



El Rodeo



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WASC returns six year accreditation



By JAMES CHOW
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) has finished their report on El Rancho High School and has granted the school accreditation until June 30, 2021. WASC concluded that the school would be entitled to a six-year accreditation with a two-day visit.

There are levels of accreditation a school may receive. The highest accreditation a school may receive is a six-year accreditation with a mid-year report. The next level is a six-year accreditation with a one-day visit. The final level of accreditation a school may receive before having no accreditation is a six-year accreditation with a two-day visit.

In the previous visit, the WASC team gave the school a three-year accreditation over a two-day period. However, since the visit, WASC has developed a new policy, replacing the three-year accreditation to a six-year accreditation. In other words, the shortest accreditation a school can receive is a six-year one with a one-day visit.

One of the members of the teachers' committee, Mrs. Qureshi shares similar sentiments to most of the teachers at El Rancho. "I'm thrilled because I thought the students and staff deserved a six-year accreditation. The staff and the students worked very hard to achieve this accomplishment," says Mrs. Qureshi. "I'm very pleased our students' diplomas will not be in jeopardy." Echoing the same feeling, Mr. Melgar says, "I was very pleased that a group of individuals can come into our campus and recognize all the great things that the students, the parents, and the teachers are doing on this campus. It's amazing that in three days they got a perfect picture of what El Rancho High School is."

Nevertheless, Mrs. Senteño-Tapia expressed a different opinion. So, this year for WASC we did a lot starting last year. I felt it was more of a collaborative effort this time around. However, it seemed like the results of the WASC accreditation did not match what the WASC team was saying about the school. While WASC was here, they gave us much praise for the things that we had done; they noticed that our students communicated really well, and it seemed like all the recommendations they did give was just to 'continue to work on' our progress. So when we got the news that we got a six-year recommendation with a two-day visit, I personally felt like we should have received the 6-year accreditation with a 1-day visit."

Generation First Degree discusses how to pay for college

By JAZMIN HERNANDEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

For the third consecutive year, Generation 1st Degree had their "How to Pay for College" financial aid town hall meeting last night.

"How to Pay for College" focused on what students and their families can do to help pay for a higher education. Experts in financial aid gave the students important tips on the FAFSA application, taught them how to navigate through the process, helped them understand student loans, and showed them how to get free money to pay for college.

Furthermore, the organization explained the differences between aid, grants and student loans, and shared information about the financial aid for undocumented students.

The goal of Generation 1st Degree is to help students with support services to guide them in choosing to attend college and obtain a degree. This is done in order to encourage them to graduate from college. Generation 1st Degree also provides free resources for both the students and the parents.



AVID students passing out lanyards during the townhall meeting last night in the new gym.

Since some first generation students come from low-income families with no previous college attendance and have challenges that make it difficult to earn a degree, Generation 1st degree has decided to help prepare these students to create a career for them.

"That is why we all must work together to help support and create a generation of college-bound students," says Jacki Cisneros, founder and president of Gen-

eration 1st Degree Pico Rivera.

When one person in a family earns a college degree, it paves the ways for others in the family and in the community to know it's possible to do so.

The organization focused on financial aid "because year after year, research shows that students locally and nationally typically scramble for grants, only to find out that they're too late and that they will have to bor-

row money from other sources to attend college," says Cisneros.

Due to such circumstances, many students give up trying to get into the first college of their choice, "while other students postpone attending college due to insufficient financial resources," says Cisneros. Cisneros furthermore adds, "We want to help all students in Pico Rivera succeed in a highly competitive college environment."

Congresswoman Linda Sanchez impressed with Culinary Arts Program



Chef David Luna, Congresswoman Linda Sanchez, and assistant Angelina Mancillas at the judges table.

By ODALYS CHAVEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

There are 4,495 high schools in the State of California yet U.S. Congresswoman Linda Sanchez decided to reach out to El Rancho High School and observe the Culinary Arts program she had heard so many great things about. Sanchez was invited to be a judge of a tasting menu challenge where she would have the opportunity to experience a wide diversity of flavors and styles.

Sanchez has represented California's 38th Congressional district since 2013 which includes Artesia, Cerritos, La Mirada, Hawaiian Gardens, Lakewood, East La Mirada, La Palma, Los Nietos, Montebello, Norwalk, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs, South El Monte, and

Whittier. She recently became chairwoman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. Sanchez is recognized as a strong advocate for California's families. She is committed to making schools safe and providing quality education.

Chef Luna met Sanchez a year ago at the District Art Competition which he catered. "[The Culinary Arts program] did a fabulous job and I wanted to come down and see exactly what they do everyday in the classroom," says Sanchez.

Chef Luna along with Culinary Arts students dedicated an entire week to extensive planning for this visit. "The food that we cooked had been prepared since last week so we already knew what to do when Sanchez came," says senior Luis Perez. "It was a lot of preparation, a lot

of time that we dedicated but it was fun; it was great," he added. "As a sous chef, I helped by going around and checking safety sanitation violations and by getting everything out of the fridges and the pantry rooms for everyone," says senior Mariah Ruiz.

The competition took place during 4th period on February 27th. Six teams had an hour to prepare a dish to impress the judges. Some of the dishes consisted of enchiladas, filet mignon, peanut butter chocolate chip cookies, oreo crusted cheesecake, chocolate covered strawberries, and many other delightful cuisines.

After an hour of intense cooking and careful evaluation from the judges (Chef Luna, Linda Sanchez, and assistant Angelina Mancillas), Kitchen One took the crown. Their egg-

plant parmesan, chicken parmesan on top of a cranberry salad with homemade red wine vinegar dressing, and Oreo cheesecake satisfied the judges' taste buds.

"We were nervous all throughout the competition. It seemed at first to be a regular kitchen challenge, but it began to get a lot of attention due to the congresswoman coming to be a judge. Not to mention our kitchen's oven wasn't working, and we weren't aware of that until halfway through the challenge!" says Senior Marilyn Vilchis. The winning team was made up by Alondra Alvarez, Marilyn Vilchis, Kennedy Barajas, Kendall Furlough, and Angelica Saavedra.

"We loved the experience. We cooked a variety of dishes and unlike all other challenges, we were given the liberty to cook whatever we liked. We cooked our favorite meals. Since our kitchen group had won challenges in the past, we were expected to cook something over the top. We tried our best to keep it simple and creative throughout our dishes," says Vilchis.

Sanchez believes that El Rancho's Culinary Arts program is "amazing." "I was totally impressed. The kids were focused; they cooked their hearts out, they put a lot of love into their food and you can taste that when you taste the end product," she says. Sanchez was particularly impressed by the number of boys in the Culinary Arts program since she believes that "everyone needs to learn those skills in their lives."

CITY VIEW

Questions for Mayor Salcido

BY ANTHONY RAYMUNDO

For our readers what is your role as a city mayor?

The role of the mayor is like the parliamentary leader council. The mayor has to start and end the meetings. He has to sign documents, ordinances, contracts, and sometimes be a spokesperson when needed. He also has to present issues to the forefront of his business. Ultimately, the mayor has, to some extent, some influence over the agenda.

What made you want to become a mayor and how did you come in position of being the mayor of Pico Rivera?

I grew up in Pico Rivera all my life and attended El Rancho High School. When my wife, who I met here at El Rancho, and I got married, we bought a house here in Pico Rivera. We didn't discuss about it too much, and it was automatic that we wanted to live here. At the time I was already teaching here. I thought my perspective, my passion, and my ideas could be added to what already existed that was already good, but the actual opportunity arose when there was an open seat, and I decided to run for it.

In what direction do you want the City of Pico Rivera to gravitate toward? What is your vision for the city?

Pico is, by the numbers, a typical American community. The way people live here in Pico is the way any other aver-



age American lives. However, Pico Rivera is neither Beverly Hills nor Compton, but whatever amenities that every other typical American community has, Pico Rivera should deserve them as well. Whether it be state of the art parks, libraries, retail opportunities, or library opportunities, residents should have access to them. But aside from that, I want residents to be proud to be from Pico Rivera.

