



El Rodeo



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Freedom of speech is not a crime

EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Americans often dwell on the idea of having rights and believe they can go around saying what they want, but that is no longer the case.

You are the head of a company speaking to a friend, you say a racial comment, someone overhears it, and the next day everyone wants you fired. You worked many years to get to where you are and with just one comment, everyone wants you fired. What world do we live in, where with one comment, everyone suddenly gets offended. All the years and work you put in to be where you are can be washed away by a comment not meant to offend someone.

June 2013, the Food Network canceled Chef Paula Deen's show for admitting to using the N-word. This is coming from someone who grew up when segregation existed, and racism was not a big deal. How can people expect someone who grew up during the time of the Jim Crow laws to not say something racist? Maybe this new generation needs to learn to deal with racist comments, which may not have been directly said to the person.

Republican presidential candidate, Donald Trump, called Mexicans "rapist and criminals" and the majority of the Mexican population soon hated him. El Rancho students dislike Trump for expressing his opinion regarding the Hispanic population. Students hear his name and their faces turn to disgust.

Why hate a man who is not afraid to express his opinion on public television? Instead of hating Trump, praise him for speaking his mind in spite of the censorship society has established in the country. People do not have to agree with the real estate billionaire, but he is expressing his freedom of speech, something the American people have been slowly diminishing.

People need to stop being offended by something someone says. The comment is most likely not being said to you or applies to you, so why get offended? America has become too sensitive. The public is forcing the government to censor what people are allowed to say and what they are not. Children are growing up with restrictions on what is allowed to say in public.

Minority groups have to learn to deal with what is said. People have different opinions; people have different views in the world, especially in a country full of immigrants who come from all over the world. People come here to have the freedom the Founding Fathers established in the Constitution. Every person has a voice and should be allowed to use it.

Seniors down juniors in 51st annual Powder Puff Game



The senior powder puff team celebrating after a hard-fought 16-6 victory over the juniors.

BY WESLEY FRAZIER
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Seniors triumphed over the Juniors by a score of 16-6. In addition to bragging rights, the Seniors have earned more points toward the class cup of the 51st annual Powder Puff tournament.

El Rancho High School continues to host this event and is proud to host it annually. Even with the event's popularity, very few current Dons know how the Powder Puff game began and how it became a tradition at El Rancho High school. It all began in 1966 when El

Rancho High School football was ranked number one in the country. After this ranking, ASB decided to imitate football by switching the roles of the guys and girls, it was named Powder Puff.

The school's first Powder Puff game featured the game in the yearbook and newspaper. Since then, it has been an annual tradition to host at El Rancho. Many Dons still participate in the event and it continues to be a competitive sport between the juniors and seniors. Powder Puff began as a parody instead of a competitive sport. "I think it was ini-

tially developed as a parody. You had cheerleaders that were imitating the football players," said Raul Elias.

It was originally supposed to be a one-time event, but girls took the event as competitive and battled each other, acting like the guys that play football.

Elias says, "But what evolved was that the game took a competitive angle regarding the girls, and it grew into a sporting event."

The guys play the role of cheerleaders, dressing up in makeup and clothing to act like the girls. Also, they perform

some of the stances and cheer as the girls play. The girl players would play football; however, that year the administration discontinued tackling and replaced it with a flag tied to the waist.

"It played an event that showed that women played the sport competitively; it was a vehicle for women to demonstrate that women do have power," said Elias.

Girls did not have as much freedom to choose high school activities in 1966, but the Powder Puff game provided the opportunity for the girls to display that they also play traditional boys games.

Seattle Sounders' star Roldan returns home

BY SOL MENDEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Seattle Sounders' midfielder and El Rancho High School alumnus Cristian Roldan paid a visit to El Rancho High School during lunch on December 4th, 2015. Roldan gave a speech about his experience in high school, the importance of keeping grades up and doing what you love, kicked the soccer ball with some varsity players, and sang the Alma Mater with the students at El Rancho.

In Pico Rivera, Roldan is known as a former El Rancho student who has achieved recognition in his passion, soccer. At El Rancho, Roldan was on the boy's varsity team for all four years, played volleyball, and was recognized for his amazing talent. During his senior year, Roldan was named Gatorade Player of the Year. However, there is more to Roldan than just his soccer career and academic achievement. "I was a very quiet person, here at El Rancho. I felt like I didn't make too much noise in the classroom. I just tried to do my thing and honestly get good grades. I tried to do everything right; I tried to be as good as a person that I could be." Roldan is an example



Cristian Roldan and the El Rancho's boys soccer team singing the Alma Mater together.

of how good character and humbleness always leads to some form of success.

As a young age, Roldan was put into soccer because of his family's soccer background. Roldan advises those who wish to pursue a career in soccer to never give up although there is a struggle. "There is a struggle in everything," Roldan says. Playing as a rookie was difficult for Roldan because he was the youngest guy but he says, "You have to ease into it, not get frustrated, and stay level headed at the same time." As a rookie, Gonzalo Pineda, a

professional soccer player who played for the Mexico soccer team and played the World Cup in 2006 was one of the players who took him under his wing. "He served all the difficult times, and he was there to help me when I didn't make the 18 [the roster for the game]. He was very positive. He taught me part of his game that now I can put into mind."

From the soccer perspective, Roldan looked up to his cousin who was a professional soccer player but ultimately, the soccer background wasn't the only thing he had as a role

model. "As a father, as a teacher, Dominic Picon, [former History teacher at El Rancho and boys soccer coach] influenced me on how I acted, how I carried myself and I can't thank him enough. He's been a great mentor to me."

"I am happy with how things are going for myself; it's a good place to be. Seattle is an awesome city, and it is very different than [Pico Rivera], but it brings me joy to come back to El Rancho like this and how people react and how good people are to me. It's a good feeling."

THE WORLD AROUND US

From all Angles: Welcome with open arms



BY TIM RIESGO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With the recent terrorist attacks in Paris, America has become more cautious about allowing Syrian refugees into the country.

With these series of events happening so quickly, should America allow Syrian refugees into America? Of course. This is America, the land of the free.

We should welcome with open arms, but still be very cautious.

I understand that with ISIS members in Syria, they could easily disguise themselves as refugees and sneak into the country without being noticed and cause harm to the American citizens. However, with that said, people in the US and around the world should come to the realization that just because an individual comes from Syria, does

not mean they are connected to ISIS. These stereotypical remarks only hold us back as a society.

Allowing Syrian refugees to enter the country not only helps out Syrians who have lost their homes, but it also helps us grow as a society. If we become one of the first major countries to support the Syrian refugees, we give America a good name and show the world that we do not believe in stereotypes.

I think it would be wrong if we did not give our full support toward these refugees. It puts a bad taste in my mouth knowing we are one of the most powerful countries in the world, yet we do not help when others are in need due to narrow beliefs. If we do not help them, where will they seek help? With the recent Paris attacks, European countries have been closing their borders. This leaves the Syrians few options, and this is why America should provide support.

I understand people may be fearful about America allowing Syrians into the country because the probability of America receiving attacks may rise, which is why every refugee should go through serious background checks and not attempt to sneak in without anyone knowing. This only makes the situation better and helps everyone out.

People must learn that we live in a very cruel world where terrorist groups like ISIS exist. However, just because of this, we should not live in fear if we allow Syrian refugees into the country. We must learn to drop these stereotypes, and should welcome the Syrian refugees with open arms because this is the land of acceptance, and that is what makes us Americans.

California's "big shake" is coming

BY ISAAC CARLOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Almost everyone in California knows the "Big Shake," which is going to tear California apart along the San Andreas Fault, is going to happen soon, but questions on earthquakes always turn to: How long do I have? The general public wants to know what week or even what day the earthquake is going to occur so it can be ready for it.

The San Andreas fault runs along the coast of Northern California but then slides over to the center of California, leaving major cities such as Los Angeles and San Diego separated from the rest of California.

