



# El Rodeo



El Rancho High School

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## Beijing students conclude annual visit

By ALEKSEY SOTO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's annual foreign exchange program brought students and teachers from the Experimental High School Attached to Beijing Normal University in Beijing, China to the Ranch for the seventh year in a row. The group arrived on January 22 and left on February 9.

The students were able to experience a Western style of education on this program. Many of them plan to study in the United States after high school, so this trip was especially helpful in that it allowed them to go to school events, meet new people, and experience daily life as an American student while still earning credit for their classes in China.

A 16 year old student who goes by the English name, Bill, said, "I had classes like French, Calculus, American History and Marine Biology. I also joined the band here, which is really different from the Chinese one. I could hear more types of instruments like the tuba. There aren't any tubas in China."

Dons in classes with the foreign exchange students were able to ask about Chinese school life as well. They live in dorms on campus, and their days begin at 6:30 in the morning and end around 5 p.m.. They have around seven forty-minute classes per day and instead of moving around campus to different classes like we do, the teachers move. The students had to become accustomed to navigating campus, and some said that it's fairly large in comparison to theirs.

"One of the most different things here is that students talk more in their classes and talk more to their teachers. They have more opportunities to do things on their own, too," Bill said.

All of the students were hosted by El Rancho teachers, counselors, and students instead of staying in a hotel. Throughout these two weeks, they also shadowed students who were not part of their host family.

"Fortunately for me, last year the school that I was at had the same program so I was aware of it," principal, Mr. Hector Vasquez, said. "I loved it, and I'm really glad we have it here."

"I hope that the foreign exchange students got a taste of our culture. You really don't get to see hear and feel [it] unless you're there, so I hope that they got that out of it."

"For our students, I hope that it increased their diversity and their knowledge that there is other cultures out there. Hopefully, some of our students will have the opportunity to go to China and experience that," Vasquez added.

"I'm going to miss the teachers and students here because they're really, really friendly. I really liked this school," Bill said.

## El Rancho students lose homes in Pico Rivera apartment fire



Firefighters rush to put out the fire that blazed at the Corsica Apartment complex. Photo from the Whittier Daily News

By KAYLA PEREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Tragedy struck the city of Pico Rivera on February 22 when 45 apartment units were destroyed and 141 units were affected by a massive fire, leaving at least 300 people displaced and homeless.

The fire was reported to have started at around 3:30 that Thursday evening. Fortunately all residents were safely removed from the building. No injuries were doc-

umented; however, families and individuals were evacuated, leaving a majority of their belongings behind.

Residents were then escorted the following day back to the apartment in order to pick up personal items but still remain with very little and no home for the next 3-5 days.

"It's such a tragic thing to see," says ASB advisor Mrs. Senteno, "Those that have been extremely affected have lost everything you could think of, from clothing to hygiene products,

it's all lost in the rubble because of this unfortunate incident."

Owners of housing units that were not critically affected will be able to return to their homes securely but those that have lost their homes are now left staying with local family or renting hotel rooms.

There has not been a confirmed cause of the accident but many speculations have been made. Officials believe that this catastrophe was sparked by plumbing as the origin of the fire started at the 3rd level and quickly spread throughout the entire complex.

"All indications is #Pico Rivera apt fire MOST LIKELY caused by plumbing work," tweeted the La County Sheriff's twitter. "#LASD Arson/Explosives Investigation is ongoing, still talking to more people."

Despite the loss this fire has caused amongst the city, a majority of the community have combined forces in order to provide those in need with basic necessities and support.

It is reported that nine students from El Rancho High School

lived in the apartment complex and have received school supplies and other academic necessities in order to ensure that their academic environment remains strong.

"It's great to see the community come together and help the residents in need," say math teacher Mr. Francis, "It's a tragic situation to be in but I'm glad everyone has been trying to help,"

The American Red Cross opened a donation center for residents in need of shelter and helped supply with them with food and a place to stay and sleep but has recently closed down. In order to guarantee that the residents are still receiving enough support and care, El Rancho's ASB Club has started their own fund raiser to issue supplies to them directly.

"We are fully stocked on clothes but are still in need of hygiene and money donations to help them get back on their feet," says Senteno.

Donations are currently being sent to B-104 during 2nd, 4th, or 5th period, anything you bring could make a difference!

## Teacher's remarks put ERHS in national spotlight

By ALEKSEY SOTO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On January 26th, Facebook user Kimberlie Flauto posted a student-recorded video of government teacher and Pico Rivera councilman, Mr. Gregory Salcido, making seemingly anti-military remarks during class. The video was posted with the caption, "Help me make this go viral."

And viral it went. Since then, the original video has amassed almost 97,000 views and put El Rancho under fire from countless angry Americans all across the country. For weeks, the school became a magnet attracting attention from news outlets and protesters, including a group of bikers who blocked an intersection in front of the school on February 5th. Countless phone calls flooded the staff, many of them racially charged.

The incident even made national news. White House Chief of Staff and former Marine Corps Gen., John F. Kelly, commented that Salcido "ought to go to hell."

"Since we found out about it, the admin team and I continuously talked about what our next steps would be," Principal Mr. Hector Vasquez said. "We kept the entire staff up to date on everything that we were going to do."

"My goal was to keep El Rancho students and teachers functioning as they were every day," Vasquez said.

Soon after the incident, a protest was planned for Friday, February 2nd. Roughly 100 veterans and supporters crowded the parking lot of the Rio Hondo Education Center across the street. The school administration team and the district office decided to provide the staff with valuable professional development to equip them with strategies to be better prepared to talk

to students regarding the events surrounding the school. Students were asked to stay home while the staff met in the school's cafeteria.

Salcido was placed on administrative leave by the school district and asked to resign from his post as a councilman at a city council meeting on February 13th. He refused, saying that he was sorry to those that his comments may have hurt, but that his remarks were taken out of context.

"I don't think it's at all a revelation to anybody that those who aren't stellar students usually find the military a better option. My goal as it relates to my students is to get them to do everything to get to college," said Salcido at the meeting, amidst angry shouts from the audience. "I wanted to challenge them to reach their academic potential."

However, economics and intro to law teacher Mr. Elias, who was enraged by Salcido's comments and called them the "last straw," has launched a campaign to get him removed from office. The recall was launched after successfully attaining 40 signatures from registered voters. He even set up a Facebook page and a Gofundme, which has received 1,275 dollars of its 15,000 goal so far.

Elias is not alone in his disapproval. Band instructor Mr. Cordero said, "My initial thoughts of the news of the occurrence were that I couldn't believe a teacher was making so many false statements about the military and being so disrespectful."

Vasquez expressed his disdain as well. "I don't agree with [the comments]. I was initially, and I continue to be, very shocked that an educator, a professional teacher would say such things to our students," he said.

But, not all veterans on campus were in-



Salcido made his first public appearance since the incident at the Pico Rivera City Council meeting.

furiated by the comments.

"As far as the expression of Mr. Salcido saying that he is against students going to the military, I don't take offense to any of that at all," economics teacher and Academic Decathlon coach Mr. Retana said. "Today, being in the military is a choice. If we get offended by people who disagree with our choices that we make for ourselves all the time then we're going to be spending our whole lives bickering with each other."

"The one thing I would be concerned about was the tone that was used towards the student," Retana added. "The words that were said, I don't know that I would've chosen them."

The student who took the video has since been honored by the local American Legion Post and invited to the White House. His Gofundme, created so that he could travel to Washington D.C., received 14,000 dollars, 9,000 more than his original goal. He met with Vice President Mike Pence as well.

Many other students expressed their support for Salcido, some tweeting with the hashtag #JusticeforSauce and engaging with Twitter users who attempted to not only attack Salcido, but attack El Rancho students with degrading language and racial slurs.

"What was said by these

people was unnecessary and uncalled for. I didn't appreciate the fact that people were telling me that they were going to call ICE and deport me when I was born here," senior Krystal Marquez said. "This one incident doesn't represent our school, and I wanted them to understand. That's why I clapped back instead of staying silent."

In order to keep El Rancho safe and functioning while the commotion took place, the administration came up with solutions to protect students on campus.