As well as being the city mayor, you are a U.S. Government and Sociology teacher here at El Rancho High School. What expectations do you have for your students, and how are you as a teacher tapping into their potential to succeed?

My goal as a teacher is not necessarily to teach them history. My goal is not for them to remember that Pearl Harbor was

bombed on December 7 1941, but my number one goal is to encourage and challenge my students to be thinkers. I don't want students to think like me, or anyone else. I want them to think for themselves.

At the student Town Hall, we heard you express your opinions about some of the questions you believed should be addressed. There were some in particular in which you really believed should be addressed. It was the question of whether or not we should remove the place (where the majority of the panhandlers come from) near the Pico Town center. Can you share your opinion about it more?

I think that is the single greatest negative issue in the community. That corner, Washington and Rosemead, is now the economic engine of our city and we get a large part of our

revenue from sales tax dollars. Now, if we have these less than respectable individuals walking around begging and soliciting for money, we are shooting ourselves in the foot because the city is not making it comfortable for our people to shop in our community. My plan is to start documenting the nuisance and the nature of the facility.

What do you think is the major issue that the city of Pico Rivera should be concerned with at the moment?

I think that corner, Washington and Rosemead, is Pico Rivera's major issue.

Since the majority of the population in Pico Rivera is predominantly Hispanic or of Latino origin, 87.9%, the percentage of high school graduates in our community is 66.8% compared to the California average of 81.0%. How do you think we can attract more college graduates to live/stay in Pico Rivera?

Anytime Pico get's the chance to build up housing, I think they should build step up housing. I don't necessarily think that we need to attract college graduates to come live in Pico, but we need to retain them. The community has to be livable for residents and that goes with our retail and our restaurants. Ultimately, Pico Rivera has to be livable to retain people so they have access and opportunity in a suburban community.

Investing in Pico's future



Credit Union

BY IVAN CRUZ

The student representatives of the student town hall presented the idea of a credit union to the city mayor along with his associates. The idea was brushed aside, but we would like to shed some light on the idea to the students.

A credit union in Pico Rivera would serve several purposes not only for the adults of the community, but also for the students as well.

Credit unions can offer several internship opportunities as well as scholarships to students, whereas private citizens may receive community benefits.

If the community of Pico Rivera were to invest in a credit union, then the credit union could be federally chartered. The National Credit Union Administration would charter the credit union, and the National Credit Union Share Insurance

Fund would insure the funds of the shareholders with full support of the United States government.

Not only would the United States government insure the funds of shareholders, but the federal government would also contribute funds of their own to the community. This would provide an extra income for the community of Pico Rivera.

Other benefits of credit unions include interest rates on loans in comparison to banks and percentage yields on savings as opposed to banks.

Banks on average offer loans with an average interest rate of 5.61% on typical car loans or property loans, while credit unions have a much lesser average interest rate of 3.88%. In other words, one may owe more money as one's debt increases for banks.

The percent yield on savings accounts is the amount of money one earns while it rests in an account. The average percent yields for a CD account in a credit union is 2.09% and may increase, but the average bank holds only 1.78% interest on a CD account.

In these aspects, a credit union can only serve to help the community of Pico Rivera, which is why we should invest.

to her colleagues that she could not afford. This is another classic case where although the defendant was not directly pressured by her peers to commit the crime, she was still pressured to live up to the expectation of acquiring unnecessary items to impress her peers.

The second defendant also surprised members of the jury once the jurors saw the young teen's transcript.

The jurors were amazed at the teen's performance in academics in comparison to prior defendants. She held a constant average of As and Bs with the exception of one D- in her second semester of chemistry.

The defendant also impressed the jury when she revealed that she was only a junior in high school, and already the captain for her school's soccer team. She shoplifted in a moment of weakness, and that is why the jurors decided to give a small number of 45 community service hours. Her moment of weakness was when she was pressured by one of her close friends to shoplift at JCPenney. A shocking piece of evidence was that her older sister was also present in the shoplifting, and her older sister was also convinced by the minor to take the risk.



Teen Court Report

BY DARWIN REYES

The two cases of the February Teen Court session both consisted of petty theft. However, both crimes were committed under different scopes and circumstances.

The first defendant surprised the jury and the audience when she revealed that she committed the crime while shopping with her mother. Her mother was not aware she was capable of such a crime, especially in her presence.

She admitted in stealing several items while she was away from her mother in JCPenney. The defendant also claims she stole the items because the opportunity presented itself, and she decided to take the items in the heat of the moment for the adrenaline rush.

The jury suspected she in actuality stole the items to impress her cheer colleagues and to fit in by having similar items

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Odalys Chavez

Copy EditorsJames Francis Genato Chow
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Alexis Serrano

PhotographersHeidi Hernandez
Sol Mendez

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The Editorial Board, which consists of the editor-in-chief, section editors, and assistant editors, will determine the content of *El Rodeo*.

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CAMPUS

Dons flying to Florida for prestigious tournament



The Dons show enthusiasm as they prepare for The Florida League High School Invitational.

By MARISOL ALMAZAN
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Head varsity coach Frank Llanes and the El Rancho baseball team have recently been invited to The Florida High School Invitational which will be taking place from March 23rd to March 27th. The schools participating in the tournament alongside El Rancho are Pembroke Pines Charter, Florida Christian, Flagler Palm Coast, Montverde Academy, Orange-wood Christian, Olympia, Trinity Christian, Windward School, University, Deltona, Viera, Edgewater, Jones, and Niceville.

The Florida High School Invitational has been hosted annually for the past seven years and invites baseball teams from all over the state of Florida; however, several other states have taken part in the tournament as well, including Alabama, Virginia, Arkansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, and California.

The founders of The Florida High School Invitational had a very specific goal when they established this tournament in 2008. "Our mission is to provide a professionally run tournament while offering top-class exposure to scouts, college coaches and the six Florida League teams. With a humble understanding that par-

ticipating teams choose to spend spring break with us, we are focused on ensuring all of our teams have a fantastic experience."

El Rancho High School was fortunate enough to be admitted in to this tournament. Considering that in the past seven years only three California high schools have attended this tournament, being accepted into this invitational is a dream come true for the Dons. "This is a big step for our high school because it shows that El Rancho baseball players can compete with players from all over the country. We are very proud to have been accepted into this tournament," says Llanes.

Getting in was not easy. Llanes had to go through and submit an application to enter the tournament. "We saw that there was an opening for the tournament and we applied to get in. Before we could be accepted, we had to show individual and team statistics," says Llanes. "We had to show how many league championships we had won and how we have done in the playoffs over the past four years," Llanes adds.

Llanes has two goals that he hopes the team will accomplish by going on this tournament. "Our first goal is to really bond as a team and come back from this journey more united than when

we left. Our second goal is to win the tournament," says Llanes. Third baseman Manuel Mercado along with his teammates hope to go beyond simply winning a tournament. "Other than winning the tournament, we, as a team, would like to make our presence known by scouts of teams at the college level," says Mercado.

Outfielder Nelson Guirado has similar goals to those of his coach and his teammates. "Other than being able to win the championship, we hope to gain a competitive edge on the rest of the teams in the Del Rio League," says Guirado. "Being able to grow as a team and facing tough competition will allow us to be better prepared to take the Del Rio League by storm and will allow us to eventually win a CIF Title," Guirado adds.

The baseball team is preparing for this tournament as they prepare for all of their games and tournaments. "We don't change our preparation. Our basic philosophy is to develop the fundamentals of the game and get better than anyone else at the basics," says Llanes. "Good things happen when you do things the right way and believe in what you are doing," Llanes adds.

