



El Rodeo



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Thespian Troupe #2164 reaches new *Heights*

By KAYLA PEREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This month, El Rancho's drama department performed its first production of the year titled *In the Heights*. This show is the first El Rancho production directed by the new drama coach Juan Olivares.

The dress rehearsal for the musical was held at six PM on Wednesday, February 13th and opening night took place on Valentine's Day. The musical continued to run until the following Saturday, February 15th.

In the Heights is a musical with music and lyrics written by Lin-Manuel Miranda and book by Quiara Alegria Hudes.

In the Heights is set over the course of three days, involving characters in the largely Hispanic-American neighborhood of Washington Heights in New York City and their own individuals stories as they struggle to adapt to gentrification taking over their community.

Senior Tony Cortez is at the center of the show is playing bodega owner Usnavi. He looks after the neighborhood's aging Cuban lady Abuela Claudia (played by Galilea Madrid) and is head over heels for Brianna Sanchez's character Van-

essa, who is a worker in the neighboring beauty salon who dreams of living leaving the barrio and owning an apartment downtown.

Meanwhile, Nina, played by Geysa Govea, has returned to the neighborhood from her first year at Stanford University with shocking news that she has decided to drop out, leaving her parents Kevin and Carla played by Xavier Marquez and Alyssa Escalera-flustered. Ultimately, Usnavi and the residents of the close-knit neighborhood learn the true meaning of family and friendship in the heights.

The selection for this year's musical was inspired by the students of El Rancho and citizen of Pico Rivera. "*In the Heights* is my favorite musical of all time! It reminds me so much of home," says Olivares.

"I also chose to produce *In the Heights* because of its theme of gentrification and survival," continues Olivares. "We see it today in Pico where local businesses I saw as a kid are now out of business and being turned into a food chain restaurant. I love *In the Heights* because it tells our story. The Latino story."

"I will say that our students have heart and put the work to make sure that they put on a fantastic production! I'm not go-

ing to lie, producing a show by myself has been stressful, but it was so rewarding to see the cast go up and bring Washington Heights to life!

A noteworthy performance in the musical is the song 96,000 which features the citizens of Washington Heights and their desires of what they would buy or do after learning that someone in the Barrio has won the lottery amounting to \$96,000. This song showcases the diversity of the neighborhood with Benny responding in a rap style, Dani and Carla responding in a dancehall beat. This song demonstrates that everyone in the community has a different style and different dreams yet they all meld together in a perfect mix.

The musical also has the opportunity to be nominated for the MACY Awards, which was founded in 1969 and is dedicated to recognizing and rewarding a variety of achievements in high school musical theatre. The MACY Awards are known to be the "OSCAR/TONY Awards" for



high school students in the Orange County.

"We hope to receive Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actor, Best Comedian, Best Set, and Best Costumes," says Olivares. "To get Best Show would be such an amazing honor, so I'm going to send out positive vibes for that one!"

In terms of productions for

next year, the Drama department is already generating ideas. "We had

a ballot in our programs for the show, so our patrons can help us decide which shows they want to see on our stage next year," says Olivares. "The ballots have been counted, but the season will be a secret for a little while longer."

You can find more entertainment from the drama department during Lunch Bag tomorrow and Thursday!

Academic Decathlon advances to state competition



The Academic Decathlon team poses after the second day of competition, where they placed fourth in Super Quiz. Photo By: Yazlin Juarez

By ARACELI CORREA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho Decathlon team discovered they will be competing in the state competition in Sacramento after find-

ing out they were in 6th place overall at the award ceremony. The state competition will be held during the middle of March at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

In the competition, the decathletes will partake in a series

of tests where they will challenge their knowledge on this years topic, the 1960s. They will also perform a memorized speech and give an impromptu speech on a random prompt and have an interview with three judges. In the super quiz part, the team will be divided into their slots and answer questions which they have 10 seconds to answer.

In the regional competition, the team won a total of 26 medals with 16 gold, nine silver, and one bronze. The team's efforts made them very successful in the performance aspect of the competition, with most of the medals coming from the speech, essay, and interview. Every decathlete medaled in speech with eight gold and one silver, with interview and essay not that far behind.

The team also medaled in the subject tests with senior, Antonio Escobar earning medals in Economics, Math, and Literature. "It felt awesome to earn medals in subjects, it feels like I made my team and family proud,"

says Escobar. "I hope to feel that again at the state competition."

Many of the decathletes are excited about going to state and bonding more with each other. "I'm super excited to be going to state, it's been one of our goals from the very beginning," says junior Sophia Lugo. "It's the first time any of us are going to state, so I'm excited that we all get to experience this together."

"I'm looking forward to just being in the hotel," continues Lugo. "We all have such a close bond and I know we'll probably be playing *Mario Kart*, all squished in one room at two in the morning, enjoying each other's company instead of studying like other teams."

Junior Maria Juarez is also excited about the trip to Sacramento. "I'm just looking forward to spending more time with my teammates," says Juarez.

Returning members are especially excited since they were not able to compete in state last year. "I feel so proud of my team

because they worked so hard for this and definitely deserve it," says senior Jessica Castellanos.

Academic Decathlon advisor Mr. Melgar says, "I'm really glad that all the hard work and sacrifice that the team has put in from the summer has paid off." "It's exciting and I'm proud of the work the students put in to reach that goal," adds Mr. Francis, co-advisor.

"I look forward to continuing to grow this program to levels never seen before, taking what we learned this year and making it better," continues Mr. Melgar.

The team's hard work and determination led them to go onto state and they hope they can reach their goal of nationals. "My goal at state is for all of us to medal," Lugo says. "Even if this doesn't happen I'm so proud of my team for how far we've come. We've put so much time and effort into decathlon and I'm proud for us even making it this far," continues Lugo.

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OPINION

New rules take it too far



BY ALONZO MURRIETA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Earlier this month there was a large number of school skirmishes. Everyday there was a fight either during lunch, or before/after school. They took place mainly in the quad or outside parkings lots, but, no matter the setting or time, a fight is a fight. The recent fights at school have caused new rules to arise from the office of administrators. If you haven't heard, the rules go as follows: fighting, recording fights, and running towards any fight result in the same punishment. Committing any of these actions will lead to a five-day suspension and a trip to the sheriff's station where you will be held accountable for any part of the penal code you may have violated. Along with this, a week after "Fight week", the admin proposed new lunch policies that were immediately put into effect. During lunch all students were to go to the gym, the cafeteria, or the quad. No student was allowed inside any classroom or office, no exceptions. With these lunch policies, the school also brought back controlled release. Rules are rules, we should not break them and cause needless chaos (to the point where students

are stampeding around campus to cause a commotion). However, I have a few problems with some of the policies, and I'm sure there are others who do as well. Controlled release is something that I have no problem with. It completely stopped the chaos that would've ensued if all students got out of school at the same time, but it also brought more traffic and frustrated students who were released at around 3:15pm. First off, I don't like the idea of putting the entire student body in one major area. With recent events occurring around the nation, mainly in school settings, I do not feel safe being herded into the main gym and the quad. I am aware of the zero tolerance policy that has been employed in ERUSD since elementary school, however, to me, this choice calls for even more trouble. Why force all club meetings to stop? Also, why boot out the students that spend all of their lunches within a teacher's classroom? The new rules do their job and already scare students into not fighting. The punishments for

fighting are fine, and recording is reasonable. Bringing attention to and participating in a skirmish are normal and obvious rules. But, running towards a fight is another story. As stated earlier, running towards a fight has the same consequences as being in a fight, as does recording too. To play devil's advocate, say you're out in the quad during lunch, a fight breaks out only a couple yards away from you. What are you supposed to do? If a fight breaks out, do you run away? What if a school security officer gets the wrong idea and assumes you're going towards another fight? Do you stay put and just ignore the brawl taking place in front of you? So, what is the correct action? I don't know, any other person's guess is as good as mine. Then again, I am saying this as I play devil's advocate,

I ASSUME THESE RULES ARE SET TO SCARE THE STUDENT BODY FROM PARTICIPATING IN ANY OF THESE EVENTS.

these arguments may be too literal and taken out of context. Is there any need to think beyond what will not happen? The rules are, fine. Yes they have flaws in them, but, because they are now in place, I doubt there will be any more fights around campus. And there hasn't, to my knowledge a fight has not occurred on any grounds since the new rules have been put in place. What happens outside is not in the school's control. A potential solution could be to keep the new rules, however, change them slightly. Tweak the part of running towards fights. Instead change it to this, bringing any harm or ill-intentions towards a fight (to publicize or promote) mean to face the same consequences as one who participated in a fight. Most importantly, a student should be able to defend their actions.