A major California earthquake can be identified by anything equal to or greater than a 6.7 on the Richter scale. To help picture this type of earthquake, think of the 5.75 Morocco earthquake that destroyed the city Agadir and resulted in about 12,000 deaths, as stated by *Time* magazine. "Earthquakes above a 6 are almost guaranteed to be bad" (*Time*).

The "Big One," can happen in the next hour, week, or even year, but the U.S. Geological Survey believes the chances of a 7.0+ earthquake occurring within 30 years is about 60%, as stated by *Time* magazine.

In the Los Angeles County we've had a total of seven major earthquakes in the past two hundred years and four of these seven



occurred in the past thirty years. This means that over half of the major earthquakes near/in Los Angeles has happened in the past thirty years. The jump from two hundred years to thirty years is frightening, but not many people know these facts. The earthquakes are obviously speeding up and getting closer together as time progresses, which shows that a major earthquake is going to be coming much sooner than we think.

The nearest fault to Pico Rivera is the Whittier Fault, which is about 40 km long, and can create earthquakes with magnitudes [of] 6.0-7.2 (Southern California Earthquake Data Center). El Rancho High School in Pico Rivera is at least 11 miles

away from the Whittier Fault. As a result, the high school can be one of the many places greatly affected by a major earthquake.

Not many people know how to prepare for major earthquakes like the ones discussed, but it isn't their fault. The unpreparedness is because there isn't a known exact way to prepare for a major quake. Earthquakes happen so fast that you never know what will happen within the average 10-30 seconds of a quake. You can be ready for the aftermath, though.

People simply need the essential things to survive, such as food, clean water, and shelter. Have a safe place, such as a garage or basement to keep non-perishables and bottles of water to

grab quickly and go. It is also suggested to have a sturdy and fire-proof safe with birth certificates, emergency money, passports, etc.

When the quake occurs, the main thing to remember is to be calm and collected and to try to stay away from both the coast (in the case of an almost inevitable tsunami) and the fault itself.

It is still a guessing game for scientists to find out when the next earthquake is, but they're working hard trying to find a solution or logarithm for this. However, they do know that it is not an issue of *if*, but an issue of *when*. Again, we come to the currently unanswerable question: How long do we have?

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

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

Police officers abuse their power



BY MICHAEL NEELY
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

AK-47s, tanks, tear gas, and an incredibly hostile attitude toward people who don't comply with their wishes. Many individuals would believe I'm discussing a large mafia group or a criminal organization; unfortunately, I'm examining the modern police force, though these days it is difficult to distinguish between the two.

Juxtaposing photos of a 1950s police officer and a 2015 police officer supports my argument - modern cops have an unyielding amount of power and resources and end up abusing both. Prosecutors claim that the reason our police officers possess such overwhelming weapons is because they are necessary to fight modern crime. However, the crimes our forces end up fighting include protests and loitering. Any criminals that officers do fight can be dealt with as they have for centuries-standard pistols and police cars. Yet, several times criminals, their family members, and strangely even their pets are killed unnecessarily.

Individuals who defend the police say that the reason police do not aim for a limb or use other tactics to stop crime (baseball bats that police in England uti-

lize) is because police in the United States are trained to kill. Well, there's the fundamental problem right there: why don't we expect more from our defenders? Why aren't they trained to cripple, and as a very last resort kill? Are we training officers who protect and serve the people or protect and serve themselves? *theguardian.com* says there have been fifty-five killings by police in the last 24 years in England; in the United States, there have been fifty-nine in only the first 24 days of 2015.

The way our officers work is to shoot first, ask questions later. I understand that sometimes one person will survive: either the criminal or the officer and, of course, we want our officers to survive. However, there have been many overwhelming cases where killing and abusing the criminal was not necessary and more harm done to the "criminal" than to the "protector."

For instance, Michael Gavins, a Florida resident, was unarmed when two officers approached him for the possession of marijuana. When he complied with their wishes, they shot him in the chest. This occurrence is a case where cops target African-American males in the deep south, where most hate crimes take place, accord-

ing to *The Washington Post*.

For those who state that it is the media's fault for only concentrating on violent crimes and disgracing the name of all cops, this is partially true. Yes, the media will focus on what gets it the most views and attention, but when we see actual footage of the crime committed, this argument crumbles. We see for ourselves what is taking place, the dialogue in the scene, and how these officers react. Also, the fact that police hate being recorded, individuals feel cautious around them since they see them as role models and believe the police shouldn't have anything to hide. Many videos of police committing crimes such as rape, murder, robbery, and more appear daily and that is far too much to be considered only some cops as corrupt, of course, it's not all, but it is a fair number.

I have the utmost respect for most police officers; they put their lives on the line all the time. However, when our police force is seen killing countless times, having no respect for people who express their opinions, and periodically displaying their militaristic and authoritarian nature with and without cameras present, we know that many police departments around the U.S. require drastic reform.

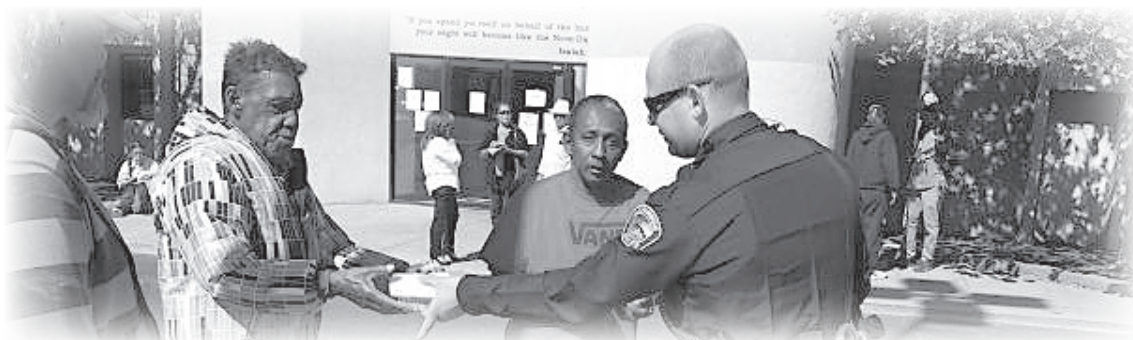
A few weeks ago a cop body-slammed an African-American girl to the floor because she didn't comply when he ordered her to put her cell phone away. When she disregarded his request, the cop thought he could use unnecessary and harsh punishment just because he is the law and we have to listen to the law. I've heard individuals claim that if she merely did what she was told to do, the entire situation would've been avoided. True, but since she didn't, let's not delve into conditional statements. Other arguments view him as racist, which is justified because he has a record of targeting African-American individuals. The fact is a police officer thought it appropriate to act immature and overbearing when all he had to do was take the phone from her. The man already possesses a bad record when it comes to using harsh punishments; this time I hope he gets reprimanded, and I don't mean paid vacation since that's how our society punishes police when they break the law, I mean actual punishment, such as suspension or removal from duty.

Much of my vigilant attitude stems from the philosophical debate of murder itself. Of course killing is appropriate when defending oneself or another per-

son, but according to *Washington Times* there have been far too many instances where a police officer kills a criminal, months or years after the crime he/she committed. Police take care of each other. They have a unique bond since they go through the same experiences, and no one quite understands certain situations like other cops do. However, they get too close to one another and end up killing as revenge for their fallen comrade(s) rather than as protection for themselves or other people. We know something is wrong when our citizens begin to fear the people who protect us more than the ones who threaten us. The logic of the police is this: we kill people who kill people to show others that killing people is bad. At this rate, the killing of these criminals is not justice, it's revenge.

