



# EL RODEO



El Rancho High School - Volume 62- Issue 6  
www.erusd.k12.ca.us/elrancho

## New deadline for AP payments

By CLAUDIA GONZALEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This year there has been a major change regarding the AP deadline. Unlike last year, when AP students had from September to March to pay for their exams, this year the deadline to register for AP testing, including deposits and final payments, is today, February 28<sup>th</sup>. Payments can be made at the Activities Office.

The payment system that El Rancho was previously using wasn't working because, although the students were given six months to pay, the majority of the students were turning in their final payments and deposits late. As a result, the school was getting fined for the late payments. In order to avoid any fines, the ERUSD district adopted the payment system that every other nearby district uses.

There are teachers, such as AP Spanish teacher, Mrs. Lugo, who are assigning their students to pay for their exam earlier than the deadline. "I told my students to pay for their exams before February 14<sup>th</sup> as a Valentine's Day present so that they can get their payments out of the way."

All AP deposits and payments must be paid at the cashier's office, and fee waivers must be turned in to Secretary Susanne Perea at the College and Career Center.

Students who receive free or reduced lunch are eligible for a fee waiver and will only have to pay fifteen dollars per exam. Those who do not qualify for a fee waiver will have to pay eighty-nine dollars per exam.

In order to apply for a fee waiver, students will need a copy of their 2013-2014 lunch letter. If students need a copy of their letter they can contact Food Services at (562) 801-5257.

Fee waiver instructions and applications are only available online from February 11<sup>th</sup> to February 28<sup>th</sup> under the College and Career Center tab on the Don Page. <http://www.erusd.k12.ca.us/elrancho/ccc/default.aspx>

Another important deadline for seniors is the FAFSA deadline. The deadline to submit your FAFSA is this Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. It is important that you submit your FAFSA on time so that you can get financial aid when you attend college.

Today, February 28<sup>th</sup>, is also the last day for seniors to turn in their Cal Grant GPA verification form to the College and career center.

So Dons, don't forget to make your AP Exam payments and be sure to stop by the College and Career Center if you have any further questions.

## May the force be with thou

By LAURA CASTRO-SPENCER  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the El Rancho Thespian Society and Advanced Drama made history by putting on the first ever staged performance of *Shakespearean Star Wars*. The play featured senior Joey Salinas who played Darth Vader, junior Brenda Brito who played Princess Leia, and sophomore Daniel Barragan who played Luke Skywalker.

The process of putting on this play differed from Mr. Wlasick's previous plays because this year's production was put together within a three week time period. "The play was chosen in September, but in October I had my back surgery, and was out for 3 months," said Wlasick.

The production was put on hold for an extended period. "There was a time period where they didn't work on the play, but when I came back I pushed it, and we were able to put it on in three weeks," explained Wlasick. The entire play is based off one of the first stories in the Star Wars trilogy. The play stays true to the movie, except for the dialogue that is spoken in Shakespearean English.

Learning the lines to *Shakespearean Star Wars* was different than what the El Rancho Thespian Society members were used to. "Shakespearean English is different because I can say, 'Oh my god I hate you,' whereas Shakespeare says that, but four lines longer," said Brito.

"There were challenges with learning the lines [in iambic pentameter] but as we progressed with the play, we actually started realizing and understand-



El Rancho's Thespian Society and Advanced Drama have some fun before the curtains rise.

ing what we were saying," added Salinas. Sophomore Daniel Barragan made his acting debut by playing Luke Skywalker. "This is my very first play and having to learn it in Shakespearean language was difficult. I learned my lines by reading it over and all in all I'm satisfied with my performance," said Barragan.

The costumes for this year's production of *Shakespearean Star Wars* carry a deeper meaning than to what others may believe. The Thespian Society used another Shakespearean trait by layering the costumes. "My costume is composed of various layers because in Shakespearean times, they decided to use layers on different characters. The more layers a character has, the more of a story the character has," said Salinas, "[Darth Vader]

has more layers on because he's trying to hold down his past."

"[My costume] was actually made for me. My mom's friend made it, and I knew from the beginning I had to be Princess Leia, and I had to have her dress made just for me," said Brito. Junior Brianna Olivares was a bit hesitant about the idea of Shakespearean Star Wars for this year's play, but after watching the production her opinion on the play is anything but negative. "I really enjoyed it. My favorite part was the fighting scenes. With the intensity of it, and the way they were shouting in Shakespearean language was really cool. I would recommend it for anyone who was into old English and space," said Olivares.

With only three weeks of work on the production, Salinas, Brito, and Barragan viewed the

production as a success. "I really love Star Wars and being able to be a part of this production is just a dream come true," said Brito.

Daniel Barragan then added, "I'd like to thank Mr. Wlasick and advanced drama for giving me the opportunity to take on such a big role for my first play and I just love it."

No other school has performed Shakespearean Star Wars, and with being the first, Mr. Wlasick says, "I'm grateful to all my advanced drama students for their dedication, their hard work, and their love [on this production]."

The next production that they are preparing for is *Goodtime Charley*. They are going to have auditions at 3:30pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, depending on what role you are auditioning for.

## Decathlon studies for Sacramento



Senior decathletes relax after their banquet.

By LINDSAY PHILLIPS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho Academic Decathlon varsity team placed 11th in the county competition out of fifty-five schools. The team received the news at the LA County Academic Decathlon banquet at the Quiet Cannon in Montebello on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

Although they did not place in the top five, the team has been chosen amongst other schools to advance to state as "wild card" participants. "We all gave it our best... I'm very

proud of all of the decathletes," said Jesse Sanchez, who is in his second year of being on the team.

The success of the team has been due to the hard work from the students and from the help of many teachers. The teachers included are Mr. Wlasick, Mr. Francis, Mrs. Flores, Mrs. Lam, Mrs. Zeko, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Elias, Mrs. Brown, and Mrs. Palomares. They have all aided the team in certain subjects to prepare them for competition. "They took categories that maybe they weren't so confident in and did very well," said Mrs. Palomares, the head coach

of the Academic Decathlon team.

The varsity team was not the only success; Academic Decathlon's first Junior Varsity team placed 4th in County. "I'm really happy that the team is able to do that," said Emily James, a member of the Junior Varsity team.

Jesse Sanchez received a medal for being the highest scoring decathlete, a silver for History, Art, and Speech, and a bronze for Interview. Monica Ochoa received a silver for Speech, Andreas Moghimi received a gold for Interview and Speech, Mary Garcia received a bronze for Interview, Jacob Rodriguez received a gold for Science and a silver for Interview, Daniel Bautista received a bronze for Essay and Language and Literature, and Lindsay Phillips received a gold for Speech and a bronze for Interview.

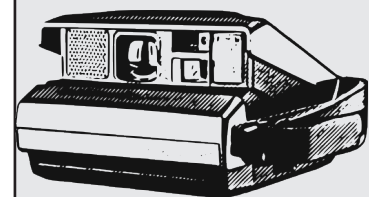
The Decathlon team is looking forward to the State Competition that will be held in Sacramento on March 20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>. They hope to bring home more medals.

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# COLLEGE



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Generation 1st Degree Pico Rivera is an ambitious new program with one goal: to have at least one child in every Pico Rivera home earn a college degree.

## WORD ON THE STREET

What are some of your anxieties or concerns about going off to college?



Due to the fact that I will be attending CSUEB, my concerns of going to college are getting a long with people and being away from my family.  
-Johanna Cano



Failing my classes and trying to find a place to live when I move to college.  
-Steve Figueroa



Attending a school up north will be difficult because I won't see my family as often, but I'm excited to start a new chapter in my life.  
-Jennifer Soto



I'm worried about transfer credits because I don't want to transfer from a community college to a Cal-State.  
-David Mares

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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.

# OUR COMMUNITY

## El Rancho Unified faces decreasing enrollment

BY RUBI MACIAS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Some simple research online will tell you that there are less students now in the El Rancho Unified School District than in the past. This problem, which was thought to be a trend caused by a decreasing influx of people into Pico Rivera, seems to be a result of students deciding to drop out or find a different school.

