



El Rodeo



El Rancho High School @elrodeonews
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Future Dons “picture themselves” at the Ranch



BY DEVENIE ANCHONDO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho Unified middle school students took a step closer to becoming Future Dons as they visited El Rancho over a three week period.

The fourth annual “Picture Yourself at the Ranch” began when North Park’s eighth-grade students visited the campus on October 25th, followed by Rivera Middle School’s eighth-grade students on November 1st, and the STEAM Academy’s on November 8th.

After the students were greeted and welcomed by Principal Mr. Vazquez and the counselors, they were split into small groups with a Link Leader who guided them around the school.

The eighth graders also visited some classes to see what it was like being a high school student. At the end of the day, the students attended informational workshops about the educational programs offered at El Rancho.

Senior Link Leader Anthony Alvarez says, “I think that Picture Yourself at the Ranch is a great thing because the eighth grade students get to learn about the programs El Rancho has to offer them.”

“The incoming freshmen get the opportunity to interact with current high school students like myself and get a tour around the campus. This opportunity benefits them because now they have an idea of how life will be once they enter high school,” continues Alvarez.

“I think Picture Yourself at the Ranch is really fun to do. It’s cool to see all the 8th graders who are going to be freshmen next year and be able to show them around and the different programs the school offers,” says senior Link Leader Kimberly Medina.

“I think the program is actually really beneficial to the 8th graders because some of the students don’t have older siblings who can walk them through the process of high school,” continues Medina. “Being able to show them around and answer some of their questions before coming in can help them once they do become freshmen.”

“It’s also beneficial because we get to show them some of the different clubs, sports, and classes they can take while here that might spark their interest or motivate them to stay involved” says Medina.

Dons give during annual canned food drive



Senior ASB members Serena Perez and Karissa Furlough “can” give back! Photo by Gabriela Nava

BY ALEKSEY SOTO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Throughout the month of November, Dons have participated and competed in El Rancho’s annual canned food drive which will benefit fami-

lies in need all over Pico Rivera. The drive began on October 30th and will end this Wednesday, November 22nd.

“We do the canned food drive to give back to the community,” says senior Chief Justice Karissa Furlough, who is heading

the competition. “We collect cans to give to those who aren’t able to have a meal for the holidays.”

Many classes have donated cans in hopes of winning the coveted pizza party prize, and the front of the ASB room is loaded with boxes filled to the brim. ASB

is in charge of counting the cans and organizing them for distribution, and students are assigned to each building to collect the cans and calculate their weight.

The rules were changed this year to ensure a more fair competition. In the past, the period that donated the most cans won the competition.

“This year, the teacher with the most kinds of cans wins a pizza party and gets to pick which period will receive the pizza party,” Furlough says.

Some teachers, such as Mrs. Qureshi, Mrs. Welch, Mrs. Carreon, and Mr. Retana have even offered extra credit to their students to win the pizza party and the teacher plaque.

The Thanksgiving season is a time to give back, and the main goal for the canned food drive is to allow Dons to help the less fortunate. “[The drive] gives students the opportunity to give back to the community and it allows students to learn to help others,” Furlough added.

The drive is ending soon, so make a difference in your community and donate to your class!

Culinary Arts prepares to aid communities



ROP Culinary Arts class and alumni gather together to support and donate to families in need.

BY KATHERINE HERRERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This Thanksgiving, the Tri-Cities ROP Culinary Arts class and alumni will be giving back to the neighboring communities and rural areas affected by natural disasters. These places will include Puerto Rico, Mexico, and Northern California.

To begin the day, the Culinary Arts Alumni and students of the Culinary Arts Club will be preparing “goodie” and safety bags including non-perishable food snacks, desserts, bottled water and clothes for the underprivileged in the community and neighboring communities.

While preparing the bags for them, the Culinary Arts club will also be creating travel packs supplied with the necessities that Puerto Rico, Mexico, and Northern California families will need to survive this holiday.

For the families in Puerto Rico and Mexico, the club will be donating necessary hurricane and earthquake travel packs including non-perishable food snacks, bottled water, and clothes to individual addresses of related family members and friends, in hopes for the families to be supplied with the standard necessities for these upcoming holidays.

As for the individuals and families of Northern California af-

ected by the natural wildfires, the club will be donating travel packs including clothes, non-perishable food snacks and bottled water to individual addresses of related family members and friends.

After the preparations of the ‘goodie’ bags and travel packs, the Culinary Arts Alumni will be giving out the bags to the needy in our community, the neighboring communities and the families of Northern California affected by the wildfires.

Although for the individuals and families of Puerto Rico and Mexico, the process and transportation will cause a delay on the arrival time, the club assures the packages will

get to the needy individuals and families as soon as possible.

The majority of these donations will be passed out in Downtown Los Angeles to transients, handicap pedestrians, elderly people, and the children affected by the deportation of their parents.

If you are contributing to help these individuals and families in need, here are some possible donations: plastic utensils, paper plates, napkins, feminine supplies, non-perished food snacks, bottled water, and clean non-used clothes for all ages.

Donations will be accepted until the end of Wednesday the 23rd in room Q-4.

FEATURES

Eddie Edwards is *Simply Irresistible!*



Eddie gazes into his new life ahead as an independent skater who don't need no woman.

By KARIZMA REYES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

He's a surfer, skater, and all-around sweetheart. Junior Eddie Edwards is not only *that* skater boi, he is also *simply irresistible!*

With his blonde hair, blue eyes, and princely looks, Eddie Ernest Edwards will have you falling head over heels for him. Stealing hearts is only one of his many talents!

When he isn't at school being the scholarly Don that he is, he's probably skating around town with his friends. Eddie may not look like your stereotypical edgy skater boy, but he does have a few skate tricks up his sleeve! Skating has been one of his many hobbies for a long

time. "I've been skating for like five years now," Edwards said.

The skateboard isn't the only board he's familiar with! If he isn't skating or at school being a model student, you can find Eddie at the beach catching some waves. However, he hasn't been surfing for as long as he's been skating.

"I learned how to skate first," Eddie said. "I've only been surfing for about three years now."

Eddie definitely has an adventurous side to him. He loves trying new things, like exploring Los Angeles and many of the neighboring cities. Apart from surfing and skating, Edwards also enjoys riding dirt bikes! What can't he do?

Athleticism and adventures

aside, Eddie Edwards is quite creative! From photography to drawing to even original *YouTube* content, Eddie does it all! His *Instagram* photography account (@smheddie.photography) is filled with some of his best works! His account features sunsets, doggos, and a whole lot of nature. Smash that follow button if you want some aesthetically pleasing pictures on your feed!

As for his art, Edwards describes himself as a casual artist. "I like to draw for fun," the budding artist said. Casual or not, there's no denying he has talent!

