



El Rodeo



El Rancho High School

Volume 66, Issue 4

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Pico Rivera holds tree-lighting ceremony



Senior Karina Jimenez sings her heart out during the Choraleers's performance
Photo by Mr. Crone

BY BIANCA ARIAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The city of Pico Rivera held its annual tree lighting ceremony on December 3rd outside of City Hall.

El Rancho High School's Marching Dons and the Choraleers performed, along with the city's Tiny Tots Program, *Grupo Bella*, and *The Amanda Castro* band.

The city provided residents and visitors with free hot chocolate, cookies, and coffee.

There were multiple activities for kids. Children had the chance do arts and crafts and play in the fake snow.

"What I liked about the tree lighting was that many people not only from Pico Rivera but from cities around gathered and had a lot of fun with their family," said senior Martina Delgado.

"The tree lighting was really different from what I expected. It was a big turnout! There was a lot of games, fun activities, and hanging out with friends. It was a nice experience," said junior Adrian Aguilar.

Senior Mario Olivar said "It was fun helping a lot of people in the lines. It really kept everyone busy, which was a good thing because you see people out there having a good time and enjoying themselves."

"It was kind of nerve-racking. It was my first time performing for the whole city. So it was definitely a different experience", said senior Karina Jimenez. Dancing with my best friend Adrian was really fun. I think in general it was a really good experience and a lot more people should go."

Vasquez unveils new vision and mission statement

BY FATIMA LOPEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This is the year of change for El Rancho. Over the course of this school year, we have received new staff members, blueprints for a new school, and most importantly, a new vision and mission statement. Our principal, Mr. Hector Vasquez, has recently unveiled the school's new vision and mission statement in hopes that it can lead the school into an era of success for all.

For those who may not know, a vision and mission statement are what the school wants to be. In essence, it is the dream that administrators and staff have for the school.

"The new vision for El Rancho High School is ensuring high levels of success for all," Vasquez said, "and the reason that we chose 'all' was because not only are we here for students but administrators and support staff are also here to support teachers so that they become successful as well."

As the new principal and leader of El Rancho, Mr. Vasquez has had the opportunity to bring his own ideas to the school, but for the school's new vision and mission statement, he did not. The new vision and mission statement actually comes from ideas gathered by last year's staff.

"The one thing I did not want to do as a new principal is come in with my own ideas and my own way of doing things," Vasquez said, "I am a collaborative person and I believe in including

VISION

ENSURING HIGH LEVELS OF SUCCESS FOR ALL

MISSION

DEVELOPING THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND PROFICIENCIES REQUIRED FOR COLLEGE, CAREER, CIVIC, AND ECONOMIC SUCCESS FOR STUDENTS.

PROVIDING STRATEGIC AND EFFECTIVE SUPPORT THROUGH COLLABORATIVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND COACHING FOR STAFF.

BUILDING AND SUSTAINING TRUSTING RELATIONSHIPS WITH ALL.

LEARNER OUTCOMES

I	D	E	A
IMPROVE LITERACY THROUGH COMMON CORE	DEVELOP GLOBAL CITIZENS	EMPHASIZE COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS	ACQUIRE 21ST CENTURY SKILLS

all stakeholders, so it didn't make sense to me to start from scratch if this was already started."

Many may not know, but the new vision and mission statement have already been implemented in the school. "Everything we have done this year has been done with the vision statement in mind," Vasquez said. "Everything that we do for professional development, for our teachers, for our students, [the vision and mission statement] has been our anchor."

The school's new vision and mission statement has also served as the inspiration for many of the techniques teachers are using with their students inside the classroom. "We were very specific that we as a staff chose five instructional strategies that we were going to use this whole entire year," Vasquez said, "and those instructional strategies are think-pair-share, Socratic seminar, marking the text, gallery walks, and focus note taking."

Relevance was a key factor in deciding whether or not a new vision and mission statement was needed. Many aspects of El Rancho and the world around us have changed recently, so it only seemed right that the school's vision and mission statement changed too.

"I wanted it to be relevant and I wanted it to be ours," Vasquez said, "If it's not relevant, it doesn't mean anything to the students."

