor. "He's really good at finding every opportunity to improve our club and give as much as we can to the community," says Armendariz, "In December we're going to help the Kiwanis Club decorate their float for the Rose Bowl."

To join Key Club, you can submit eleven dollars to Mr. Sorenson in room Q-2 and attend meetings in room B-104.

# HOLIDAY

## Five holiday movies you just can't miss!

BY JULIUS ARIAS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Majority of people have their favorite holiday movie that they enjoy watching with their family and friends. Finding a movie that gets you into that holiday spirit isn't hard, but since there are so many to choose from, it may drive a few holiday enthusiasts crazy.

Movie watchers try to narrow down the best films for this time of the year. This year the top five movies on everyone's must watch list are: "A Nightmare Before Christmas," "Home Alone," "How The Grinch Stole Christmas," "Elf," and "The Santa Claus."

The most favorite on this list of movies is Tim Burton's "The Nightmare Before Christmas."

This fanatic cross between the two holidays, Halloween and Christmas, features a lively skeleton that is absolutely enticed by the idea of Christmas being run by Halloween ghouls.

Yet, while he embraces that jolly holiday, the creatures around him try hard to adjust to such an unfamiliar event. Throughout these changes conflicts arise with rebellious monsters that lead him to an ultimate realization of who he really is.

Due to this movie's well-structured plot and good humor with dark creatures, this movie has earned its place as number one of the list.

In second, another strong holiday favorite is "Home Alone," starring rambunctious Kevin McCallister, who is played by a young Macaulay Culkin.

This precious Christmas comedy created and produced by John Hughes takes place mostly in the McCallister home where the night before the family's Christmas trip to Paris, France, Kevin gets into a fight with his family.

Being sent to his room, he



awakens the next day to find everyone is gone. His family has already left to Paris, accidentally forgetting him in the process.

This results in him having to take up arms against a pair of would-be-criminals who want to rob his family's home. This humorous tale of a child left all alone for Christmas has definitely earned its place as number two on this list.

Third place goes to "How The Grinch Stole Christmas," a popular rendition of Dr. Seuss' children's book, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas".

"The Grinch," played by Jim Carrey, hates Christmas due to personal reasons slowly shown in flash backs as the movie progresses. The Grinch sets up a dastardly plan to finally destroy Christmas for

the Whoville citizens who live at the base of his mountain.

This film comically developed from such a popular children's book has definitely made its mark, and even after several years is still a top five favorite.

"Elf" has come in a fourth place standing, which is good for such a modern Christmas film. This story takes place in the life of an elf named Buddy (played by Will Ferrell), who is actually a human raised by elves.

Growing up in the North Pole with Santa Claus has made him host to all the characteristics of a purely good person. However, after learning from his adoptive father, Papa Elf, that he is human and that he has another father, he decides to go on a quest to find and befriend his human father to get him off the naughty list.

In his travels, Buddy, with all his kindness and naivety, manages to get himself in all sorts of hilarious mischief.

Fifth on this list of holiday can't miss movies is "The Santa Claus." After accidentally pushing Santa Claus from his roof Scott Calvin (played by Tim Allen) takes on all the jolly old man's responsibilities.

After completing Old Saint Nick's Christmas run, Calvin learns he is to become the new Santa. After returning from the North Pole he must convince his family that he is the new head of Christmas and that he will have to return to the North Pole soon to prepare for next winter.

Over a decade old, these films are still very popular flicks to watch with the family during the holidays.

## Top Holiday Gifts This Season



BY SOL MENDEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Are you unsure of what types of gifts to get your friends or loved ones? This year is a perfect year to spark up the holidays by giving the best. No matter if you're rich or poor, there's always an affordable gift to choose.

Stella & Bow jewelry makes a wonderful gift because it's affordable, stylish, and adjustable! Yes, most rings are made for everyone so you don't have to worry about ring sizes! It's a perfect gift if you have a friend who digs jewelry.

Pajamas and socks- Believe it or not, pajamas and socks are an ideal gift because people don't normally receive them! Who doesn't love pajamas with cool patterns! Whether it's polka dots, guitars, or stripes, it's unique and it also keeps your friend or family member cozy-warm on Christmas day.

The decision becomes a lot more complicated when teachers or parents come into the picture. A gift card can be a solution to this dilemma, especially on the holidays when the gift cards have cute festive designs.

Gift baskets and crafts are also great to give if you're not sure what to get and you don't want to go over your budget.