Mr. Elias, Economics teacher at El Rancho, had data assembled by members of the Entrepreneur Club because he suspected a drop in enrollment caused the decrease. His students found the city population, the population of school-age children, and the population of students in the school district from 2003 to 2012. Other interesting categories were also explored in the data collected by the club.

The school board, who had thought the decrease in enrollment was normal, was surprised to find that it seems potential students are finding alternatives to enrolling in the ERUSD. From 2003 to 2012, the number of resident students

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
			2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1												
2												
3	City Population		64,757	64,869	64,635	64,128	63,680	63,323	63,095	62,942	63,053	63,168
4												
5	Population Between 5-18 yrs.(20%)		12,985	12,974	12,927	12,826	12,736	12,665	12,619	12,588	12,706	12,634
6												
7	District Student Enrollment		12,166	12,026	11,757	11,495	11,243	11,014	10,576	10,381	9,953	9,652
8												
9	Resident Students not Enrolled in District		819	948	1,170	1,331	1,493	1,651	2,043	2,207	2,753	2,982
10												
11	Factors for Consideration											
12												
13	No. of Teachers in District		566	546	540	515	513	481	476	444	426	406
14	Students to Teacher		21	22	22	22	22	23	22	23	23	24
15	% Truant		no data	19	15	15	34	22	22	21	15	no data
16	API		650	663	687	707	711	722	728	745	753	773
17	English learners		4089	3926	3841	3660	3503	3385	3228	3187	2491	2240
18												
19												
20												
21												

not enrolled in the district rose from 819 to 2,982. The decrease in students caused the district to need fewer teachers, so the number of teachers in the district fell from 566 in 2003 to 406 in 2012.

In this nine-year time gap, four of the district's schools have closed and all but one have had decreases in enrollment. While the enrollment in Rivera Elementary School has increased by 24%, enrollment in Burk

Middle School has decreased by 29% and other schools are experiencing similar trends.

The fluctuations in data reveal positive and negative changes in the schools over time. The truancy rate for the district has decreased from 33.55% in 2006 to 14.59% in 2010, but the amount of suspensions in that time has increased from 996 to 1,350.

To help the district find out why students are not enroll-

ing into ERUSD, Elias has created a survey to be administered to a proper sample size of El Rancho students. He wants to collect data for the school board where the students say directly why their peers avoid the district. Although the results are not conclusive yet, there seems to be a trend where students avoid El Rancho High School because it has a reputation of being "ghetto" or lacking in funds

and positive attention.

Blue Pride is in danger and it is up to students and the district to increase the appeal of ERUSD and ERHS. Dons, prove the skeptics wrong and make our school proud by becoming an active member of the school and embracing better behaviors and enthusiasm to learn.

### Fit for a New Year



BY ANALYE ARENAS  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Everyone has a new year's resolution, whether it be to help him/herself or others. The beginning of a New Year marks the possible beginning of a new you. Different people have different resolutions, but the most common one that seems to "take the cake" is to be healthier or change everyday lifestyle to become more fit.

Fitness and health have been the main concern for most Americans, and with the New Year came a new chance to get fit. One of the most well-known fitness centers and gyms is L.A. Fitness; it is during the beginning of the New Year that L.A. Fitness experiences a dramatic increase in memberships, an increase of about 45% in their members alone.

But are these new members as eager to continue with their memberships and workouts throughout the year as when they first signed up? Studies show that about 24% of those new members fail to continue with their new year's resolution and soon after cancel their membership. Overlooking the decrease

of members, L.A. Fitness is still a great fitness center that provides great services and up-to-date, standard equipment. It is proud of its dedication. According to the L.A. Fitness website, "L.A. Fitness has steadily increased its presence by focusing on the one lifelong benefit valued by everyone: good health."

Founded in Southern California in 1984, L.A. Fitness continues to look for innovative ways to enhance the physical and emotional health of their members.

L.A. Fitness understands the needs of its members and will accommodate to those needs with a wide range of amenities and a highly trained staff. It provides fun and diverse ways to give anyone a great workout.

L.A. Fitness has no concerns about the decrease in memberships throughout the year. "The fitness industry is still growing, but at about 2-3%, where we were once virtually doubling the number of clubs annually," says L.A. Fitness Chairman Fred Turok.

It seems as if their confidence speaks for itself. L.A. Fitness will continue to generate members and happy customers.

### The renovation of Smith Park benefits Pico Rivera

BY JENNIFER DELGADO  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The new and improved parks of Pico Rivera opened their doors to the public early this year. During reconstruction the people of Pico Rivera anticipated the grand opening of these parks. Among them was Smith Park.

With its Olympic sized pool, Baseball/Softball fields, and safe play grounds, Smith Park is the go-to place for Sunday BBQ's, morning walks, and different sports activities through the week.

After reconstruction, sports fields embed Smith Park. Along with sport fields, playgrounds have been renewed and created a large space for

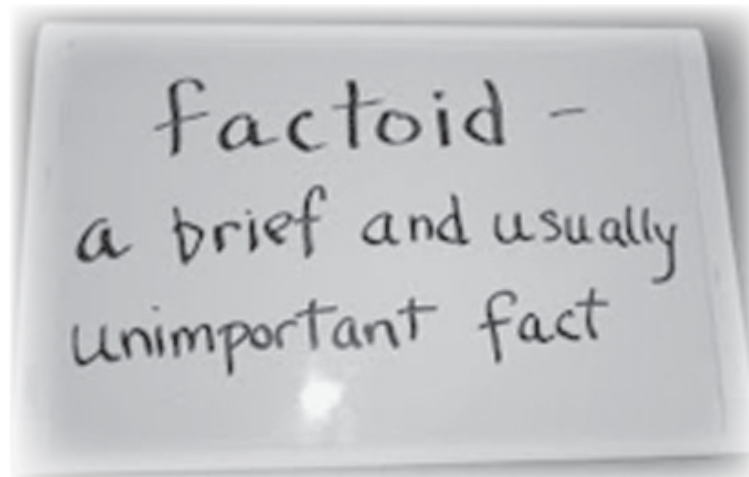


children to play. These playgrounds have increased their size, but maintain a safe locale.

All sports fields and playgrounds in the park have encouraged Pico Rivera citizens to con-

tribute to more physical activities. Smith Park provides an open space for children, pets, and adults to gather and participate in games and sports reassuring a healthier future for upcoming generations.

### Pico and Rivera: combined to create one city



#### What was then inspiration for the names Pico and Rivera?

According to the Los Angeles County Library the names for the original communities of Pico and Rivera were inspired, respectively, by a prominent early settler in one and the geographical qualities of the other.

In 1845 Pio Pico became governor of California, the last Mexican governor before the state entered the Union in 1850.

Pio Pico was the original landowner of the town of Pico. Rivera, the northernmost of

the two communities, was named due to its location between the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel rivers.

After World War Two the demand for housing increased. This caused the fertile land to go into use for house building. Young families filled the land thus making the communities of Pico and Rivera closer.

According to the Pico Rivera website, Pico Rivera was once very agricultural; oranges, avocados, and walnuts were amongst the goods planted. The communities Pico and Rivera were united in 1858 after getting 56% of electoral approval.

According to the United States Census Bureau of 2012, Pico Rivera now has a population of 63,522 people. Pico Rivera has made great advances in the appearance of its parks and libraries. It has grown as a city and community as a whole.

# IN-DEPTH

## Sorenson admits to cycling obsession



Sorenson proudly shows off his new disk wheel built for speed.

EL RODEO STAFF WRITER  
ODALYS CHAVEZ

Music, dining, and cycling are all things AP English and Creative Writing Instructor, James Sorenson, enjoys, but nothing gets his adrenaline going like one of his life passions, cycling.

