



EL RODEO



El Rancho High School - Volume 62- Issue 7
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Decathletes show their skills in Sacramento

BY JESSE SANCHEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

A year ago, a decision was made. This decision would forever change El Rancho and the Academic Decathlon. In a pool consisting of over 2000 students, fifteen people were chosen to compete for and represent El Rancho High School in the Los Angeles County Academic Decathlon Competition. These individuals were chosen by head coach Mrs. Palomares for their academic talents and outstanding personalities as well as for their huge potential for personal growth. Susan Aparicio, Daniel Bautista, James Chow, Adam Dishman, Mary Garcia, Emily James, David Juarez, Andreas Moghimi, Monica Ochoa, Brianna Olivares, Alexandria Parra, Lindsay Phillips, Darwin Reyes, Jacob Rodriguez, and Jesse Sanchez were the select few. From the moment these decathletes were chosen in May to the very last exam in Sacramento, the 2014 Academic Decathlon worked non-stop to be the best team possible. It worked.

On Thursday March 20, the Varsity Decathlon arrived in the Sacramento Hyatt Regency Hotel and was quickly immersed in a sea of decathletes from all over California. Over sixty teams were present, from old rivals, like Edgewood and Beverly Hills, to intellectual powerhouses, like El Camino Real and Mark Keppel, to schools whose counties are too



The Academic Decathlon team comes home with many medals after competing in Sacramento.

rural to find. Knowing the competition was formidable and abundant, the decathletes studied and prepared to face their competitors.

On Friday March 21, the team competed in seven academic subjects: Art, Science, Economics, Music, Social Science, Language and Literature, and Mathematics. Afterwards, the team was greeted by Principal Kwek, an essential supporter of the program who attended the event to show Blue Pride. They ended the evening with a nice dinner and a well-deserved rest.

The following day, the de-

athletes ended the competition with morning interviews and speech performances at Inderkum High School and the Super Quiz Relay competition at the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium. On Sunday, the decathletes returned to the arena for the Awards Ceremony. The results were breathtaking.

Of the C-slots, Lindsay Phillips earned a bronze medal in language and literature, Daniel Bautista earned silver medals in art, language and literature, and music, while Jacob Rodriguez swept, earning a bronze medal in art, silver medals in econom-

ics, interview, and social science, and gold medals in music and science while also being the highest scoring C-slot in Division III. B-slots Mary Garcia and Andreas Moghimi earned a silver medal in science and bronze medal in music respectively while David Juarez also swept, earning bronze medals in science and economics, a silver medal in music and a gold medal in art. Juarez was also one of the top 3 highest scoring decathletes in Division III.

A-slot Jesse Sanchez earned a bronze medal in economics and silver medals in art,

social science, and interview while also becoming the highest-scoring decathlete in El Rancho history. As the perfect grand finale for the team, it was announced that El Rancho gained the second-highest Super Quiz score in Division III and was the highest scoring team overall in the division.

Yet, even with two trophies and several medals, this was a bittersweet moment for the team. With the competition season over, the senior decathletes must part ways with their junior friends and embark on new adventures. Jacob Rodriguez is planning to attend UC Irvine. Andreas Moghimi is pursuing a life of philanthropy. David Juarez is deciding between UC Irvine, CSU Los Angeles, and CSU Long Beach. Adam Dishman will be attending UC Irvine. Monica Ochoa is deciding between the University of Southern California and the University of Notre Dame. Susan Aparicio will either be attending UCLA or the University Of Virginia. Jesse Sanchez's plans to attend Cornell University this Fall.

With the departure of one generation comes the arrival of a new one. This spring the new El Rancho Academic Decathlon will be chosen and junior decathletes Daniel Bautista, James Chow, Mary Garcia, Emily James, Brianna Olivares, Alexandria Parra, Lindsay Phillips, and Darwin Reyes will become the new leaders of the team. Good Luck. I love you guys.

Joaquin Lugo hopes to find a match



Joaquin Lugo enjoys his time with his sisters.

BY ODALYS CHAVEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho High School's alumnus, Joaquin Lugo, 20 years old, was diagnosed with cancer two years ago. When Lugo managed to go into remission, the cancer came back, this time with full force. He is in extreme need of a bone marrow transplant or his chances of survival can become very slim. His family has been tested, but they were, unfortunately, found to not be a match.

