



EL RODEO



El Rancho High School - Volume 62- Issue 5
www.erusd.k12.ca.us/elrancho

Financial aid for seniors



By CLAUDIA GONZALEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

A Financial Aid Workshop was held in the cafeteria on January 8th for seniors and their parents to offer assistance in the financial aid application process.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is a form that is available to future college students in the United States that determines their eligibility for student financial aid.

As a part of the U.S Department of Education, the office of Federal Student Aid helps make a college education possible for every student by providing more than one hundred fifty billion dollars in federal grants, loans, and work-study funds.

Mr. Ortiz, College and Career Counselor, led the meeting along with Cecilia Leiva, Regional Coordinator of the Early Academic Outreach Program at UC Irvine.

Together they discussed the importance of students filling out a FAFSA application. Mr. Ortiz said, "In the long run, it can help students pay for college. For example, if they get the Cal Grant A they can receive up to \$48,000."

Leiva also stressed the importance for students to maintain a GPA above 2.00, otherwise they won't qualify for financial aid. In order to fill out the FAFSA form, each student must apply for a Federal PIN at www.pin.ed.gov.

It is required to have your most recent federal income tax return. If your parents have not filed their taxes they can give an estimate, then update it after they file their taxes.

You will also need your social security number, and you must be a U.S citizen or resident.

All males need to complete an extra step before applying for their Financial Aid. It is law for males to enlist in the army if they plan to apply for financial aid.

FAFSA is a great opportunity for students to receive free money. All students are encouraged to not turn down this opportunity.

There will be another financial aid workshop held in the library on February 1st. Leiva will be attending as well and will be helping students and parents fill out the applications.

If you are a college ready student, be sure to apply at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Students must have their FAFSA completed by March 2nd, but make sure to check if any colleges that you applied to have earlier deadlines. Do not turn down this opportunity for free money!

Gadabouts return from winter trip

By RUBI MACIAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After traveling through six countries in 12 days over winter break, the El Rancho Gadabouts travel club has returned from Europe. The Gadabouts Club, headed by Mrs. Charissa Zeko and Mr. Paul Zeko, visited Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia.

The journey, led by Franziska, the Zekos' favorite tour guide, began in Berlin, Germany and ended in Vienna, Austria. The Gadabouts visited historic sites like Auschwitz, the Berlin Wall, Dresden, Potsdam, St. Stephen's Cathedral, and St. Mary's Basilica. After certain tours, the travelers were even given up to five and a half hours of free time to roam the cities in small groups.

The Gadabouts group this year was relatively small, with only 29 travelers, three of which were adults.

Mrs. Zeko's favorite event on the trip was "the unplanned tire-changing stop, where everyone settled into the authentic Czech house-style restaurant, and spent time getting to know each other."

Franziska, the trip tour guide, said, "Seeing the Old Town Square in Prague all lit up, with a giant Christmas tree right in front of the Gothic Tyn Church when we got there was definitely a highlight. Some of the students also went ice skating in Budapest with me and the Zekos... Seeing



The Gadabouts admire the reconstructed buildings in Dresden, Germany.

the students skating in this beautiful setting at dusk, some of them on ice for the very first time, cannot be topped in my opinion."

Franziska stressed the importance of travelling by saying, "Traveling opens your eyes, mind and horizon. Every single student will be (a little) different at the end of a trip like ours. You learn about other cultures, traditions and history." Mrs. Zeko added to this by quoting St. Augustine: "The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page."

El Rancho students seemed to be most impressed with the beauty of the countries. Senior traveler Justin Raya said, "It's

pretty and the people are very kind." Senior traveler Jesse Sanchez said, "While the impact of both World War II and the Cold War can still be seen behind Churchill's Iron Curtain, all of the countries we visited were breathtakingly beautiful and their people inspiring."

Each student's experience was unique. Senior Gadabout Susan Aparicio said, "I think the trip was only as fun as the people you were around." She also said, "It was great to see the history of the countries in real life, instead of in textbooks."

Aparicio said there was a lunch stop in Slovakia every-

one enjoyed. "The stop in Slovakia was really fun since it was the only country where we were able to play in the snow."

The catchphrase of the trip, coined by Raya, became "Oh! Jesus is testing me!" Raya said the line one night when Franziska told him that the group's walk to their dinner restaurant would involve hills.

The Gadabouts' next trip in the summer of 2015 takes them to Italy, Greece, and Turkey. Dons, there is always room for one more and Franziska says, "the more, the merrier," so make sure to sign up for the next trip in room B-105 with Mrs. Zeko.

Chinese students make annual visit to El Rancho

By RUBI MACIAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

One of the most exciting events at El Rancho has finally arrived; our fourth year hosting exchange students has come and our Chinese visitors are here. These students, who opt to attend El Rancho and stay in California for three weeks, have been assigned to El Rancho families to be chaperoned around town during their stay.

The Chinese students from the Experimental High School attached to Beijing Normal University in Beijing, China show an eagerness to learn about American culture and our education system. After an interview process, El Rancho families are allowed to host the visiting students. The Chinese students then shadow El Rancho students with common interests.

Holly and Pu Yiwei, who attended classes with Karla Boche, said they look forward to gaining "more knowledge and observing a different culture while communicating with students about some differences between Chinese education and American education."



The foreign exchange students enjoy their time at El Rancho.

Mrs. Senteno-Tapia has taught them about our school using a scavenger hunt. The students will learn art with Mrs. Leal and culinary skills with Chef Luna. The rest of the insight exchange students get will come from teachers and staff that host the students. Pu Yiwei pointed out that in Chinese schools, all students have the same class and stay in the same classroom all day. Yiwei said she liked "the way the American students can choose classes and go to different classrooms."

Boche said the experience of navigating Yiwei is "quite fine, quite fine indeed." Although some of Boche's classes have been somewhat uneventful, taking Yiwei and Holly to her band class was fun because she "showed them some instruments,

[they] played music together, and [she] was able to talk to them."

Boche says she learned about the difference in Chinese student life. "Some of [the students] live on campus in special dorms that they can house in." Some students in China attend school for about nine hours.

Mrs. Kwek, El Rancho High School principal, said she is proud that "everyone has welcomed our visitors. It has been great." She says, "I hope that we [El Rancho students] have the chance to learn about each other's customs and we can gain an appreciation for other cultures."

The Chinese students will be having their own talent show here at El Rancho after school in the cafeteria. Be sure to stop by and support them.

Upcoming Events

Today, 1/31:

Chinese New Year Celebration
(3:15 pm, Cafeteria)

Girls Varsity Soccer vs Whittier
(3:15 pm, Varsity Soccer Field)

Boys Varsity Soccer vs Whittier
(3:15 pm, @ Whittier)

Girls Varsity Basketball vs Whittier
(5:15 pm, @ Whittier)

Boys Varsity Basketball vs Whittier
(7:00 pm, @ Whittier)

Saturday, 2/1:

Academic Decathlon
@ USC

E-Waste Recycling Event
@ ERHS (9 am to 2 pm)

OPINION

Digifest L.A. brings *You Tube* to fans

BY NAZARELY NARVAEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Hundreds of YouTube fans gathered at the Hollywood Palladium this past December to see their favorite YouTubers at Digifest L.A. Digifest is an event in which YouTubers put on musical performances and skits for their fans. The Janoskians, Our 2nd Life, Rebecca Black, and surprise guest Darren Criss were amongst those who were featured.

