



# El Rodeo



El Rancho High School

Volume 65, Issue 4

@elrodeonews  
www.elrodeonews.com

## Resolutions to be added to Pico Rivera's Sanctuary Status

BY BERNICE VEGA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The president elect's discriminatory policies have made many Pico Rivera residents and El Rancho High School's students fear for their wellbeing and safety. In response to the dangerous policies the president elect proposes, students of the Ranch have proposed a resolution to ensure security from the federal government.

Pico Rivera and the El Rancho Unified School District welcomes and wishes to protect those discriminated against and threatened by Trump's policies.

El Rancho Law Society is leading the movement by speaking at the school board and city hall meetings in order to propose the resolution. The resolution is intended to protect the constitutional rights of all Pico Rivera residents, using the 1st, 4th, 5th, and 14th amendments against the unconstitutional actions or requests for information by the federal government.

Pico Rivera is already a sanctuary city but this proposal would extend the security and protection to the students enrolled at El Rancho Unified School District.

The nominated proposal is mainly to ensure focus of local law enforcement agencies on their core public safety mission by limiting their surveillance, intelligence collection, immigration enforcement activities, and ensuring transparency into potential discriminatory profiling.

The powerful words spoken at the meeting included a direct comment at the new president.

"If the president wishes to build a wall to 'protect our borders' we will build legal walls to protect our city, schools, and community."

Bernice Vega, El Rancho Law Society Treasurer, and Jessica Zapien, El Rancho Law Society President, have led the public presentation at the meetings and claim "there have been a lot of positive comments" on the situation.

A recent e-mail was sent to ER Law Society advisor, Elias, regarding how "proud" school board members were about the step forward by the students.

This resolution is on the road to success, proven by positive feedback and support that has been received in response to the project.

The next move that Ms. Zapien and Vega are planning to take is to make a petition to help get the word out which will hopefully succeed in restoring a sense of safety back into the community.

## Marching Dons hold annual winter concert



Senior Drum Major, Siann Rodriguez, conducts *Once Upon A Dream* at her last winter concert.

Photo by Pedro Salcido

BY KATHERINE HERRERA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After a long and exciting seven months, the Marching Dons closed off their season with a winter concert on December 7th.

Vigorous training in the summer, long practice hours every week, and all of the band's hard work and dedication resulted in a great marching season. Band continuously

took top honors at field competitions and band reviews, from a sweepstakes trophy from the Montebello City Parade to a first place award at the Warren Field Tournament.

"Usually, I always want marching season to come to an end, but this year I wanted it to last longer," said band director, Reggie Cordero, "I'm proud of this season, and the kids."

The band performed their field show *Once Upon*

*a Dream*, the story of Sleeping Beauty, as well as their parade march, *March Independentia*, for the last time this year. The band also performed the Christmas march that they debuted at the Pico Rivera tree lighting ceremony.

The winter concert is a close to the marching season, as well as a performance for the parents who weren't able to see the band at far-away shows during the sea-

son. Friends and families who attended supported the band by purchasing a tamale plate consisting of 2 tamales and a drink of their choice.

"It made me sad to think that it's the end of my very last marching season," said senior, Siann Rodriguez, "I'm proud of myself for getting this far as both a musician and as the drum major. I'm looking forward to concert season because I love playing my French Horn."

## Seniors dominate in 52nd annual Powder Puff match



In an invigorating match, seniors scored a victory over the juniors in the 52nd Powder Puff game.

Photo by Daniel Reveles

BY BERNICE VEGA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Seniors made their mark with a back-to-back-to-back win at NPR and now Powder Puff!

The class of 2017 held the game by a leash as they stayed up 12-0 until the juniors scored 8 in the final quarter.

Senior, Briana Lares,

scored the first touchdown and senior, Samantha Berrospe, scored the second one.

After two sweaty and thrilling quarters, the attention of the crowd was turned to the halftime show.

This year's cheer squad was made up of 16 seniors and one junior, who put on an extremely entertaining performance that left the crowd

in tears of joy and pride.

The Powder Puff court was then announced, with Jeffery Carr as the junior prince, and senior king nominee, Marco Nuñez, winning the crown against Pedro Salcido and Richard Vargas.

The crowd cheered on our cheer squad as the players ran back onto the field. Tension was high

as we approached the final quarters and the juniors scored a touchdown.

As the game came close to the end, tension rose and the crowd grew with excitement. The ending score was 12-8, with seniors on top. The seniors put up a great effort but the juniors weren't far behind, making the game one for the books.

# COMMUNITY

## Pico Rivera holds annual tree lighting ceremony



BY KATHERINE HERRERA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The city of Pico Rivera held their annual Tree Lighting ceremony on December 4th. Families, friends, and citizens of the community gathered at city hall to display their Christmas spirit and to celebrate the season.

Before and after the lighting of the holiday tree, there were special activities and performances. Those who attended experienced uplifting events such as choral and musical performances, a snow playing area for the children, arts and crafts, and a visit from Santa.

The family-friendly event featured musical and choral groups such as the El Rancho Marching Dons and Choraleers, Mariachi Los Jaguares from the STEAM Academy at Burke, and the Mariachi Divas.

There was a variety of vendors and food to choose from throughout the night.

“Performing in the Band for the Christmas event was an amazing experience,” said sophomore, Jenny Huevo, “It made my heart jump with joy when watching young ones and their parents in awe, smiling at the holiday decorations. The warmth of their hearts made me forget about the cold.”

“Even though our performance was a short one, it did feel festive to perform for the city,” said junior, Benjamin Ordaz, “It felt warm knowing that a part of the city was watching the band (me) perform.”

