

El Rancho High School

Friday, 9.28.18

V. 67.1

El Rodeo



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Key Club, Leader club, and more!

All the best clubs for you to join this new school year.



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Find out your monthly fortune on our center spread!



Is Eminem washed up?

Find out more about the Rapper's latest controversy.



School board discusses high school's future construction

SCOPE		POSSIBLE PROJECT OPTIONS			
		A = \$220M	B = \$200M	C = \$168M	D = TBD
Phase 1 2019-2021	NO LEED OR WELL CERTIFICATION	X	X	X	X
	NEW BUILDING A: SCIENCE AND CLASSROOMS AND ASSOC. SITE WORK	X	X	X	
	NEW BUILDING B: CLASSROOMS, SPECIAL EDUCATION AND ADMINISTRATION AND ASSOC. SITE WORK	X	X	X	
	NEW BUILDING E: HOME TEAM ROOM, CONCESSIONS AND RESTROOMS AND ASSOC. SITE WORK	X	X	X	
	NEW BUILDING F: VISITOR TEAM ROOM, CONCESSIONS AND RESTROOMS AND ASSOC. SITE WORK	X	X	X	
	NEW STADIUM, NEW BASEBALL FIELD, NEW SOFTBALL FIELD AND ASSOC. SITE WORK	X	X	X	
Phase 2 2021-2023	NEW BUILDING C: CLASSROOMS, CTE, LIBRARY AND ADMINISTRATION AND ASSOC. SITE WORK	X	X	X	
	NEW BUILDING D1: PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (400 Seat No Mezz) AND ASSOC. SITE WORK	X	X	X	
	NEW BUILDING D2: PERFORMING ARTS CLASSROOMS AND ASSOC. SITE WORK	X			
Phase 3 2023-2025	NEW GYMNASIUM BUILDING	X			
	ASSOC. SITEWORK - GYM (INCLUDES AQUATIC COMPLEX)	X	X		
	MODERNIZE EXISTING GYM		X		
	MODERNIZE LOCKER ROOMS		X		
	MODERNIZE EXISTING BUILDINGS X, Y & Z INTO CTE AND VAPA	X	X		
	MODERNIZATION OF EXISTING BUILDINGS AND ASSOC. SITEWORK				X

Above is the time line and building areas for each of school construction option.

By KAYLA PEREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Plans for a new El Rancho High School were introduced September of 2017.

The plan for a redevelopment of El Rancho included a full renovation of all buildings and an entirely new design, both projects that would all fall under a \$200 million bond. The action to go forward with the plan was signed and passed last December with an estimated cost of 230 million.

However, on September 4th, 2018, the school board suspended demolition of existing buildings.

Mr. Fromm, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, informed the board and other staff members that the district does not have the money needed to completely rebuild a new El Rancho High School.

The district now has three options for moving forward with the rebuild of El Rancho High School.

Options A and B will require state funds and the bonds to complete the project; however, receiving these funds is not guaranteed. It will also require the citizens of Pico Rivera to pay additional property taxes which could become a burden for some families.

Option C will rely on a smaller amount of property taxes but will not have enough funds for a complete rebuild of the school.

However, alternatives to these three options have been suggested. On September 24th, 2018, Mr. Fromm recommended that the board should not focus on one of the three project options but should instead shift their attention to establishing a budget first and then determining what direc-

tion to take within the budget.

Christina Padilla, union representative and El Rancho High School English teacher, has been extremely engaged throughout this process and highlights the positive outcomes that could come with a remodel instead of renovation.

"If the ERUSD School Board does not determine a reasonable budget and remain within that budget, the project could place a heavy tax burden on the citizens of Pico Rivera and the full project may not be completed," says Padilla, "However, if the board modernizes ERHS to meet the needs of the students and remains within an established budget, the modernization of ERHS could be a positive step forward for current and future students and for the entire community of Pico Rivera."

The school has recently made a minor remodel in the upstairs library. The space, which used to be a computer lab was transformed into a interactive math lab that provides students with a more open space for interactive learning.

"I think for the students that are in the new math lab have experienced a very positive change in their learning," says math department instructional leader, Steven Francis, "the math lab allows the students to be collaborative in their learning and provides the teachers with better feedback on how to use the space."

The school and community has already voiced their opinions. R.I.S.E which stands for "Responsible Involvement for School Efficiency" is an organization created by the citizens of Pico Rivera, whose main objective is to make sure the management

of El Rancho School District's bonds are managed correctly and within the code of law according to established California Educational Code rules and regulations.

Mr. Raul Elias, who is a history teacher at El Rancho, is a member of this organization and supports the alternative choice of a remodel over a renovation.

"[The District] should fix the old schools throughout the district with the bond capacity of \$50 million" says Elias, "If any of the three cost options presented on are selected they will negatively impact the community with significantly higher property taxes that are unsustainable by our residents."

"What the district needs right now, if they really want to attract more people to enroll their children in the district, is not for a new school to be renovated but for the High school to be remodeled and for another elementary school to be made," continues Elias, "There has been a decline in the population of the El Rancho Unified School District not because people believe there needs to be a new high school but because the teacher to student ratio in the elementary school's are so bad."

"Classes in the our elementary school's have a ratio right now of approximately one to thirty-eight, when on average it should be one to seventeen, it's understandable why people don't want to enroll their children if the students aren't given the proper amount of attention," says Elias.

Mr. Tony Hernandez, head of the classified employees union, has voiced his concern that we should not push the idea of a rebuild in order to avoid the citizens of Pico Ri-

vera from facing tax burden.

"This project was told to the tax players it would only cost them \$100 for every \$100,000 in assessed value," says Hernandez, "Now, this isn't true because in order to complete to this project as it was designed taxes would have to be raised to increase the bond debt limit to 4.5% of assessed property value."

Many ideas and opinions have been addressed to the Board. "We remain committed to rebuilding or modernizing ERHS but cannot make that decision until we obtain a structural assessment of the existing buildings," says President of the School Board, Dr. Aurora Villon, "The plan is to have the structural assessment done as quickly as possible so we can continue with the construction project."

"At this point we don't have the information we need to determine whether the high school will be rebuilt or modernized," continues Villon, "Once we have the required information we will move forward and build/modernize the best possible high school with the budget allocated by our very generous community."

"It is our intent to stay within the budget our community approved and not place additional tax burdens on our community," says Villon, "We are blessed to live in a community that places such great value on the education of our children, It is our responsibility as elected officials to be transparent and make informed and fiscally sound decisions."

The school board has yet to reach a decision on what direction to move forward with on the project.

Chavez-Diaz accepts position as principal of Dual Language Academy



By KAYLA PEREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Goodbye's are one of the hardest things to do. After 16 years of working at El Rancho High School, Mrs. Jazmin Chavez-Diaz has bid her farewell to "The Ranch" and has moved on to become Principal at South Ranchito Dual Language Academy.

Mrs. Chavez-Diaz has had many titles at El Rancho High School; From an English 9 Honors teacher to Assistant Principal of Curriculum, her experience is nothing but impressive.

However, with her new position as Principal of South Ranchito Dual Language Academy, Chavez-Diaz will have more time to relax and make use of her free time.

"I have been fortunate to have more time to spend as a mom," says Chavez-Diaz, "I am on the soccer field with my girls three times a week, dance practice once a week, and I also get to do homework with my oldest and enjoy quality time with my family."

Her new position also allows her excess time to establish bonds with the people in her new environment that will help generate new ideas to improve and innovate South Ranchito Dual Language Academy.