Guirado and Mercado believe that their coaches trained

them exceptionally well for the tournament. "Our coaches are doing an excellent job in preparing the team for the trip as we have constant defensive, offensive, and base running drills. As long as the team remains humble and performs what we learned in practice our team should have a successful run in the tournament," says Guirado. "We are putting our heads down and working hard at practice knowing that it will all pay off in the end," Mercado adds.

Llanes has taken note of the strengths and weaknesses of the team over the team's past few games. "The team this year is solid because we have great pitching and defense, three very fast players in the outfield, and all the starting infielders from last year," says Llanes. "Our hitting is a little behind but we will improve as long as we believe in the fundamentals that we work on every day," Llanes adds.

Not only does coach Llanes know that all of this hard work and preparation will pay off when they play Pembroke Pines Charter on the first day of the tournament, but he also believes that El Rancho will have a great baseball season this year. Llanes says, "If we stay humble and hungry this will be the best year we have had in a long time."

Decathletes finish 10th in L.A. County



By EMILY JAMES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's Decathlon team collected a total of 13 medals this year at the Academic Decathlon Banquet hosted on February 12th. Those who received medals included senior Daniel Bautista in the areas of Art, Language and Literature, and Music; junior Sidney Carroll in the areas of Essay, Interview and Speech; senior Alexandria Parra in the area of Interview; junior Leonardo Jimenez in the area of Speech; junior Alexis O'Neal in the areas of Interview and Speech; senior Emily James in the area of Speech; and finally senior Mary Garcia in the area of Essay and also for being the Highest Scoring Decathlete on the El Rancho team.

The team also learned that out of 43 schools within the Los Angeles District, it was ranked 10th overall. This ranking is a step above last year's rank of 11th and shows definite growth. However, this step forward came with a slight step backward. El Rancho is noted for its ability to progress after the county level toward state, yet that is not the case this year. Due to the more difficult theme of Energy Conservation, the team score did not meet a median amount to continue to Sacramento's state competition.

Although many of the Decathletes were saddened by these results, it was the words of Coach Mrs. Palomares who said, "Remember you can lose a phone, you can lose an iPod, but you can never lose this experience," which allowed the Dons to leave with a confident stance and a proud thought that next year, there will be even more progress. Garcia says, "I was scared at first but when I heard we were 10th, I felt so much better because it was an improvement from last year." Phillips adds, "I'm amazingly proud of the junior decathletes who worked extremely hard. I was able to experience their determination and this [determination] will continue our school's success."

As for the upcoming 2015-2016 team, there are no words other than praise from both the coach and returning decathletes. O'Neal says, "I feel like now that I've had the experience and fully understand how much dedication decathlon takes, I am extremely prepared for next season and even though I don't have the materials for next year, on a spiritual level, I'm ready." Following this, Carroll says, "I think next year's team is not only going to meet our team goals but exceed our team goals."

Foreign Exchange Students bid their farewells

By SAMANTHA MUNOZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Last Thursday, El Rancho said farewell to the sophomore students visiting us from Beijing. It was a very heartfelt and memorable moment for both the Chinese and the American students.

Senior Danielle Nunez, who hosted two girls, says that "[she] got really close to Val-len and Ver-sha, and it was really emotional seeing them leave." Dons who housed the foreign exchange students had the chance to experience new things, such as the differences in culture, a variety of foods, and even some of the language, Mandarin Chinese. Nunez says, regarding the exchange students' schedules, "Back home, they wake up at five in the morning to study almost every day, and they also don't have



A Foreign Exchange Student prepares for her performance in The Chinese New Year Spring Show.

much time for fun and friends."

The exchange students said that they loved being in California because Americans have a good

balance between study and fun. Serena, one of the students, said that her favorite part of California was going to Disneyland "because

it is much larger than the Disneyland in Hong Kong, and [she] really loved the Fast Passes."

Another thing the exchange students found pleasing about America are the classes and activities we have at our schools. Sophomore Zee says that she "really liked American schools because they are very different from Chinese schools. School is very stressful, and there aren't a lot of sports over there." She also says that she really enjoyed being able to see the track and throwing teams in action.

Overall, the students from Beijing had a very enlightening and lively trip to America, and although their departure was an emotional one, both the Chinese and American students were grateful to have been a part of this program.

FEATURES

Leal lends insight into her career



BY JESSIE HERNANDEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With an iced coffee in hand, Mrs. April Leal starts off her day at seven in the morning. Leal's event-filled school day begins in the upstairs library with her zero period Digital imaging class.

Besides being a teacher in the Visual and Performing Arts department, Mrs. Leal, an alumni from El Rancho, also teaches in the English department. Mrs. Leal currently teaches Digital Imaging and 12th grade English Expository Reading and Writing Course.

2015 is her first year as the Activities Director and ASB Advisor.

Upon seeing the academic programs and activities Mrs. Leal is involved in at El Rancho, one would think that Mrs. Leal has always aspired to be a teacher. However, becoming a teacher wasn't one of the dreams that Mrs. Leal had first dreamt of.

"I wanted to do ANYTHING but teach," said Leal, "I just wanted to make a lot of money."

After graduating high school, Mrs. Leal began her first year of Whittier College as a

business major. This all changed her junior year when she began tutoring at an elementary school.

Although teaching was not Mrs. Leal's first option, her motivation for teaching is that she "genuinely cared about the kids and wanted them to succeed."

This motivation comes also from being a "product of Pico Rivera," said Mrs. Leal, "I want to try to make El Rancho the best educational institution in the area."

Mrs. Leal cannot imagine herself doing anything else instead of teaching except "winning the Lotto and traveling the world."

Leal's life outside of El Rancho consists of spending any amount of free time with her husband Ernie and her three daughters Aiyana (18), Leila (7), and Maya (6). Most of this spare time is spent on the softball field as all three of her daughters play softball.

On those very rare occasions when Mrs. Leal had any time for herself, she enjoys catching up on her favorite shows. "I love watching the episodes of Scandal that I have recorded on my DVR"

Leal enjoys changing the role of being the teacher and learning new things. So when she feels as if she is not learning anything and has "become stagnant, it is time to learn something new."

Mrs. Leal's favorite color is purple, and she greatly enjoys the taste of Vietnamese food and any "iced coffee or iced tea drink from Starbucks."

Many students assume Leal has played softball. However, this is not correct. Leal has never played softball and is still "trying to master throwing and catching."

Mrs. Leal ends every class period reminding students to "make good choices" and has been doing so throughout her years of teaching. Leal will continue to let her creative side out in the courses that she teaches here at El Rancho High School.



Fuentes nominated for California Administrator of the Year

BY DAVID JOEL HUGHES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Last December, the Assistant Superintendent of educational services Roxane Fuentes was nominated for Administrator of the Year. Fuentes's history with El Rancho School District stretches far back to when she was in pre-school.

Fuentes attended the pre-school at Valencia Elementary, then St. Hilary middle school, and graduated from St. Paul High School. Fuentes graduated from USC with a BA in political sciences, and her MA in history from Cal State Fullerton.

After college, she began working at Pico Rivera's Parks and Recreation department, where she helped with summer programs. After, Fuentes worked at El Rancho High School, where she was an AVID college tutor. After a year, Fuentes began working at South Ranchito as a fifth grade teacher. After seven years at South Ranchito, Fuentes went further down Passons to become an instructional coach and later principal of Valencia Elementary.

"I started as a student at Valencia, and when I walked in the campus as the principal, it all looked exactly the same. The only thing that

changed was the learning and the curriculum," said Fuentes.

Fuentes also worked as a principal at Rivera Elementary until she finally became the Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services. In her current position, Fuentes works around ERUSD where she develops curriculum and instruction, to dispersing federal funds. "What I like most is being able to work with teachers and principals by helping them build their vision for students," says Ms. Fuentes.

The WASA nominated Fuentes as the Administrator of the Year. Fuentes was competing against 56 other LA educators, and went forward to the Association of California School Administrators.

Fuentes is waiting to see if she was chosen for the award and will find out in April. Superintendent, Martin Galindo says, "We are lucky and proud to have Ms. Fuentes in our district working diligently, tirelessly, and professionally on behalf of students, staff, parents, and the community."

