



Teen Court finalizes resolution



BY BERNICE VEGA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The El Rancho Law Society created a resolution to help protect the rights of all individuals in Pico Rivera. 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. Our city 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 resolution was presented to both the El Rancho Unified School District at the school board meeting and the Pico Rivera City Council meeting. Immediately after the resolution was presented a petition was created showing the impact the resolution made on the student's at El Rancho High School and how it was needed. On February 21st the El Rancho Unified School District approved a resolution based on the recommendations made by the El Rancho Law Society and are now working on implementing it. This resolution will benefit those in the Pico Rivera community and give a sense of safety back to the students. The last step is waiting in hope of the City Council approving it and making sure all parts of the resolution is enforced.

Decathlon competes in Sacramento

BY NAYELI HERNANDEZ
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EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Back in February, the El Rancho Decathlon team received news that they qualified for the state competition which was held this past weekend. The team had the opportunity to travel up to Sacramento for the competition.

The team flew to Sacramento on the morning of the 23rd and returned on the 26th. They stayed at the Hyatt Residency in Downtown Sacramento, accompanied by chaperones, Mr. Stan Wlasick, Mr. Paul Zeko, and Mrs. Charissa Zeko.

The competition was a two-day event held on Friday and Saturday. The testing portion of the competition was on Friday in different ballrooms within the hotel. The speech and interview portion of the competition was held on Saturday morning at nearby Inderkum High School. Once the speech and interview portion was over around 1 PM, the students had a break until the Super Quiz at 5 PM. This portion was held at the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium. The competition was followed by a dance for all of the competitors, which was held at the hotel.

Unfortunately, the Super Quiz results were thrown out because a spectator recorded the entirety of the event, when hosted in Alaska, and posted the video on YouTube. The invalidation was due to the fact that the questions in the Super Quiz are used across the nation and when the competition was hosted in Alaska, it was prior to the one hosted this past weekend.

Finally, the awards ceremony was held on Sunday. The decathlon



The Decathlon Team has formed a family like bond throughout their days together. Photo by Paul Zeko

team competed in Division 3 and took home six medals and placing in 11th place of the 28 schools in their division. Senior, Olivia Ball, was the top scoring decathlete for El Rancho and received a bronze medal in the Scholastic level of Economics. Senior, Ivy Castillo, received a gold medal in the Varsity level of Interview; senior, Marcela Cisneros, received a silver medal in the Honors level for Essay; and senior, Diego Guerrero, received a silver medal in the Honors level for Music.

"I'm happy with my results, personally, as I hadn't been expecting to medal at all! Sure, I had prepared, but going into State I had found it far fetched to think I'd excel amongst 67 schools across California," said senior, Olivia Ball.

The moment is bitter-

sweet for the seniors, as this was the last competition in which they would represent El Rancho.

"I love my team and no matter what medal we walked away with, I'm glad I could end this chapter in my life with my favorite nerds," said Castillo.

Although the weekend was packed with decathlon events everyone had the opportunity to do a little sight seeing while in Sacramento. Most of the members went to the State capital building and went to the Crocker Art Museum.

"When we arrived in Sacramento, it occurred to me that I was going to spend the next four days with my team," said senior, Grace Garcia, "Those four days were one of the most memorable experiences I've had and it's bittersweet because it ended, but I'm happy I got to share

this experience with such an amazing and hilarious group of individuals."

Overall, the team and coaches are extremely pleased with the results of the competition and trip.

"I feel really good because at the very beginning, last year, when I picked the team and I met with them, I think the second or third time, I asked them what kind of team they wanted to be. One of them responded, 'We want to be the team that goes to state,' and so when they did it and we were at the county awards ceremony I just reminded them," said coach, David Retana.

The decathlon team worked effortlessly to get to the finish line, so make sure to give your local decathlon member a hug and show them some love!

Baby fever blossoms at the Ranch



Baby Tyler stares into the abyss that awaits him as the project comes closer to an end. Photo by Ethan Sepulveda

BY ETHAN SEPULVEDA
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EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Over the past two weeks, a 3-5 pound bag of flour, styrofoam ball, nylon, and stuffing controlled El Rancho students and simulated the baby void that we all have. Am I right, ladies?

The babies made their splash into the world, with the students of Ms. McCaw's

ROP Medical Core, creating their babies by assembling the aforementioned parts and playing God themselves.

"Students pick an egg from a basket and that determines the gender of the baby," explains junior, Sophia Flores.

The students have been "waiting for this project for the whole year", says McCaw,

"I was so excited that this project went on. I was ex-

cited to learn about it, and be in the midst of it, and I'm actually learning as I go along as well."

While carrying around a baby for a couple weeks may seem like fun, the students in the class must treat the baby like the real thing and keep a log of the baby and the activities that the parent is doing, along with accommodating to the special conditions that their babies may have been born with.

"Babies may be born with

Down Syndrome, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome or other illnesses, much like they are in the real world," says McCaw. While the baby may not be real, the real world has had it's effect on the mothers and fathers of the children.

"The hardest part would be getting judged so often when I'm walking. What I noticed is that women in their 20s and 30s are more accepting of the baby, when they only see the back of the baby, but then there are middle-aged women who are very judgemental. I've also got a lot of dirty looks from men, and it's crazy how people are still judgemental about teen moms without knowing their story," confesses Flores.

As for the future of the baby project, McCaw has some ideas about how to make the project a little more realistic for the students next year.

"I wanted to have the students have to send me a text or e-mail at 3 o'clock in the morning to simulate having a baby disrupt their sleep schedule, but due to midterms, we couldn't."

For all you wanting to make a baby yourself, sign up for ROP Med. Core and wait nine months to get your hands on a baby of your own!

OPINION

A tap into Trump

BY SKYLER CORNWELL
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I'm sure we are all aware of Trump's recent Twitter tirade in which he accuses former US President, Barack Obama, of wiretapping his phones. As unsurprising to the public as his on-line rants may be, this one by far takes the cake. So far there is no solid, viable evidence that could be used to back up these claims. If by some chance, Obama were to take action against the series of Tweets, it would no doubt be this year's biggest spectacle. House Intelligence Committee chairman, Devin Nunes, concluded that there was indeed no evidence supporting Donald Trump's statements. "I don't think there was an actual tap of Trump Tower," Nunes insists during a news conference at the Capitol.

But Trump, always quick to prove he is right, reveals that there was a broader meaning to his Tweets, stating that "wiretap covers a lot of different things." He then continued with saying that the American people are going to find "very interesting items" that should be expected in due time

pertaining to this case. "If they are not going to do me the honor of spreading my word accurately...when I can reach that many people," Trump later explains to Fox News host Tucker Carlson. "Twitter is a wonderful thing for me because I get the word out."

It's almost hard to believe for some that Obama, busy with Presidential duties at the time, had the malicious intent of sabotaging Trump. So what is the reasoning behind Trump's supposedly fake news? "The bottom line is that a lot of American's want to take action against the series of Tweets, it would no doubt be this year's biggest spectacle. House Intelligence Committee chairman, Devin Nunes, concluded that there was indeed no evidence supporting Donald Trump's statements. "I don't think there was an actual tap of Trump Tower," Nunes insists during a news conference at the Capitol.

As for the subject of his leaked 2005 tax returns, Trump was quick to dispose of that topic in a clip released just before the interview with Tucker Carlson. "I have no idea where they got it but it's illegal and they're not supposed to have it and it's not supposed to be leaked."