Damn that dam!



BY FATIMA LOPEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Residents of Pico Rivera created what seemed to be a case of online and real-life mass hysteria when an article by the Los Angeles Times made its rounds on social media, specifically on Twitter. The article explained that our fair city would be under 20 feet of water if a 45-day storm, otherwise known as the ARkStorm, ever hit the Southern California area. According to the article written by L.A. Times reporter Louis Sahagun, the Whittier Narrows Dam is too weak to handle the rain water of the 45-day storm. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has deemed the dam unsuitable and has said that it no longer meets the tolerable risk guidelines that the agency strongly enforces. In a worst case scenario, the dam could fail to hold back storm waters and flood the cities surrounding it. This includes cities like Montebello, Downey, Santa Fe Springs, and none other than Pico Rivera. While the ARkStorm itself is quite the rare phenomenon, what was even more rare was the reaction from the residents of Pico Rivera. After the article was shared on Twitter by an El Rancho student, residents, mainly other El Rancho students, expressed their reactions to this information. Ranging everywhere from fearful to shock to even comedic, the reactions were widespread, but, in my opinion, completely uncalled for. I was surprised to see that many students were actually reading an article from a reputa-

ble news source. Often we all get our news from the trending topics on Twitter or we don't follow the news at all, so seeing this article linked on many different people's Twitter accounts was quite a sight. While I was happy to see that my peers were keeping up with the news, I was also a bit disappointed. The article was completely misunderstood and it was almost as if nobody really read through it in its entirety. Only a few key points stood out to everyone: 20 feet worth of flood water, a 45-day long storm, and a dilapidated dam. These details are, in fact, truthful and part of the article, but many are forgetting another significant detail. This megastorm has a 1 in 900 chance of happening every year. That is approximately a .001% chance of it ever occurring. The odds are very much in our favor if you ask me. Also, upon further research, I found that the Whittier Narrows Dam has been deemed structurally unsafe since 2017. The Los Angeles Times ran a very similar article two years ago minus the mention of the ARkStorm. Where was the mass hysteria then? While the issue is one of great importance, I could not help but think that it was blown out of proportion. The mass hysteria created by the L.A. Times article is one case that could have been clearly avoided if everyone read through the article and didn't rely on hearsay. In my opinion, the ARkStorm is nothing to worry about. After all, who is going to stay in the area for the entire 45 days of storms? Certainly not me!

El Rodeo

El Rodeo is published monthly except during vacations by the El Rancho High School journalism class. The *El Rodeo* offices are located at 6501 S. Passons Blvd., Pico Rivera, CA 90660 in room X-1. The paper is printed by *The Gardena Valley News*. *El Rodeo*, the student newspaper of El Rancho High School is an open, public forum for student expression and an opportunity to discuss its audience's issues of concern. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the position of the school board, administration, sponsors, parents, student body or advertisers. The Editorial Board, which consists of the editor-in-chief, section editors, and assistant editors, will determine the content of *El Rodeo*. Student journalists on the *El Rodeo* staff will make every effort to publish following the legal definitions of libel, obscenity and invasion of privacy. Consistent with California Education Code section 48907, the staff will refrain from printing material that may incite students, be a violation of school regulations or disrupt school operations. At the beginning of each semester, journalism students will be reminded of the legal, financial and ethical implications of each article they write. Ed Code 48907 affirms the right of high school newspapers to publish whatever they choose, so long as the content is not explicitly obscene, libelous, or slanderous. Also, there shall be no prior restraint of material prepared for official school publications except insofar as it violates this section.

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OPINION

Telecom giant Hauwei faces global criticism

BY ANTONIO ESCOBAR
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Chinese company Huawei has made international headlines in the past months. Huawei is a telecommunication company established in 1987. Initially, the company focused solely on manufacturing phone switches, but later expanded to everything from networks, to communications devices.

The company reported that last year it earned more than \$100 billion for the first time in company history. Huawei technology is used in 170 countries and by 45 of the 50 largest telecom operators.

Huawei planned to introduce a 5G network that would span the world, but a series of international controversies could lead to some obstacles.

The controversies stem from the belief that the Chinese government and Huawei can use their technology to steal sensi-

tive information from all countries that use it. The US government is the leader and biggest accuser of Huawei. America states that Huawei can use several “backdoors” in its technology and networks to serve to aid in securing information. Another huge issue that the US finds with Huawei, is its willingness to work with and supply technology to sanctioned countries.

A sanctioned country is one that is facing consequences by the UN, usually for crimes against its people, crimes against another country, or general disturbance of the peace. Two examples of this would be Iran and North Korea. Both of these countries have been extremely hostile towards the US and have not shown any signs of changing their behavior. However the Chinese company does not seem to have any problem with negotiating with these countries.

Huawei faced investigation for supplying both



of these countries, as well as Venezuela and Syria, with technology. These actions directly violate the economic sanctions placed on all four countries. Due to this, many executives are being accused of several crimes by the US. The Chinese government, however, is backing the company completely and it is suspected that the government is using the company to further its goals in the country and in international politics. This has led to

further tension in what is already a strained relationship between China and the United States.

These tensions reached a climax when recently the CEO of Huawei, Meng Wanzhou, was arrested in Canada at the request of the US. The Canadian government took Meng’s passport and currently has her out on bail. The US is requesting her extradition while China is attempting to have her returned to China. No decisions have been

made, but the issue has split the world as to whose side to take

As stated earlier, many countries have hired the company for government contracts involving security and other communication projects. However, due to security concern spearheaded by the US, many countries are now limiting or outright banning the use of Huawei technology in their country. Some of these countries include Britain, Australia, and India.

A “Green New” dystopia

BY DYLAN JOSEPH
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez has made news with her new proposal called the “Green New Deal.” While her intentions are no doubt noble, the road to hell is paved with good intentions. This “new deal” is a waste of time and effort. While its goal of making the United States more environmentally friendly and curbing carbon emissions is admirable, even if it were possible it would cause much more harm than good.

This is not a partisan issue either. While many Republicans and Libertarians are not supportive of the “Green New Deal” many moderate Democrats and progressives aren’t on board either. A majority of people believe we need to deal with the issues of climate change, but many realize how impractical this new deal is. You can find many articles by Democrats bashing the green new deal. While the intentions are okay, it’s just not practical.