"We've been more diligent about our supervision," Vasquez said. "All administrators are expected to be at all the gates and in front of the school before and after school, all our SSOs have routines that they have to check every period, and we've equipped all our outside teachers with radios so if they see anything, they can radio us immediately. All of the adults on campus - security, police, and teachers - are on high alert. We're doing our best to prepare for anything."

Vasquez added, "Since this story broke, my objective as the principal of El Rancho has been for all of our students to be students. I need students to come to school and be students and not worry about anything else. I don't want this to take away from your high school experience."

# DISCOVERING DON'S

## The Makeup Lovers: Nancy Lopez and Enrique Vargas

BY DEVENIE ANCHONDO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER



### Nancy Lopez

Senior Nancy Lopez first began experimenting with makeup at the age of 13. Lopez was eager to learn more about makeup so she did what many teenagers do: she looked it up on Youtube. Sitting in front of her bathroom mirror, Lopez watched a makeup tutorial video and tried her best to follow the exact steps she was shown. She did not realize how difficult makeup could be. Attempt after attempt, she did not give up and she worked to become better. For Lopez, makeup is not something she does to impress or show off to others. Makeup has become a part of her and who she is. The whole process of doing her makeup allows her to display her creativity and confidence. Makeup is not just a daily routine to Lopez, but something she dedicates her time and effort into. Lopez made an Instagram account, @nancysvanity, where she posts photos and videos of her own makeup looks that she shoots, edits, and produces. Formerly, she used makeup to mask her insecurities, but now she uses it to portray her individuality and will continue to pursue it throughout her lifetime.



### Enrique Vargas

Senior Enrique Vargas' inspiration for doing makeup started when he was looking for a Christmas gift for his sister. Vargas began watching beauty gurus' videos, trying to figure out what to get for his sister. He realized how interesting makeup was and this was when he decided he wanted to try it out himself. Vargas then saw the creative, transformative side of it and that's what made him really want to do it. He would see how some people could transform themselves into blue aliens, glowing glamazons, and male to female transformations. The idea of people using makeup to completely change their appearance fascinated him. He continuously works on his makeup skills and shares his ideas on his social media. You can find Vargas on his Instagram: @corpsekiki.

## The Artists: Jasmyn Perez and Pilar Ornelas



### Jasmyn Perez

Ever since senior Jasmyn Perez was able to use a pencil, she began drawing. Perez lived in a broken home where she went through constant mistreatment and art was her way of escaping and expressing her feelings. Drawing is her passion. It is the only thing that makes her feel motivated. Being a perfectionist, Perez can spend up to 24 hours non-stop on a drawing/painting. Even though Perez draws and paints simply for the fun of it, she can see a career in this. Perez would like to work in every field that has to do with art: fine art, animation, graphic design, computer visual effects, et cetera. Perez says, "I don't see myself just doing one thing; I want to do everything and leave a little of me in every department of art." Perez would like to teach art to children who are going through tough times to show them all of the wonderful benefits art can bring into their lives. You can find Perez on her Instagram: @chica.jassy.

### Pilar Ornelas

Senior Pilar Ornelas first started to draw when she was in the fourth grade. Ornelas found drawing to be easy for her and believed it was the only thing she was good at. Rather than playing sports, Ornelas found herself drawing. Wanting to share the gift she has, Ornelas often gives her drawings to friends and family. Ornelas can see herself having a career having to do with art in the future, hopefully, in an animation studio. Right now, drawing is just a stress relieving hobby Ornelas does in her free time.



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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

# Karizma Reyes is *Simply Irresistible!*

BY FATIMA LOPEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

When she isn't working on a new drawing or tweeting about her favorite boy, Lance McClain from *Voltron: Legendary Defender*, you'll probably find her dancing to her '80s playlist or tearing up the streets with her skateboard. Not only is she funny, talented, and *kariz-matic*, junior Karizma Reyes is *simply irresistible!*

This Don is no stranger to the realms of talent! Karizma is actually talented in more ways than one! Whether it's skills with a brush or a ukulele, Reyes can do it all, but her favorite thing to do would be drawing! "I probably spend 90% of the time I'm awake drawing," Karizma said. "It's one of my outlets [of self-expression] and it's how I spend most of my free time."

Karizma isn't just all art, you know. She's also got many other interests and hobbies up her sleeve! As a matter of fact, Reyes made it very well known that she loves anime. "My top five favorite animes are *Cowboy Bebop*, *Naruto*, *Tokyo Ghoul*, *Assassination Classroom*, and *Your Lie in*

*April*," Karizma said. "Each of them is from a different genre, but they all have a special place in my heart." Need a friend to geek out with over the newest animes? You're definitely going to want to hit this weeb up!

A connoisseur for all the finer things in life, Karizma also has a great taste in music! "I listen to a lot of things, but I guess the majority of the songs I listen to are alternative rock," Reyes said. "I listen to music that has a nice sound to it, so I love the chill beats like that lofi hip hop girl that never stops doing her homework? Yup, that's my girl right there!"

If you're wondering where this curly headed cutie likes to spend her days, the answer is actually quite easy! "My bed! I'm Drake," Reyes said. We said, "Do you love us?" She told us, "Only partly" She only loves her bed and her sister, she's sorry! "If I do leave my room, I'm probably at the park," Karizma said, "but only if it's not packed! I hate crowded places." This homebody certainly stole *our* hearts!

Did we mention that Karizma can skate? "I've recently just started skating and the main

reason why I wanted to skate was because my uncle used to skate when he was in high school," Reyes said. "When I was little, I would always see him and I thought it was so cool!" While she might not be the next Tony Hawk, Karizma is still on her way to becoming your local skater heartthrob!

If you think you haven't seen Reyes in the hallways, trust us, you have. Her vibrant, eye-catching hair is the brightest thing here at El Rancho! Karizma has already dyed her hair purple, then blue and she's showing no signs of stopping. "I feel like dyeing my hair is a way that I'm able to show how creative and spunky I am," Reyes said. In fact, Reyes has big plans for her curls! "I want to do green next then I want to do orange and red and then I'm snipping it all off," Karizma said. "I'm gonna be bald! Stan Twitter will be shaking!"

Reyes, no doubt, has an eye for style. Whether she's dressing up or going for a casual look, she never fails to make a big fashion statement. "I guess I would describe my style as an '80s dad," Karizma said. "I wear a lot of men's clothing, I feel really



Karizma Reyes brings out her inner model! Photo by Fatima Lopez

comfortable in it and I also wear geeky shirts from Marvel, DC, and animes I watch." Accessories are Karizma's best friends! They really help pull her outfits together. "I really like crazy socks and earrings," Reyes said. "I love artsy earrings!" We love a style icon!

Unfortunately, she's not as single as a pringle, but that doesn't mean you still can't hit her

line up for a new bestie! Whether you need a shoulder to cry on or a couple of good laughs, Karizma's got you covered. "I mean, I'm really awkward at the beginning and sometimes really shy, but once you get that stage out of the way, shy? Never met her," Reyes said. Her twitter is @radsaddgirl, so don't be afraid to slide in her DMs and make a new friend!

## Spanish Club helps students learn about Latino culture



Spanish Club poses after making horchata during one of their meetings!

Photo by Sofia Dominguez

BY BIANCA ARIAS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Interested in learning how to prepare Hispanic-Style dishes? Do you like listening to Spanish music and playing loteria? Well then, you should join the Spanish Club!

The Spanish club is dedi-

cated to enriching students and providing them with knowledge of Hispanic culture on campus.

Ms. Trujillo is the club advisor. The club was started to give students the chance to do activities that they don't get to do in class as well as to "stay connected with former students and con-

tinue learning Spanish even after completing A-G requirements."

The club tries to make traditional crafts like molas and Piñatas and watch movies in Spanish.

"My favorite part is spending time with students and sharing my culture and experiences with them," Trujillo says.

## The Rojos are just too cute!

BY EMILY LOPEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Let's face it, the Rojos are just so gosh darn cute! No one can deny their chemistry. But how did it all begin?