In case you're not the giver, you can be the receiver! Make sure to ask for the hottest gifts! Although, they are expensive gadgets; you won't regret receiving them. For example: The NEW Playstation 4 by Sony.

The Playstation offers a new slick design and a new controller that is easier to play with. It also offers a new way of gaming, such as better graphics and a better software gamers' will enjoy.

But in case you're not into Playstation, you can ask for Microsoft's Xbox One! The Xbox One offers a new hardware that'll have their gamers' HOOKED!

Xbox will have a lineup of new games, like: "Call of Duty: Ghosts" and "Dead Rising 3." Xbox is changing the way gamers' use their consoles.

There's something for everyone! In case you're not into gaming at all... You can ask for the coolest gadget out there for music: Apple's iPod Touch.

The iPod Touch offers music, applications, and the new iTunes Radio on their latest software, iOS 7. These specs of the iPod touch also includes colors.

They are a variety of colors for the iPod Touch such as: blue, pink, green, silver, and black. No matter what gift, big or small, all gifts are great to receive! This Christmas, enjoy the presence of family and the PRESENTS from family!

## WORD ON THE STREET

What do you enjoy most about the holidays and why?



"I like spending time with my family and the food is good, I really like the food!"  
-Lorenzo Gutierrez 9th



"I like spending time with the Kardashian Clan."  
-Gustavo Gutierrez 12th



"What I enjoy the most about the holidays is sleeping in, and having a good time with family."  
-Michelle Carmona 11th

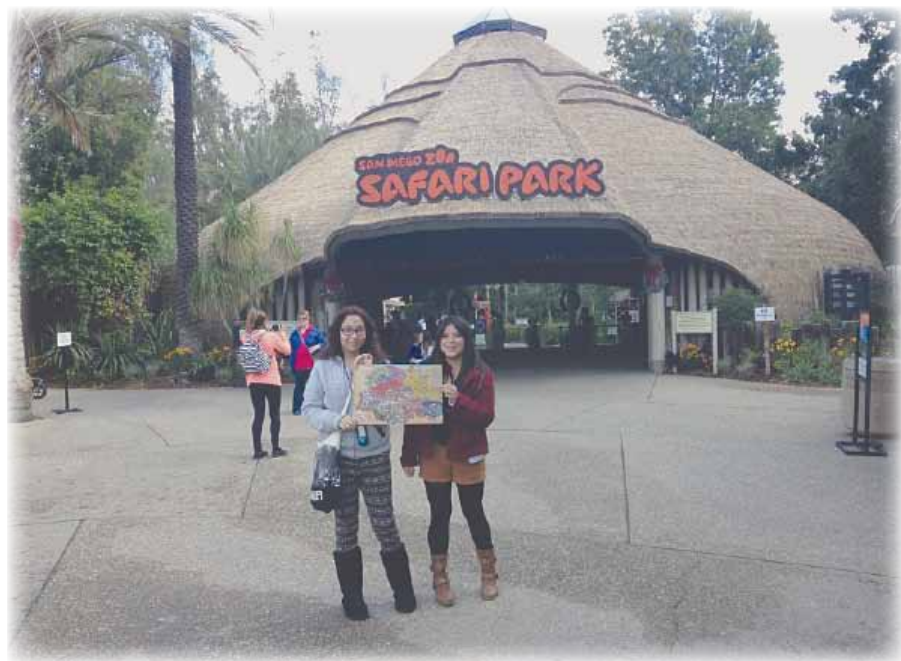


"I like spending time with family and friend because I get a lot of good vibes."  
-Christian Posada 12th

# CAMPUS



Juniors Natalie Woo, Manny Cruz and Andrea Huizar display their Christmas cheer.



AP Environmental students, Daisy Perez and Jasmin Ocegüera enjoying field trip to the San Diego Safari Park.



Seniors preparing to dominate juniors at Powderpuff.



Seniors Ruben Ruiz and Kimberly Alvarez ready to embrace the holidays.



Junior, Chris Anthony, fights for opening tip against Nogales High School.



Seniors creating memories at Powderpuff practice.



Seniors, Jasmine Gonzalez and Lauren Lopez, take a break from practice.



Seniors demonstrate enthusiasm at Powderpuff practice.



Senior, Vivian Reyes, shows off her passing skills.

OPINION

Your mom's not here to pick up after you!

BY NAZARELY NARVAEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

There's nothing like having lunch in the quad with the birds flying over our heads and pooping on our food. It just sets the mood for a typical day at El Rancho High School. I don't think the sea gulls problem at our school is anything to be proud of. It seems as if everyone hates the sea gulls during lunch, with all sincerity, I hate them too.