Fuentes says the nomination was definitely a surprise but, "when people get awards like that, it's not just for [her], but everyone [she] works alongside, and for everyone in the district, because they are a family, it's a special place for students and teachers."

WORD ON THE STREET

How did you spend your Valentine's Day?



"I pretty much just stayed at home and spent it with family."
-Andrea Cordova, 9th



"I went out with my boyfriend, and we went out to eat Taco Boy."
-Paulina Vera, 10th



"I spent my Valentine's day at The Growlers Concert. I went with my friends Sidney and Alexis. It was great; we had VIP access and met everyone in the band."
-Manny Cruz, 11th



"I spent my Valentine's day watching Netflix, and I went to go eat at BJ's with my family."
-Leonardo Jimenez, 11th



"My boyfriend and I ate at BJ's. Then he took me shopping and bought me a lot of clothes. After that we went to his house and watched movies all day."
-Sharon Saravia, 12th

FEATURES

Daisy Perez is *Simply Irresistible*

BY JAMES CHOW
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

"Daisy, Daisy Sour Cream!" This wholehearted tune's catchy melody exemplifies the blooming, bubbly personality of Senior Daisy Perez. Topping out at 4'11, this gal pal is not one short of making herself noticeable. Her signature giggle coupled with her witty charisma is what makes her simply alluring to anyone she seeks to befriend.

"I'm short, and I'm always laughing!" Is there anything else to say? "I like to laugh at other people and see their reactions," says Perez.

When she sees people feeling a bit under the weather, Perez tries her best to brighten up their day with snorts and chuckles. "I like to laugh to brighten up [people's] mood. I read on a newspaper somewhere that someone seeing you smile increases the chances of them smiling. I smile, but I laugh for the extra effect!"

Valentine's Day is a day devoted to love and affection. So what's the best thing to get a sunny, flower-named girl for such a holiday? Flowers! Perez claims that flowers are a nice



Daisy getting in touch with her roots, becomes one with nature.

gift for someone of her stature. "[Boys,] I like roses and daisies! I like them because they smell good and look nice." Although Perez possesses such a germinating personality that is sure to attract many boys and girls easily, she is very selective when choosing a significant other to be her Valentine. "He has to be an Abercrombie looking guy. I go heart eyes emoji over those babes!"

On her weekends, Perez devotes herself to community service. "In AVID, I do a lot of com-

munity service. I started in seventh grade, but during freshmen year, AVID really enforced the importance of helping the community. Some community services I do are participating in Trick or Treat for Hunger, giving christmas baskets to the needy, and cleaning up parks for the children. However, my favorite activity to do is partake in Community Pride Day. On this day, we get to meet with our friends at the park, and we clean it and make it look pretty for the little kids," says Perez.

Perez plans to spend much of her time in college to help sprout her filmmaking career. "I want to go to a UC and graduate with honors and hopefully produce a movie one day. I plan to become a director and producer of movies. I like drama movies; I don't like scary movies but I think a lot of people do, so I would want to produce a scary movie."

Movies have been circulating around Perez's life ever since she was young. However, she attributes much of her inspiration in film to the romantic drama film, *Keith*. "[*Keith*] can make you feel many things, and that movie is the only movie that has made me cry. I want to make people feel what I felt from this movie. I want to make them feel something. Filmmaking can bring so many emotions to people, and it sounds like the perfect fit for me."

A future Spielberg, a lover of nature, and a walking chuckle, Daisy Perez stands tall, rising above the others as she takes this month's title of *Simply Irresistible*. "Big things come from small packages;" Daisy Perez's fun size complexion is sure to be that package you'd definitely want to open.

LEO's give back to the community

BY ELIZABETH JACOME
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

A splash of the ocean breeze, the sound of a trumpet, the scent of fresh roses, and a gift that lights up someone's eyes. What do all of these have in common? They are the attributes one can experience when joining the Leadership Experience Opportunity Club.

The Leadership Experience Opportunity or LEO's is a community service club at El Rancho High School. The club is the high school version of the Lion's Club International, which is the world's largest service club organization. Advisor Mrs. Metaxes says, "The LEO's Club is dedicated to service."

The LEO's club participates in volunteer opportunities available in our neighborhood. Kishan Kandoria, president of the club, says "The LEO's club is fun because you get to hang-out with your friends while helping the district at the same time."

Furthermore, part of Kandoria's role as president is to go to district meetings where he learns about upcoming events, like fundraisers. He also learns various techniques that he can use in the club.

Vice president, junior Angelica Hernandez, says the LEO's club has helped her "meet a lot of new people." She also says that "[The LEO's club] looks great on college applications."

Some of the events the club has been involved in are Trick-or-Treat for hunger at Smith Park, distributing Christmas Baskets at Pico Park, ushering for the Rio Hondo symphony, decorating the Lion's Club Rose Parade float, and cleaning up Bolsa Chica beach.

Currently, the LEO's club is raising money for the Special Olympics, which will take place in Los Angeles. If you play at Golf N' Stuff on February 28th from 4pm-11pm, you can help raise money for this cause. Metaxes adds, "It's a good cause, you get to have fun, and 25% of the proceeds go toward the Special Olympics." In order for the LEO's to get credit, you must bring the flyer they created for the event.

In addition, the LEO's are also selling wristbands that contain the Special Olympics and LEO's logo on it for \$5. Three dollars will go to the Special Olympics and two will go to the LEO's.

Another upcoming event is the Leadership Symposium where some of the club members will go to learn how to be better LEO's. Some of the advisors are also invited to attend. The event takes place over the weekend and helps students learn how to better lead the club.

This is a developing group that is looking for any opportunity to grow. Part of this is by obtaining new members. If you are interested in joining the club make sure to show up on Tuesdays during lunch in A101.

Sophomore English class welcomes student teacher



Espinoza standing outside the classroom after a long day of work.

BY VALERIA HURTADO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This year, Mrs. Zeko's sophomore classes were fortunate enough to acquire a tall and mysterious student from USC.

Before entering the world of Mrs. Zeko's English class,

Chad Espinoza attended Biola University and received a degree in English with an emphasis in creative writing.

Chad Espinoza is currently attending USC Rossier School of Education. Mr. Espinoza's dream job was to become a writer; however when he realized that writing

was his passion, he found that he could never make it into a career.

Working in an office was never an option due to the environment's stability, but teaching is always changing. Mr Espinoza says, "I despised the idea of teaching and refused to get my credential. My supervisors in Korea strongly encouraged me to become a credentialed teacher."

At the school, they gave Mr. Espinoza a lot of responsibility to help him improve his teaching skills. Soon, Chad Espinoza became interested only after teaching in Korea for two and a half years.

In Chad Espinoza's mind, teaching never stays the same since every student is different and works with a hundred different personalities.

Chad Espinoza started teaching in Mrs. Zeko's class some time before winter break; nonetheless, Mr. Espinoza has been working with Mrs. Zeko for about six months.

It was a surprise to find a college student in the midst of the classroom. While dealing with so many people can be mentally taxing, he is very introverted and finds it exciting and rewarding.

"Every teacher has to re-evaluate themselves daily. I didn't realize I would always be second-guessing myself since talking all day does not come easy to me," says Mr. Espinoza. "Teaching is not only about having massive amounts of knowledge. It's also about knowing how to communicate that knowledge."

Most of the students were shocked to find Mr. Espinoza as a young, reserved, self-contained

individual, but as he began teaching, he opened up to the students.

Now that the class has been introduced to his more animated side, the students can agree that Mr. Espinoza is definitely a likable guy.

Sophomore Ivy Castillo says, "it was weird at first, but everyone got used to him and he is a new addition to our family." Mr. Espinoza interacts well with the students. Seeing as they are fairly close in age, this makes him more relatable.

Mr. Espinoza is driven and content with his abilities as a teacher which allows the students to respect him more.