As a result of police departments and how their officers behave, I feel it is my civic duty to arouse suspicion to countless wrongdoings that occur in the country. Don't get me wrong, I don't want the police to disappear, I want them to improve. I want them to do their jobs better, and most importantly, I want the public to feel proud of our officers, trust them, and be glad to call them the men and women who

The media is unfair to law enforcement



BY TIM RIESGO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

It seems to have become popular for society to disrespect law enforcement. With the media hyping up the drama on several cases such as the Ferguson case, it only gives people more of reasons to disrespect cops. The media has created this high sense of ignorance among the American people, and I do not understand why very few realize the flaws the media portrays.

Most people do not know that the media hypes up certain stories and changes their angles to gain more viewers. The more viewers, the more money in their pockets. This is a horrible practice, but the media knows that if they can stir the pot throughout the entire country, they can sway people's opinions. If you are not yet convinced, ask yourself this, when was the last time you saw the media create a buzz about a white cop who was killed by an African American? This is not meant to be racist; it is just the

way I observe things. However, when the roles reverse, it is ok to throw out the race card? Why is that? The cop who was performing his job, and has his life threatened is now viewed as a villain.

Following what the media says versus getting the real facts only makes people's views flawed as in most cases it is the victim who gets themselves killed, but in the eyes of America, the officer is a murderer. Look at the Ferguson case that happened just over a year ago. The officer was not only attacked first,

but also gave the victim several warnings before shooting him. It is only common sense that if you fail to listen to an officer's orders, you set yourself up to get critically injured or killed. Not to mention that the citizens of Ferguson who started to riot because of the court's decision, have an interesting way of thinking, they believe what happened in Ferguson was a crime, but rioting, destroying buildings, and stealing is not?

Several people believe that a police force consists of nothing but racist murderers who are power hungry because a few cops in the past have decided to abuse their power. I understand there is no such thing as a perfect cop, but just because a few individuals decided to commit wrongful actions, does not mean every cop commits illegal actions. However, people fail to realize that they are just doing their job. I can guarantee most if not all cops never

look forward to the day they must pull the trigger to end an individual's life. When that day comes, they know what lies ahead of them, controversy. Because all of a sudden, doing your job becomes the wrong thing to do.

Many people do not understand everything cops go through. They have to make split second decisions and live with the consequences. Sometimes those consequences are career ending. These cops put an end to as many crimes as possible and even put their lives on the line, yet the people of America have become full of hatred toward them. It is time our society stops following what the media says and learns to develop their own opinions based on facts. If creating opinions based on facts becomes a trend, people will realize the law enforcement is not always power hungry and is usually just doing their job.

CAMPUS FEATURE

Decathlon brings home multiple awards



El Rancho High School's Academic Decathlon prepares to move on to County competition.

BY SAMANTHA CHAVEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho High School's Academic Decathlon team proudly brought home 56 ribbons after competing at the first practice scrimmage. This event occurred at El Rancho High School on November 28th before the actual competition at county. Other schools that partook in the action included: Gladstone, El Monte, La Serna, Azusa, and Bassett.

The Dons received ribbons in science, social science, and math. The overall team score was 20945.7 points with the highest individual

scorer: Junior Marcela Cisneros, with a total of 4122.9 points.

"We prepared for the scrimmage by working hard in our sixth-period class, after school practices, Saturday sessions, and independent studying," says Cruz.

After the scrimmage the next step for the Decathletes is to compete in County- the big competition they've been preparing for and where the medals and ribbons will be distributed. "We are nervous about our county competition but, we are motivated to succeed to ensure all our efforts pay off. Also, we are excited to have a home field advantage," says senior Manny

Cruz. This year's County competition will take place at El Rancho High School between January 30th and February 6th of 2016.

"This year's team demonstrates a commitment to ensure that the tradition of excellence continues. Each and every member brings something unique and awesome to the table. They are constantly challenging each other to grow and, as a result, we are proud of them," says Kristen Palomares, Academic Decathlon coordinator and history teacher.

This program deals with subjects involving common math, English, music theory and public speaking/ speech. It

is important to know that these are students with varying passions and "the goal of [the] program is to provide students an avenue to achieve these skills along the way," says Palomares.

Teachers must initially recommend students who are interested in becoming part of the Academic Decathlon team. "Also, some students seek out the opportunity by speaking with one of our coaches or their counselors," says Mrs. Palomares. To be a decathlete, one must have an open sixth-period class, be willing to work on the weekends, and be prepared to take summer courses.

2015-2016 DECATHLON TEAM

Christopher Ramos 12th
Marcela Cisneros 11th
Olivia Ball 11th
Sidney Carroll 12th
Manny Cruz 12th
Marissa Armstrong 12th
Alexis O'Neal 12th
Elizabeth Martinez 12th
Mia Alvarez 11th
Anahi Gonzales 12th
Jose Alcala 11th
Ivy Castillo 11th
Jaime Lopez 12th
Grace Garcia 11th
Crystal Sanchez 12th
Jennifer Guerra 12th
Jose Alcala 11th
Ivy Castillo 11th
Emanuel Cordero 12th
Diego Guerrero 11th

Mama "money team" is simply irresistible

BY MATT ZAMARRIPA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

If she's not riding her scooter across Pico Rivera to pick up some Domino's Pizza, then you might catch her winning most spirited at the Night Pep Rally. She's smart, she's funny, and she's the person everyone is talking about. Valeria Gomez is simply irresistible.

Valeria is senior class vice president of Associated Student Body and founder of El Rancho's student section at school sport events known as the *Money Team*, whose motto is, "Money over everything." Valeria makes every school event more lit than your *Walking Dead* binge on a Sunday. Her personality is unlike any other girl at El Rancho or Pico Rivera for that matter. She is the right person to go to when you are having a bad day. She loves vanilla ice cream and dipped French fries from Burger Stop. And, despite her claim of having no friends, the whole school seems to know her and love her very much.

Valeria enjoys attending school events and pumping up the crowd. Her hobbies include



Valeria gives a cowabunga to her future papi.

"stalking potential babes" on Twitter. She is always trying to find out "fresh chisme" between everyone in the school.

She also enjoys working at Aeropostale in the Montebello Mall. As a heads up, Valeria likes to be surprised with Wing

Stop while she is working.

Until "Twitter changed her life" and became the "mother of El Rancho," Valeria used to eat

her lunch in the girl's restroom her freshman year due to not having any friends. From being the weird, lonely girl to being the most popular girl on campus, she deserves the best "glow up" of all time along with most school spirited.

Valeria may be a piece of work for anyone planning on asking her out, but if any guy thinks that a simple "To Be Honest" Twitter direct message is going to get you a date with her think again. Valeria's hunk of her dreams happens to be athletic, a soccer player to be exact, and someone with all of his teeth. If there is one thing Valeria loves on a guy, it is curly hair. She cannot stand someone who can only speak one language. Valeria prefers a bilingual guy who would not have a hard time ordering her tacos from a vendor on a corner in East L.A.

You may hear people call her toothless or "Chilendrina" due to her Night Pep Rally incident, but she will always be known as *Vale Madre* from Twitter. With the freshest gear in school and the most noticeable set of teeth, there is no way you can miss her from afar.

CAMPUS

Stubendorff is a woman of many wonders

BY KATHELEEN MADERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This month's teacher feature is on Claire Stubendorff. Mrs. Stubendorff, the AP Biology teacher on campus, enjoys rock-climbing and taking trips that involve surviving on limited resources.

"I've always liked the outdoors and my parents always took us camping when [I and my two brothers] were little, so I have always been drawn to outdoor activities. It makes me happy getting out into nature and doing something physical which I enjoy doing," says Stubendorff.

Stubendorff took a class during college that exposed her to thrill-seeking outdoor activities to relieve her from the stress of school.

"College was so heavily academic. I was a marine biology major, so I was taking all of these hard classes and I just wanted something fun. A friend of mine was looking up physical activity classes in the kinesiology department, and she found a teacher that had classes where they took several trips, so we decided to join."

