



El Rodeo



October Political Update

BY GABRIELA NAVA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Tax Reform proposed by President Trump is a work in progress with more details to come, but the basic blueprint is on the table. The number of tax brackets will be minimized from seven to three. This allows for a double in the standard deduction, meaning Americans with the lowest earnings will pay little to no taxes. The top bracket will also benefit from a tax cut, which drops the rate from 39.6% to 35%. To avoid such a drastic tax cut for the top 1%, the possibility of a fourth bracket is in consideration.

The reform also repeals the Alternative Minimum Tax, which is a regulation that keeps people from reaping too many benefits from regular tax law.

President Trump promises that the reform will allow small businesses to boom but critics worry that it benefits the "top 1%" and could possibly raise taxes for the middle class. The purpose of the reform is to hopefully allow for more people to fit into the exempt category of the tax brackets system.

Raising the standard deduction is significant but merely presenting a plan that raises the lowest rate and cuts the top rate in a country with so much pay inequality seems poorly thought out.

Nearly 50 ISIS aligned terrorists -- armed with rocket propelled grenades and machine guns -- ambushed a group of twelve United States army soldiers on October 4. Four American soldiers and five Nigerian soldiers were killed in the line of fire.

Special forces troops were ambushed during a routine training mission along the Mali - Niger border, leaving four Green Berets left for dead and another two injured. One of the four soldiers was recovered by Nigerian soldiers nearly two hours after the fact. Soldiers, vastly outnumbered and lightly armed, paid the price with their lives.

French military was called in to airlift the wounded and deceased out of the area, while French, Nigerian and American soldiers continue military operations and search for the attackers.

Military intelligence deemed it highly unlikely that soldiers run into enemy fighters despite the area being considered a hotbed for Al Qaeda activity.

Nearly a month after the event, investigations continue to identify the attackers. A team of investigators reported that enemy fighters used perfectly spaced firing positions along the roadside, suggesting a level of sophistication to the ambush. As investigations are set to continue, more details are expected in the coming months.

Academic Decathlon prepares for upcoming competitions

BY ALEKSEY SOTO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Following a successful year at state level competitions, El Rancho's Division I Academic Decathlon team hopes to go even higher with its new members.

The United States Academic Decathlon (USAD for short) is a non-profit organization that allows students all over the country to compete academically in ten areas.

The participants take rigorous exams in Social Science, Art, Literature, Music, Economics, Mathematics, and Science, and also are required to write an essay based on topics they've learned, participate in an interview, write and present a speech about any topic, and present an impromptu speech on a randomly selected prompt. They also compete in a Super Quiz, where every team has seven seconds to answer questions about the topics shown on a screen and has a live audience cheering them on.

The team is currently studying this year's material, which is centered around Africa, and preparing for its first scrimmage on November 18th. In preparation, some of the members attended a workshop at Mark Keppel High School, designed to further prepare teams for the rigors of the competition.

"They came back with the feeling that they knew con-



The Academic Decathlon team with advisor Mr. Retana and the team's unofficial emoji mascots.

Photo by Mr. Crone

siderably more than the kids from the other schools," Mr. Retana, team advisor, said.

Currently, the team has 15 members; however, the Varsity team only has room for nine members, who are divided into three slots by GPA, to compete. The Honors slot includes members with an academic GPA of 3.75 or greater. Scholastic includes members with a GPA between 3.0 to 3.75. Varsity encompasses those with a GPA below 3.0.

The team is using the scores from scrimmage to determine who will have a spot on the competing lineup. Despite the competition to secure a coveted position,

the team remains extremely close.

Mr. Retana, along with Mr. Francis, Mr. Porter, Mrs. Stubendorff, Mr. Wlasick, Mr. Magdaleno, and Mrs. Chavez-Diaz, are coaching the team in each subject. The team meet with these coaches once every other week, even having to sacrifice sleeping in to attend Magdaleno's AP Art History zero period every other Wednesday or staying late every other Monday after school with Mr. Francis to study geometry and introductory calculus.

"Decath math is different than school math in the sense that you have to learn it really quickly, so I try to use tricks and

theorems that allow us to get to answers quickly," Francis said. "We have really bright kids, and they're generally hard-working."

Retana, along with team captains Melissa Ochoa, Julio Ornelas, and Andrew Sepulveda, are extremely hopeful about this year's group.

"Decath is moving smoother and more efficiently than it did last year," Sepulveda said.

"I feel we have a strong team; it's hard for them to know that they're doing well because they have no comparison," Retana said, "but I feel like we're well ahead of where we were last year and we performed well last year."

Dons capture awards at local photo contest



Mrs. Zeko, Karina Jimenez, Alexa Oseguera, and Mr. Zeko celebrate a victory in Uptown Whittier.

BY BRIDGET MARTINEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Seniors, Alexa Oseguera and Karina Jimenez, took first and second place respectively at the Harmony Center's sixth annual Art Festival in Uptown Whittier. The photographers competed against local high school students from Santa Fe, La Mirada, Pioneer, St. Paul, La Serna, and Cypress.

Alexa Oseguera came in first place with her photo "Peaceful Alps," which "captured so much beauty and to me, stood out from my other pieces."

Karina Jimenez came in second place with her photo "Beautiful Monster." "The reasoning behind this picture was actually for a poetry night. It went with another student's poem from the school," said Jimenez.

Jimenez continued, "I got a bit creative with a homemade mask and some Photoshop work Mr. Zeko had recently taught me. When I printed out my photo, I was a little discouraged because the quality of the photo was lost, but my mom insisted on turning it in because it is my best piece."

Before the contest, both

girls had previously studied photography, although, Oseguera had started earlier in life.