There have been many allegations that our president may have leaked his own tax returns, according to Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter David Cay Johnston. "Don-



ald Trump has, over the years, leaked all sorts of things." Johnston shares in a discussion with MSNBC's Rachel Maddow. On the second page of the documents obtained by Johnston, it is clearly stamped "client copy," leading to the assumption that it may have been Trump's personal copy. He also tells CNN that the stamp suggests the version of documents he received did not come from the Internal Revenue Service and is unsure of where they could have come from.

This isn't the first time Trump's tax returns have been leaked. Previously, a portion from 1995 was provided to The New York Times showing that he took a \$916 million loss that "would have been large enough to wipe out more than \$50 million a year in taxable income over 18 years." The White House has not yet specified whether or not the full tax return documents will be revealed. In regards to the wiretapping situation, that has yet to be settled as well.

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El Rodeo, the student newspaper of El Rancho High School is an open, public forum for student expression and an opportunity to discuss its audience's issues of concern. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the position of the school board, administration, sponsors, parents, student body or advertisers.

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

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

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

COMMUNITY

Author and alumnus Alberto Ramirez returns to Ranch

BY NAYELI HERNANDEZ
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In the spirit of Teen Read Week, it was inevitable that El Rancho alumni, Alberto Ramirez, came back to the ranch to share his story as a recently published author.

Ramirez graduated with the class of 1989 and went on to study English at UCLA, where he earned a bachelor's degree in 1994. He's had aspirations to be a writer since his days at El Rancho.

"I always wanted to and expected to publish one day, since I first said to myself, at the age of 16 as a sophomore at El Rancho High School: 'I want to be a writer, I want to publish a book someday.' And so, I did," said Ramirez.

The beginning stages of writing the novel, *Everything That Could Not Happen Will Happen Now*, occurred in 1997 and Ramirez completed his first draft in 2007. He began the submission process to literary agents and publishers in 2010.

Although the work is fiction,

the idea for the novel stemmed from Ramirez's experiences, along with fellow classmates, as an undergraduate at UCLA.

"Much of the experiences of the main character, Juan Juarez Bitol, were things I experienced, observed, or read about myself in newspapers. I also wanted to convey the Latino experience at college in general, and so I included ideas, incidents that occurred to friends and fellow classmates," said Ramirez, "Much of the novel is also imagined, filtered through imagination and 'what if' scenarios, many of which actually occurred."

Much of the novel covers a variety of different themes and subjects that the author resonates with.

"The novel covers many themes, race/racism, mental health/insanity, faith and fate, religion and the existence or absence of God, the importance and saving grace that is one's culture, including language and family. The novel also takes on what it is to be or feel like an outsider in American and in this world. Ultimately,



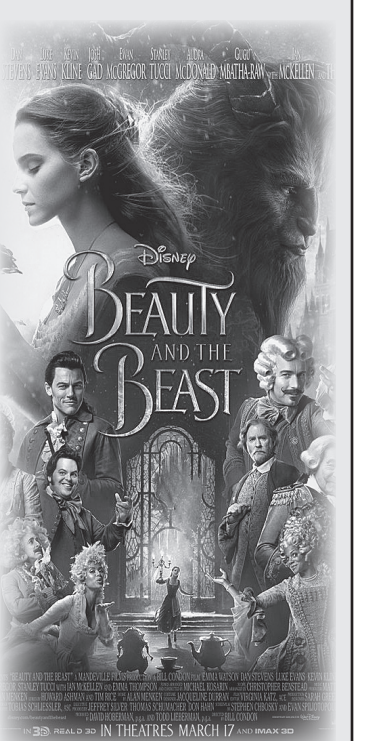
the book offers a message of hope and spiritual salvation. I hope this is what the reader will take away from the novel, and much more."

As a result of his newly published work, many opportunities have arisen for Ramirez. Much of these opportunities include doing book readings and author chats, like that which he did with Mr. Sorenson's fourth period Creative Writing Class. One of Ramirez's other stops as a published writer was at the Pico Rivera Library, where he had another author chat. Ramirez is confident that

this isn't the only work of his that will be published or seen. "There will definitely be more work (novels, short stories) in the future. I am currently working on a new novel, about three chapters into it. Hope to have a draft completed in the next few years. It's a labor of love."

Be sure to be on the lookout for any future work by Alberto Ramirez. Some news can be found on his newly launched website: <https://americanlitbooks.wixsite.com/booksfortheworld>

Beauty and the Beast falls short of expectations



BY MICHAEL MARTINEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Beauty and the Beast, directed by Bill Condon, has come back to the big screen and in live action.

The film brings the 26-year-old animated classic back, with Emma Watson and Dan Stevens respectively taking the lead roles as Belle and the Beast. Watson portrays Belle beautifully, giving us a Belle that is both relatable and sympathetic. Stevens also played an amazing Beast, giving us both the rage and frustration of the original Beast.

The song "Be Our Guest," has been remastered beautifully, with the exception of the animation... it's a bit too much, having an extraordinary amount of CGI being put into the scene, appearing too flashy.

The movie gave us a look into the tale of Belle's mother, which answered the question that many had with the animated classic. Overall, even with a few bland scenes and the overuse of CGI, it was a good movie. I would give it rating of 6.5 out of 10.

Club Feature: Social Justice aims to make a difference in the community



BY JOCELYN ESTRADA
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The Social Justice Club is a peace-loving, justice protecting, tree-hugging club that has been on campus for generations and is currently advised by Mrs. Qureshi. Social Justice organizes fundraisers such as their annual Stussy brand outlet sale

and donation events to give back to the community and campus.

The club committee is made up by President Samantha Leggis, Vice President Jocelyn Estrada, Secretary Jocelyn Ortega, Social Media representative Luis Rodriguez and various El Rancho students hoping to make a change in their community. Social Justice is planning on presenting new propositions for the El Ran-

Please, do not throw in any trash!

If you are caught by a Social Justice member throwing in trash, it will be reported. However, if you are caught putting in recyclables, you will be given a raffle ticket for a chance to win a gift card! Or, take a picture of yourself throwing in recyclables and tag @SocialJusticeER on Twitter for a raffle ticket as well.

The Social Justice club has open doors every other Wednesday during lunch in A208 and welcomes new members all year round. "There's no better feeling than being able to give back anonymously. We are committed to helping others and making life in Pico and L.A. so much greater," shares social media pro, Luis Rodriguez.

Join the social justice defenders every other Wednesday, and begin making your mark on the community!

I'm glad that Trump is enforcing those immigration laws



That reminds me, where's Pedro, he's supposed to clean my ya-



OH God...

FEATURES

Crazy Messy Beautiful: Author Carrie Arcos Visits the Ranch



Arcos shares insight with Zeko's English classes.

Photo by Pedro Salcido
BY ALEKSEY SOTO
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EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On February 28th, Mrs. Zeko's sophomore English students welcomed best-selling author and former El Rancho teacher Carrie Arcos into their classes. Her visit was a chance for Zeko's students to learn more about what being an author is like and gain a bit of insight on writing. Arcos's visit was also a chance for students to discuss and ask questions about her newest young adult novel, *Crazy, Messy, Beautiful*, which they read as a class. The book, which was published this February, follows a 16 year old boy, named Neruda Diaz, named after famous love poet Pablo Neruda, in his search for love.