This biggest issue with everything is not how impractical implementing all these changes are with a 10-year deadline is. Or even the fact that the U.S isn’t the biggest producer of greenhouse gasses, but instead the cost. How would we pay for such an undertaking? To be honest there are many ways, but all of them would devastate this country. Some have proposed a tax on the wealthy to pay for the green new deal but that won’t work. Rich people are really good at not paying taxes, there are many loopholes in the tax code and no matter how hard you try it will always be difficult to make the rich pay a certain amount. Even pretend-



ing a perfect world exists where they pay all their taxes, it isn’t nearly enough to pay for the deal.

A basic outline of the green new deal is that the intended goal is to cut carbon emissions in the U.S to zero by 2030. This would include replacing all cars with electric cars and retrofitting all buildings in the U.S to produce no carbon. In a controversial FAQ, her campaign team also suggested they wanted to get rid of airplanes and “farting cows.”

The last part of the deal is its proposed socialist policies. The green new deal calls for free college and free healthcare. The total cost of all of these new policies according to Forbes would be around 18.4 trillion dollars, not including the yearly 1.4 trillion for free healthcare. The U.S already is in incredible debt. We owe 22 trillion dollars and we only produce three trillion yearly. There is no feasible way to pay for this. Cortez’s 70% marginal tax rate for the rich would bring in less than 700 billion dollars annually.

While many people can see how ridiculous and impractical replacing nearly every car and every single building in the United States is some people support free college and free health-

care. Every single one of these ideas is flawed especially the latter. Socialism has never and will never work. This also includes democratic socialism. For example, there never been a socialist country that hasn’t fallen into ruin or collapsed like Venezuela or the Soviet Union or even Cuba.

Current socialist countries are experiencing high levels of poverty, political repression, and shortages. This has led many people to believe that democratic socialism is the exception but there has been no success there either. Hugo Chavez of Venezuela was elected and did not forcefully take over the country. Some people dismiss all of these failures and claim that Nordic countries like Sweden, Denmark, and Norway are the exception but they are not socialist countries. Not by any means are they socialist. Socialism by its very definition is that the government controls the means of productions, or put simply the government owns all the resources and the factories to produce them. This simply isn’t the case. Many aspects of the economy and civil services are privatized. Also, the Nordic model includes heavy taxation of the poor. For example, someone in the U.S who makes un-

der forty thousand will only be taxed at 12% but in Sweden, an individual who makes the same amount will be taxed 60%. The Nordic countries are capitalist countries with a big welfare state. They are not socialist.

The democratic socialists including Bernie Sanders and Ocasio-Cortez have stirred up a passion amongst younger people. They ask why shouldn’t college be free? Why shouldn’t healthcare be free? Many of my fellow students really want these things. I myself am going to college and will amass some debt. I understand why, but there’s a simple answer. Nothing is free, it just comes at someone else’s expense. Cortez and Sanders have told the American people that to pay for all these expensive programs all we need to do is tax wall street and the 1% but that’s not practical for many reasons.

The rich always find loopholes to pay taxes and this time won’t be different, unfortunately this means the burden would land on the middle and lower class. Even pretending there were numerous benefits to free college how would we pay for it? If we took every single dollar and asset from the 1% and the richest one percent it would still be no-

where near enough to cover these programs and considering we already have a massive deficit. In fairness, Cortez did address these points and pointed out that we can print more money, but that would cause inflation. A moral argument I have heard is that if we make college free more students would be able to go to college and people would have better opportunities.

The problem with this argument is human nature, when people get things for free they don’t appreciate it as much than if they had to work for it. England had free college for a long time and ended it, Forbes found that once people had to pay for college, graduation rates went up and there were more spots for students at these schools. This makes plenty of sense. There were no consequences for failing no risk so naturally, people took college less seriously. Since the colleges have to rely on student tuition, more money was allocated for increased housing and improving campuses. When colleges get money from the government, it doesn’t matter if the students are happy or not and they have no reason to improve the quality of the campus. Socialism is not the way forward in regards to healthcare and college healthcare is certainly more complicated but the best argument other than the cost is that by making healthcare free competition will be stifled and innovation will decrease, although I will admit socialized healthcare would be better of our current system of the free market mixed with socialized medicine, which leaves everyone worse off.

The green new deal is not a look into the future but a move to the failures of the past. There are better ideas. We just need to be willing to look at the cost and the benefits.

FEATURES

Jaylene Oviedo is *Simply Irresistible*

MARISSA DE LA CRUZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Lovely, but fierce, Jaylene Oviedo steals the title of this month's *Simply Irresistible*! Well known for her amazing three-pointers on El Rancho's basketball courts, you can find her sporting a number twelve when she's playing for El Rancho's very own girls' varsity basketball team.

She has been extremely devoted to the sport, even from an early age. "I got into basketball when I was eight because of my grandpa was always watching basketball on the T.V.," says Oviedo.

But what kind of person is Jaylene? When asked to describe herself, she chose to say one word, "caring." Jaylene's caring nature can easily be noticed when asked about her favorite part of playing basketball, "playing because it's one of the best feelings, but playing with my girls [teammates] is a big part of

why I love it." You can tell Jaylene not only loves her sport, but loves the team she's playing on. Other than basketball, Jaylene drums in her free time.

"MOST OF MY FAMILY MEMBERS
PLAY THE DRUMS, AND GROWING
UP I FELL IN LOVE WITH IT."
-JAYLENE OVIEDO

She prefers reggae, a genre of music that originated in Jamaica, over other forms of music. She gets this love of reggae from her uncle who performs in a reggae band. In her free time, Jaylene enjoys listening to music and catching up on shows such as *Orphan Black*, *One Tree Hill*, and *The Get Down*.

Jaylene's dream schools are UCLA and Juilliard. She wants to attend UCLA in hopes of playing basketball for their team. She'd like to attend Juilliard to pursue a career in music, preferably playing drums. "UCLA was

the dream, or Juilliard. I have two dreams, playing basketball for UCLA or writing and playing music in Juilliard," says Oviedo. No matter which college she attends, her plans afterward is to move out of California and make her dreams into reality.

Jaylene, like other people, has her favorite things. Her favorite food is pozole and her favorite dessert is a hot chocolate chip cookie pie with vanilla ice cream on top. Her two favorite colors are brown and green and she enjoys listening to various types of music. Her favorite season is summer, because Jaylene prefers to be warm. Jaylene loves various types art and many different types of aesthetics. However, Jaylene does have her dislikes, she has least favorites and dislikes. Jaylene's least favorite type of food is seafood. Her least favorite color is yellow. She also dislikes cold and rainy weather. There's only one type of music Jaylene



Jaylene Oviedo after winning MVP at the Las Vegas Invitational. Courtesy of Coach Shigezane

dislikes, country. With these facts, you can see that Jaylene is not only simplistic, but relatable.

Jaylene is one of the sweetest gals you'll meet on campus. She's easy going and a great person to talk to. She's extremely polite and easy to get along with.

The fact she's an Aquarius is easy to tell due to her kind behavior. You can come up and chat with her in person, or get to know her through text. Her instagram is @jaysoff, so feel free to say hi sometime, you won't regret getting to know her kind soul.

Roger "Stat Bot" Sanchez is dedicated to his craft

DYLAN JOSEPH
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Mr. Sanchez is a quiet man full of energy and humility. His teaching methods is straightforward and intuitive. He's a teacher who commands great respect from his students. He's always cheerful and optimistic. He has been lovingly assigned the moniker of the "goat [greatest of all time]." He is "the man, the myth, the legend." Mr. Roger Sanchez!

A cheery gentleman, he has had a phenomenal impact on the students on campus. His positivity is a beacon in the dark.

"ENJOY THE UNENJOYABLE."
-MR. SANCHEZ

Mr. Sanchez is no newcomer though. He has plenty of teaching experience and a long

career of teaching mathematics.