It is not like students do anything to prevent these seagulls from invading our campus. Students should take a good look at the quad after lunch, juice boxes and taco nada wrappers are scattered *right by trash cans*. It's as if students try to "shoot" their trash into the trash cans but miss. It's sad that students choose to leave their trash on the ground. If that's the case, then students have no right to complain about the sea gulls and their poop.



Students neglect to properly throw their trash into the campus trash cans.

We leave the janitors and administrators in charge of picking up our trash. School is not a place to be treated like a baby,

if your mom picks up after you at home that is your problem. People at school should not have to suffer the conse-

quences your littering brings. Trash cans are located in every room, every time you turn a corner, and definitely in the re-

strooms. It is embarrassing how much trash is found outside of trash cans in our restrooms. It would show more respect and manners if students would throw their napkins, and their used toilet paper, in the trash. It can't possibly be sanitary for toilet paper to be on thrown on the floor.

Think of what visitors may think of El Rancho when they are on our campus. The trash does not give the school a good image. It not only affects how the school looks but what does it say on the students' behalf? That they're "intelligent" but not *enough* to properly dispose of their trash? Students should know better.

Our campus is beautiful, how about we all make an effort to keep it like that? Next time you miss while trying to shoot your trash into the trash, pick up your trash! That will serve you as a reminder as to why you did not make the basketball team.

Mourning the death of Paul Walker



Fast and the Furious fans mourn over the death of Paul Walker.

BY BREANNA PEREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

One of Hollywood's most respected actors, Paul Walker, recently lost his life in a fatal car accident alongside former race car driver, Roger Rodas. Although Walker wasn't driving the vehicle I think it's strange how much irony there is behind his untimely death.

Walker was most known for his role in *The Fast and the Furious* by playing a cop who goes undercover as a street racer. It may have been because of this role that his death in a car accident was such a shock to everyone because they assumed he was an expert at driving.

It was a surprise to hear about his passing, but even more of a surprise to be informed that the seventh installment of the famous franchise would be put on hold. It would be preferred if the film got cancelled, but producers might decide against it and recast the role in an attempt to earn money from the box-office. It would not be right to give the role to someone else, or fair for that matter, since he has played

the character for over a decade.

However, if producers do decide to do the film without Walker, then it would only prove the selfishness behind Hollywood, and the greed for money.

It's safe to say that Walker experienced a painful death. When the Porsche crashed into a tree, the car was immediately engulfed in flames, and Walker and Rogers were burned alive, as they were trapped within the vehicle.

Some assume that both men were adrenaline junkies and were speeding around town in a Porsche without a care in the world. However, I don't believe these pessimistic assumptions make sense, since the two men were on their way to a charity event that Walker himself organized.

The event was held for his charity organization, Reach Out Worldwide, which helped the Filipino victims recover from the deadly storm, Typhoon Haiyan. It's a shame that Walker died in the process of trying to better the world, but hopefully he'll be remembered for all the charity he did than just any other actor who's passed.

The winter season "ins" and "outs"

BY NICOLE ZARATE  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The month of December is based upon two events: Christmas and New Year's Eve. So wave goodbye to the fall-look, and say hello to the warm and soft-colored trends of the winter season.

This season, warmer clothing will become very popular due to the climate change from warm to cold. To start off the winter season, coats and scarves will be the main trend along with a cute beanie. Beanies are definitely "in" during the holiday season, ideally a red or black beret for the women just because it completes a cute yet simple warm outfit. For men, beanies can range from a simple grey or green bobble beanie to a solid or striped crocheted beanie. A beanie will guarantee to keep your head warm and still fall under the winter fashion trends of 2013.

Many people like to get into the holiday spirit and tend to wear more red or white during the season. Men usually switch out their wardrobe to darker colors such as black, burgundy, or grey. Women like to mix and match, but still show their holiday spirit with red, white, or soft, lighter colors.

As for shoes, boots become extremely popular to keep your feet warm and protected from the rain. Doc Martens are most worn during this season, because they are heavy-duty boots that ensure your feet stay warm and dry. These boots are made for any girl or boy and come in different colors and styles of your preference. Although heavy-duty boots are not every girl's ideal style, so for this winter maybe UGG boots are more in your preference. They may be very pricey for some, although they are definitely worth the expense due to the ever-lasting warmth they provide. UGG boots also come in different colors and styles.



As the winter season begins to roll in, new styles start to emerge.