Arcos's inspiration for the novel came from her previous teaching experience. "I used to teach high school, and I had a student who used to walk around carrying a rolled up copy of Neruda's poems in his back pocket," she said, "I was thinking about that experience and then I just got this idea: wouldn't it be funny to have a kid named after Neruda but yet not be like him at all?" This wasn't Arcos's first time visiting El Rancho; she has spoken to Mrs. Zeko's classes for the last four years. "Over the years, the students have read each of her three novels," Zeko said, "She and her husband have both been guests, and when she visits, she teaches a writing lesson and holds an author Q&A." Sophomore Fatima Lopez said, "I was really excited to have an actual author come in and talk to us. She was very positive and really wanted the classroom engaged, and her visit really gave me a look at how a career in literature and creative writing would be like." "Arcos inspires the students to write and to read," Zeko said. "They come away with the real world experience of meeting an author and gaining insight into the craft of writing and the business of publishing." *Out of Reach*, Arcos's first book, was one in only five novels to be a National Book Award Finalist for 2012 in Young People's Literature. It was a huge achievement for her as a new author. "I wanted to be a writer since a very young age [but] I didn't think I had it in me at first, so I didn't write for many years," Arcos said. To her readers, she said, "I hope they get inspired. I hope they find love in their lives. I hope they create."

ASAP Porter Rules the Ranch

BY KAYLA PEREZ
@K_SKYWALKERR
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER



Porter's smile reassures us that "it'll be okay." Photo by Kayla Perez

Motivated, creative, inquisitive, and hardworking, AVID, AP History, and Basketball coach Mr. Ryan Porter has it all! From historical simulations to basketball games, Porter - also known by his students as ASAP Porter - truly makes a significant impact on the El Rancho campus. As a teacher, Porter tries to help his students develop analytical skills and become critical thinkers to help them build success in their academic and non-academic life. "I try to work with students on their level and hopefully push them to improve every day to reach their goals," says Porter, "It's really inspiring to see my students graduate and achieve success."

Mr. Porter was born near Portland in Newberg, Oregon and then moved to Bend, Oregon until he finished elementary school. He spent middle school and high school in Eugene, Oregon. Through his constant travel growing up, he was able to develop a love for basketball. "We had a Nintendo, but we didn't have handheld electronic devices, so we played basketball outside a lot," says Porter. His desire to teach began through his own high school ex-

perience, "I had great teachers and coaches in high school and I always wanted to inspire others like they inspired me," he says. After he graduated, Porter majored in history at The University of Oregon because he enjoys how history contains many stories about individuals who lived through extraordinary events. "I think it is fun to learn about what life was like in the past and to predict what life will be like in the future, as a result of the actions of those that came before us," he states. If he had to choose his favorite historical event it would be D-Day. "The idea of invading Normandy by sea to stop

the Nazis is a pretty awesome event. That and when the X-Men stopped the Cuban Missile Crisis," laughs Porter. Since graduating, Mr. Porter has taught for twelve years and started his career teaching as an intern at Bunche Middle School in Compton, CA. He worked there for five years, finished his Master's and went back to Oregon. He decided to move back to LA due to weather and worked at Whaley Middle School in Compton for two years before he was cut due to budget cuts. From there he applied to El Rancho and the rest is history (no pun intended).

When Mr. Porter is not busy with CAAP analysis or shooting hoops he likes to snowboard in the winter, travel in the summer, and go to concerts with his wife. "I also have been known to play princess dolls with my 3 year old daughter," Porter proudly states. In five years, Mr. Porter hopes to continue to be teaching and coaching at El Rancho High School. He would like to give a shout-out to the history department, AVID, Coach Shigezane, and Coach A fan for making his El Rancho experience extra-special. If there is one last piece of advice he would give his students it would be, "Take advantage of everything offered to you at El Rancho and remember that time moves very fast and it'll be okay."

Simply Irresistible: Robert Herrera will Rob[ert] your heart!

BY JOCELYN ESTRADA
@LITTLEJOCE
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER



Robert Herrera is the apply of your eye. Photo by Adam Allred

Living young, wild and free! Party animal Robert Herrera is *Simply Irresistible*. Robert enjoys spending his weekends reading, walking the dogs, and binge watching foreign films. There is nothing like turning up on a Friday night with a good book and your pup nearby. Robert enjoys keeping his body moving and grooving with the hottest beats around. His favorite music genres are Classical and Indie-Alternative. Robert's favorite song is "Zero" by Liniker, an extremely jazzy song that'll get you in that universal relaxed mood. Herrera is a strong independent latino man who don't need no role model! Robert will always take initiative in planning and be completely original in his ideas. "I don't look up to anyone. I've been influenced and supported by many people, but I just adopt the principles that speak to me from them" says Herrera. Robert stays passionate and true to his latino roots as well as his personal and unique characteristics. His favorite food is huaraches (no, not the shoes, you sneaker head) and his favorite movie is *7 Años* by Roger Gual (2016). But wait, we're not done yet! His favorite subjects in school are math and, you guessed it, Spanish!

Robert has strong aspirations for the future and stays hopeful even in the hardest times. "I am still waiting on some acceptance letters to college," shared Herrera. "I plan to go to a four year University to study math and engineering." A gentleman that is loyal to his soil with aspirations and love for pups? How much better can he be?! It's easy to describe Robert as blunt, humorous, smart, driven, loving and charming. "My go-to outfit on a regular day would probably be my Vans with colorful dress socks, jeans, and a flannel" says Robert. He is full of motivation to make the world a better place, one shy smile at a time. "One final thing that I really hope to accomplish by the end of my life is to travel through all of Central and South America. Also, it's on my bucketlist to own a goat/lama ranch," adds Robert.

FEATURES

Francis and Melgar: A Dynamic Duo



Melgar: "What keeps me here is that he [Francis] is here" Photo by Aleksey Soto

BY ANDREYA YAXCAL
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EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

What does sine² + cosine² equal? Melgar and Francis since they are!! Nobody can name a better duo than Melgar and Francis! The two legendary math teachers met 18 years ago when they started teaching at the Ranch. When they first met, they admit to have been jerks to one another with their clashing egos since they felt threatened of each other's backgrounds in math. "What I remember is his passion for mathematics, not necessarily his teaching but how interested he was in math," says Melgar. "He has always been a good teacher and I wanted to protect my class," explains Francis. The two have many debates about math and also on how to better address the material for the students' benefit. "I go to him and run ideas by him knowing that I'm going to get a response that's honest and in the best interest of the students," Francis says. "The problem I have with him is we come and I talk about my lesson plans thinking that this is gonna work and he just puts a thought in my head, and it drives

me crazy because eventually I take that thought and change everything that I've created. I respect his opinion so whatever he says, I know he is doing it so I can become a better teacher," says Melgar. The pair always try to help each other as much as they can which occasionally leads to frustration when no advice is needed. Francis says, "He'll come to me with his lesson and there is nothing I can say because he has thought it all the way through that I can only just agree with it and that can be annoying because I do want to add to it." Melgar and Francis have a competitive relationship, which explains their favorite memory shared in 2010. "I remember one of my most favorite memories that I have is with my AP Stats class. I remember when I took up stats I asked myself 'can I beat his passing rate?' and I did one year, but then the following year he got a 100% passing rate," says Melgar, "I don't think it was to show me up, I think it's what drives us and that's a key component of our friendship."