"I have taught AP Statistics, honors classes: Geometry, Algebra 2 and Pre-calculus. Also, I have taught non-honor classes: Integrated I, II, Algebra 2 and Statistics/Trigonometry. I also did the Escalante Program for four years," says Sanchez.

Some advice Mr. Sanchez wants students to know is, "Don't live your life like you are an immortal. Get things done now and experience life now."

He describes himself as, "Adventurous, ambitious, courageous, frank, and intuitive." A simple man Mr. San-



chez is, he enjoys the simple things in life "Learn, exercise and create/build."

His life philosophy is quite simple: to live your life to the fullest and just enjoy yourself, there is no point in wasting time when you have so little time. True to nature when asked what his favorite thing about El Rancho is, he said, "The students" and being the "Saint." The reason he decided to work at El Rancho was to have, "The opportunity to

work with my community."

"TEACHING AND CONTINUE
TO
FOLLOW MY ADVICE OF NOT
LIVING LIKE I'M AN IMMORTAL:
DON'T WASTE TIME."
-MR. SANCHEZ

Mr. Sanchez credits his very focused and straightforward attitude to his experiences growing up that were full of "Exciting [experiences] and challenges and dreams." Mr. Sanchez prefers not to go into detail about his past as he would like to "keep the suspense."

A wonderful teacher and a jolly gentleman; it'd be hard to find someone as optimistic and objective as Mr. Sanchez. If you work up the enigma, talk to him and you just might find out something you never would have guessed!

Teen Read Week at ERHS is March 18-22, 2019

This celebration of reading is brought to you by the ER Library. How will you know that it's Teen Read Week?

- You will notice school staff wearing their READ shirts.
- You really should read to the Library Dogs during lunch on March 18.
- Your class might come to the Get Lit Poetry Performances on Tuesday, March 19.
- You will rush over to Literary Lunchbag Theater in the Little Theater at lunch on March 20
- Maybe you'll relax in the library during lunch on March 21.
- You might participate in a reading-related contest and win a prize
- Your class may get lucky and have an administrator or counselor come and read to you.
- You are fortunate enough to be in a freshman English class and you earn a reading achievement prize and maybe even have a class pizza party.



RAINY DAYS AT THE RANCH

This month, rain, thunderstorms, hail, and even snow pounded the Southland! Here are some of the stormy weather taken by El Rancho students!



Photo by Rene Gallegos



Photo by Alejandro Melchor

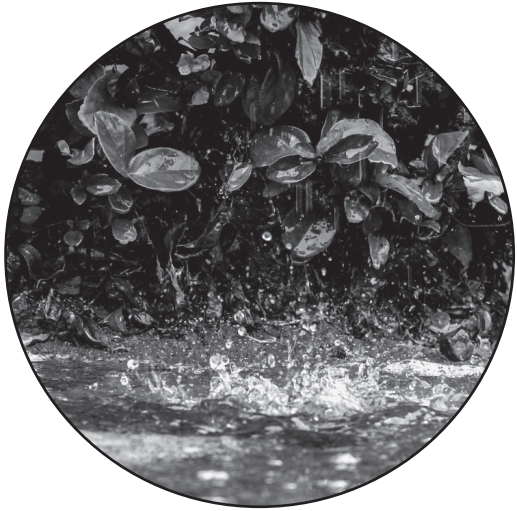


Photo by Diego Sanchez



Photo by Melanie Ramirez



Photo by Irene Zuviate



Photo by Katie Tafoya



Photo by Alejandro Melchor



Photo by Jesus Perez



Photo by Giovanni Guerrero



Photo by Carlos Rojo



Photo by Kaylee Alvarador

FEBRUARY PLAYLIST!

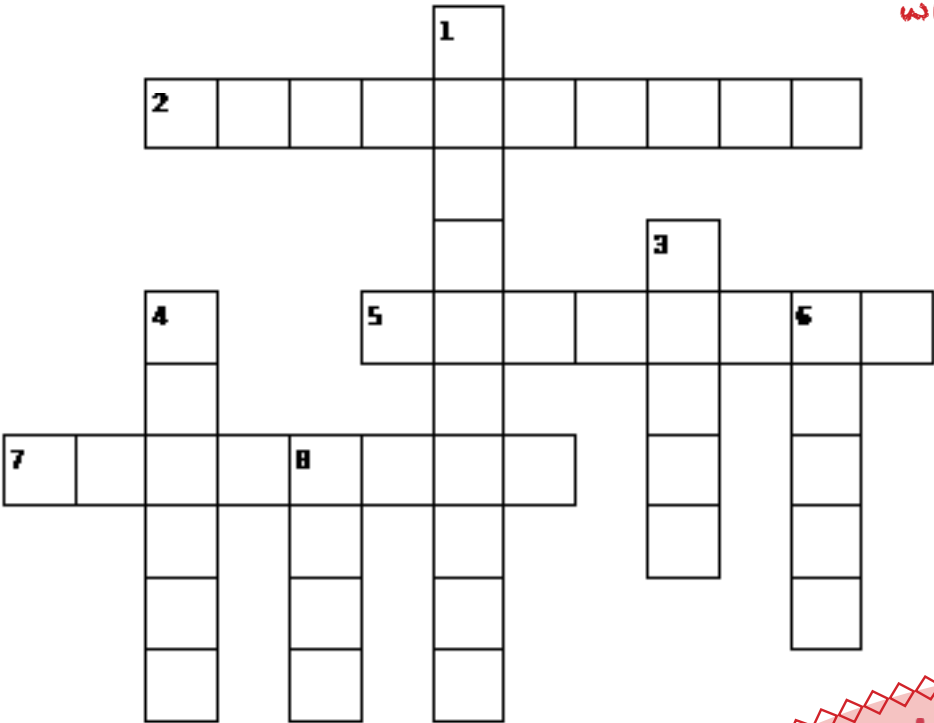
Listen to the Love themed playlist now!



The Month

Crossword


Submit your answers to [win a prize](#)



\$1.5 Dollar Dates!

Don't worry if you missed out on Valentine's day! With or without a boo, you can enjoy these cute dates with friends or that special someone ;)

- Remember the joy of being a kid by buying Coloring books and crayons- \$8
- Set up a picnic and paint canvases together- \$14
- Get boba or smoothies and spill tea to each other- \$13
- Go to the Dollar Tree and find the goofiest Valentine's day gifts that are half off- \$10
- Buy a bunch of different candy and popcorn and enjoy a night in watching your favorite movies- \$10
- Skin care doesn't have to be a chore. Just buy some face masks and treat yourselves to a night of self care- \$12








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This is J
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Be Like J

ADVICE FROM ALONZO

Hey Dons! It's me, the one and only Alonzo from Advice from Alonzo! After the sheer amount of dating questions I get every month, I've decided to take it upon myself to offer my dating advice from my own dating questions. Maybe then will the subject of the questions finally move onto something more than talking to a crush.



Q: How do I get into a relationship?

A: Thank you for such a good question! First, find someone you actually like! Don't think you like someone just because you have a lot in common! Don't jump the gun, take your time in talking to people! After that, well, to be honest, I have no idea.

Q: How do I make the first move?

A: Twitter! Just DM someone and cross your fingers, knock on wood, and hope they give a decent reply. If hiding behind a screen isn't your way of doing things, then talk to them in person. It's simple and done!

Q: How do I get people to like me?

A: Another GREAT question! If you believe no one enjoys your presence (in that way) then just wait! Remember, this is just high school. No matter what grade you're in, just wait for high school to finish. Whatever you find after graduation will be much more worth your time (especially in college).