“My experience at the tree lighting ceremony was super awesome! We had prepared songs specifically for that day that I think we rocked it,” said junior, Isa Valenzuela, “plus, the crowd loved it! Although the cameraman were shining really bright lights in our face, it was so much fun!”

“[The band was] very happy to be invited to the City celebration,” said band director, Reggie Cordero, “It’s the first time since I started working at El Rancho that any of the music programs here have been invited to perform at a city event. Not everybody has a chance to see the band as they perform out at competitions and parades, so it was nice to have this chance to showcase the music students.”

This ceremony was delightful to those who attended and with hopes of a continuous annual Holiday Tree Lighting celebration.

## Vote recount led by candidate with 1% of popular vote

BY MIGUEL CHICO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After all the controversy and hate between supporters of Orange Trump and Crooked Hillary, one person revives the drama.

November 23, Jill Stein decided that she did not gain enough attention during the campaign, so she took it upon herself to lead a vote recount in states that had a big impact on Trump’s Win, “in order to check for voting fraud due to possible hacking.”

Jill Stein, with the support of Hillary Clinton, has so far found no evidence of vote tampering within the states of Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Michigan.

Although there’s a chance of vote tampering, this is such a meaningless effort. Why does this matter? They can say they’re doing this for security for future elections, but this is just an excuse to search for further dirt on the president-elect.

There have already been rallies of Hillary Supporters shouting “Not my President!” But now non-Trump Supporters will denounce anything Trump passes if there was vote tampering. The Committee To Defend the President says “the recount drama is nothing more than an expensive circus.” That is a perfect quote to summarize this vote recount. “I think it is a waste of taxpayers’ money, first and foremost. The taxpayers in these three states are



going to have to pick up the tab for these recounts,” Ted Harvey told WND and Radio America.

Now Stein has actually been raising money for this recount, \$7,301,856.01 at this moment. A shame to see this money go to such a meaningless event.

Jill Stein said herself that the results will not influence a change in the election, so why do it? If people really are fearful of future vote tampering, then security should be reinforced before the next election, not after an all-out supporter war. Stein is fueling more controversy, and won’t let the topic die.

Jason Miller, Mr. Trump’s spokesman, said, “mere talk of a recount by someone who got less than 1% is a joke.” It is, I am pretty sure a good percentage of people never heard anything from her nor knew about her until looking at the polls.

The Clinton vs. Trump topic needs to drop already, nothing

more can be said. If Democrats want to be hypocritical, then let them be. Ignorance only gets you so far. I’m referring to how Trump would only accept the election results if he won. He received criticism, and for good reason from Democrats. Now Democrats are refusing to accept Trump as their President and are searching for any dirt on him.

The vote recount also just recently hit a stop at Michigan, where the federal judge revoked his order requiring a recount. The court decided “the Green Party candidate had no grounds to mount the challenge.”

Now if only both sides, Democrats, and Republicans, can look at the bigger picture, stop wasting time on the vote recount and get rid of the Electoral Colleges. Not to start anything against Trump, but even he said he did not like the Electoral Colleges and he might have won popular votes if he used different tactics.

## El Rodeo



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Pedro Salcido

Ethan Sepulveda

Aleksey Soto

Bernice Vega

**Photo Editors**

Noah Perez

Daniel Reveles

**Cartoonist**

Michael Martinez

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## AVID Giveback Event

When: December 17, 2016

Assembly line will be in the cafeteria from 6:00am to 8:00am, students/parents with cars will be needed to drive

to the location and help distribute the food to the homeless.

Distribution will be at Skid Row, Los Angeles from 9:00am 1:00pm

Permission slips are available in K-108



**paper bags**



**Blankets**

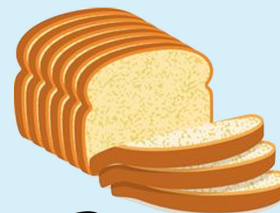
**all sizes shoes**



**peanut butter & jelly**



**hygiene products for men and women**



**Bread**

*Things we need:*

waters, peanut butter, jelly, shoes(all sizes), shirts, pants, blankets, deodorants, pads/tampons, hand sanitizer, toothpaste & toothbrushes

# FEATURES

## Stanford-bound, Marcela Cisneros, is *Simply Irresistible!*



Marcela hopes to major in neuroscience and make her mother proud.

BY JOCELYN ESTRADA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Besides playing on the app “Hay Day” and creating her virtual farm in the decathlon room, she has effortlessly been able to maintain a GPA of about 4.5! Senior Marcela Cisneros is *Simply Irresistible!*

There’s nothing and nobody else you need in your life besides Marcela. She is a major connoisseur

of sushi, especially volcano rolls! However, she cannot stand wasabi! Oh, nothing much, wasabi with you? Speaking of food, Marcela’s go to spot during lunch at El Rancho will leave you speechless, literally. The library is known for being a quiet, study-friendly zone, where Marcela can be found working on homework.

Besides her love for fine Japanese delicacies, Marcy will never forget her first and one true love.

“I owned a Barbie airplane when I was younger. I owned a literal Barbie airplane and I had a flight attendant Barbie. I was obsessed with Barbies.”

It seems that Marcela’s love for flight and traveling has always been stuck in her heart. “I hope to finish paying off my mother’s home and I want to travel to China with her. She has always wanted to go there.”