"The subjects Mr. Espinoza has touched definitely expanded my knowledge of English Literature. He uses modern videos and examples that help us correlate the lesson with society today," says Castillo. "As for homework, we aren't really assigned any, which is excellent."

Mr. Espinoza hopes to teach the students critical thinking skills. "I want all my students to be able to see the culture around them and think carefully about it. If students are able to do that, then they will make significant changes wherever they go," states Mr. Espinoza. He believes all students have great potential

Mr. Espinoza will be missed, but the students are glad to see him go and venture off to further his experience in the education field.

Hopefully he can fulfill his duties as a teacher and supply the next generation with knowledge and wisdom!

TEEN READ WEEK

Emily James' top picks



Most students are utilizing what little free time they have by absorbing themselves in status updates. So, an amazing alternative has been provided...reading! If the fear of not knowing what to read is what's stopping you, then fear no more. Five different selections of works have been provided that are worth every minute granted to them.

5. Blink- Malcolm Gladwell

Psychology and comedy hardly ever work well together; however, Malcolm Gladwell beautifully molds the two throughout his nonfiction novel Blink. Utilizing a series of quirky psychological tests and intriguing interviews, Gladwell explores the day-to-day choices people make.

4. Johnny Got His Gun- Dalton Trumbo

Deaf, blind, and limbless is the condition Joe Bonham finds himself in after experiencing a bombing during WWI. Trumbo utilizes a somewhat stream-of-consciousness style throughout this novel to promote a pacifist preference during a time overshadowed by a war mentality.

3. Slaughterhouse Five- Kurt Vonnegut

Billy Pilgrim is a soldier during WWII who undergoes fire bombings, alien abductions, and time travel. This post-modern novel makes the reader hope Pilgrim is trustworthy in his expeditions or wonder if he's just another victim of post traumatic stress disorder. Ultimately, Vonnegut's use of nonlinear storytelling is extremely original and entertaining.

2. Donkey Gospel- Tony Hoagland

Hoagland's works are not like the sometimes dreary pieces by poets who promote their intelligence through verbose stanzas. Instead he admits his foolishness throughout the nineteen poems and essentially laughs at himself with the reader. Donkey Gospel is what an individual reads when he needs a chuckle at past mistakes in order to help himself move forward.

1. The Illustrated Man- Ray Bradbury

Science fiction work usually finds itself in a small niche; however, Bradbury's collection of short stories can be enjoyed by virtually all. Characters are placed everywhere ranging from Africa to Mars, and Bradbury creates individual worlds that make a reader clutch the book in intense curiosity and revere his beautiful use of imagery.

Literary lunch bag theater



GetLit Ignites the Crowd

By Emily James , EL Rodeo Staff Writer

This Tuesday, El Rancho experienced gut-hurting laughter and moving tears with this year's visit from the slam poetry team GetLit. The players (who prefer to be recognized on a first name basis only) Kyland, Marqueesha and Zack performed inspiring and sometimes deadly honest poems to a crowd of more than 300 students.

The heavy emotion within the room became apparent; however, host Paul Mabon brought the students back to a sense of fun through his "lack of" dancing skills exemplified by a small salsa number with English teacher, Mrs. Senteno-Tapia. After the players showcased their talent, students of El Rancho then had the opportunity to show theirs. Student poets from Mr. Sorenson and Mrs. Brown's Creative Writing classes were able to perform on the same stage and elicit a grand applause.



LOOK AT THE RANCH!

Furry friends pay a visit to The Ranch

BY VALERIA HURTADO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Slime flies while having fun! For Teen read Week, El Rancho had furry visitors ranging from miniature to enormous sizes in the library during lunch on Monday. Many students who visited the four legged animals left the library with stars in their eyes and smiles across their faces. Mrs. Lamar and the Animal Advocates have been planning this event since early November. Junior Nicole Francis says, "I was excited the dogs would be returning to the ranch because I couldn't attend the event last year." Mrs. Chodos and the therapy team leader, Mrs. Walker, worked with Mrs. Lamar and the club members to make the event work. The club heard about the dogs through a program at the Whittier public library, and Ms. Kwek and Ms. Chapman helped get the event approved and set up. "The dogs come from the Bright



and Beautiful organization that is based in New Jersey, but it has a local chapter," says Mrs. Lamar. Students who visit with the dogs

have reduced stress and better attitudes, and dogs give people so much love and ask for little in return. This is the first time the dogs

have been here for Teen Read Week, but the turnout was very similar to last year's finals week visit. Dogs are here to create a

"warm fuzzy" atmosphere feeling toward school and reading. It was a great event and the club hopes they can do it again next year.



Shopping for knowledge!

BY MARISOL ALMAZAN
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With Teen Read Week coming to an end, El Rancho High School hopes to offer students the opportunity to see a variety of books and other interesting items through Mrs. Nelson's Book Fair. According to Mrs.'s Nelson's website, the book fair "offers an excellent way for students, parents, and teachers to see a multitude of books in a store-like setting, right on their own campus."

Mrs. Nelson's Book Fair "ranges from the classic standards to the hottest new releases. Each fair is custom packed to suit your needs and interests,

and our space-saving, rolling bookcases make set-up easy."

Librarian Mrs. Jean Chodos has hosted this book fair at El Rancho for the past three years, making this one her fourth. Through this book fair, she hopes to bring a bookstore experience to El Rancho. "Hosting this book fair is part of our celebration of Teen Read Week. We no longer have a bookstore in Pico Rivera, so this is like creating a mini-bookstore in the Library," says Chodos.

El Rancho has always sold well throughout the years with this book fair. "We have a very successful high school book fair,

and we sell lots of books in just two days. Teachers also buy books for their families. Many people donate a book to the Library from our Wish List Rack," says Chodos.

Besides books, the book fair was many different items to offer. "The fair offers lots of little items like hackeysacks, slime, pens, pencils, bookmarks, selfie sticks, and mood rings," says Chodos.

Today is the last day to stop by at the fair. Make sure to stop by the library any time throughout the day. Chodos says, "The Book Fair is open all day today. Even if you don't buy anything, it's fun to look around."



SPORTS

Boys conclude disappointing season



BY MATTHEW AGUILAR
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The boys' varsity basketball team ended their season with a loss from Pioneer (72-68). They failed to reach the CIF playoffs after compiling an overall record of 15-13, with a league record of 1-9.

Struggles were apparent throughout this season. Devoted team member Daniel Garcia stated, "Going more into season, the practice doesn't get as rigorous; it goes more into the mental part of the game."

Coach Elliot says, "This season was very rough because we were very inconsistent." Elliot elaborates the definite struggles for the team being free throw shooting and rebounding. Elliot also explains that a big setback was not being able to grasp certain concepts during practice.

Elliot states that the most difficult game was against La Serna, with their team taking the win (64-53). The least difficult game was against Santa Fe, in which the Dons won (52-51). However, Elliot says, "There weren't any easy games."

With losses being dominant in this season, Garcia gave his perspective on the results, "You prosper from losing as well as winning, and we all learn that just as a life lesson, that it's not all about winning." This is Daniel's last year playing for El Rancho.

Even though the season seemed unfavorable, the team managed to keep a positive morale. Coach Elliot says, "I think it was positive and negative; negative because of the losses mounting up, positive stuff being the team working together and helping the community."

According to Garcia, even though the last game resulted in a loss, it was very special for the team. Coach Elliot adds, "I think they really did a good job as a team that last game." Garcia also adds in, "I liked spending those last games with my friends for sure; we've been playing together since freshmen year."

Though the last game was an unfortunate loss, it was concluded pleasantly. The seniors experienced their last endeavors playing as the Dons, and the other players now have a drive to overachieve next season. Losses will never slow down a Don.

Three-peat season comes to an end



Senior Sarah Gurolla maneuvers her way through the Whittier Cardinals's girls basketball team to score.