## SPORTS

## Girls' soccer team opens season with big win

BY MARISOL ALMAZAN  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho girls' varsity soccer team is hoping to kick off pre-season positively with a win. They hope to once again make it to CIF, only this time they want to take the win.

Junior Julia Ortiz believes that the team is really doing well. "We combine our individual talents and we ultimately have become a better team," says Ortiz. She, along with the rest of the team believes that if they keep up the good work they will make it very far.

Coach Ricardo Coria also believes the girls will accomplish many things. "Overall I think we will do a lot better than last year. I think we will for sure get to first round of CIF and I am very optimistic about getting a win or two after that," says Coria.

The girls are hoping to accomplish a lot during pre-season. "In pre-season we are



Freshman Jaqueline Aleman tries to take the ball out of Animo Leadership's possession.

hoping to prepare ourselves for competitions and to find our spots in the field," says Ortiz.

The soccer team is also hoping to strengthen their weaknesses as a team, as well as indi-

vidually. "Personally, my weakness is that I've had trouble getting back into rhythm since I recently

fractured my ankle," says Ortiz. During pre-season she hopes to work on her flaws individually in order to perfect the team.

As a team, the girls feel that they need to work on scoring. "As a team we are very capable of penetrating (get through players) but we are having trouble finishing (scoring)," says Ortiz. Ortiz is a strong believer that in order to improve this they need to keep working very hard during practice.

Despite this small obstacle, the girls really do believe that they will do very good during pre-season. "We are very prepared for pre-season. We still have things to tweak here and there, but overall we are very balanced and we will do very good this year because we have a good defense and have sudden outburst of touching amongst ourselves," says Ortiz.

The girls will be playing Lynwood this Friday, December 16, at 3:15 PM on the El Rancho varsity soccer field. Show your Support!

## Boys' soccer kicks off season with victory over Salesian



Alex Roldan practices his shots during his training session.

BY NAZARELY NARVAEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The boys' varsity soccer team kick off their season by beating Salesian High School 2-1 this past Monday.

El Rancho took over when Senior, Alex Roldan scored the first goal in the opening half.

Salesian put up a fight and scored to tie the game 1-1. Running into the second half, Roldan scored a penalty, giving the Dons their first win of the season. "From what I saw [Monday], there's a lot of composure and chemistry as a team," coach Omar Corona says. Corona is proud about the lack of mistakes during the game, "We got the win, that's all that matters to starting [the season] the right way."

The team had to start from scratch since "losing eighteen seniors, [is] a big hole to fill up," Corona says, "[But] every one from my team is good right now."

The team is working on their strengths, "We're still finding out where our players play best," right defender Matthew Quiarte says. "Even if we would have lost [our first game] it would

have been alright because that means we can only improve," Quiarte says. The Dons will put all their effort to make sure they won't lose, Quiarte explains.

Since communication is key in a successful team, Corona wants to work on that with some of the new members who came form junior varsity. "We got some of the jv guys starting so they're a little bit nervous here and there so they don't communicate as much as the seniors do," Corona says.

The team definitely has their strengths engraved in stone though, "Our strengths are our defense and our mid field. We have a lot of good talent," Corona says. The team only has room for improvement.

The Dons have to work to keep up with all the hard work they accomplished last year, "I mean we're up for the challenge," Corona says. Everyone is a rival since they won state last year; they've got a bull's eye on their back. "We're gonna have more wins and ties than losses. That's all I'm sure of."

Be sure to follow the boys' varsity soccer team this season and offer full support to our champs.

## Girls basketball off to strong start

BY JAZMIN HERNANDEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's girls' varsity basketball team starts off season with two wins and hopes to win the South El Monte tournament. The first game of the pre-season was very successful. The girls' smashed Paramount; they won the game 75-54.

Even though the girls' lost 61-44 against Corona Centennial, they made a comeback when they defeated Azusa 65-44.

On Thanksgiving Day the girls' basketball team played their alumni game. Junior, Ashley Miller describes the alumni game as former players come back and play against this year's varsity team.

The girls' basketball team feels confident in this season. Junior, Sarah Gurrola says, "Going into pre-season we are feeling confident in reaching our team goals."

The team's confidence is



Junior Sarah Gurrola prepares to defend her opponent.

based on their strengths. Sarah says, "We shoot very well. We push the ball up the court to create a fast tempo and we pressure on and off the ball well."

Even though the team has its strengths, they also have their weaknesses. She adds, "We have a hard time getting the ball inside and we have slow rotations on our full court press."