"I can't really remember a

time when I didn't have a bike," says Sorenson. Like most kids, he can still remember his training wheels phase. But as time progressed and the training wheels came off, he became ready for his first ten-speed bike. He acquired this bicycle at the age of thirteen and it became helpful years later to commute while at-

tending the University of Colorado Boulder. A car was a luxury he simply could not afford.

Sorenson lived in a dormitory and rode to school; it was an efficient and easy method of transportation. The snow of Boulder Colorado, however, did prove to be problematic at times.

Today, Sorenson cycles on a regular basis and even takes part in competitions. On weekdays, he brings his pick-up truck, filled with his cycling equipment, to El Rancho. Once the school day is over, he gears up and is ready to go by 3:30 p.m.

Sorenson heads over to the San Gabriel River Trail towards the beach or North towards West Covina and Arcadia. He rides approximately thirty to forty miles and is back on campus by 5:30 p.m.

He does not commute to work because from his home to El Rancho is too short of a distance to ride, so he would rather wait till the work day is done to relieve stress on the trail.

On weekends, he rides at approximately 8:30 a.m. and covers a distance of about forty miles. Most of the time, he rides on bike paths but sometimes rides on the streets of Orange

County, Pasadena, and Arcadia.

Sorenson takes part in Time Trials and likes to participate in ten to fifteen races per year, most of which take place in San Diego, Fillmore, Temecula, Santiago Canyon, and other nearby cities.

Yearly, he spends about seven hundred dollars on just racing. He spends three hundred dollars on registrations, seventy dollars on a license, and three hundred dollars on gas to get to the locations of the races.

"You can go through money pretty quickly in the sport of cycling," says Sorenson, "I spend way too much on my biking equipment." He tries to keep it inexpensive. His last bike frame and fork cost one hundred and twenty-nine dollars, which he considers to be low in cost.

He most often rides a fixed gear time trial bike, and is also the owner of a road bike, mountain bike, and multiple others, for a grand total of six bicycles.

Sorenson says cycling is "No more dangerous than any other sport you can get involved in." He considers running, or even skateboarding to be probably as equally dangerous. He says, "Just being in the world-like driving or

going on an airplane-there is a certain amount of danger involved."

Sorenson partakes in cycling for enjoyment, but is also conscious of the health benefits that come along with it. Cycling can improve cardiovascular fitness, increase stamina, decrease body fat levels, and even increase posture. He also does it for camaraderie. Sorenson has many cyclist friends, so this is a way they can spend some time together and socialize.

Some teachers on campus who have joined Sorenson on his rides have been Mr. Francis, Mr. Crone, and Mr. White.

For many years now, Sorenson has wanted to participate in the State Two Man Team Time Trial. This event involves two participants who ride on two separate bicycles on a course, but are riding as a team, and their times are recorded together. He has been on the search for a dedicated partner who is willing to invest in a time trial bike, pay for a seventy dollar license, and is prepared to put in multiple hours of training. If anyone is up for the challenge, be sure to stop by and strategize with Soren-

## Trading in four wheels for two

EL RODEO STAFF WRITER  
ELIZABETH JACOME

El Rancho's diverse community is filled with different kinds of students with multiple methods of transportation that include walking, driving, and cycling.

Cycling allows one to get to a destination in half the time of walking and allows the rider to experience the fresh morning air. Cycling also allows one to clear the mind and get a good exercise all in one. Riding a bike burns calories, sheds body fat, and improves health overall.

Cycling is great for the environment because no gasoline is needed to power the machine. Pollution is not emitted through cycling like it is for a car, which is another reason riding a bike is



Dons' bikes are kept safe in the bike racks by the B-building.

beneficial. Bike riding is an intelligent economical decision since money is saved on gas and there is no need to save up for a car.

The downside to riding a bike is the danger that comes

along with it; bicycle accidents account for about 2% of all traffic fatalities. Most cyclists say they have either been hit by a car or almost have. Ivan Chavez, Junior, says that the dangers of rid-

ing a bike depend on how fast the person is going. As long as precaution is taken, the risks of being hit by a car can be reduced.

For Junior Emmanuel Espinoza it is a fun way to get to school in the morning but it also poses to be a challenge, especially when it is raining, since the roads become slippery. Juan Carlos Sanchez, also a junior, says he rides his bike because "It's a good way to exercise and experience what nature has to offer." Ivan Chavez adds that riding a bike is "a great way to get to school because you exercise during the day."

Right now, the most popular bikes are BMX bikes because students are looking for speed in their ride. BMX bikes offer speed to the rider while still allowing them to enjoy the ride.

### Cycling Tips

- 1) Wear an appropriate helmet that will protect your head while still looking stylish.
- 2) Watch out for cars.
- 3) Avoid wearing headphones while riding.
- 4) Carry a cellphone with you in case of emergencies.
- 5) Carry a spare tube.
- 6) Don't wear sandals! Wear the correct shoes.

## WORD ON THE STREET

### Why do you choose to cycle to school?



"It saves gas, it is good for the environment, and it is fun."  
-Anthony Guzman 9th



"I ride my bike because I don't like to be late to school."  
-Glen Garcia 10th



"Because my parents are too lazy to drive me to school."  
-Bryan Gutierrez 10th



"I do it because my mom works at night and rests in the day; it is my way of transportation."  
-Lucy Fernandez 11th



"I ride my bike to school because it gets me here faster than the bus and I don't have to waste money on it."  
-Emmanuel Espinoza 11th

## CAMPUS

## El Rancho esta con Univision

BY NAZARELY NARVAEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho took part in Univision's "Lideres Del Futuro" segment earlier this month. The segment known as "Leaders of the Future" is produced to showcase schools' resources and extracurricular activities along with their school pride.

About one hundred fifty students arrived at El Rancho's gymnasium before 5 AM on February 7th in order to form part of the live broadcast. Despite how early it was, those who attended did a great job by being interviewed on live TV, holding up posters, clapping, and dancing along as the El Rancho band played. Students and teachers cheered along side the Pepsters. "I am so impressed by this school because you guys had the energy up the whole time," said Cecilia Bográn, Univision Channel 34 reporter.

Bográn interviewed many students who take part in extracurricular activities such as the Academic Decathlon Team, Teen Court, AVID, Band, Thespians, and most of the school's sports programs. Those who were interviewed were given the opportunity to show not only their Blue Pride, but also their Hispanic pride. Ms. Kwek showed El Rancho's versatility when she spoke some words on the school's behalf, "I am very proud [of El Rancho] because the students...are very proud of their community."

Bográn was very impressed after interviewing the students. "I just love that there are so many



Cecilia Bográn, Univision Channel 34 reporter, enjoyed spending her morning with El Rancho's administration and students.

different options. For example, people that like drama have an avenue to explore their talent. The people who love sports have 23 sports to explore," said Bográn.

When Ms. Larios heard of the opportunity to have Univision visit El Rancho, she did not hesitate to take action. Larios contacted Univision 34's headquarters and agreed on the date and time the broadcast was to be set. "I brought it up to the other

administrators and we agreed that we would love for Univision to be here to showcase our students" said Larios. Ms. Kwek and Ms. Larios went as far as buying breakfast for the students and teachers who attended.

The fact that Pico Rivera is mainly populated by Hispanics also took part in Univision's decision to visit. Bográn explained that Univision chooses schools located in areas where

they know the parents are watching. Parents in Pico Rivera show their support not only for their children but for the community as a whole. "This is how we congratulate them for doing a great job with our kids," said Bográn.

Larios believes that "Leaders of the Future" walk through the halls of "The Ranch." She also claimed that the solid foundation set at El Rancho will be what students use to succeed

in the future. "They told us that our students are great. That we have amazing students which is something we already knew," said Larios. El Rancho left a very good impression on Univision and on all of those watching. Bográn was very optimistic at the end of the broadcast and said that El Rancho's students bring hope to youth, "...something is right about this school. So I congratulate El Rancho High School."

