



## Open for Business hosts product expo



BY HUGO MARTINEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Pico Rivera Chamber of Commerce held its annual Open for Business Expo at Mi Hacienda Restaurant on October 8th.

This event was a productive way for local businesses to showcase their numerous products and services. The businesses present included restaurants, credit unions, cable companies, and healthcare providers. Representatives from places, such as Clearman's Steak 'N Stein and Frantone's Pizza, distributed samples of their food. Ultimately, this demonstrates that these businesses are willing to go to greater lengths to advertise their products.

Senior Leslie Valdez says, "The Open for Business Expo" is important because there are many companies that could help better our community." The health care providers all distributed free flyers, which entitles people with free services, such as basic check ups and breast examines.

This convention was a way to familiarize students with the fast-paced business world and establish connections among students and representatives. Some volunteer opportunities arose in which students can further learn about healthcare.

"With the many different areas of business it was a great way to begin networking," says senior Natalie Torres. "The citizens of Pico Rivera had the opportunity to meet the many faces of our favorite businesses and understand more about the organization."

El Rancho's Regional Occupational Program (ROP) Business Internship class, led by teacher Maria Camacho, had the opportunity to volunteer and learn. The students worked closely with representatives and helped present the company's objective to the rest of the public.

The three-hour convention brought different sections of business together and created a sense of community.

## Jurassic Juniors Stomp Mad Seniors



The 32nd annual Night Pep Rally began with high spirits and some friendly competition amongst the four classes before escalating into a frenzy. In the end, after a fierce battle, the class of 2017 stole the night. What did it sound like when they won? Like Dino-mite! Each class was judged and scored according to their creativity, pride, respect for fellow classes, and demonstration of the assigned theme. The "Jurassic Juniors" came in first place, with a total of 235.75 points, and the "Mad Seniors" came in second place, with a total of 231 points. The "So Back Sophomores" landed in third, and finally the "Wicked Freshman" placed fourth. There was the typical heated competition amongst classes; however, all of El Rancho High came together in the end and showed their Blue Pride as the rally closed with the Alma Matter. So following the "Juniors win" trend, will we see the class of 2018 taking the title next year?

## SEA mentors tutor middle school students

BY VANESSA GOMEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Successful Educational Achievement (SEA) Program, which provides one on one tutoring and assisting for middle school students, initiated last school year at North Park Academy of the Arts by local high school students who wanted to make a difference in their community.

"I, along with my partner [Andrew Perez, a senior at Loyola High School], really wanted to find a way to improve our community and what better way than to assist in education. A tutoring program was our first idea. We both knew that if we started young, [in students' middle school years] we could make more of an impact," says Justin Uribe.

Uribe and Perez decided to begin somewhere where support's prevalent; their former middle school, North Park, quickly came to their minds. "I was approached by Andrew and Justin last Spring. I was immediately excited about the possibilities and I thought that high school tutors/mentors might be just what 'at-risk-middle-school-students' need." The students from El Rancho are awesome role models and they can show our students what is possible if they work hard," says Principal of North Park Academy of the Arts, Pricilla Rodriguez.



The mentors of the Successful Educational Achievement Program pose for a photo after a day of tutoring.

For Nayeli Hernandez, the program has "benefited [me] a lot because I have been able to open up to other people because I have had this experience of helping another student. It has opened my eyes and let me know that I can make a difference, and it is really meaningful."

"I've seen first-hand how [the SEA program] helps. I've

seen students who went from straight Fs, below a 1.0, jump to Cs, Bs, and As in less than a year. It may not seem drastic, but for us and them, it's tremendous and a true joy to see," says Justin Uribe.

All of those in the SEA program have thought of expanding the program. Uribe "would love to see us spread out to the other middle schools in

our community and eventually have a beneficial involvement with the elementary schools."

El Rancho students continue to meet with their mentors twice a week and welcome those who would like to be a part of the SEA program. Starting the new semester in January, go to B-201 or I-8 for more information.

# THE WORLD AROUND US

## Disneyland rates reach ridiculous!

BY ADRIANA CARCHIPULLA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Disneyland just became the not "so happiest place on Earth" at least for peoples' wallets, when Disney increased its Disney signature Plus Annual Passport from \$779 to \$1049 on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

As if Disneyland's ticket prices were not expensive, Disney decided to not only raise its prices for its annual passes, but also for its single-day one park pass from \$89 to \$100. If one wishes to have the single-day park hopper it would cost \$40 more, a total of \$140. Disneyland offers four different types of annual passes that vary from \$329 to \$1049. Because of these high-ticket prices, people might still get the annual pass, just not the most expensive one.

Although the Disney Signature Plus Passport is very expensive, it comes with many benefits, such as every day admission to the park, same day theme park visits, Disney Photo pass downloads, up to 15% off select dining, up to 20% off select merchandise, and theme park parking. Also, a monthly payment plan of \$79.17 is available in order to make this deal easier. This might seem perfect to many people, but to others this is outrageous.

In case Disney visitors did not know, Disneyland's theme



The famous Halloween decor displayed at Disneyland theme park in Anaheim, California.

parks also include multiple day tickets with prices depending on the amount of days the ticket offers. It is not only a one-day ticket, but also increases to a five-day ticket. A visitor can pay for these multiple day tickets either as an entire payment per ticket or a payment per day.