Besides traveling and being an academic superstar, Marcela is extremely thankful for the best early Christmas gift she has ever received. “This Christmas, I removed a huge burden from my mom’s shoulders. She doesn’t have to worry about paying for my college!” Just last week, Marcela was accepted on a *full ride* to Stanford University! “This is the best gift of all because from now on, at least to some extent, my mom can relax.” Marcela is extremely thankful for the sacrifices her mom has made and hopes to give back to her. “My idol is my mom. She’s the only person who has believed in me. She’s the person who believed I was intelligent enough to apply to high-end schools. My mom is also a person who came from nothing. She’s an immigrant from Honduras and now she owns a home. She’s truly my hero,” Marcela adds.

Many people might believe that what Marcy has accomplished is impossible, but she has proved them wrong and will keep going strong! “I

want to earn my masters before I’m 25. I hope to major in neuroscience and maybe even attend medical school.” Marcela may be absolutely breathtaking, but not to worry, she’ll be able to make you conscious soon enough!

When asked about an ideal significant other, Marcela directly hit us with a “Yuck.” I guess she’s not looking for ‘the one’ just yet, but I’m sure you can work some business into your Hay Day account with her! There’s plenty of time over the winter break to meet up with her, but just as a heads up, she’ll also be on the move! “For the break, I will be cramming for Academic Decathlon and hopefully I will also go to San Francisco with my family.” Academic Decathlon and a San Francisco trip? Sounds like a whole lot of family fun!

As Marcela continues on in both her academic and social endeavors, she wants to give a major “shout-out” to some of the people who are most near and dear to her heart. “I just want to say thank you to all my Decath team members! They are a huge motivator in my life and I love all of them!” Even though Marcela can’t stand the wasabi spice, she continues to have a burning passion to make her loved ones proud and give back to those who have been besides her.

With all that being said, look out for you early action responses to get to know this genius, Barbie world, Hay loving chick!

## Amber & Jose are adorkable!



Am-bear holds tightly onto her boo!

BY NAYELI HERNANDEZ AND  
ETHAN SEPULVEDA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

Even though the holiday season is getting cold and nippy, this month’s cutest couple, seniors Jose Alcala and Amber Aldridge, are keeping warm in the flames of their passion.

The two star-crossed lovers met their freshman year and had been awkwardly cute ever since. The two met in Mrs. Lam’s freshman English class...and instantly hated each other.

“I thought he was cocky and annoying,” said Aldridge. “I thought she was pretty basic,” chuckled Alcala.

Although the two didn’t click instantly, they started sharing a mutual crush for each other that would not show for another two years when Amber made the first move.

“I told him that he looked like Dan Humphrey, from Gossip Girl. He seemed hurt, but I told him, ‘No he’s cute,’” Amber giggled.

During the summer of that year, Jose “slid in the DM’s” and asked Amber if she wanted to go see the latest movie at the time, Ghostbusters.

“I laughed hard at every little thing,” Amber nervously said, “even at the trailers in the beginning.” The date continued with the two going to Cold Stone and “chatting afterward” and have hit it off ever since.

After only 2 and a half months of being together, the two are liking every little thing about one another. “What’s not to love about him?” says Aldridge. “I like everything about her, simply everything,” says Alcala.

Although the two may not admit to being the smoothest people, the awkward pair has been starting to sand down the edges. “I think our awkwardness is cute, but my awkward sometimes frustrates me,” shrugs Alcala. Although the couple’s awkward may seem weird to each other, students have grown to adore it.

“They are cute as [heck],” says senior Linette Valenzuela, “They are so cute, just look at them.” “Oh, I enjoy it,” says senior Vanessa Espinoza. “I envy them,” laughs senior, Junior Manning. “No,” simply puts Mr. Zeko.

These two intend to continue the relationship after high school and possibly into college, but catch a glimpse of them before they graduate on cute, awkward talks around campus, at the Little Theatre in K101, or at Winter Formal.

*Amber, will you go with me? -Jose*

## Decathlon’s “D” Day set for January 28



Photo by Mr. Retana

EL RODEO STAFF WRITER  
BY ETHAN SEPULVEDA

Most stars are in the night sky, but some of the brightest meet in A205. El Rancho’s Academic Decathlon has been practicing hard for the past year and is ready for next month’s competition.

Even with WWII as this year’s Decath theme, the team came together and bonded. Some of this was a result of the team downsizing from the previous year.

“Last year, we weren’t as much of a team. Since we had 19 people, it was hard to make those meaningful relationships,” explains senior and

second-year decathlete, Marcela Cisneros, “but this year we only have ten people, so it’s easier to get together and study.”

This sense of community is felt throughout the team, especially in the new members. “We made a family together,” says junior and first-year decathlete, Andrew Sepulveda, “We are creating relationships that we are probably going to keep for the rest of our lives.”

As expected, Decath isn’t fun and games, nor is it easy. “Having to balance all [my AP classes] with Decath is very hard, and trying to have a social life in all that is even more

difficult,” explains Sepulveda.

As for the returning members, they were expected to “step up as leaders,” added Cisneros. But that’s not to say that the team is without help, because in addition to enlisting the talents of teachers Mr. Francis, Mrs. Rojo, Mr. Sorenson, Mr. Cordero, Mrs. Chavez, and Mr. Wlasick, returning alumni, Marcus James is also aiding the team.

“He comes in a knows exactly what needs to be done. He genuinely cares about the well-being of the team because he in Academic Decathlon and knows the severity of the scores,” says senior, second-year de-

cathelete Ivy Mikayla Castillo.

Along with forming a bond with each other, the group has built a strong relationship with their coach, Mr. Retana.

Castillo says, “Even if the team feels not as successful, he’s there to give us an emotional boost.”

