



El Rodeo



El Rancho High School

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The face of ER's Movember



BY ALEXIS REYNA-PARRA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

October helps raise breast cancer awareness while November brings awareness to men's health issues such as prostate and testicular cancer.

When asked how it feels to be the face of Movember at El Rancho, Rojo laughed and replied, "I'm okay with it. This is about bringing awareness to a men's health issue and it doesn't matter who gets credit for it just as long as it gets done. Growing a mustache is something simple that I can do to help bring awareness and I'm more than happy to do so."

"There are a lot of awareness being brought up for breast, ovarian, and other cancers, that are as equally important, but you hardly ever hear anything for men's health," he says.

"It's important to raise awareness because awareness is where it all starts. Awareness is knowing that there is a problem out there," says Rojo before he tied awareness in with fear.

"Fear is one of the biggest problems of society in general. People die of cancer because they don't go to the doctor early enough to do something about it and that is because they are afraid of something being wrong. Once you are aware of something, it becomes less scary," Rojo can't imagine his family losing him he was too scared to go to the doctor to check for any illnesses.

Rojo is not trying to raise large sums of money but is simply trying to raise awareness. His mustache helps raise this awareness because his students see and laugh at the shocking new change. You don't see the average Pico Rivera man walking around with a handlebar mustache.

It takes Mr. Rojo anywhere from six to eight weeks to grow a Movember-worthy mustache that when November comes to an end it's bittersweet to get rid of. "It is different. A lot of people look at my mustache and I get a lot of compliments on it, but it is a lot of work. I have to wake up to put the wax on it to get the curl going. It's a small taste of what women feel when they have to get ready," he said. "Nothing lasts forever and there is always next year."

Mr. Rojo enjoys growing a mustache just as much as he enjoys raising awareness for men's health issues and does not see himself taking a break from Movember anytime soon.

Rivera students "picture themselves" at the Ranch



Rivera Middle School eighth graders take a tour of their future home with the help of Link Crew and ASB.

BY SOL MENDEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho High School hosted "Picture Yourself at The Ranch," an event where upcoming ninth graders from surrounding middle schools visit to receive more information about the only high school in the El Rancho Unified School District.

Last week Rivera Middle School visited El Rancho High School and learned about the clubs, classes, and sports it has to

offer. Eighth grader, Kylie Moghimi-Danesh says, "I was scared to go here because I thought the campus was a lot bigger, but it's actually pretty and there are sections that I am far more aware of now."

"Our goal with 'Picture Yourself at The Ranch' is to give our middle school students the chance to spend a day here [at El Rancho High School] to feel what it is like to be a Don so they can start planning and start thinking about their future," says Dr. Jessica Kwek, principal of El Rancho.

The event was effective because students are allowed to explore the campus for themselves with the help of members from Link Crew and upperclassmen from our student government.

Dr. Yvette Ventura, previous vice-principal of El Rancho High School and current principal of Rivera Middle School, says, "The event gives students a good idea of what to expect, what the expectations are, what classes are being offered, and, I believe, changes the kids' minds about high school."

"I feel like El Rancho is a great campus to be on. I heard it offers classes that other high schools may not, so that is a good opportunity," says, eighth grader, Rey Lopez.

"Picture Yourself at The Ranch" gives middle school students an idea about high school earlier in order to allow proper planning for future success academically and socially. It is important that students feel a connection with their next school in order to thrive in education.

Peer advisors tackle college-related concerns

BY KAITLYN CUNNINGHAM
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Every year from November until January, students all over the world are applying for college. It can become very stressful when applying without any help; however, the College and Career Center in G-1 will keep you sane.

Mrs. Nasouf was brought on to the El Rancho campus as the new college and career center counselor just last year. "Since there is one of me and three thousand students, I really needed assistance since I was new to the school," said Mrs. Nasouf. "We have so many students on campus that have the ability to be leaders, it is just a matter of training them."

At other schools, especially in LAUSD, peer advisors are big supporters and helpers at their College and Career Centers. Mrs. Nasouf, "brought the idea of peer advisors to Administration" and, fortunately, the course was approved.

"In order to be eligible to take it as a class, the students need to meet certain requirements and



2015-16 peer advisors in the College and Career Center.

be CSU and UC eligible. Since it was so last minute, I just brought it up to CSF members, but for the upcoming year it will be open to the entire student body, specifically juniors, according to Nasouf."

Biane Arias, a peer advisor, says, "We are just regular students who help our peers out with their applications" whether

it be applying for fee waivers, the SAT and/or the ACT, and even reviewing their application before they submit. "Mrs. Nasouf held three workshops during the summer in the College and Career Center which were very useful for us because the representatives from certain colleges taught us the ins and outs of the application

and personal statement process."

"I became a peer advisor because it is senior year and the stress of applying to college is now. It really has helped me with the whole process and has even helped me decide to pursue a career in education," said another senior peer advisor, Vanessa Gomez.

There are many students who need help so "come into the College and Career center and ask the peer advisors for help. We are always glad when we are able to help another person. We not only encourage seniors but even underclassman more because there are a lot of things seniors would have wanted to know that they don't because of the limited counseling. So come in! We are always glad to help" encourages Gomez.

"Peer Advisors are here to make sure every student is prepared for the path of a higher education," says senior Kathleen Madera. "Most of us are in the College and Career Center after and before school, during lunch, and even nutrition, so just stop by and we'll help you out!"