1 of Love!

Word Puzzle!

www.elrodeonews.com to prize!

- Down:
1. Telling your crush your feelings
 3. Roman god of desire
 4. A symbol of love
 6. A bouquet of these for your significant other
 8. That special thing in the air this month

- Across:
2. A cocoa dessert for your special someone
 5. The month of love
 7. A list of songs for that special someone

like Joe!

oe.
s to remember his time at El Rancho.
s online and visits the El Rodeo News
www.elrodenews.com

Joe.

WORD ON THE STREET

Why do you think you're single?



"I'm not interested in dating right now."

Melanie Hernandez, 9th



"Because I'm ugly."

Julian Martinez, 12th



"There's not enough gay girls on campus."

Karizma Reyes, 12th



"All the girls I talk to have commitment issues."

Stevie Dominguez, 12th

LOVEScopes



Pisces (Feb. 19 - Mar. 20): Hey Pisces, we're finally in your season! While your emotional energy might be a bit difficult for the rest of the signs to handle, it certainly isn't stopping you. Things are heating up and you know it! Valentine's Day may have passed, but that doesn't mean that love and passion have to end. If you're a single Pisces, might we suggest asking out a fellow water sign or an earth sign? Trust your gut and make sure to have fun!

Aries (Mar. 21 - Apr. 19): Aries, this month has been quite a wild ride for you. You've experienced a roller coaster of emotions and that's okay! It's all part of life and the good thing is, you're starting to move past these obstacles. With Pisces season in full effect, another wave of emotions might be around the corner, but don't let that scare you. Sometimes being a little vulnerable is necessary! The month of love has come to an end, but you're not letting that stop you! We're just letting you know that your fellow fire signs, as well as the air signs, are extremely compatible with you. What are you waiting for? Get out there!

Taurus (Apr. 20 - May 20): My dear Taurus, how are things? You may be feeling a bit emotional or even a bit overwhelmed due to the heavy emotions that come around during Pisces season but worry not, there is a solution. Friends! This month focus on the relationships you have with your close friends. Go out,

make memories, and have fun! If you're itching to get on the dating scene, may we suggest a fellow earth sign or a water sign? Your love life can be fun and all, but do NOT forget about self-love!

Gemini (May 21 - June 20): Gemini, the month of love was extremely generous to you and because of it, you're GLOWING! You're feeling fierce, fun, and flirty. Your extreme level of confidence has you turning heads and guess what? You deserve it! However, you're not using that confidence to its full potential. This Pisces season, use that confidence in your professional life! Allow yourself to be the creative genius you are. Are you single, Gemini? If so, your fellow air signs or a fire sign might just be your match! Keep doing you boo, we love you!

Cancer (June 21 - July 22): Cancer, it's no secret that this month was a bit difficult for you. Whether you were missing something or someone, you felt it and you felt it hard. Try to change that during this Pisces season! You might be tempted to fall into those sad feelings again, but trust us, reflecting and learning from those emotions are the best things to do. Focus on strengthening the relationship you have with yourself. Love yourself this upcoming month, Cancer! If you're ready to try your hand at love, earth signs and fellow water signs are just the types of nurturers you need. We're rooting for you!

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22): Hey Leo, how are you doing? The month of love might be over, but you're still feeling the afterglow of it all! Pisces season brings heavy emotions to all the signs, but you're not letting that stop you. This season, use those feelings of happiness to make your dreams come true! No, we're not joking around, we're being serious. Manifest that good energy and put it to good use. Is love on your mind? Single Leos, the passionate fire signs or the eclectic air signs are the ones for you!

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22): Virgo, the month of love has sadly come to an end and now you're feeling a bit emotional. Pisces season is a time of heavy emotions, so don't worry about it too much! However, don't let it take over your life. This time is great for working on personal relationships. Whether it's a friendship or a significant other, it doesn't matter! This is your time to take initiative and make your circle a better, more tight-knit one. Are you single, Virgo? Your fellow earth signs and water signs are just the kinds of people you need!

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22): My dear Libra, how are things? The month of love has come and gone and now the blues you felt are gone, too! Pisces season is one of heavy emotions, but for you, it's a season of self-care. Focus on both your physical and mental health! Have a day to yourself or treat yourself to something

sweet. Just make yourself feel loved! When you truly love yourself, love will find itself in all aspects of your life. With that being said, your fellow air signs and fire signs are the ones for you!

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21): Hey Scorpio! How are you doing? The month of love had you on a roller coaster of emotions and you're going to stay on that ride throughout the rest of Pisces season. Embrace it though! Vulnerability is better than bottling your emotions up. The emotions you're going to feel will help you be more a productive person! Make sure to keep your head up and stay positive during this time. Scorpio, you've got love on your mind, so we suggest taking that cute earth sign in your math class or that funny water sign you see in the library out on a date. Good luck!

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): Sagittarius, this past month provided plenty of good energy, but Pisces season is making things feel off for you. You're not in a rut, Sagittarius, you're just in between emotions! This Pisces season, the stars encourage you to lay low. Do some reflection, meditation, or anything that will bring that balance back to your life! You need rest this season, so we wouldn't suggest going out every other day. Slow it down this month! Are you single, Sagittarius? If so, your fellow fire signs and the eclectic air signs are definitely the right match for you!

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): Capricorn, how are you? The month of love brought plenty of good energy your way. You've definitely gained a new addition to your life and it's making you super happy! Maybe it's a new friend, a new hobby, or even a new family member. Whatever the case may be, that new addition has you glowing and you should put all of that good energy to use! This Pisces season, you better own it, Capricorn! All eyes are going to be on you and now if your chance to make yourself known. Thinking about putting yourself out there? If you are, fellow earth signs and water signs are just the kinds of people you need!

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): My dear Aquarius, how are things? Sadly, Aquarius season has come to an end, but Pisces season is looking quite promising for you! During this season, your productivity will increase and your outlook will become more positive. You laid low during the month of love, but this time around, get out there and have some fun! If you have any close friends you've been neglecting for a while, hit them up and rekindle the friendship you have with them! The stars also encourage you to spend more quality time with your family. Your family is important too, Aquarius! Love may not necessarily be of importance right now, but if you're willing to take a chance, your fellow air signs and fire signs might be the right match for you.

SPORTS

Girls basketball earns 7th consecutive league title

BY EZRA BLANCO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Congratulations to the Lady Dons on their fantastic season this year! Despite the heart-wrenching loss to the Oxford Academy Patriots during round two of CIF, captains Donteylor Maxwell and Jaylene Oviedo triumphantly led the team toward 23 victories to 6 losses overall and 7 victories to 1 loss in league, thanks to the guidance of coach Randy Shigezane. Maxwell played her final high school basketball season as one of the two captains of the team. She’s proud of what the team has accomplished.

“IT FELT GREAT LEADING MY TEAM TO CIF BECAUSE A LOT OF PEOPLE DOUBTED US THROUGHOUT THE SEASON. BEING ABLE TO PROVE THEM WRONG WAS GREAT.”
- DONTAYLOR MAXWELL

Jaylene Oviedo, the second captain on the team still has one more season to go and plans to make great improvements for next year. “I want to be better than I was this past season so I’m going to be working harder on



Jaylene Oviedo dribbles past opponent.

myself,” says Oviedo. “As a team, we need to get used to each other, especially playing without our [current] seniors.” Senior Evelyn Naranjo is beyond proud of what the team has accomplished. All of their hard work and dedication during the offseason has certainly paid off. After adding another championship year to their banner, making it their

seventh consecutive league title, Naranjo says, “We had our rough moments here and there but we didn’t let that stop us. We all believed in each other and of course had such great coaches that dedicated so much of their time to make sure we were always on top of our game.” Coach Randy Shigezane agrees with Naranjo, saying,

“It was a great season. We were able to win league again, made it to one round of playoffs.” Shigezane also shares some insight on what next year’s season will look like without players like Maxwell or Jhovana Villegas. “We lose a lot of size without [said players] who are both seniors this year. It’ll be a little different

next year but I anticipate us still being successful.” The El Rancho Lady Dons played a fantastic season, winning their seventh Del Rio league title and making it to round two of CIF. Want to try out for next season’s girls basketball team? Follow coach Shigezane’s official twitter @coachships for updates on tryout days!