The Key Club will be directing a bone marrow drive on April 2 in conjunction with a blood drive at the new gym all day long with hopes of aiding Lugo, or anybody else in need

of a bone marrow transplant.

Many are afraid of the testing procedure, but it is virtually painless and as simple as a cheek swab. Once someone appears to be a match, then the choice is given to undergo a more complex process to take the actual marrow from the bone.

"We are just trying to educate the community. A lot of people are unaware of the need of bone marrow and it's very needed out there," says Lillian Gonzalez, aunt of Lugo and activities office secretary. In order to qualify as a bone marrow donor, one must be between the ages of 18 and 44. It is highly encouraged to bring all family and friends to the drive. Since Lugo is currently lacking an

immune system and is constantly acquiring infections, action must be taken as soon as possible.

"Ask yourself, 'What if that was me? What if I had to literally pause my laugh? What if my chances of living were drastically decreased?' I only ask this in hopes to help you realize how precious and fragile life really is and to maybe get you to be grateful for your life. After almost losing mine I can't explain how grateful I am for my own. I realized that I want to do something amazing with it," says Lugo.

Lugo believes that too many people measure success by how much money they have or by how smart they are. "To be truly successful as a human is to truly be humane. The opposite of the word 'humane' is 'unkindness.' The ability to be generous and kind is what makes us human. When you start living with the intent that 'I am going to make someone's life different, for the better,' is when you start making lives richer. That is when you start living," says Lugo.

Lugo was involved in water polo, swimming, drama, and AVID while he attended El Rancho. He graduated with the class

of 2012. "He is a very bright kid, very philosophical, and a great speaker," says his former AVID teacher Stephanie Senteno-Tapia. She remembers when she first heard the news about Lugo. "I remember thinking, Oh my gosh, that's Joaquin Lugo, and I remember crying during first period," says Senteno-Tapia.

Lugo came last year to speak during the Pennies for Patients drive directed by AVID. A lot of effort was put into it because AVID is a group of students who function as a family, and a family member was in danger. The drive will again take place this year and will begin on May 9th. Senteno-Tapia is hoping to have Lugo as a guest speaker again in order to bring awareness to students and to essentially help save lives.

"I'm just some guy who knows what's important. My life had to get turned upside down to realize I even had a life," says Lugo, "We are surrounded by life and spend the entirety of it never getting close to grasping what it is."

You can register as a bone marrow donor at the upcoming blood drive on April 2. Lugo needs a match and it can be you!

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IN-DEPTH

Entrepreneur Club presents school data to the district

BY CLAUDIA GONZALEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On March 11th, the El Rancho Unified School District held its monthly meeting at Burke Middle School to discuss student enrollment and other issues. El Rancho's Entrepreneur Club, seniors Emily Peyton, Analye Arenas, Rubi Macias, Elvys Morales, Marisol Perez, Susana Plaza, and junior Jennifer Delgado, put together a presentation on the causes and solutions to the student enrollment drop and presented it in front of the Board Members.

For the past two weeks, the Entrepreneur Club has been collecting student surveys that advisor and economics teacher Mr. Elias created. The club gathered all of the data and came together with the district board members to discuss the students' suggestions on the causes and solutions to the decrease in student enrollment. Arenas said, "We hope that our presentation helps them [district] understand the causes behind the decrease in student enrollment and they take action to resolve them as well as sharing it out to the public to make them aware."

The survey conducted by the Entrepreneur Club was handed out to all four grades to receive feedback from 24% of the freshman class [119], 22% of the sophomore class [119], 25% of the junior class [169], and 28% of the senior class [165]. When asked why they [students] thought that other students don't want to attend El Rancho, the majority of students from all classes agreed on lack of appearance, poor results in sports and attraction of other nearby high schools. The students were also asked to list improvements that need to be made to get more students to come to El Rancho, and the majority of



Seniors, Elvys Morales and Marisol Perez present the issues concerning the districts budget.

them agreed on better/healthier food, a wider range of class options [ROP, AP, Electives], and a cleaner/nicer campus. Upon being questioned by Board Member, Robert Lara, on what type of classes the students want, Arenas said that the common suggestion was bringing back auto shop, a class that can lead to a potential career for many students.

Not only was the Entrepreneur Club able to present the students view on student enrollment, they were also able to discuss their own suggestions on how to improve others perception of El Rancho. This list included having tours during school days for parents, improving the school's reputation, improving the quality of education and promoting it, advertising El Rancho more by using the school's public ac-

cess cable station, having a promotional video, showing it at the "Pep Rally on Wheels," and having everyone become an ambassador of the district.