"I also have began to build relationships with the staff and South Ranchito," says Chavez-Diaz, "I have been able to learn a lot already and they all have been very welcoming and kind."

The Queen of Cameos, also plans to make some guest appearances at "The Ranch" throughout the year.

"I would love to attend graduation and be able to give the senior one, last hug before they leave The Ranch," says Chavez-Diaz, "I have been attending ERHS soccer games for the past decade and plan to keep that streak going."

Even though Chavez-Diaz has moved, a part of her heart will always remain at El Rancho High School and she will continue to carry Blue Pride with her for as long as she can.

FEATURES

Get involved: An activity for everyone!

By RENE GALLEGOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Looking for a place to meet new friends and discover a hidden passion? At El Rancho, numerous clubs and activities can fulfill these desires... All one needs to do is join! Here is a list containing only a fraction of the extracurricular activities held on campus:

Aquatics: Boys and Girls Aquatics, consisting of Water Polo and Swimming, compete against the Del Rio League for the League Champion title! Speak to coaches Mr. Rojo and Ms. Castillo for more information.

Animal Advocates: Promotes the safety and protection of animals while educating the community of other animal-related issues. Spread awareness about these unspoken problem every Tuesday in A204 during lunch.

Annual Staff: During 5th period, students study journalism and computer skills to put together the annual yearbook. See advisor, Mr. Crone, about assistance and more information.

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination): College preparatory class consisting of students from all grades levels. Build your study skills and prepare for the next level in education in this class! Speak to any AVID Advisor for more information.

California Scholarship Federation (CSF): informs students that have met the honor roll requirements of scholarship, internship, and any other college-related opportunities. Club meetings held every other Monday in H-3.

Choir: Sing your heart out to a variety of music genres, and travel to compete all around Southern California. See new advisor, Mr. Keilbach, for more information in Z-2.

The Club at El Rancho: From art classes, homework help, dancing, and field trips, this club is very flexible with their activities. Meets every day after school in the bungalow, or every Wednesday during lunch in I-1.

Color Guard: In partner with the Marching Band, Color Guard provides a visual performance during Halftime of football games. They also coordinates indoor performances during second semester. Find Mr. Cordero in class during 6th period for more information.

Creative Writing Club: Strengthen your writing skills by freely composing poetry, narratives, songs, and more! Contact President, Yazlin Juarez, for more or attend meetings during lunch each Wednesday in Q-2.

Culinary Arts Club: Students learn cooking techniques and enhance their knowledge on eating healthy. Each Thanksgiving, the club volunteers to feed the homeless. See Chef Luna in Q-4 for more information.

Cultural Awareness: Spread awareness about cultures within our community while simultaneously experiencing and learning about them! Meets once a month in A-206 during Lunch.

Dons 4 Christ: Strengthen faith in the world and the local community with a positive outlook on life. Each member is a follower of Christ. Join during lunch every Friday in M-5.

El Rodeo: Study journalism, attend school events, and record lasting moments for the student body to remember! Writes and publishes the school paper. See Mr. Zeko in X-1 about joining.

Girls Soccer: Represent El Rancho on their very own soccer team! Fight to win the Del Rio League title alongside passionate players. See Coach Michelle Flores for more details.

HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America): Creates pathways for students looking to enter the medical field. Competes in regional and state competitions for their research. Meets on every other Wednesday in Y-3.

Key Club: Service organization that volunteers within the community. Participate in events such as the Relay for Life and beach clean-ups. See Mr. Sorenson in Q-2 for more information.

Leader Club: Get started on the college journey early in this college-readiness program! Participate in college visits, workshops, and learn how to apply for scholarships and financial aid. Everyone is welcome every other Monday during lunch in K-108.

LEO's Club (Leadership Experience Opportunity): Service organization that focuses solely on volunteering. Participate in activities to help better our community and gain new experiences! Meetings held every Tuesday in Mrs. Metaxas' room, A-101.

Link Crew: Looking for a chance to help freshmen get a strong start to highschool? Juniors and Seniors work together to make sure that the freshmen class learns to experience high school. Speak to advisor, Mr. Sanchez, in J-8 for details on how to help.

Marching Band: Learn how to play an instrument and perform during the Halftime field shows, parades, and concerts!

With a variety of instruments to choose from, Mr. Cordero can provide more information in Z-4.

Math Club: Students fascinated with math and its complicated processes come together to solve difficult problems and compete in competitions. Meets every Tuesday and Thursday in Mr. Francis' room, I-8.

MEChA: Seeks to promote Hispanic and Chicano unity and success within the community. Pursues educational advancements within the club. Meets in L-7 on Thursdays.

Pepsters: A group of active individuals, full of blue pride and spirit, enjoy cheering on El Rancho's sports teams. Meet every day during 6th period and afterschool for practice.

Pride Club: spread awareness on the LGBTQ community and create a welcoming environment for those facing harassment, homophobia, or any sort of abuse.

Speech and Debate: Students come together to speak about current issues, opinions, and discuss varying topics. Meets every Tuesday in Mr. Jenkins' room, I-4, during lunch.

Sports Medicine: Learn about the human anatomy and how to care for injuries, specifically in athletes on the field. Both a class and a club, the group meets afterschool in Q-1.

Teen Court: Extending to schools other than ER, Teen Court provides students opportunities to amend their juvenile offenses. Become a member of the Jury by speaking to advisor Alexis Hernandez in H-4.

Track and Field: Race towards League Championships in Track and Field! With diverse events, such as throwing or sprinting, Track provides a variety of options for anyone looking to join. Speak to Coach Luis Guevara for more information.

Antonio “Antwan” Escobar is *Simply Irresistible!*

By FATIMA LOPEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

You may know him around campus as El Rancho's resident history buff or you might even know him as one of the Academic Decathlon team's newest members, but what you probably don't know is that senior Antonio “Antwan” Escobar is *simply irresistible!*

On campus, Escobar is practically a living legend. It's not every day that you get to walk alongside such an involved Don! “I'm currently involved in Academic Decathlon and in speech and debate as well,” Antonio said, “Those are the only activities I'm a part of [this year] but I used to run track and cross my freshman and sophomore year.” We love an involved king!

Not only is he one of El Rancho's most involved students, but he's also one of the most intelligent too! Escobar is no stranger to academic success. From AP Scholar with *Distinction* to a near perfect SAT score, Antonio has proven time after time that he is, quite literally, an intellectual. “I'm really proud about both my SAT score and my AP scholar award,” Escobar said, “It makes me really happy to be recognized for doing well on these tests.”

If his brains weren't enough to woo you, then perhaps his music taste will. Antonio *loves* a good throwback song! His favorite artists are Green Day and Weezer. “I like both of these bands because they produce great music that I could enjoy at any time,” Escobar said, “I have seen both of them live. I've seen Green Day twice and Weezer three times.” If there's any way to win this boy's heart, it's probably through music!