Photo By Ezra Blanco

Where are they now: Student-athlete Layla Prieto



Prieto #11 and her team huddling up before a game. Photo courtesy of Fullerton Community College

BY KAYLA PEREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

From being in ASB for four years to participating in pepsters, class of 2018 graduate Layla Prieto continues to be an active student on her new full-ride softball scholarship at Fullerton Community College. “I picked Fullerton Community college because I got recruited for softball, plus it’s a free education,” says Prieto. “I’m studying sociology to become a social worker because I want to make a difference in children’s lives.” “The community is so amazing and everyone is so

supportive,” continues Prieto. “I have classes with nothing but athletes which is motivating because we’re all on the same path to graduate & transfer out.” Being a involved student in nothing new to Prieto, “In high school I was a part of Pepsters, Varsity ASB, Softball, & the morning announcements,” says Prieto.

“AT FULLERTON I AM A PART OF THE SOFTBALL PROGRAM, FRESHMAN REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LATINA LEADERSHIP NETWORK, STUDENT DIVERSITY SUCCESS INITIATIVE, AND EOPS.”

In order to keep up with her busy schedule, Prieto makes sure she uses her time efficiently. “In my spare time I do homework because it literally never ends,” says Prieto. “I also go to the gym & hang out with my small group of people.” She also notes that one of her favorite things about college are the variety of food options. “We have Jamba Juice on campus but the breakfast burritos and tater tots SMACK in the morning,” continues Prieto. However, her transition to college has been nothing short of surprises! “My transition from high school to college wasn’t hard classroom wise,

if anything I’m more consistent in the classroom then I was before, but it is a big culture shock,” says Prieto. “The biggest difference to me from the two is the attendance.” “In high school you can miss as many days as you want and still end up catching up,” continues Prieto. “In college, if you miss one day you’re behind the whole month.” Her time at college has made her realize all the fond memories she misses from high school. “I miss the pep rallies and dances from high school,” says Prieto. “The closest thing we get to a pep rally is when CSUF frat boys host a gathering.” In terms of future goals, Prieto has set short term goals of her own and plans to expand them throughout her time in college. “I used to think in high school everyone was being dramatic about being on time but trust me, you need to be on time in college because there’s no parking ANYWHERE and the professor will kick you out if you’re disrupting,” says Prieto.

“MY LONG TERM GOALS ARE TO GRADUATE WITH MY AA, GET ACCEPTED INTO FIVE SCHOOLS, GET RECRUITED BY MY SECOND YEAR AND TRANSFER!”

Prieto has tons of advice for those currently applying to college based on her own experience. “My advice for the ones applying to schools, I didn’t get the chance to but don’t ever think a CC is a lower route,” says Prieto. “It’s still the same education as a CSU, UC, private or even a NAIA, in my opinion, you’re just paying for the name.” “I ENCOURAGE YOU ALL TO CHOOSE A SCHOOL THAT SUITS YOU, YOUR PASSION, AND YOUR MENTAL HEALTH,” CONTINUES PRIETO. “DON’T APPLY TO SOMEWHERE JUST BECAUSE ‘IT WOULD BE COOL TO GO THERE’ OR ANYTHING ALONG THOSE LINES.” Prieto also has advice specifically for student-athletes that want to continue their athletic career into college. “Don’t ever say no to college coaches when they offer you a scholarship and always visit the campus before accepting a spot on the team,” says Prieto. “Every sport is competitive so even if you’re going to a JUCO, NAIA, or D3, always have a D1 mindset because you will fall behind!”

SPORTS

Wrestling finishes season strong

BY ALEJANDRO MELCHOR
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

It's the end of the wrestling season for El Rancho high school and the team finished off their season strong and achieved a lot. With five of the wrestlers qualifying for CIF: Jonathan Llamas, Martin Aguilar, Jason Aguilar, Jacob Funes, and Andrew Tarango, it is clear this team worked very hard this season.

"We trained hard sometimes with Santa Fe's team but mostly by ourselves, we ran four miles two days out of the week, and practiced every day from 4 pm to 6 pm and sometimes even 7 pm," said senior Martin Aguilar.

"We all trained hard and practiced on technique so we could be ready for our tournaments," Added senior Andrew Tarango.

Despite all the physical training, these wrestlers endured a lot of mental challenges throughout their season. "It's a real mental sport because it's a hard sport," says Tarango.

"You must be able to cope mentally because most the time you are dieting in order to keep up with weight, mentality also plays a big role in the sport" continues Tarango. He then went on to say "It's all about being able to go out on the mat and just be aggressive."



Photo By Yazlin Juarez

"Self-motivation was a big thing for me this season, most people doubted me because of my performance last year but I just took these negative comments and used them to motivate me," said junior Jacob Funes.

In their season they were able to place in several tournaments but it didn't come easy, it was a difficult journey for them going against many schools in the area who are well in the sport.

"Season was good. I actually placed in a couple tournaments and actually got first place

in one as well," said Tarango.

"Season for me was really tough, it was easy keeping up with weight but was difficult mastering technique and getting enough sleep for classes," added Funes.

Most of the five wrestlers were able to win two matches and came close to making it to the second day of the tournament but couldn't because they came up short. Although none of the wrestlers were able to advance to the next tournament they still held high spirits.

"CIF WAS TOUGH, THERE WAS A LOT OF TALENTED WRESTLERS THAT I HAD NEVER SEEN BEFORE BUT IT WAS A GREAT EXPERIENCE FOR ME TO GO OUT THERE AND GET ON THE MAT."

- JACOB FUNES

"It was good but difficult, there was really a lot of guys with more technique. We also had a couple new teams come into the division such as St. John Bosco and Servite so it was a little more difficult," added Tarango.

In spite of the team's performance this season, they

plan to stay humble and just get better for the next year.

"For the next year we just have to get better," says Tarango despite being a senior already finishing his last season. "We still have a very young team so they still have time to improve," added Aguilar.

As the season ends there is only one lingering question on our minds: Will wrestling redeem themselves next winter? That's something we'll all just have to wait and see.

Boys soccer playoff run cut short



The boys soccer team preparing for their playoff game with a rigorous practice.

Photo by Yazlin Juarez

BY EMILIANO LAFARGA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Another soccer season has come to an end, and although it was not the dominant season that most predicted, the El Rancho boys' soccer team managed to finish in a playoff spot.

What started off as a rather disappointing season with back to back losses against California High School (2-0) and Santa Fe High School (2-0), ended in triumph as the

boys were able to put away La Serna High School (2-0). Despite doubts and criticism, the team managed to finish with a respectable record of 5-2-1.

Their hard work and determination allowed them to advance into the CIF playoffs yet again. However, the momentum that they once had in the season came to a sudden end as they were knocked out in the first round by Cabrillo High School (1-0).

The loss meant that their chances of winning another title

would have to wait another year. This would mean another year that the title has evaded them since they last won it in 2013.