One anonymous student suggested having the students spend a whole day at "The Ranch" and said, "A kid should be able to stay at ERHS for one day so they can see how awesome we are."

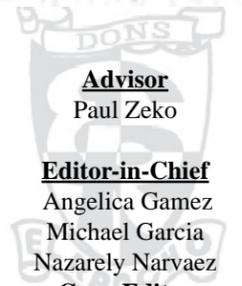
After some research, the club found that the core problem to the decline of student enrollment was that between 2003 and 2012, the decline in Pico Rivera's population was 1,000 residents. The decline of student enrollment throughout that same period was 2,544. They found that the decline in students was about thirteen times larger than the expected number [200 students].

The District Board Mem-

bers were impressed by the clubs presentation and feedback from El Rancho's students and said that this is a great example of what they mean when they ask for student suggestions on how to improve. "Our analysis has given hope to the teachers and students at El Rancho. I am proud to call myself the Entrepreneur Club president," said Peyton.

As of now, entrepreneur club members hope that the district board members will take the students suggestions into consideration when making all significant decisions regarding the school. Peyton said, "Thanks to the help of all my club members who helped analyze the data and let the students have a voice in the important decisions the school board will have to make."

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WORD ON THE STREET

What is your opinion on the district's budget plan?



"I believe teachers should not get fired, they should be offered incentives instead. That way, students get more quality education."

-Maria Flores (12th)



"I don't think the districts budget cuts are very fair because band members work just as hard as any other sport so it wouldn't make sense to cut the music program first."

- Veronica Aguilar (12th)



"I think it's unfair. These teachers have a families so how are they going to provide for their family? If the budget cuts affect our school then it can probably lead to the school closing down."

-Raquel Saldana (11th)



"It's not only going to affect the music program, but it'll affect the arts in general. The music program is important and our district shouldn't deprive students of that opportunity."

-Carmen Ramos (10th)

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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.

COLLEGE

CSF helps college bound students

BY LAURA CASTRO-SPENCER
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

It's the time of the year when the words "college" and "future" are used in the same sentence and are directed toward El Rancho juniors and seniors. School counselors and parents are urging the importance of attending a college or university. One way that seniors or any college bound El Rancho student can gain information about a higher education is through CSF.

El Rancho's CSF, California Scholarship Federation is a club that visits colleges and aids students in finding out about their goals after high school. CSF members visit various colleges in Southern California and offer the opportunity to experience college life with the help of club advisor, Mr. Ortiz.

"[CSF] is like an honor society for students who are college bound, and graduate with an honor cord," said Ortiz.

One of the big schools that CSF has visited was UCLA. "We've attended a UCLA football game where students met with admission people from UCLA and other people from different departments [in the school] prior to the game," said Ortiz. The students in the club were able to attend a famous football game along with meet with important people at UCLA.

CSF allows students to interact with college representatives and ask them any questions they have regarding applications, classes, financial aid, etc. "Sometimes people from different colleges come and talk to us about what looks good on an application," said Junior Melonie Almaraz, "they give us infor-



Mr. Ortiz helps an El Rancho student fill out information for college.

mation about clubs and classes that look good to colleges."

CSF students have a better understanding of which colleges offer the major they're interested in pursuing. Junior Bryant De La Torre said, "[CSF] helps me realize what I want to do, where I want to go, and what college provides that."

With all of the information that De La Torre has gained in CSF, he has been able to become very interested in one University. "So far, my number one choice is UC Santa Cruz," said De La Torre.

If one is interested in law, Sonoma State University is a good college to consider.

If students wish to attend a college that is small and intimate, Whittier College is also a great place to consider. Whittier College is also a great place if you want to stay close to home.

Visiting colleges is a big part of CSF. "So far we've visited Cal State Fullerton and Cal State Long Beach," said Ortiz.

CSF is planning to visit some more colleges in the future. "Hopefully later on we'll visit U.C. San Diego and U.C. Irvine," said Ortiz.

CSF does not only talk about the college process, but during the meetings scholarships are also discussed. "I would rec-

ommend any student that wants to go to college or is college bound to join the club because we also provide a lot of scholarships and information about different opportunities," said Ortiz.