After waiting in line for half an hour, fans were allowed entrance into the Palladium. It was full of girls wearing booty shorts, Michael Kors bags, and Dr. Martens, waiting, quite impatiently, for their favorite YouTubers to come on.

Once Our 2nd Life, also known as O2L, took the stage, a multitude of fans began to gather. O2L are a group of seven boys who make videos sharing part of their daily lives. After greeting their audience they announced their 16+ city tour. Each of them was wearing a t-shirt with a different letter on it, together spelling the words "U.S. TOUR."

In the food court, fans were greeted by a long line, like the one they stood in for half an hour



Sawyer Hartman and Our 2nd Life members welcome their fans to Digifest LA 2013.

to get in. Many of them were in line for up to an hour and when they got to the cash register, the only thing the cafe had left was Coke and Classic Lays. The food crew didn't bother to tell the people in line that they had run out of pizza. Their customer service skills downgraded the event. Some even gave up and went back to the main floor to watch the rest of the performances.

Rebecca Black took the stage, very bubbly, ready to perform her new single "Saturday," the sequel to "Friday." YouTubers including O2L, Sawyer Hartman,

and Troye Sivan, got on stage and started dancing to the music. Girls from all over the place rushed to the main stage once The Janoskians were announced. The group walked on stage yelling profanities, which surprisingly appealed to their audience. A fan was given the chance to kiss Beau, Jai, or Luke, if she could guess who was under each potato sack. The fan received a kiss, *on the lips*, from Jai Brooks. The group finished off with the song "Best Friends."

Last but not least was Team Starkid, a group known for bringing musical theatre to life

on YouTube. Fans were taken by surprise when Darren Criss went on stage to perform with them. Darren Criss could be seen peeking through the curtains during Team Starkid's performance, so once he got on stage, the excitement was inevitable.

Overall, the event was fun but would have been better with more organization. For example some of the performances were out of order and the lack of proper food service angered many of those who attended. Let's hope that Digifest L.A. 2014 will set the bar higher.

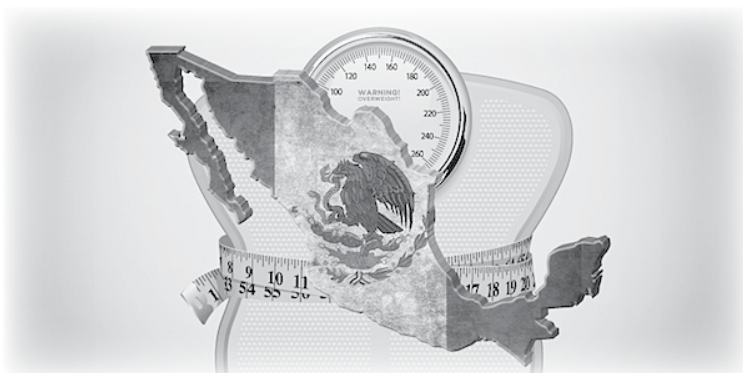
Mexico named the fattest country

BY LAURA CASTRO-SPENCER
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

It's official; the United States of America is no longer the fattest country in the world. Our neighbors to the South, Mexico, have dethroned us.

According to a new report from the United Nations, nearly 70% of Mexicans are overweight, and childhood obesity has tripled in Mexico within the last decade. In other words, 32.8% of Mexican adults are obese, whereas in America, only 31.8% of adults are obese.

Although America is no longer the fattest country in the world, it is still trailing close behind in second place. Another Big Mac and we'll earn our title back in no time.



America is the land of the free and the home of the brave. We've rebelled against the mother country, banned the sale of alcohol, made liquid soap, banned the ban against alcohol, and we've somehow lost the title of Fattest Country? In all honesty, I'm a little insulted.

Processed foods make up 70% of the average American's

diet, and only 20% of Americans get the right amount of exercise. Sad, isn't it? Yet, we're still not the fattest country in the world.

I think we need to redeem ourselves, "Second Fattest Country in the World!" Seriously, America has the largest economy in the world, but we don't have the largest people? Being the second fattest country

is worse than being the poorest country; which is Burundi by the way. Burundi is also the country that has the most deaths by starvation. Ironic isn't it?

America only leads the world in three categories; most number of incarcerated citizens per capita, most adults who believe angels are real, and the country who spends more money on it's military than the next twenty-six countries combined, twenty-five of which are allies. Compared to other countries, that's embarrassing.

The United States needs more world titles under its belt, and one way to accomplish that is to expand our belts. Shut up, stuff your face, and take the elevator instead of the stairs.

El Rodeo

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

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

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

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

WORD ON THE STREET

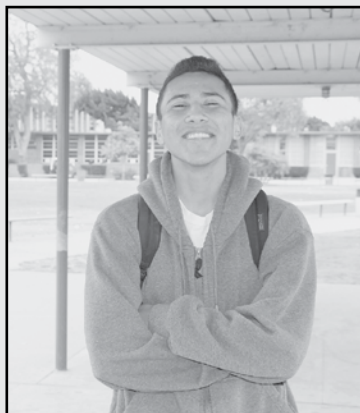
What do you think about the new vending machines?



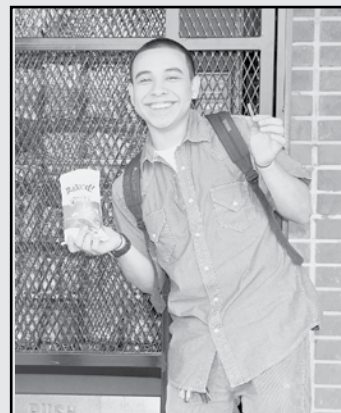
"The gummy worms are stale so the price you pay for them isn't worth it," - **Analye Arenas 12th**



"I haven't used the vending machines but everyone else seems to like them," - **Martin Alcala 12th**



"The food in the ending machines is too expensive and it's not the best quality," - **Francisco Miranda 11th**



"The vending machines are the best thing that has happened to El Rancho," - **Daniel Martinez 12th**

COLLEGE

Is Azusa Pacific the place for you?



By ANGELICA GAMEZ
EL RODEO NEWS WRITER

Many students want to attend a private school but do not

want to go too far from home; Azusa Pacific University is a small private school less than 30 minutes away from Pico Rivera. APU has a 52% acceptance rate and

the deadline to apply is June 1st.

There are many ways to remain entertained at APU, whether it is by attending the sporting events, watching a movie at the

movie theater down the street, or grabbing a bite at Chick-Fil-A across the campus. APU also has sporting events which includes baseball, basketball, football, soccer, and more. Students also have the opportunity to play in intramural sports such as dodge ball.

If sports are not what you are looking forward to while attending college, there are also many clubs/organizations to choose from at APU. There are multi-ethnic organizations along with social, service, academic, and athletic clubs.

There may not be many things to do in the city of Azusa, but there are "outdoor adventures" that you can experience with other APU students such as hiking, camping, and maybe even rock climbing.

The estimated tuition for the 2013-2014 school year was \$39,946 which included tuition, university service fee, health fee, housing, and a meal plan.

The price may sound expensive, but APU offers many financial aid services to help with the cost. APU offers academic, need based, and athletic scholarships, but it is up to the student to apply.