COMMUNITY

Walmart re-opens after controversial closing

BY ISAAC CARLOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After a seven-month wait since its abrupt closing in April, causing five hundred workers to lose their jobs within five hours, the newly named Walmart (as opposed to Wal-mart) officially reopened its doors in Pico Rivera for business on November 6, 2015.

Senior Abigail Olmos-Toscana went to Walmart the day it reopened and says, "There are slight differences, but it's overall the same. It's ever so slightly bigger with different colors."

"I'll admit I got lost for a little bit because it has a different set-up than before," Olmos-Toscana says. "The entire store is set up differently, so it can be confusing to people that remember the previous layout."

The closing of Walmart in April affected some Pico Rivera citizens negatively, but the November reopening brought upon a generally positive effect to the city.

Walmart employee, Olga Carlos states, "I'm happy this Walmart opened because I live here, in Pico Rivera, but work at the Walmart in West Covina. It'll be easier for me to go to work if

I transfer to this Walmart. I will have a lot more time because I don't waste it on driving through traffic for at least 40 minutes and even up to an hour and a half."

Olmos-Toscana also finds the reopening to be extremely convenient. She explains, "I live walking distance from Walmart, so now I can go there to shop instead of Target or another Walmart in a different city. It just makes my life a little easier."

However, Pico Rivera resident Kathleen Hartley has a slightly different opinion.

"It's nice that it opened again because I have more options to shop at, but I'm also sort of indifferent about it because I don't go to Walmart too much," Hartley said. "My go-to stores are Dollar Tree and Target, not Walmart on the other side of town."

The reopening of Walmart has had a generally positive outcome, but nothing's perfect.

"I'm upset about it," a Pico Rivera citizen who wishes to remain anonymous states. "They close the store with almost no warning and for what? No one buys the excuse of 'remodeling' and 'plumbing issues' when everyone knows it was because of the strikes for higher wages."



The company reopens Pico Rivera site five months after claiming to need to close to repair plumbing problems.

Ariana Carlos, the daughter of Olga Carlos says, "My mom is a very dedicated worker. She's in her 50's, has diabetes, and a bad knee, but that doesn't stop her from going into work at nine at night and leaving at five in the morning. But for some reason the Walmart in Pico Rivera hasn't even spoken to her about transferring while other people are being hired left and right. I think they may just be being biased and not even take other qualified applicants into consideration when hiring."

The anonymous woman

says, "The timing of the closing was just too convenient for the company and I, personally, don't buy the plumbing thing. Do you see the people that started the strikes getting their jobs back at that Walmart? Or do you see completely new people getting hired and transferring from other Walmarts?"

Despite some people's negative opinions, Walmart managed to become as busy as it did before it closed in April. It's almost as if nothing had happened over the past half-year and perhaps Walmart wants it this way.

Rocky Cola Cafe cooks up American favorites



Buffalo wings, burgers, hot dogs, and fries are found at Rocky Cola Cafe.

BY HUGO MARTINEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Uptown Whittier offers many choices of entertainment for those in the community, such as bookstores, shops, a movie theater, and, of course, restaurants. One eatery that stands out from the rest is the Rocky Cola Cafe.

Located on a corner at 6757 Greenleaf Ave, this restaurant is adorned with 1950's memorabilia. Jukeboxes, gumball machines, and other aesthetics reminding you of this decade fill the establishment.

The minute you walk in you'll get a vibe of calm. Incredibly bright cherry red covers al-

most every inch of the place and continues the tired 50's stereotype. The friendly hostess will take your party to a booth and try to make you feel at home by asking you questions like "how was your day" and other polite conversations concerning the weather and school. The quiet restaurant was uncomfortably empty and had tunes by artists from the 50's such as Elvis Presley, Aretha Franklin, and Frank Sinatra. There were multiple televisions throughout the diner that played borderline creepy programs about animals eating and attacking each other.

The menu consists of the typical American favorites, such as buffalo wings, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, fries, salads, onion rings, and of course, the always mainstream 50's drink, the shake. The wait for the food to arrive at the table was around twenty minutes. The food tasted fresh and everything came in a big portion. The noise level was below average on account of how empty it was, and it was very easy to relax and have calm conversations amongst friends.

Due to the lack of other customers, it seemed that the waitress just hung out and waited for us to ask for something. This created a mildly uncomfortable feeling but it wasn't that horrible, on a busy day this should be alleviated. Rocky Cola Cafe is a great place for those 1950's lovers who love food and just want a place to relax.

Teen Court wraps up its second session of the year

BY HEAVEN VASQUEZ

The El Rancho Teen Court held its second session of the year consisting of two similar petty theft cases on November 4th.

The cases were very similar in terms of the charges. Both girls stole items accompanied with an accomplice. One of the girls stole \$924 while the other girl stole \$367 worth of merchandise.

On September 14th, the loss prevention agent at JC Penny observed the girl and her friend conceal items from the Sephora department into a Forever 21 shopping bag. They both exited the store without paying for the items.

Loss prevention agents detained the thieves outside of the store. Agents escorted them to the Loss Prevention Holding Room while the items taken by the girl were recovered; the girl was then cited and released to her parents. The total amount taken by this girl was \$367.00. This minor received a sentence consisting of six months probation, no contact with her cousin unless given permission from her mother, fifty hours of community service, a letter of apology to her parents, and counseling with her parent and a curfew.