"We met in November of 1996 at a party," says Mrs. Rojo. It only took the Rojos a year and a half to tie the knot after meeting each other. "I knew going away to the Navy that she was such a catch. If I didn't immediately marry her that someone would steal her away from me," says Mr. Rojo.

"Probably about a month and a half after we started dating he was already talking about getting married. I think I was a little bit more like 'wow' because I was only twenty," says Mrs. Rojo.

Mr. Rojo says, "When you know you know. Throughout conversations we had the same ideas about family and about where we wanted our life to head. I just knew. Hesitating only meant risking things. It was a no brainer for me."

"Mr. Rojo is not the best at surprises. He was like we are gonna go shopping for a ring today. So I knew it was coming," says Mrs. Rojo.

In the beginning of their marriage, they decided to go backpacking through Europe for 35 days. Mrs. Rojo says "he was leaving the military and going back to school I didn't have a job, so it was our break."

Mr. Rojo says "being in Rome and the Vatican were the best." Mrs. Rojo says, "We stayed at hostels. We were never worried or scared."

"We didn't have money for tours, so we would stand next to people who were giving the tours so we could hear. Or he would get the listening thing and just tell me what was going on" adds Mrs. Rojo.

Reminiscing about their younger years, it was clear to see that they still loved each other very much. "She has such a caring personality. She is like the ultimate wingman. It's incredible to find

someone who will always put you first. Like to be so selfless it's just inspiring. That and she's hot," says Mr. Rojo. "He makes me laugh he's just funny. Even if we are in the middle of fighting, he just cracks me up," says Mrs. Rojo.

Everything seemed to work out perfectly for them and their careers, including the timing for the birth of their first child, Carlos. Mrs. Rojo says, "I worked at Salazar first while he was substituting and going to UC Irvine. When I transferred over here [El Rancho], Carlos had just been born. We both started working at El Rancho at the same time."

Mrs. Rojo says "a pro is that we can drive together and if I need to see him for any reason I can just walk over." Mr. Rojo adds, "Whenever one doesn't have to work that usually means the other doesn't either." Mrs. Rojo says, "A con is that we both have the same work friends. I can't go home and tell him, 'This happened at work...' because he already knows."



E.R's cutest couple posing with their children! Photo by Mr. Rojo

They also express how they love spending time with their children, Carlos and Lorelai. "We love traveling with them. For regular weekends, we like hanging out at Disneyland," says Mrs. Rojo.

Speaking of Disneyland. They argued over who was the biggest Disney enthusiast. "I think I know more Disney movies. He tends to fall asleep. I am voting that I am the bigger fan," says Mrs. Rojo. "When we are there I

am the in the moment guy," says Mr. Rojo. "He likes doing the hidden Mickey stuff," says Mrs. Rojo. "Okay so it's a tie," says Mr. Rojo. "Alright. Fair," adds Mrs. Rojo. But they do find time to spend together without their kids. Mrs. Rojo says "we'll drop the kids off at practice and we'll go have dinner together. Just to different places around where we live." It is inspiring to see such love between two people.

## CAMPUS

## Previewing El Rancho's Bold New Look!

By MARIELA MICHEL  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

New rooms, new furniture, new technology? Within a few years, the new and improved El Rancho High School will have it all. El Rancho will renovate and expand its facilities to accommodate a wider array of activities and teaching methods for a greater diversity of innovative thinkers.

The construction process will take seven to eight years.

"The voters of the city of Pico Rivera and the school district voted last November to to approve \$200 million to rebuild the school so it's a big investment," says Program Instruction Manager Jaime Ortiz. "It just shows that the city and the citizens of the city believe in education."

"We're hoping that by the end of 2019 we will actually start seeing something," says vice president of the school board Gabriel Oroasco. "Hopefully sooner, but I don't want to make promises that we can't keep because it's really out of our hands right now."

With much analysis on the current ways of teaching and constraints of the current campus, the district came to the plan of action to rebuild the school.

"These buildings and these rooms in the school don't fit the way we want to teach or the way education is going," says Ortiz. "Everything is much more collaborative and these rooms don't let us be that collaborative."

The standards have been set high for the whole project.

"It needs to be gender-neutral. It needs to be handicap accessible and that's to meet all the requirements of DSA [Division of the State Architect]," adds Oroasco. "I think the number one thing that we want is that it needs to be student-centered it needs to be about our kids and it needs to reflect our community and it has to be the best school in the world."

The construction crew has taken on the ambitious goal of building the "best school in the world." In the future, El Rancho



An overview of El Rancho's new campus.

will be rated leed platinum, well platinum, and will use renewable energy from solar panels.

"Leed is an international rating system that rates how environmentally friendly the project or the design is," says Ortiz. "Very few schools in the world are leed platinum, so we're designing it to be environmentally friendly."

The well rating system refers to how well a building design is for the human being. El Rancho will be the first school in the world to be leed platinum and well platinum together.

"So leed platinum, well platinum, carbon-neutral and net-zero energy. It's an incredibly aggressive goal to try to design a school like this," says Ortiz. "We've had, at this point, more than 200 meetings with students and different departments and teachers, administrators, and community members."

The new campus will feature native landscaping, increased daylight exposure for students, air filters, and antimicrobial railings, door hardware, elevator buttons, and a majority of things students and staff touch on a daily basis.

"Native landscaping plants that are indigenous to this area so they grow naturally and they don't need additional watering and a lot of irrigation to grow," says Ortiz.

"Daylight, research has shown, helps students perform better," he says. "It helps

with your circadian rhythms in your eyes and it regulates it and keeps you awake."

"We're gonna have filters and we're gonna monitor it such that there's the right type of indoor air quality, because again, research has shown that with this students are more awake and can focus more on their work and whatever you're doing during the day," he says.

The interior will consist of six classrooms, called learning suites, around a central collaboration area with modern, flexible furniture.

"Everything is going to have wheels so they can be rearranged very easily and the furniture is going to be comfortable for students," Ortiz says. "We want to take all the distractions away that the environment can produce so you're as comfortable as possible and you're just being creative and focusing on your work."

"We're going to have, for the most part, floor-to-ceiling white boards so people can go in there and another thing is we want these classrooms to be student-centered," describes Ortiz.

One of the many prominent new features the school will have is a student union and conference rooms for students.

"It's [student union] going to be enclosed large volume but these walls open up so it's going to feel like an outside space when

they're opened up on both sides," Ortiz describes the student union. "We have maybe ten different conference rooms throughout the campus, and we call them huddle rooms where students go in there, huddle and work on projects and do whatever they're working on."

The new school will also be able to adapt to new methods of teaching and new technology in the future.

"We're going to put conduits on the walls that are empty so we can put new cabling in later whatever that is and we're going to have the wifi that is going to be easily upgradable," describes Ortiz. "Every room is going to have a 70 inch monitor interactive monitor that allows students and teachers to project onto it."

Despite the significant new changes, the construction team does hope to keep some architectural aspects of the school, including the prominent brick walls.

"We're making an active effort in salvaging some of the brick," says Ortiz. "We're seeing how we can incorporate it whether it's some sort of brick path within the school that uses the old brick from the current school or maybe we have a brick wall in the new school that uses El Rancho's current bricks."

One question several students have regarding the construction time frame is how classes will progress.

"For a couple of years you'll have this fence that'll just be separating the north side of the campus while we're doing all this work, says Ortiz. "We have weekly meetings with the school site while we're building this to make sure that everybody knows what's happening and so we make sure that the fencing is completely separating the construction site from the school site so we don't want construction workers intermingling with any of the school functions at all."

While the sports fields undergo construction, sports teams such as the football team and the baseball team are expected to have away games for one to 2 seasons. However, some activities, such as drama plays, will not be impacted as the Little Theater will not be demolished until the new performing arts center is ready and operational.

With all this change in our learning environment comes new expectations and support for the future Dons.

"We have to be more inclusive and our students understand that we are accepting of all students and that we have different types of students," says Oroasco. "We have gay and lesbian students. We have students from different cultures, from different backgrounds, that speak different languages and I'm hoping that this creates a strong culture that is all inclusive with all of our students and that's the main thing."