APU also offers work study as an option of financial aid. There are job openings around the campus, for example in their cafes, and many food places across the street from the campus need workers.

The workload at APU is said to be manageable. The student to faculty ratio is 13:1 which is good considering that there are about 30 students per class in high school. Popular majors at APU include Nursing and Business Administration and Office.

It is not too late for seniors to apply to APU and it is not too early for the underclassmen to begin looking into colleges. APU is a great place to attend if you love the outdoors and plan to attend a small school.

Alumna continues passion for writing into college and beyond

By BREANNA PEREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

In 2009 Maricruz Castro-Spencer was, like most high school seniors, heading off to college with an idea of what she wanted to do with her life. Since then, she has been attending Cal State L.A. as an English major with a minor in communications.

While she was attending El Rancho, she soon realized that English was her strongest subject. "When I would be in a math or science class my motto was always 'A C is still passing,'" says Castro-Spencer. It wasn't until she entered Mr. Zeko's Journalism class that she gained the confidence to make her writing public. "Writing for

the school newspaper guaranteed that at least a few hundred people would read my thoughts on certain topics," says Castro-Spencer, "it was scary at first, but Mr. Zeko encouraged me to write more."

Around the time her senior year came to an end, she, and other senior journalists, were given a personalized card from Mr. Zeko that said, "Keep on writing. You've got a lot of talent." Castro-Spencer says, "it was that support and encouragement from a person who had seen my writing mature that made me ultimately decide to major in English."

During the fall, Castro-Spencer will be earning her Bachelor's Degree, but hopes to soon after enter a program to acquire her Master's Degree. However,

since getting accepted into the Master's program isn't a guarantee, she plans on trying to get her writing publicized. She's currently working on a book with a compilation of short stories and poems she's been writing over the summer. "I have five short stories and a handful of poems finished, as well as another seven [poems] in the works," says Castro-Spencer.

Her advice for this year's graduating class would be to not take those around you for granted. "Many high school graduates think that once they turn eighteen they don't need their parents or siblings," says Castro-Spencer, "and even though being independent sounds amazing; it gets lonely. Family is the most important thing, so cherish them."



Castro-Spencer giving a thumbs up to everyone going to college.

WORD ON THE STREET

What college do you hope to get into and why?



"Out of state on the east coast because I want to learn life experiences and learn to live on my own."-
Saloni Patel 11th



"UC Irvine to play soccer and because it's a good school. Go anteaters!"-
Luis Rodriguez 9th



"Cal State Long Beach because I feel there is good opportunity their and its close to the beach"-
Leonardo Jimenez 10th



"Cal State Dominguez for government and to get my degree in law."-
Francisco Franco 12th



"Whittier College because I really like the class sizes and the fact that I am able to be friends with my professors and be close with them will help me not only my subject but more about life experiences like Tuesdays with Morrey"-
Savannah Guerrero 12th

BUSINESS

Stand up for a good cause



By EMILY PEYTON AND
SUSANA PLAZA
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

The Pico Rivera Alliance to Keep Youth Tobacco Free club was established in Pico Rivera in 2011 and strives to make a positive impact on the life of Pico Rivera residents by informing them of the risks of smoking and how it affects everyone in our tight-knit community.

During the meetings, students learn how to speak in front of the city council, create resumes, gain leadership skills, and make an agenda. Members will not only be saving people's lives, but they will be getting community service hours and may list the alliance as a club on college applications.

The Pico Rivera Alliance to Keep Youth Tobacco Free is looking for members that are willing to use their voices and speak their opinions to the city council. The alliance recently had a booth in the quad at lunch during Red Ribbon Week. Any student interested in joining the club for volunteer hours or for the purpose of college applications may visit Mrs. Sythe's room, Y-5, on Wednesdays.

One of the perks of volunteering with the Pico Rivera Alliance to Keep Youth Tobacco Free is a chance to go to the Youth Quest conference along with other young students. This is an all-expense paid trip for two days to Sacramento and is held in April.

Susana Plaza, an El Rancho senior who attended Youth Quest last year, said, "My experience with AKT was unlike anything that I have ever been through. We spent the weekend [in Sacramento] and I had a great time. I had never been to the capital and it was both beautiful and very intimidating."

Plaza says the students "were able to walk around Sacramento with the freedom to explore Old Sacramento and the rest of the city." She says many students attended from schools "all around California... participating in something that meant a lot to them." The students were able to march to the capital with signs and later took a tour of the building.

Dons, if you would like to join the AKT and participate in this year's Youth Quest, remember to visit Y-5. Plaza encourages it saying, "Youth Quest is unlike anything I have ever experienced."

Free money to continue pursuing your dreams

BY ANDREA V.
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Has rising tuition costs swayed you from attending your dream school? Many students have felt this way; some have even restricted themselves from attending it, and even look for alternatives like community colleges.

Community colleges are a good place to start your endeavour to a higher education, but why go to a community college when you can go straight to a four-year university of your choice?

If you're a stellar student and plan to attend college, then there are ways to achieve your goals. You could get free money! No they are not loans, they're scholarships!

Scholarships are granted by the school you want to attend or simply organizations that donate their money to incoming college freshman.

You don't have to worry if you don't have the high-



est grades, or you're not that involved in school clubs. For most scholarships, you just need to do some assignments and turn them in on time.

Some assignments may be harder to complete than others. For example, some schol-

arships may require writing an essay, producing a video or maybe just filling out a survey. The harder the task of the scholarships, the more money the organizations will offer you.

In some cases, the scholarship assignments that are more dif-

ficult will often offer you \$10,000 for the college of your choice. The simpler ones might take you about an hour or less to complete and you have the opportunity to get \$200. Sounds great, right?

Scholarships are amazing, and the most beautiful thing about them is that they are free and they help you gather more money to achieve your dreams of going to college. As said before, there are all types of scholarships out there waiting for you, you just need to look for them.

You may be wondering when and where can I find these glorious scholarships? Truth is they are closer than you think. A majority of them are on the internet. Just browse for them and there is millions of websites from where you could receive them. Have I also mentioned that your dream school is giving out scholarships also? Even if you don't get a full ride, they'll offer you money that will help pay for tuition.

Visit the college and career center for more scholarship offers.

Entrepreneur Club goes to Business Expo

BY ANALYE ARENAS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

El Rancho's Entrepreneur Club has attended their first Business Expo, hosted by the Chamber of Commerce.

Many businesses around Pico Rivera gathered at El Rodeo Hall in an effort to promote networking among themselves and other businesses. To many people's surprise, the business expo was full of fun activities, great music, and food provided by local restaurants.

The Business Expo has provided a much easier way for businesses in Pico Rivera to connect in advertisements and build relationships with one another. The Expo consisted of many tables with representatives from

a variety of small businesses to larger corporations promoting and introducing themselves.

The atmosphere was full of friendly personalities and familiar faces in the Community, such as Superintendent Galindo and many of the City's Council Members.

The Chamber of Commerce Business Expo allowed the Entrepreneur Club to interact with other businesses and get more involved with the community. It was here that the Entrepreneur Club explained its goals for its members and the community.

Many business owners had a lot of advice to help the young members get more familiarized with the city and how its businesses work. Overall, the Expo provided new experiences and possible future business relationships.