Eddie also has a *YouTube* (Eddie Jr Edwards) channel where he uploads vlogs and time-lapses of his art. He doesn't have a set schedule for his vid-

eos, but subscribing would help this local YouTuber out a whole bunch! If you enjoy his videos, make sure to like and subscribe!

Not only is Eddie Ernest Edwards a talented skater and surfer, a very creative guy, and a total sweetheart, he's also got an eye for style. His sense of style is a cross between surfer and skater. We all love a well-dressed king! When asked about his favorite clothing brand, Edwards responded with, "Vans for sure." Want to see more of this fashionable king's fits? His personal *Instagram* (@smheddie) is chock full of not-so-subtle Vans promotions. Someone sign him already!

Eddie is single as a pringle, but he may not be so ready to mingle! His charm does bring the ladies to him, but he isn't ready to cuff someone special at the moment. However, Eddie is always open to talking to new people! His sweet personality makes it very easy to talk to him. He has a soft side for his friends, so you can always shoot your shot with friendship.

Unfortunately, this heartthrob will not be staying at El Rancho any longer. Eddie is moving from the Ranch and doing independent studies, but if you want to be friends with this very sweet guy, don't be afraid to hit him up. You won't regret it!

That's what a job's all about!



BRIDGET MARTINEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

It is a dream of many to work at a place where they enjoy what they do, and the workplace having a good reputation. Luckily this hard-working Don achieved it at the age of seventeen. Senior, Leslie Quezada, is lucky enough to be working at the top of the fast-food chain: In-N-Out.

Despite the excellent reputation that In-N-Out has, Quezada did not intend on working there. "I didn't have the goal of getting hired there; I was just looking for a job and got lucky with the interview."

"The interview wasn't too hard because it was a group interview, but you felt pressured with your answers because others who were being interviewed were observing and listening as well," says Quezada.

Although working at In-N-Out was not Leslie Quezada's goal, she does enjoy the job. "I

like that I get to interact with different kinds of people. I like that the job is fast-paced and we always have something to do."

Working at the top of the fast-food chain must be hard considering it can be tempting to eat there on your work breaks, but Quezada admits she eats there often. "Say if I have five shifts in a week I'll probably eat there two to three times," said Quezada.

However, In-N-Out is a place that is continuously crowded and requires a fast pace. Maintaining school and a job can get very overwhelming.

Leslie Quezada is in CSF, Be a Leader and Math Club. She is also taking two AP classes and two Rio Hondo courses but still works at In-N-Out. "It's very tiring and extremely rare when I go out," Quezada says.

For someone who can handle including herself in academics, is college bound, and having a job; there is prosperity and success in Leslie Quezada's future.

Check-YOUR-Mates at El Rancho's Chess Club



By, JAZLYN VELASQUEZ
EL RODEO NEWS STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's chess club, moderated by Mr. Rudy Saucedo a U.S. Government teacher, allows students to learn the basics of chess.

What is chess? Chess is a game that requires concentration, dedication, and time.

According to professional chess player Garry Kasparov both patience and focus are important. They might be very useful in different situations as well.

The chess club gives students a way to meet new people with the same interests. Even if it may sound boring, the chess club helps put the members minds to work, giving students a challenge, and helping them gain new skills. Some of the members in chess club had no idea what they were doing when they first joined but they caught on.

"The chess club has benefited me a lot because Mr. Saucedo has always been a mentor for me, he has guided me and taught me not just about chess, but how to be successful in life. Everyone treats each other like family and his room has always been a place where people can go for assis-

tance, to play chess or just someone to go if you want some AC," senior Frankie Jimenez said.

Chess has more of a meaning to it than people may understand. Chess is also called "The Game of War" due to all the tactics and thinking that goes on, working just to destroy the other side.

Saucedo has been playing chess since he was 12 years old but he was never very serious about it. He started the club in 1991 at Paramount, took it to Glenn, then in 1999, he brought it here to El Rancho.

"I continued the chess club here at El Rancho because I was a new teacher and I had to do something to get myself out there," Saucedo said. "This chess club needs all the new people we can get because, every year we lose players due to them being seniors."

"My goal for this chess club is to win the Del Rio League chess championships," Saucedo said. "We have already won once, we can do it again."

The chess club members show their skills on the chessboard every Monday, Tuesday, and Friday in room B106 during lunch, and as a bonus, every Tuesday is pizza day.

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

Teacher Feature: Getting to know Mr. O!



Mr. Orihuela reflects upon his time at El Rancho.

BY LINDA MARQUEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

"I hate you Mr. O!" This is what Mr. Orihuela makes his students say when they are reading a chapter or doing problems on the board in Orihuela's class. But is this true? Do the students feel this way about him?

Mr. Orihuela has become the walking meme of the school via Twitter. This is not due to the fact that the students "hate" him. On the contrary, the students love him!

Mr. Orihuela has been teaching chemistry at El Rancho for 18 years now, "It's been good. I have no complaints; it's a pretty cool place to work at." Not only does he love making

his students find the electron configuration of atoms, but he also enjoys making them laugh.

Since 2007, Mr. Orihuela has ridden his bike to school every day. His students have been wondering: Why does he ride his bike to school? Why not just drive a car to work like everybody else?

"I've always ridden bikes when I was a younger man," says Mr. Orihuela. "I had a lot of bikes." Mr. Orihuela is no stranger when it comes to sports. "When I was in college, I did swimming, running, and soccer."

He believes that even the little things can make an impact in the world and to make it a better place. "I'm trying to do my part for the earth," Orihuela says.

He doesn't just ride his

bike to school though. He has gone bike riding with teachers Mr. Sorenson and Mr. Francis,

"I have gone bike riding for some time with Mr. Francis and Mr. Sorenson. It's been a while; I haven't gone with them [lately]."

Mr. Orihuela isn't just environmentally friendly, but he is friendly in general. His students have developed some kind of bond with him. He always wishes the best for his students, "I don't feel bad when the kids get mad at me. I want the best for all my students. Not only my students but everyone who comes to this school. We're sort of from the same place. And if they're successful, I'm successful."

"I see a lot of myself in them. It's difficult to try and get

to every single one of them. Not necessarily having to do with the content, but to make them believe in themselves." He is willing to help his students out to make them strive for success.

Some may say chemistry is a tough subject, and the class itself may be hard, but Mr. Orihuela does his best to motivate his students. "I try to make them feel that it's okay not to know the answer, he says. "It's okay to be wrong, and to use that to become better."

The drawings of Mr. Orihuela around his classroom are from former students. "[Former students] leave me pictures of what they think I look like, and they leave me notes and little things that remind me of them. I think they're trying to keep me going like saying, 'don't go' or 'keep working here.'"