"Our vision is to provide the facilities to allow you to do whatever talent that allows you to discover and excel at whatever your passion is and hopefully that passion will lead you to change the world somehow," says Ortiz. "We want to provide the facilities to help you do that."

If you haven't seen the design for the new school check out the video tour: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1RFMJzQTJU4>

## El Rancho hosts Ethnic Studies tour



Senior Berenize Vazquez speaking up during Ethnic Studies debate.

Photo by Gabriela Nava

By GABRIELA NAVA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Last Monday, El Rancho High School hosted approximate-

ly 37 visitors, comprised of board members and superintendents to teachers, from nine surrounding districts who took part in a professional development day and

tour of the school's Ethnic Studies program. These representatives gathered to listen to student and administrator insight to see if their districts should implement cultural studies into their curriculum. Currently, El Rancho is one of the few schools that offer classes like this and are paving the way for new curriculum to be implemented in the upcoming years.

The event was held at El Rancho High School on Monday, February 26 in H2. Educators from surrounding counties took part in group discussions and became informed about the benefits that learning about other cultures has on students who are otherwise malinformed.

One of the courses, taught by Christina Mata, Cultural Awareness Through Literature and Film explores topics that al-

low students to express their own opinions and develop a sense of identity. Students watch films, read literature and engage in full-class debates that open up discussion about topics otherwise not explored. Students respond positively to this, expressing that they gain the skill to debate and defend their ideas while still maintaining a respectful tone throughout their discussions. Not only do students learn about the origins of culture, but they also learn valuable skills to use later on in their professional lives.

Another course that is offered on campus is AP Human Geography, taught by Mr. Rojo. The class goes back to the start of human civilization and the development of society and culture throughout time, continuing to current day.

Senior Jacob Romero was one of the student speakers that shared opinions about the class. "The class has been a benefit to me in the sense that it allowed me to open my mind coming from a very old fashioned home," says senior Jacob Romero. Other students also said that they feel more comfortable in debate situations and it has helped them develop debate skills. Adilene Servin says "I like that we are able to have our own opinions and that we discuss topics such as race, gender, and politics." Though the class is only one semester, students like Servin opt to retake it because it is so enjoyable and informative.

Ms. Mata and her students hope that this class will soon move past the El Rancho Unified School District to others in the state and eventually, the nation.

# CAMPUS

## Pride Alliance takes it back to the 80's



BY SOFIA DOMINGUEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

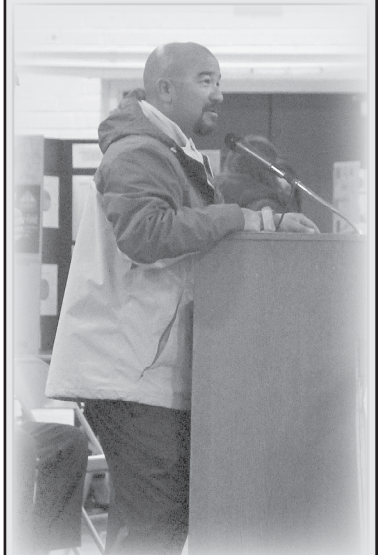
El Rancho's Pride Alliance club, previously known as GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance), had its first LGBT dance called G80's. Students of all sexualities and identities were welcomed into the new gym last Friday night by

club members and 80's music. Although they had low funds, the club was able to create something unforgettable. The dance floor was covered in rainbow colored balloons and a photo station was available with purchasable polaroids. "It was really laid back," says senior Dyllenn Reyes, "it

was cool to just hang out with my friends and have a good time." Reyes said. "My favorite part was when people were competing for popping the most balloons, the winner was given a Starbucks gift card," Reyes said. The dance was successful in raising money for future

events for the club. Club president Marina Chavez says, "I would like to thank everyone who came and those who donated money for our decorations." If you can't wait until their next dance, the club meets every Thursday during lunch in I-4!

## Incoming freshmen visit ERHS campus



ERHS Principal, Mr. Vasquez welcomes next year's freshmen.

BY BIANCA ARIAS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho High School hosted its annual Future Don Night last Thursday, February 22nd. Future Don Night is the time where incoming freshmen and their parents get a heads up on what to expect when entering high school.

El Rancho's administration provided parents key information about important dates to look out for and what to look forward to as their child transitions from middle to high school.

Incoming freshmen got the opportunity to chat with multiple clubs on campus and asked questions to the ones they most likely see themselves joining.

A lot of clubs talked to students and parents about all the activities that they do throughout the school year.

Sophomore Vanessa Alvarez said, "I had a really fun time hanging out with my friends while I was there. It was a good time to hang around".

Not only that, but Future Don Night also gave Integrated Math 3 students the chance to showcase their project based learning. For several weeks in advance all of the Integrated Math 3 classes conducted surveys and poster boards to present to parents and staff members.

"I had a really fun experience working on the project. I had a lot of fun working with my group on the PBL and had a good outcome," said junior Kayla Marroquin.

## Julio Ornelas: ASB President, Decathlete, and now, Coca-Cola Scholar!

BY ALEKSEY SOTO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Senior Julio Ornelas was recently awarded a \$20,000 scholarship from Coca-Cola. He competed with over 90,000 applicants all over the country and became one of only 150

students to be given this prestigious award. He is also the first Generation 1st Degree Pico Rivera student to be named a Coke scholar. Ornelas's dedication, leadership, service, and action made it possible for him to be one step closer to his dream school.



## Teen Court thanks donors

BY AMY LOPEZ  
TEEN COURT JOURNALIST

El Rancho Teen Court would like to thank the people of the city of Pico Rivera who contributed to the donation that was given to us. The money that was given will be used to buy shirts for all Teen Court members and the blazers for the Teen Court officers. Teen Court would like to thank the City for the support it has given to our organization this year.



# MEET YOUR 2017-2018

*Part two of an ongoing series that will help El Rancho students*



Mr. Daniel Delgado



Mr. Geronimo Delgado



Mr. Isidro Díaz



Mr. Justín Díaz



Ms. Marla Diaz



Mr. Raul Elías



Ms. Elizabeth Esparza



Ms. Olga Espinoza



Ms. Rosemary Figueroa



Ms. Yamilla Flores-Oriuela



Mr. Steve Francis



Ms. Monica Galarza



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Mr. Fernando García Montes



Ms. Anna García



Ms. Annette García



Mr. Richard García



Ms. Sonia García



Ms. Roxanne Garza



Ms. Alicia Gaxiola



Ms. Judithanna Gollette



Ms. Danielle Gomez



Ms. Lill Gonzalez

# 18 STAFF: PART TWO

*Students get to know the names and faces of our amazing staff.*



*Ms. Angelina Gonzalez*



*Ms. Diana Gonzalez*



*Ms. Vivian Gonzalez*



*Mr. Gerry Goyenaga*



*Ms. Elizabeth Gregg*



*Mr. Juventino Gutierrez*



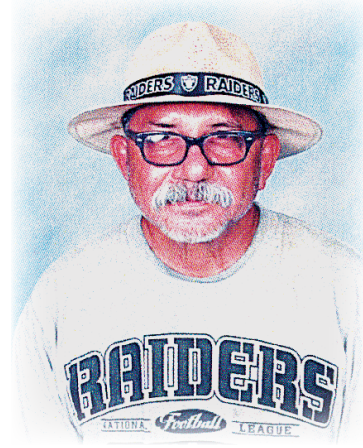
*Mr. Eddie Haro*



*Ms. Elizabeth Hernandez-Schaefer*



*Ms. Tatiana Hernandez*



*Mr. Jack Hill*



*Ms. Yohana Jacome*



*Mr. Jason Jenkins*



*Ms. Mandy Jepsen*



*Mr. Pablo Jimenez*



*Ms. Roberta Jimenez*



*Ms. Stephanie Jimenez*



*Ms. Laura Jurado*



*Ms. Christine Kim*



*Ms. Natalie Laguna*



*Ms. Marcella Lamar*



*Ms. April Leal*



*Ms. Mia Leos*



*Mr. Frank Llana*



*Ms. Lisa Lopez*



*Ms. Diana Luevano*

# SPORTS

## Girls soccer falls short of goal



Photo by Selina Torres

By JENNIFER BECERRA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho girls varsity soccer team had a tough season with the overall record of 7 wins, 12 losses, and 1 tie. They ended with a league record of 2 wins and 8 losses, placing 5th in league standings.