"I was excited for him that he beat me and then it motivated me to work even harder," says Francis. Before Francis became head of the math department, he and Melgar couldn't decide if they wanted the big job. "Before I become department chair for mathematics, I didn't really want the job," explains Francis, "I knew Mr. Melgar would've been a good fit if he wanted it, so I went over to him and asked him 'do you want the position?' and he goes 'I don't know, do you want?' so we let the department decide." Besides being competitive with one another, the pair admire the drive they each contain for their students' success. "I like how driven he is as a professional, always thinking about how to work with the students. He has a stance in life that doesn't waiver and just the way he looks at the world is what I admire," says Francis. "His passion for learning is what I admire about him. He has the same drive or even more than me. He always puts his students ahead of him and outside the classroom we have the same family values which I admire," says Melgar. These two have grown so close that they can't imagine being apart. "We've lost a lot of teachers here over the years, but I think what keeps me here is that he's here. If Steve were to ever leave, it would make it easier for me to decide to go somewhere else," Melgar says. Francis says, "I can't imagine if he ever left. It would be like cutting my right leg off right here." Fortunately, Francis and Melgar both plan to keep in touch with each other after they both retire from teaching.

Jinkies! Jenkins is THAT teacher

BY KATHERINE HERRERA
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EL RODEO STAFF WRITER



Jenkins says "I have a hard exterior but I'm soft on the inside." Photo by Noah Perez

El Rancho's newest English teacher, Mr. Jenkins, began his teaching career as a part-time English, poetry, and freshman writing professor at Loyola Marymount University. At 19, before starting his teaching career, Jenkins worked part-time at a Vans factory outlet, which only lasted six weeks due to him falling off a ladder when hanging a banner. Whittier College recruited Jenkins, and gave him a scholarship in water polo. On the first day of his college life, Jenkins met his future wife, Lindsey, also the mother of his "adorable" 2 year old Charlotte. The loving family has been living in Whittier, Ca. since then. Jenkins motivation to become a teacher began halfway through college. He started college as a business major, but realized that being a business major wasn't in his best interest. Jenkins says "I realized I hated taking money from people. I just didn't like business at all." It wasn't until his junior year of college that he decided to major in English and fulfill his goal of being a teacher. In his high school years, he didn't always get great grades, but he didn't let that stop him from reaching his goals. "You can still end up having a great career, a great life, doing something you love even if you don't get straight A's," Jenkins says. "I want everyone who is reading this to believe in themselves. Regardless of what your grades are, where you feel like you are in life, that there is a teacher that believes in you, there is a parent that believes in you, even me," Jenkins also says, "I believe in your ability to go to college, to be successful, to be whatever you want to be. All it really takes is somebody to believe in you and help you to get to the place that you want to go." "My best friend on campus has to be Mr. Sorenson. He's a great mentor to me, and he's supportive. He's been a

great friend," Jenkins says. Aside from grading papers, watching Netflix and hanging out with his daughter, Jenkins frequently plays the drums and guitar, and played in a band for about six or seven years. Jenkins favorite band is The Beatles, the 1960's British rock band and the solo artist Kendrick Lamar. Jenkins says "I think he's the greatest poet of the 21st century" about Lamar. Aside from rocking out in the garage listening to The Beatles, Jenkins enjoys eating at Tacos Baja and Chef Luna's room. His favorite foods are tacos, tamales, and chiliquiles. Jenkins believes that the reincarnation of him would be a Manatee because "they just chill in the glades, eat, and bask out in the sun." Other than spending time with his family, rocking out on the guitar and drums, and eating at Tacos Baja, Jenkins' focus on each student he encounters. He believes that each student should get the motivation to continue to thrive for their best. "My goal as a teacher is to be THAT teacher that believes in every student," says Jenkins. Visit room I-4 if you need extra help in English, or looking for advice.

Nicole Hoops into Ashley's Heart

BY PEDRO SALCIDO
@HIPUNCLE
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This month's cutest couple is an inseparable pair on and off the court! Together for eight and a half months now, juniors Nicole Mercado and Ashley Anchondo met the summer after freshman year when they both tried out for the, now five time league champion, girl's basketball team. First building their bond as teammates, their relationship grew quickly as they became best friends. Towards the spring of their sophomore year, Nicole started to feel "confused," as her feelings towards Ashley began to evolve into more than just friends. Nicole decided to neglect her feelings for Ashley because she was not sure if Ashley "went that way." "We [the team] would notice how they flirted almost every day," senior teammate Amy Navarro says, "the whole time we would watch them and be like, 'oh my god just get together already!'" In between January and July they had their first date. "Our first date was great," Ashley exclaims, "we went to the movies, then went to go eat, and just talked after. It was nice." In July of 2016, what most of the basketball girls had been anticipating, had happened... Nicole and Ashley finally made it official! Transferring from their personal life as partners, to the court as teammates they both explained that it was not awkward dating each other as teammates. "I feel comfortable with dating my teammate because we were best friends before so it's just like dating my best friend," Nicole says. The connection they have does not transfer onto the court, at least for Nicole, "Being together doesn't really affect me. We are teammates on the court and outside of basketball we are a couple." Ashley, on the other hand, says that it does have an affect on the way she plays because she wants to "impress Nicole." Although they have countless memories, they say their favorite is "when we went to the beach for the first time. We were able to be ourselves, and it was just an overall fun day. As much as they may like each other they obviously love things that they absolutely love about each other. For Nicole she loves the way Ashley can find a way to make her smile, even when she is not in the best mood. For Ashley she says she loves how Nicole is so caring and considerate. Support from friends and family keep their relationship strong and their heads up high looking forward to the future.

ENTERTAINMENT AT THE RANCH

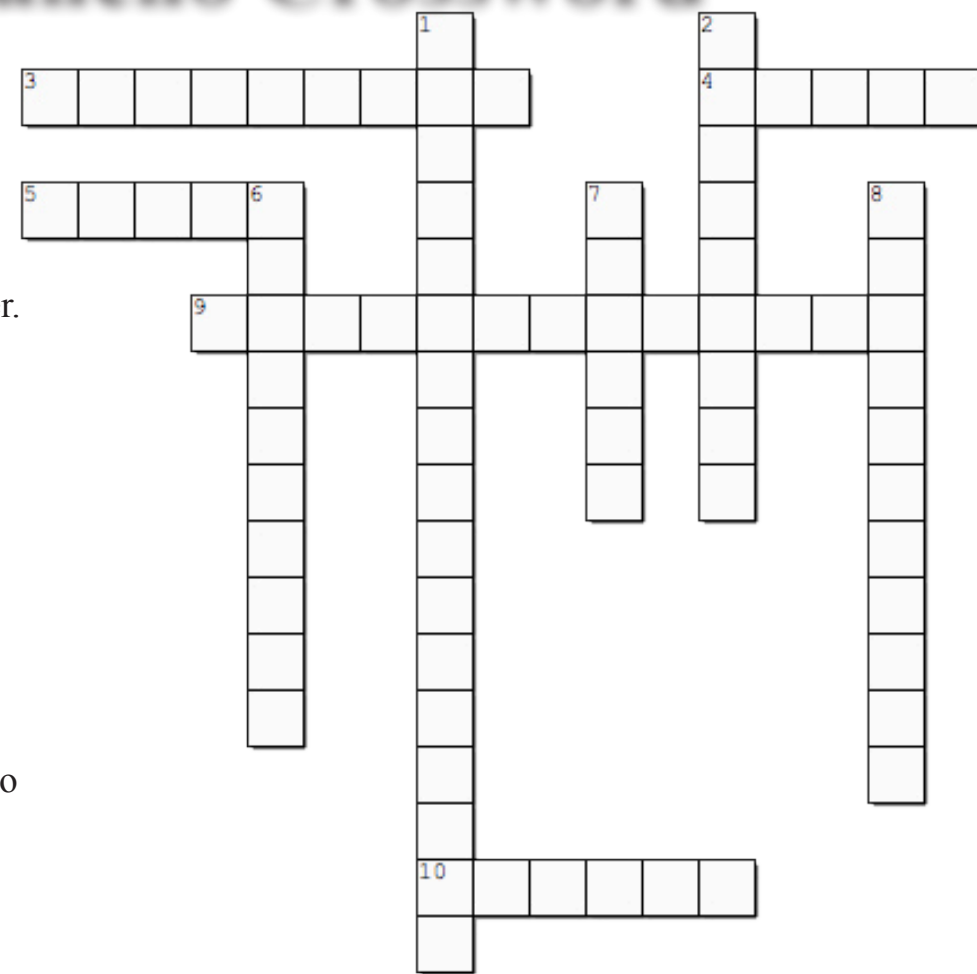
El Rancho Crossword

Up

3. Won Best Picture at the Oscars
4. The current principal's last name
5. Where the Gadabouts are traveling for their 2018 trip.
9. Whom the stadium is named after.
10. A sweetened dairy-based beverage traditionally made with milk and/or ice cream, sugar, and whipped eggs.