BY SALONI PATEL
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

BUZZ. The scoreboard reads 72-42. El Rancho Girl's varsity basketball lost to Valley View in the second round in CIF.

The girls have competed this far into season to achieve their goal. Even though they did not find success in their efforts, the team has had a memorable season. Varsity team co-captain Ashley Miller cherishes her

team's victory because "a 3 peat has never been done before at this school for the girl's basketball team." Sarah Gurrola, varsity team co-captain, agrees that this victory is special because "the last two times we played,

the title was shared." The team's hard work was shown throughout the season. They worked through their ups and downs.

Miller says, "[The team] started off slow. Preseason wise, we weren't doing so well on offense and defense. That is where we had to pick it up and move forward." Learning from team's mistakes is the strategy that the girls used throughout the season to improve their overall performance. "We struggled with the loss against Whittier because we shouldn't have lost in the first round of league, but we've grown a lot as a team. Especially in the defensive end, we've improved. At the beginning of season, we were horrible at defense and now we're a good defensive team," says Gurrola. The team's competitiveness and motivation to improve paved a pathway to success in league.

The boy's Varsity basketball team supports the girls' journey as well. Arturo Gomez is proud about the girls winning and hopes "they make it far in playoffs." Despite their loss, the girls are proud of what they have achieved thus far. Their struggles and improvements throughout the season have made the girls' journey into the playoffs a notable one.

Wrestling season wraps up in second round of CIF

BY RANDY LAZARO & LAURA CASTRO-SPENCER
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With this past Saturday's CIF Singles Tournament, only Mark Millan will be advancing onto the next level of CIF. For the rest of the wrestling team, season is over.

Senior Daniel Burgoin is "disappointed that the season ended [Saturday]," but he is glad to have been a leader in a team that he has been a part of since freshman year.

"Wrestling encourages discipline," said Burgoin. Without discipline, wrestlers wouldn't have been able to balance school along with their excruciating practices and workouts.

Juniors Nick Muñoz and Angel "Colorado" Mondujano are also disappointed that season ended with a 52-12 loss against Cali-



El Rancho wrestling team competing in Saturday's CIF match.

fornia High School. Arezat says, "We could have done better and worked on our techniques more. However, now we know what we need to focus on for next year."

Although senior varsity captain Daniel Burgoin is disappointed that the "season ended that day," he does not feel that his team did a bad job. Bur-

goin feels that "as a team, they did good" and no matter what happens, the El Rancho wrestling team is "like a family."

For some like Burgoin, this was their last season, but the others still have next year's wrestling season to prepare for.

Junior Nick Muñoz says that although it was not a bad season, they "could've done better." Muñoz says, "We should've beat the teams that we lost to."

Muñoz, along with other team members, says that next season will be better. He says they will "hit the weights and practice techniques."

To the remaining wrestlers and incoming freshman, Burgoin says, "If you could get through wrestling, you could get through anything in life." He ends the season saying he "[wishes he] could go back to freshman year and start over again."

<p>El Rancho High School Golf Program</p> <p><i>It's that time of the year to reserve your team's entry for the 1st Annual Team Blue Pride Golf Tournament.</i></p> <p><i>Without a doubt it will be a spectacular event with raffles and prizes. Please don't overlook the opportunity to support our El Rancho Golf Team who is striving to be the best and represent the City of Pico Rivera with "Blue Pride".</i></p> <p>IN CELEBRATION OF TEAM MEMBER PHILLIP ORTIZ SUCCESSFUL BATTLE WITH BRAIN CANCER</p>	<p>Mr. Casey May Golf Coach/ Program Instructor</p> <p>Contact information: El Rancho High School 6501 Passons Blvd. Pico Rivera, CA 90660 562-801-5355 ext 234</p> <p>Rebecca Ramirez-Ortiz Tournament Coordinator Parent Assistant 714-717-3026</p>	<p>1st Annual Blue Pride GOLF TOURNAMENT</p> <p>Hosted by: El Rancho High School Golf Team</p>	<p>Sponsorships & Donations</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Single Player</td><td>\$ 55</td></tr> <tr><td>Foursome</td><td>\$ 220</td></tr> <tr><td>Blue Pride Sponsor</td><td>\$ 1000</td></tr> <tr><td>Gold Sponsor</td><td>\$ 750</td></tr> <tr><td>Silver Sponsor</td><td>\$ 500</td></tr> <tr><td>Closest to the pin</td><td>\$ 75</td></tr> <tr><td>Tee Sign</td><td>\$ 75</td></tr> </table> <p><i>All sponsors will be given recognition at the awards celebration.</i></p> <p><i>The tournament format will be a 4 person Shotgun, with various contests and prizes.</i></p> <p>Tournament Fee Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Entry Fee * Goodie bag * Welcoming hospitality * Awards Presentation 	Single Player	\$ 55	Foursome	\$ 220	Blue Pride Sponsor	\$ 1000	Gold Sponsor	\$ 750	Silver Sponsor	\$ 500	Closest to the pin	\$ 75	Tee Sign	\$ 75	<p>1st Annual Blue Pride GOLF TOURNAMENT</p> <p>Hosted by: ERHS Golf Team</p> <p>Date: Sat. February 28, 2015</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Registration</td><td>11:30 am</td></tr> <tr><td>Tee-off Shotgun Start</td><td>1:00 pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Hospitality and Awards</td><td>4:00 pm</td></tr> </table> <p>LOCATION: Pico Rivera Golf Club 3260 Fairway Drive Pico Rivera, CA 90660</p>	Registration	11:30 am	Tee-off Shotgun Start	1:00 pm	Hospitality and Awards	4:00 pm	<p><small>Please detach and return this portion with your registration fees and/or sponsorship donation.</small></p> <p>GOLFER #1 Name _____ Phone _____</p> <p>GOLFER #2 Name _____ Phone _____</p> <p>GOLFER #5 Name _____ Phone _____</p> <p>GOLFER #4 Name _____ Phone _____</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Player</th><th>\$55</th></tr> <tr><td>Foursome</td><td>\$220</td></tr> <tr><td>Blue Pride Sponsor</td><td>\$1,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Gold Sponsor</td><td>\$750</td></tr> <tr><td>Silver Sponsor</td><td>\$500</td></tr> <tr><td>Closest to the Pin</td><td>\$75</td></tr> <tr><td>Tee Sign</td><td>\$75</td></tr> <tr><td>TOTAL DONATION</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>REGISTRATION DEADLINE: February 21, 2015</p> <p>Make Checks/Money orders payable to: El Rancho Golf Program C/O: Mr. Casey May El Rancho High School Golf Program 6501 Passons Blvd. Pico Rivera, CA 90660 562-801-5355 Ext. 234</p>	Player	\$55	Foursome	\$220	Blue Pride Sponsor	\$1,000	Gold Sponsor	\$750	Silver Sponsor	\$500	Closest to the Pin	\$75	Tee Sign	\$75	TOTAL DONATION	
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SPORTS

The girls' soccer team says their goodbyes

BY FRANCISCO RAMIREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Soccer was not only heart-felt for the guys, but for the girls as well when their last game ended. The girls' soccer team were able to reach their first goal of getting to CIF, but were defeated against Rio Mesa 1-0. This defeat was felt very strongly, because they were only one goal away from advancing to the next round. To many seniors, that last game was their final game for soccer, but to everyone on the team this was their final game this year for the Dons.

Many of the Dons felt this defeat the moment the last whistle blew and others felt it the moment they got home. For many of the seniors, they are upset knowing they lost when they could have gone farther. Other seniors are upset because they did not reach their goals. However, some are excited to know the next step is college soccer.

Senior Danielle Nunez is excited to know what college soccer will be like. For Nunez, "[El Rancho Soccer] is over" but now she has a whole new chapter to look forward to. Though it was disappointing to lose, Danielle Nunez has "many great and fun memories to keep



The girls' soccer team ended their season with all smiles surrounded by their loving teammates.

to keep with my teammates."