The second case occurred on September 13th; a loss prevention agent at JC Penny Department Store detected the culprit and her companion select several items from the Sephora department and place them in a brown paper bag. In addition to placing



items in the brown bag, the minor's friend placed items in her purse. They then departed from the store without making an attempt to pay for the items they had concealed. Loss prevention agents made contact with the minor and her friend outside of the store and escorted them to the loss prevention office. Police questioned the minor regarding the theft, then cited and released her to her parents. The bandits stole a total \$924.00; however, all items were returned to the store. This case was a bit different in terms of sentencing, the minor received fifty-five hours of community service, which could be combined with the hours she commits to a club at school. She received good grades, mostly A's only a few B's, and took Advanced Placement classes at her school. On top of her community service hours, she received a six-month probation period and had to write a letter of apology to her mother. Also, she was forbidden to associate with her friend unless the mom was present.

Next month's session will take place at Pico Rivera City Hall on December 2nd, at 3:30pm.

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

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

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

FEATURES

Simply Irresistible: Moore than you can handle

BY MATT ZAMARRIPA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

He may be lanky, but his mind is bigger than his love for guitars. With a smile that is probably brighter than your future, Connor Moore is simply irresistible.

Many people think he's a party animal, but only on a school night when he's making a fort past his bedtime. However, he's more of a content type of person, he has no problem staying indoors with no one but himself and a nice fireplace. Connor enjoys spending most of his time playing guitar and searching for guitar gear online. He is an avid lover of cats and coffee. No sleep deprived girl can out drink him when it comes to coffee. From four cups a day to multiple snacks in between, there is no doubt that Morrissey's lyrics "There's too much caffeine in your bloodstream and a lack of real spice in your life" was meant towards this guy right here.

Connor hopes to become a professional musician or a guitar pedal engineer when he grows up, but his fall back career is to become a lion tamer at a carnival. For any girl out there that enjoys a nice home cooked meal, Connor happens to know how to cook some tasty Italian food. You will never have to go out and spend money for a dinner date.

Connor loves the outdoors. He hopes to one day move to Oregon and live in a forest by himself, where no one can hear him sing in his shower. Connor is re-



Simply Irresistible's Connor Moore poses for a picture.

ally intelligent. If he were given one wish, it would be to be able to tell the future. He would be able to tell if you would last even

a month dating him, unlike many of the couples here in El Rancho. He doesn't like wasting his time on typical bougie, basic, girls that sit around all day listening to, Compton's gang banger and rap artist, and pretending they will become a Kardashians someday. He prefers a more open minded woman with a love for 60's music and the soul of a flower child.

Although many of you do not fit his standards, from the look of girls' twitters, his biggest pet peeve is incorrect grammar. It's about time for you to turn on your auto correct and your notifications because Connor is no stranger in making your hotline bling. He will call you late at night when he needs your coffee maker.

Connor can easily make anyone laugh with his sarcastic attitude, but making him laugh is harder than trying to pass Mr. Colantes' class. If you ever choose to pick him up for a date, I suggest you take a puzzle while you wait, his timing on getting ready is worse than a girl on prom night.

Living life to the fullest, there is no doubt you will not enjoy yourself with Connor. I suggest you keep an eye on him ladies. He is the type of guy to ask you to a dance by playing a song on the guitar, which is better than a poster and In-n-Out.

If you ever want to talk to Connor or share a cup of Joe with him, you can always find him at the "Senior Tree" by the Faculty Center eating a Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwich.

Surfing through So Cal shows

BY MATT ZAMARRIPA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Many people know the 60's were a time of enjoyment, adventures, music, and fun, an era known for the great bands that emerged out of that decade.

Lately, The Southern California music scene has been bringing back new styles of music, modern day "flower children" and similar styles from the late 60's. Many young adults have been reviving the psychedelic/surf and the punk scene which was big during the late 60's. Local bands such as Pure Muscle, the Bizcuits, and Gold Vine are beginning to lift up the modern surf scene around the suburbs of L.A.

A show was held in Whittier on November 7th called Amp vs. Amp. These shows usually take place in backyards. Two groups would battle with their original songs to determine which band is better.

An uptown punk trio band, Pure Muscle, were the first to perform. They started out in 2014, playing in the Orange County area whether they're playing music through venues and backyards. Their music creates a vintage surf punk atmosphere that gets the crowd filled with adrenaline and excitement.

The Bizcuits have been known to spark up any show with their Surf and Skate Punk. Consisting of four members, the Bizcuits have been performing backyard and venue shows for almost a year. From playing huge music festivals to performing at the Whiskey A-Go-Go, there is no doubt these guys won't play a show every weekend. The singer and guitarist for the Bizcuits, Dylan Alva, states, "It's always fun to play shows. It's great playing big festivals like Shmurd Fest 2015. That was our first big show and it's been our most memorable one yet." You can always check out The Bizcuit's music on Bandcamp.com.

Known for their unique Psychedelic Surf style, Gold Vine, have been to a variety of shows and concerts. Gold Vine consists of five to six members that include two guitarists, a bass player, drummer, keyboardist, and singer. Patrick Moreno and Jacob Sahagun, two of the members of the group, said what they hope to accomplish with their music they stated, "We're just trying to get as much done as we possibly can and we're just trying to spread the love of music and having fun." one of them also stated, "It's fun to add on to the meaning of music, to be able to create something new that people enjoy feels amazing and we hope to continue doing it."

This music is creating a big impact for the music culture in the sense that many bands continue being formed.

The "Force" is strong with El Rancho students

BY ERNESTO GARCIA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho students are excited for the new *Star Wars* Episode 7 out in December.