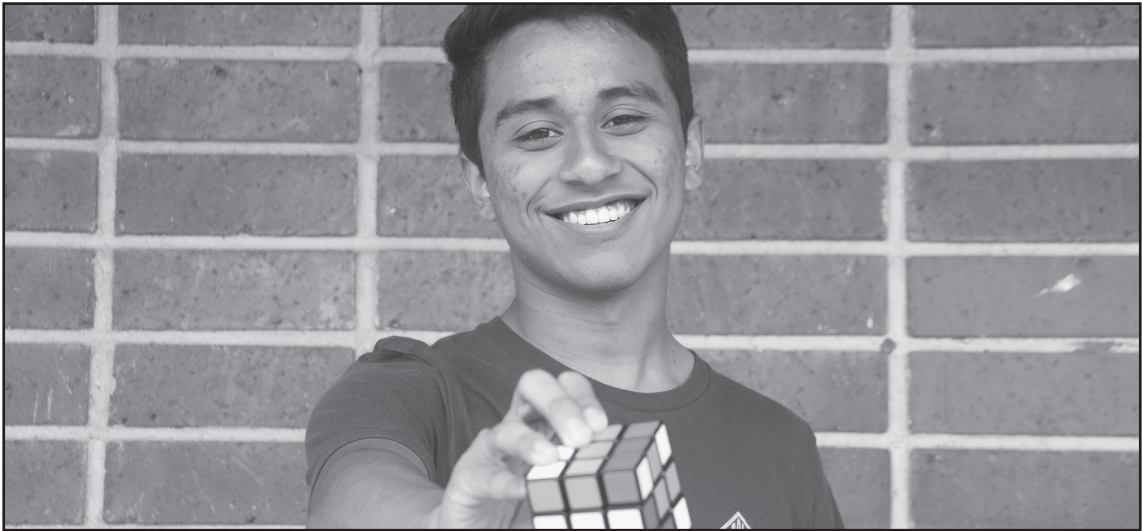
Academics and music aside, Antonio has plenty of other things he likes to do in his free time. Escobar loves reading, watching television and movies, and playing video games! “I spend a lot of time playing games, but mostly on the weekends,” Antonio said, “My all-time favorite game is the Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim. It's a game I have played over and over and no matter what it never gets boring and I don't run out of stuff to do” Watch out *Twitch* gamers, Escobar is coming for your brand!

While a gaming career sounds like the perfect job for Antonio, trust us, that is most certainly *not* what he wants to pursue! “There are a lot of schools I have in mind but I would want to go to NYU or the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology,” Escobar said, “I plan to major in some kind of engineering, preferably petroleum engineering, nuclear engineering, or computer engineering.” So you're telling us that he's nice, smart, AND has a plan for his future? We stan!

Ladies and gentlemen, if you thought that a career in engineering was where Antonio was going to stop, then boy were you wrong! Escobar has big plans for his future! “I would definitely want to be a politician in the future,” Antonio said, “I'd start in low positions of course, but one day I would like to be a senator or even a Supreme Court justice.” Make sure you register to vote this year, so you'll be prepared for when Mr. Antonio Escobar runs for office!

If you aren't dying to get to know Antonio more by now, then there's probably something wrong with you! Not only is Escobar a very sweet boy, but he's also full of surprises. You never know what you're going to get when you hang out with him! Unfortunately, Antonio is off the market, but that doesn't mean you can't strike up a conversation in the halls. Trust us, he's super friendly!

Next time you're talking about academics, politics, or even video games, do it in good company and talk to Antonio Escobar. You won't regret it!



Antonio and his million dollar smile pose with a Rubik's cube!

Photo by Kayla Perez

El Rodeo



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

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

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

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

FEATURES

Danza Azteca reconnects with roots at the Ranch

BY YAZLIN JUAREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

“Free Spirit,” a decade old Aztec dancing troupe with Pico Rivera roots, seeks to share their mission to preserve the art of *danza azteca*. This year, they are looking for the next generation of *danzantes* in El Rancho students.

Ms. Aidee Nova-Wahler, a teacher at Rivera Elementary School, has been teaching her craft as the facilitator of the group since 2008, but has been dancing for a total of 20 years. In the Chicano community the dancing ritual has been making a comeback as a way of reconnecting to their roots, but it’s not exclusive to just Hispanics.

“Our goal is to share our Aztec culture with anyone who wants to learn,” says Nova-Wahler, “We want to encourage people of all backgrounds and ages to join.”

Aztec is a community experience, requiring a circle of



The dance troupe poses after their Dia de los Muertos performance.

Photo courtesy of Free Spirit dance troupe

dancers (or *danzantes*), a sage burner (or *malinche*), a drummer, and a unified presence. “I can feel the beat of the drum guiding my footsteps and the energy of other dancers (while in the dance circle),” says Nova-Wahler.

In these past ten years she has taught numerous El Rancho alumni, including Eddie

Alvarado, Isabel Guerrero, Liz & Patty Carmona, Vanessa Duran, and her drummer Kimberly Chavez. Each student recalls the steps and stories learned during their time with Free Spirit.

El Rancho’s M.E.Ch.A. Club is also reaching out to their members, tying into their agenda of Chicano activism and

cultural pride. “M.E.Ch.A. is a club that tries to [honor] and recognize indigenous heritage as well Spanish heritage,” says club president Emily Martinez. For her, it is an empowering experience to watch and may even help Hispanic students discover parts of themselves they hadn’t even thought about. “It’s time to

go back to the roots-roots-roots!”

For anyone who wants to make new friends, learn something new, continue tradition, or just have fun, the dancers meet every Tuesday at Rivera Elementary cafeteria from 6:30 PM to 8:15 PM. Email Ms. Nova-Wahler at Anova-wahler@erusd.org for questions.

Leal bids farewell to the Ranch



BY ALONZO MURRIETA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

From humble beginnings at Birney Elementary, pre-teen years at Burke Middle School, and young-adult life at El Rancho High School, April Leal carries the El Rancho Pride into her new position as the Burke Steam Academy Assistant Principal.

Leal, a 1998 alum, has worked at El Rancho as Assistant Principal of Business and Activities for the past three years. She has also had experience as an El Rancho activities director, art teacher, and English teacher.

“As an alumnus, I bleed blue! I didn’t think twice about accepting a teaching position here after college,” Leal says.

Throughout all of her roles, Leal has always aimed to impact students’ lives in a positive way. Providing her students with the optimism to achieve success has always been her main goal and will continue to be for the future.

Being a born and bred El Rancho Don, Leal has lived most of her life in Pico Rivera. El Rancho isn’t just a home to her but also to part of her family and she has passed down the El Rancho Pride to her daughters who attend school in the El Rancho School District.

“My eldest daughter gradu-

ated from ERHS in 2014,” Leal says, “My fondest memories were of her playing sports here, watching her don the blue and grey.”

Now working at STEAM, Leal can commute with her middle child, who attends Burke, to and from the school.

“She and I enjoy the commute to and from school when we get some quality alone time together,” Leal says

On her free time, Leal loves to watch her daughters play softball but that’s not the only thing she enjoys doing.

Some of Leal’s favorite things are tacos and Vietnamese food. She also has an everlasting love for rock music.

“I love all kinds of music but if I had to choose, I’d say 90s alternative, Pearl Jam, older Rage, Sublime, and Nirvana,” says Leal.

Although at a new school, Leal will never forget events like the Welcome Back Assembly, Night Pep Rally, and graduation.

“Any time we can get the stands full and our Dons together, it warms my heart” says Leal, “It was heartbreaking to leave The Ranch, but I know this is the right decision for my family.”

As a parting gift, Leal has left behind some advice, “...Get involved. You get back what you put in. ERHS is a special place and it and its students will capture your heart.”

Rosales steps into a new role



BY BIANCA ARIAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

She was a teacher, she was the dean, and now she’s our new assistant principal; she’s Mrs. Rosales! For the past 15 years she’s been teaching at The Ranch, but her roots don’t stop there! She is also El Rancho High School alum and a product of the community.

Before starting her teaching career at El Rancho, she received her Bachelor’s Degree in History from Whittier College. She recalled the best part of her undergraduate years, “Whittier College is a small private school, everyone is friendly, helpful, and all professors are fully invested in the success of students.” It was during these years that a friend helped her discover her passion for helping students and decided on a teaching career.