Not many people are will-

ing to pay large amounts of money for a theme park. Many may actually stop going to Disneyland because of the increase in price, or the amount of visits may decrease. If I decided to buy a \$1049 annual pass, then I would have to make my moneys' worth and visit the theme park as much as possible, but personally I am

just going to stick to a one-day pass. Disneyland is too amazing to stop attending so I will continue to purchase Disney tickets.

So if one remains interested in visiting Disneyland after the price increase, enjoy the experience, buy the best foods, put on Mickey and Minnie Mouse ears, and make the best out of the visit.

## Pico Rivera city council elections near



Joey A. Moreno



Bob J. Archuleta



Gregory Salcido



Brent A. Tercero

BY MICHAEL NEELY  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The November Pico Rivera City Council Election approaches as the four candidates compete for the three available seats. Brent A. Tercero, Joey Arnold Moreno, Bob J. Archuleta, and Gregory Salcido all endorse reforms regarding financial responsibility.

"My goal is to have an impact on decision making at a political level through intelligent policy making" Tercero says. "I am fighting for a strong future for Pico Rivera: a place where families want to live and businesses want to locate." In addition, Tercero plans to add new infrastruc-

ture projects and new housing developments to the community.

Likewise, Moreno says, "I will ensure money is spent on items that are beneficial to our community," believing "our current council is lacking a sound financial voice." "My top priority will be to concentrate on crime prevention initiatives and public safety strategies to make our city safe to live, visit, and play." Also, he says, "The city is spending too much money! The revenue fund is money kept in case of an emergency and should not have been tapped into."

Archuleta endorses the military for young adults since he is a combat veteran who was

involved in the 82nd Airborne Division and served for the Montebello Police Department. His record illustrates that he is the First Hispanic American to be appointed by any president as a member of the board and served as Chairman of the U.S. Small Business Administration Advisory.

Salcido commented on his relevance in the election saying, "As Mayor, I try to find value in everything my colleagues say. I would step aside if there was anyone that could do the job better." He desires funding our public library with eight million dollars and making it more of an information center rather than solely a reading location.

Pico Rivera gained recognition when First Lady Michelle Obama commented on the outstanding credibility of the city's recreational uses out of the other forty-nine cities present. The Pico Rivera City Council congratulates the city for its role in the state, but the council still requires some corrections. The candidates believe the council needs more communication and requires a collective vision.

Every candidate remains proud of the accomplishments Pico Rivera has achieved, but say there is still work to be done. They ask for the votes of every citizen to assure improvements and stability the community.

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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.**

# THE WORLD AROUND US

## Leave the guns to the authorities



ALEXIS REYNA PARRA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

According to *The Washington Post*, mass shootings have increased over the past fifteen years, and although they have been brought up from time to time in politics, it has yet to be taken as seriously as it needs to be.

This is very strange considering that six of the deadliest shootings have taken place

in the past eight years, such as the Virginia shooting this past August, the Aurora movie theater shooting in 2012, the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in late 2012, and the Omaha shopping mall shooting of 2007.

Purchasing a firearm is relatively easy as long as the requirements are met. To purchase a firearm a person must be at least eighteen or twenty-one depending on what type of firearm

he or she wants to purchase, and must go through a series of background checks as provided by Cabela's Incorporated. These background checks are to assure mental and emotional stability and to check for a possible criminal record. These background checks seem to have not been effective given the past incidents.

The gunmen behind all of these mass shootings were of legal age to purchase a gun. They

all went through background checks, but most of the individuals that committed the crime were diagnosed with mental diseases or found a loophole to get a gun. Why were their background checks not carefully looked at? Profound background checks are not necessary just for those individuals, but for all who have purchased or are debating on purchasing a gun.

No one other than all forms of homeland security should carry any type of weapons. There are no pros to having a gun, only cons. Some may use guns for recreational activities, such as hunting. Others may say they need weaponry for protection, but the police are there for protection, which justifies why they have guns.

Whether an individual is a licensed professional or just a hunter from time to time, he/she shouldn't have a gun, only those whose job involves our protection should be able to obtain one.

## Race to the U.S. Presidency



BY TIM RIESGO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With the Presidential race on the horizon, it is time we start thinking about who will represent our nation for the next four and possibly eight years. Of course there are several candidates under minor parties, but let's stick to the Republican and Democratic parties.

For the Republican Party, it seems as if everyone is running. Even Donald Trump is running, someone who has had no real involvement in politics other than donating to a few campaigns. Looking at the polls, Trump has been the leader of the pack. Even with these early statistics, Trump proves not to be the best choice to represent our country. With all the offensive statements and no real policies to improve the country, it is highly improbable Trump will be the last man standing for the Republican Party.

After Trump, the main leaders for the Republican side of the race are Ben Carson and Marco Rubio. Carson is extremely pro-life and wants to balance the national budget. Rubio desires to create more jobs and improve the education system. Both display good policies, strong improvements to our nation, and are great role models who will demonstrate great leadership under the title of President of the United States.

For the Democratic Party, there is no big race here. It will come down to Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders. A woman in office would be quite the change. I would definitely see it as a good change, displaying that it is not essential to be a male to run a nation. Clinton wants equality for all Gay, Lesbian, Bi, and Transgender people. Bernie Sanders on the other hand, would consider himself as an independent, but to stay relevant, he represents the Democratic Party. Sanders believes education should be free and minimum wage should be raised to \$15 an hour.

There are several good choices for the presidential race. It is now time for our society to get involved and elect the most qualified candidate America feels can represent our nation.