"I've been shooting for as long as I can remember, but my photography took another step last year in Mr. Zeko's photography class," says Oseguera. "I got my first camera when I was in 5th grade and ever since I've loved taking pictures of my family and friends."

Photography styles vary, but Oseguera would describe her style as, "usually something simple with bold colors." Oseguera would like to

continue photography in the future. "I'd love to work as a fashion photographer and maybe with a magazine, but my highest goal is to work with National Geographic," she says.

Karina Jimenez became interested in photography a year ago because she's "always found the art very intriguing and unique." Karina's biggest inspiration for photography is Alex Stoddard, a young American photographer.

"His work is very dark and mysterious, so that's where I get my inspiration from. And the color part of my work is just from everything that I've seen around me. Colors are everywhere so I like to exaggerate them so people can see how bright our world is," said Jimenez.

Jimenez describes her work as "colorful & creepy." In the future, "I do want to minor in photography because one day if my music becomes well known I want to create and direct my own music videos with my style."

Karina Jimenez and Alexa Oseguera both have Instagram accounts where they post photos of their recent work. Follow them to stay updated @kayymalikphotography and @alexroephotos.

FEATURES

Jade Castellanos is *Simply Irresistible!*



Jade Castellanos poses by a tree in the quad.

BY FATIMA LOPEZ
EL RODEO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Castellanos said, "I generally prefer to listen to soft indie music, but I dabble in every genre."

If she's not at home covering her favorite artists, she's probably living it up at one of their concerts. Jade is no stranger to the general admission line! From One Direction to The Maine, she has seen a variety of different acts. One might even go as far as to say that she is a concert connoisseur!

Even though she has seen more than her fair share of a wide variety of acts, no group brings her the same joy that Catfish and the Bottlemen give her.

"I've seen them five times," Castellanos said. Talk about a loyal stan! "The energy in the room is just so electrifying, and I totally don't go just to stare at the lead singer," Castellanos said. Apart from being musically gifted, Jade is artistically gifted, too. Her Instagram (@jadecastellanos) is full of aesthetically pleasing pictures of herself and all the LA locations she's visited so far. Don't scroll too far though or you'll hit her fetus stage! When it comes to finding the best places to hang out in LA, she's your girl. Jade is no stranger to the

streets of Los Angeles! She's always looking for new places to visit. "I love trying out new food locations throughout LA," Castellanos said. From Mexican food to coffee houses, she always has a new place to try out. "I've been to Bia Coffee where they make coffee infused with actual flowers," Castellanos said.

In her spare time, Jade loves binge-watching her favorite TV shows. Some of her go-to series are *The O.C.*, *Stranger Things*, and *The Good Doctor*. If you ever need a binge-watching buddy with a good range of shows to watch, let her know!

As we all know, Jade is quite the fashionista. El Rancho's hallways are her runway, and she never disappoints. "My style is questionable, I probably should be dress-coded at times," Castellanos admits. If her style is one you admire, it's pretty easy to steal. "I like thrift shopping and going to Forever 21," Castellanos said. From grunge fits to Instagram baddie looks, Jade does it all. We love a fashionable queen!

Unfortunately, Jade isn't looking for a significant other at this time, but she's always open to making new friends. If you love lip-sync battles, impromptu dance parties, and terrible karaoke, don't be afraid to hit her up!

Gadabouts begin a new age of exploration

BY KARIZMA REYES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER



The El Rancho Gadabouts will be traveling to Asia after a decade of going to Europe. This upcoming summer the Gadabouts will be going to China for the first time. They will be visiting the cities of Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing, and Xi'an. This 12-day trip will be filled with excursions such as walking on the Great Wall of China, visiting the Forbidden City, and much more.

Mrs. Charissa Zeko, 10th grade Honors English teacher, created the club so that students could get to learn new cultures and visit foreign places first hand. She and her husband, Mr. Zeko, are the advisors for the club. Zeko says she's excited to visit a new continent and, "meet the people, taste the food, experience the culture, walk the Great wall..."

The President of the Gadabouts club, Senior, Kathryn Mota, is very enthusiastic about the upcoming trip in the summer. Mota says, "I can't wait to go! I love the Asian culture."

Like all the other years, the location was decided through a survey of what people were most interested in and China won the popular vote. Other competing locations were the Galapagos Islands, Iceland, Russia, Greenland, and Scandinavia.

The Vice-President of the Gadabouts club, Senior, Emily Flores, is also ecstatic about this

year's new location. It will be Flores's first trip to China. "I am so excited to go to China this year," Flores said, "My mom went to China without me, so now I finally get to experience it." Sophomore, Haya Villarreal, is traveling with the Gadabouts for the first time, but it isn't her first time out of the country. Although she's traveled to places without her family, Villarreal says, "I'm kind of nervous to go to China, it's just so far away."

The Gadabouts still have open spots for this year's summer trip. Don't miss out on this once in a lifetime trip as space is limited. If interested please contact Mrs. Zeko in B-105 or Mr. Zeko in X-1 for details.

Dons juggle school and jobs



BY DEVENIE ANCHONDO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

can be a lot of stress, having a job allows students to improve their time management.

Some students get a job because they want to gain experience in the "real world." They just have the opportunity of working with other people and improving their communication skills.

Many of your fellow El Rancho students have a job. Some students even get a summer job and stick to it throughout the school year while still maintaining school work.

"I began working at Farmer Boys on August 13th," senior Narai Soto says. "I really like working there. It's fun since my coworkers are great and we work well together."

"It's quite stressful at times, but the tips make it worth it," Soto says. "The reason I wanted to work there is that every time I went, the workers were very friendly and I just pictured myself working there since I love helping people."