After many years of teaching she went on to earn a Masters in Education Leadership at Cal State University of Fullerton.

When asked about her transition from being a teacher to working in administration, Rosales said “It was difficult because I enjoyed working with students and teaching World History.”

“Not seeing students every day was a huge change,” says Rosales “Sometimes being an administrator can be a bit isolating because you miss out on the day to day connection and interaction with students.”

However, Rosales doesn’t let that stop her from being involved in her student’s lives. “Being a Dean was different because I dealt more with discipline, behavior, interventions and mental health.” In that capacity, she was able to redirect student behavior, connect students to support services at ERHS or just be an adult that students could come to for advice.

“As assistant principal, I am more focused on the staff and moving the school forward [in terms of] student achievement through instruction and curriculum. She knows

that through this work she will continue to have an impact on students.

Rosales is always looking for ways to positively impact those around her, “I enjoy learning new things and discovering what needs to be done [in order to make the school a better place]. I also like supporting teachers [and] staff members.”

“I am looking forward to the school’s academic achievements; I want to build and grow what our school has in place,” continues Rosales, “My goal is to take ERHS to the next level of academic achievement.”

As for now, Rosales is still adjusting to the new position but is dedicated to be part of a positive change. “I have a vision,” says Rosales, “I want to be an agent of change, I want to be a leader who inspires people and be able to walk with those who I inspire.”

With her ambitious and hardworking spirit we can be confident that with her plans of working in collaboration with teachers and other staff, these goals will be achieved!



Ms. Knarreborg
(Chemistry)

Education: California Baptist University for her degree in Health Science and her credential in Chemistry

What she does for fun: She likes to play water polo, go swimming, and go to the beach



Ms. Waldron
(History)

Education: She attended UCLA for her undergrad education and received her credentials and Master's at Claremont Graduate University

What she does for fun: She likes eating out in LA, climbing at her local bouldering gym, camping, hiking, and going to Echo Park



Mr. Jimenez
(History)

Education: He graduated from Oregon State and attended Whittier College for his Master's Degree

What he does for fun: He enjoys playing, collecting, and listening to music, going to the beach, and playing volleyball with his friends

WELCOME

Meet the new



Mr. Gomez
(History)

Education: He received Bachelor's and Master's degree from Whittier College

What he does for fun: He likes to play soccer and coach at Whittier College, go to soccer games on weekends, and hang out with friends



Mr. O
(Drama)

Education: UCLA, earned Bachelor's in History and minor in theatre, completed his Master's with a degree in Education

What he does for fun: likes reading, traveling, and watching movies



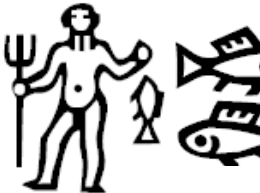
Your monthly advice from the One-Piece Enthusiast himself!

Advice from Alonzo

How do I enjoy my senior year even with all the stress that I have over graduation and college?
A: Eventually there will be a period of time, or even just one day, where you will have nothing to do. During those times go out with friends! Sleep! Eat! It's nice to have a mental detox every once in a while. When you are busy remember that there are many resources that can help you! Students and staff in the CCC and your teachers are willing to help you, just ask.

How do I keep up with school work while also having a sport I need to maintain for my Junior year? Help, I'm scared
A: These upcoming months are going to be tough but things calm down near the end of the year. Aim for that! In general always have an idea of what you have to get done for the day, this can mean just constantly using a planner. Time management is key to part of your success, and this is something that is useful past high school. Again, always ask for help!

How do I get a boyfriend?
A: To be brutally honest, talk to a guy you like then ask him out. 70% of the time it will work. A lot of the guys here NEED a partner.



K-pop band BTS inspires the youth to “#Speak Yourself”

By KAYLA PEREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Korean boy band BTS made history by becoming the first ever K-Pop group to attend and address the United Nations this past Monday. The seven-member group spoke amongst many high officials during the launch of UNICEF's global partnership “Generation Unlimited” at the 73rd UN General Assembly in New York. According to the UN statement, Generation Unlimited's focus will be secondary-age education, employment and empowerment for the youth; It's main goal will be to tackle “the global education and training crisis currently holding back millions of young people and threatening progress and stability.” The seven-minute speech delivered by the group's leader, Kim Namjoon, broke barriers and has gone viral on the internet for its touching advice on how the youth should take pride in their

convictions and generate their own voice for what they believe in. Since their 2013 debut, BTS has been on the rise of fame and have now garnered over 16.4 million followers on Twitter and 13.4 million followers on Instagram. Their most recent album *Love Yourself: Answer* is the final and third installment of their *Love Yourself* music series and has sold over 1.78 million in sales on the Gaon chart since it's August 24th release, as well as the No.1 spot on the Billboard 200. However, BTS' success is nothing but deserved. The group's popularity is not directly stemmed from a “K-Pop Idol” facade, used to gain attention from the public. Their global love from around the world is a result of their genuine and authentic presence in the media by remaining true to themselves and accepting their flaws. “I used to imagine I was a superhero who could save the world,” says leader Kim Namjoon, “In the intro to one of our old songs, there's a line that



says my heart stopped when I was maybe nine or ten. Looking back, that is when I began to worry about what other people thought of me and started seeing myself through their eyes.” “I stopped looking up at the night sky, the stars. I stopped daydreaming. Instead, I tried to jam myself into the other molds that other people made. Soon, I began to shut out my own voice and listen to the voice of others. No one called out my name and neither did I. My heart stopped and my eyes closed shut. Like this, I—we—all lost our names. We became like ghosts. But I had one sanctuary, and that was music,” continues Kim, “I have come to love myself for who I am, for who I was, and for who I hope to become.” The most impactful part of their stance as a group is not only do they focus on staying honest to their individual selves but they are always teaching their fan base, known as “BTS Army,” to challenge themselves. They prioritize supporting their fans the best they can through their mental illnesses and struggles as they acknowledge the hardships their fans also go through as they try find their own independent souls as well. “Tell me your story. I want to hear your voice, and I want to hear your conviction,” says Kim, “No matter who you are, where you're from, your skin color, gender identity: speak yourself.”

Generation Unlimited is not BTS' first charity endeavor. The group previously collaborated with UNICEF to establish the “Love Myself” campaign, where BTS and the Korean committee work with UNICEF's global #ENDviolence campaign to put a stop to against youth violence. There are many dangers in the world and struggles we must go through in life but the more that we keep an open ear to and the more we support and love each in these tough times, the more we can move forward. In the everlasting words of Kim Namjoon, “let's all take one more step. We have learned to love ourselves, so now I urge you to “Speak Yourself.”

BACK DONS!

New teachers



Mr. Galindo (Math)

Education: He went to UC Riverside for his Bachelor's in History and attended Cal State Fullerton for his teaching credentials

What he does for fun: He likes to be active by playing volleyball and swimming, likes listening to music, and likes hiking



Ms. Ball (SPED-RSP)

Education: She went to Cal State Dominguez Hills and Cerritos Community College

What she does for fun: She enjoys shopping, hiking, going out to eat!