Although the girls didn't make it to CIF the players, on their own had some remarkable achievements. "We earned ourselves 5 shutouts and our goalkeeper has 167 saves this season. As well as three of our players making top 10 goal scorers for our Del Rio League," said coach Michelle Flores.

The girl's infamous rival, La Serna, gave them two of their many losses. "Of course, any team's biggest competition would be La Serna because they have been the Del Rio League Champions for over 10 years"

"Our main focus this season was to take each game as they approached us and not put too much pressure in qualifying for the CIF tournament. Since the teams eyes weren't set on winning the CIF tournament they believed on smaller goals, "As long as we focused on the minor goals, such as taking chances, taking care of injuries, etc., then we would get ourselves where we wanted to be" says Flores.

Although their chemistry was good on and off the field they believe there's always room for improvements.

My coaching staff and I are very excited to get the ball rolling with girls returning and the future lady dons.

Since summer practices are around the corner the coaches are already preparing for next season but the coaches would like to thank the girls for pushing through the season, even when it got difficult; and thank parents, staff, students, and friends for the support all season. They hope to see them and new faces cheering us on next year.



## Cheer finally recognized as a CIF sport



By SELINA TORRES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Starting at the beginning of this school year, cheerleading will join football, softball, and their counterparts in being recognized as a CIF sport.

"Finally!" said Varsity Captain, Amberly Recendez. Being recognized as CIF "proves to everyone that cheerleading is a sport and we work just as hard as any other."

Many believe that cheer is vastly different from other sports, but "competitive cheerleading is not that different" said Varsity Yell Captain, Bree Aguilar. "As a cheerleader, we condition and we use our muscles the same way football and basketball players do. The only dif-

ference is that we pick up girls."

Unlike other CIF sports, cheer does not take place in one season but is year long. "Our season is very long as it starts before the school year and ends during spring. So, about June to April. Although after April, we still have more events," said Madison Ulloa, Varsity Yell Leader.

Though cheerleading now has CIF recognition, "the only difference is that people respect us a little more. A cheerleader knows that cheer has ALWAYS been a sport. We know how hard we work, and we know that we work just as hard as the other sports," Uloa says. "CIF doesn't really change what we do, maybe just bring up the difficulty. But in all, we are the same, what we do is the same, maybe now

we just work a little bit harder."

"Some rules have changed" said Aguilar. CIF bylaws have restricted practice schedules to 18 hours per week. With these new limits "practices are hard, we will be going over a stunt sequence over and over again for about an hour just to get it right and usually practice around two hours at least three times a week," Aguilar continued.

People often think that cheerleading only occurs on the sidelines, but cheer has a competition season of their own. All year long, cheer works toward their version of CIF League Finals, USA Nationals. There, each team will compete against multiple schools to claim the National Champion title. Like any other team, "the goal is to

win nationals!" said Recendez.

Sophomore Song Leader, Clarissa Morales, says "Our coaches have been working us hard and pushing us to always do our best each practice." Amberly Recendez added, "this year we are determined to win. Our passion and drive to win can't be compared to previous years. We know what to do and what needs to get done at practice out goal at practice is to improve everyday,"

Throughout their season, El Rancho's Varsity Yell, Junior Varsity Yell, and Varsity song has managed to stay within the top two at their local competitions. Although they did not place as they hoped at their recent National Championship Competition, the team's first year being CIF was definitely one to remember.

## Girls basketball wins 6th straight league title



Seniors Susie Delgado and Ashley Reyes team together to score a goal

By JENNIFER BECERRA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After a great season

the Lady Dons ended their season with an overall record of 20-9 and a league record of 10-0. This is the girls'

Photo by Emily Lopez

sixth consecutive league title.

That's their 3rd straight undefeated championship and 38 league wins in a row! "We

went undefeated through league and this was our 6 year peat. We had very good games that helped us learn and advance each day to get us to prepare and work hard to be undefeated." says sophomore Ajohnette Guerra.

"The chemistry between my team and I was very good and positive. We became family, sisters to each other, and daughters to our coaches," says Guerra. The lady dons made to the first round of CIF for the sixth year in a row. "Our strong and passionate chemistry we've had amongst each other helped us do so well during season because we were able to work with each other, and understand how each one another can add on to the court."

Unfortunately, the lady dons lost to JSerra Catholic High School in the first round of CIF Playoffs. "I would say as a team we hope to improve going into the next year. We can improve by correcting our mistakes more and really focusing on our goals and being able to achieve them," says Guerra.

The lady dons would like to say they look forward to next season just like every other and they would like to thank everyone for the support.



# SPORTS

## Boys Soccer falls in the first round of CIF

BY SOFIA DOMINGUEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF

The timely after-school and Saturday morning practices have paid off for the El Rancho Boys Varsity Soccer. With an overall record of 17 wins 5 losses and 2 ties and a league record of 9 wins and 1 loss, the boys came up as Del Rio League Champions. An incredible amount of sacrifice and pride was shown throughout the season, and the boys planned to improve through CIF.

Their next obstacle was going on into the CIF round, where their motivation and skill was put to the test by other teams. "After all those 6 am practices, Saturday practices, city runs, etc. We have prepared physically for CIF. I'm just hoping that we have the mental strength each CIF game to overcome any team that confronts us," says captain Rodrigo Saldana. The game takes the focus of the mind and body, which the soccer boys are learning to perfect.

Unfortunate for the Dons, their training had not been enough. Their first CIF game hosted at

home against Redlands East Valley had been a loss. "The seniors knew our playing time was coming to an end and it could be our last game together as Dons. We played our hearts out but it just wasn't enough," Saldana says.

The boys had many hardships throughout the season but valued each moment as much as they could. "Some of the best parts of the season were the bus rides," says co-captain Gabriel Viramontes, "also celebrating each goal with my brothers and going out to eat after games." The boys have created a brotherhood both on and off the field, one that will last as long as the memories do.

The players have still taken pride in their accomplishments, "I feel that our season was very successful, but we have yet to accomplish our main goal and become CIF champs," says Viramontes.

Although the boys season didn't end with a CIF title, the JV boys soccer teams' future is bright. Their commitment and dedication to hard work paid off as they too are Del Rio League Champs for the 3rd consecutive year.



Varsity boys soccer showing off new jerseys.

Photo by Mr. Goyenaga



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## Boys Basketball fails to qualify for CIF



Isaiah Roa maneuvers around La Serna player. Photo by Mr. Crone

BY SOFIA DOMINGUEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF

Varsity boys basketball failed to reach the CIF playoffs again after compiling an overall record of 15 wins and 13 losses and a league record of 2 wins and 7 losses and struggles were apparent throughout this season.

Devoted team member Jacob Hodgden-Baltierra says, "Further into the season, the practice doesn't get as rigorous; it goes more into the mental part of the game."

Coach Chacon says, "This season was very rough because we were very inconsistent." Chacon elaborates the definite struggles for the team being free throw shooting and rebounding.

Chacon states that the most difficult game was against Cal High, with their team taking the win (66-56). Elliot says, "There weren't any easy games." With losses being dominant in this season, senior Sebastian Lara gave his perspective on the results, "You prosper from losing as well as winning, and we all learn that just as a life lesson, that it's not all about winning." This is Lara's

last year playing for El Rancho.

Even though the season seemed unfavorable, the team managed to keep a positive morale. Coach Chacon says, "I think it was positive and negative; negative because of the losses piling up, positive stuff being the team working together and helping the community." According to Lara, even though the last game resulted in a loss, it was special for the team.

Baltierra blamed the team's loss on their decrease in intensity and loss of focus in the game. He said, "I think we crumbled at the end." Baltierra also said, "I think we put in too much work to be in this position."