"The thing about *Star Wars* that attracts me is basically the fictional story line, the battles, and outer space," said senior Martin Zamarripa. Zamarripa enjoys watching the films and believing he is part of the *Star Wars*'s world. "The characters are really unique and I do not know how the director and creators of the franchise came up with them, but they are really great," said Zamarripa as he expressed his fanaticism over characters he has been seeing since his childhood. "What got me really interested in *Star Wars* was playing with Lego toys that I had since I was about five years old," said Zamarripa.

"I am not really that excited for the new movie because Disney now owns the *Star Wars* franchise. I just have a feeling that they will change the whole story from the original films," said Zamarripa as he expressed his concern over the new movie coming out.

Senior Andrew Gonzalez, on the other hand, is excited and cannot wait to see what Disney has done with the films. "There are already a lot of questions



Only a few of ER's "Star Wars" fanatics: Adrian Flores, Eddy Vergara, and Eddy Montalvo.

being raised, but I feel like it is going to be good because it is Disney," said Gonzalez, "Disney knows they have to make their product live up to viewers' expectations, so they know that they have to make *Star Wars* the greatest movie they can." Gonzalez knows that there is always that one crowd that will hate the movie, but he feels really confident that *Star Wars* will be great.

"I was introduced to the *Star Wars* universe by my older brother and I have been going to *Star Wars*'s conventions and collecting collector's items ever since," said Gonzalez. Gonzalez advises students who have

not seen the movies, 'start with Episode 4' and guarantees that after watching the movie, they will be enlightened by the force.

"*Star Wars* has been in my dad's life since he has been growing up and that has been passed on to me. It has been great to share this experience with my dad," said senior Brian Rodriguez. "I am really looking forward to a really big plot twist where Luke Skywalker turns over to the dark side," said Rodriguez as he expressed his anticipation for the new movie. "Now there is also a *Star Wars* and chill where you just have to watch all *Star Wars* movies in a week," said Rodriguez,

"the same week the new movie comes out, people should watch all the movies especially those who have never seen them before.

The *Star Wars* phenomenon is all over the place, from grown adults who have grown up with the movies to little kids who are barely being introduced to the *Star Wars* universe. With high demand for tickets for the premiere of Episode 7, some tickets are being sold for thousands of dollars. One can expect long lines and excitement in the movie theaters on the day the movie comes out. So grab your light sabers and hop into the Millennium Falcon and "may the force be with you."

A TIME TO

Remember our Veterans



By MICHAEL NEELY
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho High School students congregated in remembrance for Veterans Day and expressed why veterans continue to be acknowledged and be admired.

"My grandpa was in the Air Force and worked on various planes, specifically, B-52 bombers. Nothing was digital back then," says Julian Lopez. "He was stationed in Roswell, New Mexico and was there for four years; he completed his four-year training during the Korean War." He says, "We should remember our veterans because they helped our country in times of need."

Likewise, my own father, James Neely, served in the Army during the 1970s. He resided in Cold War Europe, but mainly West Germany. His duty consisted of patrolling the border between West Germany and East Germany. Neely says, "There was so much tension every day. It was like if any soldier messed up and aggravated any other soldier from another country, all hell would break loose immediately."

Senior Jonathan Whitehead says, "My father was in the Army from 1966 through 1972. He served two tours in Vietnam, from 1967 through 1969." In addition, Whitehead's father, "was a crew chief for UH-1 (Huey) helicopters; he was the lead mechanic and door gunner." His father says, "Someone's got to protect this damn country and if people don't want to acknowledge the sacrifices made by myself and millions of people who came before me, then they shouldn't complain when a superpower like Russia wipes us out." Similarly, Whitehead says, "Without our veterans who have fought for our country then we wouldn't be able to enjoy the privileges American citizens have today. There are millions of people on opposite ends of the earth that would give anything to see this country burn."

Various options of appreciating our veterans can be achieved through approaching and thanking them for their service, volunteering to help care for them at senior centers, and raising the American flag high to display what these people fought for, freedom. Students and their families hope all Americans celebrate and appreciate our veterans on Veterans Day to demonstrate the pride and respect the United States has for those who put the lives of others before their own.

Students give back to community



AVID fifth period class.

By ADRIANA CARCHIPULLA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho High School organizations are taking an extra step this Thanksgiving by feeding the less fortunate, donating necessities, and preparing events throughout the city for the simple reason of giving back to the community.

This Thanksgiving Day, the wrestling team is participating at Mario's Tacos, by organizing a dinner for the less fortunate. Wrestling coach Armando Rivas says that he was "inspired to participate two years ago."

What inspired the wrestling coach to participate was the desire to "give back to the community while teaching humility

to [his] young wrestling team." Rivas says that "the best leaders are the greatest servants," and this is exactly what he wants to teach his wrestling team.

Rivas does "not force his team to attend, but those who do are noticeably rewarded." This Thanksgiving Day the wrestling team "will be handling the grunt work and preparing the meal before the actual event." Rivas says that they "will be doing behind the scenes type of work like helping move tables, removing trash, assisting cooks, and many other things."

Another great organization that is helping give back to a community is the AVID club. Senior Destini Johnson says, "AVID has been going to Downtown

Los Angeles to give out food for one year now." Johnson says the club wanted "to focus on a project where [they] could focus on giving to the less fortunate."