Mr. Phan (History)

Education: He went to UC Riverside for his Bachelor's in History and attended Cal State Fullerton for his teaching credentials

What he does for fun: He likes to be active by playing volleyball and swimming, likes listening to music, and likes hiking



Mr. Keilbach (Choir)

Education: He attended and graduated from Cal State Fullerton

What he does for fun: He likes to sing, listen to music, play with his dogs, and go on road trips



Ms. Goodwin (Math)

Education: She graduated from UCLA with a Bachelor's in mathematics and is currently a grad student at Claremont Graduate University

What she does for fun: She enjoys playing tennis, drawing, reading and writing poetry, playing piano, and hanging out with her family

September Horoscopes



Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

This year may be filled with sudden changes and unexpected events. Try to stay focused on your goals. If you need to break free from certain limitations, now is the time to make a move. Be confident and make it happen.

Taurus (Apr 21 - May 20)

This year you might struggle to get things done, but don't sweat it. Go easy on yourself if you have a couple of things left to do. People may pop out of nowhere and demand most of your attention. Listen, be present, and try not to think of what's not getting done. Focus on what is getting done.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)

This year will be a fantastic year, so make the most of it. If you're emotionally and physically prepared for change, the opportunities will present itself. You can work harmoniously with electronics and new tech. Break away from boring and seek more excitement.

Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22)

You'll be tested so much this year, so brace yourself. A large part of your life is coming into question soon, and you'll be forced to face it. You should be able to deal with this challenge. If you're struggling, maybe you should take that as a sign that you need a major life change.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23)

You have lots of energy this year, but it's erratic and powerful. You have the stamina to make major changes, and the opportunity to free yourself from anything and everything that holds you back. Embrace the new, fresh aspects of your life. Give your soul room to breathe as the year progresses.

Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

It's time to take a bold step forward this year. Have confidence in yourself and all the planning you'll be doing for the next few months. Realize that much of this hard work will pay off, but only if you're willing to take the next step. The opportunity is there, all you need to do is jump on it. Act out of confidence instead of fear.

Libra (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

You can't ask for a better year. Positive energy will come your way. You should look for the opportunities that are right in front of you. You may be going through some significantly tough times right now, so now it's time to clear away all the things that have limited you in the past. The future is wide open and yours for the taking. Empower yourself to make the changes needed to build your life the way you want it to be.

Scorpio (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

Be on your toes this year, and expect the unexpected. People may act out in irrational or childish ways, so just go with the flow. As usual, you'll have a tremendous ability to roll with the punches and still come out untouched. Just make sure that someone else won't grab the reins. Stay laid-back while maintaining control.

Sagittarius (Nov 23 - Dec 21)

If you've put in your time and done your homework, this year can prove very rewarding. Watch out for tremendous opportunities hiding nearby. You have a great deal of physical energy to spend, but it might feel erratic or a bit uncontrollable. Break free of anything that seems to be holding you back. Shed the chains and live the way you want to live.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 20)

You may find people very stubborn this year, so take care of yourself. Arguments can explode out of nowhere, so have patience to spare. Think before you act and don't feel pressured to get involved in anything that will make you uncomfortable. Remember that it's ok to walk away. No one will win the match, so don't even get in the ring.

Aquarius (Jan 21 - Feb 18)

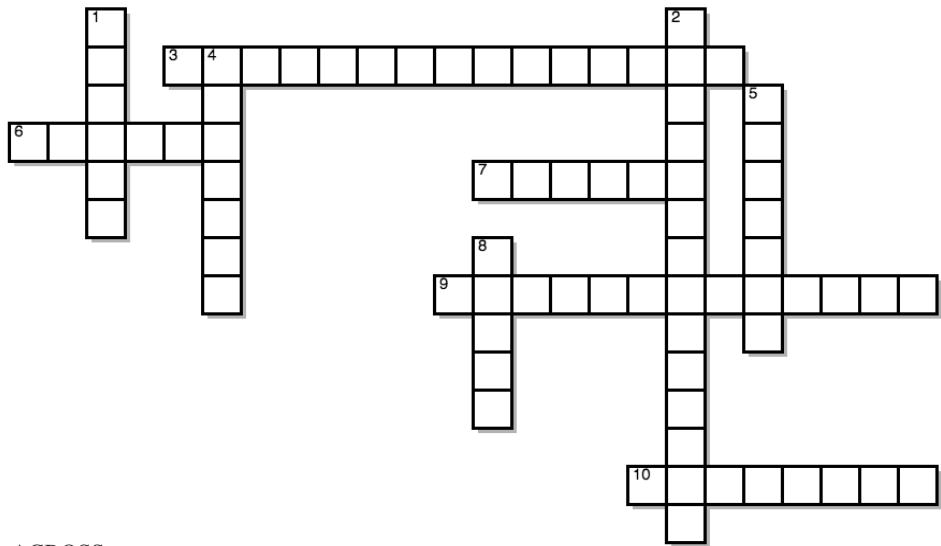
Initiate a major change in your life this year. Lose the dullness and launch into something exciting. Take part in a class that expands your mind. You have a tremendous amount of energy to use this year. It will help you maintain confidence and endurance as you do the groundwork to put this life changing endeavor in motion.

Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 21)

Action is the word of the year. Whether you're initiating it or feeling it, you'll be caught up in the hurricane of it. Try not to lose your temper, and don't be surprised if people act irrationally or insensitively. This may be their way of saying they need you or that your energy and input are important. Have confidence in your words and actions.

CrossWord!

First person to solve the maze gets a prize in X-1



ACROSS

- Freely compose poetry, narratives, and more at the _____ Club
- Mr. Galindo is the Head Coach for the Girls _____ Team
- Falling Into _____ is the 2018 Homecoming Theme
- What annual event is taking place on October 11th at 7pm?
- Name of Eminem's new release album

DOWN

- Who can you ask your questions to in the advice column?
- Who is this issue's Simply Irresistible?
- Recently promoted as the new AP of Curriculum
- \$40 card that brings benefits to those who purchase

Library Corner

Match the end of the book to its title. Bring your written answers to the Library and receive a prize.

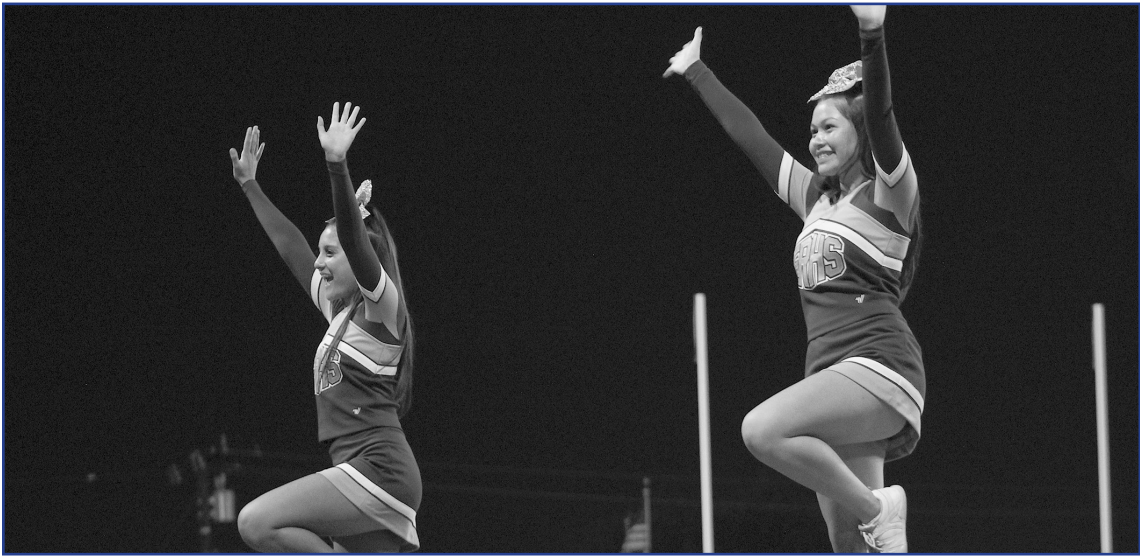
- "The creatures outside looked from pig to man, and from man to pig, and from pig to man again; but already it was impossible to say which was which."
- "When I stepped out into the bright sunlight from the darkness of the movie house, I had only two things on my mind: Paul Newman and a ride home..."
- Slim said, "You hadda, George. I swear you hadda..."
- "It's like a game. But there are much worse games to play."
- "I like my choices. I hope she likes hers."