Unfortunately, Retana will not be joining the team into the second semester of the year and will be replaced with Mrs. Qureshi, but he will still be with the team in spirit as he has made lasting impressions on the students.

“He treats us like adults,” says senior, second-year decathlete Jose Alcala, “he respects us, and we respect him in ‘Return-a’.”

With most of the team including seniors, the team is in need of motivated students to take over the position of those leaving.

“I encourage more students to start looking into it. Decathlon isn’t just for people with good grades; it can be open to anyone who is a hard worker,” suggests Alcala. If you are interested in joining Academic Decathlon, see Mr. Retana in A104.

## Looking Back: 2016

-Donald David Bowie dies, January 10, 2016

-Alan Rickman dies, January 14, 2016

-Zootopia, March 4, 2016

-Harambe died, May 28, 2016

-Orlando Nightclub Shooting, June 12, 2016

-Brexit, June 23, 2016

-Pokémon Go becomes a symbolic game of culture, July 6, 2016

-Dallas Shooting, July 7-8, 2016

-Stranger Things, July 15, 2016

-Olympics in Rio, Summer 2016

-Ellen Ochoa school is opened, August 2016

-Killer Clowns, October 2016

-Kim Kardashian got robbed and Kanye West went crazy, November 2016

-Trump is Elected President, Tuesday, November 8, 2016

-Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them, November 18, 2016

-Bernie Sanders become a political icon for the community,

all of 2016



HAPPY H



**What's your favorite Christmas song?**  
 All I want for Christmas, because Justin Bieber sings in it.  
 -Victoria Arauza, 9th



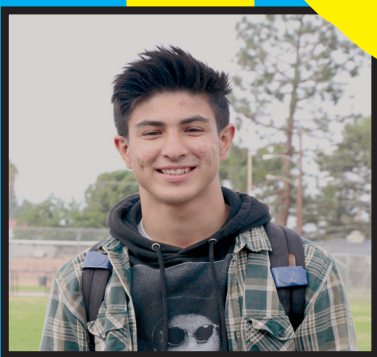
**What is your favorite Christmas movie?**  
 My favorite Christmas movie is Home Alone, because it brings back a lot of memories.  
 -Roger Torres, 10th



**What is your favorite Christmas movie?**  
 Elf is my favorite movie because it's super funny!  
 -Zeno Medina, 10th



**Favorite Christmas food?**  
 Tamales! My grandma makes a ton and they are great!  
 -James Reynozo, 12th



**Favorite Christmas food?**  
 Champurrado, it keeps me warm!  
 BOMB.COM  
 -James Garcia, 12th



Cartoon by Michael Martinez

**Fantastic Beasts**

BY ALEXSEY SOTO  
 EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Potterheads rejoice! After five years, J.K. Rowling finally gifted us with new content from the wizarding world. *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* is based on a Hogwarts textbook of the same title that was written by the film's main character, Newt Scamander. The story follows Newt and his suitcase full of creatures as he navigates his way through 1920's New York City where magical creatures are strictly banned by the Magical Congress of the United States of America, the American equivalent of Britain's Ministry of Magic. Newt unintentionally befriends a no-maj (a non-magical person) named Jacob and, later, ex-Auror for the MACUSA, Tina, and her sister, Queenie. The quartet tries to round up Newt's creatures after they escape, as well as discover the source of mysterious attacks that continue to plague New York City.

Overall, the adaptation was fantastic. Rowling herself wrote the screenplay, and she made sure that Newt's universe linked flawlessly with Harry's. Everything feels authentic, as if it belongs to the wizarding world. The soundtrack, composed by James Newton Horton, also enhances and supports every scene in the film.

*Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* also shows a perfect balance of humor and gravity. One second, the audience sits on the edge of their seats; the next, they howl with laughter at Newt's and Jacob's antics.

One of the best things about the film is that Rowling is not afraid to address and criticize social issues. Rowling blurs the line between their world and ours as she portrays the segregation of magical and non-magical peoples. It is a main focus of the story and mirrors segregation in America, with the two groups not being allowed to marry, much less interact in any way.

Head to a movie theater near you to experience the magic head-on, or wait for it to come out on DVD. Either way, this is a movie you don't want to miss.

Word On The Street

Auntie Kayla's Rec-

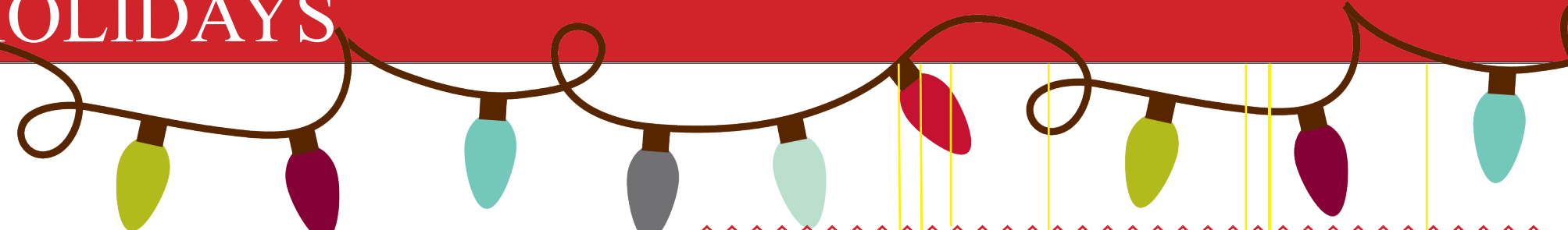
**Pumpkin Roll**  
 Courtesy of Celia De La Torre