Down

1. Donated \$1 million to Chicago public schools.
2. The only 'real' high school in Pico Rivera
6. The man that shot Alexander Hamilton
7. El Ranchos librarian
8. The most recent school play



Teacher Matching!

Match the facts with the corresponding teacher. First one to bring to X-1 and have them all correct wins a prize!

1. Mr. James Sorenson ___
2. Mr. Ryan Porter ___
3. Ms. Valorie Melendrez ___
4. Ms. Parvin Qureshi ___
5. Mrs. Stephanie Senteno-Tapia ___
6. Mr. James Rojas ___
7. Mr. Joel Francisco ___
8. Ms. Irene Martinez ___
9. Chef David Luna ___
10. Mr. Reginald Cordero ___

- a.) Has lived in Indiana, Kansas, Missouri, & California
- b.) Has met Morrissey at a restaurant
- c.) Has served in the marine corps for 4 years
- d.) Is allergic to people who smell
- e.) Major hobby is body surfing
- f.) Life motto is "It's going to be okay"
- g.) Has 9 tarantulas, 8 bikes, & doesn't like cilantro
- h.) Has 9 bass guitars & has played at a dinner theatre for several years
- i.) Has met Bill Nye the science guy & was part of a NASA teacher program in 2002
- j.) Was born on Pi day and teaches math

Almost Closer Strikes a Chord

EL RODEO STAFF WRITER
ANTONIO CORTES

Formed in 2013, *Almost Closer* have been working as an alternative rock band from Pico Rivera since the inception. They cite their influences as *Blink-182*, *UFO*, *Scorpions*, *Judas Priest*, etc.

The current lineup consists of 18-year old Adrian Zamora on lead guitar and vocals, 18-year old Daniel Ochoa on rhythm guitar, 18-year old Ruben Carrillo on bass, and 20-year old Michael Pantoja on drums. The original lineup included Ernando Rodriguez on drums, but he left the group due to personal issues.

Almost Closer has played a total of two shows throughout their four years as a band. They played at a summer event in the El Rancho football stadium in 2015 and a backyard gig in December of 2016.

"My biggest influence to my guitar playing is Michael Schenker. His approach to the guitar is just one of a kind," says Ochoa. "His work in UFO just inspires me, you know? I also really enjoy 70s-80s bands like *Whitesnake*, *Scorpions*, *Kiss*, stuff like that.

You can find *Almost Closer* on Twitter and Instagram @almost_closer.

and Dimebag Darrell and Michael Schenker, guys like that."

"My inspirations to bass are Steve Harris from Iron Maiden and Billy Sheehan," says Ruben Carrillo. "I like the bass because I'm the glue that holds the band together."

"In our early years, we made a lot of our songs over the phone. A lot of songs start off with just a guitar riff, then someone will come in with a rhythm and we go from there," says Carrillo on how songs are written. "The songwriting process now is still kind of like that but we mostly will meet up together."

Almost Closer is currently working on their EP full of original material entitled, *Nightmares*. Songs that will be on the *Nightmares* EP will be *I Tried*, *Unknown*, *Without You*, *When We Break*, and *Lost In This Moment*. They will release a single entitled *Losing My Mind* by spring break. *Nightmares* will be released before the end of June.

"*Unknown* is a banging song to play. So is *When We Break*," says Ochoa when asked what songs they like performing. "Those songs are fun and the crowd response is great."

You can find *Almost Closer* on Twitter and Instagram @almost_closer.

ART CONTEST WINNER



LEONARDO CAZARES'
"CHESS BOARD"

High School Musician: Gabriela Nava

By SKYLER CORNWELL
@MINYHVK
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

It's no secret that multifaceted Gabriela Nava is on her way to greatness. But haven't you ever wanted to know about the mind behind the music? Wonder no longer! Her thoughts, aspirations, and future plans have now been revealed.

As if molded from the "small town, big city dreams" cliché, Gabby first discovered that music was her passion when she was eight years old. Gabby was listening to a song by AC/DC that her dad put on and immediately fell in love with the sound of the guitar. Not long after she became enamored with the concept of rock and set her sights on learning all she could about it.

Not only is AC/DC a big influence on her, but her dad plays a big part in helping her achieve her dreams. Gabi confesses that he impacts her life greatly. Guitar, saxophone, bassoon, flute, clarinet, ukulele, and bass are just some of the instruments she plays.

On the subject of influences, a certain Indie artist by the name of Anne Clarke is undoubtedly the subject of her admiration. "She breaks through the norms of the Indie scene- it's a lot harder for girls to do that," she explains. Indie is her favorite genre because she believes that it's different from anything else out there, and the fact that there are many different subgenres that fit any of her moods is something she appreciates.

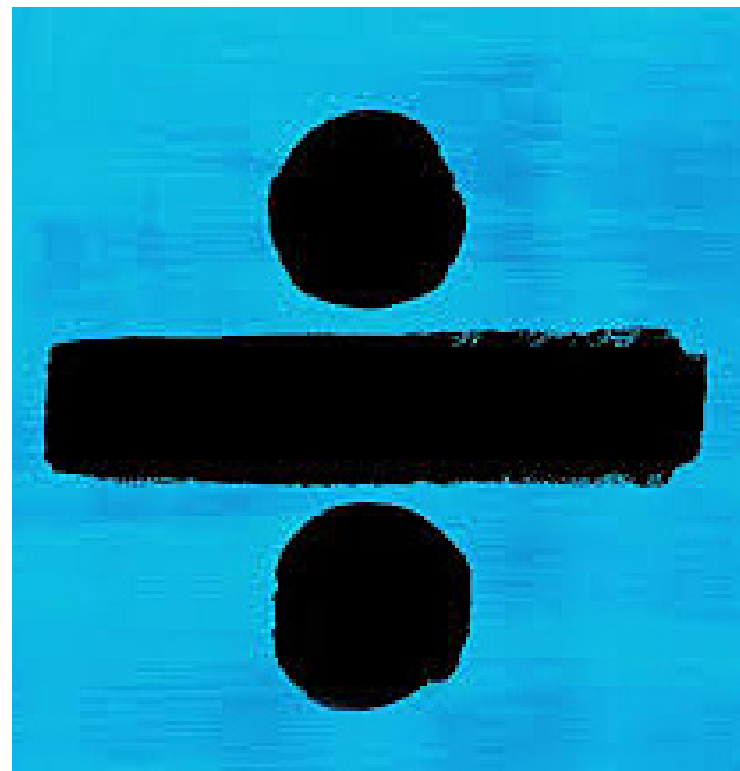
Gabby is someone who is no stranger to all forms of music. If it sounds good, it will most likely end up on her Spotify playlist. There are a few artists that hold deep significance in her life that she finds herself always going back to, that of including Black Sabbath and Coldplay.