- Mockingjay by Suzanne Collins
- The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton
- Animal Farm by George Orwell
- The Fault in Our Stars by John Green
- Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck



SPORTS

Pepsters program promises bigger, better future



Sideline team members Marissa Chavez and Jasmine Perez hype up the crowd! **Photo by Hannah Blanco**

BY FATIMA LOPEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This year, there are plenty of changes coming to The Ranch, but none are as drastic as the major changes El Rancho’s Pepsters are set to go through. For the first time since the implementation of cheer here at El Rancho, the program will be changing a couple of their most basic principles, creating a new era for the beloved sport.

Two changes are actually

taking place in El Rancho’s cheer program. “The [first] main change that has been made to the Pepster program is having two different seasons,” head coach Mrs. Lopez said, “sideline and competition.” While the sideline team would focus on cheering on the teams at El Rancho and performing at pep rallies, the competition team would strictly focus on creating a well-structured routine that would consist of two minutes and thirty seconds of cheering,

tumbling, stunting, and dancing. The second major change that has been made to the program is that it is now considered a CIF sport. “[This] means we are now held to the same standards as all the other sports on campus,” Coach Lopez said. The Pepster program’s modification actually came into creation with the cheerleaders in mind. “The idea when creating this split season was to give our athletes the chance to still

show school spirit and show off their inner cheerleader,” Lopez said, “even if competing wasn’t an option for them.” The split also means that cheer at the Ranch isn’t as heavy a commitment as it once was. “In the past, Pepsters was a year-round group,” Coach Lopez said, “Making the team in June meant you were committing to ‘the whole platter.’ Games, competitions, you name it.” Lopez believes that this change will give students the opportunity to do other sports all while still being able to try out for either the sideline team or the competition team. While the changes are looking like they will be beneficial, Coach Lopez understands that there might be some complications with their new and improved program. “Being that this is [the] first year that we have moved forward with these changes, we may run into some challenges,” Lopez said, “but our goal has been to get this program on the same level as the other schools in our league. We have the talent here at El Rancho, so now it’s figuring out how to implement the

change between teams, allowing [for] flexibility, and keeping things running smoothly.” Lopez looks forward to this change and expressed how excited she is to see what the competition team will look like this year. All in all, this upcoming year will be a very memorable one for El Rancho’s Pepsters program. Although there are going to be some very significant changes, the coaches’ expectations remain as high as they were last year. “My expectations for this year’s teams are [that they] continue to strive to be the best, both academically and athletically,” Coach Lopez said, “With the flexibility we are offering, it [will] allow the sideline team to do other sports, join other clubs, and focus on their academics. I also hope [that] these young athletes focus on making their years here at El Rancho [ones] that they’ll remember forever.” If cheer is something you’re interested in, but performing at school events isn’t your thing, try out for the Pepsters’ competition team! The first tryouts will begin on October 1st, more details to come!

Waterpolo welcomes new coach

BY RENE GALLEGOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The fall sports season is quickly approaching, and the Boys Water Polo team is ready to make a splash! Last year’s Division 7 team had a record-breaking season, making it all the way to the CIF Finals. This achievement had never been reached before in the team’s history, and this new record pushed the boys up an entire division. Now Division 6, the Boys Water Polo team is excited to see what is in store for this upcoming season. After Mr. Whittier stepped down from his position as Head Coach, Katia Montoya was chosen as his replacement. Montoya is from River-

side and has much experience in the aggressive sport. Playing at King High School and moving onto Riverside City College, Montoya has attended state championships and two SCIAC (Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference) tournaments. She currently coaches for Pasadena City College along with the El Rancho team. Feeling lucky to have her assistance, Parra states, “She has a positive attitude, she is always encouraging one another, she’s always on time, and she’s very intelligent.” The boys currently hold a pre-league record of 3 wins and 6 losses. They are determined to return to the CIF Championship again and know that they must push harder than before to over-



Cezar Rodriguez preparing to pass the ball to his teammate

Photo by Yazlin Juarez

come obstacles prepare for season. Last year’s starting lineup consisted primarily of seniors who have now graduated; with a few returners left, the boys must learn the game altogether as a team. “We have a talented group and most importantly we have guys who are willing to put in the work to get better,” says team captain and senior, Eric Parra. “This season I expect us to go far like we did in the previous one, I believe we all have the potential to achieve our goals and more this year,”

says senior, Draven Mendoza. The new season is now upon the team, and they look forward to following in last year’s footsteps. Catch the Waterpolo team in action at their next away game on October 2nd, vs. La Serna High School!

Dons look to maintain momentum in Del Rio League



The Don’s offense attempting to score a touchdown

Photo by Hannah Blanco

BY HANNAH BLANCO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

What’s Fall without some high school football? Kicking off the season, El Rancho’s first game was on August 17 against

Northview High School. Despite losing their opener, El Rancho quickly picked up the pace and now have 4 wins and 2 losses. “Our goals are to make the playoffs, and most importantly to play as hard as we

possibly can, play with a lot of character, show a tremendous amount of work ethic, and do well in the classroom,” says head Coach, Adrian Medrano. The El Rancho Dons are using a new tactic on the field

this season, the “3-3-5 defense” as Coach Medrano calls it. They have been practicing this defensive play since Spring. “It took some time for the kids to pick up on it, but they are starting to now and we’re starting to see that it’s paying off,” says Medrano. New to the team and to El Rancho High School, senior Ryan Santa Maria, has proved to be an absolute star at the sport. “I like [football], it’s a new experience because I came from another school,” says Santa Maria. He wants to help the Dons win every game and push the team to win for CIF. “Football takes up a lot of time,” he said, “but it’s worth it because it’s what I like to do.” With much potential to do well this season, the captains are doing the best that they can to lead their team. “I believe this season could be great. Way bet-

ter than last year, we have already started off better and with league coming in I believe we have a chance to be league champs,” says Captain Andrew Tarango. Tarango spoke up on how last year’s captains went about leading the team and said, “Last year, our captains were not vocal and did not show the leadership we needed for the season, Daniel Rodriguez and I are putting this team to get focused and set.” Second captain, Daniel Rodriguez shares the same thoughts as Tarango. “I think we’ll go undefeated in league,” says Rodriguez, “The seniors last year didn’t really take leadership. There’s more leaders this year and we all just play as one.” Make sure to show your Blue Pride at the Don Memorial Stadium Friday night at 7:00 PM against the Whittier Cardinals!

SPORTS

Picon returns to coach girls volleyball



Freshman Maialen Baros doing an offensive setters dump against the opposing team.

Photo by Yazlin Juarez

By Yazlin Juarez
El Rodeo Staff Writer

Despite facing setbacks in staffing, the El Rancho volleyball team has high hopes for the fall season and new tricks up their jersey sleeves.

Earlier this month, head girl’s volleyball coach, Trinidad Lopez, was let go, leading Mrs. Adelaida Picon to make her way back onto the court and return to her previous position as head coach.