## Social media threat forces campus lock down



BY ERNESTO GARCIA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

A *Twitter* "joke" went sour after an El Rancho High School student tweeted that he would bring a weapon and a bomb to school.

On Thursday morning October 22, El Rancho High School principal Jessica Kwek received a call about the threat from Deputy Sergio Peralta of the Los Angeles County sheriff's department, and soon after announced that the school was on lock down.

"We got word about the Tweet and someone advised us that the suspect could possibly be from El Rancho and when we determined he was here, we followed through the procedure," said Peralta. Peralta debunked the rumor that the 'police broke into the classroom through the window, only to create a distraction to get the suspect.'

"No, we did not taser the student. We do have those tools with us in case we do need

them, but the student was unharmed," explained Peralta.

The students in the classroom where the suspect was detained remained calm; however some students were later provided with help from counselors.

"People have to understand that once you use words, it is hard to take them back," said Peralta. "People should not take these types of threats as a joke because they can be true as seen in past events," added Peralta.

The school was then given the "all-clear" after the police took the suspect from school grounds and the day resumed as scheduled.

"Peralta alerted us that we were going into lock down, so that is when I did the announcement," said Kwek. "I did not know why we were going into lock down, but safety is the first thing so we have to get all the doors locked," added Kwek. Students who are outside their classrooms should look for the first opened room, or if near the office should go in there for safety."

"I have never had this situation while I have been here. We have had lock downs, but it was because of something happening outside of school," said Kwek. "My biggest concern was that this was something posted on social media and I am also concerned that no students brought it to our attention. Student safety is our top priority, so I hope that if something like this happens again, our students would let us know," said Kwek. "Students who retweeted the Tweet should have let the people in the office know instead of retweeting," said Kwek.

"You should take every threat seriously," said El Rancho Unified Superintendent Martin Galindo, "you hope that it would not happen because it seriously can happen; we have heard stuff in the news in the past twenty years where things like this do happen."

"You are prepared for the worst, but hope for the best because you never know," added Galindo.

"Stuff is going to get out," said Galindo as he explained why

it is important to let the people know the truth. "We want to make sure that what is released is the right information because you cannot hide anything," said Galindo.

Galindo says the staff at El Rancho is making sure the right information is known so that there will not be any confusion and so the people in the community do not feel like the district is holding back information.

Kwek added, "I do not want parents to be misinformed, so the number one priority is always the safety of the students," said Kwek.

El Rancho staff members and the sheriff's department hope that something like this never happens again and hope students learn to be careful with what they say on social media.

Kwek encourages students to inform the staff when a threatening post is seen on social media so the situation can be handled quickly and everyone can be prepared.

## CAMPUS

## Drama raising funds for New York trip



BY ISAAC CARLOS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Students from the Advanced Drama Program have been invited by the School Tours of America to visit New York. To help reduce the cost for the New York trip, Advanced Drama put together the "Nueva York Committee" that will fund raise until February 2016.

"The drama department will be visiting New York for five days and four nights this Spring break," says Advanced Drama student Xcaret "Scottie" Estrada. "We would like to perform in the Lincoln Center during our trip in New York." Not only do the actors want to perform, but they also want to sightsee, explore, and learn. "We will also be able to visit places, such as the Empire State Building, the Statue of Liberty, and many more monuments and museums," advanced student actress Ivy Castillo says. Estrada adds, "We will even have a chance to see two live premium Broadway plays and take professional theatre workshops which is really beneficial to us. What better way can you learn about acting than in New York itself?"

However, the department will not be able to perform unless they raise enough money to actually attend the trip to New York.

Advanced Drama student Vanessa Espinoza says, "The drama class agreed to make a New York Committee that will plan awesome fund raisers to help raise money that would be split evenly among the actors."

The Advanced Drama students officially put together the Nueva York Committee, lead by Ivy Castillo, Vanessa Espinoza, and Xcaret Estrada, on September 9th.

"We have already done the Elado Fund raiser on October 9, and are planning other fund raisers like shows, movie nights, and dinners," said Castillo. Espinoza added, "We are aiming to have a fundraiser every other week so that we can help the actors go to New York."

The committee is also accepting any donation money that will go directly toward the students' trip.

Estrada says, "Some of the drama students might have jars for any donation money, even change, that would go toward their own personal trip to New York."

The young advanced actors are pushing to attend this trip offered by the School Tours of America and are giving 100% of their effort into the fund raisers.

"The next fund raiser will be a movie night in November," Ivy Castillo says. Xcaret Estrada said, "Keep a lookout for any publicized fund raisers for your own amusement and to help us attend this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

## Simply Irresistible: Man Crush Manny



Manny Cruz laying in the grass thinking about who he's going to ask to Homecoming.

BY MARTIN ZAMARRIPA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

If any ladies out there are anxiously waiting for Monday just to post your Man Crush Monday, the perfect man remains obvious. California born and raised, Manny Cruz is simply irresistible. He puts the MC in MCM. Cruz has all the qualities women would desperately desire: slim body, brains, a great sense of humor

and of course, a handsome, pretty face with hair that contains more volume than Spinal Tap's amplifier. Manny is heavily involved in clubs at school, such as, Academic Decathlon, Key Club, the California Scholarship Federation (CSF), and he also serves as vice president of the Gadabouts.

Manny is the perfect guy to share a late night Starbucks and homework date; a teacher will definitely not be disappointed

with the work he helps you complete. He also happens to be the co-founder and president of the Cultural Awareness Club, but do not worry ladies, he will squeeze everyone into his busy schedule.