"The teacher was a survival/wilderness guy that taught us to always have a technique for everything we did, and everything he taught you made you interested in wanting to learn more about it."

"In the rock-climbing class we went on a few trips, but we spent most of our time in class



Stubendorff talks about her rock climbing experience.

learning all of the skills that we would apply when we were rock-climbing, like knot-tying, setting up our belay devices where you

hook yourself up to multiple places on a rock, and having back-ups. He taught us how something that seems dangerous doesn't have

to be because you plan for it."

She also took a kayaking trip in Lake Powell, near Utah and Arizona. "All you could take was what you could carry. You had to consider if you needed a sleeping bag, if it was going to be really hot throughout the day, and if you needed water or a water filter. I learned how to live with minimal resources that made all the stuff from life seem unimportant."

Her last two-week trip involved surviving in the snow with minimal essential supplies and without any electronics.

"All we could take were skis and our backpack. We were partnered up, and we had to share tents with our partner and distribute the load. We had to pack clothing for sub-zero temperatures and bad weather. One day we were snowed in and were unable to do anything. Our only source of navigation was the stars; we had no map or compass."

"At one point on every trip you had to be by yourself for at least twenty-four hours. It was scary, but it was an experience that made me a stronger person and better equipped to handle real-world problems."

Before having her two boys, she and her husband would do outdoor things every weekend. Stubendorff hopes to be able to do these activities with her children once they grow older. If you ever need help in the art of rock-climbing or biology, visit Mrs. Stubendorff in room B-201.

Scottanthony is meant for each other



BY KAITLYN CUNNINGHAM
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The cutest couple on the campus of El Rancho High School goes to the drama stars: Anthony Cervantes and Xcaret Estrada-Soto.

Depending if they are broke or not, one could catch them all over Los Angeles, whether it be at Disneyland or a movie theater. "In public we are always doing goofy things. We are always trying to make each other laugh. There was even this time where I made this lady think that Anthony was cheating on me. It was the funniest thing," says Soto.

At the beginning of their relationship, one could say the couple hated each other's guts. Soto says, "I thought he was the most annoying person ever." While Cervantes says, "Honestly, I thought Scottie was way too bossy and mean." "It's just because I'm a woman," she adds, "women can't be in charge without being called bossy."

However, their hate for each other faded, as they got closer to their sophomore year and his junior year. "The first time I saw her was in her beginning drama class, two years ago" and now we are going to be celebrating our tenth month anniversary in December," Cervantes says. "We performed our first production together and after that we just clicked," says Cervantes. Scottie adds, "our first kiss was on stage, and I guess you can say we liked it; look at us now."

Admitting to making the first move, Scottie says, "This one over here wouldn't, so I took the challenge and told him his face was cute." Cervantes in awe just said thanks and ended up going home without saying you're cute too. "Anthony is my best friend; it is as simple as that. I am just really comfortable with him, so it's easy to be myself around him. He is probably the funniest and most realistic person I know, which is what I love about him."

Cervantes adds, "our cutest date was when we went to the food court at the mall, and we just couldn't stop laughing at the most stupid things. She ended up getting up, and I accidentally spilled all the Chinese food on her. But then we went to a bowling alley, and she ended up slaughtering me."

Even though next year Anthony will be going off to college and Scottie will be wrapping up her senior year, they have both agreed that they "will be focusing on their individual lives together, but still try to be connected" Cervantes realistically says. "Even if we don't end up together, we will always be friends," Scottie adds.

ER band gets a sweet set of wheels



ER Band's new equipment transportation truck.

BY ADRIANA CARCHIPULLA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho High School's band "fairy Godmother" generously donated a trailer on November 13, 2015 to help make traveling much easier.

Now that the band "has gotten bigger it was much harder to rent a U-Haul for every field event, said senior Brian Rodriguez. Since the program has "grown over the past two years, one of the lucky problems was that the need for a bigger trailer occurred," said band director Reggie Cordero. This allows for the need to "rent three U-hauls" to disappear and "has helped financially as well," said Cordero. Having this in mind, the

band's fairy Godmother saw a great opportunity to help the band once again, and generously bought the band the trailer. Many are probably asking whom this wonderful and generous fairy godmother is, but she wishes to remain anonymous to the public, said senior Briseis Pipkins. This donation was a total surprise for the band, on the day it was donated band director Cordero "received a phone call to go to the parking lot and was surprised with the marching band's new trailer" said Cordero.

This alumni, former color guard, is always being generous with the band and even "paid for the band's new uniforms and Washington D.C trip" said Cordero. Not only this

but she has "purchased many new instruments for the band, which is why we also needed a bigger trailer," said Cordero.

Since this was a generous gift from the band's fairy godmother, the school band did not need to fundraiser, however, the band does raise a lot. Each member must fundraise \$30 a month," said Rodriguez.

"This is a priority for band since there are a lot of students in band and the resources are very limited," says Rodriguez. "The money raised is used for competition, music festivals, transportation, payments, and instruments," says Pipkins.

The trailer has been a great help to band, it allows more space for all the instruments and no need

for taking the instruments apart, says sophomore Ashley Gonzalez. The marching band is now ready to move on and focus on competitions and music festivals.

The marching band takes the trailer everywhere they go "even to San Diego and San Francisco, which really helps represent not only the marching band, but our school, city, and district" said Cordero.

Sadly, there has already been an incident where some students have decided to tag the trailer. "Someone put Casper on the front of the trailer, and since the trailer was out in the open, it was a big concern," said an anonymous source if it "happened once there is a high possibility it will happen again," so the band did not want to risk it. Also, the band director feels that it is a shame "that something that was generously donated would be treated in that manner" the trailer does not only "represent the marching band but the school."

This is one of the reasons the district has decided to relocate the bands trailer. The trailer will continue to be a great help for the band and will only increase the bands greatness. This incident will not stop the band from moving forward, and the band will continue to accomplish great thin

HAPPY H



To Mr. Weir, to the best teacher at El Rancho wishing you a Merry Christmas

To: Mrs. Senteno-Tapia, thank you for pushing me to do better in my classes and be more organized. Hope you have a Merry Christmas with your family and friends and enjoy your vacation. "Get your life and help you."

To Cindy Sabaria, hope you have an amazing Christmas, you deserve it! Have fun in Florida.