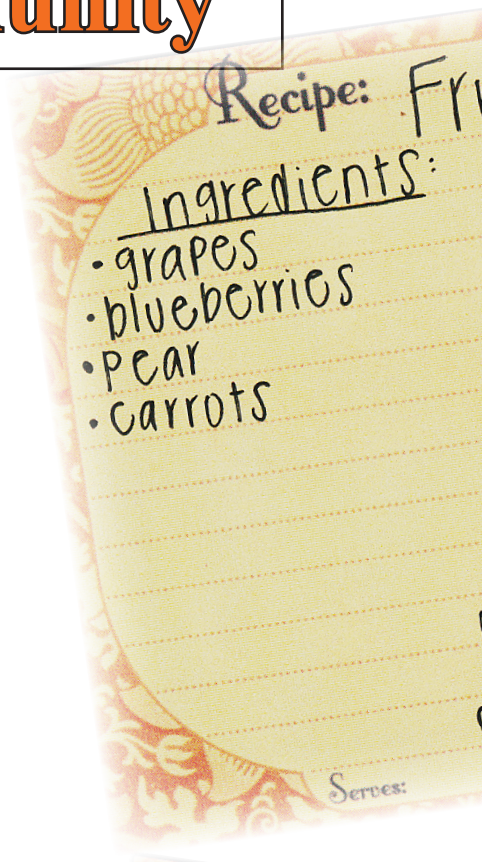
What AVID does to prepare for the event is "gather up donations of foods and snacks that [they] can give away and ask for donations of clothes so that [the club] can give to the less fortunate."

"On the actual day, AVID prepares sandwiches and places them in little bags with food and goes out as a group and hands out the items to homeless people" at skid row or near Alvarado Street in Los Angeles.

The Math Club is also hosting its first Mathathon in honor of Thanksgiving. The Math Club will be "hosting a Mathathon on Monday, November 16, in I-8, Mr. Francis's room." "Students and faculty members can go to Mr. Francis's room and solve problems and for every problem a person gets correct the donor will donate the amount he or she desires."

After the actual event The Math Club "will donate all the funds to a charity on Thanksgiving Day."

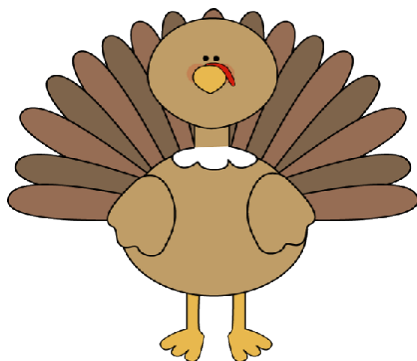
These clubs have decided that it is very important to not only celebrate Thanksgiving but also give to the less fortunate and give back to the community. These are not the only ways a person can contribute to the good will of giving back; there are many different ways to join the act of giving. Also, do not feel as if the holiday time is the only time to make kind acts, every time of the year is perfect to give back.



LIBRARY CORNER

Where does the fictional character live? Bring the written match game answers to the ERLibrary. The first 3 students will receive a free burger coupon!

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| 1. Arya Stark | a. Verona |
| 2. Bilbo Baggins | b. Salem |
| 3. Romeo | c. Westeros |
| 4. Odysseus | d. The Shire |
| 5. Elizabeth Proctor | e. Ithaca |



GIVE BACK

uit Turkey!

Steps:
 First, you will wash and dry all your fruits. Second, you are going to decide what fruit you are going to use for each part that will create your turkey, after choosing what's is going where you can decorate the surrounding of your dish with Thanksgiving decorations!

From: Aaron Medrano 12th grade



Snack Cones!

Steps:
 All you need to do is put all the ingredients in the cone and you are done. It's very easy and fast!

From: Gemini Chavez 11th grade

grim cookie hat!

Steps:
 First, grab a chocolate stripe cookie. Second, with a small spoon scoop some peanut butter over the center of the cookie. Lastly you will place a mini Reeser's chocolate over the peanut butter and this will create your cute hat!

From: Cassandra Cerda 11th grade

“From All Angles:” Thanksgiving

By TIM RIESGO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The tradition Thanksgiving was once considered a family gathering that consisted of family time is no longer the norm. This has been taken over by the biggest shopping day of the year, Black Friday, or now known as Black Thursday.

Big corporations have taken it upon themselves to start the shopping phenomenon a little early. A more recent trend to get shoppers away from their families and to the stores filling up their carts with the biggest electronics of the holiday. I feel that this a good change of pace for our society and here is why.

The tradition of Thanksgiving just feels too old to me. I love the thought of meeting with the family, but the same dinner every year? I just do not find that interesting. I know you could always eat something dif-

ferent, but it is not the same. I feel like we need something different, what is wrong with replacing a family Thanksgiving dinner and turning it into a day of family holiday shopping.

The stores now make the biggest shopping day of the year very stress-free by starting it on Thursday. This allows the lines to be much smaller and makes the experience much less hectic. The other great thing is that you do not have to stay up extremely late. In previous years, shoppers would have to stay up till one or two in the morning to complete their holiday shopping.

Lastly, It gets the holiday shopping out of the way and at a much cheaper price. With Christmas just around the corner and considering for some, times may be tough and money may be coming up short, the deals are

just too good to resist. By doing Christmas shopping early, you eliminate the risk of certain items going missing in the stores due to their high demand.

Our generation is going through a change and people will soon adapt. Soon people will see Thanksgiving as a day of the past. Participating in Black Thursday is a very fun experience. It does not contain all the struggles that Black Friday has. Maybe Black Thursday can turn into a national day of Christmas shopping with the family. Everyone loves deals on electronics, and considering that is what our world is dominated by, people should not see it as such a bad thing. So I encourage that if people want to participate in the biggest shopping holiday of the year, they should include the family in on the fun and create a new tradition for our generation

Kindness for the needy

By MARISSA MESTAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Global Kindness, Baby Buggy, and Los Angeles Mission are just three out of many charities opportunities in Los Angeles that you can participate in for a good cause.