- Cake:**
- 3/8 cup of mashed pumpkin
  - 3 eggs
  - 3/4 cup flour
  - 1 cup of sugar
  - 1 tsp. Baking soda
  - 1 tsp. Ginger
  - 1/2 tsp cinnamon
  - 1/2 tsp nutmeg
  - 1/2 tsp lemon juice
  - 1/2 tsp salt
  - 1 cup of chopped walnuts
- Filling:**
- 1 cup of powdered sugar
  - 1 6oz package of cream cheese
  - 1/4 cup of butter
  - 1/2 tsp of vanilla extract
  - (Mix all ingredients together until smooth)

**Instructions:**

- Beat eggs at high speed with electric mixer for 5 minutes or until fluffy.
- Gradually beat in sugar and stir in pumpkin and lemon juice.
- Combine flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, and ginger in small bowl.
- Combine all dry ingredients with pumpkin batter. Pour batter into a greased or flour wax paper sheet inside of a pan
- Spread batter evenly
- Sprinkle chopped walnuts on top of batter
- Put in the oven to bake for 15 minutes
- Once it is done baking let it cool down
- After the cake has cooled, remove it from the paper sheet
- Take the filling and spread onto the paper sheet until you leave a 1/2 inch space at the edge
- Reroll cake and store in the refrigerator until cool or ready to serve

# HOLIDAYS



## Ask Ru-

*Can I hold a dollar?*

*-Future Dollar  
Holding Don*

*Does size really matter?*

*- Pondering Don*

*How far way is the moon*

*- Astronaut Don*

*That is the question:  
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer  
The stings and arrows of outrageous fortune  
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles  
And by opposing end them. To die, to sleep--  
No more--and by a sleep to say we end  
The heartache, and the thousand natural shocks  
That flesh is heir to.*

*Well the shirt's hole may not  
fit your ginormous head, so,  
yes size does matter.*

*A great man named Goofy  
once asked "How many  
cups of sugar does it take to  
get to the moon" and not even  
he could answer this. The  
world may never know.*

### Winter Date Ideas

By Jocelyn Estrada  
El Rodeo Staff Writer



1. Snow ball fight
2. Deck the halls
3. Ice skating
4. Christmas tree picking
5. Kiss at midnight on January 1st, 2017
6. Christmas exterior decoration viewing
7. L.A. Zoo Lights
8. Kidnap "Sandy Claws"
9. Drive-In
10. Bring a snowman to life
11. Disneyland
12. Tell "Santa Baby" what you want for Christmas
13. New Years party date
14. Baking
15. Hiking
16. Steal Christmas before The Grinch does
17. Christmas decorating
18. Chinese New Year festival
19. Caroling
20. Gift shopping
21. Dance to Christmas music
22. Make tamales
23. Christmas movie marathon
24. Reindeer hunting
25. Play real life 8 ball

### Best Christmas gifts under \$10!

By Aleksey Soto  
El Rodeo Staff Writer

As the season of giving draws nearer, so does the panic of not having anything to give. To avoid an anxious mind and an empty wallet, here are the best ten gifts under ten bucks.

- Warm, colorful, and fuzzy socks (\$2-\$5)
- A nice keychain/lanyard (vary)
- NYX's soft matte lip creams or liquid suede lipsticks (\$5-\$7)
- A mixtape CD with all of their favorite songs (around \$5)
- 5 Bath and Body Works hand sanitizers (\$6)
- Portable phone chargers (around \$7-\$8)
- Coffee/tea mugs (vary)
- A photo frame with a memorable photo (around \$9)
- A journal (vary)
- If all else fails, a food-related gift card never disappoints anyone.

*Circle all the  
christmas  
trees!*

*First person  
to come in X-1  
with all of the  
trees circled  
wins a prize!*



### Christmas Wishes

By Aleksey Soto

El Rodeo Staff Writer

**"I wish for better grades and a higher GPA." - Bethany Cardona, 11**

**"I wish for something tragic to happen to Trump and Pence." - Briana Kurovsky, 11**

**"I wish for the ERUSD to provide free Wi-Fi for the students. Data isn't free." - Klarissa Olivarez, 11**

**"I'm wishing for my friends to find solace in anything that can relieve them. I want everything to just work out." - Dylan Joseph, 10**

**"I wish to enjoy the holidays with my family and to eat some lit pozole." - Devenie Anchondo, 11**

**"I hope I get a full ride to college!" - Sophia Galvan, 12**

**"I hope that I get into college and that I get the scholarships I applied for." - Mia Alvarez, 12**

**"My only wish is to pass calculus." - Sam Anguiano, 10**

**"This Christmas I wish for new makeup! I also wish to have quality time with my friends and family." - Jasmine Sanchez, 12**

**"I wish to spend more time with my family." - Robert Herrera, 12**

**"I wish to enjoy the little moments next year and to make them matter." Daniel Martinez, 12**



# RECYCLE THIS ISSUE



# CAMPUS

## 10 College Reminders for Seniors!

BY JOCELYN ESTRADA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

1. Financial Aid (FAFSA) applications are open! Apply as soon as possible.
2. Private School deadlines vary by school. Research your choices!
3. CSS Profile applications also vary by school.
4. Search and apply for scholarships! (Hispanic Scholarship Fund, Cal Grant, etc.)
5. Write your personal statements! Do not delay on writing and editing.
6. Create a resume or brag sheet (found in the College & Career Center, G1) to keep track of your accomplishments. They can be useful to whoever writes your letter of rec.
7. Letters of Recommendation: Be sure to give your recommendors at least a two weeks notice before you would like to receive them.
8. Visit the upstairs library Tuesdays-Thursdays for 1-on-1 help with any of the above.
9. Keep in touch with your counselors to help stay on track and ready for college.
10. Join Be A Leader club (meetings every other Tuesday) for more assistance and college reminders. All grades are welcome! See Michelle Sandoval in the CCC or VP of Admissions, Jocelyn Estrada, for more information.