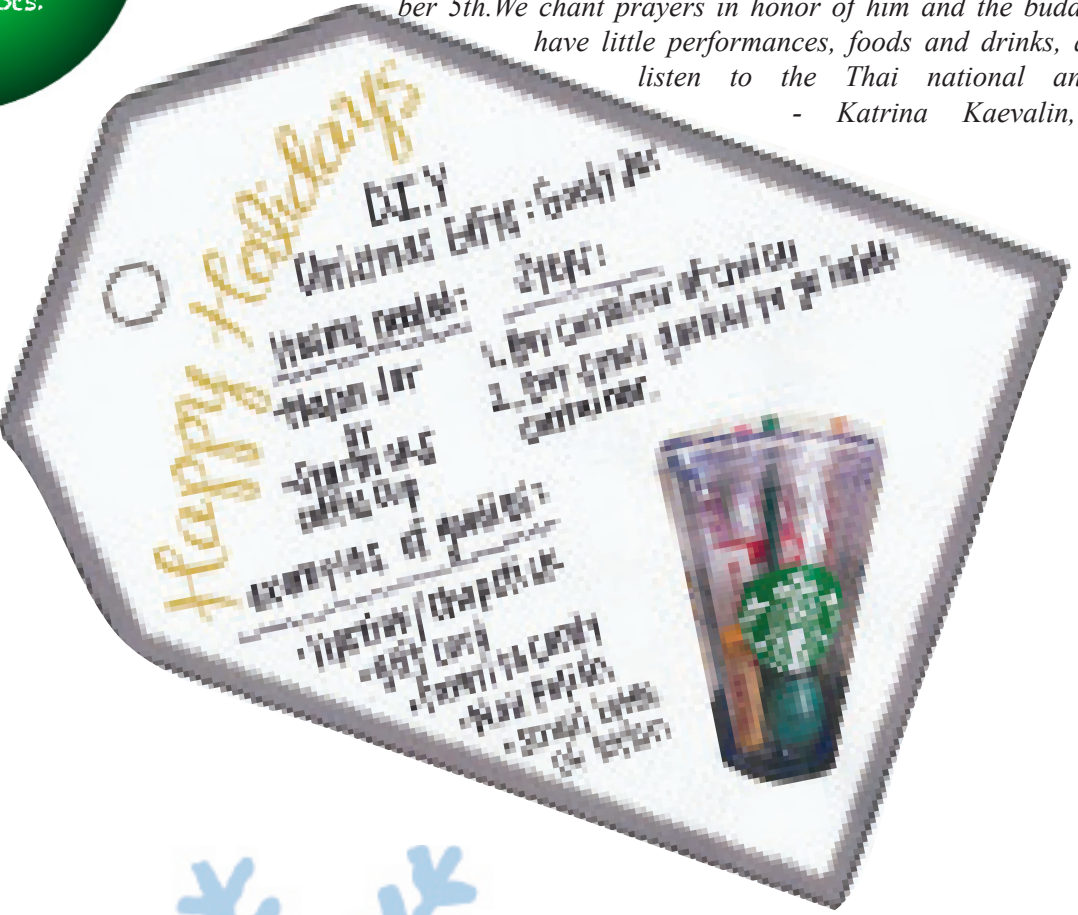
To: Maria Rodriguez & Jewel Esqueda, Have a wonderful Christmas. I am glad I have you guys in my life. I love you both so much and hope we always stay friends. Have a wonderful Christmas.

To: Andrew Aguirre, Merry Christmas have an awesome holiday bro!

To: Mrs. Moghimi, Thank you for always believing in me, and helping me in French

To: Jason Bravo, I hope you have happy holidays. Be yourself, I love you lots!

To: Leslie Hidalgo, I wish great things for you this Christmas. Have a good New Year and may the beginning of 2016 treat you fairly.

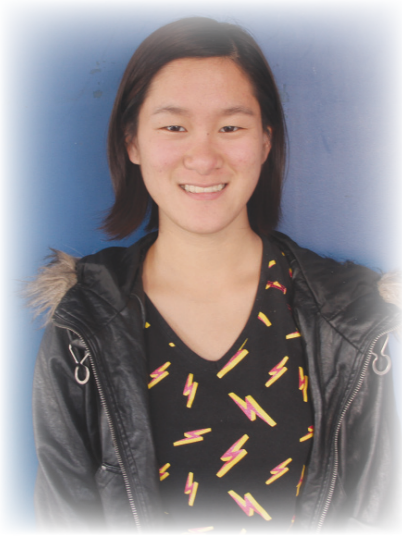


HO

BY MARISSA M
EL RODEO STAFF

Whether it is a something new, there are different events for your family to do over winter. The Los Alamitos and Botanical Garden walk through the LA has been transformed into a winter wonderland with lights. While visiting you should stop by the Stomp, which is open for hangout with Jingle, and Velvet. Come on and take a picture (nominal fee), and the performance of a pup the Satin Dollz. Come see the dazzling lights, a

WOTS: What are your holiday traditions?



"My family visits the temple to take part in a ceremonial celebration for the king of Thailand's birthday on December 5th. We chant prayers in honor of him and the buddha, we have little performances, foods and drinks, and we listen to the Thai national anthem."
- Katrina Kaevalin, 12th



"Since I'm a business, we do Christmas. We treat our customers."
- Iza



HOLIDAYS

Holiday Family Events

ESTAS
WRITER

A tradition or
ere are many
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winter break.
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A zoo, which
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mals, and light and water show. The winter zoo experience takes place from November 26 to January 3, 2016. For any questions about this special event you can either call (323) 644-4200 or you can e-mail them @ lazoo.org.

Every winter season, Santa Monica brings a skating rink to its beachside community, found on the corner of 5th Street and Arizona Avenue Santa Monica. You can even sign up for skating lessons. The event starts on November 1, 2015 and lasts until January 18, 2016. Admission with a skate rental is \$15. Monday to Thursday visiting hours are from 2:00 pm to 10:00 p.m., Friday is open from 2:00 pm to 12:00 am, Saturday is open from 10:00 am

to 12:00 am and Sunday is open from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00p.m. Don't miss out on this fun event.

Something that is very exciting for the whole family is Universal Studios' Grinchmas. Take a photo with the Grinch along with his dog Max, or a 60-foot Christmas tree. Listen to the Who-ville singers as they sing Christmas carols from the movie How the Grinch Stole Christmas. If you get tired, you can take a break while listening to Cindy-Lou Who read a story. Then, you can enjoy a dance and song performed by the Who Dolls. For any questions or concerns about this event information is provided at www.universalstudioshollywood.com/grinchmas.

our

?



m a Jehovah's wit-
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it like any other day."
Alacon, 12th

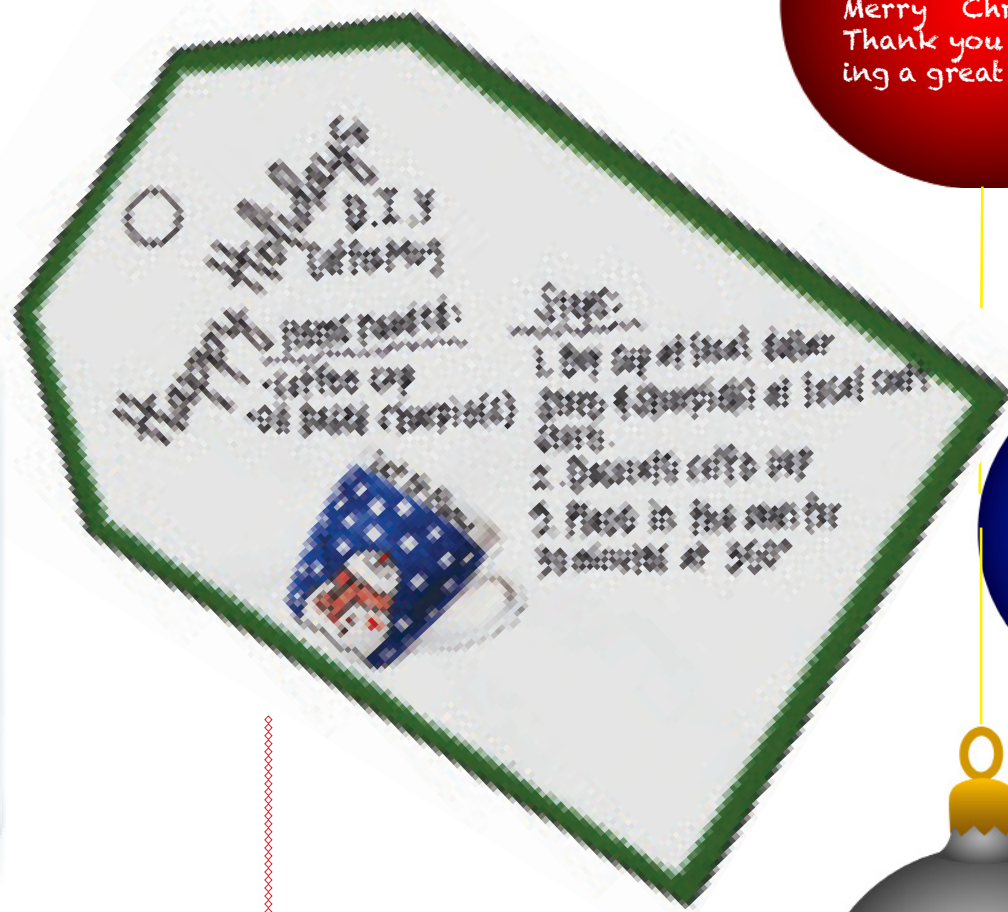
"A tradition of my family's is that on Christmas Day, we go to my grandma's house. We help make a breakfast and all eat together. After we finish eating, we go and open presents. After we've all opened our presents we always turn on the TV and watch whatever is playing."