## El Rancho musicians jam with CSULA band

BY RUBI MACIAS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Five of El Rancho's band members, Seniors Karla Boche and Veronica Aguilar, Junior Andre Moran, and Sophomores Carmen Ramos and Stefanie Magana, were chosen to become a part of this year's California State University First Chair Honor Band, which gave them a chance to improve their skills and perform for their friends and family. The event took place throughout the weekend of February 7th and included more than one hundred fifty students from high schools across the state.

Veronica Aguilar, a participant in the CSULA Honor Band for El Rancho, said, "Being a part of the Cal State LA Honor Band was such a great experience because I got to meet many new people from twenty other high schools and we were able to perform an amazing concert together." Aguilar said she also enjoyed the students' performance, where she saw her friends and family in the audience.

El Rancho Senior Drum Major Ilse Medina said, "It is an amazing privilege to be able to participate in the CSULA Honor Band." The benefits, according to Medina, are that "one



The five talented band members prepare for their performance.

gets the chance to work with the director and other professionals who help better one's techniques. Also, one has the chance to meet other young musicians."

The students had the benefit of meeting adults who instructed and inspired them. Karla Boche, another participant, said the trumpet instructor, Mr. Ford, was "so cool: talented, yet humble," and the director, Dr. Moss, "was an amazing person who brought and led the band together very well."

Although the students did have a concert performed for them by the CSULA band, being part of the event required hard work from them as well. Boche says, "We were given the music and expected to learn it and prepare it by the first practice. We would

practice for most of the day and take a small break in between."

Students in the Honor Band benefited from the experience because they were able to interact with other students and share their passions with each other. Boche says this brought the group closer and helped them work together "like a well-oiled machine." Medina says, "It is great to see them all progress so quickly. They are an amazing group of people and I am honored to continue working with them."

El Rancho's Honor Band participants represented our school very well because they were able to learn the music provided and make their families proud at the Honor Band's final performance.

## APES and AP Biology apply their knowledge in the field

BY DAVID HUGHES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Many school classes don't take field trips to places where they learn, but some AP classes like Environmental Science and Biology are going beyond the classroom to educate their students. On February 14th the students of Mr. Leonard's Environmental science class went to Whittier Narrows and the municipal waste facility to learn how water is cleaned and reused to help benefit the environment.

Leonardi has been taking his class to the water facility for over four years. "I think they get a chance to see what they are learning in the class and see how it is applied in the field," said Leonard. At Whittier Narrows the students also participated in a nature walk and saw the San Gabriel Valley River. Junior Daniel Espitia said, "I really enjoyed learning beyond the classroom and actually see how water is cleaned in-

stead of reading it in a textbook."

AP Bio went to the Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific to learn about marine life. Mrs. Katsumura has been going to the Aquarium of the Pacific for nine years. "AP students do a lab so it is required for their curriculum," said Katsumura. Sophomore Andres Lemus said, "It was a different experience, we actually did an experiment and we learned what scientist do behind the scenes."

Mrs. Katsurma says that she takes her students to the Aquarium because, "They offer us the chance to do labs, and I haven't really found another place that lets us work in a real lab." The field trip also gives students the option to discover possible careers. "There are many job opportunities for college grads in the field of Environmental Science," said Leonard. The information that the students learn on the field trip will last them a lifetime.



# ON THE SCENE

## This chapter of Teen Read Week comes to an end

BY SOL MENDEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's Teen Read Week began with a visit from young-adult author and former El Rancho teacher Carrie Arcos. Arcos ran a writer's workshop for 400 students in our gym.

English teachers Charissa Zeko, Dawn Lam, Stan Wlasick, Christina Mata, Jazmin Chavez-Diaz, and librarian Jean Chodos teamed up and hosted literary circles every Friday to discuss the novel *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green.

During the literary circles teachers and students analyzed characters. The literary circles consisted of five to six students in grades 9-12. It was a unique way to form groups because it allowed for all voices to be heard and it also gave students the opportunity to share different ideas and thoughts about the novel.

The lit circles also helped prepare students for Arcos' visit.

Students thought of questions to ask Arcos when she visited.

During Arcos' visit, she gave the groups writing assignments. She talked a lot about how she gets inspired to create characters. She prefers making characters first rather than making a plot first. She had students come up and recite their pieces of writing. Arcos said the students were, "very warm, very welcoming, very generous." Students were also very excited about having Arcos visit and teach skills of writing.

In all, the literary circles and the visit from Carrie Arcos were a great experience for all of our students and future writers at El Rancho. Arcos is a perfect example of how dreams do come true for a writer as long as they read and write their hearts out.

On April 15th, Arcos will be releasing her second novel *There Will Come a Time*, a story about a boy living in Eagle Rock who lost his twin sister in a car crash.



Mrs. Lam and Mrs. Zeko pose with Carry Arcos during her visit to El Rancho High School.



Students gathered together in the gym to listen to poetry performances.



The Get Lit crew having fun after performing their poems.



One of the Friday mornings when students came together in their literary circles.



Teens discuss *The Fault in our Stars* during their literary circles.



Emily James, Karla Boche, Meline Talaveras, and Norbert Rodriguez during the Get Lit performance.



Directory to fictional places.



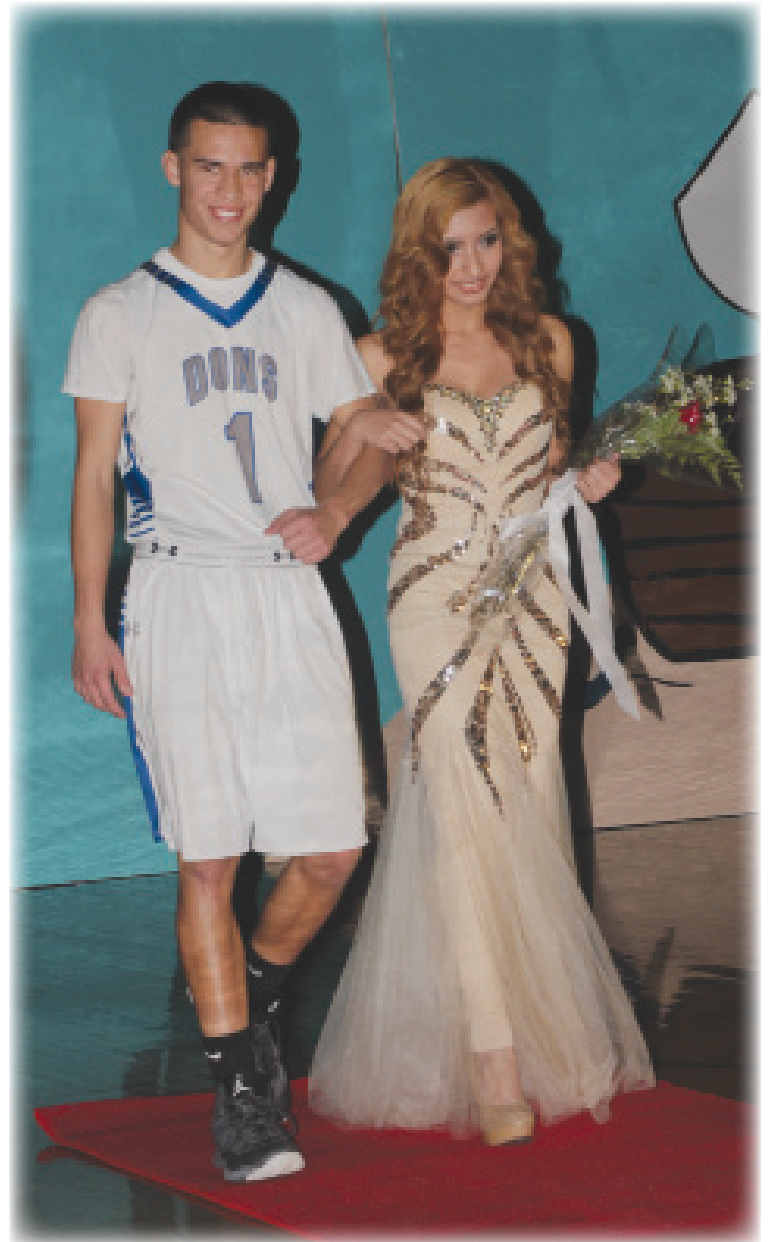
Daniel Martinez reciting his own original poem.