## Drama entertains at both lunch and dinner



BY JOCELYN ESTRADA  
AND ETHAN SEPULVEDA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

On Thursday, December 1st, 2016, El Rancho's Advanced Drama Department hosted their first annual Lip Sync Lunchbag! For only 50¢, the drama department welcomed everyone on campus to the Little Theater during lunch to watch the class perform a mashup of songs! Songs such as "All I Want for Christmas Is You," "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun," "Intergalactic," and "Knock You Down"

were just a few featured in the show. The idea came about when Advanced Drama presented lip sync songs within their class. They were all very excited about their performances and felt that it was a new and very original idea to present during a Lunchbag. After carefully selecting the best of the best songs and performances, a mixup of the selected ones was made. Immediately after, the process of making magic on stage began. Despite having only two weeks to choreograph the dances,

costume changes, and set work, the Advanced Drama class prepared an amazing show. "The turnout was far more than we expected, actually, we were overflowing with customers," says senior, Advanced Drama member Olivia Ball. Not only were the performers making some noise, but the audience wasn't short of singing and cheering as well! "The 'Lunchbag' was very entertaining," said audience member, Johanna Caprietta. "A lot of the songs appealed to my emotions, and I was proud to cheer on my friends. They did a great job!"

The class hopes to have a second lip sync Lunchbag shortly, in which everyone on campus is invited to perform a song of their choice! Advanced Drama would also like to thank everyone for their support and participation. For more details or to sign up to perform a song for the next lip sync lunchbag, speak to Mr. Wlasick in K-101 or Xcaret Estrada, president of Advanced Drama.

But the drama department's holiday spirit didn't end there, as Advanced Drama started another department first by hosting a 'Winter Wonderland Dinner' fundraiser on the 9th of December. Drama held the event in the cafeteria, and for tickets ranging from \$8 presale to \$12 at the door, guests were treated to dinner and a hilarious performance by Drama's Improv. Team.

"We had a great crowd of people," says Advanced Drama Vice President, Vanessa Espinoza, regarding the turnout of the dinner. Instead of catering the event, the students, led by senior Advanced Drama member Linette Valenzuela, cooked the food themselves for the parents and students that nearly filled out nearly half of the cafeteria. The student chefs did have a couple of setbacks, however. "We burned the first batch of everything pretty bad, so that set us back a little," said Valenzuela.

While the chefs faced trials and tribulations, the chefs pulled through and prepared a fantastic dinner that included spaghetti, salad, and a choice of cheesecake or apple pie. "The M.V.P's were the chefs because the food was dank," explained Espinoza.

The team performed familiar improv games for a different group than what they are used to as the team often performs "only for students at lunch, our parents don't get to see what kind of stuff we put on," Espinoza added. The Improv Team also performed brief skits that included parodies of slam poetry, online dating, and an emotionally troubled 911 operator.

Originally meant as a fundraiser for the upcoming production of Auntie Mame, coming early next year, the reception for the dinner was so strong that the department hopes to make the dinner an annual tradition for years to come.

## Dons get into the spirit of competition



BY ADAM ALLRED  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This Wednesday in the quad during lunch, members from each class along with their advisors got together to decorate a Christmas tree. The decorating was judged by hand-selected teachers.

Each class was assigned a theme and had to decorate their tree accordingly. The se-

niors' theme was Star Wars with the colors silver and red, the juniors' theme was Winter Wonderland with the colors silver and blue, the sophomores' theme was the Nightmare before Christmas with colors purple and yellow, and the freshmen had The Grinch Who Stole Christmas with colors red and green.

The trees used will be donated to families in Pico Rivera.

## Restaurant of the month: Kiko's Mexican Grill



BY SEBASTIAN ARZATE  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Come on down to Kiko's Mexican Grill and get the best Mexican food in Town! Kiko's Mexican Grill opened in 2008 supported by family members. It is located at 8924 Beverly Boulevard in the heart of a small town center.

El Rancho Senior James Garcia's family-run restaurant was opened up by his father Francisco Garcia to fulfill his dream of having his restaurant. He aspired to provide for the family and have an economically stable income.

Kiko's offers "sensational customer service" and "lovely enchiladas," commented senior, Humberto Sanchez. The family decided to have a "rodeo" themed restaurant to "bring some of the cultures from Zacatecas," The Family's home state in Mexico. The restaurant offers many native foods such as enchiladas, red menudo and "mole," otherwise known as wedding food. The traditional Mexican food which "tastes so good and is de-

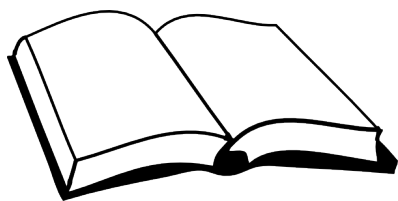
licious," says El Rancho Senior Casey Spindola. "The shrimp tacos are delicious as well as the rest of their food," expressed long time customer Antoni Cardona.