Pico Rivera sets out for "A Better Tomorrow"

It's that time in the semester again; turning in late homework, making up exams, and pleading our teachers to give us that extra 3% that will get us to an A-. Although we hate to admit it, we really need some tutoring to help us get the grade we deserve.

A Better Tomorrow, located in 9324 Washington Blvd. Pico Rivera CA, is a tutoring program for grades K-12. This program specializes on language arts and mathematics for those in need of help or in need of improvement in those areas.

A Better Tomorrow offers its service at home or in a library with the help of a trained bilingual tutor.

Are you wondering what the cost of this program is? Ac-

cording to the business' website, "A Better Tomorrow Education specializes in providing free, at no cost tutoring through the No Child Left Behind Act -SES program."

"Free tutoring is provided to children who attend a Title 1 qualifying school and who receive free or reduced lunch." If any El Rancho United School District students are interested, or just simply need a little help in school, please contact the phone number below or visit their website to learn more.

contact info:
phone: (562) 926-3755
website: www.abet-tortomorrowedu.com

location: 9324 Washington Blvd., Pico Rivera, CA 90660



Credit Union

Credit Union helps the Dons

BY ANALYE ARENAS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Whether it is helping you create an account or introduce you to the economic world, the Credit Union of Southern California has been helping Dons experience what it is like to take the first steps to becoming an adult.

Founded in 1954, the Credit Union today has a five star financial rating from Bauer Financial and seven hundred million dollars in assets and is eager to help "build better lives" for its members. The Credit Union had even donated more than fifty five thousand dollars to help support our local community. The Credit Union has been continuously giving presentations at El Rancho High School to help students understand the in's and out's of savings and how to invest.

Jennifer Day, Branch Manager has been running these presentations,

"One of the biggest challenges the Credit Union faces in the community is that people don't know we are here, therefore no marquee."

This is a disadvantage, considering that the Credit Union will add twenty dollars to a new student account as, "a nice introduction to the financial world" as well as referral movie tickets.

Day tries to grab the attention of students in hopes to educate them more on finances. Our local Credit Union had also been honored recently by receiving the Chamber Business of the month on December 2013.

"We are here to serve the community."

It has been a pleasure for the Credit Union of Southern California to become a part of the Pico Rivera Community. They will continue to give presentations at El Rancho as students begin to open college accounts.

CITY VIEW

The race has been concluded and the new mayor is...



Gustavo Camacho



David Armenta

BY EMILY PEYTON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This November, Pico Rivera had its city election for mayor, where three men were running for two open spots on the council. Two candidates are current council members, Gustavo V. Camacho and David W. Armenta, and the last candidate was Adrian Diaz, a Pico water district board member.

In the end, Gustavo V. Camacho won with a total of 2,703 votes. David W. Armenta came in a close second with a total of 1,863 votes. Adrian Diaz did not get a spot on the council and came up with a total of 1,390 votes.

Gustavo V. Camacho and David W. Armenta want our city to keep the reputation of being a business-friendly city and would love for more businesses to come into our community.

Bringing new businesses not only makes our city a

more desirable place to live, but also affects the youth in a positive way because more students shop locally on modified day or school days off.

The youth at El Rancho High School and at the middle schools have a massive amount of purchasing power and can only go so far with their own two feet.

Another great improvement mentioned by both candidates was street improvement, which is crucial because a majority of students walk home and sometimes the sidewalk is uprooted by a tree or is uneven.

There is a higher risk of an accident occurring when students don't take precautions. A reason why these accidents happen are texting or a lack of focus and caution when walking.

Based on the council's given proposals, the council will only have the community's best interest in mind.

GREEN TREES for the GOLDEN STATE

The City of Pico Rivera & California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8th 8:00AM - Noon

Plant a Tree in Your Neighborhood!

We are seeking volunteers to help plant trees as part of this Urban Forestry Program project. Help reduce air and noise pollution in your city!

Register to Volunteer!

Pre-register by completing the application on the back of this flyer. Return completed application to your local recreation facility or fax to (909) 801-0871

Want a street tree?

Residents can request a FREE street tree by calling the Department of Public Works at (909) 801-4415

Don't forget the tools

Please bring your own, labeled garden tools. Rakes, Brooms, Shovels, Gloves, etc.

Meet us at the Park!

STREAMLAND PARK
3536 Durfee Avenue

Parks & Recreation
CITY OF PICO RIVERA • CALIFORNIA
PICO-RIVERA.ORG • RECREATION@PICO-RIVERA.ORG



@PRrec

/CityOfPicoRivera



WHAT EL RANCHO STUDENTS CAN EXPECT FROM NOVEMBER'S ELECTIONS

Our newly elected city council and school board members gave us their time and answered, in their own words, how their elections will impact our student population between the ages of 14 through 18? In some way, this may be one of the most important elections of our student careers. It is important we know our leaders and understand their positions on an important segment of Pico Rivera's population. (listed in alphabetical order)

The Question: How will your election impact our student population between the ages of 14 through 18?



Mr. Gustavo Camacho, elected to the city council says, "As the Mayor of the City of Pico Rivera in 2013, our city experience tremendous growth in economic development, recreation facilities, and public safety. Economic Development and Public Safety go hand in hand to experience growth. Without these two subjects working together it is very difficult for a city to grow. As the city grows, opportunities, such as jobs are created especially for students attending El Rancho High School.

Winning with 46% of the vote was a good indicator of our community validating my work and commitment to the city of Pico Rivera. I will continue working with my colleagues on the city council to make sure we do not deviate from this tremendous progress to create additional opportunities for you."



Dr. Aurora Villon, elected to the board of education says, "As a public servant I am blessed and honored to serve a group that I have taught, advocated for, and counseled for 35 years...the students. They were my motivating factor in seeking a seat in the El Rancho School Board. I have dedicated my entire life to the education of children and young adults and will continue doing this as a newly elected School Board member. I am a firm believer that the resources in a school district should be focused on student learning; in making sure that students receive the highest quality of education and are prepared and successful in seeking a future of their choice."



Ms. Rachael Canchola, elected to the board of education says, "As a graduate of El Rancho High School ('77), I am proud to be on the board of education! As a board member I can ensure that you are represented and have the best! We have a great staff assigned at the high school, now the board of education is working on improving the school site with updated buildings, technology, and resources.

My re-election to El Rancho Unified School District Board of Education will impact all students in the district, specifically as to the 14- to 18-year-olds, because I was part of the former Board of Education who voted to hire Mr. Martin Galindo as Superintendent. Mr. Galindo has a lot of experience in working with school districts similar to El Rancho High School. He was raised in Pico Rivera and continues to visit his family who lives amongst is. Mr. Galindo was in a unique position to fill the position of Principal at El Rancho and he hired Ms. Jessica Kwek as the new principal. In the short time that Mr. Galindo and Ms. Kwek were hired, they have led significant change in the district and at the high school with the personnel movement, curriculum assessment, and implantation of best practices that will support the student body at the high school. Updates to the school site are desperately needed and you will see new things occurring regularly. With these leaders, positive change at El Rancho High School is inevitable.

Being in a position to hire your leaders is very important to you, it is the difference between stagnation and growth and the speed to which these changes occur. It is the difference between having a great education or not. It is the difference between being treated fairly and professionally, or not."