Music, for most people, is a huge part of our daily lives. There isn't a day that goes by where we don't hear it in some form or another. For Gabby, music gives her a sense of courage. As an introvert, music has provided a door for expression and freedom of personal creativity. "It just feels right, like what I'm supposed to do; it makes me happy."

In terms of how much time Gabby spends on her music everyday, she gives a sly grin, replying with "way more than I should." If given the option to go out with friends or stay home and work on music, she would choose the latter. As for life after high school, Gabby wishes to further pursue her career by creating her own record label.

Ed Sheeran: *Divide*

SAMANTHA BERROSE
@SOFTPEACHSAM
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER



After taking a year off of social media to travel the world, singer songwriter, Ed Sheeran, is back with his third album, *Divide*. *Divide* is the first blockbuster album of 2017 after skyrocketing to No. 1, breaking the Global Streaming Record.

Sheeran's year long break left his audience, and the world of pop culture, anticipating for his new album. After Sheeran released two singles off *Divide*, *Castle on the hill* and *Shape of you*, it was easy to tell that what Ed Sheeran had planned for his music was going to be amazing.

Divide has a different feel for the music compared to his past two albums, *Plus* and *Multiply*. The songs on *Divide* vary between pop, rap, folk, romantic, and slow songs. The thing that makes the album stand out from his past albums and other artist's music is that no two songs sound the same or have a repetitive meaning behind the songs. Although this album has a bunch of experimental rhythms and sounds, Ed Sheeran was able to incorporate these new devices and create something

refreshing for the music industry without losing his style. Ed Sheeran has always been known for his deep meaningful interpretations behind his lyrics. Here are some of my favorite songs off *Divide*: *Perfect*, is a love song that tells a story about how he has met the one that is perfect. *Supermarket flowers*, is a slow sad song written for anyone who has ever lost someone close to them and how it has affected them. *New Man*, is a rap and pop song that exposes his ex-lover by saying that she

shouldn't be with someone if she doesn't love him. *Save myself*, is a slow, hopeful, motivating song about putting yourself before anyone else. And *Galway Girl*, is a rap and pop song that talks about falling in love with someone you wouldn't think you would love. Ed Sheeran is a talented artist that values his music. Despite his year long break, Sheeran managed to produce a very well-written album that his audience and he appreciates.

ER STUDENTS ARE CUCKOO OVER

By PEDRO SALCIDO
@HIPUNCLE
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER



Omar Banos, also known as "Cuco," is a Southern California born and raised artist who has recently blown up on social media for his unique and, what he calls, "synth heavy and post-retro" sound.

Growing up in Hawthorne California and playing music since he was eight years old, Banos explains "I didn't have many friends growing up so I would just resort to music and I'd buy cheap equipment and just work from there to create my own sound." He described his childhood music taste as "all over the place," he listened to a variety of artist such as Hombres G and The Beatles. "Basically whatever was on MTV in the 2000's," he says.

He began to receive recognition for his talent due to his cover of *Sleep Walk* by Santo & Johnny in June of 2016. Over the past couple of months, Banos fan base has grown quickly in a short amount of time and only continues every day.

"So crazy, I never imagined any of this would happen," he says. "I am so thankful and blessed to be in a position where my music is listened to by thousands of people. It seems very unreal to be honest." He also emphasized the



connection he has created with his fans through his music, "...There's nothing more important to me than connecting with the people that support me and push me to go even harder with my music." Banos' parents are the ones who inspire him the most, "My parents and their struggle as Mexican immigrants [inspire me] they've suffered a lot so I want to give them everything I can and really make them proud," he says. His love for

his family drives him to push harder to get his name out there.

Because of this Banos performed a benefit concert for undocumented families at high risk of deportation. This event took place at The Hi Hat, a live music venue, in Los Angeles on the 26th of March at 7 pm. Kicking off the night with his original song *We Had To End It*. The night was very eventful as that was the first venue he has ever played at. In fact he will be headlining at the Constellation Room on Saturday, April 15th at 8 pm (sold out), he will be accompanied by other artists such as Emmitt James and the Feel Goods, and Indigo State.

In ten years he sees himself "hopefully succeeding with what I love, having bought my parents a new place, helping other artists come up and live their dream."

Being a local artist himself, Banos aspires to help other artist get where they want to be. "I definitely want to expose the arts of local artists that I feel deserve recognition," he says. His advice to any "upcoming artists who want to push for the stars but feel uncertain," is to "just go for it. Have a plan set up, find your best way of working, learn and listen, expand what you know and most importantly LOVE what you're doing. ADORE what you're doing. Passion is power."

Make sure you keep an eye out for the star on rise.

CAMPUS

Gadabouts depart for Europe in June, China in 2018



The Gadabouts will visit the Great Wall of China on their tour China: Beiing Xi'an and Shanghai in summer 2018

ous activities involved. Students will travel with "EF Tours" and can expect airfare, transportation, hotels, meals, guided sightseeing, a full time tour director, expert local guides and much more!

Students can look forward to visiting some of the greatest sites such as The Alps, Provence and Barcelona with the occasional free-times to shop and take photos.

"I'm really excited for the cooking class in Madrid, biking in Barcelona and hopefully seeing Mr. Zeko get picked to dance," adds Mrs.Zeko. "Eating new foods, and seeing the kids become alive with the culture is always the best."

As the club has been active each year, the group has just announced their destination for 2018! China: Beijing, Xi'an, Shanghai, & Hong Kong could be the next locations you check off your traveling bucket list!

The Zeko's are excited to visit China after traveling to Europe for ten years. Enroll by today, March 31st and receive a \$200 early enrollment discount

AND 3 free optional excursions (\$415 value)! Talk to Mr.Zeko in X-1 or Mrs.Zeko in B-105 for more information and join them for future traveling experiences you won't want to miss!

By JOCELYN ESTRADA
@LITTLEJOCE
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

School chase their passion to travel around the world. This year, Mr. and Mrs. Zeko will be leading a trip to Switzerland, Italy, France, Monaco, and Spain!

Each year, a group of wee gadabouts from El Rancho High

began in 2006, so this is our 10th trip out. The Gadabouts first began when [my class was] reading *Of Mice and Men* and we wanted to visit the Salinas River, where the book takes place," shares Mrs.Zeko. "However, we were not allowed to fundraise unless we were a club, so that's how it all began."

Sports medicine ready for trip to CSUF

SAMANTHA BERROSPPE
@SOFTPEACHSAM
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On April 18, ROP teacher, DeAndrea Woods, will take his Sports Medicine students to Cal State Fullerton and introduce them to the campus and sports medicine programs offered at the school. Not only will the students get to visit the campus, but they will also visit the Kinesiology and Health Science building, and get the opportunity to meet students who are majoring in kinesiology, athletic training, strength and conditioning, sports psychology, and other sports medicine fields. This educational trip will allow the sports medicine students to meet and engage in one-on-one interactions with college level students and professionals.

The trip was organized to expose the ROP students to how important a sports medicine major is, and how it can be used to gain knowledge in other fields of study.

"Sports Medicine, Kinesiology, Athletic Training, Physical Education and all the other fields of study, I believe, can give an individual the baseline skills and knowledge in anatomy, physiology, medical terminology and injury prevention/rehabilitation," said Woods.

For Woods, the Tri-Cities ROP programs offered at The Ranch are great for high schoolers because of what they have to offer. Not many students at other high schools get the opportunity to study sports medicine, nursing, business, and law. Since El Rancho offers these classes it allows students to get a head start in a possible connection.