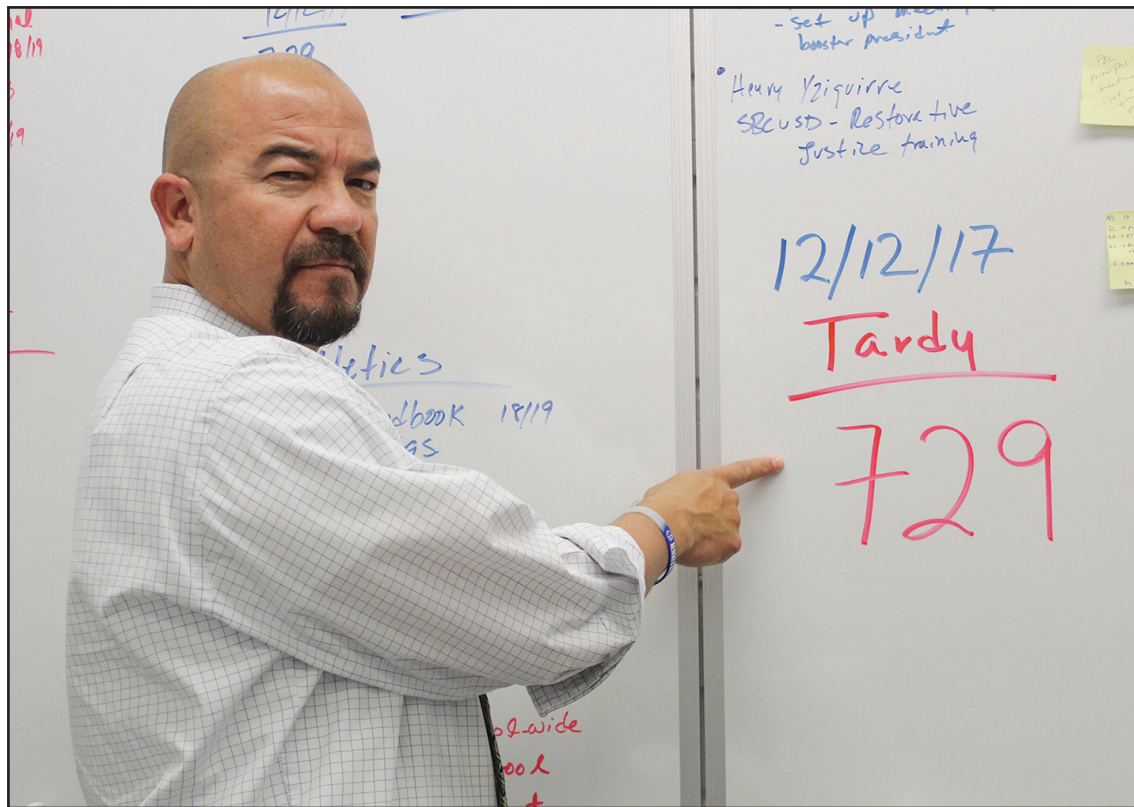
Mr. Vasquez has high hopes for the school's vision and mission statement. He believes that it will not only benefit students academically but also behaviorally.

"Academics and behavior go hand in hand," Vasquez said. "With relevant instruction, you're going to have a reduction in [negative] behavior because the students are engaged."

The staff at El Rancho is one of Mr. Vasquez's biggest influences for the school's vision and mission statement. "I really liked the fact that our current staff had already come up with it," Vasquez said. "That told me that they truly believed in it and it told me that they were going to have ownership of it."

Overall, Mr. Vasquez is excited for what the rest of the year has to offer. "With a little bit of focus, we are going to fly through the roof," Vasquez added. With the help of El Rancho's new vision and mission statement, he feels like success for everyone, not just students and their families, but also teachers, staff, and administration, is sure to come.

El Rancho moves toward new tardy policy



El Rancho principal, Mr. Vasquez, points out the number of students tardy to first period on December 12.

BY SOFIA DOMINGUEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho High School principal Mr. Hector Vasquez is pleading not only to parents and students but also their neighbors or anyone who will listen, to get

their students to school on time. He plans to tackle this important topic by explaining to parents and faculty how necessary it is to get students to school on time. "This is my fourth high school that I have been a principal and administrator at," Vasquez

said, "and I would say that this high school has the worst case of first period tardies I have ever seen."

Mr. Vasquez has big plans for the elimination of tardies at El Rancho. "I have started talking to the leadership team with the teachers and the Ac-

tivities Department to come up with a plan," Vasquez said, "I want a plan where we address the students not only with consequences but with incentives."

There are consequences for being tardy often but it has been his choice not to enforce them. "Nothing is working," Vasquez said, "in the past, the school has tried consequences such as the banned list and that obviously didn't help."

Some possible rewards for first period classes who are all at school on time are a pancake breakfast or a burrito party. "We are going to come up with some incentives that students want so they get here on time," Vasquez said.

If you already have too many tardies, you don't need to worry about any negative consequences. "I'm trying to focus on the positive part of it and on how we can motivate students to come to school on time," Vasquez said.

However, this does not mean that students can show up to class as late as they want. Showing up to school on time and ready to learn is crucial to academic success. We are Dons: respectful, responsible and ready to learn!

OPINION

ASB rigged this article, too!



Homecoming, senior favorites, hot weather in the winter; students blame ASB for everything!

Photo from Layla Prieto

BY ALEKSEY SOTO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Homecoming? Rigged. Night Pep Rally? Rigged. Grad night? Also rigged. This article? Yup, rigged too. It seems every school event brings accusations that El Rancho's Associated Student Body (a.k.a. ASB) is setting things in favor of those around them.

Before this goes any further, *no* they have not *actually* rigged anything. Most of the accusations came after ASB President, Julio Ornelas, and Dance Commissioner, Sarah Navarro won Homecoming king and queen. On the night of the Homecoming game, Twitter time lines were filled with a tremendous amount of "tweef" as some unhappy Dons called

their win "undeserved" and even mentioned the winners directly. Even now, students still continue to voice their discontent on social media platforms. Navarro was questioned about the validity of the homecoming results an entire month after Homecoming ended. Students even began to accuse ASB of influencing the yearbook's senior favorites after Pep Commissioner Layla Prieto

posted a snapshot of her votes on her Twitter (@laylabaaby).

ASB has taken these comments in stride, even jumping in on the joke and laughing at those who actually believe that they influenced anything. Even students joke with them, with some recently stating that ASB and the yearbook should collaborate following the questionable results of the Senior Favorites and that they rigged the Rye Fire that blazed near Six Flags so that we wouldn't have Grad night.

However, these jokes are only jokes, and the select few who fail to realize this continue to stir up unpleasant sentiments within the student body. Not only do they ruin what should be memorable events with their incessant and, quite frankly, irrelevant whining, but they also divide the senior class.

ASB does a lot for this school, and many events essential to El Rancho, such as our beloved Night Pep Rally, are planned and mostly carried out by them; without these hard working and dedicated students, they'd be cancelled and everyone would riot. It's time for people to learn how to take things less seriously and realize that this is just high school, not the end of the world

Pulling the fire alarm is simply idiotic!