Though the thought of attending college and moving on from El Rancho may seem scary to some students, CSF lends a hand in helping students realize that life after high school isn't as scary once you have a taste of what college life will be like.

CSF meet every other Wednesday in room H-2. You can also visit the college and career center if you have any questions regarding college or scholarships.

The green light to a green campus



BY ELIZABETH JACOME
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Picking a college will change the course of a person's life forever. When choosing where to spend the next four years after high school, factors like the weather, distance, and appearance need to be considered.

Humboldt State University is located hillside in Arcata within Humboldt County. Humboldt has an exceptionally high acceptance rate of 83 percent and close to 8,000 students. Being a small college has many advantages including small class sizes and more one on one time with professors.

Academically, it has a lot to offer including 91 types of bachelor degrees, 21 different master degrees, and six teaching credentials. Along with that, the university is divided into three colleges, which include the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences.

For the athletes, Humboldt has soccer, cross-country, cheerleading, volleyball, football, basketball, track and field, softball and even rowing.

While the constant sunshine in Southern California is wonderful, Northern California has rain and cold days to grow fond of. College comes with whole new experiences, so why not try out the cold weather for once?

One of the best things about college is being able to dorm at the university of one's choice. Humboldt is a considerable distance from Pico Rivera, but still allows students to stay in California. In-State tuition is about \$7,000 and out-of-state is around \$17,000. This benefits all of us because we wouldn't have to pay as much for tuition.

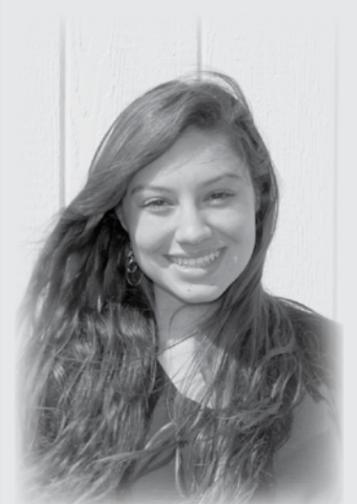
Having the reputation of an environmentally aware and activist college is just another great asset. Teachers and students alike work together towards a goal of a low-carbon and energy independent future. Student run compost and recycling bins are all over the campus. Working together ensures a better campus, which benefits everyone.

The Lumberjack is their weekly student run newspaper which is funded through the sales of advertisement. So those passionate about journalism should consider this a great bonus.

The Humboldt campus is amazing; it includes various trees and rivers surrounding the campus. Attending here would make anyone feel like a lumberjack (which is their school mascot)! So for students looking for a beautiful university with a lot to offer, consider Humboldt!

WORD ON THE STREET

What college will you be attending and why?



"University of Notre Dame; It has always been one of my dream schools because it has great academics, awesome sports, and just a phenomenal vibrant community!"

- Monica Ochoa (12)



"University of Oregon; It has special programs in which I am very interested in. Although it's 866 miles away, I feel like I need to leave and discover who I am. Lets go ducks!"

- Debbie Ascencion (12)



"UC Irvine; It has a pretty good music program so I hope to further cultivate my abilities there. It also has a beautiful campus and the people there seem to be very friendly."

- Karla Boche (12)



"UCLA; First of all, it has a good Biology program. I also like how the campus is really nice and it is really close to home."

- Kimberly Alvarez (12)

BUSINESS

So you want to be an entrepreneur?

BY ANALYE ARENAS

So you want to be an entrepreneur? It is not uncommon for people to decide to open up their own businesses. People want to do what they love, but are often too afraid of the potential risk that comes with it.

Any business owner wants nothing more than their business to thrive and to make good profit. Every year thousands of business owners are forced to close down their business when it is evident that it can no longer survive.

To start up any business it is essential to follow basic guidelines in order to have a successful running business. Most would be surprised at how important a proper start up is.

Before any planning can commence, you must know what exactly you are selling, whether it be a service or product. It is important to really understand your product, its quality, and use.

Another important aspect is to do your market research. Know who your competitor is and ask yourself, what makes mine different? Why would people buy this? Who exactly are you selling it to? Who are your market audience?

Once you have answered

all these questions and know exactly what you're selling, the next step is a business plan. On this step you work out all the "kinks" and get down to the details on what exactly your business needs.

A business plan helps lay out your business goals, background information, start up cost, and budget.