For example, the gallon of distilled water that says "The tears of Mr. O's past students," was left by a former student of his. "I'm assuming kids over time leave me little things that I don't notice until another student finds it," says Mr. Orihuela. "That whole written statement on the bottle, I didn't even know it was on it until some student pointed it out."

Once you bypass Mr. Orihuela's insanity, you will know the reason why his students love him. He teaches them always to keep trying. But it's his humor that the students also admire about him.

Mr. O's words "C'mon dawg," push his students toward success. And like he says, "We're only here for a while," so might as well make it worthwhile.

The class you should AUTOMATICALLY take

BY BIANCA ARIAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Have you ever wanted to take a Rio Hondo Course? Are you interested in earning college credit? Do you like cars? Look no further! Intro to Automotive Service and Repair: Undercar Service is the perfect class for you!

Intro to Automotive Service and Repair: Undercar Service is a class offered here at El Rancho High School through Rio Hondo College. Students are able to earn high school as well as college credit.

Mr. Adam Gold is an automotive and technology instructor at Rio Hondo College. He has been teaching Automotive Service and Repair: Undercar Service for a year and a half. This is going to be his third semester teaching at El Rancho High School.

"This class is about the fundamentals. How an engine works. How a car works. What makes a car do what a car does. The basic maintenance and how to get a job in the automotive industry."

Gold said "I love helping people. I love watching people find another path in life. I want to see young people have opportunities and be successful."

One of the things Mr. Gold loves is the tremendous support that the El Rancho Unified School district has given students toward working with Rio Hondo College. He enjoys getting students involved in the automotive industry and encourages them to get a career out of it.

Gold recommends this class to anybody who has ever had a passion for cars. "This class can either help people save money or help people make money."

Junior Joel Cruz said "Automotive class is really cool because you learn new stuff, even though you don't know anything about cars and stuff like that." You learn skills about what to do and what not to do. Mr. Gold is actually pretty cool and answers any questions you have in a kindly manner."

"I took this class because I wanted to learn more about cars and how to fix them. I also wanted to make money off it," added senior Joshua Luna.

When asked about his experience, junior Marco Cabral said "At first it was kind of scary because I didn't know what to expect. I thought it was gonna be mostly hands on, but as the weeks have gone by, I've been learning more and more."

Junior Jorge Diaz said "Automotive and technology is lit. We get to work with engines. It's cool having Mr. Gold as one of my teachers."

Mr. Gold's overall objective is to help "students decide whether they want to pursue a path in automotive technology. But also hoping that they do engineering and go into some kind of path with a hands-on skill that applies to many types of technical fields."

Teenage Dream: El Rancho's "Power Couple"

BY ALYNNA RODRIGUEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

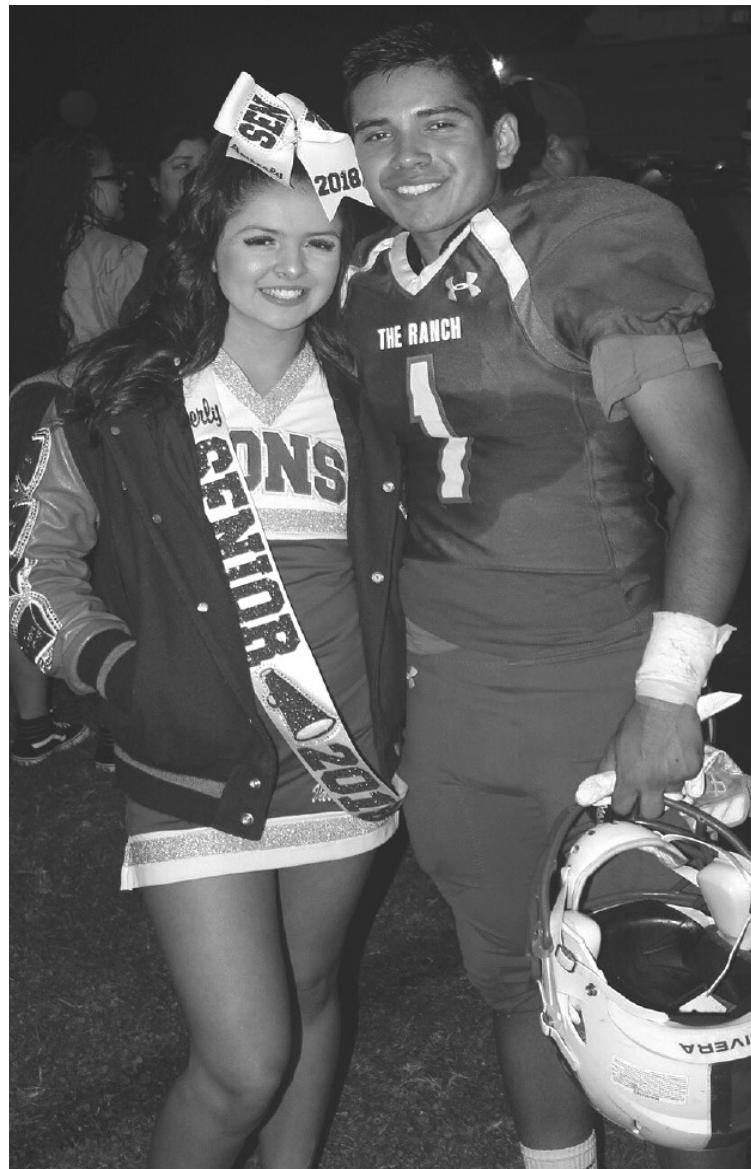
From freshman year to senior year, these two have been together (unofficially) through it all. El Rancho's Varsity Football Player, Nick Powers, has been dating the school's Varsity Yell Captain, Amberly Recendez, making them one of the greatest "POWER Couple" in school.

Crushing on each other since the day they met, the two became really good friends who always had a thing for each other. That led them to making it official their last year in high school. Three months into the relationship, they are closer than ever. Showing one another off publicly, and on social media, making it very known they are both taken. "When he asked me to be his girlfriend I was so happy and excited. I just remember thinking 'finally,'" says Amberly. When asked about the moment Nick wanted to make it official, he says, "I was a bit nervous but really excited and looking forward to our future together."

With the holidays just right around the corner, the two plan on spending time with both sides of the families. Shortly before Halloween, they went to a pumpkin patch together and chose the perfect pumpkins to carve with Amberly's family. Still celebrating Halloween, the couple went to Disneyland and Halloween Horror

Nights together for the first time. "My favorite date so far has been going to Horror Nights because it is something completely out of my comfort zone and I'm glad I was able to experience it with him, especially for my first time being there," adds Amberly. This power couple seems to constantly be going on fun dates together, along with just staying in and watching football games together, or even helping each other with homework in the evenings. Their relationship is just starting to take off and everyone around them seems to be enjoying it as much as they are.