# ON THE SCENE

## El Rancho students creating memorable moments



Juniors, Kelly Nguyen and Alondra Alvarez, lend a helping hand to the community by planting trees.



Winterbelle King Dimitric Lozano escorts princess Kathy Garcia.



AP Environmental boys enjoy their day learning outside the classroom on a field trip to Whittier Narrows.



Marissa Fuentes happily receives the Winterbelle crown.



AP Environmental girls visiting the waste water treatment plant at Whittier Narrows.



Proud Dons supporting their Winterbelle King Dimitric Lozano at the Winterbelle basketball game.

## FEATURES

## Chessmasters plan to put their rivals on check



Chessmasters happily joined in room B-106 mastering the game of chess.

BY DAVID HUGHES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Chess is a game between two people that requires intense focus and strategic planning. El Rancho's Chessmasters club has mastered the game and is preparing for the Del Rio League tournament. To prepare for the tournament, students eagerly go into B-106 almost everyday at lunch and are taught strategies by Mr. Saucedo.

"Chess is good because you can play it forever, unlike sports like football. The kids really enjoy the game and I get satisfaction from teaching kids how to play,"

said Saucedo. Saucedo learned to play chess in middle school with his cousins. He mostly played for fun. In 1992 Mr. Saucedo taught at Paramount High School and took the chess club there to tournaments in 1993 and 1994. Then Saucedo took Glenn High School to tournaments in 1997 and 1998. After coming to El Rancho, Saucedo formed Chessmasters in 2000, and he has taken them to state championships, National Championships, and many different leagues.

The students who are in Chessmasters have meetings and practice their chess skills on Wednesdays. Saucedo also

welcomes new members, "Anybody that is interested or wants to learn how to play chess is welcome to join," said Saucedo.

The majority of the Chessmasters are seniors, including Adrien Perez who has been with Chessmasters for two years. "I thought as it being interesting and was a good learning experience," said Perez. Perez learned how to play chess by playing online games and learning from mistakes. Like most of the members of Chessmasters, Perez is a part of the football team since Mr. Saucedo coaches Junior varsity and varsity Football. "I'd like to think that I break the ste-

reotype that jocks don't use their brains, where in chess they have to constantly use their brains."

Another Chessmaster member is Jalen Medina, who has been with Chessmasters since the beginning of his senior year. Even though Jalen has only been with Chessmasters for a short while, he learned how to play chess when he was seven. To improve his chess skills he started going to a chess club in Santa Monica where he advanced his skills, which allowed him to be one of the best chess players on the team.

El Rancho will be hosting the Del Rio League tournament this year on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 P.M.

## Karmin hits the road for Pulses Tour

BY CLAUDIA GONZALEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

From uploading covers of hits by other artists on YouTube to launching their first headline tour titled Pulses Tour, American pop duo Karmin shows that hard work and dedication, along with being musically versatile, are what it takes to launch a successful music career.

Back in early 2011, the engaged pop duo Nick Noonan and Amy Heidemann amazed millions of YouTube viewers with their cover of Chris Brown's "Look at Me Now" which showcased Nick's wicked piano playing skills and Amy's mean speed-rap technique. Since then, they've released their dance-pop hits "Acapella" and "Brokenhearted" from their EP "Hello." They've also performed on Ellen and Saturday Night Live, opened up for the Jonas Brothers Live Tour, and have signed a contract with Epic Records. Despite their full album not being for sale yet, the band kicked off their Pulses Tour on January 29<sup>th</sup> at the Baltimore Soundstage with Bryce Vine, a pop/rap artist, as their opening act.

On February 20<sup>th</sup>, Karmin rocked the House of Blues Sunset Strip in West Hollywood as they came to a near close in their Pulses Tour. Their opening act, Bryce Vine, set the mood for the evening with his smooth flowing, pop and rap style accompanied by DJ Ryan Richards. The audience reacted positively as they danced



Karmin puts on a great show for their loyal fans.

along to his crowd-pleasing set.

After about a thirty-minute intermission, Karmin hit the stage dressed in similar green attire and with their band all in white. They opened up with their new single "I Want It All" and continued to perform fourteen more songs filled with energy and passion. Amy could not contain herself from swaying, dancing, and flirting with the audience as she delivered her impressive rapping and singing abilities. Their new songs allowed Nick to show off his impressive vocal chords, and he was also able to showcase his impressive slide trombone and keyboard skills.

For two performances, Karmin blended their own songs with hit songs by other artists, which the audience seemed to love as they jumped in and sang along with them. They flawlessly combined their song "Acapella" with Rihanna's "Umbrella" and "Fish in the Sea" with Macklemore's "Thrift Shop." The whole night was filled with an electric vibe, but near the end of their set, Amy warned the audience that their next song "Neon Lights" was a bit melancholic, and along with Nick, they performed a heartbreakingly beautiful ballad.

Halfway through the show, Amy pulled out an auto-tuned

microphone that made her sound like a man and gave a "public announcement" as Nick played a sad melody on the keyboard. After stating that she didn't really have anything to say, Amy announced that their EP "Hello" is available to download; she just liked the sound of her voice with the auto-tuned microphone.

Their last two songs, "Puppet" and "Hate to Love You," showed a more rock 'n' roll side to them as the songs were louder and more guitar filled than their previous songs. The crowd felt the tone as they continually head banded and danced along.

Karmin thanked the crowd as they tricked the audience into thinking that the show was over by leaving the stage. After hearing the crowd loudly chanting for an encore, the duo and their band came out to perform two last songs. When Amy requested for an audience member's help for the first song, the crowd went crazy as they all jumped and screamed for her to pick them. Amy went on to pick a lucky member from the crowd, student/actor Deon Summerville, and asked him to help her sing the song that started their career, Chris Brown's "Look at Me Now." To end the night on a perfect note, the duo performed their hit song "Brokenhearted" which had the crowd moving and singing loudly.

Karmin's full-length album comes out on March 25<sup>th</sup>, but for the mean time you can buy or download their EP titled "Hello."

ASB Helps  
Teens in Need

TEENS FOR  
**JEANS**  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE

AÉROPOSTALE P.S.

JOIN.  
COLLECT.  
DONATE.

TeensForJeans.com  
#TeensForJeans

BY VALERIA HURTADO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This is the first year El Rancho participated in the Teens for Jeans Drive. The organization that founded the drive is "Do Something." Do Something is an organization for teens who are enthusiastic in helping people. This drive began six years ago because approximately 1 in 3 people who are homeless are teenagers, and they are in need of jeans.

Do Something partners with Aéropostale and high schools across the nation every year to collect as many jeans as possible. For each pair of jeans someone donates, the donor will receive a twenty five percent off coupon for a pair of jeans purchased at Aéropostale.

ASB first heard about this drive through Senior Evelyn Burgos. "I heard about the Teens for Jeans drive at Aéropostale because I work there and I also saw it on the Do Something website," said Burgos.

Burgos has made it her duty to have El Rancho donate many jeans in order to help teenagers who are in need of clothing. "We take our jeans for granted and we have clothes for everyday use and some people don't even have clothes for one day," said Burgos. "We should donate as many jeans as possible," added Burgos.

Many El Rancho students went out of their way to donate jeans in order to help this worthy cause. Junior Desiree Salmeron, drive participant, said, "I first found out about the Drive through ASB and I had a lot of jeans at my house that my family and I didn't use anymore, and I figured I might as well put them to good use."

Not only do drive participants donate their old jeans because they feel it's the right thing to do, but they also feel great doing it. "I love helping out others. I feel great about myself when I help people who I know need my help, especially people my age," said Salmeron.

The total jean count that El Rancho students collected was one hundred and forty eight. The drive was a success this year and it's a great possibility for El Rancho to participate in it again next year.