Soto's family decided to move from Pico Rivera to Ontario, but Soto did not want to move schools. Because of this, Soto wakes up early, leaving her house in Ontario around 5:30 in the morning to drive and make it to school on time for zero period here at El Rancho.

Soto has a free sixth period, allowing her to leave school early so she can work more throughout the week

and not just on the weekends.

"I work from three p.m. to eight p.m. on weekdays, and two p.m. to nine p.m. on the weekends," says Soto. "It's tough. I hardly have time to do anything."

Another senior, Salvador Gutierrez, has been working at TacoBell for around a year and half.

"I enjoy working there because I like helping customers with their service." When it comes to managing work and school at the same time, "It's all about time management. It's not easy, but it is worth the experience," says Gutierrez.

Although having a job while maintaining school work can be difficult, these Dons show it is highly possible and rewarding.

El Rodeo

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

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

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

FEATURES

Five Below brings a modern twist to discount stores



BY FATIMA LOPEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Pico Rivera finally welcomed Five Below to its ever-growing list of new shops. The brand new discount store opened its doors to the public late last month and has become a local hotspot for many customers who are looking for some good deals.

"Hot stuff. Cool prices." Five Below's catchy slogan is pretty straightforward. From trading cards, to fashion accessories, to school supplies, Five Below has it all, and for affordable prices too.

There is an abundance of items to be found at Five Below. Going home empty-handed is not an option. Graphic tees for the movie and cartoon fanatics, snacks for the food aficionados, and even beauty products for the rising YouTube gurus are available, and they're all \$5 or less.

The U.S. chain of discount stores is aimed at teens and pre-teens, but carries many products catered to adults as well. The wide selection of brands and products has made Five Below a popular place to shop according to several members of the community.

Local customer, Noemi Covarrubias, says, "The store has a very modern feel to it, and the prices are pretty good." "I think the opening of this store is a sign that Pico Rivera is doing very well economically," said Covarrubias, "It also provides job opportunities for members of the community, and we can never have enough of those."

The staff is very friendly and helpful. Whether it's an item you're looking for or a question you need answered, Five Below's team will not hesitate to help.

Karizma Reyes, El Rancho student, and employee at Five Below, says, "The store is getting popular. It's constantly busy, and it's pretty up to date with trending stuff and has something for everyone." As for the environment at Five Below, it is, "teen-friendly," Reyes says, "they work with my schedule."

Overall, Five Below is a nice addition to the city, and it has many products to offer to its customers. The discount store is far from competing with the Dollar Tree and 99 Cents Only Stores, but it is getting quite a good reputation. Need some affordable retail therapy? Head on over to 8850 Washington Blvd. for some cool deals and great products.

Tri-Cities ROP Culinary Arts finally get their dessert



Tri-Cities ROP provides Culinary Arts with an up-to-date kitchen with new utilities and appliances.

Photo by Chef Luna

BY KATHERINE HERRERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After eight years in the making, Tri-Cities ROP remodels the Culinary Arts Program's kitchen. The success and journey of the new remodeling establishes a new feel to the culinary world.

Before the kitchen was built, there were clogged sinks, cracked counter tops, chipped plates, overused utensils, and the fridge's temperature was warm. With the support of the ROP funds and the Career Tech-

nical Education Incentive Grant Program resources were able to be supplied for this new update.

Tri-Cities ROP provides Culinary Arts with an up-to-date kitchen with new utilities and appliances.

Students can experience the luxury of a modern day kitchen while still experiencing the traditions of Culinary Arts.

After discussing it over the past seven years, Tri-Cities ROP decided that updating the kitchen now would be more beneficial for students rather than wait-

ing until the new school is built.

Shared experiences with Culinary Arts, under Tri-Cities ROP, have provided Luna and his students with the opportunity to learn with different perspectives on a dish or an idea.

"The new kitchen benefits me if it benefits them," says Chef Luna.

With the new suppliance, the Culinary Arts club will be able to work on new projects, such as holiday and kitchen group events.

As the holidays come near, the Culinary Arts club will

be holding an organized fundraiser to support the homeless in Puerto Rico, Mexico and all the places affected by the wildfires in California.

Former students of Luna's help support the charity events by cooking and baking foods for the people affected.

Whether you are new to the school, need advice from an adult, or not even enrolled in Culinary Arts, Chef Luna's kitchen is opened for all in Q-4.

Dons go trick-or-treating for hunger

BY DEVENIE ANCHONDO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho students have participated in Pico Rivera's annual Trick-or-Treat for Hunger canned food drive after year. A majority of El Rancho students that participated in the event on October 14th are involved in LEOS Club, Key Club, Link Crew, and the AVID program.

Volunteers had to show up to Smith Park at around eight in the morning to turn in their signed permission slips, and grab supplies so they could begin walking around the neighborhood to collect cans.

Students went around Pico Rivera going door to door asking for canned donations.

At the event El Rancho's English teacher Mrs. Metaxas received an award for her annual help and participation in the Pico Rivera community.

"It was a complete and pleasant surprise. I have been corresponding with the people in charge of Pico Rivera's events and they can always count on the LEOS to participate," says Mrs. Metaxas. "Luckily, LEOS is a strong club we have a lot of motivated and service minded students and I am lucky to be a part of the club," continues Mrs. Metaxas.