Aside from being heavily involved in extracurricular activities, Manny enjoys driving in his Toyota Corola to interesting places. If he is not in the library or in Mrs. Palomares' room, one might be able to catch him at

art museums or backyard music shows. His favorite locations to spend time are Little Tokyo in Downtown Los Angeles, where any lucky gals can spend a day with him for the low price of "free".

Manny's interests capture any girl's attention. He is an avid supporter of dogs and travel, so a girl will never have to stress about that, "no, it's up to you, wherever you want to go" issue. Manny tries to spend his time productively, but when he's tired of signing autographed photos for his fans, he relaxes by watching his favorite television show, *Parks and Recreation*.

Manny is very open to any kind of music, but his favorite music group is The Growlers. In addition, he is the perfect guy to invite to your family parties. He is known very well in school for his groovy salsa and cumbia dance skills.

Many feel that tall girls are too mainstream now, but not Manny. His ideal woman is tall and mysterious. He does not dig the average Hot Cheeto finger-licking, McDonald's breakfast-feasting type of girl. He likes his women with a bit more excitement and spice in their life. He wishes to marry a Russian Sleeper Spy someday, but that does not mean any gorgeous Lady Dons do not have a chance with the next Simon Fuller.

## Chef Luna helps the less fortunate



Chef Luna and culinary art alumni with El Rancho Unified Superintendent, Mr. Martin Galindo.

BY JOCELYN SICAIROS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Chef Luna and the alumni from the Culinary Arts Club are assembling their 9th annual Gifts for the Less Fortunate; alumni go to Downtown Los Angeles on Thanksgiving and distribute gifts to the homeless.

Chef says, "I feel that as a culinary instructor it is my responsibility to share my network and my resources to help people during the holiday."

Angel Silva, alumni of 2012, said, "one of the greatest experiences about the club is who you become after the club.

Being in the club from freshman to senior year, made me become a better person. It wasn't just the club but it was David Luna who was more of a life mentor than a teacher. He guided me through the right path."

The Culinary Arts Club will be making over 200 gift bags with not just food, but blankets, clothing, and basic essentials. The club will be making homemade meals, for the children. They will also be making chocolate chip cookies, and brownies, homemade meals for children and homemade pet food for the homeless pets. Also, the club provides homemade pet food for the homeless

who own pets in need of food. "On Skid Row you see people rush towards you to get food and leave with a smile. Its contagious", says Kevin Ortiz, alumni of 2012.

The alumni that accompany Chef Luna to the event are from the class of 2009 to 2015. Chef Luna is very thankful for this club and the alumni because they are dedicating their time to help their community. He said, "It makes me happy to see that alumni now take their family with them and make it their tradition."

Ashley Valli, Alumni of 2013, says, "Going to Skid Row made me appreciate what we

have because they have nothing and go day by day living this way. When they see water they get so happy and ask for more because they haven't had water in days, and that hurt me. This was the first experience in this club that made me cry."

Chef Luna is going to accept donations to help with this event. Items acceptable include non-perishable foods (such as water, fruit, cereal, popcorn, etc.) Blankets, clothes, tampons, and toothbrushes. The last day to donate is Wednesday, November 25th. If any students have questions or want to donate, see Chef Luna in Q-4.



# HALLOWEEN S

## Flashback Friday: Baby Dons



"I dressed up as Woody from Toy Story because at that time it was my favorite Disney movie. I wore the costume for about a week because I truly felt like I was him. What I remember most from that day is walking around all day saying 'there's a snake in my boot.'"

- Ruben Barragan, 12th



"When I was six years old, I wore a dress with music notes on it for Halloween because even as a child I loved music. I wouldn't dress up like that anymore because I would probably put more thought into my costume. If I were to dress up this Halloween, I would probably be something more creative, such as Netflix and chill. All I would need is a red shirt that says Netflix on it and carry a bag of ice around."

- Valeria Gomez, 12th



"I was Princess Belle for Halloween when I was five years old and I chose it because I really loved the movie *The Beauty and the Beast*. What I remember from that day is that I got those big Hershey chocolates and I ate most of them on the same day."

- Paola Gonzalez, 10th

## Once upon a Halloween



BY ALBERT PRECIADO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Halloween originally began as an ancient Celtic Festival, but has evolved into a holiday of treats, costumes, and even a couple of tricks.

From Europe to America, Halloween was on the move. Americans hosted "play parties" which were public events in which neighbors would share stories of the dead, tell each other's fortunes, sing, and dance. By the mid-19th century, annual autumn festivities became prevalent, yet the nation did not celebrate Halloween because of its' rigid Protestant beliefs.

By the second half of the 19th century, America had been flooded with immigrants, the bulk of which came from Ireland where the tradition originally began. Americans began to dress up in costumes and go around, from house to house asking for food or money from neighbors. During this time, young women also believed that they could discover their future husband's name by performing tricks with yarn, apple parings, and mirrors.

In the late 1800's, America decided to make Halloween a holiday for the community and neighborly get together. The holiday drifted away from ghosts, pranks, and witchcraft.

Community leaders encouraged the public to remove anything frightening or grotesque from Halloween celebrations.

Moving into the more modern era where Halloween changed from a peaceful community-centered celebration, problems arose for the communities by the 1920's and 1930's Halloween was still shamed within America because of religious beliefs, but it still remained a community-centered holiday. Children hardly took part in the celebration because of their parent's religion. Although the 1920'to the 1930's had plenty of vandalism in the communities, by the 1950's, town leaders had successfully limited vandalism and Halloween

was now directed to the younger generation of Americans.