# FEATURES

**MRS NELSON'S book FAIR**  
in the ERHS Library

**Thursday, Feb. 27**  
**7:30 - 4:00 pm**

**Friday, Feb 28**  
**7:30 - 3:30 pm**

**OPEN ALL DAY**

**Children's, Teen, and Adult Books**

**The library will get a percentage of all sales.**

## El Rancho clubs join hands to plant trees



Alondra Alvarez lends a helping hand.

BY MARISOL ALMAZAN  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This year El Rancho High School participated in the plantation of trees across the city of Pico Rivera. Students from all over campus came together to accomplish one goal: plant as many trees as possible in the community.

Both Avid and Key Club joined forces in order to plant trees. The purpose of the plantation of trees is to reduce carbon dioxide emission into the air because they harm the environment.

Junior Alondra Alvarez, Avid and Key Club member, greatly enjoyed the tree planting experience. "The tree planting experience was nice and different," said Alvarez. "It felt good to do something out of my comfort zone," added Alvarez.

Junior Julius Armendariz was unfortunately unable to attend the planting of trees event. "I didn't participate in the tree planting, but I think it's great that we'll have more trees making oxygen, making it easier for everyone to breathe."

Junior Alejandra Limon believes that helping around in the community is a very selfless act to do and she strongly encourages it. "I am very proud of myself for doing this," Limon said. "It was very worth it," Limon added.

Alvarez also believes that you should always help around in the community because it is important. "I participated in the tree plantation because it's always good to lend a 'helping hand,'" said Alvarez. "You get a great feeling from helping others," added Alvarez.

Senior Selina Sargento is also a strong believer of helping around in the community. "It is important to give back to the community because the community has given all of us so much, like a place to live and proper schooling," Sargento said.

Alvarez felt very satisfied after helping out around the community and hopes to do it again next year. "I had a lot of fun with my friends, and I would definitely do it again next year," said Alvarez.

## WORD ON THE STREET

Who do you hope will win an Oscar this year? Why?



"I think Leonardo DiCaprio should win best actor because he is a great actor."  
-Britney Rios, 10<sup>th</sup> grade



"Sandra Bullock should win best actress because Gravity was a really great movie."  
-Daniel Bautista, 11<sup>th</sup> grade



"The song Happy from Despicable Me 2 should win because it's a really joyful song to dance to!"  
-Emily Peyton, 12<sup>th</sup> grade



"I don't watch the Oscars, so I honestly couldn't care less about who wins."  
-Mr. Steve Francis

## SPORTS

## Back to back titles for girls' basketball

BY JAZMIN HERNANDEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The girls varsity basketball team lost against Buena High School with a score of 57-42 on Saturday in the first round of CIF competition.

Prior to the CIF game, the girls beat La Serna High School with a score of 67-31. This win guaranteed a share of first place in League with Cal High School. The girls ended the season with a record of 8-2.

Placing first in league was very exciting since that was the girls goal since the beginning of the year. Randy Shigezane, the girls' basketball varsity coach, says, "Well that is always one of our goals each year, so it was nice to achieve that goal."

Even though the girls placed first, having to share the title wasn't very enjoyable. Shigezane says, "Well we are definitely not happy losing two games and having to share the league title with Cal High School." However, accomplishing a new goal is pleasant. Shigezane adds, "But we can take some satisfaction in being back to back league champions. That is the first time we have accomplished that in basketball."

The team got to where it is by their strong skills and work ethics. However, the team still has room for improvement. Shigezane says, "We can improve, by just becoming more consistent. We also haven't shot the ball very well either." Fur-



Junior Sarah Gurrola dribbles the ball away from a La Serna basketball player.

thermore, he adds, "Hopefully that changes during the game on Saturday. That is going to be important because we are not a very good defensive team."

Even though the girls acknowledge their weaknesses, they try to fix their faults in order to be successful. Senior Anabelle Martinez says, "We have our faults as a team but ultimately we bring it together to achieve success."

Indeed the basketball girls are a great team, but they have managed to play inconsistently. Shigezane says, "We played a little inconsistent this year. We have won our share of games but we have had chances to beat some of the better teams in CIF; unfortunately we just haven't been able to finish them off with a win."

One of the most challenging schools the girls played was against Buena High School. The

school has the most successful team in both wins and winning percentage in the history of California. The Buena High School girls basketball team also has two California State Titles and fourteen CIF Championship appearances.

Going into the game against Buena, Shigezane said that, "Playing Buena High School will be very tough. They are one of the most successful programs in the history of CIF. They have won multiple CIF titles and been to state championship games as well."

Shigezane believed that in order to excel in their first playoff game they needed to put their best skills on the court. He said, "We are going to have to play our best if we are going to come out on top Saturday."

Junior, Ashley Miller also knew that the team was going to

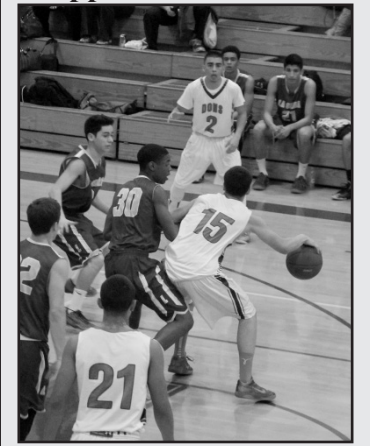
have to play with all their heart and strength in order to get past the first round. Miller knew that, "The first game of CIF [was going to] be difficult and definitely a big challenge, but [it was] not impossible to win."

Going into their playoff game, Shigezane said, "I do believe we have grown throughout the year and I think we are playing some of our best basketball right now." Unfortunately Buena came out stronger and took the victory.

Gurrola was not too happy about the outcome. "I feel upset because I knew that we should have done better in playoffs," says Gurrola.

Although CIF did not go as planned, the girls took on the challenge and played with the best of their ability. Now they have to look beyond this season and begin preparing for their next season.

## Boys' basketball team disappointed with results



Junior Daniel Garcia defends the ball from opposing team.

BY MICHAEL GARCIA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The boys' varsity Basketball team ended their season with a loss against La Serna with a score of (87-77) in double overtime. After nearly taking the lead in the first overtime, a fight broke out amongst the players. The game continued into a second overtime where La Serna took the final lead.

The team was pretty disappointed with the loss. They also suffered a previous loss against Pioneer with a score of (60-52). If they would have won against Pioneer and La Serna they could have moved onto CIF. Senior Captain Evan Zuniga said, "I think it hurt us real bad. That's a win that we should have got."

In the week leading up to the two final games of the season, the team was hopeful that they could have made it to CIF. Before their game against Pioneer, they lost against Santa Fe. With that loss, Santa Fe gained the upper hand over El Rancho in terms of placement. Zuniga blamed the team's loss on their decrease in intensity and loss of focus in the game. He said, "I think we crumbled at the end." Zuniga also said, "I think we put in too much work to be in this position."

Elliot believes the team's inconsistency in play has been the main problem. Elliot said, "[They've] been very good at times and very bad at times, it's just too inconsistent." Their final league record is 3 wins-7 losses, and their total season record is 14 wins-12 losses.

The team definitely put up a fight in their last two games, but it just didn't seem to work out for them. For the seniors on the team, it was a tough end for them, since the game against La Serna was likely be the last official basketball game they will play in.

Elliot really wanted to win the next two games so the team could have continued the streak of making it into CIF. He said, "We've qualified for playoffs the last three years, hopefully we can make it one more." Disappointingly, the streak ended.

California led the pack by taking first place in league, followed closely behind by Whittier. Santa Fe took third and Pioneer landed themselves in fourth. El Rancho ended up in fifth place followed by La Serna.