Giving their opinion, both Amberly and Nick say in order to make a relationship last, the couple must trust one another. They have to be fully committed to each other. They say it also depends on the connection the two have. It is always better to be friends first and gain the experience together to see if it makes them stronger and inseparable, as a couple should be. When in an argument or disagreement, the two say it is best to give each other time to cool off and talk out their problems like mature adults instead of yelling at one another while in the heat of the moment. Being able to resolve any issues thrown in their way and spending quality time together seems to make Amberly and Nick a very happy and sensible couple to take advice from.



Nick Powers and Amberly Recendez after their last football game of senior year.

A TIME TO

What's your favorite Thanksgiving food?

"The stuffing because it's so tasty and the bits of carrots too."
Jose Martinez, 11



"My mom's mashed potatoes because they are better than any other ones I've ever tasted."
Brianne Lozano, 12



"Stuffing because it has a good taste."
Priscilla Morales, 10



"My favorite Thanksgiving food is ham and mashed potatoes."
Alexis Gamez, 10



The Best Pumpkin Pie!

You'll Need:

- 1 disk dough for crust
- All-purpose flour, for dusting
- 1 15-ounce can pure pumpkin
- 1 cup evaporated milk
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg

Directions:

Heat oven to 425°F. In large bowl, mix filling ingredients and pour into pie crust. Bake 15 minutes.
 Reduce oven temperature to 350°F; bake 40 to 50 minutes longer or until knife inserted near center comes out clean. Cool for 2 hours. Serve or refrigerate until serving time.

How to get a boo this Thanksgiving!

BY SOFIA DOMINGUEZ
 AND JENNIFER BECERRA
 EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

Not looking forward to being lonely this cuffing season? Don't know how to approach your crush? We've got you covered! Follow these simple tips and smooth pick up lines and you're sure to be cuddled up with someone this fall.

Tips:

- Have good style! Everyone loves someone who knows how to dress.
- You must smell good, no one wants to be around a talking onion. Be honest with them and tell them your intentions!
- Learn each other's interests and get to know each other and find common ground.

Pickup Lines:

- Are you the third season of the year? Because I'm falling for you
- The only thing tastier than pumpkin pie is you
- You must be a keyboard because you're just my type
- Are you religious? Because you're the answer to all my prayers
- Did you invent the airplane? Cause you're Wright for me
- Do you like Nintendo? Because Wii look good together
- If you were words on a page, you would be what they call fine print
- I might not be Sriracha sauce but I sure will spice up your life

Thanksg

D Y S M X Y K G H U G E S
 C E L E B R A T E G B I E
 E U R I V M V R U A B P L
 V X U L M I J N Q M Y N B
 B S N O S A E S O J N I B
 Q J M Z U K F Z V V I K O
 Z P Q J I V G Q I L E P G
 S E O T A T O P H S A M X
 P A R A D E Y N T F P U B
 H F K H P I D V U Q W P A
 I D T Q E J X Y C H R N C
 T E C U R A U F E V O L A
 J Y B C C Y Q U T E U D X
 Z J O U X M V I O E C Y R
 S F D I J E S O B D E I Q
 V G M V O W R S U U J J R

Blessings	Celebrate	Family
Love	Mash-potatoes	November
Squash	Stuffing	Thanks

Black Friday tips and Use these tips to shop smarter, not harder!

What are you Thankful for?



I'm thankful that I'm #1 in the Del Rio League with 1,940 yds.

Jacob Rodriguez, 12



I'm thankful for my friends, vans, and water polo.

Jose Mancilla, 12



I'm thankful for my family and basketball, and only that.

Arturo Angeles, 12



I'm thankful that McDonald's has chicken strips now.

Jazmine Muñoz, 11

TEACHERS: MOST LIKELY TO

BY LESLIE PLAZA
 EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

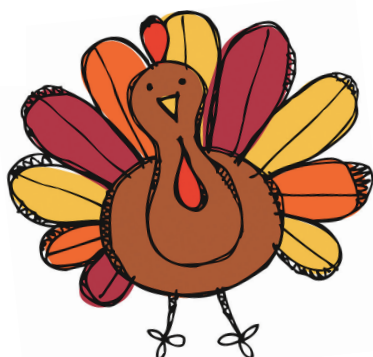
- Steal crafty ideas from pinterest: Ms. Obregon
- Tell too many stories: Mr. Retana
- Instagram, Facebook, and Snapchat everything: Mrs. Senteno
- Put on a show: Mr. Wlasick
- Finish a novel before dinner: Mrs. Mata
- Falls asleep watching novelas: Mr. Walsh
- Spend the day watching football: Coach Medrano
- Stay in the kitchen: Chef Luna
- Steal a dinner roll before giving thanks: Mr. Rojo
- Prompt someone else to give a speech: Mr. Crone

TO GIVE

giving Search

G E V L P D B K B H A H Z
 V N H S K L E W O U T Z X
 V E I R Q G C L D L T L A
 U C D V Y U I D A B H N F
 Q X W G I D A E C Z A H C
 A W S D A G H S T X N A P
 R X T Y S E S U H H K I Q
 L Y U R U M R K E O S H H
 I G F E O K A P N G O I A
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Gobble	Health	Holiday
Parade	Pumpkin-pie	Seasons
Thanksgiving	Turkey	Yams



Thankful Turkey: I love Thanksgiving, but I hate spending time with my conservative family members! How can I survive the evening?

Thanksgiving is all about being grateful and spending time with loved ones. For Thanksgiving, at least, don't think about what makes them difficult to deal with and focus on how they've cared for you all your life. You can also try talking to your family about your differences and try to work something out by November 23rd.

Romantic Smartypants : How do I balance my school life with my boyfriend?

Why not mix your academic life with your social life? Do homework together or have a study date for upcoming tests. Might be dangerous if you get distracted easily,

Ask Lil Gobble

but this way, you're receiving help from each other, being productive, and taking time to be a couple in between breaks. You can also set up a schedule to see each other a certain day (monthly, weekly, etc.) so that you can organize yourself prior to get your work out of the way to make time for that day.

Freedom seeker: How do I deal with a controlling mother?

Talk to her. Make it clear that her controlling nature makes it a challenge to live and experience new things without feeling controlled. You can be creative with this if she won't listen to you. Write her a letter or note. Sounds cheesy, but she can't talk back to a piece of paper and if she really cares, she'll read it through to the end.