Mrs. Metaxas receiving award for her annual help and participation in the Pico Rivera community. Photo by Devenie Anchondo

At the end of the event, the volunteers were thanked for their hard work with some pizza and drinks. "The event was fun and it is nice to see people care about others and it really

gives me faith in our community" says junior Julien Martinez. "I have participated in the event for the past four years because it is fun and again it helps reinforce my faith in our com-

munity and you get to meet new people," continues Martinez. The canned food collected at this event will be given to those who are in need during the annual Christmas Basket distribution in December.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Fall Hotspots

1. Elado - Pico Rivera, CA: The cozy parlor with the Mexican-style ice cream and smoothies in a variety of flavors. Grab some friends and enjoy a refreshing treat!
2. Whittier Narrows Recreation Area- Whittier Narrows, CA: Whether it's to take a stroll around the 3 lakes, educate yourself at the historical military museum, practice your skills at the shooting ranges, or disc golf, the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area is bound to keep anyone entertained. Enjoy the several activities with family or friends.
3. AMF Beverly Lanes bowling alley - Montebello, CA: Be it a friendly bowling game with friends or a party event, AMF Beverly lanes features a long-standing chain of bowling alleys and casual grub for any occasion.
4. Lucille's Smokehouse Bar-B-Que - Montebello, CA: From slow-cooked meats to cocktails, Lucille's has variety so you're sure to get a different dish every time you visit.
5. Knott's - Buena Park, CA: Owned by Cedar Fair, Knott's was the twelfth most visited theme park in North America in 2015 and has rides, games, and many shows.
6. Cedar Glen Park - Cypress, CA: Popular for its picnic sites, Cedar Glen Park is sure to provide a pleasant atmosphere to talk, eat, and relax.
7. The Dog Cafe - Los Angeles, CA: This cheeky cafe offers a halfway-house for rescue dogs to rehabilitate and expose their charming personalities to the public in a cozy, inviting environment. Buy a warm or cold drink, relax, and enjoy these adorable canines.
8. Universal Studios - Universal City, CA: Featuring rides from famous shows and movies such as the Wizarding World of Harry Potter, the Simpsons Ride and Jurassic Park the Ride, Universal Studios offers a variety of attractions. Visitors are also able to take the "World-Famous Studio Tour" and meet stunning actors.
9. Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) - Los Angeles, CA: The largest art museum in the western United States, LACMA exhibits art from artists of diverse cultures and historical time periods. LACMA seeks to translate their collections to provide meaningful cultural experiences to their intellectual audience.
10. Six Flags - Valencia, CA: The theme park famous for its intense roller coasters. Enjoy the rides, grab a bite to eat, and pick up some souvenirs.

OCTOBER "HORROR" SCOPES

BY ADILENE SERVIN & ALYNNA RODRIGUEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

ARIES: You're a fearless and a natural born leader. You're the one in the group who takes charge; if anyone's planning a Halloween party it's you, Aries! Don't get caught up in fixing other people's problems; consider focusing on challenging yourself and striving for greatness!

TAURUS: You're the most reliable person. When someone needs a shoulder to cry on, you're right there. This weekend put your shyness away and go on an adventure. Look for a spooky place and ask that special someone to go with you!

GEMINI: Your quick wits always help you get out of any trouble but intelligence can only get you so far, work on your relationships and become more consistent. It'll go a long way.

CANCER: Home-loving Cancer, find your inner comfort at home. Get in the spooky spirit and remodel your room! Your room is your safe space make sure you feel comfortable there. You're no stranger to emotions and that's fine but don't feel everything so heavily, balance is key.

LEO: If anyone's the center of attention it's you Leo. Your enthusiasm and energetic ways always make you a fun person to be around. This weekend start planning and dedicating yourself to your task at bay.

VIRGO: You are a real life rose; delicate and sensitive yet there are thorns. Those close to you know how warm and caring you are, there's a tendency to be in the shadows. This weekend plan to be in the spotlight go out and have fun.

LIBRA: There is always a search for balance and harmony within you. You are the most empathetic in your circle of friends and always know how to comfort someone. Often you calm down conflict between others but deep down your empathy for others becomes too demanding. Take time to take care of your-

SCORPIO: Fiery Scorpio, your energy is very intense and may be challenging to others. You are magnetic to people and have deep passion. Your loyalty and commitment go very far. This weekend be open to reconnecting with a past chapter in your life.

SAGITTARIUS: You are the sign that is most open to adventuring and exploring new things. Broaden your horizon and explore something that has been calling you.

CAPRICORN: Stability is key in your life. Setup a bullet journal with goals and to-do list bring some order and structure to your life and it will only do you good.

AQUARIUS: Like water you are fast moving. The truth is very important to you and you seek it. You may be to concerned with the truth and demand to much remember to slow down and take the scenic route, make some memories and look around.

PISCES: You have the ability to adapt to any situation. Your emotions are very strong but you like to keep them in. Consider what's best for you and it'll lead you to a balance of emotions.



Spooky Witch

By Karizma Reyes

Disneyland gets spooky with annual Halloween decorations



BY FRANKY LEON
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

given the task of rescuing Groot. Cars Land, a significant part of Disney's \$1 billion park expansion in 2012, received a fun and impressive overlay called Haul-O-Ween. On opening night thousands flocked to the entrance of Route 66 and Radiator Springs now Radiator Screams to see what was new.

The town's courthouse comes to life. The windows have eyes and stare at visitors. Popular "Cars" characters dress up for Halloween, with Mater as a vampire and Lightning McQueen in a superhero costume, amongst other surprises.

beckons Disney visitors with one-liners while his booming laugh travels across the park.

On Buena Vista Street, black and purple banners and bat displays dominate windows. The sounds of bats can be heard fluttering and at dusk, or what they call the witching hour, the bells toll for the first time at the Carthay Circle. The music that surrounds the park is much darker than what you would expect at Disneyland. At the hub, there's a custom made 13-foot tall Headless horseman statue. The horse's eyes glow red, its nose blows smoke, and the horseman's pumpkin head flares with flame.