"I believe ROP courses truly can lead students to college and career readiness regardless of if they lean towards that particular field or realize that, that pathway may not be for them. We, ROP teachers, take pride in contributing to building holistic students and citizens after graduation."

For Woods, taking students to visit a school with a huge emphasis on sports medicine can give them that extra push to future careers. Senior, Jimena Garcia, says she will benefit from the trip because she wants to meet people who are majoring in Kinesiology and get the information needed to become an athletic trainer.

As a sports medicine teacher, assistant track coach, and college graduate, Woods wants the best for his students. He scheduled this trip to give his students a little taste of how going to college would feel like and what the different majors and activities college can offer you.

"I take pride in giving students the chance to open up their eyes to different college and career opportunities. Even if a student isn't interested in a four-year university that is just fine, all students should be eager to partake in new experiences."

In the long run, Woods wants his students to look back at this trip and realize how much it influenced their major choice in college. Whether his students choose a sports medicine career or not, Woods hopes that his trip gives his students the chance to understand the different career pathways that can go from kinesiology and sports medicine.

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CAMPUS

Librarian Jean Chodos brings Teen Read Week to life

By NAYELI HERNANDEZ
@CHINGONAYELI
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Another successful Teen Read Week is coming to a close, so now is a good time to recognize the catalyst behind the event. Librarian, Jean Chodos, deserves a round of applause throughout this week of poetry, reading, prizes and more!

Teen Read Week was originally a national literacy initiative of the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), a division of the American Library Association, held at the beginning of October. Chodos decided to bring Teen Read Week to El Rancho about 13 years ago when the Borders book store was still open, as they sponsored the book fairs at the school. At the time, Chodos also learned about the Get Lit program and was able to contact them to perform at the school. The week-long event grew from there.

"When I started Teen Read Week at El Rancho, it was much smaller... I realized that the fall, for us, is a bad time. It's too heavily scheduled," said Chodos. Chodos has an array of different responsibilities and duties to attend to during Teen Read Week. There's always something going on in multiple classrooms- usually a read aloud from teachers- the same day as the bigger events.

Some of the bigger events throughout the week were the high school and district ad-

ministrators and counselors guest reading in classrooms and reading quizzes, prizes, and awards in classrooms. On Monday, Animal Advocates brought in therapy dogs to the library for students to read to during lunch. The Get Lit Players had a performance during third and fourth period on Tuesday, where students from El Rancho also performed their poetry. The ERHS Improvisation Team held a Literary Lunchbag Theatre in the Little Theatre on Wednesday. Senior, Adrian Lopez, won a pair of Snapchat Spectacles in the quad at lunch, which was hosted by the Library and ASB, yesterday. Mrs. Nelson's Book Fair also began yesterday and will continue into today from 7:30-4. Link Crew literary characters will also serve at the Teen Read Week Staff Coffee in the Library beginning at 7:30.

Thus far, Chodos' favorite part of the week, without a doubt, has been the Get Lit performance. Teen Read Week continues on every year with the intent to continue to spread a love for reading.

"At heart, I'm a big reader, so I would love it if everybody liked to read. I don't particularly care what they read or in what format they read. Realistically, what I hope is that student's understand that knowing how to read is the key to having a successful life."

Although Chodos plays a vital role in organizing the weeklong event, she expresses gratitude for everyone who has helped along the way.



Mrs. Chodos (right) celebrates Teen Read Week with Mrs. Zeko (left) and Mrs. Lyons

"This would not happen without all the incredible teachers. El Rancho's staff and teachers give their own time. When you see an administrator or teacher reading in class, teachers going in classes and giving book quizzes, giving prizes, they're

doing it on their prep. All of this happens because of the support of teachers and staff at this high school. There's a lot of clubs that help out, students help out, and every year we try to add on. ASB gets involved, Animal Advocates bring the dogs, Link Crew helps

out, Leo's Club packed all of the prizes this year. Every year, staff from the front office come and help out with the book fair. For the past number of years, the Improv Team has done a Literary Lunchbag Theatre in honor of Teen Read Week," said Chodos.

El Rancho hosts annual Mother-Daughter tea party



Superheroes of the world! Mothers and daughters connect at 2017 tea party

By JOCELYN ESTRADA
@LITTLEJOCE
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

What's that? Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No! It's our moms, the superheroes! This 2017 Mother Daughter Dessert included coffee, cupcakes, cake pops and

more! The theme of the event was "superheroes," and the slogan was "My Mom, My Superhero" which included a photo booth with many hero logos and floral decorations.

"I liked having one-on-one time with my mom and seeing how similar my friends are to their moms," says, senior, Ivy

Castillo. The night consisted of photos, sweets, and lots of smiles.

The Associated Student Body hosted raffles for a variety of gift cards with tickets that were given to each mother-daughter pair upon arrival. After, there was a selection musical and theatrical entertainment provided

by the Choraleers and Advanced Drama's Improvisation Team.

Both students and their mommas got active and lively with the entertainment, but it wasn't over yet. "How Well Do You Know Your Mother/Daughter" quizzes were then passed out to every pair so they could put

their knowledge of each other to the test and grow their bond.

"My favorite part was taking the survey about my mom and [laughing] about all of our answers at the end. I always enjoy time with my mom, but dressing up, coming back to school and getting to share the experience with her was very memorable," says, junior, Layla Prieto.

The dessert took careful planning and lots of helpful hands to create the perfect environment. "I had been planning for about a month in advance and I couldn't have done it without the ASB members, Mrs. Senteno, Mrs. Leal, and Lil! They are the best," says, Activities Commissioner, Madison Ortiz.

The help of the volunteer junior and senior male waiters helped the event run smoothly. Mothers all around had an amazing time eating sweets with the extra sweet treat of a date with their daughters.

"I plan to go again next year because it was a well time spent with my mom and my other friends with their moms," adds, junior, Dominique Jimenez. The tradition of the Mother Daughter Dessert has been continued for years and will hopefully continue for generations to come with many more superhero mommas and their daughters!

SPORTS

Boys Volleyball ready to pass any obstacle that comes their way

BY PEDRO SALCIDO
@HIPUNCLE
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER



Boys Volleyball getting ready to serve and defeat their competitors.

This year's boy's volleyball team has quite the reputation to uphold. After making quarterfinals in CIF last year, this year's team is expected to work harder than ever.

"One of the biggest challenges this year I think is going to be trying to repeat the same thing we accomplished last year," said Anthony Guerrero.

Because most of the team members are new to varsity, the returners agree that one of the biggest challenges is and will be trying to get the new members up to speed and have them play at a faster pace than they have in previous years.

The boys have faith in their team and think their season will be full of "W's."

Middle hitter Jaycob Lopez said, "I am confident in making CIF this year. I know it won't be easy though. Not

only because of the lack of experience, but we're playing a higher division than last year."

The love for the game keeps these boys going, but that is not the only thing

that keeps them motivated.

"One of our strengths is definitely our chemistry on and off the court, we have become a little family," Lopez said.

The support of their

coach, Ida Picon, helps motivate them to do better with each game. "Mrs. Picon has always told us that [CIF] has always been the goal," Guerrero said.

Although the boys

have a challenge set out for them, they keep their heads high, and their stance low as they get ready to pass any obstacle that comes their way.

Boys Tennis aims for league title



Senior, Omar Torres takes a hit while playing a set.

BY SAMANTHA BERRIPE
@SOFTPEACHSAM
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After "serving up" a solid pre-season with a record of 6-4 for varsity, the boys' tennis team is ready to "smash" the competition and claim their title of Del Rio League Champions once again.