-Adam Allred, 11th



"For Christmas all the granddaughters go the help make tamales and weeks before everyone gets together and we pull names and do a secret Santa to give each other on the 25th."

-Sophia Arroyo, 10th

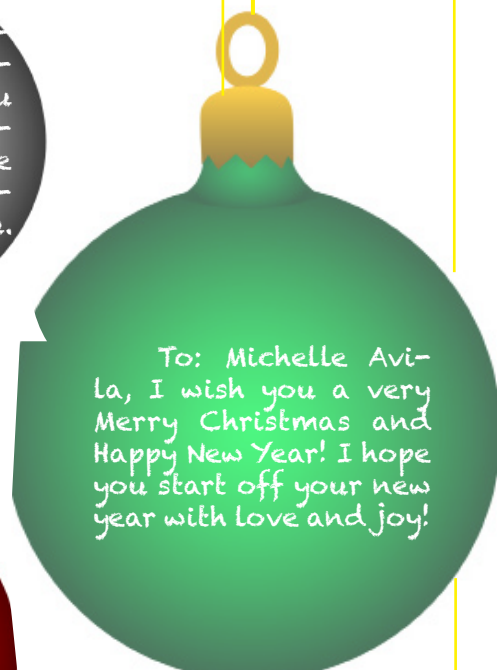


Happy Holidays
D.I.Y
before
name poster:
- coffee cup
- on base (optional)

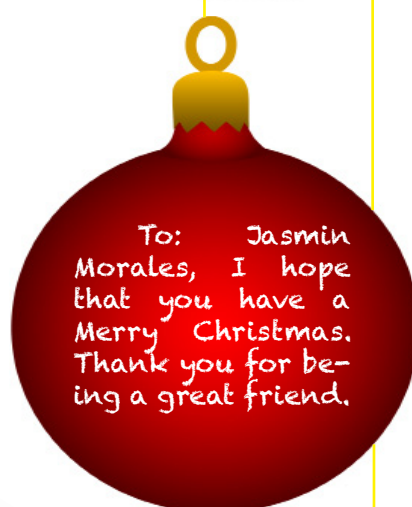
Steps:
1. Dry cup at least 10 min
2. Decorate with markers
3. Place in the sun for 30 minutes at 350°



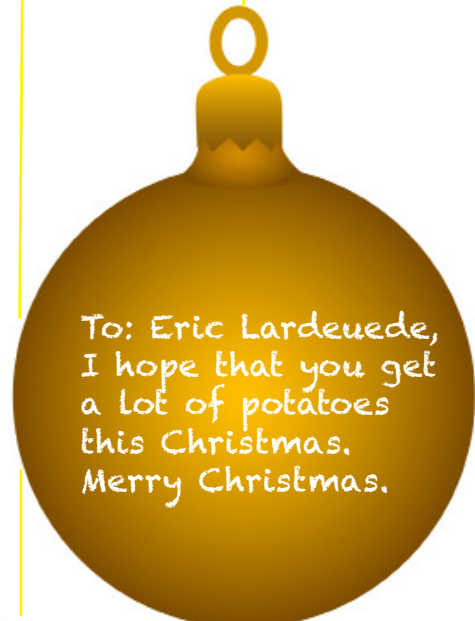
To: Crystal Guzman, Merry Christmas and thank you for being an awesome friend. Have an amazing Christmas. Love you.



To: Michelle Avila, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I hope you start off your new year with love and joy!



To: Jasmin Morales, I hope that you have a Merry Christmas. Thank you for being a great friend.



To: Eric Lardeuede, I hope that you get a lot of potatoes this Christmas. Merry Christmas.



To: Greg Solis, hope you have a Merry Christmas and thank you for being a good friend.



To: Heaven Vasques, I hope you stop being so mean to me ha-ha. I hope you have a Merry Christmas.



To: Eric Lardeuede, I hope that you get a lot of potatoes this Christmas. Merry Christmas.



To: Omar Torres, sorry for not being able to do tennis, but I'll make it up with some Oreos hope you have a great Christmas.

SPORTS

This week in sports



14	15	16	17	18	19	20
B Basketball: (V) Azusa Tournament (F) John Glenn Tournament G Waterpolo: (V) Workman HS @ 3:15 B Soccer: (V) Schurr @ 3:15 (JV) Schurr @ 3:15 G Soccer: (V) Alambra @ 3:15 (JV) Alhambra @ 3:15	B Basketball: (V) Azusa Tournament G Basketball: (V) St. Paul @ 6 (JV) St Paul @ 4:30 (9) St Paul @ 3	B Basketball: (V) Azusa Tournament (F) John Glenn Tournament G Waterpolo: (V) Burbank @ 3:30 (JV) Burbank @ 4:30 B Soccer: (V) Montebello @3:15 (JV) Montebello @5	B Basketball: (V) Azusa Tournament (JV) El Monete Tournament	B Basketball: (JV) El Monte Tournament @TBA (F) John Glenn Tournament @TBA Wrestling: (V) Downey 32 Way @TBA	B Basketball: (JV) El Monte Tournament @TBA (F) John Glenn Tournament @TBA G Waterpolo: Alumni @ 11 G Soccer: (V) Bellflower Torunament @ TBA (JV) “ “	Happy Sunday!

Lady Dons outlast alumni



The basketball girls are practicing for their upcoming games.

By JOCELYN SICAIROS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

What player who has ever put on a jersey and ran up and down the courts, dripping in sweat, hasn't dreamed of playing one more basketball game? Players who could have been injured playing or didn't get the chance to be MVP of a game finally got the chance at redemption, but sadly, on November 25th, these alumni lost to our girl's basketball team, the Lady Dons.

El Rancho's Alumni and the Lady Dons played against each other on Wednesday, November 25. Former players returned and played against this year's varsity team in alumni games.

The Lady Dons won the alumni by 61-33. This score makes the lady dons feel even more confident about starting the league. Destiny Reyes says, "I believe we won because of the hard work we put into this game, and our defense was really strong."

In the first quarter, both teams were back-to-back, having a strong defense and took a little while to make the first basket. Eventually, the Lady Dons took over the first half with leading score of 32-12. Both teams displayed overly competitive behavior when they exerted their amount of fouls in the first half.

Patricia Ayala, a former basketball player in 2013, is now the coach of the girl's freshmen-

sophomore team. Ayala says, "It was fun to play with everyone again who already graduated." Being one of the starters for the alumni team and seeing how her team had lost, Ayala says, "It was expected, they are all in shape, and everything and they played hard so hopefully they do well this season."

Our very own Mrs. Elliott was the only teacher who played on the alumni team. She says she wanted to play because she didn't work out that day and she wanted to get a workout. Mrs. Elliott was strong on defensive and very competitive. Elliott says, "Some advice I would give the girls is always to play hard, and life is very different once you graduate so definitely take advantage of the fact that you're young, and you're able to run up and down the court. Also, have fun because you never know when it's going to be your last game."

The first two games of the season the Lady Dons have been very successful. The team has already won two games back to back, against Glendora 56-52 and Temple City 69-32. They hope to carry on this streak for their upcoming games.

Sophomore Susy Regalado says, "I feel confident about league, and I think everyone should be confident in the team, we have a good set of girls who are athletic and determined to win."

Golf Tournament



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

PICTURE THIS!



Picture Yourself at The Ranch guest tries on the graduation cap and gown.

Fierce. Our Powder Puff winners pose for a team picture.