## Boys' soccer wins ninth straight league title

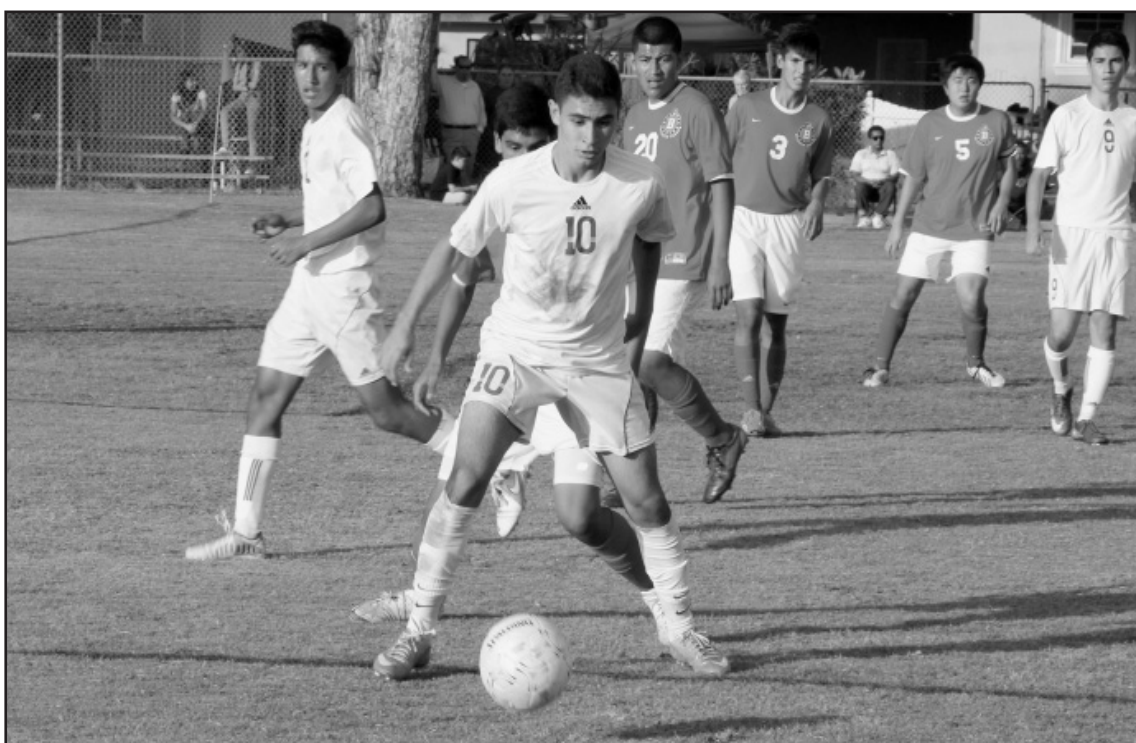
KIMBERLY LOPEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho boys Varsity Soccer team did it again by winning their 9th consecutive Del Rio League Championship game against La Serna with a score of (2-1), making their final league record (6-2-2).

The team believed that California High School and Pioneer were going to be their biggest challenge throughout league, but the outcome came to prove differently. By winning their first game against Pioneer (1-4) and losing to them the second time around, it mainly seemed that Cal High was their biggest challenge; they ended up losing the first game with a score of (4-3) and winning the second one due to Cal High forfeiting.

Coach Omar Lopez said, "We've been doing alright, everybody is competitive. Its not the strongest league but it also isn't the weakest league and if we want to win and be able to make it to CIF and win it again, the team needs to be determined."

Throughout league it looked like the Dons were not going to be able to keep their tittle of The Del Rio League Champions, but due to some unfortunate events with California High School and Pioneer High School



Alex Roldan sheilds the ball from the Beckman players.

the El Rancho Soccer team came out on top. Due to some of their players playing outside of school with other clubs, it cost Cal High to forfeit three games and Pioneer to forfeit one game

Going into the first round of CIF it looked like the team had a good chance of taking it all the way again. Captain Alex Roldan said, "This year is looking well. All that is left are the few pieces that are missing. One of the major things is that each and every

player must have the heart to win." Sadly their journey of becoming CIF champions ended in the first round by losing to Beckman High School (2-2) in double overtime and penalty kicks.

Before the game, the team was excited. Captain, Jose Portillo said, "I'm excited. Getting a win today will give us confidence for the next game, but we have to take it one game at a time. I think my teammates are ready even though they might be

nervous, they are ready to leave it all on the field. We've been in this situation already and people expect us to win. Our goal is to be in the CIF Championship once again. Win or go home."

The El Rancho Soccer team managed to tackle many obstacles this year, and even though they didn't get as far as they wanted to, they played their hearts out and they'll try again next year, hoping to be in the CIF championship and make El Rancho proud.

## SPORTS

## Girls' water polo team loses to Troy in CIF



The varsity water polo team celebrates their win against the California High Condors.

BY BREANNA PEREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This year's girl's water polo team ended league in second place with a league record of four wins and one loss. However, the Dons came close to falling into third place in league when the team played against the Cal High Condors.

During the last quarter of the game against the Condors, the Dons were down by four points but managed to score

in the last 27 seconds of the match and brought the game to a tie, which resulted in overtime.

When three minutes were added to the clock, the girls kept a strong defense which led the game go into overtime once more. It wasn't until the last two minutes of the match that the Dons scored twice and won the game 10-8.

Junior Co-Captain Melody Carbajal said, "Going into overtime was very scary, but the team pulled it off, and we had a great one

and I'm very proud of my girls."

The next step for the team was going to CIF and playing against Troy High School. Although the Troy Warriors were CIF Champions the previous year and is ranked 2nd in their division, it didn't keep the Dons from having a positive attitude.

Unfortunately, the Dons lost with a final score of 19-2. The girl's water polo coach Meghan Carbajal said, "[even though] the loss brings an end to us playing together I'm proud

of the girls for making it this far because getting the chance to play against a team like Troy is an accomplishment itself."

Although the team ended CIF with a loss, the Dons kept their pride. Junior Co-Captain Sierra Edwards said, "It was a tough loss, but the girls finished the game with everything they had, and that's all I could ask for."

Coach Carbajal says the end of season is bitter sweet, but she is looking forward to this year's swim season that begins in March.

## Wrestling season is left on the mat

BY JULIUS ARIAS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

At the close of their season the El Rancho Wrestling Team have earned a score of three wins and two losses. This is a decent score for a team made up of mostly new wrestlers. Even though the team performed well, head coach Casey May, has stated his unhappiness with not just the outcome, but with the lack of commitment from his team.

"I'm not happy with the commitment from a lot of the kids in the program. In this sport sacrifice is key and most kids don't know what it means to be committed. If we want to get to the next level we need to be at practice every day." Unfortunately, on the wrestling team there are only a few returning athletes from last season, and an even fewer new wrestlers who understand the sport and commitment involved.

However, the hardships and stress of the season that accumulated with League Finals paid off for some of the team members.

Determination and hard work led five of the varsity wrestlers who attended the Del Rio League Finals to place and receive medals.

Milton Mier at 220, and Jose Andrade at 182, both placed first in league finals. In second



Senior Milton Mier puts a half nelson against his opponent

place came Erik Rodarte at 197 pounds, and Alejandro Pimentel in the category of heavy weight.

Joe Gonzalez, a first year wrestler, also surprised Coach May with his progress, which was the most apparent when he placed 3rd in finals and, along with his teammates, earned a spot on the CIF wrestling roster.

With a week to prepare for CIF, those wrestlers with the support and help of their team members all trained twice as hard. "We're just going to relax, we've already made it to CIF...just kidding we're definitely going to work a hell of a

lot harder," said Milton Mier.

On February 21st Head and Assistant Coaches May, and Wynn chauffeured the competing varsity wrestlers to the two day CIF tournament in Santa Maria California.

On Saturday morning, wrestlers Milton Mier, Alejandro Pimentel, Joe Gonzalez, Jose Andrade, and Erik Rodarte each proceeded to weigh-ins and the competition.

After the first day of CIF, only one of El Rancho's wrestlers, Milton Mier, had made it through to the next stage.

On the second day, Sun-

day the 23rd, "The coaches were crying when they saw who Milton was [going] against. I'm not sure where they placed, but Wynn and May were just down", said Joe Gonzalez.