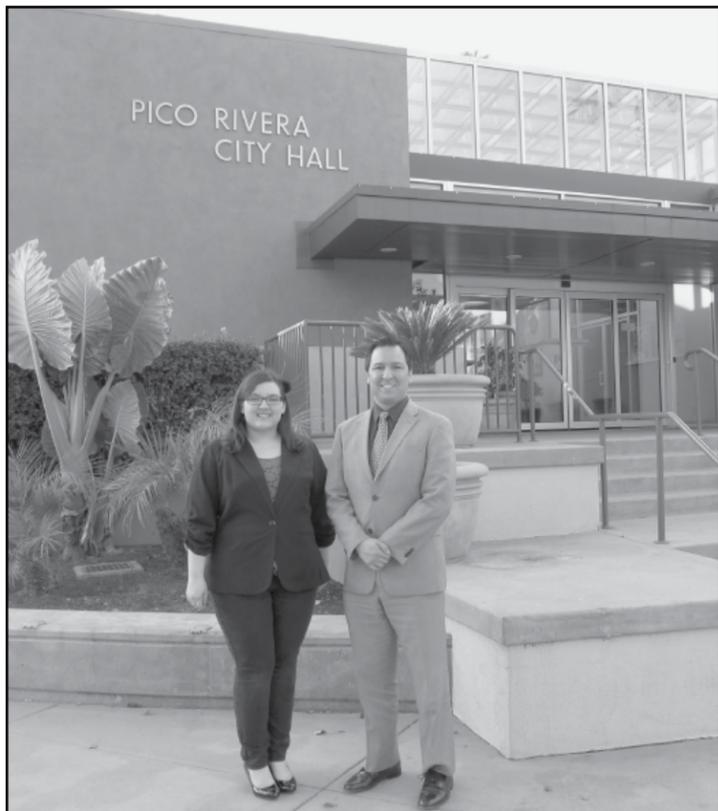
Knowing how much money you need to invest is crucial to not only succeed but to avoid potentially landing yourself in thousands of dollars worth of debt. One must always stay on top of expenses and profit.

Naming your business is just as important as any other step. How will you identify yourself? You must take into consideration that the name is a representation of not only yourself but your whole outlook as well.

One of the last steps when starting up a business is constructing a marketing plan. How will you advertise? How will you promote your product? Grabbing people's attention is key and will definitely bring in profit.

Following these basic guidelines anyone can start a business. With the right confidence and determination, anyone can become an entrepreneur.

An interview with the mayor of Pico Rivera



Emily Peyton standing proudly with Mayor Tercero.

Mayor Brent Tercero went to Saint Mary Ann's (1-8th grade). He is a local who is dedicated to serving the city he grew up in. Tercero is the youngest Mayor of Pico Rivera. He was only 26 when elected to council.

What Tercero has enjoyed most about being the City of Pico Rivera mayor is meeting all the different people; he listens to everybody's ideas and issues. He may not be able to address all of them but he gives

the residents respect by giving them his time and attention.

A priority of Tercero is being a city council member first. Another priority Tercero wishes to accomplish is "having a healthy environment for younger generations." Tercero would like the city of Pico Rivera to pass an ordinance that will ban plastic bags because they cannot break down and are found in our streets and riverbeds. This ordinance would not harm the businesses

that make the plastic bags; it will be asking the businesses to make more durable bags that can be used many times. Many cities in the Los Angeles County have passed this ordinance and it is in effect.

I asked the mayor what qualities make a mayor successful and his response was "there is no wrong way of doing it." that is true. Everybody has different techniques and ways they were taught things. In the end it does not matter what ordinance is passed, just as long as it will benefit the community.

The mayor thinks that to improve the education in the city, "preparation is the key to success." He said "that the school board members are trying to do the best they can and have to get through the tough times." The number of El Rancho students that attend college has risen over the years. Mayor Tercero believes it is a good thing to attend college, but students may have difficulty upon arrival. It's a challenge, but it's challenge that can be conquered. To the students who want to get into politics he gives this advice: "Get involved because you want to do something good in your community and that it is easy to lose sight of that." You should always be genuine to the people of your community and tell the truth. Being Honest with the community you serve will always get a better reaction than not being honest. Remember Dons, Character Counts.

 The City of Pico Rivera presents

EARTH DAY 2014



REDUCE, RECYCLE, READ

Saturday, April 5,
10:00AM - 2:00PM
Pico Rivera Library, 9001 Mines Ave.
FREE

The City of Pico Rivera invites you to join our annual Earth Day celebration at the newly opened Pico Rivera Library.