The fieriest powder puff cheerleading team performs their routine during the Powder Puff pep rally.



Daniel Lopez from advanced drama performs for Picture Yourself at The Ranch.



Cristian Roldan shows off his cool moves with the soccer ball.



Girls Powder Puff getting advice from the coaches.



Straight #winning. The Seniors celebrate the sweet victory after the game.

COMMUNITY

Women want more representation in business and law



Assembly woman Cristina Garcia

By HEAVEN VASQUEZ
TEEN COURT REPORTER

Two female students from the Teen Court and Entrepreneur Club attended Assembly Woman Garcia's Committee on December 2, 2015. These two students spoke about the struggles of Hispanic women in the law and business fields. They also explained the career difficulties they are confronted with and some related statistics.

Ms. Jessica Zapien of the Entrepreneur Club opened the night with the following speech:

"Hello, my name is Jessica Zapien. I'm a junior at El Rancho High School, and I'm in the entrepreneur club. Although I haven't had many real-life experiences or anything, I have seen and read about many injustices women of color go through because of their race and gender. I'd like to share some of them with all of you today.

Women of color make up one-third of all working women, but they are scared of corporate America. Women of color comprise just about 16.5% of the people who work for S&P 500 companies, some of the country's largest and most financially powerful, according to newResearch from Catalyst. But they became rarer further up the ladder.

Women currently hold 22 (4.4%) of CEO positions at S&P 500 companies. They represent less than 10% of managers, a measly 3.9% of executives, and just .4% of CEOs. In fact, there is not a single Latina CEO among the S&P 500.

A large problem in the business world as well as in many other careers is the pay gap.

You've probably heard that women get 79¢ to a man's dollar. It's been said that African American women would get 63¢, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders get 62¢, and Hispanic/Latina women would receive 54¢ to a man's dollar.

The study was done in 2014, proving that the pay gap between women and men is still a huge problem.

Another problem women of color face are the matter of getting hired. Many corporations won't hire women of color due to stereotypes that surround

them. Because we're women of color, we are enshrouded by ridiculous stereotypes such as Hispanic/Mexican women being lazy, dramatic, or "spicy", like food; or strong African American women being categorized as unprofessional or ghetto.

Being a woman in the business world is hard enough with us thought as too incompetent or too meek to be handling authoritative roles in business.

Being a person of color as well as a woman brings about many setbacks. Many times you will not be taken seriously or may be told that you are too "delicate" or "not right" for the position you apply. But, as a woman of color, I believe we're strong enough to overcome these problems and limitations. To surpass the stereotypes and prove to those who have ever doubted our capability, that we can be successful with strength and pure determination."

Ms. Karen Lopez followed with her speech regarding women in the law field.

"Good Evening ladies and gentlemen. My name is Karen Lopez I am a senior at El Rancho High School I am the first female president of the El Rancho Teen Court. I come from the community of Pico Rivera where 94.2% of the population is Hispanic.

Today we are here because many women both in present time and the past face struggles that most men don't. It gets even harder when the woman is of color, such as a Hispanic. Women are often given gender roles and expectations. These roles and expectations often affect the lives of these women of color.

As I mentioned before, I am the president of the El Rancho Teen Court. In the law field, women are underrepresented. As of 2014, only 21% of people in the law field are women. Out of those 21%, only 5.4% are Hispanic women. Today in the Supreme Court there is a total of 9 seats only three seats are occupied by women and only 1 of those 3 is a Hispanic woman. According to the American Bar statistics of 2013, weekly salaries for male lawyers are about 2,000, while white women only earn 1,500, and a Hispanic woman would only earn 1,100.

There are various factors that limit the success of women in today's society: the lack of opportunities that are given to them, the lack of support, and the lack of mentoring. Students don't receive the encouragement they need from others and lack the support necessary to succeed. The El Rancho Teen Court has allowed me to obtain support, mentoring and opportunities. Teen Court has opened the doors for me to interact with attorneys, court psychologists, judges, and probation officers. All these individuals encourage each and every student to look for opportunities in the law field."

Qureshi's classes donate to family in need



Qureshi's sixth period class gathers around its nine-foot Christmas Tree.

By JOCELYN SICAIROS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Parvin Qureshi's classes helped spread Christmas spirit to a family in need. Qureshi's classes all came together to raise money and purchase a Christmas tree off a water polo player.

Senior Anthony Payan, an athlete on the boy's water polo team for El Rancho, participated in a Christmas tree sale fundraiser along with the other water polo players. Why would a team be selling Christmas trees? Well according to Payan, it was a fun idea, and it was better than selling candy. The money raised will go towards the score board the water polo team has been wanting. Payan had not sold any trees

at all, and he was under pressure to sell at least one tree. In class, he asked Qureshi to buy one of his Christmas trees, and she said no. Every day he would show up to class and ask the same question, but each time she said no. Payan said, "I kept bugging her."

Payan was running out of time to sell these Christmas trees. Qureshi said she felt really bad and wanted to help support the water polo team. She asked each of her classes if they would each donate \$1 to help buy a Christmas tree from Payan. Every class was willing to donate, and Qureshi kept count of the money.

Payan said, "I thought I was in trouble when she asked me to step outside, and when she told me that the class decided to sup-

port me it felt really good and it was nice and cute to be honest."

Qureshi's classes raised \$116 and obtained a 9-foot noble fir. Payan said, "It was cool and very surprising on how much [they] were able to get."

One may wonder what a history class would want with a Christmas tree; well Qureshi and her classes decided to put the tree to good use and donate it to a family in need. Each of Qureshi's classes decorated ornaments and hung them on the tree.

"We wanted to do this to give to the less fortunate. We saw the opportunity as a class to be able to give back, and we are very happy that it's going to a family in need," says senior Jorge Castillo.

Teen Court wraps up its final cases of the year

By HEAVEN VASQUEZ
TEEN COURT REPORTER

Teen Court's third session occurred on December 2nd at City Hall. Visitors from Whittier Union School District and El Rancho Unified School District attended the session along with many students and community members.

One of the two cases consisted of a ninety-eight-dollar petty theft from JC Penney on October 25th. The minor, Jesus G, attempted to take items from the athletic department and leave the store without paying. An officer approached him outside the store and attempted to handcuff him, but the minor broke away and

ran; in the process, he injured another officer. An off-duty sheriff then captured the minor. During the questioning, it was discovered that he was also affiliated with drugs that played a part in his restorative plan. The jury reached the decision that the minor was guilty, and he charged him with 110 community service hours, individual counseling, family counseling, and ordered him to write an apology letter to his mother as well as the officer that was injured.

The 2nd case involved a stolen iPhone 6; the theft took place during school hours on October 16th. The suspect Joshua C. denied taking the cell phone. When the police questioned him

about the phone, he claimed that he "found it" so it wasn't stealing. He also denied the theft when his assistant principal addressed him about the situation; after a thorough check through the suspect's locker, the cell phone was found and returned to the owner. The estimated value of the phone was \$599.00. Joshua C. was also found guilty and charged with 75 hours of community service and counseling with his mother. The jury also ordered him to write a letter of apology to the owner of the cell phone.

The next Teen Court session will take place at City Hall in January, which will be our second annually parent night.

Share the Warmth

This winter, many will be without the basic resources needed to keep warm and healthy. A warm blanket or sweater is essential for those suffering from inclement weather, illness or the less fortunate. Show your love by donating a new or gently used clean blanket or coat.

There are more people than ever who need help staying warm. Have a warm heart by making a difference in the lives of those less fortunate by giving the gift of warmth to someone in need this holiday season.