BY LESLIE PLAZA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

How many times in the last month have fire alarms been pulled? Ten times? Twenty times? It seems as though the fire alarms have been screaming this holiday season, but not because of fires.

orientation, nausea, and epileptic seizures. Students pulling the fire alarms lack the maturity to understand the serious issues behind the alarms.

Over the years, the occasional student would pull a fire alarm, but not to the extent of this past month. Now, teachers and students don't take the fire alarms seriously. Because of this, teachers and students don't even bother to evacuate the classroom.

One or more students are pulling the fire alarm during both second and fifth period. Right when the bell rings, that all familiar and highly irritating alarm sounds.

What will happen in the case of a real fire? Teachers and students will remain in their seats. How do we prevent false alarms to protect our school? How can we keep El Rancho safe?

Pulling the fire switch not only sounds the alarms, but also notifies the local fire department and police station, obligating classes to evacuate the building due to "fires."

El Rancho is founded upon the idea of respect, responsibility, and the drive for education. Pulling fire alarms for humor is going against the fundamentals of being an adult. Teenagers constantly crave to be seen as an adult, so why

Often times students panic at the idea of a fire because the flashing lights can be chaotic. Flashing lights can cause serious health issues such as dis-



are these students acting idiotic by taking part in senseless acts?

Students should not even think about fire alarms. El Rancho needs to find a way to capture the attention of students and redirect it toward a better education. After all, the purpose of school is to learn, not to cause chaos.

As Dons, we need to embody the idea of becoming young adults by taking responsibility seriously.

Students may roll their eyes at the idea of the "Don Code," but those three famous steps will lead to the approval and acceptance of others, setting a strong impression of yourself.

One student has been caught for the alarms, hopefully ending the continuous alarms.

Remember, Dons, let's be *respectful*, *responsible*, and *ready to learn!*

A Classic Christmas Story

"How the Trump stole the Internet"



Drawing by Karizma Reyes

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El Rodeo is published monthly except during vacations by the El Rancho High School journalism class. The *El Rodeo* offices are located at 6501 S. Passons Blvd., Pico Rivera, CA 90660 in room X-1. The paper is printed by *The Gardena Valley News*.

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

Ahtziri Sanchez is *Simply Irresistible!*



Ahtziri Sanchez brings a natural glow to the El Rancho Campus

Photo by Gabriela Nava

BY ALEKSEY SOTO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With her kind, smart, and witty ways, this queen has stolen the hearts of everyone at El Rancho. Ahtziri Sanchez is simply irresistible! This Cancer cutie is in everything from ASB, Decathlon, CSF, and she's a peer advisor in the College and Career Center. She's also the president of the Social Justice club.

Smart and cares about social issues? She's a total package! Of course, like the intelligent queen she is, she loves to read, and she's an avid fan of the Harry Potter series. Oh, and if you've been looking for a Netflix buddy, you're in luck! "I watch a TON of movies and TV shows," Sanchez says. "My favorite movie right now is Pulp Fiction." And, after you binge watch an entire season of a show,

you can just catch some Z's. She's a nap enthusiast and is always down for a sleep sesh. Sanchez is a lover of all kinds of music, so if you ever send her a playlist, she'll be sure to like it! "It depends on the mood I'm in; sometimes I listen to classical movie scores or I listen to rock. On Spotify I recently found out I listened to 27,000 minutes of music and explored 25 genres." Sanchez is also quite saucy, when it comes to wings

that is. Her favorite place to eat is Wingstop, and her usual order, in case you ever want to surprise her, is boneless mild and lemon pepper wings.

If you don't feel like chowing down on wings, you can always chow down on bread instead. "I really like Panera. It always smells like coffee and its cozy in there," she says.

Want to take her out on a date? Sanchez would love to go watch a movie, "preferably *The Last Jedi* or any Marvel movies that are coming out," she says "Those are fun to watch."

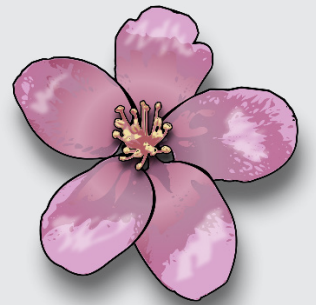
However, she's not looking for a boo so any date would be totally platonic. Sanchez is looking for, "someone funny who laughs at my jokes. They're bad but please laugh at them!"

She also said, "You also have to be nice, because if you're mean I won't like you. I won't stand for meanness."

Along with her amazing sense of humor, she also has quite a lot of ambition. "I want to go to a four-year university, get a degree in Engineering, and then go to med school to become a surgeon," she says.

Dying to shoot your shot in person? Find her in the new ASB room in B-104. "I'm in there all the time," she says. Or, you can DM her on Twitter @Ahtziri-Sanchez7 before the repeal of net neutrality takes effect!

Join the Japanese Club!



BY BIANCA ARIAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Do you want to learn about Japanese Culture? Don't know which club to join on campus? Well then, the Japanese Language and Culture Club is the perfect fit for you!

The Japanese Language and Culture Club is one of the newer clubs here at El Rancho High School. Senior, Jesse Diaz started the club in April and Mr. Rodney Perez is the advisor.

"I learned Japanese at UCLA and my second year I wanted to minor in it but wasn't able to stick it through, but I took two years of Japanese in college and had a lot of Japanese friends. I learned a lot of it through anime too," said Perez.