Two rides have changed to fit the spooky theme. Mater's Junkyard Jamboree became Mater's Graveyard JamBOoree and Luigi's Rollickin' Roadsters turned into Luigi's Honkin' Haul-O-Ween with new dance steps.

The director of California Adventure Dave Caranchi said "the Halloween decorations at DCA are just a sneak peek of what's to come in the next years."

"This is a whole new overlay and part of a multi-year plan to develop more," he said. Though Disneyland is a sight to see during Halloween, the celebration is only worth the hype if you have exclusive tickets to Mickey's Halloween party which is select nights only. California Adventure does not participate in the celebration so it will be operate as it usually does.

Restaurants in the park are offering Halloween-themed sweet treats such as Mummy Macaron Ice Cream, "Ghostly" Pepper Nachos, and Bat Wing Raspberry Sundaes.

When the sun sets, the new Guardians of the Galaxy attraction also transforms. The free-fall ride features a new song and video called "Monsters After Dark." Workers wear first-responder gear as guests are



Ask Lil Spooky

How do I tell my boo that isn't my boo that I want them to be my boo without ruining the friendship we already have?

How do I tell the El Rodeo Editor-in-Chief that I have a crush on them?

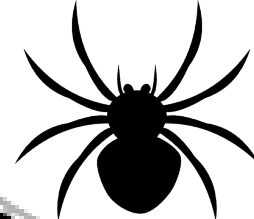
Confess in a place that'll be safe and inviting for them yet private. If you confess in public, your boo probably won't appreciate you putting them on the spot

You can be creative and write poems and lovely pictures if you want, but your boo won't know your intentions for sure unless you explicitly tell them you have an interest in dating them

Hiiiiii I'm kind of lonely on campus...what kind of clubs would be great to join if I want to make friends and socialize?

- Social Ghost

It's great to join clubs to socialize and make friends, but you should join clubs primarily to practice your own interests. There is a whole page on the Don Page listing clubs, but keep in mind that meeting new people with common interests is a plus.



Word on the Street: What will you do for Halloween?



"My family and I are doing a group costume, We're dressing as Disney villains. I still haven't decided on what I'm doing for Halloween though."

Christina Martinez, 9



"I'm gonna be my thoughts because that's the scariest costume of them all. I'm going to be passing out candy."

Adrian Aguilar, 9



"I'm going to be a witch for Halloween and go Trick-or-Treating with my friends."

Kylie Moghimi, 10



"My best friend and I are planning on dressing up as Mermaid Man & Barnacle Boy. We're going trick-or-treating and after going to my friend's house to watch scary movies."

Karina Jimenez, 12



31 Fall Dates

By KATHERINE HERRERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

- Create a painting for each other
- Decorate your significant other's room with Spooky/Fall decors
- Visit your local park
- Attend a horror attracted theme park
- Go to a fall Festival or a Fair
- Roam around the local outdoor and/or indoor mall
- Attend museums
- Buy tickets for a sports game
- Visit your local amusement park
- Play video games
- Gameboard Night
- Dinner Date
- Santa Anita Night Market
- Go hiking
- Whittier Narrows Carnival
- Costco sample date
- Picnic Date
- Pumpkin Carving
- Horror Film movie night
- Decorating desserts
- Baking desserts
- Photography Date
- Head to your local coffee shop
- Practice black magic together
- Haunt the aisles of IKEA
- Snuggle near a warm fire
- Try out a local restaurant neither of you have attended
- Set up a tent in your room or backyard
- Farmers Market Friday (located in Uptown Whittier)
- Summon demons
- Have a bat-infested picnic

Scary Movies to watch during spooky season

By KASSANDRA SALDANA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Staying home this halloween or just in the mood for a good movie, these horror movies are sure to keep you on the edge of your seat and give you a good scare. The best part is, they can all be found on Netflix.

ters, the two are determined to find out what really happened.

1. **Demonic**
A psychologist and a detective try to find out who killed the three people who were found dead in an abandoned home. With John as the prime suspect, who is played by Dustin Milligan, they interrogate him only to find out that him and his friends failed to communicate with the other side. Using the found footage of the victims encounter-

2. **The Invitation**
A divorced man decides to attend a dinner party at his old home hosted by his ex-wife and her new husband. He begins to suspect that the host and her husband have planned a much more sinister plan for their guests.
3. **Train to Busan**
As a zombie apocalypse breaks out in South Korea, a dad, Gong Yoo, and his daughter, Su-an Kim, are trapped in a train and must fight off the zombies cart by cart. Their goal is to survive the train ride from Seoul to Busan.

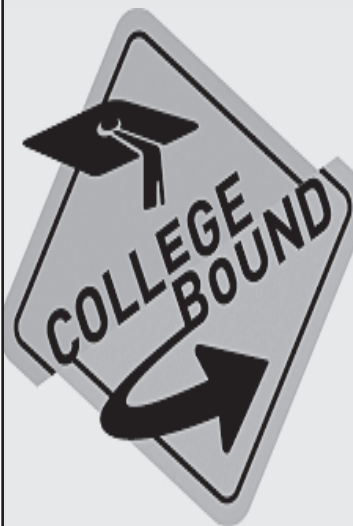
4. **We Are Still Here**
After a couple lose their son in a car crash, Paul, played by Andrew Sensenig, and Anne, played by Barbara Crampton, move to the countryside to get a chance to have a fresh start in their lives. However, the couple eventually find themselves to be haunted by sinister spirits.



Find all of the ghosts in this issue to win a prize!