Fun and Eco-Friendly

- Activities
- Contests
- Presentations
- Refreshments
- Free Reusable Bags (while supplies last)



Come and learn how you can do your part to help the City of Pico Rivera become a more sustainable city.
Please call Environmental Services at (562) 801-4961 for more information.

Norms Construction Update

Construction on the upcoming Norms restaurant is moving at a steady pace. The restaurant, located at the corner of Beverly Blvd, and Rosemead Blvd. is said to be completed and ready to open by mid-May. So far the foundation work is done and the structural framing is beginning to be placed. That is about 20 percent of the restaurant construction completed. The 6,974-square-foot restaurant will be able to accommodate 260 people. It will also have indoor and outdoor seating areas according to the staff report. In an article in Whittier Daily News written by Peter Fullam, it is also said that the Norms will have free Wi-Fi.

The restaurant design

will be similar to the Norms in Claremont, which just opened in August 2011. It will also include 110 parking spaces. In 1949, Norm Roybark opened up Norms Coffee Shop, the first of now many restaurants.

The Norms under construction will be the 18th Norms restaurant in southern California, conveniently located here in our city. Once the construction is complete, the restaurant will give out many job opportunities to our residents. The area before, empty with little property tax, no job tax and no sales tax was a sore eye for Pico Rivera, but now with the New Norms restaurant soon to be opening up, it should improve our city greatly.



The Pico Rivera Norms is on its way, scheduled to open in mid-May.

CITY VIEW

The case of the disappearing students of El Rancho

By RUBI MACIAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho Unified School District's students are disappearing and no one knows why. Because many school-age students in Pico Rivera are not enrolled in the district, El Rancho Economics teacher, Mr. Elias, and the Entrepreneur Club decided to investigate the reasons students leave ERUSD.

The Entrepreneur Club conducted its investigation by administering surveys to proper groups of students in each grade at El Rancho High School. The sample size for the survey was 572 students, with 28% of the senior class, 25% of the junior class, 22% of the sophomore class, and 24% of the freshman class.

The survey asked for information on how many non-ERUSD Pico Rivera students each El Rancho student knows as well as the reasons these students are not in our district.

The students taking the survey were also asked to give input on areas of the district and ERHS they would improve to attract more students. This last question was devised to be presented to the school board so there may be alternatives found to the routine of making school cuts whenever the budget is lacking.

The study found that the

average freshman knows about four students that are not enrolled in ERUSD. According to the freshmen, these students do not attend our schools because their parents don't want them to, they think other schools are better, or they want better sports programs. This group of students said we can get more students by selling better food, having more clubs and electives, and cleaning and improving our campus.

Among the sophomores, each student seems to know about

12 Pico Rivera students outside of the district. They say these students do not want to attend our schools because other schools have better sports, a better appearance, and better education. To attract more students to the district, the sophomores recommended an improved schedule, healthier lunches, and more classes.

Each junior, on average, knows 16 Pico Rivera students attending schools outside of the district. They said these students avoid ERHS because the school

lacks in appearance, the sports are better at other schools, and other schools are better overall. To improve ERUSD's schools' reputations, the juniors suggested providing better food, creating more student activities, and improving the quality of education with more teachers.

The seniors, on average, know seven Pico Rivera students in non-ERUSD schools. According to this group, students avoid El Rancho schools because they have poor appearance and other

schools have better sports programs and seem better overall. To improve ERUSD schools, the seniors said lunches and school appearances must be improved and more classes must be offered.

It seems students are disappearing to other schools because ERUSD needs to improve its appearance, add more classes, and get better food for its students. These results are a lot to work on, but the most urgent demands are those for improvement in school reputation and looks.



Guess the Place in Pico Rivera?



We Picked a Spot in Pico and you have to guess where it is!

Answer: Smith Park

CAMPUS

Pepsters end Sharp Competition with a cheer

BY ANGELICA GAMEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

It was a big month for the cheer squad as the varsity song and yell teams both competed at the Sharp International Competition. The varsity yell team earned a five-foot Grand Champions trophy, first in their division. Junior Raquel Saldana and freshman Doreen Vallejos won an award for best toe touches. The varsity song team also won first in their division and earned the Showmanship award.