In the 21st century Halloween has come a long way and is now the second biggest commercial holiday, accumulating \$6 billion dollars annually. So pull out those skeletons and ghosts wherever you keep them and buy some candy, eggs, and toilet paper. Go out and be part of a tradition 2,000 years in the making.

START HERE

## A DIY Halloween



BY SAMANTHA CHAVEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Halloween is creeping up on us like a beast lurking in a dark corner. What does

that mean? Tricks? Treats? No, costumes! What else does that mean? A lot of money to spend!

Senior Kelly Lugo knows that costumes are very pricey and are not always the best qual-

ity. So what does Lugo do? She makes homemade costumes!

This year Lugo's inspiration is the Night Pep Rally theme of Alice in Wonderland where she plans to be the Mad Hatter. Lugo

said, "I thought it would be cool if I made up my own costume."

This is not her first year making her own costume since she began doing this at the age of seven. "When I was smaller my mom would help me make my costumes because I always thought they were more creative than actually going out and buying one."

Of all the costumes Lugo has ever made, her favorite is the "Little Red Riding Hood because that was the first costume [she] ever made." Her success inspired her to keep making her unique

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# POOKTACULAR

## Pico Rivera's spooky corner



Valdez' spooky house on the corner of Passons and Sunglow.

BY KATHELEEN MADERA  
AND KAITLYN CUNNINGHAM  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

Every year Jose Valdez, a Pico Rivera resident, decorates the exterior of his home for Halloween. For the past twenty years, he has made it a tradition to dedicate two weeks before Halloween to decorate every inch of his house.

He owns twenty-five dummies, ten coffins, four speakers, and three light projectors to enhance the scare. Since he is a retired man, he is able to go on weekly trips to the swap meets of Pico Rivera and Santa Fe to expand his collection.

Every Halloween he has over five hundred visitors, from little kids to newspaper reporters. His spooky house attracts many people due to its scary decor. His neighbor, Leslie Lopez, says "every year I look forward to seeing the new things he has." This year in particular, he plans to have

the students from Birney Elementary visit his house on the Friday before Halloween. However because of some issues regarding insurance coverage, it is possible that he will not be able to follow through with his idea.

Since the cost and labor to decorate is such a big task, many people volunteer in helping him

with the haunting scene. "I have six grandchildren who go wild." The donations given to him from family members and residents, play a big part in the continuation of his decorated house. His sons have also been very supportive by helping him construct many of the wooden frames that support the gigantic spider web.

The web proves to be the show stopper that lights up in the front, surrounding RIP stones. Alma Morales, neighbor from a couple blocks down, says, "the only bad thing about the extravagant decorations is the traffic that forms by people who are curious and stop in the middle of the street to see the house."

"My cellar is in this order: half of it is Christmas and half of it is the Halloween decorations." Mr. Valdez admits that he has an abundance of decorations, yet he still spends his weekends building up his massive collection.

"I just do it for fun because it is something I really enjoy doing." He hopes to continue this annual tradition in the future and welcomes everyone to his spectacular Halloween home.

## Short Spooky Story

*One little night on Halloween,  
There was a child, no older than ten,  
Enjoying the horrid night.  
Dressed in his costume,  
Saw many scary things,  
Some cute and some weird.  
Such diversity on this night,  
The little boy saw a figure  
Three times his size, in the lonely park.  
The boy went to the figure and it disappeared.  
He got worried thinking it was coming after him.  
He ran frightened to his house  
Only to find it on fire.  
The figure was there with devil's eyes.*