"You have to be really engaged when you learn a new language. It's not enough to watch anime, you have to talk to people."

The club appreciates the culture and also learns how to read and write in hiragana. Hiragana is a Japanese system of writing that uses characters for each syllable. "We try to look at a lot of cultural nuances, watch anime, and we EAT!"

Mr. Perez says that his favorite part about the club is "seeing students engage in learning a new language".

"It's been really fun actually being able to learn alongside a teacher who shares the same passion. It's quite intriguing!" said Diaz. Also making new friends along the way who also want to learn the language and the culture makes me happy."

"I have somewhere to be when I don't have enough free time at home. It makes me more productive. And overall what makes it important is that I'm always doing something I look forward to and share it with others around me."

Junior, Maylin Gil says "It's been a lot of fun! From all the meetings we've had to practicing learning the language. And everyone's so nice and friendly."

"Ultimately, what I want them to do is be able to take field trips to Little Tokyo and LA so that they learn about the culture through being in that environment," said Perez.

Catch the Japanese Language and Culture Club every Tuesday and Friday after school in room K205 and follow their Twitter @nihongoerhs, to stay updated!

A peak into Pauline's path to El Rancho

BY KAYLA PEREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

She's hardworking, loyal, friendly, caring, and compassionate; she's Pauline Munoz! For the past 11 years, Munoz has ran her empire of student services, bringing joy and loving support to El Rancho High School.

However, Munoz's passion for education wasn't always a set path, "I worked in the medical field out of high school, then once I had children and they were school aged I began to volunteer at their elementary school," says Munoz. "I was there so much I was offered a job!"

From then on, Munoz's journey in education began, and she soon accepted jobs at Mairland and North Ranchito Elementary school. Her volunteering and dedication lead her way up to El Rancho, "My daughters attended Meller Elementary and the position at El Rancho opened," says Munoz, "I was encouraged to apply, but I didn't want to since I was used to working with elementary students."

She then decided to take the risk and see where her new job would lead her. She soon discovered that her stereotypical worries were meaningless, "I had heard scary things about high school students, and now I just love it here," says Munoz.

Pauline often reflects on her decision and uses it as a way to encourage her students to go beyond their fears and boundaries. She commonly refers students to her motto, "Always try to find the good in something or someone."

When Munoz isn't busy running her empire at the office desk, she frequently engages in activities across the country. "I once did the Los Angeles Marathon and signed up the day before," says Munoz.

"Some of my favorite hobbies include going to Disneyland, hiking, and biking with my husband Richard of 26 years," continues Munoz, "I also watch *I Love Lucy* every morning and *The Sound of Music* frequently."

Overall, without Munoz's energetic personality radiating on the El Rancho campus, student and staff members' lives would not be the same. Munoz encases a never-ending love for El Rancho and wouldn't want to leave anytime soon, "I love our dedicated counselors, teachers, admin, and staff. We have the most amazing students here at ERHS! I live in this community, so I love seeing our students & alumni throughout the city," says Munoz.

When asked if she had any lasting advice for her co-workers and students Munoz exclaimed: "Be honest, do your best, and never give up!!!!!"



Pauline constantly aims to help students create their best high school experience!

HAPPY H



15 Winter dates to warm your heart

BY FRANKY LEON, EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

You may be freezing but your heart shouldn't be

1. Go Ice Skating at Downtown Disney or Pershing Square in Los Angeles
2. Gingerbread house making! You can get kits at your local Walmart
3. L.A. Zoo Lights, nothing better than animals and Christmas lights
4. Take a winter walk, the song is called "Walking In a Winter Wonderland" for a reason
5. Christmas parties
6. Visit Griffith Parks Festival of Lights, prepare to be captivated by a mile long ride through Christmas lights.
7. Bake Christmas cookies, nothing is sweeter than warm homemade cookies after a long day
8. Write your New Years resolution, its always nice to set goals for the new year
9. Show off your "amazing" singing skills with karaoke
10. Coffee shop date, bring out out intellectual side with a nice hot coffee
11. Netflix & chill but, like, literally just watch a show and chill
12. Cuddling by the fire
13. Visit Disneyland! Not only is Disney beautiful this time of year but it also makes for great Instagram photos
14. Attend the Rose Parade, No better way to kick off New Years than with a parade

WINTER S

IN THE MOOD FOR SWEET? THIS CHURRO RECIPE TO CURE THAT SWEET-TOOTH THE ORIGIN OF THE CHURRO CLEAR, THIS DEEP-FRIED FRUIT GREAT WITH HOT CHOCOLATE IN HOT FUDGE, OR EVEN B...

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 CUP OF WATER
- 2 1/2 TABLESPOONS OF SUGAR AND 1/2 CUP
- 1/2 TEASPOON SALT
- 2 TABLESPOONS VEGETABLE OIL
- 1 CUP OF ALL PURPOSE FLOUR
- 2 QUARTS OF OIL FOR FRYING
- 1 TEASPOON GROUND CINNAMON

Ask Lil' Rudolph

Money-spending Snowman: How do I budget my money this holiday season?

Set a spending limit for every gift you have to buy. Make the maximum you can spend \$50 or something. Limit the times you go out to eat as well and try not to buy too much for yourself because, in this gift-giving holiday, someone might already be planning to get you the things you want to buy.

Stressed Reindeer: How do I not stress myself out while waiting for college applications?

Focus on other things. You can focus on your hobbies, do homework and study, participate in club activities, etc. to pass the time. You can also take this time to apply for scholarships! Chances are, no one will be able to completely pay for college, and loans can be annoying to deal with, so why not take advantage of the time to apply for free money?