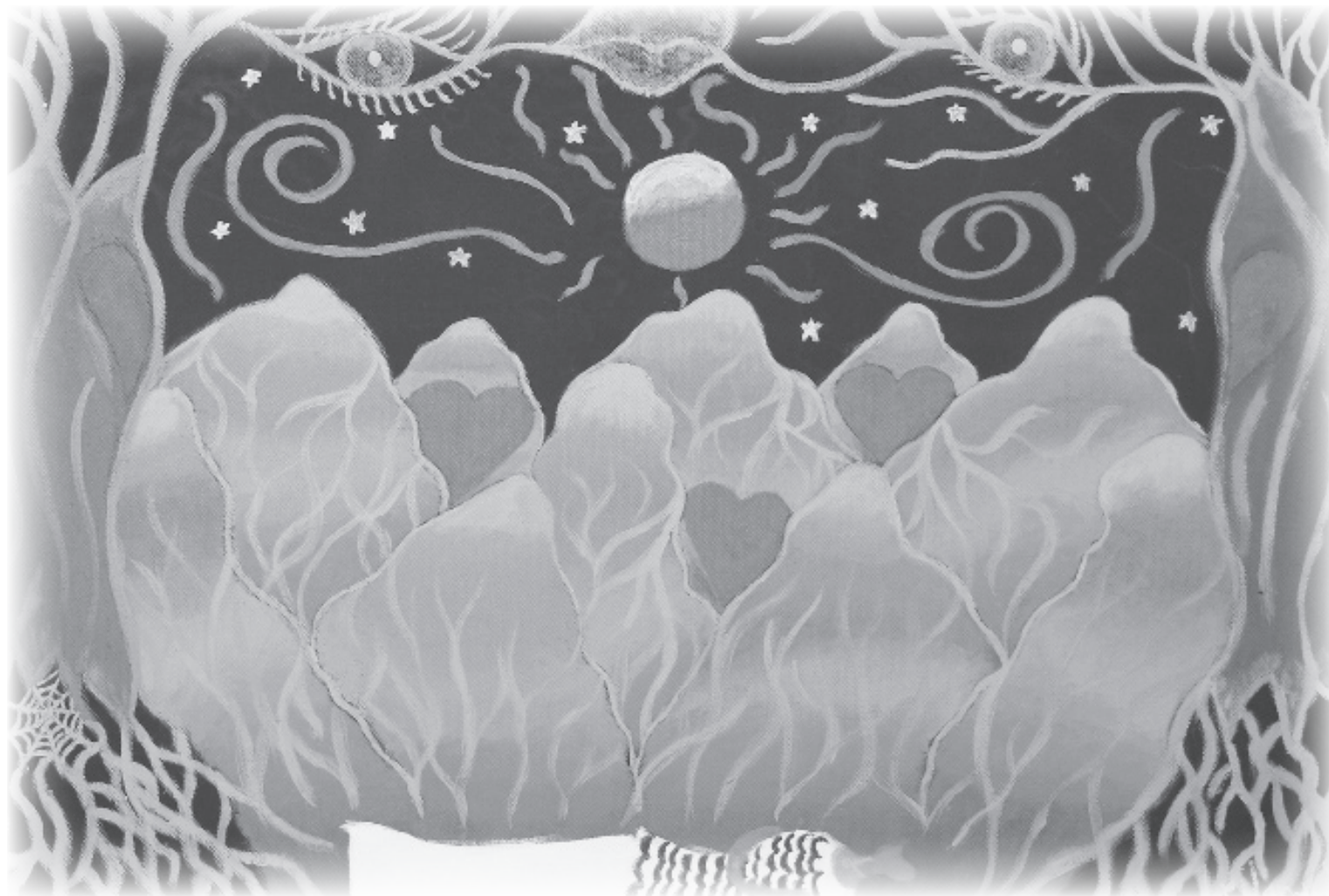
We will be accepting donations from December 7th - December 17th, 2015 in the Career Center.

BE A LEADER CLUB AT ERHS

Be A LEADER Foundation

ENTERTAINMENT

December art contest winner: Leilany Ornelas



Leilany Ornelas, 12th grade, from AP Studio Art displays her passion for art on sweet canvas.

Changes coming to ABC Family



BY ERNESTO HERNANDEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Say goodbye to ABC Family because it will change its name on this upcoming year on January 12 to Freeform. It will change the majority of its programming to lure the next generation of viewers known as “becomers.”

ABC Family will have a new role next year as the social media and drama oriented network. The demographic the network will target is between the ages of fourteen and thirty-four. The new iteration of the channel will bring more original content and maintain the programming shown on ABC Family.

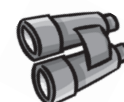
CNN’s reporter Robert McLean said the targeted audience “becomers,” “are in the stage of life involving high school, college, and the decade afterward.” They are considered to “navigate the wonderful, fun, exciting, and scary time in life when you experience the most firsts,” said McLean. The new demographic is what drives the new iteration of the network ABC Family’s Marisa Dabney said, “Becomers, [are] fans on that epic adventure of becoming an adult-from first kiss to first kid!”

ABC Family has always been a place for family entertainment including The Drew Carey Show, Family Matters, The Wonder Years, and Boy Meets World. It has original content that is a hit or miss between viewers and critics. So, why do they want to change their demographic and programming? The President of ABC Family Worldwide, Tom Ascheim, said the viewers of the network are growing up, and the number of views has gone down.

However, this is not the first time the network has changed its name. The original owner of the network is the Christian Broadcasting Network from its satellites services division since its launch in 1977. They modified its name to CBN Cable Network, The CBN Family channel, and The Family Channel. In 1997, Fox bought the network under its Fox Kids branch renaming it Fox Family Channel. In 2001, bought Fox Family to gain viewers on-screen and renaming it to ABC Family.

So, it is official that ABC Family will change their philosophy and their business tactics to attract a wide variety of people. However, the unique holiday movie experience, 13 Days of Halloween and 25 Days of Christmas, will remain as a tradition. No need to fret, the holidays aren’t ruined. Freeform will be the new form of TV this generation.

SCAVENGER HUNT



1. Which teacher has been teaching at El Rancho the longest?
2. Which was the first graduation class at El Rancho?
3. What year did El Rancho Soccer win CIF and State?
4. What are the first two lines of our Alma Mater?
5. Where does Santa Clause live?
6. What year did El Rancho open?
7. What years did El Rancho Football win CIF?
8. What are the North Pole’s coordinates?
9. Who is the mayor of Pico Rivera?
10. Which Reindeer got picked on the most?

***The first five students with the correct answers will win a prize. Come to X-1 when you have all 10 answers.

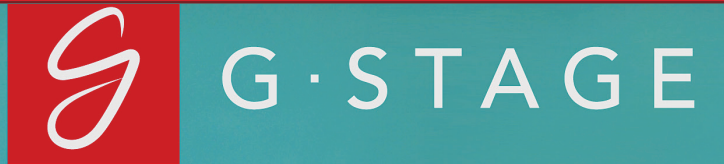
Library Corner



**Which kinds of animals are these famous literary characters?
Fill in the blanks and come to the ER Library. The first 3 students who bring the correct answers will receive a free In-N-Out burger coupon.**

1. Snowball is a _____
2. Shere Khan is a _____
3. Nagini is a _____
4. Little Ann and Old Dan are _____
5. Hedwig is an _____
6. Yertle is a _____
7. Winnie-the-Pooh is a _____
8. Cujo is a _____

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OR

\$25 OFF

WITH PURCHASE OF \$100 AND OVER

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PICO RIVERA • SUN VALLEY • SOUTH GATE • WALNUT PARK • CHINO • DOWNEY • SANTA CLARITA • LYNWOOD • TUSTIN • REDLANDS

Must present valid high school student/faculty ID with offer at the time of purchase. Entire coupon/flyer must be surrendered at the time of purchase/use. Not valid with any other offers/promos. Discount applies before sale taxes. All items purchased with this discount are final sale. Offer ends Dec. 31, 2015. Promo subject to change or cancellation without prior notice. Restrictions may apply.