The 8 best things about Friendsgivings

By FRANKY LEON
 EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Not everyone is always lucky enough to go back home to family for a holiday. But there's nothing sad about spending Thanksgiving with friends or roommates. There might even be a few things you like better about being friends

1. There's more to eat.

You won't have to share Thanksgiving dinner with your uncles, your third cousin, and your aunt's new boyfriend. The fewer people you have, the more everyone gets to eat, and even better, the more leftovers you'll have for turkey sandwiches the next day. It's a win-win for everyone.

2. You'll have fun creating new traditions.

If it's your first Thanksgiving on your own, you'll start traditions without even realizing it. Maybe it's a football game in the park or watching the balloon parade.

4. It's your turn to cook.

Mom always cooks the turkey and prepares the feast at home, but now it's entirely up to you and your friends. Split the work between you and your friends; it'll be a lot easier and faster too.

5. Force your friends to play games with you.

Can you name all 50 states? Because Ross from *Friends* couldn't, But in all seriousness, bring out the board games, Monopoly, Candy Land, and chess boards. And Twister too, yes, Twister. That's always a good time.

6. You get to have fun.

Just remember that nobody who feels remotely embarrassed and responsible for your actions will be there to tell you to stop doing what you are doing.

8. You're with friends.

And as cheesy as this sounds, friends are family too, aren't they?

tricks!

1. Check your favorite stores social media platforms to find out about deals and promotions.
2. Create a list ahead of time of things you want/need.
3. Do your research and compare store prices.
4. Wear comfortable clothing.
5. Take snacks in case you get hungry.
6. Keep items such as your purse, wallet, and cell phones secure at all times.
7. Wear comfortable clothes.
8. Coordinate with friends and work as a team.
9. Enjoy Thanksgiving leftovers after your shopping spree!
10. Skip altogether if you are not good with big crowds or if you're smart enough, to shop online.

Dia De Los Muertos celebrations come to life this November



By FRANKY LEON
 EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Día de Los Muertos, or "Day of the Dead," is a two-day holiday which originated in Mexico to honor loved ones who have passed. Día de Los Muertos is a Mexican national holiday and the country's most

important celebration of the year, but the celebration expands well beyond to El Salvador, Honduras, Peru, Spain as well as Mexican-American communities in the United States. The holiday is held on Nov. 1 and 2, concurring with the Catholic All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. The two-day celebration begins

on November 1 when the youth are celebrated, and on November 2 when adults are observed. This holiday is not to be confused with Halloween. The Mexican holiday has a rich history and is more than painting sugar skulls on your face and trick-or-treating. On Dia de Los Muertos, families gather around to celebrate their

loved ones who have passed and build altars in their homes or any public spaces to pay homage to the deceased. Mexico honors the departed with sugar skulls, chocolate, Marigolds (the Mexican flower of death), Pan Dulce, and sodas. The food that's left for the dead is said to taste different than to when it was left out because

the dead have eaten it. Families traditionally visit gravesites to deliver ofrendas, offerings. Families remember the dead with candles, photos, and music.

The origins of Día de Los Muertos traces back to the Aztecs. In the Aztec days, skulls were kept as trophies and displayed during rituals to symbolize death and resurrection. Aztec ancestors passed down the knowledge that souls exist after death, and reside in Mictlan known as the land of the dead, not for judgment or resurrection, but for the day each year when the dead can return home to visit their loved one(s). The Aztecs celebrated with a festival for the goddess of the underworld, Mictecacihuatl, who rules over the afterlife. Mexico's Indigenous people honor the Lady of the Dead, the modern La Catrina, who many recognize today as a skeleton wearing a fancy hat.

La Catrina was said to be a selfish, greedy rich woman who did nothing to help the poor. Many mock her every year by dressing in ornate garb, painting their faces white and detailing features to look like a caricature of a skeleton.

SPORTS

Boys Water Polo team reaches CIF Division 7 finals

College Signing Day
Dominique swings
her way into WMU



Dominique shares her accomplishment with her loved ones.

Photo by Franky Leon

By KAYLA PEREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Athletic, intelligent, and hardworking, Dominique Jimenez is a true born Bronco! On November 8, Senior Dominique Jimenez officially signed her "letter of intent" to play softball for Western Michigan University in Fall 2018 on a full ride scholarship!

The signing took place during 6th period in the faculty center and was hosted by Athletic Assistant Principal Christopher Gadsden. Family, friends, and Academic/Athletic staff, all gathered for the ceremony to cherish this memorable event.

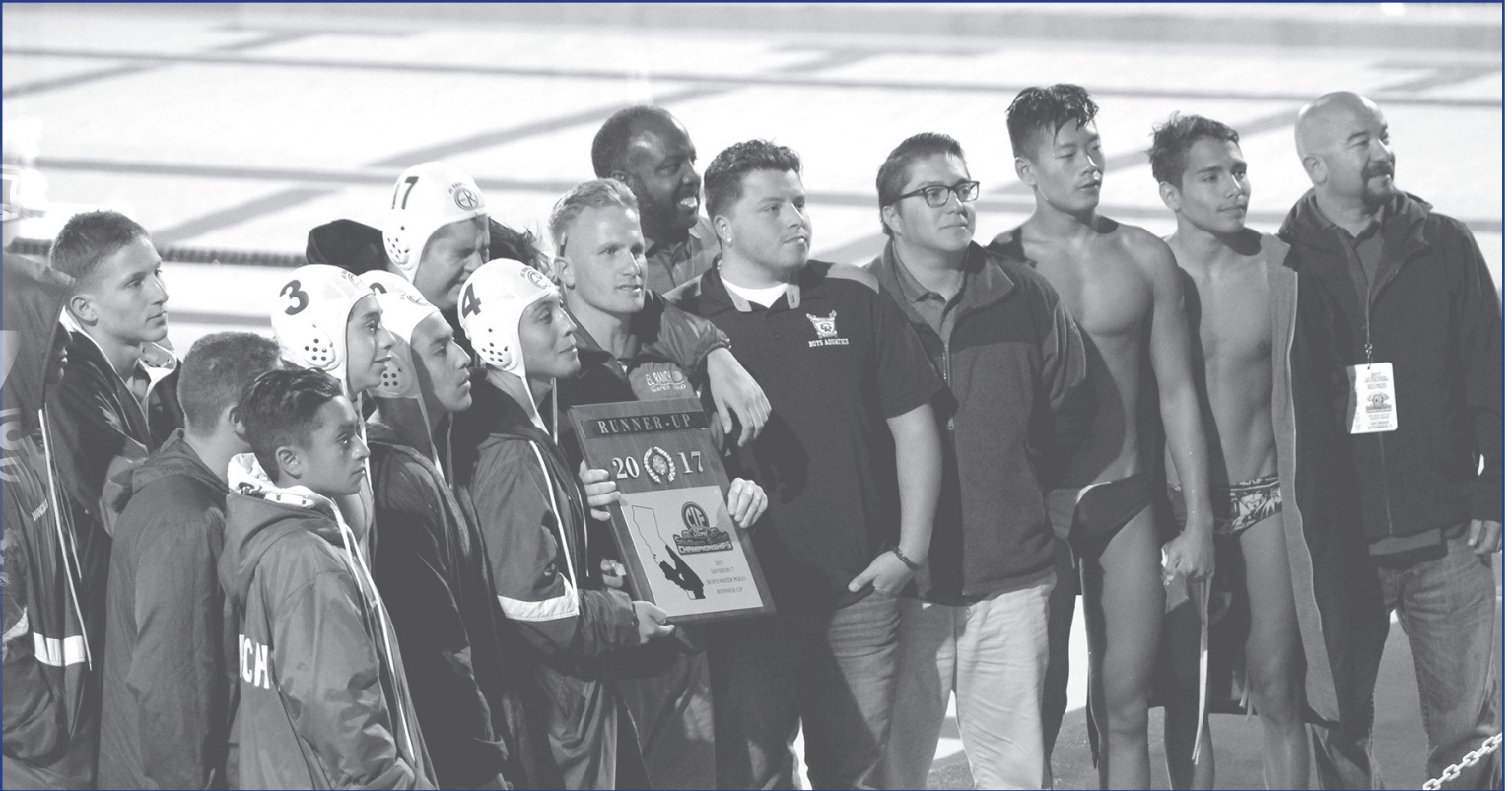
Dominique's passion for softball first began when she was four years old and has since excelled to greater success. Not only has she been a part of the El Rancho High School's Varsity Softball team for four years but she also takes part in "travel ball" during off season, which is where she first interacted with WMU at a Colorado tournament.