-Wesley Fraizer  
El Rodeo Staff Writer

**WOTS:**  
What is your favorite Halloween theme park?



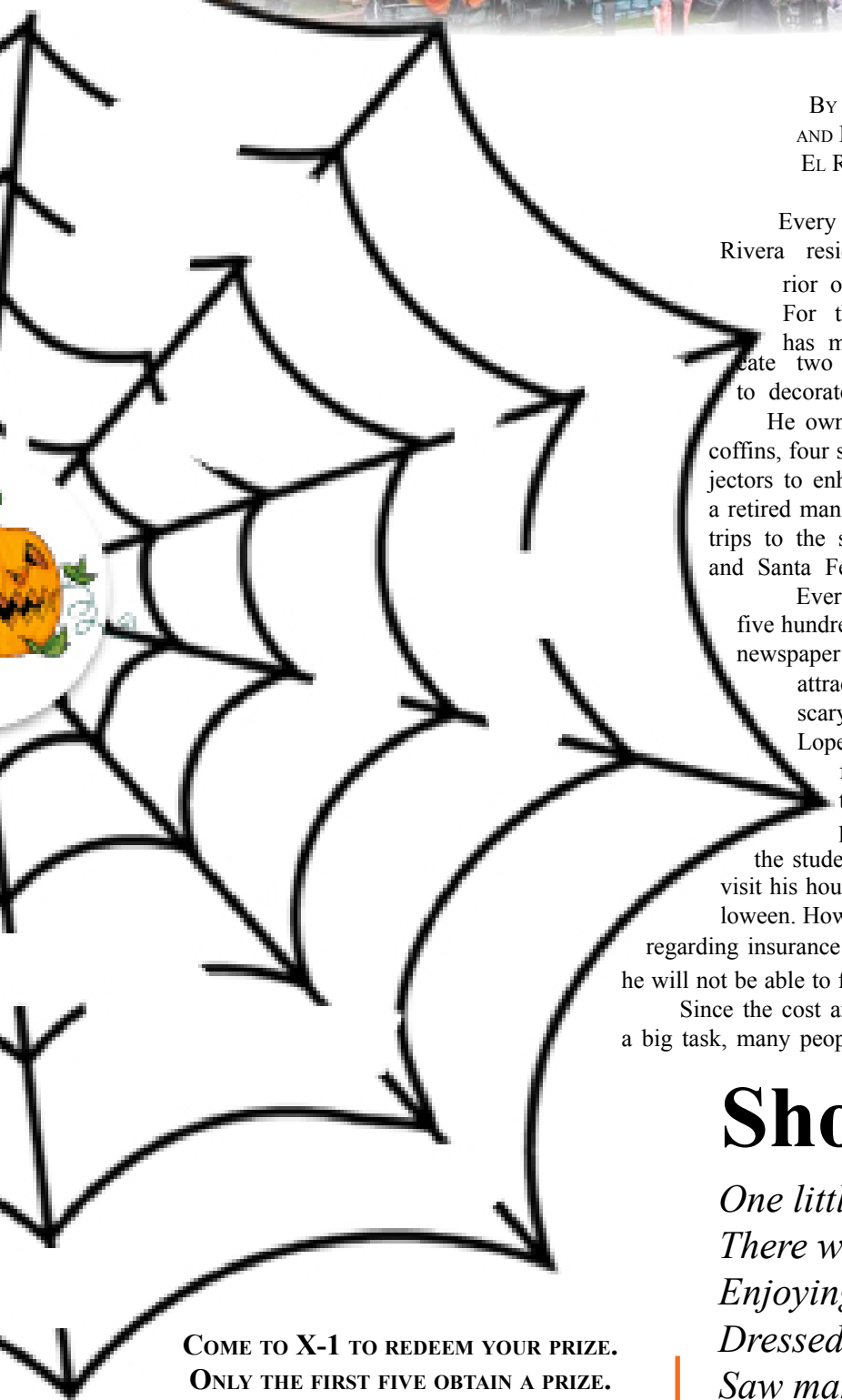
"Universal Studios Horror Nights is my favorite because of all the cool fun mazes they have there. It's fun and big, and I think it's really scary. I love seeing people who get chased by the characters, its hilarious."  
- Stephanie De La Cruz 9<sup>th</sup>



"My favorite Halloween amusement park is Universal Studios Horror Nights. I like it because it brings out your inner Halloween and also get you scared at the same time, which is fun."  
- Sebastian Carcano, 10<sup>th</sup>



"I prefer Knott's Scary farm. There's always something new there, always different mazes and people with more masks. My favorite part about it is always seeing people run scared."  
- Maria Gonzalez 12<sup>th</sup>



COME TO X-1 TO REDEEM YOUR PRIZE.  
ONLY THE FIRST FIVE OBTAIN A PRIZE.

mes. Lugo has never thought making costumes and sell- out says, "I'm pretty sure if e ask me to, then I would." Another Don who en- making homemade cos- is junior Brianna Colin. 's inspiration this year is e very creative and make [costume] one of a kind." Colin plans on being Twee- e for this Halloween. "The ss of making [a costume] is two to three weeks. I began I was in third grade and it t my attention because they

stand out." Colin has been plan- ning her costumes a lot. "My all time favorite costume was the one of me being a Christmas tree. I put gift boxes as my shoes and I put Christmas lights all around, and by the way this costume helped me win a costumes contest! I always make sure to set a budget which usually is twenty, to thirty dollars every year," says Colin.

So Dons, if you want to be original and make your own cos- tumes, make sure to ask Kelly Lugo and Brianna Colin for advice!

# SPORTS

## Dons remain in hunt for playoff berth



Photo by David Hernandez

By Julian Lopez  
El Rodeo Staff Writer

The El Rancho Dons football team has fallen to 0-3 in league play for an overall record of 0-8. The Dons hope to turn things around in the final two games of the season.

"It's tough the way the season has gone. We've had a tough pre-season. We're not going to give up though and we're going to do our best to win these last two," said senior wide receiver, Adrian Pop.

Although the Dons have no wins on their record, they still have a small chance to make it to the playoffs as a wildcard team.

Senior defensive lineman Malachi Allen said, "A lot of stuff would have to go our way in order for us to make it. We would have to win out the last two games. We would need Whittier, Pioneer, and Cal High as well to lose their final too. I believe they could be beat, but it's a slim chance."

The Dons have suffered recent losses with head coach

Roddy Hiatt on medical leave. Defensive Coordinator Cedrick Allen has been named the interim head coach while Hiatt is away.

"Coach Allen has done a great job at filling in the position. He stepped up and he still believes in us. He's done the best that he could to make us play to our greatest potential," said Pop.

"The intensity has changed," said senior defensive lineman, Ricardo Toriz. "We want to go out there and win."

With the last two games in against Pioneer and Cal

High, the Dons are hoping to finish the season strong.

"I feel like our record doesn't represent our season. We're a better team than that," said junior quarterback Adam Chandler. "For these last two games we just have to go out there and have fun and hopefully turn things around."

The Dons will play Pioneer High School tonight at El Rancho, so come out and cheer the team to a strong finish.

### Cross Country team prepares for league finals

By MARISSA MESTAS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Cross-country freshmen boys are tied for second place while freshmen girls are in second place. As for the varsity teams, the boys are tied for second place, and girls in third place.