The restaurant names originated from the owner's very own name. As a child, he was nicknamed "Kiko," which became the name of the restaurant. James Garcia's favorite item on the menu are the "jaiva tostadas" which consists of cut crab in chopped tomatoes, onion, cilantro, peppers, cucumber and squeezed lemon, one of the restaurant's specialties.

The restaurant continues to run successfully. The business also offers other services such as catering for parties, quinceaneras, and weddings to continue to prosper. The restaurant is located on the north side of Pico Rivera next to Norms and Mobil gas station.

Be sure to visit James and the Garcia family between 8AM to 8PM Tuesday through Saturday and 8AM to 3PM on Sundays to enjoy the best Mexican food and Aguas Frescas in Pico Rivera!

## Library Corner



What is the title of this book?  
The first 3 students who bring the correct answer to ERLibrary will receive an In-N-Out burger coupon.

*Happy Winter Break!*

## SPORTS

## Boys' basketball "hoop"ing for the best

BY DANA RODRIGUEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The boy's basketball team has been working hard and are ready to start the new upcoming season with hopes of improving from last year. So far our varsity boys are 7-2 in preseason so far and recently placed 3rd out of 16 in our very own Blue Pride Classic, already showing the potential they have for the real thing.

"Preseason is going pretty well, it's going smoothly just like I wanted it to be but now we just have to keep growing as a team," says Noah Lasoya, one of the varsity captains. "There is a lot of positives that we can take away and hopefully we can keep playing at this level," adds captain Jacob Baltierra.

According to Lasoya, "We should place at least top three in our league because we practice and work harder every day." "Hopefully we earn a league title and annihilate every team in our league," added Arturo Angeles, another varsity captain.

"We practice a lot and play harder compared to last year," says Lasoya. "We've progressed in team chemistry and individual skills," added Angeles. All four captains agree that the team chemistry is

higher than ever and hope that shows on the court during this upcoming season. "We're closer compared to previous teams. No one on the team is selfish, it's always about us as a whole, not just one person," says varsity captain Sebastian Lara.

This group of boys has key strengths which will ensure them a good season. "One of our strengths has to be shooting, we have excellent shooters on the team," says Lara. "We have a good height advantage over other teams," says Lasoya. Jacob Baltierra adds "We play very fast pace, not much slowing down. We have very good shooters and everyone's dedicated on the team."

However, just like every team they face some challenges and setbacks as well. With a sudden new coaching staff the boys have some adjusting to do, however hope is still strong. "I hope to help the team get better everyday. Our coaching staff balances teaching skills with also helping them be confident with their own game," says new varsity coach Jason Chacon. "We struggle with paying attention to detail, you know the little things," adds Baltierra.

Although talent and skill are part of their success, they are not the only factor. Coaching has taken these boys a long way as well. "The coaching has been really good, they



Boys' basketball strives for greatness during an intense season.

treats us like their own, like sons," says Lara. According to Angeles, "Every coach is like a father figure to every single one of us, so they help us out on and off the court and to become a better person." "Our coaches help us a lot, without them, we wouldn't be where we're at right now," concludes Baltierra.

The varsity team strives to have a successful season this year. "We hope to place top three because we practice really hard and work

harder than before," says Lasoya. "Our team goal is to get better every day through playing with energy and staying positive. We can live with any results as long as those remain constant," says Chacon. The boys are 'killing' it in preseason and hope to carry the trend when league starts. Their first league game is on January 11th against Sante Fe high school. Be there to support our boys and watch them battle on the court.

## Girls' basketball shoots for 5th title



BY DANA RODRIGUEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Although the Lady Dons' season isn't going exactly as planned, there is high hope that they will be successful and maintain their streak of winning a league title for the fifth continuous year.

Our girls' varsity basketball team is currently 3-3. When asked how they feel about their current performance varsity captain Amy Navarro answered, "We haven't had a great start but I am confident that we can pull through it and figure out the rest of our season."

Varsity captain, Brittany Corona, added, "Our preseason is going okay. We've had some letdowns but I feel like we'll turn around because my teammates and I all have the drive to do well this year."

"I think it's just lack of confidence that's holding us back. We have all the talent and skill along with dedication but we just need to have a little trust in ourselves so we can be the successful team we can be," continues Navarro.

For their next upcoming tournament our Lady Dons will travel to Las Vegas on Monday, December 19th to face Agassi Prep. However, their league doesn't officially start until January which means there is time to capitalize on their flaws and really fulfill the potential the team carries.

A lot is on the line for this talented team, they have won league for four years in a row and hope to gain a fifth consecutive league title. However, because of their talent and abilities they are ranked Division 1 when they hoped to be placed in Division 2.

"I think we'll get the job done, we will do what it takes to make sure we get a victory," says Navarro.

Their overall goal has not changed, they strive to be successful and win league and go far in playoffs and hopefully win a ring. Be sure to cheer on our Lady Dons for their upcoming season, you won't want to miss out!

## Boys varsity soccer sets goals

BY JOCELYN ESTRADA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This 2016-2017 boys' varsity soccer team hopes to prove everyone wrong and achieve the title of CIF champions.

The boys began their preseason on November 29, 2016. After an intense game versus Salesian High School, the boys took the win with a final score of 3-1.

The boys have had an undefeated season to this day, including victories over John Glenn High School (2-0), Lynwood High School (6-0), and Norwalk High School (2-0).

The brothers agree that their methods are strong, but they must continue to work hard, as a team, to be successful in the near future.

"Our goal this season is to win CIF and prove everyone



The boys hope to finish off the season with an undefeated streak.

wrong. We're not just a league champ team," says senior captain, Fernando Vargas. "I believe we are hard working and work great as a team. We're all the superstars."