Since then, Jimenez knew that WMU was the right school for her, "With recruiting it's kind of hard because you never know where you're gonna end up, but then once you find a school and you feel at home everything falls into place," says Jimenez.

She maybe be a talented player with fierce skill and determination, but nothing compares to her humbleness, "This is something that not a lot of people get to experience" says Jimenez.

"It's such an honor, and I'm grateful to have people support me throughout this whole process."

She not only reflects on this experience to improve her own goals but to help other aspiring athletes as well, "If I could give advice to anyone out there it would be to keep pushing and never give up," says Jimenez. "You never know what moment it will be that your goals will be achieved, so it's best to get striving 100%."



Coach Whittier, Principal Vasquez and Mr. Gadsden pose with the team holding CIF runner-up trophy.

By LESLIE PLAZA
EL RODEO STAFF EDITOR

The Boy's Water Polo team came close to making El Rancho history during CIF Finals but unfortunately fell short in the last minute of the title game against Valley View High School of Moreno Valley by a final score of 14-13.

The start of the season marked success after success as

Boy's Water Polo inched closer to post-season. During the first round, they dominated Moreno Valley High School with a score of 27-3. They were also victorious in the quarter finals, beating Palm Springs High School 12-6.

"I didn't see it at first, that we could be this good," says senior defender Andrew Gonzalez, "but as we started to win games this year we began to realize

that we could get to the finals."

Boy's Water Polo took a step closer to winning the division after beating Hillcrest High School by a score of 9-7 in the semi finals. This was the first time El Rancho Boy's Water Polo entered CIF Division 7 Finals.

"I'm proud of them because they were tired but never gave up and kept going and kept going," coach Whittier said.

Photo by Alynna Rodriguez

"We were close, we were close." Valley View and El Rancho battled for the CIF Southern Section Water Polo Championships. The score went back and forth for most of the game until the last minutes of the last quarter.

Boy's Water Polo won the title of CIF Southern Section Runner-up. Regardless of the outcome, the team is excited and prepared for CIF Finals next season.

Dons march their way to victories

By KAYLA PEREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's Marching Dons have stepped their way to success this competition season.

Since the season began, the band has received high scores in both Field Show and Parade performance, beating out a majority of other high schools across Southern California.

Throughout the season, the band has cultivated multiple "Class B" awards taking 4th place at Loara Band Review with a net score of 84, 5th place at Chino Band Review with a net score of 88.2, and 9th place at Arcadia Championships with a score of 87.9.

The success of the Marching Dons was a result of their hard work and skill to perform their competition march "Bonnie Annie Laurie," by John Philip Sousa. The band has been practicing since the summer by working marching basics and musical fundamentals to strive for better results than past marching seasons.

"This marching season was a real breakthrough for us," says band director Reggie Cordero, "Last year, we performed better than usual but we really emphasized technique this year and overall improvement."

The band not only persevered in Parade but also excelled in their Field Show titled, "Tribal Affect," which encases how tribal energy sounds and ideologies "affect" all of us and create a sense of community.

"It was really exciting to



Marching Dons end a victorious season with many awards and accomplishments.

Photo courtesy of LA Chargers

perform the show this year because it was something out of the blue and tested people's reactions," says junior Andreyax Yaxcal.

With the determination of the Band Members the El Rancho Dons were able to take 3rd place at Warren Field Tournament with a net score of 65.9, 2nd place at Loara Field Tournament with a net score of 59.5, and 2nd place at Chino Field Tourna-

ment with a net score of 68.4.

Typically, not many high schools seem to acknowledge or understand the competitive side of marching band; judges are constantly nit-picking small aspects of a band's performance and the opportunity to place is cutthroat.

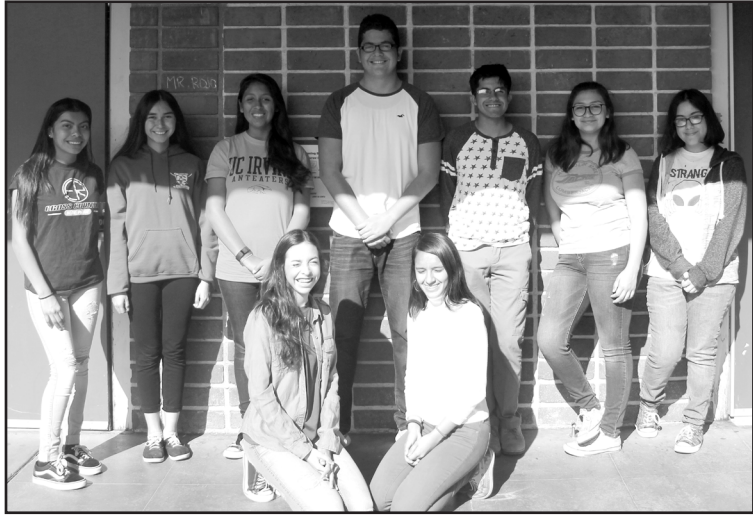
"We had some bad judging this season for sure but the main goal I have when teaching is to make sure that I teach my students

it's not always about winning but rather gaining experience," says Cordero, "I'm overall very proud of this season and can't wait to see what my students bring in next semester with concert season."