It was a big accomplishment for the yell team to bring home their awards. "As captain, my feelings toward our accomplishment is pure happiness," says senior Destiny Loya, "With all the negative feedback we get from our student body, such as saying that we suck, I couldn't be any more proud of my girls."

It was also nice for the varsity song team to earn first in their division and the Showmanship award. The song team has never competed or performed an all song routine and they combined the varsity and junior varsity teams for this competition. "I think we all looked like a varsity team and winning first place showed how hard we worked,"



El Rancho's Varsity Pepsters give it their all in their performance at the Sharp International Competition.

says senior Ashley Esparza. Senior Andrea Mendoza added that she is very proud of her team.

Although it was the first time that the song team performed a song routine in a competition, it was not the first time the yell team displayed their talent. The yell team competed two years ago but it was different this year. "[The last time we competed] we went into that competition with a routine we practiced for months [and per-

formed in that year's Night Pep Rally]," says Loya, "This year we made a routine from scratch."

The competition did come with some negatives for the yell team. "We were performing thirty minutes before the time we were supposed to, but we handled our nerves and pulled it off," says senior Amber Garcia.

Memories were made for both teams at this competition. Garcia says, "The best part was doing this [during] my senior

year and making this wonderful memory with my [yell] teammates." Esparza also says, "The bond the songies made with this routine was probably the best experience of it all."

The cheer teams went from cheering for El Rancho's sports teams to performing in front of an entire crowd. "At football games...the focus is all on the football team, where as for competition you are excited to know that the focus, the cheers from

the crowd, and the competition is all based on your performance," says senior Samantha Gutierrez.

The feeling of performing in front of judges was also new for the song team. "Competition is very different from football games because all eyes are on us and we are being judged for how well we perform and know the routine," says Esparza.

Now that the competition is over, the cheer squad is going to begin to prepare for next year. "This year was about trying a competition and next year, with more time to prepare and plan, they want to compete in more competitions," says Esparza.

Esparza and Mendoza are going to miss their team. "I love all my girls and thank them for all their hard work, jokes, and every other little thing they have done," says Esparza. Mendoza adds that they made her senior year unforgettable.

Loya is very proud of her team. "[No one] knows how difficult it is getting talked about in a bad way daily," says Loya, "but at the end of the day you can't please everyone." Loya also adds, "I'm the proudest captain because I know we all have tried our best and thank you to anyone who has

Thespian Joey Salinas sees his name in bright lights

BY CLAUDIA GONZALEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Joey Salinas, a six-foot-two El Rancho drama student can best be described as an eccentric, edgy, and flamboyant drama prodigy. This individual, known to make people laugh while performing on stage, started with beginning drama during his freshman year but moved to advanced drama when Drama Director and AP English Literature teacher, Stanley Wlasick noticed his tremendous acting abilities.

Prior to being the face of the drama department, he developed his exquisite speech performance ability from his middle school English teacher, Mrs. Gowen. "She understood, even before I did, the power of my speaking and the ability that I had... I was able to speak fluently and not have any fear and she helped me see the connection between English and acting."

While growing up in Glendale and Chino Hills, Salinas was always known as the class clown. From a young age he knew that he would one day want to be an actor, but it wasn't until he came in to Mr. Wlasick's Drama Department, that he became aware of his full potential.

Coming in to Wlasick's class, filled with spirit and ready to take the world by a storm, Salinas was determined to leave a long lasting impression on Wlasick with his comedic tendency but, Wlasick was able to see his true potential. "Coming in that's when Wlasick said, 'no were going to tear that [class clown] away and we're going to show you what's actually inside you and



Salinas hopes to star in NBC's Saturday Night Live in the future.

produce something from within,' because a character comes from the inside," said Salinas.

From the get-go, Wlasick was able to recognize Salinas' raw talent and helped him learn how to use it to his advantage. Throughout the four years that he's been in the drama department, he's come to build a comedic acting reputation. "Joey does comedy best—which is no easy feat. Most comedians say that dying is easier than comedy," Wlasick says, "Joey thinks outside the box and makes unexpected choices—this always keeps the audience on their toes... he is always entertaining."

Many people acquire different hobbies such as reading, writ-

ing or even singing to mentally isolate themselves from their reality; Salinas takes on the art of acting as a way to go to his "escape land." Salinas says, "My favorite thing about acting is that I can be a different person than what I am in actuality... that's what we do here in theatre, we're creating books but creating them live."