Emotional Elf: How do I avoid seasonal depression?

Communicate with trusted family members and surround yourself with people who are supportive and positive towards you. Again, you can also try focusing your energies on other things, such as clubs or exercise. If you think it may be something serious, try talking to a specialist and look for therapy sessions. Seasonal depression during the winter can be due to lack of sunlight, so exposing yourself to a light source that mimics natural sunlight can be beneficial too.



Have a holly jolly

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

What's your favorite holiday



Movie: I love scary movies so my favorite holiday movie is Krampus because it is both Christmas and scary.

-Alondra Aguilar, 12



Food: My favorite holiday food is tamales. It's tradition to cook tamales each year so they've easily become my favorite.

-Itzel Meza, 12



Memory: My favorite holiday memory is when I went to Big Bear with my whole family.

-Katia Andrade

HOLIDAYS



SWEET TREAT: CHURROS

DIRECTIONS:
 IN A SMALL SAUCEPAN OVER MEDIUM HEAT, COMBINE WATER, 2 ½ TABLESPOONS SUGAR, SALT AND 2 TABLESPOONS VEGETABLE OIL. BRING TO A BOIL AND REMOVE FROM HEAT. STIR IN FLOUR UNTIL MIXTURE FORMS A BALL.
 HEAT OIL FOR FRYING IN DEEP-FRYER OR DEEP SKILLET TO 375 DEGREES F (190 DEGREES C). PIPE STRIPS OF DOUGH INTO HOT OIL USING A PASTRY BAG. FRY UNTIL GOLDEN; DRAIN ON PAPER TOWELS.
 COMBINE ½ CUP SUGAR AND CINNAMON. ROLL DRAINED CHURROS IN CINNAMON AND SUGAR MIXTURE.

A cozy Christmas playlist for any festive mood

BY GABRIELA NAVA
 EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

In need of a Christmas playlist? We've got you covered! This playlist contains over three hours of music featuring artists like Coldplay, The Smashing Pumpkins, Queen, Julian Casablancas, and many classics that a Christmas playlist would not be complete without! Merry Christmas!



What's the WORST Christmas gift you've ever received?

Word search!

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

- HOLLY
- PEPPERMINT
- JOLLY
- GIFTS
- CHRISTMAS
- MERRY
- DECORATIONS
- REINDEER
- WREATH
- ORNAMENTS
- SANTA
- NOEL
- MISTLETOE
- EGGNOG
- ELVES



My cousins got me a big box filled with rocks and an iTunes gift card with a nickel taped to it
 - Leilani Larez, 9



I would have to say two years ago when I got rainbow colored Sketchers
 - Sean Menchaca, 10

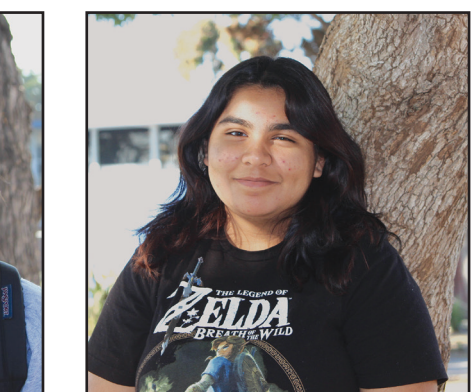


When I was younger I asked my aunt for a Barbie and she got me gloves
 - Trinity Zavala, 10



The worst thing I've gotten was two years ago when my mom gave me a sausage
 - Breanna Vasquez, 12

My.....



Song: My favorite holiday song is "All I Want For Christmas Is You" because I just love Mariah Carey.
 - Rosa Melendez, 12

How to gift on a budget this year!

BY JENNIFER BECERRA
 EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

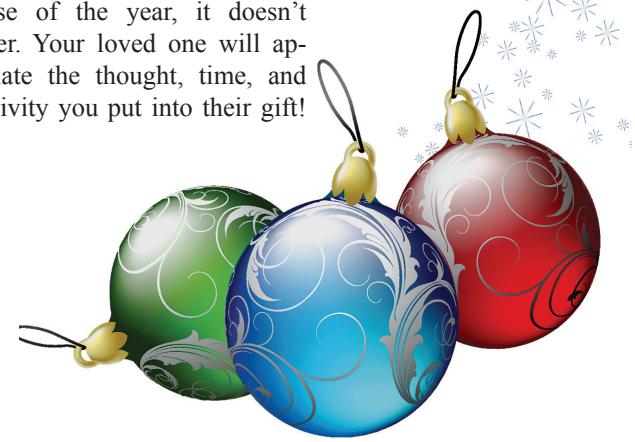
The holidays are an extremely difficult time for many. Traveling and decorating are stressful enough, but there's one holiday aspect that's even more stressful than those two combined: gift-giving! Whether the gift is for a parent, a friend, or a partner, it's still the most stressful part of the holidays! As students, there's even more stress because there's limits and budgets one must account for. However, these simple tips will not only help you get the best gift for your loved one, they'll also help you not break the bank!

The most important rule on gift-giving is knowing your budget. If you only have a certain

amount of money to spend, divide it evenly among the people you will be getting gifts for! Going all out on a gift for your someone and not getting as great a gift for someone else may hurt their feelings and it will probably look bad too. By sticking to your budget and evenly splitting out the cash, you'll definitely get some great gifts for all of your loved ones!

Do you have a lot of family and friends with the same interests? If you do, why not buy things in bulk? Buying things in larger amounts usually ends up being a lot less expensive than choosing to buy things individually! If this isn't the case for you, it's okay. Opting for smaller gifts and "stocking stuffers" will definitely cut your wallet some slack this holiday season.