Senior Elisha Lugo is preparing for league finals. "I'm making sure I am getting a lot of rest and putting everything I can into training," says Lugo, "I am definitely going to miss laughing until my tummy hurts and bugging my coaches."

Four year team member Alma Colindres says, "It's about working together and trying to push each other to do your best. It takes hard work, determination, and ability, to learn how to work as a team to become stronger."

Senior Ashley Grajeda says, "The team is working as hard as we can to finish the league strong." When it comes to cross country, Grajeda pushes herself and others to do the very best that they can. She also hopes for another great year, as this is her last season of her high school career.

Heaven Vasquez says cross country is important to her because, "It grows on you. It's like a mixed emotion. You don't know someone at first, but then you build a friendship. You use running to relieve all your stress and everything else at the end of your day. It builds up your self confidence knowing you did the best you can, and all the training paid off. It shows you are a lot stronger than you thought."

As Moises Rodriguez talked about preparing for league finals, he said, "I'm trying to run a bit faster and a bit more aggressive."

Colindres and Vasquez explain, "All of us help each other out. We like to motivate each other". Grajeda says, "We push each other during the workout. It's a combination of the coaches and the runners."

Most of the seniors have been on the team for four years and are going to miss being on the team.

"Trying to stay healthy is the main key," says coach Luis Guevara, "It is important to avoid last minute injuries especially for the seniors who will be running their last race." Guevara will miss going on the trips and coaching the seniors once the season is over.

Albert Madueno says, "we are doing strenuous workouts on a daily bases and we are working as a team." Madueno will miss running with seniors and hanging out with them.

Running countless miles a week, the boys' and girls' cross-country team are ready for their last league meet. The cross-country team will have their final next week on November 5, 2015, held at Legg Lake.

**El Rancho High School**

**HOME! COMING!**

Reunite with fellow Dons or meet other ER parents during pre-game festivities, including food for the first 200 alumni or parents, games for kids, t-shirts, and a photobooth!

**10/30/15 @ 5pm** on the ERHS soccer field

**#BACKTOTHERANCH**

**Ernie Johnson Memorial Golf Tournament**

When: January 8th, 2016

Where: California Country Club - 1509 South Workman Road, Whittier, CA 90601

Registration: 9:00am - 9:45am

Tee-Off: 10:00am Shot Gun Start

Lunch: 3:00pm

Cost: \$150 - Includes: Tournament Fee, Golf Cart, Locker Facilities, Refreshments, Breakfast, and Lunch.

\*Proceeds of the tournament to benefit El Rancho Student-Athletes and Athletic Programs\*

For more registration information or questions, please contact:  
Mary Chapman - 565.801.5355 ext 428 or mchapman@erusd.org



## ACADEMICS

## AP students face many sleepless nights

BY ERNESTO GARCIA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

AP Dons prepare for another rigorous school year full of sleepless nights and mountains of homework.

Students in AP classes strive for success in school and in their future. "My motivation is to be able to provide for my future family," says Angel Talavera who hopes for a successful economic life. "AP classes are much more fast pace than non-AP classes," Talavera explains, "these classes require outside-the-box thinking so expect tough questions from the teachers." Talavera has had a lot of experience with AP classes since he began to take them sophomore year. Therefore, he knows what is expected and the challenges that AP classes are associated with. The life of an AP scholar proves challenging because time is one's enemy. "I do have to make a schedule ahead of time instead of being able to spontaneously go somewhere like most people," said senior Jennifer Guerra. "I absolutely have a social life. Most of my friends have the same schedule as I do, so it is easy to meet up with them," Guerra explained as she spoke about time management.

Making the transition from a non-AP class to an AP



Mr. Rojo is lecturing about the different languages around the world in his AP Human Geography class.

class may be a very challenging and difficult transition. Students at El Rancho are encouraged to take AP classes by teachers as well as their peers. "Students should go ahead and take them," said Guerra. "Students who are taking AP classes for the first time should pay attention in class because once you fall behind from the rest of the class, it is very difficult to catch up," advises Talavera to first time AP students.

Procrastination, much like many of the students, is also AP

student's adversary. "Currently I'm staying up until around 10 or 11 doing homework, but it is usually because of procrastination," Jair Hinojosa explained. Doing things on time allows for a student to be on schedule and obtain less stress. "I am totally a procrastinator," admitted Guerra, "I would rather wait until the last minute, than do my homework early." Many students learn to benefit from procrastination as they use the adrenaline to help them finish their work.

"My schedule is usually, sleep, sleep, eat, homework, and sleep because sleep is key," said Junior Sebastian Arzate. "AP classes are not that hard once you get the hang of them," said Arzate. With full schedules, AP students each have their own methods of completing their work done.

AP classes can be very stressful, but beneficial at the end of the year. AP classes may lead to a higher GPA and college credit, which saves a lot of money when college comes around.

## Put that darn phone away!



BY ERNESTO HERNANDEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

As a student who tries to understand how the world functions, I understand that change happens. However, certain changes in technology tend to be a distraction rather than an advancement.

Everyday I see students taking out their cell phones at the most inappropriate times. Students carry their cell phones in their hands like they are permanently glued. Sometimes I wonder if their fingertips are now melted from the radiation.

Are cell phones and technology really useful during school hours? Is the attention given by the students to education the same? Are students losing touch with education?