CAMPUS

El Rancho Hosts 3rd Annual Senior College Day



By KATHERINE HERRERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's third annual college day guided many seniors towards the doors of universities. While seniors attended college workshops, underclassman took the PSAT. Representatives from community, alumni, private, UC, and California State colleges offered a various amount of help to all seniors.

"During this day, the campus is flooded with experts from all areas - including financial aid, admissions, and enrollment representatives - something that is a rare sight on a high school campus," says Leader Program advisor, Michelle Sandoval

Seniors broke off into three different sections determined by their last names. Within the three sections, one group of seniors was required to attend a college application session, while the other two groups could attend sessions of their choice. The groups rotated throughout the day.

Depending on the various stations, seniors either completed or began the application process to University of California colleges, California State Colleges, Community Colleges, Private Colleges, Scholarships, and the FAFSA. "I was able to complete my financial aid application, and I got a lot of college information," says senior, Michelle Galvan.

"College Day was a good experience that informed seniors of different options that they could pursue after college. It also gave seniors the opportunity to get ahead on college applications," says senior, Leanne Paya.

The New Wave: Café Français



Aleksey Soto and Sebastian Carcano having a fabulous time at the café.

By LESLIE PLAZA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The AP French class is bringing Paris to El Rancho by organizing the Café Français, an event in which AP French students introduce French culture to other students.

Café Français offers French pastries such as baguettes, croissants, madeleines, and elephant ears served with hot fresh coffee for no charge! Also, students

are introduced to French music, all while enjoying the calming sound of French-speaking.

Since Café Français isn't an official club, all food, decorations, and utilities are purchased by the AP students. However, many other students give donations to the AP French seniors to purchase more food and goods. Café Français also offers tutoring and French lessons for those in French or just curious to learn more about the language.

"I think Café Français is a very chic idea that us AP student came up with," says AP French student Michelle Galvan. "It's not only fun for us but for the students who want to learn French culture and eat French food."

"It's great seeing the students getting so into the club," Mrs. Moghimi, French teacher and supervisor, says. "It leaves me with such satisfaction to see my students making a difference for others in need."

All students, both from and outside the other French classes, are encouraged to feel the experience themselves. "Students I don't even know stop me in the halls asking when the next Café will be," Mrs. Moghimi says. Café Français is during lunch every other Thursday, the next one taking place on November 2 in room O-8. Café Français is an experience open to everyone, so feel free to stop by and grab free coffee and French treats!

Drama spooks El Rancho with style



By ADILENE SERVIN
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The little theatre wowed Dons with its bone chilling Haunted Maze. People who dared enter were covered with goosebumps as were frightened by demons and ghouls. The whole theatre was covered in darkness with no escaping until the end.

Drama teacher Mr. Stanley Wlasick guided the guests

inside the room where there was a hanging girl as soon as people walked in. There was terror at every corner; sinister clowns and little girls covered in blood followed the guests' every move.

The characters stood in different locations and popped out at the guests' surprise. Televisions with white noise were placed in the theatre to represent the kind people would see in horror films.

As people were lead in

deeper, horrific screams were heard throughout the maze as well as the sound of loud bangs and actual guests screaming. The lights in the room flashed on and off, creating a terrifying scenario as characters and props sprung out from the darkness.

This hair-raising maze was filled with spooky surprises and wonders that definitely left people scared for a long period of time.

Word on the Street: What do you think about IOS 11?



"I don't like that it wastes my battery now, but I like that it screen records. It's easier to record chisme than to screenshot it."

-Lauren Alcalá, 12



"I love how the front display looks when you swipe up and how you can customize it on your settings."

-Jocelyn Recendez, 9



"I like to play eight ball and knock off uno with my friends."

-Kevin Ortega, 12



"I don't even have the new update but the screen recording thing makes me want to download it."

-Samantha Rodríguez, 12

SPORTS

Dons cling to playoff hopes

By SOFIA DOMINGUEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Despite a record of 3-6 and a Del Rio League record of 1-3, the Dons are still hopeful that they will win their final game and make it to playoffs. The boys in blue started off their season strong with the homecoming game win against Pioneer. Although they took losses from Santa Fe, Cal High, and La Serna, that isn't going to stop them from trying to achieve their goal.

"Most of our losses have been close games," Junior Brandon Carmona said, "We need to finish our games strong." Thanks to Coach Medrano the boys are optimistic, "we have good



Varsity football's reaction after scoring a touchdown. Photo by Sofía Flores

coaches backing us up and we're doing a lot stronger this season," Carmona said.

While the Dons are get-

ting stronger, so are their opponents. "The loss that hurt the most was against Santa Fe," Carmona said,

"We lost by three points last year and lost again by three. What made it worse is that it was in our own house."

Senior Jacob Palacio said, "Our coaches have told us constantly that we will make it to CIF, so I think that helps us have a certain mindset and goal." Even though their record doesn't show how hard they have been working, they are more determined than ever to win their last league game. "We just really want to win," Palacio said.

With a chance of turning things around, The Dons will be playing their final league game Friday night November 2nd against Whittier at 7 PM. Make sure to come out to support and cheer on our Dons!

Girls tennis makes it to league finals



Varsity tennis smile through the vigorous season. Photo by Gabriela Nava

By JENNIFER BECERRA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Celebrations are in order for the El Rancho Girls' Tennis team after making it to league finals.

The varsity tennis team placed third in league, with an overall record of 14-5 and 6-4 in Del Rio League action, and made it to prelims for league finals even with their main rival, La Serna, close on their heels.

After the win in prelims, and making it to playoffs, the girls hope to continue improving in many areas, including their communication skills.

"We came up short and could've done better, but we made it to playoffs," says Galindo.