The tennis team is already off to a great start with their win against Pioneer High School from both JV and Varsity. The team has to maintain that winning streak to achieve their ultimate goal: league champs. "We did it last year, and I feel confident that we can do it again," says senior Omar Torres.

This season will be a challenging one for the team since the majority of varsity members are new to the team. For junior, Miguel Adame III, he won't let a little tough competition stop his team from achieving greatness. "It's been a lot of hard work and a lot of effort to make it here to varsity so I won't stop till we win league" says Adame.

Varsity captains, senior Jason Bravo and junior Anthony Aldridge, both want the team to succeed to the highest level possible and would like to give their teammates some advice to help

ease off any nerves that might come as it's the start of the league season. "Cover your alleys and remember that communication is key," says Aldridge. "Play as you would every day and don't let your frustration get the best of you," says Bravo.

For some of the members on the team, it is their first year playing tennis whereas others it is their last. "It's emotional knowing that this is my last year in tennis. I have been in this sport since freshman year and I feel like I have grown as a player and developed my skills in this sport. It's been a good four years I'm going to miss the team, our coach, and the sport," says Torres.

Coach and math teacher, Eduardo Galindo is excited for what his boys have to show this season. He knows they'll rank high in league and make it to CIF because they have practiced long and hard, and are determined to win. Overall Galindo just wants his boys to "do their best and always put in 110% into their games."

The boy's tennis team is in for an exciting and tough season against their rival schools. As of now, they only way they can go is up.

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SPORTS

El Rancho aquatics make a splash



BY ADAM ALLRED
@ALLRED26
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The smell of chlorine is common during the summer, but the El Rancho Aquatics teams are getting their fill earlier. The girls' varsity swim team has started their season undefeated thus far, with the boys' JV and varsity and the girls' JV following close behind. The team's first league meet was Thursday, March 23rd against Santa Fe.

Girls' captains Ashley Meza and Madelyn Meneses, after having been on the team for two and four years respectively, have had an opportunity to think about their sport. Meza thinks that the hardest part of competitive swimming is "Trying to not mess up, and blocking people out. You can't let people get to you." Meneses believes that the hardest part is that "there is always room for improvement. A swimmer is never really done in perfecting themselves."

Meza hopes that she could improve her breast and backstroke and that the team could get first place in league, however that is not a top priority. Both of the captains agree that they want everyone to get better times this season. Meza looks forward to working with her relay team because they are as close as sisters.

Boys' captains Ben Sanchez and Andy Gonzales have both been on the team for three years. Gonzales mainly enjoys being on the swim team with his

friends and the bus rides, while Sanchez mainly enjoys swim due to it being an individual sport.

The hardest part of swimming for the boys is "knowing that there is always someone that is better than you, as well as managing your breathing," says Gonzales. Sanchez agrees but added trying to get better times on their events. Gonzales' goal for himself this season is to be a better leader and agrees with Meza on the goals for the team, for everyone to drop time.

Wish them luck and try to come out and support the team as they face La Serna on Thursday, April 6th at the El Rancho pool.

Sanchez's goal for himself this season is to go to CIF and compete and hopes that the team as a whole would get third in league. The boys are looking forward to getting to know the new people and working on making CIF, while the girls are looking forward to working with the team and finishing the season with more memories.

Boys baseball in full swing



BY DANA RODRIGUEZ
@DANAENICOLE_
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Boys' varsity baseball kicked off their season this month and are currently 6-5 in their season.

Before league began, the baseball boys experienced some setbacks, as six of their starters were injured.

"We had to work around our injuries. It was the next man up and they had to be ready to play and fill those holes we were missing," says varsity captain Jason Vela, who was one of the six players out due to injury. "Our team has responded by not panicking and just playing the game because we have confidence in anyone we put out on the field."

"We don't have a lot of

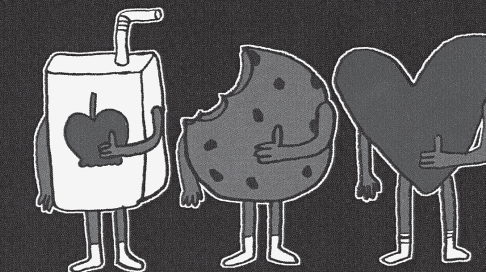
players on our team and we are never the biggest in size when we play other teams," Vela added. However, they don't plan to let that stop them. "We already know we'll never be the biggest team, but we are all hardworking individuals. If we play as a team we should do just fine."

This team may face some challenges along the way, but there is something that makes them stand out.

"We are a scrappy team and we are always going to be the underdog no matter who we play, which is why we all play with a chip on our shoulder," Vela says.

The Dons hope to continue to improve and grow as a team and win league. They also hope to further their standings in playoffs compared to last year.

BLOOD DRIVE



Good juice. Good snacks. Good karma.

EL RANCHO HIGH SCHOOL

Friday, March 31, 2017

8:00 am - 2:00 pm

New Gym

For information or to sign up for an appointment, please see Mr. Sorenson in Q2.



Before Donating:
Be in good health.
Weigh at least 110 lbs.
Be at least 17 years old by March 31st, with a signed WHITE Parental Consent Form.

(If you are 16 years old by March 31st and WEIGH AT LEAST 135 LBS, you may donate with a signed PURPLE Parental Consent Form.)

TATTOOS NOW OK!
(If healed and done in a licensed California facility.)

All donors will receive a t-shirt or a coupon for a pint of Baskin Robbins Ice Cream!



Walk-Ins Welcome!

TEEN READ WEEK



Mr. Lyons gazes proudly at his "Lyonness" as she speaks to Mrs. Zeko's English class.



This adorable dog is all smiles after hearing a good story.

El Rancho celebrated Teen Read Week starting on March 27th hoping to influence more teens to grab a good book and read!

The Animal Advocates treated the students with therapy dogs to read to on Monday,

Get Lit Poets performed at a special assembly on Tuesday

The Improv team held a special "Lit" Lunchbag on Wednesday,

Snapchat spectacles were raffled off on Thursday, and Mrs.

Nelson's book fair opened from Thursday to Friday.



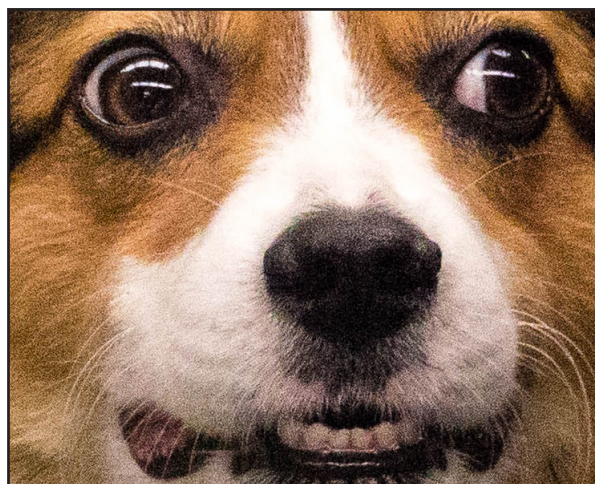
Seniors Xcaret Estrada, Olivia Ball, and Jose Alcala during a game of "Rewind."



A very "pregnant" Ivy Castillo takes center stage at Wednesday's Lunchbag.



Dons peruse Mrs. Nelson's Book Fair.



Scared_Doggo.jpg



Get Lit poet inspires El Rancho students.



Adrian Lopez wins the Snapchat Specs!



Nothing brings friends closer than a good book!