Maybe you don't have a lot of cash on you this month, what do you do then? The answer is simple: make a gift yourself! There are tons of DIY (do it yourself) projects that your loved ones are sure to love. Whether you're making homemade bath bombs or a scrapbook of pictures you took together over the course of the year, it doesn't matter. Your loved one will appreciate the thought, time, and creativity you put into their gift!



CAMPUS

Band recognized for musical achievements

BY KATHERINE HERRERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho Marching Dons received a recognition for their hard work and dedication in field shows and parades on Tuesday, December 5th at the Pico Rivera City Hall.

Over one-hundred and fifty pupils, parents, and community members attended the meeting.

For many years, the musically inclined Marching Dons have ranked top in their divisions.

“For starting of a total of 35 students, it’s amazing, and now for the last 5, we are close to 100,” says band instructor, Reggie Cordero

To begin the Marching Dons’ season, the National Football League team, the Los Angeles Chargers, recruited the band to play for their halftime show during Mexican Heritage History Month.



The Marching Dons display their award with pride

The band performed their field show, “Tribal Affect,” lead by Senior Drum Major Angelica Ojeda.

Ojeda says, “It’s a lot of

work but it’s worth it. Leading the amazing band, influencing others, and improving your leadership feels amazing.”

Image courtesy of Mr. Cordero

Since the start of their season, the Marching Dons have been improving their music and marching scores.

“We consistently get better in all areas, including: concert band, marching band, jazz band and orchestra. I love what’s going on here,” says Cordero.

Their last parade of the year took place at Palos Verdes where they took second place in the parade out of five high school bands.

“We improved so much this year, but it was unfortunate that we didn’t get to complete our field show,” says Junior Drum Major, Andreyax Yaxcal.

Over the years that Cordero has instructed the band, the Marching Dons have become well-known to other schools, music directors, and cities as a top 3A Division Marching Band.

To see more of the band, stop by room C-4, attend the concerts held at the school, or support the band at the multiple swap meets held once a month in the student parking lot.

Dons spread holiday cheer to needy families

BY JAZLYN VELASQUEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho students volunteered at Pico Park on Saturday, December 9th from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. for an annual Christmas basket distribution to benefit unfortunate families.

The Christmas basket committee is run by a group of Pico Rivera seniors that take the time to put together these organizations.

Ms. Christina Trujillo, the president of the Christmas basket committee wants to make sure everyone gets what they want this Christmas season.

Toys, food, clothes, and anything else can be put into these baskets. This event gave the families a reason to be happy about Christmas time.

“There was lots of movement happening and not a lot of time to sit down and rest,” said senior Mario Olivar. “Everyone was busy though, it was fun putting in a lot of hard work for the unfortunate families that aren’t able to get food or toys on the holidays for their children and families.”

There were 650 boxes of food that went out to the families and 2 pallets of toys for the children. Not only did the Christmas basket committee help, the Leo’s Club, Boys and Girls club, and AVID volunteered as well to help out.

“What I enjoy most from this event is the fact that everyone is in the holiday spirit to help out others and make them happy when distributing the Christmas baskets,” said senior Martina Delgado. “Ev-

eryone deserves to be happy.”

There was 150 volunteers that took time to help these families. All together Pico Rivera’s citizens helped feed over 3,000 people. Santa even made a guest appearance for the children. He came down from a helicopter, giving the children that Christmas feeling.

So many families left smiling with their Christmas baskets in their hands and the children with toys in their hands.

This event helped out those unfortunate families that need something to be happy about. It gave them hope for the holidays.

The Christmas season is the time to give back and not just receive and the Christmas basket distribution is all about giving back to the community and making the families that need help happy.



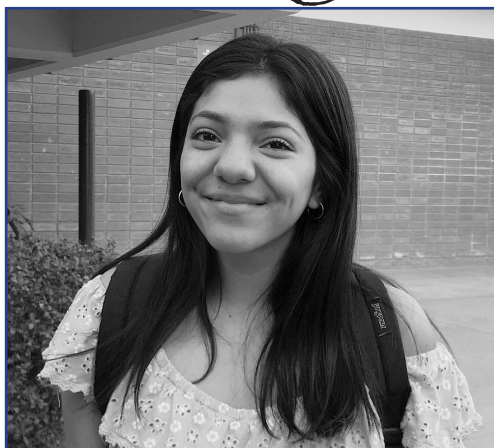
Image by Jazlyn Velasquez

W.O.S: What college do you want to go to?



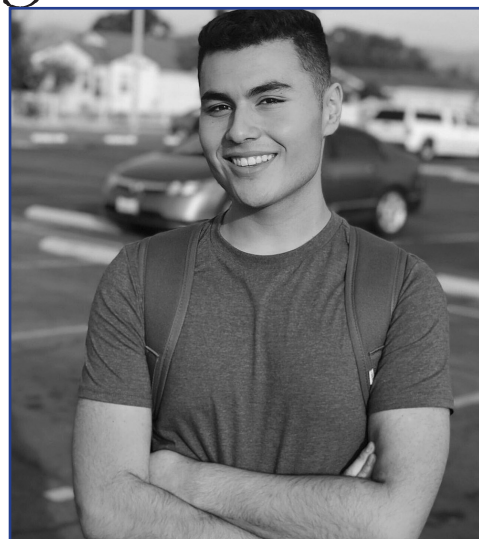
Ashley Renteria, 12th

Answer: I wanna attend San Diego State because it’s far and near the beach.