With seeing how much success the Marching Dons has this season we can't wait to see what new borders they'll break next semester. Way to go, Marching Dons!

CAMPUS

Dons of Charity are here to help



Members make plans to give to the community this Holiday season.

Photo by Mariela Michel

BY MARIELA MICHEL
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Ever wonder what lack of stability a life without people of good will would hold? The chaos and struggles people in need would endure without any aid. Fortunately, there's no need to worry about that

since community service clubs like Dons of Charity exist.

Dons of Charity began providing community service opportunities to students last year, and is back for another year of generosity. President Gabriel Vasquez created the club in hopes of shaping struggling communities into more stable places for everyone.

"The purpose for Dons of

Charity is basically to help anybody in need," says senior Gabriel Vasquez. "Whether you're homeless or going through any struggle or difficulty, Dons of Charity will be there no matter who you are, no matter what race, sexuality, gender, or anything. We will always be there to help."

Last year, the charitable dons partnered up with AVID for the #Giveback event, where they distributed clothing, toys, and food to the needy in Skid Row. This event actually sparked the idea for a charitable club.

"I used to go with AVID a lot for the #Giveback," says Vasquez. "I would help the people there and I thought what if I started my own club but that's all that we do is just help the homeless or anyone in need, so I decided to start Dons of Charity."

Dons of Charity has partnered up organizations such as the Midnight Mission homeless shelter and the Alexandria

House women's shelter, both located in Los Angeles, for volunteer opportunities such as serving the homeless and fundraising through a walk-a-thon.

"Going to the Alexandria walk-a-thon was a really great experience," says senior Maria Castillo. "I talk to everyone about that so they can join too because I liked that experience."

Moderated by the new advisor, Ms. Berryhill, Dons of Charity plans on expanding their club to create a greater variety of volunteer events for dons to participate in this year.

"We hope to plan more events and do different kinds of events, not just dealing with homelessness but maybe doing events for children's health, women's issues, and more," says Vasquez.

Dons of Charity is open to all El Rancho students. The next meeting is on December 1st and they meet every other Friday in Y-3.

Letter to the Editor



Dear Editor,

I am a regular reader of the *El Rodeo* Newspaper. I find it full of articles that are informative, enlightening, amusing and quite entertaining. So I turn to you for assistance that I have not been able to achieve through any other means.

I am unbelievably fortunate to have a job that I love on a campus filled with some of the best students around. El Rancho High School Dons are intelligent, witty, kind, fun, talented and extraordinary.

That's why it is so disheartening to have my daily experience marred by those few extremely vocal students who believe that using vulgar, inappropriate language makes them somehow smarter, funnier, more important; it doesn't.

It has become "normal" for these students to use a curse word, not because they are so angry that this is the only word to describe their rage, no they use the same word to describe happiness, boredom, even lunch. You know exactly which word, the one that begins with "F", yes that's the one.

Some people have become immune to the word, so much so that they don't even hear it. I hear it; I am not immune. I am hoping you also hear it, I'm hoping your readers hear it and are not immune.

We don't want to be on a campus where ugly words are normal. We want to be on a campus where it is normal to use kind words, where we take into consideration how our actions and yes even our language effects others.

ERHS Dons are amazing human beings and I have faith that together we can make other "F" words the new normal. Great words like: Fantastic, Fabulous, Fascinating, Faithful, Fearless, Flourishing and Fortunate.

Respectfully submitted,
Susanne Perea
CollegeCareerCenter

College Reminders for class of 2018

BY ALEKSEY SOTO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

November is almost over, which means Thanksgiving is coming up and college applications are closer than ever to being due. Here are some finals reminders to help you through that last week of editing and submitting. The deadline for the University of California application is **Thursday, November 30th**. Make sure your four personal insight questions meet the word count and are proofread by teachers or College and Career Center advisors. Remember: no narratives or creative writing! Be to the point and provide context so that admissions officers can learn as much about you as possible.

If you have yet to fill out the transcript section, having a print-out of your transcript will save you time and stress! Also, keep track of your activities and report them accurately.

Common Application dead-

lines vary by college; you can find each college's deadline on its website. Some colleges may also ask for letters of recommendation, so if you've procrastinated on asking your teachers or counselors, **now** is the time to ask!

For any school in the Cal State system, the priority application filing period also ends on **Thursday, November 30th**. If you're applying for the Educational Opportunity Program (aka EOP), you have until **January 31st** to submit your EOP application. You'll need at least one letter of recommendation, but two are recommended. But, don't think this gives you more time for your CSU app; those are still due by the deadline.

For all of these applications, you must send scores from your SAT or ACT. The latest scores that colleges will accept are from both **December** exams. Some schools will superscore your scores, so even if you've already sent older scores,

send your most recent as well!

If you've already sent all of your college applications, make sure your FAFSA is done also! College is expensive but filling out the FAFSA is an opportunity to remove some of the expense. The deadline to submit for many state financial aid programs is **March 2, 2018**. The Cal Grant also requires submission of a school-certified GPA by **March**



2, 2018. For additional community college Cal Grants the deadline is **September 2, 2018**.

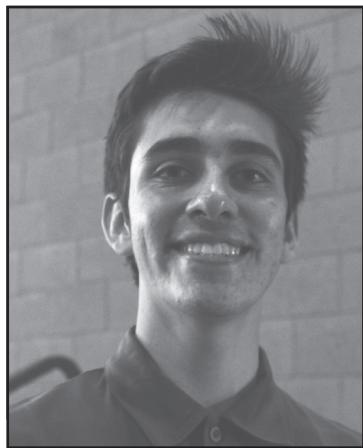
So, you've finished all of your applications and now you're stressing about acceptances. It's hard but try not to think about them too much. Focus on ending the semester strongly and make sure to take some moments for self-care. You've earned it!

Word On the Street: Why do you donate blood?



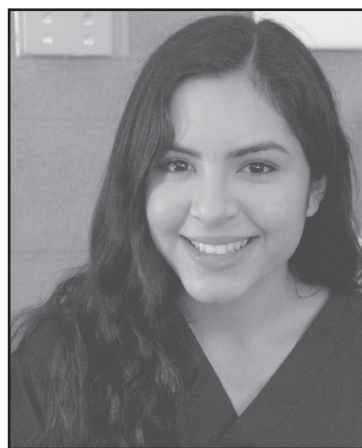
"Just because it's for a good cause and I want that red cord."