However, the boys are using the offseason as time to reflect on the positives of their season rather than the negatives. "Even though we didn't get the playoff run we wanted, I'm still incredibly proud of how our team kept moving forward after a tough start to the season" says junior Diego Gonzalez.

The team's ability to

overcome such obstacles was a big part of their turn around and eventual success in league. "We fought until the end, and I take pride in the performance we put in" continues Gonzalez who played a pivotal role in midfield.

This season definitely proved to be more difficult than in the past and it certainly one that the team will look to improve from both as individuals and as a group.

One thing that really showed during the games was

their inexperience at losing games, which many of the team's members had never encountered before. It left them in a rut early on in the season, "One thing that would've helped improve was the mindset that we had going into games," says Gonzalez.

The team seemed to be really affected by the losses and it showed in their style of play. "When times were rough at the beginning of the season, we dwelled upon the losses far too much," states Gonzalez.

A main factor however, that helped the boys push forward was their commitment and belief in each other as a team. "I felt like we as a team did everything we could to have a successful season" says senior Joseph Garcia.

However all success takes time and their daily dedication to the team pushed them through to the next stage after league. "Every day at practice we would always focus on fixing the little details and perfecting our game," adds Garcia.

Although it may not have been the season everyone had expected, it was one that no one will forget. Through tough times and hard losses, they managed to show true potential and their adversity as a team.

Despite losing their chances at gaining another title, the boys' gained the experience and the knowledge that will surely help them with their season next year.

DISCOVERING DONS

Beijing students get a taste of American culture

By RENE GALLEGOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

As the spring season blooms at El Rancho, special guests arrive to the school! Foreign exchange students from Beijing travel across the globe to study here at El Rancho and make stops at tourist destinations while on their way.

Though their visit to El Rancho is their longest stay, it is only one stop on their vacation. “We arrived in America on January 19,” says foreign exchange student Zhang Sijin, also known as Steven Zhang. “I traveled to New York, New Jersey, and Washington D.C. before.”

Yinuo Xu, also known as Delia Xu, adds that they also traveled to Boston, Yellowstone, and Salt Lake City.

During their stay at El Rancho, the foreign exchange students built connections with the people here. “It is really nice to be in El Rancho,” says Sijin. “Teachers are friendly and patient, my classmates are curious and kind.”

“I really enjoy the life here! Students and teachers here are nice and ready to help us,” says Xu.

The foreign exchange students were also surprised by the classes that are offered at El Rancho. Xu says, “The classes [are] interesting too!” “El Rancho got so many classes we don’t have in China, like cooking, digital animation, sign language and French. Really cool!” says Sijin, “My favorite part during the visit was cooking class.”

“We learned how to make tacos and eat our [Do-It-Yourself] tacos,” continues Sijin.

“It’s interesting, we never had that kind of class in China.”

When comparing our education to their schooling in Beijing, Sijin says, “In China, we have more homework and a bigger class scale, like around forty students in one class. We also have stressful lives to keep up our efficiency.”

“The school environment is different too,” continues Xu. “We got longer school time and fixed classroom with more critic lessons in China, also we only have three grade [levels] instead of four.”

Xu says her favorite part about America is, “The time I spend in school, especially on the playground. Usually we have fake grass for our playground in China. So the field here, for me, it’s really beautiful and comfortable. I like the time of sitting on the grass.”



Mr. Vazquez congratulating the Beijing students.
Photo by Alexis Arroyo

On their final day attending school at El Rancho, the foreign exchange students hosted a small gathering to say farewell to their host families

and shadows. The students departed to San Francisco on February 11th and will then venture back to their homes in Beijing.

El Rancho’s orchestra will “bow” you away!



Members of the string ensemble warming up.
Photo by Yazlin Juarez

By YAZLIN JUAREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Music teacher Reggie Cordero invites El Rancho students to grab a bow and join the school orchestra in order to help this fledgling program take flight.

The orchestra class was formed three years ago thanks to Dr. Kwek and El Rancho Unified School District funding. Before becoming the Instrumen-

tal Music Director, Cordero had taught orchestra in three other schools and conducted at the Alhambra Tri-City Orchestra and Montebello High School.

Currently, the program offers instruments such as bass, cello, viola, and violins. Enrolled students borrow these instruments to use in and out of class to study through exercises, special instruction from Cordero, workbooks, and performances. The class,

held exclusively for 1st period, is open to all grades and skill levels.

For example, senior and three-year violin veteran player Gisselle Lozano joined in 2016 when the program first started at El Rancho. Although she had no previous music experience and was challenged at first, her dedication allowed her to become one of the most skilled musicians in the ensemble.

Though it helps to have some music experience upon joining, it is not required, and many students such as Lozano have made sufficient progress. Even previously-trained musicians, like senior and one-year violin player Kayla Marroquin, will have difficulties, but she says that, “It’s gonna be hard at first but with dedication, you will improve.”

All that the program is looking for is dedicated students to return and become members of the program. Cordero says that the group suffers from “starting from scratch every year. We are hoping to have some of the string players from the middle school begin to join next year.” This way, the ensemble can develop

as a whole and work their way up to more challenging pieces.

Some of the orchestra’s pieces include traditional songs like “Burst” and “Moonlight” for beginners and the “Saint Anthony Chorale” by Johannes Brahms for the more advanced members. It’s not as groovy as Guitar Hero, but classical music has proven to offer plenty of stimulating neural benefits to its listeners and players and can help develop problem-solving skills. “It is a great way to expand your knowledge in music,” Lozano says. “Not many people find any interest in classical music and I think having an orchestra at El Rancho gives students a wonderful opportunity to do so.”

Like all teams, the orchestra is a great place to meet new friends and building communication skills. “Getting to know other musicians and playing music together made orchestra that much more enjoyable,” says Lozano. Marroquin also says, “I enjoyed playing with other musicians since we were each able to give each other constructive feedback which

made us better musicians.”

Although learning a new instrument has its challenges, at the end of the year, the musicians see that it is well worth the work. These skills culminate at the end of the year with a large annual Spring Concert, typically held in April or May, in which all members of the El Rancho music programs present their pieces to friends, family, and faculty. This concert is a way of honoring all previous musicians and their hard work. “It’s a pleasure seeing the improvement and learning that happens over the year,” Cordero says.

The El Rancho Music Program also hosts many other underground music groups that are eager for new members, such as the jazz band, color guard, drum line, and the recently-established mariachi ensemble. Each group offers a year’s credit for visual and performing arts graduation requirements, as well as the opportunity to learn musicianship and classical instruments. To join these programs, sign up with your counselors for the 2019-2020 school year, and contact Cordero at rhcordero@gmail.com.

Word on the Street

What are your thoughts on the new school rules?



“I don’t think it’s necessary, seems like a waste of time and resources.”
-Antonio Raudel, 11th



“I think that the new rules are a little too much and that they’ve gone overboard. We should be able to go where ever we want during lunch and nutrition.”
- Antonio Galicia, 11th



“Honestly it sucks, I haven’t been able to go to the library and get work done. I don’t think it’s fair since mostly freshman were responsible for all of this.”
-Nicholas Castanon, 11th



“I feel like it doesn’t make sense to keep us closer together because it provokes more tension.”
-Joshua Moran, 12th



“I think it is pointless and I hate it.”
-Sam Rosas, 12th

DISCOVERING DON'S

Xavier Marquez: "The Actor"

Senior Xavier Marquez lives by the motto "Skate fast, Eat A**." A list of five adjectives that describes Marquez are tired, honest, dramatic, lowkey, and quick-witted. On campus, Marquez has been involved in the Theatrical Arts! He has been on the Advanced Drama team as well as the Improv team for a semester. His debut drama performance was in last year's musical, Sugar, and he also performed in this year's, In The Heights as Kevin Rosario. Something that certain people do not know or would not be able to guess about



Marquez is his ability to sing and dance. What Marquez would like to do in five years from today is to graduate from college, become a composer for films, and to hopefully be a music engineer. The classes that Marquez is taking this year are: Psychology, Economics, Integrated Three, Spanish, Advanced Drama, and Expository Reading and Writing Course (ERWC). What Marquez likes to do in his free time is watch movies, sleep most of the time, make beats, and lastly, win in Mario kart. Get to know more about Marquez on Twitter @xmarquez45!