Miller believes the team could be successful if the team puts their part. She says, "This year we

can be really successful if we put in the time and work." She feels like no matter how much the team practices they could still improve. She says, "We are prepared, but we can always be better."

Senior, Anabelle Martinez has a very close bond between her fellow teammates and coach. She says, "We are there for each other through the ups and the downs." She adds, "Shigz does everything in his power to make us a successful team."

## Basketball prepares to battle for title

BY DANIELLE HERNANDEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho Basketball varsity boys have high hopes for this upcoming season. The Dons finished last season in the first round of CIF, but had a good run, ending league with a record of 7-3.

Feeling confident about the new season, the Dons want to be better than last year and are ready to achieve greatness and win league. Senior Evan Zuniga said "I feel confident about going into league this year."

The team's biggest challenges for the new season are against California High School and Santa Fe High School. The boys start with their first league game against Whittier High



Evan Zuniga attempts to make a free-throw.

School. Senior Captain Andrew Briseno said, "We ain't losing." Their positive attitude scored them a winning game on Wednesday against Nogales with a final score of 64-49.

Next up the Dons will be hosting the Blue Pride Tournament involving teams from the surrounding area. Make sure to support our Dons at home next Wednesday through Saturday.

# FUN ZONE

## Have a Laugh with Holiday Jokes!



**What do you call Santa's little helpers?**  
Subordinate clauses!

**Why does Santa have three gardens?**  
So he can go HOE HOE HOE!

**What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?**  
Frostbite.

**What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus?**  
Claustrophobic.

**What's black and white and red all over?**  
Santa covered with chimney soot.

**What do snowmen eat for breakfast?**  
Snowflakes.

**Why is Santa so good at karate?**  
Because he has a black belt!

**What did Mary Poppins want from Santa?**  
Superclausfragilisticexpi-  
lisnowshoes!

**What do you get if you cross an apple and a Christmas tree?**  
Pineapple.

**What is the first derivative of a cow?**  
Prime Rib! (This is for you Mr. Francis!)

**What Christmas carol is a parent's favorite?**  
Silent Night.



## December Horoscopes

BY DEBBIE BARAJAS, SOLEDAD MENDEZ, AND JULIA ORTIZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

**Aries:** Don't expect things to get easier! Nothing seems to be going your way, but don't let that stop you. You need to overcome the laziness and make things happen, no matter how hard it gets. When it comes to love, don't let it get to you. Try different ways to attract the people you want in your life.

**Taurus:** Get control of yourself. This will be a good month, but don't let it go to waste! Take advantage of all your chances. Be calm and don't make impulsive choices you can't take back! Be wise.

**Gemini:** You will meet someone today who will have no effect on your life and who you will immediately forget. Retain hope for a possible future.

**Cancer:** Be positive. Not everything is as bad as it seems to be. You have to take the time to be alone. Even if being alone seems

to be the hardest thing, it isn't. Make new friends, listen to music, and go out and get some fresh air.

**Leo:** Something exciting is happening in your love life. You may be feeling a little more confident about yourself this month. You may have been through a rough stretch recently, but at the same time you may be receiving just a bit of hope. Everything will fall into place sooner or later. Leo, be patient and don't try to rush things.

**Virgo:** A new person who has entered your life may not seem to have your type of vibe. This person may have unfamiliar opinions and experiences that are very different from yours. The differences can or may be dramatic. If you're feeling the urge to fight what may be going on, don't. Do something about it and don't be a fool.

**Libra:** What a lively month! Don't mess around with this month, it'll be a special one. Prepare yourself for the next year. It'll be an amazing and you'll be

surprised of what's coming to you.

**Scorpio:** Have fun with your family this December. You're always so fun and enthusiastic anyway, so you'll spark up the holidays! Make sure to enjoy all of your holidays; it's going to be a good way to end the year of 2013.

**Sagittarius:** December is a pleasing month for you. Try and attract positive attention to yourself by doing good deeds. It is the perfect time to make a change in yourself and your surroundings.

**Capricorn:** This time of year the will not be to kind to you. You're about to face multiple struggles and stress. Word of advice: take a deep breath and keep moving forward.

**Aquarius:** You will have an opportunity to stand out and show everyone what you got. Take advantage of it and take a step forward and reveal your talent.

**Pieces:** You will have some sort of a dilemma or confrontation this month. Take your time to sort it out in the appropriate way. Be patient.

## Find the Differences

The first seven people to find the 8 differences in the Christmas trees must go and see Mr. Zeko in X-1 to claim their prizes!



Original



New