Andres Perez 12



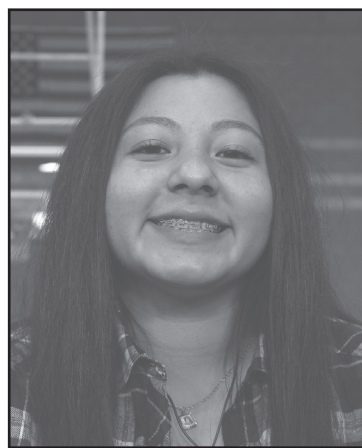
"I'm a giving person, and I want a red cord for graduation."

Jose Hernandez 12



"To help the people in need, and of course, the red cord."

Valerie Ruiz 12



"It's something new I've never done. I wanted to give it a try."

Candice Sanchez 11

ENTERTAINMENT

Game Review: *Animal Crossing* in your pocket



Animal Crossing: Pocket Camp will be available for iPhone and Androids, releasing on November 22nd.

By ALEKSEY SOTO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Five years is a long time to wait, and for fans of the idyllic *Animal Crossing* games, the wait felt eternal. In late October, however, players received an exciting announcement from Nintendo saying that a mobile version of the game, titled *Animal Crossing: Pocket Camp*, would be released worldwide in late November, though fans in Australia had access to the game the

same day it was announced. Many outside of Australia scrambled to create Australian Apple ID's in order to play the game. *Pocket Camp* places the player in charge of a campsite, as opposed to the traditional town that players managed in previous games. The player must complete tasks in order to collect building materials and build furniture or decorations for his or her site. The game also introduces a level system, where players can level up by befriend neighboring animal characters, collect-

ing materials, catching bugs and fish, and more, and micro transaction currency in the form of Leaf Tickets that the player can exchange for items and buy with real money from the App Store. So, is it worth the download? Yes and no. The art style is adorable as always. For the most part, the game is entertaining enough where it has significant replay value, and it is reminiscent of older *Animal Crossing* games. But, that's the problem; it's only reminiscent. Many mechanics of the

older games are nowhere to be seen. Tom Nook, the helpful and business savvy raccoon who helps the player finance his or her own house and buys items from the player so that he or she can earn money, isn't a major part of the game anymore. The free-roaming playing style that allowed the player to run around as he or she pleased is gone and was replaced by a map that lets you teleport. The mechanics of catching bugs and fish have been completely simplified, which takes away the skill required to catch harder prey like golden stag beetles and whale sharks. The level system also adds a bit of stress to playing. Instead of focusing on making their campsites beautiful, players may be pressured to do whatever to level up, even if it means spending real money to buy those limited edition furniture pieces that supposedly give a higher chance of attracting special characters. For newer players, the game is a hard one to hate. It's a soothing way to spend your time if you have nothing to do. However, older players are better off carrying their DS because *Pocket Camp* has a ways to go to be at the level of the originals.

Upcoming Band: *Girl Parts*

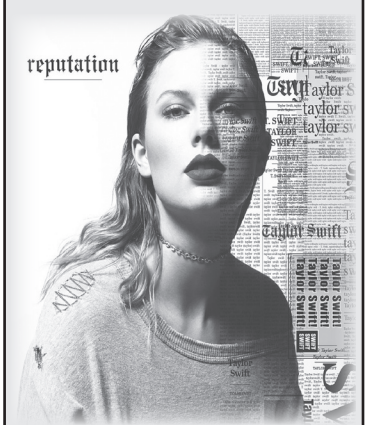
By GABRIELA NAVA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Girl Parts is a Reggae Roots/Ska rock band based out of Pico Rivera. The group is made up of brothers David Bustamante and Eric Mendoza and bassist Jason Caranca. Caranca and Bustamante are both El Rancho graduates and Mendoza is currently a senior. Together for less than two years, the band has already gained a following. They rehearse together one to two times on the week of a gig. Despite their following, the boys do not see music as a career. Mendoza is currently seeking employment while Caranca and Bustamante pursue personal endeavours. "Right now it's used as a vacation," Caranca says. "We can't com-

plain about music." "I enjoy making music and sharing it with others. Being in the band allows me to spend time with my brother and do what I love at the same time" Mendoza said. The dynamic between them is brotherly, allowing them to enjoy each show they play together. The project has come a long ways since their high school years, growing and adapting

to what is now known as *Girl Parts*. Caranca says "The band is our metamorphosis from high school, and it still blossoms with opportunity for the future." The band has a very distinct sound, incorporating heavily chorused guitar and fat bass riffs. Their old music is accessible on the band's Soundcloud under the username *Girl Parts*. If you want to hear new content you can hit up any of their latest shows! Flyers are posted on the band's Instagram @ohsh*girlparts and Eric's Twitter @mendozanein000. The local music scene is constantly growing with new artists that are trying their luck in the business. If you're ever looking for something to do on a lonely Saturday night, look no further than your backyard shows for a good time. Gather up a few friends and support local artists near you!

Look what YOU made ME do!



By LESLIE PLAZA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Taylor Swift's album, *Reputation*, was finally released on November 10th. Swift's change in music leads many to wonder: what beef will Swift sing about this time? Popular hits from the album, including "Gorgeous," "...Ready for It?," and the notorious "Look What You Made Me Do," made an impact on the charts, hitting #1 on iTunes within hours of the release. Her pre-released songs separate her fan-base between old Swifties and new Swifties. *Reputation* also contains the drama that Swift famously shares about her personal life. She disses Kanye West, Kim Kardashian, Katy Perry, and Calvin Harris. Swift has done this since her first album released in 2006. Swift isn't afraid to hide her "recovery" from celebrity drama and is all the more willing to take on the role of the victim. She continually loses fans with each album release, yet still becomes more and more popular. Taylor Swift needs to get over the past. Creating an album solely to defend her values only creates a darker image. What's the point of resurfacing old problems with celebrities, such as Kanye West, if the issue has faded? At this point, it seems that Swift is only seeking profit rather than to demonstrate a passion for music. On top of this, Swift's dramatic music changes only further show her desire for profit. Switching from country to rock to pop caused her to lose originality and passion as well as her original audience. *Reputation* contains songs with different music styles, which may appeal to many audiences. "End Game" features both Ed Sheeran, an indie-pop artist, and Future, a rapper, so Swift did include some variety in her album. On the other hand, "End Game" is the only song in which Swift features other artists, so her new music style lies on her hands alone. *Reputation* broke records on the first day of release, selling over 700,000 physical copies on the first day and over 800,000 albums on iTunes within the first hour. As long as she continues to brew up drama, Swift's name will break records.

Art Contest Winners!



Marina Chavez, Senior



Yazlin Juarez, Junior

Thank you to everyone who participated!