Coach Chacon adds, "I think they really did a good job as a team that last game." Lara also adds in, "I liked spending those last games with my friends for sure; we've been playing together since freshman year."

The seniors experienced their last endeavors playing as the Dons, and the younger players now have the drive to over-achieve next season. Losses will never slow down these Dons.

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Are the JoBros reuniting?

BY LESLIE PLAZA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Teens all over the world screamed in unison at rumors of a Jonas Brothers reunion. The Jonas Brothers, Joe Jonas, Kevin Jonas, and Nick Jonas, reactivated their band's Facebook and Instagram account, which hasn't been active since their breakup in 2013. Many news outlets and fans speculate that 2018 will be the year the band finally perform or create music together.

The Jonas Brothers debuted in 2005 with their album *It's About Time*. They gained publicity through Disney Channel, which played their music during commercials and in Disney movies.

Eventually, the Jonas Brothers became very popular, touring the world with hits such as *Burnin' Up*, *Love Bug*, and *S.O.S.* They've even had relationships with Disney stars such as Selena Gomez, Miley Cyrus, and Demi Lovato, which increased their popularity.

Nick Jonas, the youngest of the brothers, released his own album, *Who I Am*, in 2010, raising concerns about the status of the band. During this time, the Jonas Brothers began a TV show called *Jonas*, which aired on Disney channel. They've even starred in Disney's *Camp Rock* and *Camp Rock 2*.

Tension rose in 2012 as Nick Jonas initiated the conversation about splitting. The band grew further apart as the start of their new tour grew closer.

Kevin Jonas married to Danielle Deleasa in 2009, beginning a TV series called *Married to Jonas* on E! Network. Joe Jonas began dating other celebrities outside of Disney such as Camilla Belle, Ashley Greene, and Taylor Swift. Meanwhile, Nick Jonas continued writing his own music.

The Jonas Brothers confirmed their breakup in October of 2013. The band agreed that they grew apart as band members and wished to continue only as brothers. Additionally, the band established that they'd be continuing their careers on different paths.

Now, nearly five years later, the Jonas Brothers mysteriously reactivated their band accounts. Also, Nick Jonas announced that he's open to the idea of a reunion tour, but failed to confirm anything.

Jonas Brothers fans are left to speculate the meaning behind the reactivation of the social media accounts. The brothers continue to work independently in both acting and performing. For example, Nick Jonas recently starred in *Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle* and Joe Jonas continues to tour with his band DNCE.

Whether there is any reason behind the activation of the Jonas Brothers' social media accounts, fans continue to listen to classic JoBros hits in hopes to see them all perform in 2018.

## Black Panther breaks down barriers



Black Panther is a step forward in giving people of color the platform they deserve.

BY FATIMA LOPEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

*Black Panther*, starring Chadwick Boseman, Michael B. Jordan, and Lupita Nyong'o, the third hit from director Ryan Coogler, who also directed *Fruitvale Station* (2013) and *Creed* (2015), is on its way to becoming one of the highest-grossing films ever. With its release only two weeks ago, the most recent addition to the Marvel franchise has earned over \$700 million and it is expected to cross the \$1 billion dollar mark by early March.

*Black Panther* tells the story of T'Challa, the newly crowned king of the fictional country of Wakanda. Wakanda is a highly advanced, isolationist African nation that hides its resources and its technology from the world. The country is what one might call an Afro-futurist utopia and it's powered by the world's rarest, strongest, and most powerful metal, vibranium.

The movie has some rather cliché moments, but Coogler

makes it work. For example, the film explores the universally acknowledged truth that wherever there is a palace, there must be a throne and wherever there is a throne, there must be someone to challenge it. T'Challa's claim to the throne is challenged by Michael B. Jordan's character, Eric Stevens, affectionately nicknamed Killmonger.

Like all of the best villains in the MCU, the Marvel cinematic universe that is, Killmonger's motives are grounded in his obsession to correct a great injustice, the oppression of the people of African descent all over the world. One may try to argue against his master plan, which does include the oppressed becoming the oppressors, but as the movie progresses and the audience has a chance to listen to his reasonings, you'll have to admit, he makes some pretty valid points.

Not only is *Black Panther* the action-packed superhero movie that many were expecting, it also provides a big platform for

the women of the cast to show audiences around the world that they are much more than just pretty faces. Black Panther gives women the fierce roles that Hollywood doesn't see too often.

*The Walking Dead's* Danai Gurira leads the Dora Milaje, as General Okoye. The Dora Milaje is an elite force of female Wakandan warriors and their incredible combat skills provide many of the film's most thrilling moments. Shuri (Letitia Wright), T'Challa's brilliant and cheeky younger sister, supplies the kingdom with its super advanced tech that scientists could only dream of having, and the film with its meme-oriented humor.

Lupita Nyong'o plays Nakia, a love interest who's actually interesting and a young woman who rebels against Wakanda's ancient policy of keeping its wealth and technology from the world. Looking regal and displaying an aura of grace only she can pull off in the royal couture created by costume designer Ruth E. Carter, Angela Bassett is also one of the many fierce women that are found in this movie.

Film legends Martin Freeman and Andy Serkis are also in the film, but pay them no mind, the film isn't about them. This, of course, is truly what's new and ground-breaking here.

The superhero genre is much more than cool gadgets and amazing superhuman abilities and we see that in many movies, but with this film, it's different. Yes, Coogler does fall victim to the cy-

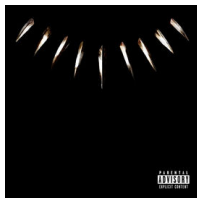
cle of superhero clichés, but *Black Panther* is a story we haven't seen told before in popular movies.

It is a story about Africans who were completely untouched by colonialism. While it is only a fantasy story and the truth is much more gruesome, the movie provides a window for the what if's and opens up the floodgates for representation of minority groups and people of color. The inspiration and the feeling of empowerment that many people of color are getting when they see a version of themselves on screen is what makes this film the knockout that it is.

*Black Panther* is filled with moments of representation for many people of African descent and serves as an inspiration to many. An almost all African cast getting hero moment after hero moment in an amazing Afro-futurist setting where the sunsets are the most beautiful in the world, and where the technology is forever advancing is just the win many people of color needed.

There are many problems in this world and sadly, fictional heroes can't fix them, but what they can do is bring people together and inspire the younger generation to do big things and to change their lives for the better. As T'Challa's sister Shuri said in the film, "Just because something works does not mean it cannot be improved." *Black Panther* is not only the superhero movie of the year, it is also the representation that millions have waited so long for and is a must-see.

## Album Review: Black Panther by Kendrick Lamar



BY KAYLA PEREZ AND ALONZO MURRIETA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

Kendrick Lamar has done it again. On February 9th, 2018, the official sound track for Marvel's most recent movie, *Black Panther*, was released and has already begun dominating the music scene with topping charts and scoring records.

The sound track was produced by rapper Kendrick Lamar along with Top Dawg Entertainment CEO Anthony "Top Dawg" Tiffith

and features a variety of colored artists from multiple music genres. From collaborations with Khalid and Swae Lee to the sweet soothing voice of Jorja Smith, this sound track was set to not disappoint.

The album starts off strong with the opening self-titled track "Black Panther." "Kings did it, king's vision, Black Panther, King Kendrick, all hail the king," raps Lamar as he draws comparisons and brings upon a new sense of empathy as he tries his best to envision himself in T'Challa's shoes through the theme of kingship.

Some other noteworthy tracks include "Paramedic!" which features rising artist SOB X RBE as they speak about the struggles

a person goes through as they gain more power over both a hard-hitting beat and angelic chorus.

Another standout from the album includes "King's Dead," which again features Kendrick as he collaborates with Jay Rock, Future, and James Blake. The tracks encase a powerful character as it captures the antagonistic persona of Killmonger. The highlight of this track is rapper Future's verse, as he changed the rap game with his ground breaking note change.