Global Kindness is an online site where you can help out other families this coming holiday. This organization appreciates all donations anonymously or honorably to give donators credit. Donations are given to families in need. Clothes, toys, food, money, and health supplies, are greatly admired by the families and the staff of the organization. For any questions or considering helping out, you can go to www.myglobalkindness.org.

Baby Buggy provides families in need of clothes nationwide. Baby Buggy has donated 1,817,406 items to families in



need of help. 7,000 children and 5,000 families have been served monthly with supplies of clothes and food. From infants to women, clothing is provided to those in need. They also accept toys, diapers, children books, etc. If you do not have time to drop off any donations, you can go online or call (310) 736-1777 and schedule a pickup.

Los Angeles Mission is an online site where you can donate money to give the homeless a hot meal for Thanksgiving this year. They don't just give a hot meal to the homeless, they also take clothing donations. The mission provides people

living on Skid Row new clothing, food, a shower, and a place to sleep, but they need your help. If you need to reach them for any questions or concerns contact them at (213) 629-1227.

There are many different opportunities in and around LA, which mean many opportunities for you to maybe change a life of someone, helping a family in need, or even donating money for a meal for someone who is hungry. There are many different opportunities out there for you to do something the cause; you just have to act upon it and what better than them around the holidays.



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SPORTS

ER soccer player turned coach



BY MARYLINE CARCHIPULLA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The girl's soccer team start a new year with a new coach. 2000 El Rancho alumni, Adrian Villaseñor who also played for the boy's soccer team at El Rancho for three years comes back to the Ranch to coach to varsity soccer team.

Villaseñor says he is very excited to be coaching the soccer team and believes it is important to be a good leader in order to coach. "I believe the most important part in having a team is to know how to lead and be a good mentor," says Villaseñor.

"My passion for the sport is what made me want to coach a soccer team," says Villaseñor. "I started like any other coach: coaching a small team. I coached my nephew's team first. My most rewarding thing of being a coach is being part of their lives, being able to impact their lives, and making it memorable," says Villaseñor.

Villaseñor believes the team is solid skill wise; however, he thinks that to become a strong team, there is still progress to be made. Villaseñor along with coaches Gonzalez and Jiang believe that hard work will pay off and being disciplined will show the very strong unit they are.

"I'm a dreamer, I really am. I have a lot of trust in the girls even though I just met them. My goal will be to get the girls to the end of CIF; however, I have to be realistic. It's the first season they are going to be challenged mentally in the sense of having to get used to our program. With the system we're practicing I think we can reach our goal. The girls just have to believe and invest everything they have and know we are trying our best," says Villaseñor.

Villaseñor stopped coaching for a year to go back to school and get his teaching credential. When Villaseñor is not on the field coaching he works as a substitute teacher. He is also a musician and barber and worked at a barber shop here in Pico Rivera for five years and says it was an interesting experience and he enjoyed it. Villaseñor also has a bachelor's degree in architecture.

Villaseñor asks for the support from the school when the season starts. "I am committing that every time they come out and see the girls play, it will be a real entertainment," says Villaseñor.

Boys soccer sets sights on CIF playoffs



The boys varsity soccer team practicing their shooting drills.

BY ERNESTO GARCIA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Eager to start off the season and start winning games, the boy's varsity team is ready to take on their competition on the pitch.

"The chemistry is better on the team than last year which I think will make us a better candidate for CIF," says Estevan Anguiano. "We have no off days and we work hard every day which is helping us become a tough team to defeat," says Anguiano. Believing the team's

chemistry will help members go far this season, Anguiano expects the team to win league and CIF.

"I feel very confident with the young and talented team that we have," says senior Emilio Gonzalez. Having been on the team since freshman year, Gonzalez knows the level of competition that is expected from El Rancho. "This season is going to be very different than previous seasons because our team has now gained the experience needed to perform at a competitive level," said Gonzalez.

The boys soccer team does not feel any pressure from the school's expectation to be as good at the team was three years ago.

"Even though everyone compares this team to the state championship team and say how we are not as good as them, I believe that we are capable of starting our own legacy and making our own history here at El Rancho," says Armando Velasquez. When compared to the state championship team, Gonzalez feels that it is unfair when his team has a different pool of players. "I feel

that we are not trying to replicate what the state championship team did, but rather reach their standards in our own way with our own style of play," says Gonzalez.

With a team full of returners, the boy's soccer team is closer and has bonded more than last year. "We all get along with each other and with that comes the responsibility of holding each other accountable for what we do on and off the field," says Gonzalez. "We are all just one team, we work as one," says Anguiano, "when one of us fail, we all fail and it is our responsibility as a team to pick each other up."

Playing for El Rancho holds great pride for the players on the team. "I have much pride in playing for El Rancho because of the past teams that have played here. I truly want to represent the school the best I can," said Velasquez. "El Rancho is known in the soccer world and it is our responsibility to keep the name alive," says Anguiano.

The boys soccer team is preparing for their upcoming pre-season games and soon league and are ready to make their own mark in the school. Come out and support the soccer team today when they play Salesian High School at 3:15 p.m. in the field.

Dons hope to improve on last year's finish

BY KATHERINE BARAJAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The boys basketball varsity team has been working diligently and has set high standards for this upcoming season in order to improve on last year's results.