Throughout the season the team had many issues with substitutes for injured players and a lack of communication. Eleventh grade varsity players, Abigail Rincon and Melissa Mayorga, both agreed, "Communication was our biggest weakness."

"I lacked confidence in myself, but my team helped with their sup-

port, motivation, and determination," says Rincon.

Although communication was missing during games, it wasn't missing off of the courts.

The girls have created an unbreakable bond that was seen throughout the season. "I tend to lose my patience but, my team's optimism really helped me out," says Mayorga.

"My team is like my second family, we have a strong bond that really helped us win some matches," says Rincon.

With hopes to continue in CIF, the girls will be playing their wild card home game against San Dimas on October 31st at noon.

Girls volleyball season comes to a disappointing end

By LINDA MARQUEZ AND
KASSANDRA SALDANA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

This year's girls varsity volleyball team has persistently played all their games giving their all to be able to go to playoffs; unfortunately, the girls didn't qualify.

The Lady Dons had ten games in their season. They won one game out of ten, which was over Whittier. Senior co-captain Emily Reyes said, "Our pre season record definitely shows how good we are." During preseason, the Lady Dons won against Norwalk, Montebello, and Paramount. The only ones they lost to were Warren and Schurr. In the Whittier Tournament, they got first in their bracket so they took first place, in result of moving them to the golden division.

They have had issues with attitude in the past and still face this problem. Attitude plays a huge role in a team. "It's just getting along in the court is like probably the hardest part. Not that we don't like each other. It's just that we all have big personalities," Reyes said. But the



Co-captains, Emily and Jenna celebrate their victory. Photo by Cassandra Saldana and Linda Marquez

team tries their best to fix this issue with communicating with each other. They have talks together which feels like "long confession hours," as Reyes said.

Co-captains Emily and Jenna and captain Carmen would agree that this season wasn't their best. Last year, the Girls Varsity Volleyball team ended the season with a 5-6 record, which has been one of their best standings. "It was a little bit better last year. They didn't lose like a certain amount for a long period of time. They actually did get a win here and there."

The seniors captains have been doing their best to lead the team. Reyes said, "I think just

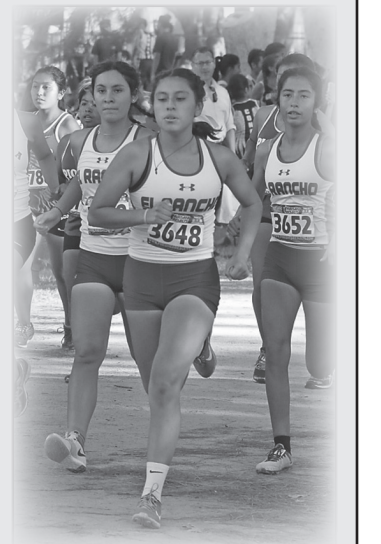
being vocal on the court. Like even your body language helps. If you're frustrated, everyone can tell. So pretty much everyone looks up to you. So just being present in everyone's friendship, it helps." Senior co-captain Carmen Maciel said, "And helping each other out. If someone's down make sure to motivate them and put their energy up."

Despite of the problems the team faced, they have many strengths. The team is composed of mostly seniors, so they've had experience. "Because we're a senior heavy team, I feel like we're really experienced. Because half of our seniors have been on varsity for three years.

So we know how to play in different situations," Reyes said. Also, because this season was the last one for the seniors, they wanted to make it count. Like captain Maciel said, "Our mentality is there. We're all seniors. Everything is our last. We want to make sure it's the best because it's the last time ever playing."

The team have lots of potential. This season did not determine their dexterous volleyball skills. This experience will definitely be something to consider in future seasons, to learn from. As co-captain Reyes said, "I don't think our season defines how good of players we are."

Cross Country team almost at the finish line



Cross Country team runs through the league race. Photo by Karizma Reyes

By KARIZMA REYES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho Cross Country team is close to crossing the finish line for this season.

Unfortunately, the first league race at Legg Lake didn't go as well as planned with the boy's varsity coming in fourth place and girl's varsity coming in fifth place. Varsity runner Miguel Romero says the boy's varsity team as a whole could have performed better if they "stayed together and pushed ourselves [the varsity team] harder." The boy's junior varsity team pushed through and made it in third place while girl's junior varsity came in fourth.

The team was once again invited up north to Fresno, California to take part in the annual Asics Clovis Invitational which is one of the largest meets in California. Only a certain amount of runners from the El Rancho Cross Country team were chosen to run this challenging course. Rocio Estrada, sophomore, says, "[the course] helped me realize that you always have to push yourself to complete whatever goal you have set."

The team's second league race at La Miranda Regional Park, boy's varsity once again took fourth and girl's varsity took fifth place. The boy's junior varsity also came in fourth with girl's junior varsity in fifth. With two out of the three league races finished, Coach Paniagua says, "it's been a rough year so hopefully we can end the season on a positive note."

They also took part in the Bell Gardens Invitational in Cerritos and Riverside Invitational in Riverside which helped ready themselves for their last league race for this season.

With only one more league race, the team has a lot of pressure to end the season off on a good note. Senior varsity runner, Jazmin Morales, says, "I feel very nervous about it because it is my last race but I am also excited because I get to spend it with the best varsity girls team."

ENTERTAINMENT

Stranger Things 2: 'To binge or not to binge'



When there's something strange in the neighborhood. Who you gonna call?

By KAYLA PEREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

It's 2017, but this weekend we all went back to 1984. On October 27, Netflix's hit TV-show *Stranger Things*, created by the Duffer Brothers, brought back beloved 80's nostalgia and references in the release of its second season.