Destiny Rivera: "The Leader"

Senior Destiny Rivera keeps herself entertained by participating in several clubs. She is involved in Teen Court, where she is Vice President, and the Leader Club where she is secretary. Besides these leadership positions, she is also an active member of CSF and the Math Club. She has also been in cross country and track for the past four years. She was team captain of cross country for two years. In addition to these clubs and sports, Rivera has also taken many AP classes such as AP Chemistry, AP Calculus AB, AP Biology, AP Language and Composition, AP Calculus BC, AP Spanish



Language, AP Physics, and AP Literature. Rivera is always trying to expand her knowledge and prepare for college, so she takes dual enrollment courses. During her sophomore year, she took Chicano studies at Cal State Long Beach. This past summer, she took economics and government at Rio Hondo. In Rivera's free time she likes to run, cook, spend time with her siblings, play guitar, and expand her business of painting hydroflasks and posters for school dances. You can see some of her amazing designs on her twitter @Desstinnyyyy!

Alexis Gallegos: "The Achiever"

Junior Alexis Gallegos has been involved in numerous clubs during her time here at El Rancho. Over the past three years, Gallegos has been a part of the California Scholarship Federation (CSF), Leos Club, the Leader Program, and Associated Student Body (ASB) as well. Gallegos holds a prominent role in ASB, where she stood as Sophomore President last year and is currently secretary. Not only has Gallegos participated in many clubs, but she has also been a part of Varsity swim for two years. This year, she is striving to qualify for the CIF competition. Academically,



Gallegos proves herself to be competitive as she is currently in AP Language and Composition, and has taken AP Human Geography, AP World History, and AP Computer Science Principles. In addition to taking AP classes, she has also started taking off campus classes at Rio Hondo, such as Spanish 1 and American History. Gallegos likes to do while taking her mind off of AP classes and clubs is making jewelry, watching Gossip Girl constantly, and taking care of her puppies. Gallegos also makes her jewelry! You can contact her about sales on her social media @alexiseileen!

Saul Valadez: Our Newest Member

The El Rodeo Staff is very happy to introduce our newest member, Saul Valadez! Valadez is in the 9th grade and is involved in Choir as well as Journalism. He represents the class of 2022 in the El Rodeo Newspaper with his debut announcement: "On March 1, the El Rancho Choir, directed by Paul Keilbach, will host Karaoke Night from 5-7 p.m. in the El Rancho High School cafeteria. All students are encouraged to entertain their friends as they sing to the music of their favorite artist. Admission is \$3 or \$5 for admission and to sing one song. Food and



drinks will be sold. Come and join the choir for an exciting karaoke night. On March 28, choir will host Coffeehouse Night from 5-7 p.m. in the cafeteria. Mr. Keilbach says "It's going to be an evening to show off some of our soloists." The choirs will perform some of the music they will sing for choir festival. Snacks and drinks will be sold at the event to support the choirs." Valadez will continue writing for the newspaper, so look out for his article in the next El Rodeo issue: a feature on the Choir teacher, Mr. Keilbach!

LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP!



Joseph Garcia and Clarissa Morales



Clarissa Morales and Joseph Garcia met each other through a mutual friend, fell in love, and have been together for over two years now! How do they do it? Morales suggests to couples that in order to maintain a relationship, trust is key. “Trust is a big one, but also allowing yourself to be open,” Morales said, “It was so hard to open up at first, but I’m so happy he’s in my life.” “My two years with Clarissa have been wonderful. I love spending every minute of the day with her,” Garcia said, “She makes me smile when no one else can. She is the sweetest and most adorable person in the world and it’s like something new happens almost every day.” “We love to mess around and crack jokes around each other and maybe even roast each other sometimes,” Garcia added, “We also like to go on hikes and listen to music together.” This Valentine’s Day, Garcia and Morales didn’t spend their day together due to their busy schedules, but made it up on another day. “We got to hangout on Saturday to make chocolate covered strawberries, went to eat at our favorite sushi place, play monopoly, and watch Shane Dawson’s conspiracy videos,” said Morales. Garcia and Morales are goals!



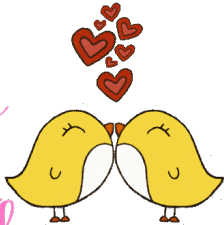
Martin Rojas and Kylie Moghimi-Danesh



Martin Rojas and Kylie Moghimi-Danesh met freshmen year in their Project Lead The Way class, but romance between the two didn’t happen instantly. Prior to their relationship, Rojas was knee-deep in the friend zone. “I’d always try to talk to her in PLTW freshman year but she was really shy so she wouldn’t talk to me, so then sophomore year when we did talk we would text about the most random things,” Rojas said, “I asked her ‘how’s life,’ trying to make conversation, and she responded a few hours later with, ‘did you ever own a fish?’” “I remember being really confused but I just decided to go with it because I really wanted to talk to her,” added Rojas. Months later, Rojas left the friend zone stage, and has now been with Moghimi-Danesh for more than ten months. Moghimi-Danesh said “genuinely caring about your partner’s happiness and wanting what’s best for them” is what makes a relationship last as long as there’s. Rojas and Moghimi-Danesh, enthusiasts of food and video games, can agree that their ideal dates would involve those two things. “Sushi for her, a teriyaki bowl for me, then probably letting her show all her favorite stores in a mall. Video games would be a nice conclusion,” said Rojas. They’re *soy* adorable!



Omar Galicia and Michelle Mendoza



Who needs Cupid when you got your buds? Omar Galicia and Michelle Mendoza were another couple who met through their mutual friends, during track practice in sophomore year. These pair of lovebirds have been together for a year and eight months. Their favorite activities to do together are eating, watching funny videos/vines, and enjoying each other’s company. They also love to “make each other laugh during really serious situations.” “Once we went to the movies and we were laughing so much that security told us to leave,” Galicia said, “While we were being escorted out, we kept laughing since Michelle started to overreact thinking that they were going to call her parents.” Galicia and Mendoza have minds alike when it comes to their ideal dates. Galicia said his ideal date is “having a competition in the car to see who finishes their food first while ‘Eye of the Tiger’ is playing.” Like Galicia, Mendoza said her ideal date was also “eating together but having competitions to see who is going to finish first.” As graduation approaches, Galicia and Mendoza are preparing to go to different colleges, but plan to stay together through communication and effort. What a couple!



Fernando Saldana and Sergio Rodriguez



Before Fernando Saldana and Sergio Rodriguez were best friends, they started off as rivals at their 8th grade soccer game between Burke and Rivera Middle School. Since then, Saldana and Rodriguez have been best friends for three to four years. Both Saldana and Rodriguez agree that their friendship works because they’re both persistent and funny. “We are both funny, well to each other at least,” Saldana said. You could always catch these two going out on Friday’s and hanging out with their mutual friend, Eric Diaz.