It is strange how a "smart" phones do not really make a student that "smart." Phones are constantly distracting students from the things that are most important. Take for instance; there are many encounters when I witness students having conversations while pulling out their phones as if no one is talking. No real attention is paid when a small communication device is actually killing communication.

What happened to talking face-to-face? It seems like texting, messaging on social media, and Facebook posts are taking over. Teenagers forget what it is like to play in the park and meet new people personally. Technology is a massive disruption in communication and today's education. School officials and the board of education constantly make efforts to stop the usage of cellular devices in the classroom, but are students making that same effort?

Technology has become so convenient today; I feel that students need to keep in mind that there will no longer be advancements if they allow technology to take over their minds and the way they learn. How does one advance if they no longer pay attention to lectures? How can technology advance if those students are too focused in using technology rather than being the next generation that creates new technology?

The choice is up to our students. Though technology may seem like the greatest thing they must keep in mind that the future won't be so great if they continue feeding their attention towards social media. So students, make the effort to put your cell phones away, turn your eyes toward the lectures and you will soon realize it feels so much better to learn than to have cell phones glued to your face.

## WORD ON THE STREET

## What do you think about Disney's new Grad Nite policies?



**"It's not really the schools fault it's more Disneyland's rule. People think it's the school because we are getting strict but its not. They don't want people to take guest because they are already getting over populated at grad nite."**

**-Daniel Martinez 12th**



**"I don't like the grad nite policy because if seniors only have underclassmen friends they are going to be by themselves and are not going to be able to enjoy their grad nite."**

**-Briana Santos 11th**

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# CITY VIEW

## Entrepreneurs open broadcast partnership with City

BY LEANNE CALDEJO

This year, the Entrepreneur club prepares to begin its broadcast partnership with the City of Pico Rivera.

Over the course of the last two years, the Entrepreneur club worked with the city to begin a television segment of thirty minutes for the local channel in Pico Rivera. Last school year, the City of Pico Rivera agreed to partner with the club at El Rancho High School.

The city agreed to provide the organization with a thirty minute segment each month as long as the members grant the city with the finished product.

The students commence to initiate the project and are preparing pilots for the city to view. Once the pilots are given to the city and approved, members will invite all who want to join to a meeting wherein they can join the production crew.

The ERUSD displays its collaboration through the contribution of equipment to launch these productions.

The club pitches ideas as to how the segment will run. The plan involves dividing it between organizations and clubs to assemble the segment each month. One of the ideas requires having a representative from each club giving his/her portion of the segment to the club. The students would then



The Entrepreneur Club looks forward to new opportunities involving the City of Pico Rivera.

film and edit them. Once the editing finalizes, they would be sent to the city to be reviewed and approved. When the segments are approved, the city will then broad-

cast them into the city channel.

The purpose of the project is to illustrate to the community what El Rancho High School represents and what occurs at

El Rancho and in the city. In addition, the project provides our students with experience.

If students are interested in filming they will be able to

film, produce scripts, and be in the segments. This would open doors for students with other companies who work in the city, such as Time Warner Cable.

## Teen Court sessions serve justice



BY HEAVEN VASQUEZ

The El Rancho Teen Court's first session of the year occurred at Pico Rivera City Hall on October 7th. The session included two petty theft cases in which both defendants consisted of males.

The first case involved a petty theft at Macy's where the defendant attempted to steal jewelry. Upon entering the store, the defendant picked up a piece of jewelry, walked around the store for some time, and then returned to the jewelry section. When he returned to the jewelry section, he grasped a second piece of jewelry and walked past several registers without attempting to pay for the items. The protection detective of the Macy's store then approached the defendant. He then escorted the culprit back into the store; however, the thief

dropped one of the items and decided to try and escape. The officer detained the defendant before he could depart and notified the authorities, who cited the defendant with petty theft and released him to his parents. For this case, the students agreed in a verdict of guilty, charged him with petty theft, and placed him on a six month probation. However, if the probation period is completed successfully, his record will be cleaned and sealed.

The second case, also a petty theft, occurred at Kohl's. The defendant walked into the store, picked up a fragrance, and walked out without making an attempt to pay. At the store, the officer detained the minor and transported him to the Downey police department who cited him and released him to his parents. During the Teen

Court process, the defendant displayed much inconsistency. To some students, it seemed as if he and his parents rehearsed the dialogue. Other students found it difficult to believe his story since he claimed that he believed the cologne he stole was free. Yet, he received a very similar sentence to the other defendant; they both received seventy hours of community service. However, the judges believed that the second defendant's sentence should have been a bit more severe due to the inconsistency in his testimony. Nevertheless, the judges didn't modify the number of hours and respected the sentence of the jury.

These two cases comprised the opening for this year's teen court cycle. The next Teen Court Session will be held on November 4th at 3:30 pm in the Pico Rivera City Hall.

### Upcoming Events in Pico Rivera



- 11/2 - CHRISTMAS BASKET
- 11/6 - CITY HALL-CLOSED
- 11/10- CITY COUNCIL MEETING
- 11/11- VETERAN'S DAY
- 11/13- KARAOKE NIGHT
- 11/14- HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE
- 11/19- BLOOD SCREENING
- 11/23- FALL CAMP
- 11/26- THANKSGIVING BREAK,
- 11/27- ERUSD/REACH PROGRAM

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PICO RIVERA • SUN VALLEY • SOUTH GATE • UPLAND • CHINO • DOWNEY • SANTA CLARITA • LYNWOOD • TUSTIN • REDLANDS • RIVERSIDE

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