Although Milton Mier gave it his all, the end result of the match was the elimination of Mier, which brought an end to the teams' hopes of continuing into CIF.

With CIF competitions coming to a close and El Rancho's wrestling season over, post season practices will begin in March 3 and continue into the 2014-2015 season.

## Kristen Calderon exceeds expectations



Freshman Kristen Calderon hopes to go far with soccer.

BY ANGELICA GAMEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

How many freshmen do you know that are starting on their varsity sport team? Freshman Kristen Calderon is currently the Dons' girls' soccer team's goalkeeper and has protected their goal as she only allowed fourteen goals all season.

K. Calderon was the biggest addition to the girls' varsity soccer team this year. "As a freshmen it's an honor to be part of the varsity team and representing our school," says K. Calderon.

K. Calderon helped her team to earn their 15-4-4 record this season by allowing only fourteen goals. "Having only fourteen goals against me shows that my hard work, training, and dedication is paying off," says K. Calderon.

K. Calderon began playing soccer when she was seven years old. "My sister [senior Briana Calderon] inspired me [to become a keeper] as she tried out to be a keeper for the first time when she started playing soccer, and I just fell in love with the position," says K. Calderon.

Although there are still three more years until K. Calderon has to decide where she wants to attend, she already has her plan. "My plans for the future are to attend the University of Washington, play soccer there, graduate, and either be a physical therapist or a sports doctor," says K. Calderon. Part of the reason why she wants to attend the University of Washington is because it is where her role model, Hope Solo, attended.

K. Calderon looks up to Hope Solo because of her athletic abilities. "She began playing soccer as a forward and decided to become a keeper during college. She also made it to the national team," says K. Calderon. K. Calderon hopes to do big things like Hope Solo.

K. Calderon's other inspiration is her sister, Briana Calderon. "She has a lot planned for her future and I see her achieving what she's setting for," says K. Calderon, "also her dedication for the game is incredible, and she helps me get through my difficulties."

K. Calderon hopes to reach her goal to one day receive an athletic scholarship for the University of Washington. Until then, she will push to stand out

# FUN ZONE

## FEBRUARY HOROSCOPES

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

**Aries:** Although things may seem easy and friendly, don't assume that it'll always be easy. The challenges occurring in your life will make you a stronger person.

**Taurus:** The decisions you're making in your life are making you a better person. You are truly succeeding and showing people another side of you.

**Gemini:** Rejoice! Be happy! You have so many things to be grateful about. You have a lot of support from your family and friends. February is a wonderful month.

**Cancer:** This is not the easiest month for you, Cancer. Your problems are going to be tough but temporary. Be understanding and keep your cool.

**Leo:** This month is the perfect time to take risks, do things that are ranged out of your comfort zone. It is time to have a new experience and enjoy it. Don't be afraid to step out and open new doors.

**Virgo:** Temptation will be a big part of this month. Be aware of what you want to pursue. It will be a difficult decision, so choose wisely. Do not be easily influenced or bribed by your own thoughts or peers.



**Scorpio:** Lately you have been feeling frustrated, confused, or stressed. Take a moment to gather yourself and sort things out one

thing or situation at time. Not everything is as difficult as it seems. Keep moving forward because everything will be okay.

**Libra:** This month is full of awesomeness for you. You are headed towards a good direction with positive vibes and trends. You are

facing a time of good fortune, so take advantage and maintain those good vibes and carry them on.

**Sagittarius:** This month, you may be entering into a new opportunity with a negative attitude. You have seen it happen so many times. Some bright and hopeful chance may come along your way and you may pour your soul into it.

**Capricorn:** You have a plan or idea that you may not be able to adequately justify or express. Still, Capricorn, it is a really great plan or idea. Just because you can't properly convey its wonderfulness to other does not mean it isn't viable and it certainly doesn't mean you shouldn't pursue it.

**Aquarius:** A person or a group of people may come to you for guidance or ideas this month. You are often liked for your brilliant mind and your helpful spirit. People really like you. You are very complex and not always easy to understand, but don't put limits on yourself, Aquarius.

**Pisces:** You may be so preoccupied with a recent setback or conflict that you haven't looked around you to see that many wonderful things are going your way. You could be feeling so tripped up by a problem or an awkward situation that you are failing to see all the great stuff that surrounds you.

## HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE FACULTY?

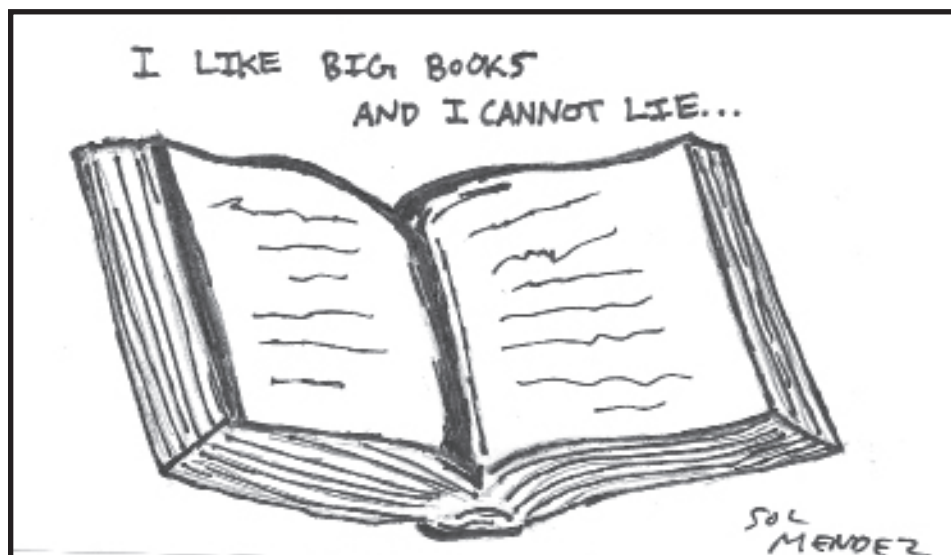
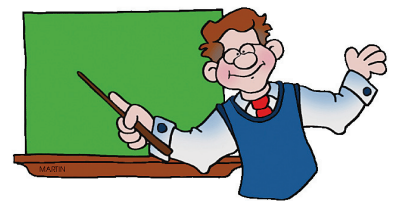
The first five people to demonstrate their Blue Pride by matching the teachers to the classes they teach may report to Mr. Zeko in X-1 for their prizes!



1. Mr. Alvarado
2. Mrs. Bauer
3. Mr. Collantes
4. Mr. De La Loza
5. Mr. Elias
6. Mr. Francis
7. Mrs. Garcia
8. Mr. Halverson
9. Mrs. Kiralla
10. Mr. Luna
11. Mrs. Melendrez
12. Mr. Pringle
13. Mr. Rojo
14. Mr. Sanchez
15. Mrs. Tejada
16. Mr. Wynn
17. Mrs. Villanueva
18. Mr. Zeko



- a. Calculus AB, Advanced Placement, Calculus BC, Advanced Placement
- b. ROP Culinary Arts, ROP Hospitality
- c. Art 1
- d. English 11 CP, English 12 Honors
- e. Digital Animation 1, Digital Animation 2
- f. Algebra 2
- g. Mexican American Heritage, U.S. History
- h. ROP Intro to Medical Careers, ROP Intro to First Responders
- i. Physical Education
- j. 9th Grade Algebra 1, Geometry
- k. Physical Education, Body Conditioning
- l. Digital Photography, Journalism
- m. Intro to World History
- n. Chemistry
- o. Economics, World History
- p. Marine Biology, Biology 9
- q. Physics, Physics Honors, General Science



### Pico Rivera Weather Forecast

Hey Dons, dig through your closet for those disgusting plastic ponchos, praise Tlaloc the god of rain, and gather the rarely-used family umbrella because it's gonna rain this weekend!

Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
64° 50°	66° 50°	68° 50°	66° 52°