In its 2016 debut, *Stranger Things* became a worldwide phenomenon, captivating viewers

globally with an extra-terrestrial reminiscence of friendship, family, and young love. Now, in its second season comeback, we can't help but wonder if the new season will be as good as the first.

The new season starts off strong with "Chapter One: MAD-MAX," which introduces a line of new characters. First is Maxine Hargrove, the new tomboy at Hawkins Middle School that embodies the name "Mad Max," through her impressive Dig Dug

arcade skills. Second, is her older Billy Hargrove, an edgy and violent teenager who serves as the new season's primary antagonist. Lastly, is Bob Newby who brings a light-hearted feel to the show as Joyce Byers' new love interest.

The first episode not only established a robust set of new characters but expanded the story line for the returning ones as well.

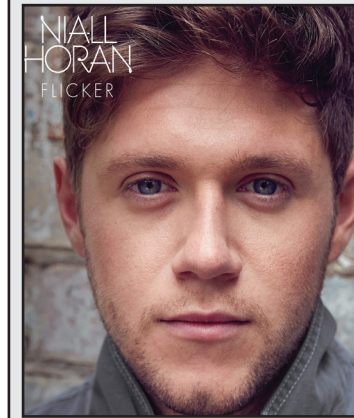
Hawkins Middle School AV Club which consists of the series four main characters, Mike

Wheeler, Will Byers, Dustin Henderson, and Lucas Sinclair find themselves still stuck in their dystopian suburbia. However, after Will's return from the Upside down and Eleven's disappearance, nothing is the way it used to be, and the shadow dimension of the Upside down still lurks upon Hawkins.

The rest of the season fulfills fan expectations by propelling season one's cliffhangers and elaborating side notes. Perhaps the most passionate retrospect the Duffer Brothers took into account for the viewers is "Should season 2 provide #Justice 4 Barb?" This fan-built campaign became a pop culture trend for character Barbara Holland, whom viewers felt deserved a better story line instead of her unfortunate circumstance. Without spoiling the result, it is honest to say the Duffer Brothers handled this cliffhanger beautifully and fan expectations were fulfilled.

After a year of waiting to binge-watch the return of our favorite characters in Hawkins, Indiana and our fan theorized questions answered, *Stranger Things 2* does not disappoint.

Fans wish *Flicker* would've come quicker



By DEVENIE ANCHONDO AND BRIDGET MARTINEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

One Direction's former member Niall Horan has decided to go in another direction with his first solo album, *Flicker*. This thirteen track love-themed album was released on October 20th.

After two years apart from his former hit band, Horan released two singles that both were included in *Billboard Hot 100*. Song such as 'This Town and *Slow Hands*. *Slow Hands* were released on May 4th and was featured on the top 20 in the United States.

The day of *Slow Hands* release, Horan had an interview with *Entertainment Weekly* in which he says the album was inspired by "classic rock acts including Fleetwood Mac and The Eagles."

Previously, Niall Horan was a member of the pop band One Direction. The band was together since 2010 but split up in 2016. Since then, each member has worked on solo albums, including Horan.

Horan has decided to go with a different sound than his other former band mates. While One Direction's music is pop, Horan's music is slow tempo and focused on love. Horan describes *Flicker* as having a "folk-with-pop feel to it."

Some of our favorite songs off *Flicker* are: *This Town* is a song about two previous unfinished lovers that leave one lover hoping for something more.

Slow Hands, is a very catchy song about the first encounter with someone and wanting to have sexual encounters.

Mirrors is a song about a girl who "hides behind the face nobody knows" and looks into a mirror thinking about how she needs love. Although a boy tells her she is beautiful, she slightly accepts the compliment by "slowly [breaking] a smile."

Flicker is an emotional song about love. *Flicker* represents a sense of light that resembles love that is fading, but the lover continues to hold on.

With this being Niall Horan's first solo album, the outcome was successful and the responses from listeners have been supportive

Riverdale is back with more mystery

By LINDA MARQUEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Riverdale is an American television series based on Archie comics, that was turned into a more modern show with real life characters. The *Archie* Comics are known for its many series featuring the fictional teenagers Archie Andrews, Betty Cooper, Veronica Lodge, Reggie Mantle and Jughead Jones.

The series is originally networked by CBS and Warner Bros. Television (The CW). It is narrated by Cole Sprouse, who also plays the role of Jughead Jones, and produced by J.B Moranville. It is also available on Netflix, but that is after the season has aired on television.

In season one of *Riverdale*, a group of high school students try to unravel the mysterious secrets of the town, Riverdale, in order to find who was respon-

sible for Jason Blossom's death.

Some of the characters that play a huge role in this show are Archie Andrews, Betty Cooper, Veronica Lodge, Jughead Jones, Cheryl Blossom, FP Jones, Hiram Lodge, Hermione Lodge, Fred Andrews, Alice Cooper, Polly Cooper, and Cliff Blossom.

Season 2 of *Riverdale*, premiered on October 11, following the sporadic shooting of Archie's father, Fred, that occurs at the end of season one. This left fans in shock and kept them wondering who the person with the gun was, but also what will become of Riverdale now.

Fans have waited almost nine months to theorize what will become of Riverdale now that the dirty secrets of the Blossom family have been spilled. What more secrets could they be hiding?

Throughout the whole season, Hiram Lodge was locked up in jail. In season two, Hiram



Season 2 will leave fans on edge like never before.

makes an appearance, making fans ponder if he was the one responsible for shooting Fred.

With the return of Hiram Lodge, conflicts may be insti-

gated, bringing more drama and mystery to the table. Who knows what this will cause to the strange town of Riverdale.

Library Corner

The words in the black and white picture all refer to one author. What is the author's name?



The first 3 students who bring the correct answer to the ER Library will receive a prize.