Picon has been teaching P.E. and coaching for about 17 years at El Rancho, and holds

25 total years of athletic training experience under her belt. Throughout different states and different schools, Picon has mastered softball, tennis, basketball, and of course, volleyball, and is ready to “bump” up her experience with the Lady Dons volleyball team. Over the season, the organization is learning to adjust to the change through trust and quick-paced practice. “All coaches are different,” Picon says. “The girls are getting used to my personality and my expectations.”

The players’ newfound passion is apparent when watching them play, and the coach

switch has seemed to have set spirits soaring. The team mentions that although the drills are the same, Picon has a different teaching style. Picon’s leadership seems to be just what they need.

Varsity captain and setter Juleidy Montiel says, “[Coach Picon] wants everything to be quicker,” and trains the team to “become better players and know our positions on the court.” “[Picon] is constantly pushing us to become better players and teammates,” says 11th grade middle blocker Clarissa Estrada.

With the preseason games giving them time to prepare, Es-

trada appreciates Picon’s support and “[enjoys] bonding with the team during tournaments as well as helping each other with some mistakes.”

Varsity passer Julia Diaz also commends Coach Picon for “always being there for us and constantly reminding us that we are capable of doing better!”

Junior Sophia Lugo appreciates the new teaching style and says, “I enjoy learning how we all play together and finding our strengths and weaknesses.”

Hopes are high for the Lady Dons’ 2018 fall season, and many players already have plans on how to boost their scores. “The team must improve upon [their] communication skills,” says Lugo.

Team captain Montiel expresses her desire to take the team to CIF playoffs. For her last year at El Rancho, it would be a good feeling leading the team to the final rounds, and knows that they must work together to get where they want to be. Montiel says, “we need to show in our games that we really want to do this because many people underestimate us.”

Coach Picon says, “My hope is that the girls become better volleyball players, better people, and continue to positively represent El Rancho High school on and off the court.”

To see this heartwarming teamwork in action, catch the Lady Dons on the court in their home game against Cal High on October 4th in the New Gym.

Tennis season in full swing



Junior Shelby Lopez about to drive her serve across the tennis court.

Photo by Yazlin Juarez

El Rodeo Staff Writer
By Karizma Reyes

The El Rancho Tennis team is now in a full swing of league games after their competitive start of preseason. They finished their pre league season with the record of 5-4. Now two league games in, they have a record of 5-6.

Head coach Eduardo Galindo believes the team “could qualify to place the top three” for CIF. With league just beginning, he says the team can “bounce back and keep playing forward” after their loss against Santa Fe and La Serna. “There’s always room for improvement,” Galindo says.

This season’s two captains are seniors Natalie Muñoz and Cecilia Lara. It is Muñoz’s fourth year playing tennis and Lara’s second year playing tennis.

Muñoz says “it is a privilege and dream” to be a captain her senior year. One of her goals as captain is “to share the love I have for this sport with the rest of my teammates.” Muñoz says a quote that really motivates herself this season is by the famous tennis player Serena Williams, “I don’t cheat to win, I’d rather lose.”

Lara says “it’s an honor to lead my team and it’s a lot of responsibility.” With this year being her final year playing on the team, she says “I wish I could have joined tennis freshman year, I love it.”

Senior Melissa Mayorga says tennis has impacted her life in a positive way by “seeing myself grow these past four years.” She says this year, “I want to do the best I can to show how hard I’ve been working.”

Senior Abigail Rincon reminisces about her four years on the team and says “I’m glad I was able to make great memories throughout these years.” “I’ll miss playing with these girls,” says Rincon.

With the rest of their league season ahead of them, the team will get to fight to reach their main goal: a CIF title.

Cross country team sets sights on CIF title

By Karizma Reyes
El Rodeo Staff Writer

The El Rancho Cross Country team is getting a refreshing start this season with the new head coach, Luis Guevara. Guevara’s return from his leave last year is a change to not only the team, but for him as well.

Guevara says his recent role as a head coach is “very exciting and humbling.” While taking on this new role, he would like to say, “I am thankful for this opportunity.” Guevara’s plan for the team making it to CIF is simply to “run fast” which involves the hard work of everyone on the team.

The cross country team is currently still in their pre-league and have attended three invitationals: the Great Cow Run in Cerritos, Rosemead Invitational in Rosemead, and Woodbridge Cross Country Classic in Norco.

This season’s team captains for the girls are senior Jessica Hernandez, senior Destiny Rivera, and senior Haya Villarreal. The captains for the boys are senior George Castillo, senior Sean Gutierrez, and junior Emmanuel Saavedra.

As one of the captains, Destiny Rivera says she wants to, “be a role model” and a “source of motivation” to others on the team. She person-



Cross country runners doing their cool down together after morning practice to show their teamwork.

Photo by Yazlin Juarez

ally is looking forward to night races because “the atmosphere” while running is different.

Haya Villarreal says “[being chosen as a captain] is an honor and I’m excited to motivate others.” With this year being her final year running cross country, she says, “it is a bittersweet moment because running is a big part of me.”

George Castillo says from a captain viewpoint that, “cross country isn’t an individual sport, it’s about working together as a team.” He personally believes that the team has potential to make it to CIFs finals “if [the team] continues to work hard and improve.”

A huge part of cross country is the bonds that are made

throughout the season. Junior Karla Rivas says, “[creating friendships] is something I look forward to doing.”

The cross country team is still only at the very beginning of their long journey. The team has upcoming league races to show off their hard work from their pre-league and compete for a CIF title.

ENTERTAINMENT

Crazy Rich Asians takes box office by storm!



BY KARIZMA REYES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This summer’s long waited romantic comedy, *Crazy Rich Asians*, was a hit in the box office. The film-based off of the novel *Crazy Rich Asians* by Kevin Kwan, was the #1 film for four weekends in a row after its August 15th release

Joe: Retaliation (2013), and *Now You See Me 2* (2016). *Crazy Rich Asians* stars an all Asian cast including Constance Wu as Rachel Chu, Henry Golding as Nick Young, Michelle Yeoh as Eleanor Young, and Awkwafina as Peik Lin Goh. The representation of Asian actors in this film is a huge step for current and future Asian actors. It isn’t the type of movie that stereotypes Asian people as if they all know karate and have vibrant dyed hair. It’s a genuine romance film filled with laughter and heart-wrenching scenes. The film starts off with Rachel Chu and Nick Young, her boyfriend, eating dessert when Nick brings up his best friend’s wedding. He tells Rachel how he wants to take her back home to Singapore. Two women from a

blog site notice the famous Nick Young and get a picture of them together, which spreads quickly among the Asian community. After arriving in Singapore, Rachel visits her old college roommate, Peik Lin for lunch. Here is when Rachel finds out that Nick’s family is the largest real estate developers in Singapore, including other places. This comes as a shocker to Rachel because in her eyes Nick is a humble man and not the “Asian bachelor” of Singapore. Peik Lin dresses Rachel for the dinner with Nick’s family to make a good impression. Majority of Nick’s family, especially his mother, look down on Rachel since she isn’t from a family of money. The night doesn’t end so well due to a few slip ups from Rachel which only

worsens the family’s view of her. Towards the end of the film Rachel feels defeated and broken and almost lets Eleanor run her away until Peik Lin encourages Rachel to step up to her “future” mother in law. Rachel shows up to the wedding by making a grand entrance in her dress on the “red carpet” and faces Eleanor. During the ceremony of the wedding Rachel and Nick lock eyes which creates a tear jerking moment that can make someone believe true love does exist. Not to spoil the ending of the film, but tears will be shed. If you’re a sucker for movies that make you cry because of love, then *Crazy Rich Asians* is a must watch. Hopefully the sequel will come in few years, but if not, the book is always available at your local bookstore!