Mr. David W. Armenta, elected to the city council says, "My re-election to the City Council ensures that the progress that we have made will continue to move forward. The decisions we make today will create the future city where the El Rancho High School students will thrive in our wonderful community. Also, I am dedicated in providing a bright and safe future for all our residents and businesses."



Mr. Jose Lara, elected to the board of education says, "My election will impact El Rancho students through the programs and classes offered at Salazar and El Rancho H.S. and I hope to bring a larger student and community voice to the school board, which means that the needs of students will be better met. There are exciting programs, college and career experiences I hope to bring to Salazar and El Rancho. We are also exploring the possibilities of starting a new STEM and Performing Arts high school in our district. Lastly, I am a teacher and work with high school students everyday and know the struggles that students go through while in high school.

Lastly, I believe if you are not having fun, you are not learning. I hope to bring School Board policies that make learning more fun and interesting."

CAMPUS

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CAMPUS

January creates a sense of unity at El Rancho



The Blue Crew at varsity basketball game supporting "The Ranch".



Foreign exchange students engaging with the Dons in a game of frisbee.



Diana Gamez, Ivan Chavez, and Leslie Chinchilla at a soccer game.



Krystal and Gabriella exploring campus.



Mitchi Carmona and Danielle Nuñez cheering on the Dons.



Academic Decathlon showing off their confidence and preparing to represent El Rancho.



Melody Carbajal practicing and preparing to make her team proud.



An ash cloud over the El Rancho campus during the Glendora Fire.



El Rancho Pepsters bringing some spirit to the varsity basketball game.

FEATURES

A quest for tolerance and equality

BY ODALYS CHAVEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's Gay Straight Alliance, often referred as GSA, is a club that does not exclusively promote any type of sexual preference, but is devoted to creating equality amongst students. Club president, junior Cheyenne Figueroa, assures that there is no specific profile for a student to be able to join, and that anyone is welcomed.

While the club participates in fund raisers, plans new group activities, and takes field trips, it also deals with serious topics such as prejudice. That is why the club recently visited the Museum of Tolerance, located in the city of Los Angeles, on Friday January 10th.

The Museum of Tolerance is a Holocaust memorial designed to examine racism and prejudice around the world. A moment that stood out to Figueroa and Vice President, Bryan Vargas, was walking up to two doors, one green and the other red. The red was supposed to symbolize prejudice and the green door acceptance, but they later realized that



Photo Credit: Senior, Selina Sargento, GSA club members display their unity.

both doors led to the same room.

"Everyone is prejudiced in their own way and have their own stereotypes of people," says Figueroa. The purpose of the field trip was to learn how there are people all over the world who are discriminated due to race, sexual orientation, culture, and religious affiliations.

Things such as gay marriage are indeed discussed during club meetings. Anyone is welcomed to share their "coming out of the closet" stories due to the club's safe environment, where there is no teasing or criticism. The club's mission is to create a sense of unity and make everyone feel accepted.

"We allow everyone to participate, we want everyone's input, and we are opened to new ideas," says Vargas. T-shirts for GSA will be on sale. For more information speak to Mrs. Segal in room L6. The club invites anyone to join in on the action; meetings are held every Friday During lunch in room L6.

Ochoa overcomes all obstacles

BY CLAUDIA GONZALEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Let's face it; most of us can barely manage to pat the top of our heads while rubbing our stomachs in a circular motion. Anyone can get overwhelmed by the challenge of juggling multiple tasks at the same time, but senior Monica Ochoa shows that it is possible to do so.

Ochoa has managed to maintain a 4.34 GPA while being involved in soccer, Decathlon and AP courses. "It all comes down to time management and perseverance," Ochoa says, "I've always liked challenging myself so being involved in multiple activities presented itself as an opportunity to enhance my time management skills."

Having a hectic schedule requires a planned out schedule, one that has proven to be effective for Ochoa. She starts her day off by waking up at 5:30 AM and going to Academic Decathlon morning practice at seven; after school she attends soccer practice or a game from about 3:15 PM to 5:30 PM, then she heads off back to Decathlon for an hour, goes back home around 6:30 PM and after completing her homework, she finishes her day at around 11:30 PM. "At the beginning of the year when I saw what my schedule would look like with Decathlon, soccer, and AP courses, I decided to keep an organizer to manage my time wisely."

When Ochoa first started high school she knew that she would be involved in rigorous AP courses and a couple of sports, but being in Academic Decathlon came as a surprise to



Ochoa manages her heavy agenda while maintaining a 4.00 GPA.

her. "It was never something I pictured myself in, but it's definitely an experience that I have no regrets about," she says.

Mrs. Palomares, History, Sociology teacher, and Academic Decathlon Adviser, was thrilled when Ochoa joined the Academic Decathlon in the later process. "She is awesome-sauce. We are so grateful she was willing and eager to join the Academic Decathlon tradition," she says, "My favorite thing about Monica is her spunky passion paired with her refined scholarly charm."

Ochoa has definitely taken advantage of the opportunity to enroll in AP courses. Having previously taken seven AP tests, this year she's enrolled in AP

English Literature, AP Statistics, and AP Government. "My favorite this year is probably AP Statistics because I thoroughly enjoy the convivial environment."

Ochoa's scholarly prowess has influenced her actions in the soccer field. "She's learned [soccer] and knows the game like someone who's been doing it a very long time," Ricardo Coria, head coach, says, "only few can actually learn the game and see about adjustments, situations and what needs to be done to win a game and Monica has that knowledge."

As a senior, Ochoa has taken her time in figuring out what college or university she would like to attend next fall. In

total, she applied to four Universities in California and sixteen private colleges, all which have yet to give her a response. Ochoa plans on majoring in either Aerospace or Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Physics. Her top choice of school is USC, but she is willing to attend a university that accepts her and offers her the most financial aid.

When Ochoa is not too busy paving a bright future for herself, she spends her free time at Smith Park volunteering in the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) as a referee and coach. She also enjoys having a small hobby of painting her nails with elaborate designs, as well as keeping a normal social life of a teenager in high school and going out with friends.

With the multiple activities that Ochoa is involved in, she has not wasted a single second of her high school experience. "I most definitely recommend for students to juggle multiple activities if they can because each only adds positive factors to the entire high school experience," she says, "it is all worth it at the end when you look back and see how much you've accomplished and grown as a person and student."

As Ochoa prepares herself for graduation and all of the bright years that will come after that, she leaves a small piece of advice for underclassmen, "I would just like to tell underclassmen to really make the most of their remaining years at the Ranch, because they really do fly," she says, "If a normal student like me can handle a variety of different activities, then I strongly believe any other student is capable of doing so too."

Leonardi balances teaching and coaching



BY DAVID HUGHES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Marcelo Leonardi has been teaching AP Environmental Science (APES) in B204 for six years, but he has a longer history with the school.

Dr. Leonardi grew up in La Verne and went to Webb High School, a boarding school. While in school, Leonardi participated in water polo, wrestling, swimming, and football.

When he completed High School, Dr. Leonardi went to Whittier College, where he double majored in Biology and Spanish. In 2011, Dr. Leonardi earned his doctorate degree in educational leadership at Azusa Pacific University.