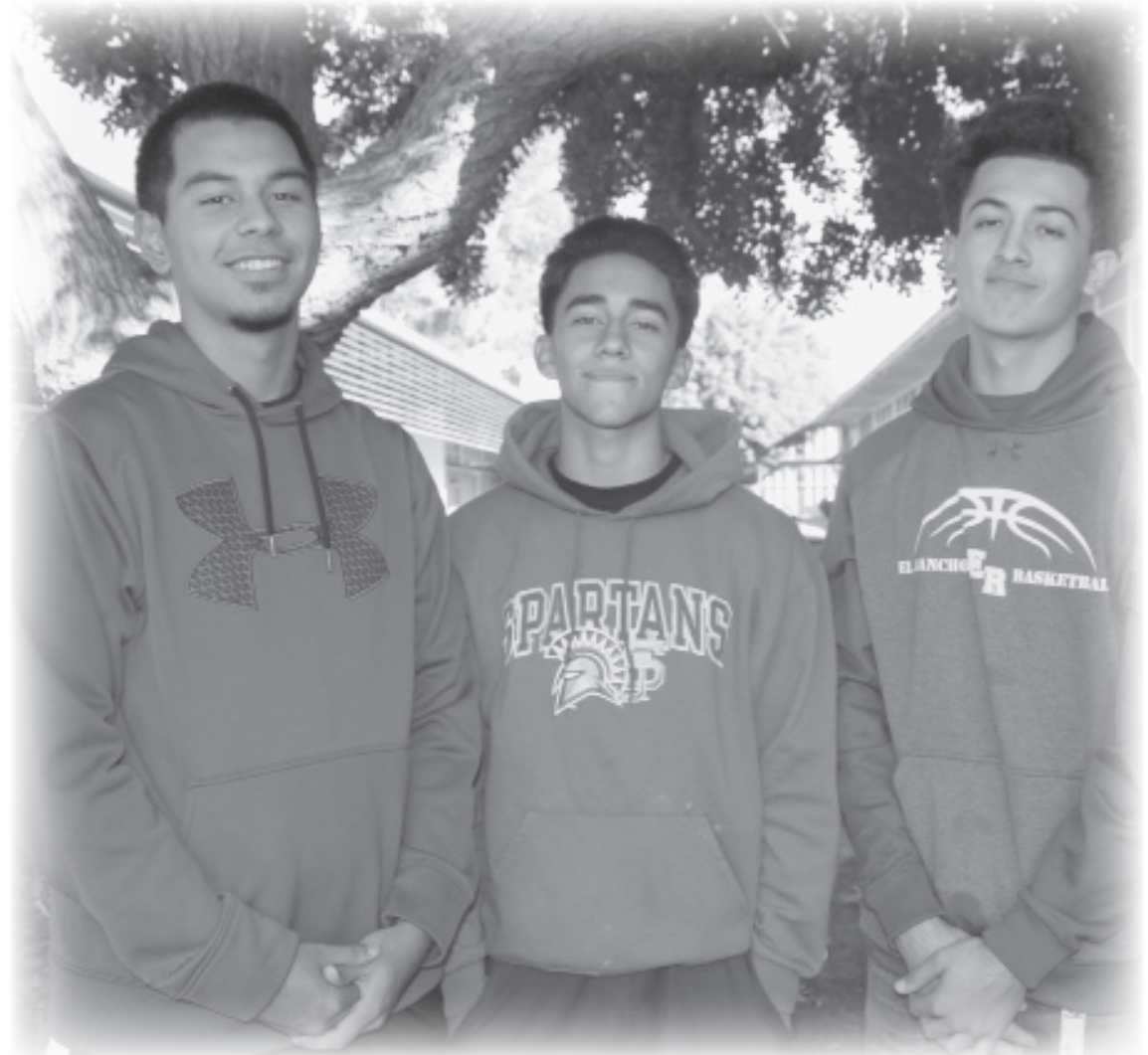
"Coming off a poor season last year, the standards are high. For the past nine months, we've been trying to get closer as a team. The more chemistry, the better the team, and the greater chance of having a good season," says captain Arturo Angeles.

The team has many advantages in their favor. Players are hard working, humble, and outgoing, according to captain Rodrigo Sermeno. All the boys, especially the captains, try to bond as a team and make sure no one gets left out. "We work hard and are a very close group of friends," says Angeles.

"We have speed, endurance, and aggressiveness," says Anthony Crisantos. Their quickness and ambition to be better this year is what ensures them a good season.

However, just like any other team, the boys varsity team have disadvantages. "I have high expectations," says coach Ray Elliot, "The problem for the boys is living up to the standards they set themselves."

According to Rodrigo, "Our weakness as a team is that we tend to be weak minded when we are not on our A-game, but as brothers, we always pick each other up and play like we



Captains Noah Lasoya, Arturo Angeles, and Rodrigo Sermeno have high hopes for league.

always do." With some motivation and dedication, this is something the team can fix.

When asked if they felt ready for league, Angeles said, "There are still a lot of question marks. If we all buy into what the coaches preach as soon as possible, we'll be just

fine and ready for league."

This year's varsity team consists of seniors: Malachi Allen, Anthony Crisantos, Raymundo Landeros, Adam Marquez, Daniel Martinez, Angel Ramirez, Chris Reyna, Rodrigo Sermeno, Angel Talavera, and Ricardo Toriz. Juniors: Noah

Losoya, Marcus Silva, and Matthew Silva. Sophomores: Arturo Angeles, Jacob Baltiera, Sebastian Lara and Nicholas Llanes.