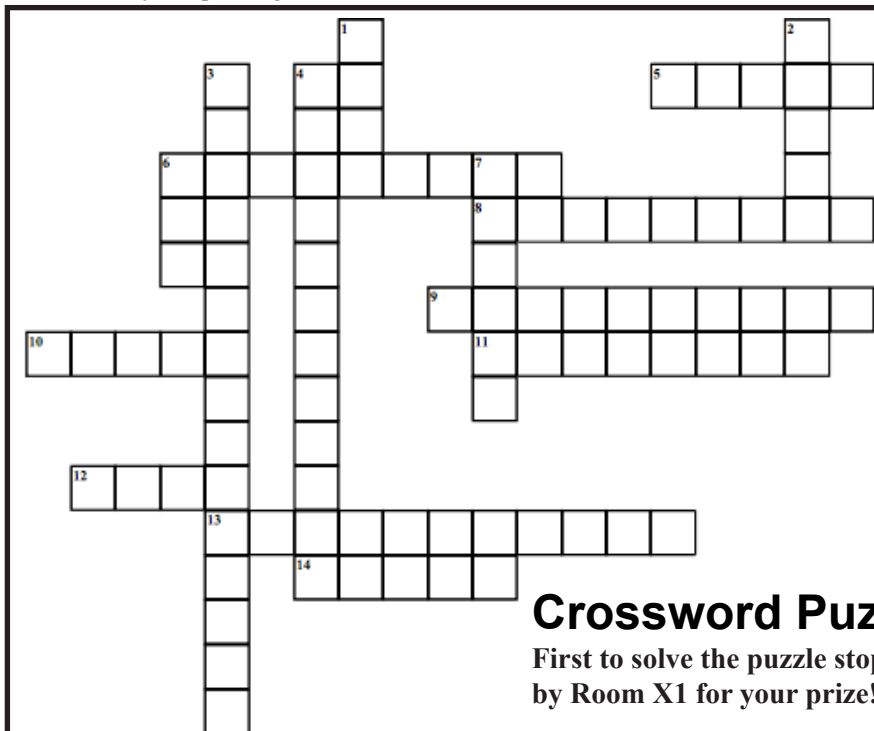
The album takes a smooth transition with Jorja Smith's enchanting track "I am," as she soulfully sings about putting fear aside when addressing "change" and to always remain brave even in the toughest

times over a soothing and rich beat.

With so much talent encased in a thoroughly thought-out album, it is easy to say that the *Black Panther* sound track is nothing short of an artistic masterpiece.

The movie *Black Panther* has already gathered almost \$750 million ticket sales with a sound track debuting #1 on the *Billboard 200*, along with its multiple singles at the top of the *Billboard Hot 100*.

The amount of success this MCU installation has garnered is enough to shut up anyone who underestimates the powerful connection that black narratives can resonate with audiences around the world and this only the beginning of a powerful revolution in entertainment.



### Crossword Puzzle!

First to solve the puzzle stop by Room X1 for your prize!

#### Across

5. Now considered a CIF sport.
6. Principal of ERHS.
8. Sweet treat on Valentine's Day.
9. She is all the way up, Dons!
10. Gadabouts summer destination.
11. Gray vs. Blue
12. "I'm so sick of that same old \_\_\_\_" -Selena Gomez
13. The number of medals the US team won at Winter Olympics
14. Cute faculty couple.

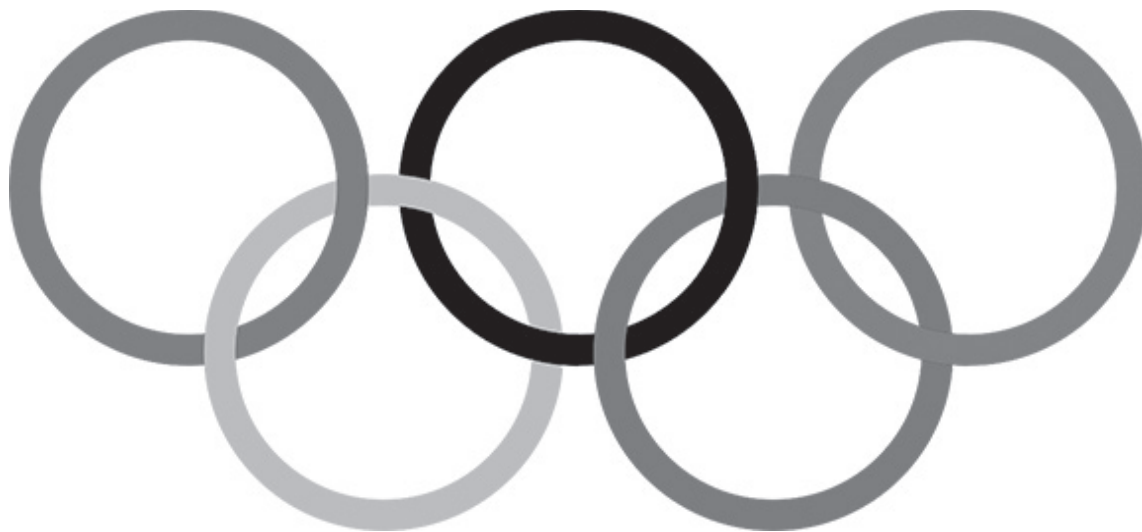
#### Down

1. Given out for Valentine's Day by ASB members.
2. We wear them on our sleeves.
3. Has won 6 consecutive league titles.
4. Current blockbuster film.
6. He had a dream.
7. Sent out on to kids in the Children's Hospital

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Olympic Overview: Highlights from PyeongChang

BY SEBASTIAN CARCANO  
AND ALEKSEY SOTO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS



Unless you've been living under a rock for the past few weeks, you might remember that from February 9th to February 25th the 2018 Winter Olympics were in full swing and the world was watching. Athletes from all over the globe met in PyeongChang, South Korea to compete and, hopefully, take medals back home.

The Opening Ceremony, held at the PyeongChang Olympic Stadium on February 9th, kicked off the games with a show centered on peace, passion, harmony, and convergence. The show centered on five children exploring Korea's rich history and influencing its future. It featured performances from traditional drummers and dancers as well as from Korean pop and rock stars, Ha Hyun-woo, Ahn Ji-young, Lee Eun-mi, and Jeon In-kwon. The Rainbow Children's Choir, opera singer Hwang Su-mi, and Korean dance group Just Jerk also performed at the ceremony.

During the Parade of Nations, countries walked out to various K-pop songs, with the U.S. coming in as viral hit "Gangnam Style" played throughout the

stadium. At the end of the parade, North and South Koreans walked out as a unified team under one flag and made history. South Korean president, Moon Jae-in, even shook hands with Kim Jong-un's sister at the games.

Olympic figure skater, Kim Yuna, who won gold at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, lit the Olympic flame after being handed the torch by athletes from South Korea and the DPRK, officially kicking off the games.

PyeongChang saw various sports throughout the games from Alpine skiing, to curling and all the way to figure skating. There were also many amazing highlights like the 17-year-olds, Red Gerard and Chloe Kim, winning gold medals for the United States in snowboarding, or Ester Ledec-

ka becoming the first woman to win two gold medals in separate sports at the Winter Olympics for her country, the Czech Republic. There was also Adam Rippon who might have not won a medal at the games, but won over millions of hearts due to him being an openly gay figure skater for the United States and an idol for many in the LGBTQ community.

The Winter Olympics had numerous countries medal with a total of 92 countries participating at the games. The country with the most medals to their name was Norway with a total of 39. They were followed by Germany who had 31, then Canada with 29 and, in fourth, the United States with a total of 23 medals.

The Winter Olympics concluded on February 25. The clos-

ing ceremony commenced with a young guitarist playing from the highest spot of the stadium filled with 35,000 attendants and a solo Korean dancer performing Korea's traditional Spring Dance of Nightingale. This was then followed by the athletes carrying around their national flag. The unified Korea team was met with biggest cheer as two separate nations were unified under one, and also entering the stadium together. The games officially concluded with the traditional raising of the Greek flag, the lowering of the Olympic flag, and the Beijing 2022 flag being had over as the ceremony finished before the Olympic flame was extinguished officially concluding the 2018 Winter Olympic Games.