Senior Natalie Meneses, is sad because "It is the end of soccer for me." Though the season did not turn out how she expected, she says, "It was a good experience to be part of the team and I will miss playing with most of the underclassmen." Natalie Meneses will miss being part of the Dons, but also knows

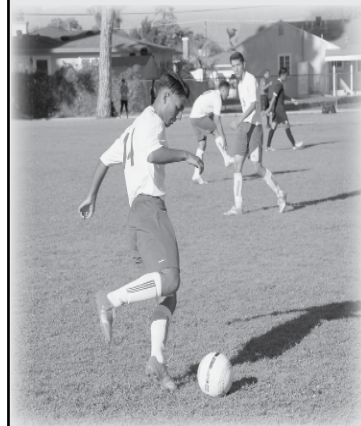
"[The Dons] had a good run and many successful moments."

Senior Julia Ortiz, felt "upset because it was my last season in the program." What upsets Ortiz the most is that "we could have gone further." However, she is happy knowing that now college is coming up. Now Ortiz wants to "get [her] life started and build more memories in col-

lege and join the team there."

These are a few of the seniors who know what it is like to lose; however, all of them are looking on the bright side, knowing a new chapter in their life will begin soon. The Dons may be upset at their loss, but are happy knowing that they had many great memories with each other.

The season ends, but the boys' soccer team grows



BY FRANCISCO RAMIREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho Dons Soccer boys unfortunately did not reach their goal of getting to the finals of CIF and becoming champions. Throughout the season, the Dons were not unsuccessful in reach their maximum potential, coming in third in league with a record of 5 wins and 5 losses. For many of the soccer players, this will be something to remember for when they come back next year to try again. However, for the seniors, this was their last game for the team.

The most affected people are the senior soccer players; knowing this was their last game gave them a very sentimental feeling. Many felt anger and frustration, and others felt upset and sad. Soccer for almost all was something that each one grew up with. Soccer was each of their passions, but for many the only hope is to play for college, and for others it is the end.

The final game the Dons played was against Millikan High School. The game according to senior Bryan Rojas, "went bad from the start." Since the beginning of the game, the Dons had their line of defense at the back. The Dons did not seem to connect well with each other, only scoring one goal throughout the game and a penalty in the final seconds. The Dons believe they could have done better, but that is what upsets the seniors the most.

Senior Kevin Mendoza says, "It's sad [the Dons] could not make it farther." [However,] "it was a pleasure playing with the guys." Soccer brings good memories and Mendoza is one who will "remember these memories [the Dons] made forever."

Rojas among with the rest of the team, feels that the "season ended the way no one wanted to." Soccer season is one that comes in and "goes by way too quickly." Even though Rojas did not like the outcome, he says "I know I can look back at past years on the field and be happy of what I've done."

For these seniors, the time as El Rancho Soccer players ends here, but their new journey into college soccer begins. Many hope that the scouts saw how good they did, and others hope they will be able to make the team in college. Soccer does not end for these players, but it just opens a new chapter into their athletic life.

Girls Waterpolo goes down in wild card game

BY BREANNA PEREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The girls' waterpolo team finished their season with an overall record of 16 wins and 9 losses and a Del Rio league record of 3 wins and 2 losses.

Unfortunately, the Dons lost in the wild card round against La Habra High in the CIF playoffs with a score of 15-5. Junior co-captain Leonila Sargento says, "We went out there and tried our hardest, and that's all I could ask for."

Senior co-captains Melody Carbajal and Sierra Edwards have not only reached the end of their season, but they have also reached the end of their fourth consecutive year of being a part of the water polo team, as well as their second year of earning the title of co-captain.

Throughout Carbajal's experience of being a part of the team, she says, "I gained leadership qualities, and I learned how to work on a team and how to work well with others."

Carbajal's advice to her fellow teammates would be to remember that "winning and losing doesn't matter because the most important thing is being a team and family."

One of the main things Edwards took from her time being co-captain is her ability to handle situations



The El Rancho Waterpolo girls bond during their swim practice before their season begins.

and conflicts that would come up unexpectedly.

During her time being a part of this year's team, she says, "I'm going to miss how much we bonded, and how we all just played together as a team." Carbajal agrees by saying, "I'm going to miss seeing the girls everyday because once we graduate, we're not going to be seeing them," she adds, "It's going to be dif-

ferent not talking to them."

Based upon the amount of effort and time Edwards and Carbajal put into leading the team, junior co-captain Leonila Sargento gained knowledge as a leader that she could potentially apply to next year's team. "I learned to always stay strong, to encourage everybody to the best of her ability, and to never give up on my team," says Sargento.

To prepare for next year's season, team members Rosemary Valdez, Zuri Pulido, and Sara Polanco have joined the International Water Polo Club. Pulido says, "We want to learn more plays and learn how to use them in a game." She also says, "We also want to come back stronger, so we're more prepared to go against other teams when our season starts."

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Meghan Trainor's "Title" album



BY GABRIELLE MAGNA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Now considered to comparable to that of Ariana Grande and Jessi J, Meghan Trainor is definitely a perfectionist at her art. Simply put—Trainor knows how to work her personal style through the power of noise. Her energetic sound consists of a combination of both pop and doo-wop that's perfect for the radio. Despite her recent increase of fame, Trainor

has been releasing music since the age of fifteen. Now twenty-one, Trainor's most recent release) is titled *Title*, respectively.

Title encompasses hits such as "All About That Bass" and "Lips Are Moving," that showcase Meghan's signature 1950s styled vocalizations. These tracks sound almost as if they belong within the musical Hairspray, but unlike social constructs of the 1950s, Meghan lyrically addresses topics in regards promoting body positivity and self-empowerment to women. Other tracks such as "Bang Dem Sticks" contain rap sequences, that not only exemplify Trainor's love for music, but also inspire other musicians, particularly drummers. Like many other emerging female musicians

today, Meghan Trainor has managed to craft an album entirely off of an unfortunate heartbreak, garnering a status of fame for it.

Upon its release, *Title* has reached No. 1 on UK charts, and has caught the attention of not only music reviewers, but children and adults alike. For children, the inevitably catchy sounds of *Title* evoke the need to dance, and for adults (particularly those experiencing relationship difficulties), one can have a listen to relatable music without dealing with the stereotypically "sad breakup songs" that heartbreaks permit. There's a reason a few of Meghan Trainor's tracks have made it big, particularly for their feel-good sounds, and there's an even bigger reason as to why you should take a full listen to *Title*.

Discovering Dons



Norbert Rodriguez

"What do you want to do as a career?"

"What I want to do as a career is that I want to write and direct motion pictures that people from past, present, and future generations can relate to and enjoy."



Mrs. Zeko

"When did you decide to become a teacher?"

"Both my parents were teachers, so I think I was destined to become a teacher. I always thought I'd have a different career first: journalism (college freshman), or political speech writing/war correspondent (12th grade), or cosmetology (tenth grade), or dolphin trainer (third grade). After that career, I expected to go back into the classroom to teach in that field. I didn't pursue the journalism career because in college, I was disillusioned by the use of the AP wire: I didn't want to type out the news; I wanted to investigate it. So, I skipped what I thought would be the first part of my career and went straight into the second part: teaching. The good news is I have taught journalism, and I was able to do some reporting for a school paper. Better still, I am married to a fantastic journalism advisor who puts out a quality paper on a consistent basis, so I got my journalism fix afterall!"



Brenda Brito

"What do you love most about drama?"

"What I love most about drama is of course Mr. Wlasick, our director because he is a true teacher and leader and just an amazing person to look up to, and we actually learn a lot of theatre and I couldn't ask for a better director."

Birdman flies high with critics



Warning: Spoilers abound

BY JANELLE MERCADO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Birdman illustrates a has-been actor's struggle for fame. Micheal Keaton stars as the irrelevant and forgotten comic hero, Riggan Thomson, who is attempting to re-establish himself as a true artist through the recreation of a Raymond Carver's story.