As the soccer boys hope to continue their undefeated streak in the season, they describe the feel of scoring a goal.

"Scoring a goal is extremely

emotional," shares Adrian Lopez. "Seeing everyone in the stands motivates me to keep on scoring, and I hope I achieve my personal goal of scoring at every game."

The boys agree that their brotherhood and strong relationships have allowed them to stay united and be successful in their games throughout the year. Being more than just teammates, while building trust and friendships off the field, has ensured them great trust and communication skills.

The team members have set high expectations for themselves, as this is the last opportunity for the seniors to make their mark. About 14 of the players are seniors who have been playing since their freshman year. The veterans of the game plan to go all out and fight to make their season a memorable one.

## Girls' waterpolo drowns the competition



Girls' waterpolo continues to dominate the competition this season.

BY DANA RODRIGUEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The girls varsity water polo season is quickly swimming by. With a current record of 4-4 there is still room for improvement with

this group of talented athletes.

"We're off to a good start but we're a little out of shape but I see improvements in every game we have," says Varsity captain Briana Santos. "We're starting off in a bit of a rough patch,

but we're recognizing the things that we need to improve that will help us in our future games," adds captain Sara Polanco.

Our girls water polo team still have quite a bit of time to make improvements and be as successful as they plan to be and there is no doubt in our minds that they won't achieve such that. "Seasons going well considering a lot of injuries which has caused some of the girls to be out and miss games," says coach Xenia Castillo.

"I want the team to improve together and just enhance all of our abilities. I also want us to do really good in league and do better than last year," says Polanco. "Our overall goal is to play every game our best and not have what if's or we could have done this. I would like to

take league," concludes Santos.

Just like in every sport, this team as its strengths and weaknesses. "We play defense really well but our downfall is shooting. We shoot at the goalie or over the cage, our aim needs to be more accurate," says Santos. "We have really talented players but we lack confidence and we crowd up to much in the pool," adds Polanco. "We have a large group of girls that work together very well who are very dedicated to what they're doing," says Castillo, "our only setback is that we have a very young team, the majority are sophomores or freshmen or are first time varsity players, it's a lot of younger girls."

This team has high hopes for their upcoming season, there is no telling what awaits for these talented athletes. "I feel

like we're going to defiantly beat everyone but La Serna will be our biggest competition," says Santos. "I think season will turn out pretty good. We just have to work a lot harder as a team and learn what's best for us. As long as we keep trying and working hard, we can only get better from here," says Polanco.

"Just learn from our mistakes and know that every day is always a clean slate and we can always keep learning and apply it, we can always succeed and always apply it," advises coach Castillo for the upcoming season.

Girls water polo season doesn't begin until January 10th were they battle against La Serna High School. Be sure to show your blue pride and support our girls varsity water polo team for their first league game!

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Holiday Horoscopes



**Aries-** Take a chance in advancing your goals! Opportunities for learning and growth will be opening up to you leading to positive and unexpected surprises. However, don't allow this motivation to turn into unrealistic expectations and make sure to stay

**Taurus-** This is a great time to put your goals into motion! Focus on your determination and go for it. Make sure to spend time with your closest friends and family and don't forget to incorporate them into your life. Don't forget who has always been there in tough times.

**Gemini-** Focus your mind on fluid thoughts and emotions give into your free flowing childhood emotions and let yourself become fascinated by everything in the world around you. Surround yourself with people who are facing the same hardships and help one another succeed.

**Cancer-** Learn to control your inner emotional rage and sensitive emotions instead channel all of this in the search of new possibilities that can help you shine. Being loyal is one of your greatest assets, but be careful and make sure the people you invest in are truly worth it.

**Leo-** Harness your inner confidence and show the world what you're capable of accomplishing. Make sure not to ignore your own problems when helping others overcome their adversities, don't forget that you should always be your number one priority.

**Virgo-** Don't be afraid to be simple and practical, there's nothing that you can't fix this way. Even though you may feel overwhelmed with your goals and responsibilities make sure to take the time to take in all the beauty around you and be grateful for the blessings you've received

**Libra-** Even though partnership can be of great importance to don't be afraid to be original and come up with your ideas you're amazing and don't need anyone's approval. Be sure to surround yourself with art and beautiful music to match your harmonious personality.

**Scorpio-** Continue to be determined and strive to reach the goals you have already set for yourself. Work on your communication skills and have conversations about things that make you feel less confident with people you trust in order to achieve a new point of view.

**Sagittarius-** you're full of energy and curiosity go out into the world make sure to freely travel and explore new environments. Due to your idealistic nature you're driven to argue with someone when their opinions differ try to keep an open mind and you might even learn something new.

**Capricorn-** Motivation is one of your strong suits be brave and follow your gut feeling and dare to embrace new challenges that will make you stand out from the rest. Let go all of fear and restraints you're setting for yourself move forward with strength and confidence.

**Aquarius-** It's time to let go of your outer quietness and shyness, embrace your energetic and eccentric inner self. Look at the world as a canvas full of endless creative possibilities, strive to surround yourself with progressive thinkers who will help you reach your full potential

**Pisces-** Be sure to advantage of opportunities that will receive to heal and improve your overall well being physically and mentally. Stay grounded and don't get lost in your imagination your desire to escape reality can be a blessing, however might also be disguised as a curse.

## Art Contest!

Shoutout to the top 3 winners of our first ever art contest. Your talent is truly amazing!

Painting by Jasmyn Perez



Digital animation by Jasmine Gonzalez



Photo by Yazlin Juarez