### Poetry Contest winner:

**The Colors of Love**  
by senior, Matthew Sanchez

She always anticipated a pink cherry blossom painted sky, with an orange sunset to complete the portrait.

A soothing silver shiver electrified her body like a thunder strike to a tree when she saw him with those innocent hazel eyes.

He promised to forever hold onto her red pure heart. He promised to be her metallic knight in shining armor. He promised to write their names in the glistening stars.

She let him inside her life expecting that beautifully constructed painting to come with him. She expected a Romeo but all she got was the vial of poison.

That pink and orange sunset sky sooned turned into a somber stormy night where the rain fell faster than she did for him. She mixed the paints to create the sky she longed for, but what came was an ugly black.

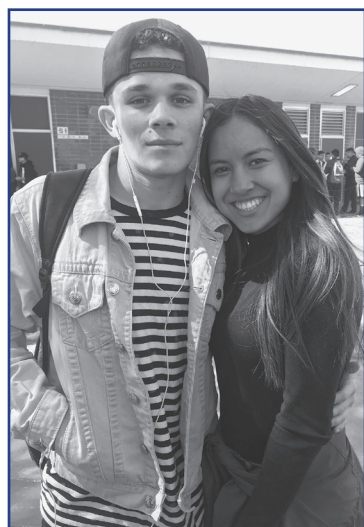
His tan curled fists locked with her pink cheeks, turning them puffy purple. Scared to extinguish the flame that raged through him, she allowed it to singe her pale skin.

White salty tears flowed down her mountain of raspberries each time he called her name. She prayed that the storm above her would soon bring the rainbow she desired, yet she knew she was over her head.

Her metallic knight in shining armor left and she never got the pink and orange love she wanted. Yet, she learned that love can be a rainbow with a gray sky. She learned that if she wanted a bright yellow happiness, she had to find it in herself.

## What did you do for Valentine's Day?

BY ALYNNA RODRIGUEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER



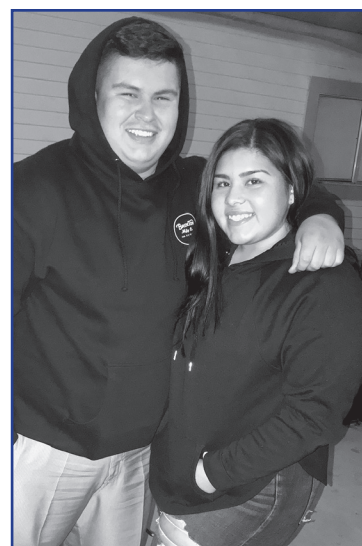
Jonathan Hernandez and Jessica Lemus.

"We went to watch Fifty Shades Freed and he got me chocolate covered strawberries." Jessica Lemus & Jonathan Hernandez, 12



Nicholas Powers and Amberly Recendez.

"We went to Olive Garden for lunch and I bought her shoes. Then we ate chocolate covered strawberries at her house and she bought me an Atlanta Falcons Jersey." Nicholas Powers & Amberly Recendez, 12



Michael Millan and Catherine Estrada.

"I made him a scrapbook and he surprised me with flowers and a bear. We had dinner at Bj's." Catherine Estrada & Michael Millan, 12

## Library Corner

Match the first line to the title of the book. The first 3 students who come to the Library with the correct written answers will receive a prize.

- "Two households, both alike in dignity, In fair Verona where we lay our scene..."
- "Simon Glass was easy to hate."
- "You don't know about me without you have read a book by the name of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, but that ain't no matter."
- "The night Max wore his wolf suit and made mischief of one kind and another his mother called him "Wild Thing"..."
- "Mr. and Mrs. Dursley, of number four Privet Drive, were proud to say that they were perfectly normal, thank you very much."

- Where The Wild Things Are*
- Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*
- Romeo and Juliet*
- Shattering Glass*
- The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*



had to find it in herself.

# MONTH OF LOVE

## Loverscopes

BY BREMO MARTINEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

### Aries (March 21 - April 19)

The month of February is focused on the people around you. Stay away from stressful situations. When you need advice, turn to friends. Pour all of your energy into a cause that is beyond you. Further yourself away from drama and throw yourself into new friendships and the community.

### Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

This month, you will gain new perspectives on life. It is possible that you could fall in love with a topic you begin to study, so venture into things you've thought about. If you've planned on traveling this month, go for it! It'll be a positive experience.

### Libra (September 23 - October 22) Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)

Your work life is going smoothly, and your relationships with your co-workers are important. But really this month is all about love for you. If you're single, be sure to get yourself out into the field of love. If you're in a relationship, be sure to engage in a creative adventure together.

### Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)

All of your talents will shine bright this month. You will be able to get out of any sticky situations you are stuck in due to your ability to collaborate with others. Aside from that, if you and your partner have any ideas for an adventure to a new place now is a great time for that.

### Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

Your social life will be great this year. Ahead of you are connections with friends, and sentimental moments. If joining a club has been on your mind, now is the time to do so. Endless support and love will be provided to you by your companions.

### Leo (July 23 - August 22)

Emotions will decide how you feel about a certain situation or relationship. A new door will open in your life, which will lead to the following chapter of your love life. If you already have a partner, this is the unexpected time to explore new horizons with them.

### Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

The key to success for you this month is something you can't replace: imagination. Your success will originate from your imaginative ability. Your bright ideas will emerge from your mind this month. If you have always wanted to learn about something, now is the time to do so.

### Virgo (August 23 - September 22)

Next on the list is romance for you, Virgo. Having a closer bond with your partner will be very easy. Although things may be going good, something will threaten your relationship. Avoid any drama concerning either of you to get rid of the threat.

### Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)

Family will be your source of peace this month. The relationships with relatives will be easier to manage. An important rule for you this month is to not sweat the small stuff. All family problems that you encounter and overcome will bring you tranquility.

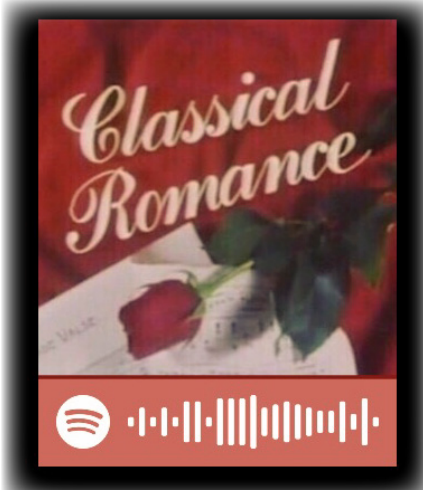
### Pisces (February 19 - March 20)

Notice and embrace your emotions, Pisces. Pay close attention to the stress you're dealing with. It's time to let go of any unhealthy emotional attachments. If you're in a toxic relationship, it's hurting you and your health. Let go of anything holding you back.

### Aquarius (January 20 - February 18)

If you've noticed that a personal relationship you have with someone hasn't been fulfilling your needs, then now is the time for you two to part your ways. If this is the case, remaining friends is the worst you could possibly do. You're finally becoming who you're meant to be.

Valentine's Day may have passed, but you can still keep love in the air with this romantic playlist! Scan now to listen and fall in love all over again!



## El Rancho's Week of Love



Sebastian Carcano giving out a free hug to Laura Valle



Carcano ready to spread some love!



Heymi Pena gives Clarissa Morales a big ol' smooch.



Sophia Flores and Crystal Burgos leave loving messages for people to take.

## What's the worst date you've ever been on?



We were eating and then her boyfriend called and made a scene. So then she had to leave and I was eating my chicken nuggets all by myself.

**Erik Avalos, 11th**



The worst date I've ever been on is when I took her to Chilli's and I forgot my money.

**Abraham Benitez, 11th**



It was seeing Star Wars. The seats reclined too far back, so I had a double chin. I was trying to hold his hand, but it was really sweaty and that was gross. Star Wars was just so boring. I was laughing because of how bad the editing was of that movie. At the end, he tried to kiss me and it was our first date and I was like, "No dude who do you think you are? Who do you think I am?" I was so offended. And my friend was in the middle of us. It was cute.

**Maggie Grisco, 11th**