Emillie Contreras, 12th

Answer: I want to attend the university of San Diego because it is a catholic school and they have a good psychology program, and I want to continue my education through my religion.



Salvador Gutierrez, 12th

Answer: I would like to attend UCI, because it is a highly qualified engineering school, and that is what I want to major in.



Jacob Vivar, 12th

Answer: I would love to attend Humboldt State University because I want to get my degree in Zoology/Animal Biology.

SPORTS

Varsity soccer prepares for upcoming season



BY KASSANDRA SALDANA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho boys varsity soccer team is ready to get into this year's season as a division one team for the first time in El Rancho history. They went from division two to division one at the start of the school year.

Their pre-season kicked off on November 29 against Warren High School. Sophomore Joseph Reyes scored a goal and ended the game in a tie. Their second game was on December 2, finishing in a loss against Millikan High School 2-1. However they won

against Montebello on December 11, ending the game in 1-0.

Even though the difficulty of their games has increased, Coach Goyanaga believes that the boys can compete with anyone. "I want our boys to compete, to grow, and to dream big," he said with high expectations. "Every year should be about taking steps forward."

Senior captains Rodrigo Saldana and Gabriel Viramontes are eager to lead the team to victory this season. "I realized that the group's effort in winning was the best feeling, regardless of who scored," Saldana said. Both captains are helping the team by mo-

tivating them and keeping them uplifted at all times, win or loss.

The boys are working harder than ever to improve on their weaknesses. "This year we have a different play style, and we're working harder than ever not wasting any time," Viramontes said. They believe that their biggest obstacle is the young group of players with a lack of experience.

However, Goyanaga still has faith in the boys and their skills. "The boys really developed their strength and endurance," Goyanaga said. They have added an offseason weight training program to make sure the boys don't

lose their strengths and skills while they wait for the next season.

The boys are taking advice from past captains to better themselves as a team this year. "Last years captains taught me not to care what others have to say about us. The only people who are going to be experiencing the same moments are my brothers [teammates]," Saldana said.

Their strong brotherhood bond is what keeps this team determined to do well this season. As Coach Goyanaga says, "I believe that when people work hard, good things are always around the corner."

Seniors take Powderpuff for third straight year



BY SOFIA DOMINGUEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

For the third year in a row, the seniors were victorious in the annual Powderpuff game. This marks the second win for the class of 2018 after winning the night pep rally in October.

The senior class was

ecstatic and claimed their bragging rights after their 25-19 lead.

The juniors started the game off in the lead, but the seniors weren't having it! The seniors were slowly inching their way to victory and after two swift and exciting quarters the half-time show was presented by the "cheerleading" squad that was

both entertaining and amusing.

To the seniors, the Powderpuff game isn't just a win or lose event, it is a tradition that they want to keep alive.

"We just really wanted to win," senior Breanna Vasquez said, "we get bragging rights for the rest of the year and since we're seniors,

it's extra important we win."

As the game came close to the end, tension rose and the crowd grew with excitement.

The seniors put up a great effort but the juniors weren't far behind, making the game one for the books.

Wrestling take down opponents in pre-season

BY DEVENIE ANCHONDO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's wrestling team started practicing on November 1st where they competed in their first tournament of the season. The Hawks Nest Wrestling Tournament took place on December 8th and 9th in Riverside at Citrus Hill High School. Senior wrestlers Jose Lara and Alex Salas were the only two to place at the tournament.

Lara took third place with a record of six wins and one loss while Salas took fifth place with a record of four wins and two losses. The two expect to do better at their next tournament at Cerritos College, the Tournament of Champions, on December 20th and 21st.

Lara said, "Before every match I feel nervous, but the first match of the tournament is always the most nerve wrecking. I was asking myself could I have trained harder? Am I ready? I was nervous but as soon as the whistle blew and the match started, it's almost as if my instincts took over."

Lara continued, "When I won my first match my nerves went away. For the remainder of the tournament I sort of just 'took care of business' and trusted that I had what it took to come out of the tournament successful. Although I suffered one tough loss, I knew that as long as I went out there did my best and believed in myself, I could do big things. Third place was fun and all but for the next tournament I'm training even harder to make sure I take first."

Team captain, Noe Lopez, said, "I joined wrestling when I was a freshman and I committed ever since. Wrestling has been a great experience even though it is really intense and can be overbearing at times. It really helped me be open to trying new things."

"To me it's a sport that goes unappreciated and needs more attention, especially at our school," continued Lopez.

The wrestling team has been preparing by getting stronger and faster, improving their techniques with the mind-set of winning their future tournaments.

"My teammates work just as hard, if not harder, as any other sport and if we could grab the attention of any current or incoming students, we could have an amazing team."

"I think I have been doing okay so far, although not as well as I would like. I have been noticing a lot of improvement and I plan to make the most of my senior year, like most other athletes. The thing that seems to have made the biggest difference is heart, in four years my interest in the sport has grown into a passion and has led to a desire to excel," said Lopez.

Lopez adds, "The team has been doing fine so far, since we are a really small team we've grown close to each other. Even our first-timers from last year have shown a big improvement within the span of a few months. There's a lot of potential and from what I've seen, the team is doing great and will do very well this season."

ENTERTAINMENT

December Horoscopes

By ADILENE SERVIN & GABRIELA NAVA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

Sagittarius: You may have fallen into a rough patch and may be thinking a lot about a certain regret, to where it has taken over most of your thoughts. But stop worrying about the past, and take notes. What you have learned from this situation will bring a better change to your future. Don't follow something that keeps holding you back. Go find the solution to your problem and make magic happen now.