During his sophomore year in college, Dr. Leonardi studied abroad in Spain, where he worked as a bartender and DJ at an underground bar. "Whittier College provided me the foundation of who I am today," says Leonardi, "I was able to learn how to be a student-athlete at the collegiate level."

When Leonardi graduated college in 1999, he applied for a substitute position as a long-term substitute. Within that same year, Leonardi was offered a job to teach at El Rancho.

As a full time teacher, Dr. Leonardi taught Biology, Health, Earth Science, and APES. While teaching at El Rancho, Leonardi coached the boys and girl's water polo and swimming with Mr. Francisco for five years.

When Dr. Leonardi is not teaching, he coaches at Cal State Northridge for the Women's National Youth Team for U.S.A. He also travels around the U.S as the National Technical Director, where he makes sure that water polo is taught properly and identifies and develops talent for the U.S. Water Polo Women's Pipeline. "As the Youth Head Coach, I coach elite athletes that are part of our national team pipeline and as the National Technical Director for Team USA, I teach and mentor coaches throughout the country," says Leonardi.

Although Dr. Leonardi enjoys coaching, teaching APES has been a great experience for him. "I provide them with a better understanding of what we are doing to our planet and how we can change our daily habits to improve the quality of life for our future generations," says Leonardi.

Dr. Leonardi is proud of the phenomenal growth that his class has had. "The class has grown from one period of twenty students to three periods of 100 students," he says, "Not everyone knows about it, but once they do, I think students would enjoy it!"

FEATURES

Coming together to spread the word of God

BY MARISOL ALMAZAN
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Many El Rancho students have chosen to share a very special connection with none other than the greatest being himself, God. These students come together every Tuesday and Thursday of the week to spend time with other students who also share this special connection.

Pastor Paul Brandt, Dons for Christ advisor, hopes to see the word of God's good nature spread through this club. "We really want people to know that the God of creation is good in nature and cares deeply for each one of us," says Brandt.

He also believes that God is kind-hearted and only wants what is best for his children. "God is really smart, and he is willing to share his smartness with us. Wanting to get to know what he thinks about things is the foundation to a really cool relationship with him," says Brandt.

He also believes that this club will have a positive impact on everyone's life. "I love to see young people realize that



El Rancho High School's Club, The Dons for Christ, become united as one for God.

they can have an effect on others in a positive way that can change them forever. This club is about them," Brandt adds.

Brandt hopes to see many things accomplished through Dons for Christ. "We want to make a fun, positive environment for young people to have the opportunity to come and find out more about how cool God is and how much he wants to be part of their lives," says Brandt.

Junior Raquel Saldana

is one of the many El Rancho students that has joined Dons for Christ and gotten closer to God. "Dons for Christ has definitely kept me on track and has helped me become closer to God," says Saldana.

Saldana is extremely encouraging of other students joining Dons for Christ. "Of course I encourage people to join Dons for Christ! I would really like others to get to know God and have a good relation-

ship with him," says Saldana.

Brandt believes that having a good connection with God is not necessarily about religion. "Having a good relationship with God is not about religion, it's about having a real and genuine relationship with the God who created you," says Brandt.

Brandt believes that being in Dons for Christ not only helps students get closer to God, but also helps them stay positive and be in a better mood.

"[God] is real, and He's always in a good mood, which puts students in a good mood during our club meetings," says Brandt.

During these club meetings Brandt and the El Rancho students also talk about struggles that teenagers face on a daily basis. "We like to find out what God says about issues facing teenagers today, and how young people can apply that truth to their lives on a daily basis," says Brandt.

Although Dons for Christ is an organization based on God and his teachings, Brandt and the members of the club encourage all students to participate, even students who are not as religious. "Even if you're not sure about the 'God stuff,' we always enjoy meeting new guests and finding out how we can help them smile that day," says Brandt.

He also promises to make new members feel very welcome. "We promise we will [be] very nice," says Brandt.

If anybody is interested in checking out Dons for Christ, the club meets every Tuesday and Thursday in room B-104 during lunch.



Library Corner



Teen Read Week at ERHS is February 24th-28th, 2014. This celebration of reading is brought to you by the ER Library. Why read? Because, as the historian Barbara Tuchman said, "Books Are Humanity In Print." How will you know that it's Teen Read Week?

- You will pay attention to the announcements, the Don Page, El Rodeo, twitter, and the signs all over campus.
- You will notice school staff wearing their READ shirts.
- Your class might come to the Get Lit Poetry Performances.
- You might participate in a reading-related contest and win a prize
- Your class may get lucky and have an administrator or counselor come and read to you.
- You are fortunate enough to be in a freshman English class that is using Accelerated Reader and you receive a reading achievement prize and maybe even have a class pizza party.
- Your class is attending an author visit.
- You decide to get a free READ tattoo in the quad at lunch on Tuesday, Feb.25th.
- You will rush over to Literary Lunchbag Theater in the Little Theater at lunch on Wednesday, Feb.26th.
- You will come to the Book Fair in the library on Thursday and Friday, Feb.27-28 7:30am-3:30pm. Open all day. Students, cash only, please.

romantic novels that are located at ERHS Library

- ♥ The Fault In Our Stars by John Green
- ♥ Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte
- ♥ Allegiant by Veronica Roth
- ♥ Just One Year by Gayle Forman
- ♥ The Moon and More by Sarah Dessen
- ♥ The Alchemy of Forever by Avery Williams
- ♥ Wild Cards by Simone Elkeles
- ♥ Sloppy Firsts by Megan McCafferty
- ♥ He's So Not Worth It by Kieran Scott
- ♥ Two Boys Kissing by David Levithan
- ♥ Forever by Judy Blume
- ♥ Belle Epoque by Elizabeth Ross
- ♥ Water For Elephants by Sara Gruen
- ♥ How To Love by Katie Cotugno
- ♥ If He Had Been With Me by Laura Nowlin
- ♥ Things I Know About Love by Kate Le Vann
- ♥ The Summer Prince by Alaya Dawn Johnson
- ♥ I Heart You, You Haunt Me by Lisa Schroeder
- ♥ The Stories of Eva Luna by Isabelle Allende
- ♥ Rage: A Love Story by Julie Anne Peters



- ♥ Love In The Time Of Global Warming by Francesca Lia Block
- ♥ The God of Small Things by Arundhati Roy
- ♥ Between The Lines by Jodi Picoult
- ♥ Girl Meets Boy by Kelly Milner Halls
- ♥ Like Water For Chocolate by Laura Esquivel
- ♥ Still Star-Crossed by Melinda Taub
- ♥ The Lucky One by Nicholas Sparks
- ♥ The Sweet Revenge of Celia Door by Karen Finneyfrock
- ♥ Criminal by Terra Elan McVoy
- ♥ OCD Love Story by Corrie Ann Haydu
- ♥ Vampire Academy series by Richelle Mead
- ♥ Fallen series by Lauren Kate
- ♥ The Time Traveler's Wife by Audrey Niffenegger
- ♥ Life: An Exploded Diagram by Mal Peet
- ♥ This Is What Happy Looks Like by Jennifer E. Smith
- ♥ You Against Me by Jenny Downham
- ♥ Immortals series by Alyson Noel
- ♥ Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier
- ♥ Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
- ♥ The Summer I Turned Pretty by Jenny Han
- ♥ The Duff by Kodi Keplinger



SPORTS

Boys' soccer team aims to have lightning strike twice



Alex Roldan sprints towards the goal while maneuvering around several Bell Gardens' players with hopes of scoring a goal.