While battling the satirical, inner voice of his alter

ego who is Birdman, Riggan is forced to overcome many obstacles. Riggan is pushing his sanity to near breaking point.

Not only does Birdman have carefully crafted camera work and background compositions, but the satirical drama also contains humorous screenwriting. It is no wonder that this great piece of art won the Oscar for Best Picture of the year.

ASK M.J.



I want to get asked to prom, but I don't know if I will get asked. What should I do? I also want to make it memorable.

A lot of girls tend to struggle with the concept that is, Prom. They have to worry about finding the perfect dress and perfect shoes, getting flawless makeup and hair, and searching for the perfect date. If you are worrying a lot about getting asked to prom, there are a few things that you could do.

If you have a boyfriend, you can always drop subtle hints that you want to be asked to prom. For example, you can very casually bring up the theme or venue of this years dance and ask your boyfriend if he is planning on going.

However, this method can also be used for somebody that you are "talking" or flirting with but not necessarily dating. Keep in mind that you do not want to look desperate when bringing up the subject because it might not result greatly.

If you have no boyfriend or love interests altogether, there are two things you could do. The first and most easy thing is to just go

to prom with a group of friends. I find this to be the most effective because you are going to the most important dance of the year with people that you love, and you will be sure to have many memorable memories at this years prom.

The last thing that you could do is to go to prom with a friend who also needs a date. For example, if you have a friend that is also looking to go to prom with a date but has no idea who he wants to take, maybe you could come to the agreement of attending together. I think this is a great idea because not only will you have a date, but you are also sure to have tons of fun with someone you are already comfortable with.

I want to be a part of the school newspaper, and I want to write for it. It's always been a lifelong dream of mine to be published. Please read this and let me know if I have what it takes to be a newspaper writer.

As a member of the newspaper staff, I am very flattered that you are interested in writing for us. I am delighted to inform you

that becoming a member of the newspaper is a very do-able thing! All you need to do is speak to Mr. Zeko in X-1, and he will be more than happy to answer all of your questions on regards to the class.

There are actually many different tasks that need to be done in order to get each issue published, and I have no doubt that if you have enough determination and dedication, we will be able to find the perfect spot for you in newspaper staff. I greatly advise you to speak to Mr. Zeko as soon as possible and see if you can contribute to everything that gets done for the newspaper.

Here in newspaper staff we try our best to get everyone involved and I am sure you will fit right in with our staff. If you are incredibly interesting in writing for the newspaper above everything else, it couldn't hurt to bring us a sample of your work when you come and talk to Mr. Zeko.

What do you do if you find out your girlfriend is cheating on you with your best friend?

This is actually a very un-

fortunate thing to happen. The first thing that I would do is make sure that your girlfriend and best friend are actually seeing each other behind your back and that it is not just a misunderstanding. If you come to the conclusion that your best friend and your girlfriend are indeed seeing each other, the first thing that I would do is talk to them about it.

There really is no good enough reason as to why your best friend and girlfriend would put you through such a betrayal, and if I were you I would not forgive them. Not only did they deliberately disregard your feelings, but they also probably broke many promises that were made to you.

Best friends are supposed to always be there for you through tough times and not cause them by betraying you with your girlfriend.

Likewise, girlfriends are supposed to be loving and faithful and to not go messing around with your best friend. The best thing to do would definitely be to get them both out of your life.

What do I do if my teach-

er gives me unfair grades?

Many times teachers tend to "forget" the policy of being fair to all their students. With that being said, these teachers will give one student a better grade than you, when in fact both of you did the exact same work.

There could be many reasons to this problem. One being that the teacher favors some students over others and tends to be more lenient with those students he/she favors. Another cause could simply be that the teacher accidentally grades you unfairly.

I believe that you should talk to this teacher and demand why you received such grade. If you believe the teacher's response is invalid, then you can argue for a better grade. Make sure your argument is reasonable.

If this is done constantly, then I suggest you have a deep conversation with him/her. Explain to this teacher that you feel that he/she has not been grading you correctly. He/she might have a problem with you and if this is the case, then this conversation should solve this problem.

FUN ZONE

Word Scramble

Unscramble the book titles.

1) *Hýarr otrpet dna het sorrípne fo zaknaba*

2) *Egenr gsge nad amh*

3) *ityff saheds fo ryge*

4) *Eht tsal ogsn*

5) *Osipgs lrgi*

6) *Ot lílk a gionkrácmíb*

7) *Ogonklí orf aasakl*

8) *Eth crcahet ní teh yer*

9) *Irayd fo a pwymi dík*

10) *Het sdtrusioe*

Hints



Horoscopes

AQUARIUS: Your life has been going very well lately, and you'll be sharing a lot of positive vibes this upcoming month to focus on relationship with others. Remember to put others before yourself, and don't overthink.

PISCES: During the month of March, your charm will be the foundation to starting relationships with new people. Don't be shy, and go out and meet others. This will be a month for new experiences.

ARIES: Your comfort zone may be an obstacle, so try to push that away. You'll notice that you can achieve the strength to build up your weaknesses within your character. This month will be full of adventure! Expose yourself.

TAURUS: It may be hard to concentrate on your career, but eventually things will clear up. Make sure to take time to reflect. Laughter, pleasant evenings, and celebrations are in view. However, you must open yourself up and talk to more people in order to get the best out of it.

GEMINI: It's a crazy month! You may encounter news you did not prepare for, but your ability to quickly find solutions will be rewarding. Keep in mind that you won't always be able to please everyone, so it's okay to fail as long as you learn how to do things better next time.

CANCER: You'll be having a rich month



full of surprises. You've been following a routine lately, and you need to learn to break from those routines. During your moments of solitude, you'll find yourself looking for answers but it's best to enjoy quiet time and relax from overthinking.

LEO: Take a moment and quit the "uptight leader" attitude. As a Leo, you often find yourself over-analyzing situations, hindering enjoyment of the little things. This month you'll have gen-

uine happy opportunities. Don't miss out on them.

VIRGO: You recently learned an important lesson, and now you can teach others how to achieve success. Integrate your feelings into your social interactions by sharing what's in your heart. Don't miss this opportunity to let down your guard and open up to someone you trust.

LIBRA: This month your life is going to feel off balance, and since you're a Libra, you know just how important it is to have balance in your life! Get it? Because the Libra symbol is a scale! Also remember puns are great.

SCORPIO: You've been in the dumps for a while but this month, someone is going to see you for who you really are. Keep your head up high and open new doors.

SAGITTARIUS: Last month was great and next month will be even greater because you're a Sagittarius! You make the best out of your life and love to party! Don't let anything get in your way; it's not like it has stopped you before!

CAPRICORN: Instead of attempting to focus on your responsibilities, surrender to the flow and share your vision of what you could do once you finally finish your chores. However, talking about your plans isn't enough, so roll up your sleeves now and get busy right away. The sooner you start, the sooner you can move on.

Valentine's Day
♥ PUNS ♥
By: Samantha Munoz

You're the JUAN
my heart has been searching for



YODA one for me



You stole a PIZZA my heart



PICTURE THIS

A time for friendships in February



Dons are all smiles as they hang out with each other during lunch time in the quad.



Seniors Diego Cervantes and Andrew Nunez feeding parakeets at Long Beach Aquarium.



King Ivan Sierra and Queen Jackie DeLoza after being crowned during the Winter Belle game.



Katrina Kaevalin performs during the Coffee House Night for choir.



Guest Taylor Fogle and El Rancho Senior Ashley Miller prior to Formal.



Senior ASB members Mia Castillo and Anissa Ramirez welcome the class of 2019.



Congresswoman Linda Sanchez visits Culinary Arts to judge their cooking during fourth period.



Runners eager to start the sixth annual Fun Run race that took place on February 16th.



Freshman Eric Catano before spinning the wheel during Once a Don, Always a Don.