Capricorn: An adventure is waiting for you. You may see this adventure as a boring obligation because it appears to you as another routine, but you are not looking close enough. Don't ignore what good this experience can bring into your life. Just give it a chance and think about the rewards you can earn instead!

Aquarius: You may feel like you have been dragged into a storm of trouble, Aquarius. These troubles have been making you wonder what is going on in your life. Hopefully, you have not become used to this because many significant fortunes are coming your way. A much sunnier forecast is on your horizon.

Pisces: November has been a very moody month for you, Pisces. You have to learn not to take out your anger on others but to replace that anger with an activity that will help you forget about the stress and keep you entertained. Start to appreciate the people who are most important to you. It will all work out in the long run.

Aries: Your life is a land of enchantment, filled with new discoveries at every turn. But sometimes your life can be filled with obligations and responsibilities that are not quite appealing to you. Life does not have to

be that way. Start seeing these chores and commitments adventures with new possibilities. Doing this can then turn your situation around completely.

Taurus: Take a break for once and celebrate an unbreakable bond in your life. This bond can be with another human being or a talent that has helped you endure hard times and made good times even better. Recognizing and appreciating this bond is essential in keeping it strong, and the celebration itself is part of the reward.

Gemini: You may have some ideas in mind for the very near future, Gemini. Maybe you are very excited about one or two of them, and that may inspire you to share those ideas with friends or family members. However, you aren't quite there yet in transforming your dreams and ideas into an actual plan. So, before you start sharing, you may want to think some

more, and then begin strategizing.

Cancer: You may be feeling some tension and stress coming from outside sources. Being such a sensitive soul, Cancer, you internalize the conflicts you face in the world around you. If you seek peace, you will find it, but you may have to move away from that source of tension and stress.

Leo: Our electronic devices have strongly engrossed in our lives. That is why it's important now and then to take a break from technology. Your stress level may be quite high now, Leo, so it would be smart to take a break from it. Turn off your phone, shut down the laptop, and do anything else.

Virgo: Do you have a sense that you are on the path to success? If you don't have that feeling yet, Virgo, you should soon. So much of the effort you have put forth in recent months is building up and gathering.

Like storm clouds about to release the rain, your clouds of good fortune are brewing.

Libra: You may be hoping for a day or even for a whole weekend when you can just sit back in a cozy chair, relax, watch a few good shows, read a book, and enjoy some nice refreshment. You might find that there is much to do, many places to go, and many people to see. But in the end, you will see that it was all good, and you wouldn't want to change a thing.

Scorpio: Exciting news or an unexpected encounter could shake things up and turn your day around. Whether they involve sociable gatherings or one-on-one connection with someone you find intriguing, Scorpio, they could be really special. Savor this time as the beginning of something big, because that is what it has the potential to become in time.

Looking back at 2017

By FRANKY LEON
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

2017 isn't done with us, but we sure are done with it. Who would've thought that 2017 could be worse than 2016 when both Prince and David Bowie died? We have tried to make this year somehow different. Some beautiful things have come out from the nastiness of this year, but as 2017 draws to its inevitable close, here are 22 moments to relive 2017 all over again!

- Donald Trump is sworn in as president, January 20, 2017
- Get Out is released, February 24, 2017
- President Donald Trump signs his second executive order barring travelers from 6 mostly-Muslim countries for 90 days but leaves out Iraq, March 6, 2017
- Kendall Jenner's controversial Pepsi commercial, April 4, 2017
- Harry Styles releases his self-titled solo album, May 12, 2017
- Suicide bombing at the Manchester Arena, England, during an Ariana Grande concert, kills 22, and leaves 59 injured, May 22, 2017
- Wonder Woman is released, June 2, 2017
- President Donald Trump announces the U.S. will withdraw from the Paris climate agreement, June 2, 2017
- Ariana Grande holds



- benefit concert in honor of lives that were lost during the suicide bombing at Manchester Arena, June 4, 2017
- Beyoncé gives birth to twins Rumi and Sir Carter, June 13, 2017
- Depacito by Luis Fonsi ft. Daddy Yankee becomes the most streamed song ever, played 4.6 billion times, July 9, 2017
- President Donald Trump announces policy to ban transgender people from the military, overturning Obama

- era changes, July 26, 2017
- Total solar eclipse visible from North America, August 21, 2017
- Chester Bennington lead singer of band Linkin Park passes away, July 20, 2017
- President Trump announces DACA will end, September 4, 2017
- Las Vegas shooting occurs leaving 59 dead and over 500 injured, October 1, 2017
- Wildfires ignite in Northern California wine coun-

- try, killing at least 41 over the next week, with 20,000 evacuated, October 8, 2017
- Producer Harvey Weinstein is expelled from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences after historical revelations of sexual harassment and rape, October 14, 2017
- Houston Astros win their first baseball World Series defeating the LA Dodgers 5-1 in game 7 at Dodger Stadium, November 1, 2017
- Britain's Prince Harry and Meghan Markle announce their engagement, November 21, 2017
- US Supreme Court allows President Trump's travel ban to come into effect for 6 mostly Muslim countries, December 4, 2017
- Thomas fire begins and spreads to city of Ventura, California, December 4, 2017

Library Corner

The first 3 students who bring the correct written answers to the ERHS Library will receive a prize!

Match the villain to the book:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Ebenezer Scrooge | a. The Crucible |
| 2. Bellatrix Lestrange | b. A Christmas Carol |
| 3. Ramsay Bolton | c. The Hunger Games |
| 4. Abigail Williams | d. Harry Potter |
| 5. President Snow | e. Game Of Thrones |