BY EVELYN GARCIA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The boys' varsity soccer team headed into this new season with high expectations. After winning CIF and State last year, this year's varsity soccer team has big cleats to fill in hopes to defend its regional state throne. They began league with a 2-1-2 record

and hope to improve it as they face Whittier today at 3:15 pm.

The Dons are confident that they will have another run at the regional state title by using their season games as motivation. Many believe that after losing many seniors, the team has lost inspiration, but that is certainly not the case for the Dons.

The soccer players have

worked hard this preseason and are mentally prepared to face any obstacle coming their way. Captain Alex Roldan says, "Yes we had a rough start but in time we will learn to play as a team. Right now we have too many young players who haven't felt the pressure we felt last year."

The varsity team continues to stay positive attitudes through

the upcoming season. Senior Aldair Flores says, "we take it game by game, we play as a team, league is on our mind, now hopefully things fall into place."

The Dons will be looking for their third win in league and second win to Whittier High as they face them today. They will be playing at 3:15 pm at Whittier High School.

High hopes for the girls' soccer team

BY ANGELICA GAMEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The girls' soccer team is having a season like no other. The team won the Bellflower "Best of the West" tournament and now has a record of 13-2-1 after winning against La Serna for the first time in years.

The Dons ended the first round of league against the defending Del Rio League champions, the La Serna Lancers. They knew that it was going to be a tough game but they put up a fight. "We didn't have many chances, but we were able to capitalize on the best shot we had," says senior Leslie Chinchilla.

Senior Stephanie Galvan scored the Dons' goal against the Lancers from an assist by senior Angelica Gamez. The Dons' freshman keeper, Kristen Calderon, also had a numerous number of saves to keep the Lancers scoreless.

The Dons won two games prior to facing La Serna. They defeated the Santa Fe Chiefs and Pioneer Titans both by one goal. "We won those games but I feel like we have to finish more of our opportunities," says junior



Leslie Chinchilla dribbles the ball around a La Serna team member.

Danielle Nunez. They hope to put away more shots the next time that they meet these teams.

The toughest game for the Dons has been against the California Condors. "We knew that it was going to be a tough game and luck just wasn't on our side that game," says Chinchilla. The Dons lost to the Condors 2-1.

Before facing the Condors, the Dons began league against Whittier where they earned their first tie. The Cardinals scored the first goal within the last ten minutes of regular play but the Dons responded with their own goal. "I think we dropped our game and played

to their level," says Chinchilla.

The Dons hope to improve on finishing their shots during the second round of league. "We have so many opportunities and I feel like the pressure gets to us and we just overthink it," says Nunez. The Dons had 25 goals in their preseason and only managed to score 4 goals in league.

Before league started, the Dons brought home a first place plaque from the "Best of the West" tournament. "I think that was the best soccer we have played," says Chinchilla, "I just hope we step it up and play at that level during league." The Dons went undefeated that tournament and shut

out every team that they played.

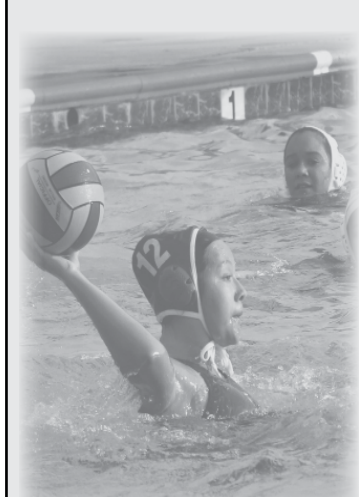
The Dons' only loss during their preseason was to Montebello, a couple of weeks after the Dons defeated them 1-0 in the "Best of the West" tournament. "I think injuries and fatigue played a big part against us that game, but we just have to step it up and not let that be the reason for a loss," says Nunez.

This year seems to be a turn around from their other seasons. "I think everyone improved compared to last year and we have better team chemistry, which really helps," says Nunez.

Because of their good preseason record, the Dons were confident going into league. "I really think that we can win league," says Chinchilla, "we just can't expect it to be handed to us." The Dons have a 2-1-1 record and are standing in 3rd place in league. If they want to win league, they will have to go undefeated until the end.

The Dons will begin the second round of league today at home against the Cardinals. They tied to the Cardinals the first time that they met. They hope to have a big crowd supporting them at the varsity soccer field today at 3:15 pm.

Training paying off for Girl's WaterPolo



Girls water polo serving the ball.

BY BREANNA PEREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With only two league games left, the girls water polo team continues to compete with a record of two wins and one loss.

So far the Dons have defeated the Whittier Cardinals and the Santa Fe Chiefs with ease. The team ended the match against Whittier High School with a score of 16-9. The next match-up was against Santa Fe High School, which the Dons won with a total of 20-13.

One of the possible reasons as to why the Dons have been winning their matches is because of the training that they did before league began. On top of the hours the girls put in during practice, before and after school, they also competed in the Junior Olympics. The event was held in Irvine where the team earned second place in the Bronze Classic Divisions.

However, once the team went against their rivals, the La Serna Lancers, the Dons did not play with as much confidence as they lost 19-7. "The only thing really stopping us is our mentality and [lack of] confidence," says Junior Co-Captain Melody Carbajal adding, "it was a tough loss, but I'm proud of my team for finishing strong."

Despite the minor setback, the girls' team Coach, Megan Carbajal, is still "excited and ready to go," but still believes the team "can still achieve as well as grow."

This should not be a problem considering the amount of time the team spends together "We have a new bond this year, and each time we play we become closer," says Junior Co-Captain Sierra Edwards.

The team's next home game will be against Millikan High School on February 14th at 3:15pm.

SPORTS

Girls' Basketball is determined to win league

JAZMIN HERNANDEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With pre-season not off to a good start like the girls' Varsity Basketball had hoped for, the team wishes to win their first game of the season. In their favor, they won with a score of 46-32 against Whittier. However, their second game of the season against Cal High was not as satisfactory as their first game; they lost 57-55.

So far they have won four games out of five they have played. Although the girls have lost one game, they are not worried for the rest of the season.

Junior, Ashley Miller, was not happy with the way the team played during pre-season. She said, "[preseason] did not go as we planned; we expected to do better. We weren't beating the teams that we were supposed to be beating."

Even though the girls give their best effort, there is still room for improvement. Senior, Anabelle Martinez said, "We do need better communication." The team has practiced so hard and they want it to pay off.

Martinez concluded that they must keep their head in the game. She said, "We also need to be focused and accomplish what



Sarah Gurrola attempts to make a jump shot and score for her team.

we've been working hard for."

Senior, Sonia Gonzalez, also sees a few ways the team can improve during their games. She said, "We need to work on our defense and finishing on offense and work on making free throws and lay-ups." Junior, Sarah Gurrola, added, "Also we need to start our game off strong."

Every year the teams' goal is to end the season as champi-

ons. Miller says, "We hope to win league and make it to the first round in CIF." "However would like to win first place, back to back league champs!" adds, Sonia.

Gurrola feels strong about her team and wants to do everything possible to keep the team determined. She says, "I may not be a main aspect on this team, but I will do what I can for this team to make it successful."