Eminem drops surprise release album *Kamikaze*

BY ALONZO MURRIETA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On August 31st Eminem dropped a surprise album titled *Kamikaze*. The album consists of 13 tracks, two of which are skits. Joyner Lucas, Royce da 5’9”, and Jessie Reyez are all features on the album along with Paul Rosenberg who is on almost every Eminem skit. “Not Alike”, “Kamikaze”, and “Fall” are all top tracks on the album. The album contains many disses, some aggressive and others of plain poor taste. *Kamikaze’s* album cover clearly draws inspiration from the Beastie Boys’ *Licensed to Ill*. Both album covers feature the tail of a plane in a sand col-

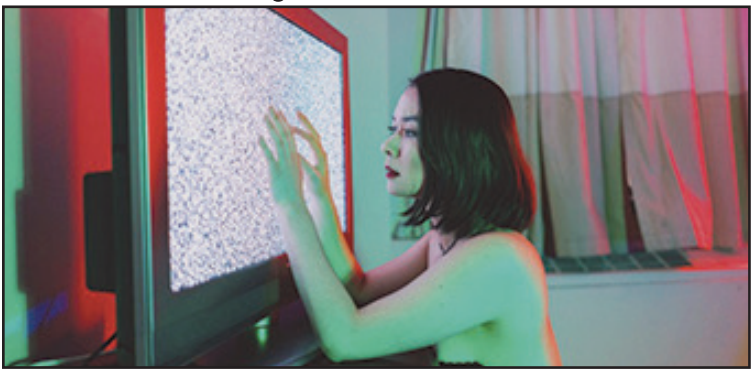
ored background. Eminem, however, has not spoken on the correlation between the two covers. “Not Alike” is one of the highest ranked songs on the album. The track, featuring a Tay Keith beat and a lengthy verse by Royce da 5’9”, is extremely different from most other Eminem tracks as it also features a beat change. The first half of the beat sounds as if it is a redo of Tay Keith’s platinum produced track “Look Alive.” “Kamikaze,” another energetic track, gives off vibes similar to *Marshall Mathers LP*. The hook is reminiscent of “The Way I Am” and “Kill You” and all of his earliest works. “Fall” is the album’s most controversial track. Being

a diss track, Eminem calls out some the industries most known names. The artist targets Joe Budden, Charlamagne tha God, DJ Akademicks, Drake, Earl Sweatshirt, and Tyler, the Creator. Many of the songs on *Kamikaze* have the same message. Eminem seems to calling out the new generation of rappers and the old ones that are sticking around. He especially targets anyone who has talked down on his name. In “Fall,” Eminem gained another spot in the media by using homophobic slurs towards Tyler, the Creator. Artist Bon Iver and many fans of Tyler have taken their thoughts to social media mentioning how the lyrics are not acceptable in modern times. Tyler, the Creator, however, has not released any response. Machine Gun Kelly, who was targeted in “Not Alike”, released a diss-track response titled “Rap Devil.” Shortly after, Eminem released “Kill-shot” where he responds to Machine Gun Kelly’s track. “Kill-shot,” was reported to have the greatest release for a Hip-Hop music video ever on YouTube. Almost all of Eminem’s responses to other critics and artists were created from a negative view on the artist. It has been a recurring theme for several years that Eminem is unable to take any criticism or judgement. Whether this is due to a large ego or any other reason is unknown. *Kamikaze’s* album sales



have been reported to total nearly half a million units sold. With a strong presence of some of his earlier works, it is understandable to see why die-hard fans are willing to rank this album next to *Marshall Mathers LP*. *Kamikaze* can be found and streamed on Apple Music, Spotify, YouTube, Tidal, and SoundCloud.

“Nobody,” should sleep on Mitski’s *Be the Cowboy*!



Mitski poses for her cover of “Two Slow Dancers” **Photo by Bao Ngo**

BY FATIMA LOPEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Indie rock artist Mitski Miyawaki, better known by her mononym, Mitski, has always created a buzz with her music, but none of her previous albums have garnered the attention that her newest release has received. Miyawaki’s fifth studio album, *Be the Cowboy*, quickly climbed the charts not long after its initial release, debuting at number three on the U.S. Independent Albums chart and number six on the U.S. Alternative Albums chart. Miyawaki is no stranger to the music industry. She began her music career while she was studying studio compositions at Purchase College in New York City. While finishing up her studies, she released her first two albums, *Lush* (2012) and *Retired*

in the star. Although her songs are very short, they manage to capture Miyawaki’s raw emotions perfectly. With no featured artists on this album, Mitski had her work cut out for her, but, the singer did not disappoint and created an album music-lovers everywhere could enjoy. The first track off of *Be the Cowboy* is “Geyser.” The song starts off very slow with an eerie feel to it. At first glance, the song’s lyrics seem to suggest that this song is about a person, but don’t let that fool you. Miyawaki wrote “Geyser,” with her music career in mind. Throughout the song, she talks about the sacrifices she makes as a musician. In order for her music career to flourish, she’s had to keep from fulfilling other needs like relationships and her mental health. Nevertheless, Mitski ends the song with her promising to her career that it will need her just as much as she needs it. The rise and fall of the music in this song make it a dramatic and emotional start to the album. Next on the album is “Old Friend.” The song is very short, but it still manages to capture the emotions Miyawaki felt at the time she wrote it. “Old Friend,” is about two ex-lovers who still have feelings for each other, but they can’t be together anymore as

they’re both in new relationships. The slow beat and her soft voice both make it much like a lullaby, a very sad one at that. This slow ballad features one of Mitski’s most iconic techniques, repetition. The repeated lyrics Miyawaki belts out hold the most emotion and make this song one of the most powerful on the album. Another notable song on the album is “Pearl.” This track is one of the heavier ones on the album. Not only are the instruments powerful, but the message is as well. Mitski wrote this song about getting out of a toxic relationship and into a new one where her partner treats her better, but the scars of her previous relationship do not allow her to enjoy her time with her new partner. Miyawaki’s emotional singing along with the powerful drums and guitar make it a song that won’t be forgotten. Up next on the album is “Two Slow Dancers.” Probably one of the saddest on the album, “Two Slow Dancers,” is about two old lovers who’ve met up again and reminisce about their youth. The two lovers share one last dance where they get to experience their “good old days,” and become young again. Through this song, Mitski expresses her fear of getting older and all the things that adult-

hood brings with it. Miyawaki’s voice is accompanied by a sad melody played on the keyboard, allowing it to live up to its name as a perfect slow-dance song. Last but certainly not least, is the most notable song on *Be the Cowboy*, “Nobody.” Like all Mitski songs, “Nobody,” is an inherently sad one, but the upbeat music that accompanies it says otherwise. In this song, Mitski admits that she feels lonely and longs for company, but she feels as if nobody cares or is interested. With its disco-like beat and its relatable lyrics, it’s no surprise that “Nobody,” is the most popular song on the album! With *Be the Cowboy*, Mitski Miyawaki has shown the world that it’s okay to feel vulnerable. From sharing her struggles as a musician to sharing her fears of growing old, Mitski reminded her listeners that she is just like them, she is human. Miyawaki’s emotional lyrics and her ability to tell a captivating story are proof that she is not to be slept on. If you’re in need of new music or just want something to cry to, look no further than Mitski Miyawaki. Her new album, *Be the Cowboy*, is now available on all streaming platforms!