Dons can come out and support the first pre-season game on November 30th, in the Main Gym at 6:30pm versus Whittier.

SPORTS

Rivas brings experience to wrestling team



Armando Rivas and his wrestling team prepare for a new season.

BY KATHELEEN MADERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With a new coach this year, the El Rancho wrestling team hopes to make it further in CIF playoffs and win more medals than the year before.

The team usually begins practicing during the summer, however, this year members had a late start and began in September.

Senior Joe Gonzalez says, "We are preparing by running

and lifting pretty much getting into condition. The varsity team doesn't have enough people for the lineup. It's going to be tough. I'm just trying to make it further than I did last year and actually place."

The new coach, Armando Rivas has ample experience in wrestling and hopes to bring new ideas and expects a lot from the returners.

Rivas wrestled his four years at Long Beach Poly High School, a few years in intramural

U.S. Navy in Japan and the Philippines, and eight more years in open tournaments, both freestyle and collegiate style wrestling.

"I'm looking forward to getting the team to mesh," says Rivas. "As a first-time head coach I propose to make the team better. A team is only as good as its weakest links, so I want to make everybody excel. That's the goal," says Rivas. Rivas adds, "My son is on the team and it is one of the reasons why I'm here,

besides my love for the sport."

"It's definitely a new style for me than last year and hopefully he will bring something new for the team," says senior Nicholas Munoz about Rivas' style of coaching. "I just plan to work hard and hope to make it to the second day of CIF," says Munoz.

Freshman Damian Corona is also practicing with his cousin who was a varsity wrestler at his high school and is already focused on maintaining a strict diet in order to make the weight class.

"If more team members get on their weight and practice at home, I think we might have a shot at making CIF," says Corona.

Unfortunately, due to lack of participation and determination, two of the most prominent senior members, Nicholas Munoz and Joe Gonzalez, were asked to leave the team. Although this is going to be a drawback for the team, they are moving the wrestling program forward towards achieving their goal of winning league finals.

"Having [Munoz and Gonzalez] gone is definitely going to hurt the whole varsity team because now it is down to three or four guys that are varsity level since most of the team consists of new people," says junior Sebastian Arzate.

Espinosa looks back on water polo



BY VANESSA GOMEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Cristina Espinosa, captain of girls water polo team, will soon bid goodbye to her team but sees a bright future ahead.

Espinosa has been on the water polo team since the summer of her sophomore year and has joined two water polo clubs outside of school.

"My sister did water polo and it looked violent and fun, so I wanted to try it when I got the chance. Then in swim season it only seemed more appealing, so I tried it and I loved it. Water polo is an anger/stress reliever and it helps me exercise my mind. You have to be tactical and make strategies and try to predict what other players will do and always be a step ahead of them," says Espinosa.

Espinosa is also in tennis and swim. Still, "I try managing my time as best as I can. Sometimes I have to give up one thing to get more of the other (sleep)," says Espinosa.

Espinosa realizes that she is already one-fourth of the way through her senior year and that it's her last year playing water polo program and says, "All of the aquatics athletes are so close. We see each other mostly every day that I can't imagine not seeing, playing, swimming, or fooling around with them."

"For the underclassmen, I would tell them not to slack off in school. To those that are staying in water polo, I would tell them 'right on' because not many people are strong enough, disciplined enough, or have the will power to do and stay in water polo. Also just have fun and enjoy high school and life, but tell them to make sure they know how to prioritize and manage their time," says Espinosa.

Espinosa adds, "I have made so many friends and met so many people and have realized that a lot of people are not what they seem. El Rancho means a lot to me and I'm sad to leave it, but I'm excited to see what will happen in the next step of my life."

After high school, she plans to go to a "University, hopefully, UC San Diego or the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and join the water polo and swim team. I also plan on getting a job and traveling a bit."

Espinosa is one of the captains who will lead the varsity water polo team this coming season that begins on December 2nd.

Lady Dons shoot for fourth straight title



Lady Dons working hard in the gym in preparation to defend their league title.

BY JOCELYN SICAIROS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho fall sports are in season and the girls' varsity basketball team is currently practicing in hopes of winning league for the fourth straight time. Captains Cassandra Fischer and Brittany Corona are experiencing their first year as captains, nonetheless, they are willing to go through any obstacles to make their team persevere.

So far, the girls have been practicing and preparing for

their season, that will begin on Friday, November 27. Head coach, Randy Shigezane says, "We will be playing four non-league teams that are at the top of their leagues and we will be playing top division teams in the South El Monte tournament."

The girls' basketball team is confident in this season and hopes to bring another league championship this year. Brittany Corona says, "I'm really confident in winning league, I think we should be able to win league with no problem this year." Fisch-

er agrees with her co-captain. "I believe we will win league, no doubt. Hopefully, we will get past the second round in CIF."

The team has shown that they have much strength this year. Corona says, "Our strengths are that we have height, we have speed, and our starting five are really solid."

Along with strengths, the team also has weakness. Cassandra Fischer says, "Our best players have pretty serious injuries so they are always in and out and we are not really dedi-

cated as much as we should be."

Corona believes that the team's weakness is something he and his fellow teammates can improve on. "We need to work on our ball handling, but we are working hard in practice to improve that and we do a lot of drills for that."

These two captains will lead their team to play the alumni game on Wednesday, November 25 at the main gym. Their first game is against Glendora on Friday, November 27 at 1:00 pm. Go out and support your Lady Dons!

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