The girls want to show off what they can do this season. Martinez says, "I'm tired of us playing like this; we need to start kicking butt."

The girls think that among all the schools, they feel Santa Fe is going to be their biggest competition. However, they are already preparing to show that they can do it and that they will come out of this season as champions.

The boys' basketball team hopes to improve their record



Andrew Briseño dribbles the ball and hopes to make a shot.

BY KIMBERLY LOPEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Varsity Boys Basketball team beat the La Serna Lancers on Wednesday making their current league record 2-3. The Dons placed first in their first tournament and made it to the championship of their second tournament, causing them to believe that they were well prepared to have a good season.

Senior captain, Dimitric Lozano, said, "We have to have confidence going into the game." With confidence and preparedness, the basketball team believed that Whittier wouldn't have been a problem to defeat. Unfortunately the Dons ended up losing with a score of 69-47.

Many players believed that Pioneer would have been their biggest challenge, which proved to be and the outcome was a disappointing loss.

The team is striving to win league and possibly go into CIF. Senior captain, Mathew Casing, says, "[We want to] win league [and] bring it home." With this mentality, it looked like El Rancho's basketball team was off to a good start.

League and even the possibility of going to CIF looks like a rocky road for the boys in blue this year. With only two wins the players are going to have to play with more confidence and practice more to reach their goal of making it to CIF.

Come out and support the Dons tonight at 7:00 pm as the team takes on the Cardinals at Whittier High School. The Dons hope to come out with a win and improve their current league record.

The wrestling team hits the mat



Dons wrestling team-mate attempts to end the match against his opponent with a takedown during their match against the Santa Fe Chiefs.

BY JULIUS ARIAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The wrestling season has finally begun at the Ranch and yet while this may be the beginning of the school's annual league competitions for this sport, any returners to the team will tell you that the season never really ends.

The El Rancho Wrestling Team, like most other wrestling programs, don't call it quits at the end of league and CIF competitions. Instead, these dedicated gladiators train through the off season and attend many U.S.A. wrestling tournaments to prepare for the spring meets.

"We went running and lifted everyday, we had wrestling practices throughout the whole summer and winter breaks, for about four hours a day," said Jesse Romero, a returning varsity wrestler.

All returning wrestlers agree that preparing for the spring takes priority over everything else. All year round the team becomes a family on the mat, always pushing each other to excel and get stronger.

Head Coach May said, "We have some good coaches in here who know their stuff, and they've been a huge part of our program." These other coaches

consist of Tirrell Wynn, who dedicates his spring to coaching the wrestling team, and James Silva who has trained and coached with the team for years.

After all the preparation the team had put in, it was more than a little disappointing to lose their first meet against Santa Fe. However, after a strong week of training they managed to destroy Pioneer with a score of 65-9.

In their third meet against La Serna, El Rancho came away with a close win of 36-30.

The Wrestling team captains, Milton Mier and Jose Andrade have been working hard, along with the coaches, to

train the new-comers and keep the team healthy and strong.

According to Coach May, the upcoming meet against Cal High will determine whether the El Rancho Wrestling Team ties as the League Champions. If they lose, they are still guaranteed the third place trophy.

However, regardless of the trophies, Coach May hopes to "get wrestlers as much experience as they can, especially in CIF. Hopefully it will pay off for them now and the year to come."

Make sure to come support the wrestling team at their next match on February 4 at Whittier High School.

FUN ZONE

January Horoscopes

Sol's Dating Advice



BY SOL MENDEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Dating is a fun thing to do during high school because it allows us to discover who we are and what we like and don't like. At times, we discover new things that we didn't know about ourselves. This is general dating advice that may be useful for some who are still wondering what to do or how to do it.

1. Avoid the guy who presses the handicap button instead of opening the door for you.
2. When in a relationship, make sure to communicate because communication will make unclear situations better. Remember, Facebook will only remind you of his/her

birthday, not his/her LIFE!

3. Don't dedicate songs to the person you are dating right away. You may regret listening to that song for the rest of your life.
4. If someone isn't interested in you, don't get hurt and don't bother the person; let it be. Rejection is never pleasant, but soon you'll find someone who is interested in who you are.
5. If you want to date someone, make sure to withdraw enough money from the bank.
6. Don't focus too much on being in a relationship. School should be your priority. Remember, being educated can help you avoid getting into bad relationships that are not healthy.



BY SOL MENDEZ AND JULIA ORTIZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

Aries: 2014 will be a great year for you, believe it or not. Don't be upset if it's not happening so fast. It will take time, but it'll be worth it. Everything should fall into place in February.

Taurus: You are going to love this year. It's a year full of affection, positivity, and opportunities. Consider yourself lucky. This year is about: family, studies, trips, and your daily life.

Gemini: Make new friends for this year! You will enjoy your year with the friendly vibes of the people you bring into your life. Patience is something you want to have; don't rush anything. Be clear with what you want before you do it.

Cancer: You're not going to "LOVE" 2014 in the beginning, but you will learn to love it. Be positive and don't get lost in your negative thoughts. It'll take time, but you will find moments when you feel this year is the best.

Leo: This year is giving

you a brand new opportunity to take a breath of fresh air and start new. Try to plan ahead more often to avoid conflicts and stress.

Virgo: Maintain a good work ethic and strive for the best because hard work truly pays off. Keep moving forward and push yourself to your fullest potential because your results will be pleasing. Don't stop and keep fighting on.

Libra: This year is introducing itself to you with positive energy. Keep good vibes among yourself and feed off of them. Try to complete a deed of generosity and spread the kindness.

Scorpio: Find another person who can influence you in a positive way. Help each other become more successful and be each other's support system because two is always better than one.

Sagittarius: This an excellent month during which you will have excellent relationships coming your way. You will realize that by opening up and asking

people for advice, plenty of people will be happy to be there for you. This month of January is literally the beginning of a new era for you and a bright year is ahead of you.

Capricorn: You may be feeling very determined about a decision or opinion that has been in your life for a while now. You have come to a conclusion after a great amount of thinking, and you probably feel certain that you're right.

Aquarius: You may have a lot of stress right now. You may have a lot to worry about as well. While your usual way of dealing with certain things isn't working, you should not stress about it. This is a great time to plan your future, and forget about those things that are stressing you out.

Pisces: If you're trying to convince someone of your point of view, the best way to get them to really hear you out is to really listen to them. If you want to make a point, try to understand as well what the other person is thinking and feeling.

Question Quest!

The first 4 people to demonstrate their Blue Pride by finding the answers to the questions below may report to Mr. Zeko in X-1 for their prizes!



1. WHAT IS MR. FRANCIS' FAVORITE MOVIE?
2. WHAT IS MR. ELLIOT'S FAVORITE SPORT TO WATCH?
3. HOW MANY TIMES HAS OUR FOOTBALL TEAM WON A NATIONAL TITLE?
4. WHAT IS THE NAME OF MR. PARRA'S BAND?
5. WHAT COLLEGE DID MRS. SENTENO ATTEND?
6. WHO TEACHES THE CLASS "HISTORY OF ROCK?"
7. WHAT IS MR. WLASICK'S FAVORITE PLAY?
8. WHAT IS MRS. PALOMARES' MAIDEN NAME?