Salinas takes on a creative and dark perspective on the ability to play diverse roles. "You only live once, but I would want to know, what if I was a serial killer growing up?" says Salinas, "what if I did not grow up in this time and grew up in the time of Imperialism and I went to Africa to enlighten them?" Being in advanced drama for the ma-

jority of his high school experience has allowed Salinas to build long-lasting friendships as well as meet his future co-workers. Salinas hopes to one day channel the comedic and dynamic duo, Tina Fey and Amy Poehler, and host the Golden Globes alongside El Rancho alumni, thespian, and best friend, Nina Rose.

Thousands of undiscovered actors hope to break into the competitive Hollywood business, but Salinas is determined to "wow" everyone with his first big break. One of Salinas' aspirations is to work alongside leading funny man, Steve Carrel. "From a comedy point I would love to work with Steve Carrel because just his presence on stage is humorous. He doesn't have to say anything. He was born to be funny," says Salinas, "but he can do serious movies, he's versatile and I just think that's phenomenal as an actor."

Adding to the list of actors that he would love to work with is Oscar nominated actor, Leonardo DiCaprio. Salinas' describes DiCaprio's style of acting as "method acting," and says, "He totally becomes his character inside and out and I would love to work with him." Salinas' plans on adopting DiCaprio's style of acting and perhaps winning an Oscar before DiCaprio receives his long anticipated win. Aside from working alongside current and future well-known actors, Salinas aspires to take on the role of 'The Joker' in a remake of Batman "to show the world just how crazy [he] is."

Salinas' dreams and aspirations are those that make others believe that he should have a backup plan, but it seems as if ev-

eryone sees the potential that he has to make it to the big screen. Fellow thespian and senior, Rebecca Valenzuela says, "he's going to go really far, he wants to do SNL and he's a very determined person and I think that he'll make it there." Thespian and senior Jocelyn Huerta notes that other aspiring actors hold onto the dream of one day making it big, but she's never met anyone who has Salinas' ability and potential. "He was already nominated for "Best Supporting Actor" in the Macy Awards so even as a teen in high school, being nominated for an award is a big thing," says Huerta.

Many students go on to live their life after graduation and most of the time they lose contact with the everyday faces they would see during high school, but Joey Salinas is definitely someone who's name will be heard again in the future; perhaps it will be at midnight, when you're flipping through the channels of your TV and quickly hear the SNL announcer introducing the new additions to the show, or when the lovely Anne Hathaway announces the winner for "Best Actor" during the Oscars, or perhaps it will be while you're scrolling down Twitter and see that the hosts of the Golden Globes, Joey Salinas and Nina Rose, have recreated Ellen's iconic "2014 Oscar selfie" and beat her with over two million retweets.

Remember his name and for those that know him personally, remember all of the memories you have with him because Joey Salinas is someone who will definitely make a great impact in the acting business.

CAMPUS

The road to success is AVID

BY JAZMIN HERNANDEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

AVID, Advancement Via Individual Determination, is a college readiness system for elementary to high school students that is designed to increase school-wide learning and performance. It is designed to support the "middle of the road students" that are taking AP or honors classes.

Recently, the AVID club visited the Museum of the Holocaust. It was a three-hour tour; two hours consisted of the students viewing the museum, while in the last hour they listened to a Holocaust survivor. Ms. Senteno-Tapia, AVID Coordinator, mentions one activity at the museum. She says, "They handed slips of papers of the names of the children that had died during the Holocaust that were documented" and "you had the opportunity to write a note on the back of the piece of paper and we rolled it up and put it on the wall."

Mrs. Senteno believes that the museum serves as a reminder to make sure something like that doesn't happen again and to remind the students of a tragic part of history. In addition, the AVID Club gave a hundred dollar donation to the museum for their tour.

The students had the opportunity to hear Zahava Sweet, a Holocaust survivor, and talk one on one with her. Junior, Tatiana Hernandez, says, "I feel that I take too much for granted and appreciate what I do have because when Sweet was freed from the concentration camp she was so happy just to be able to feel a soft pillow on her head." She also adds, "It was a life changing experience."

Also, on March 7th, freshman, sophomores and juniors from AVID went with Mr. Ortiz and Mrs. Sell to Cal State Long Beach. Mrs. Senteno says, "It was an outreach program designed to inform them about college and financial aid and what they can do to get to the next level."

The trip to Cal State Long Beach was an outreach program from La Raza Student Association that hosted the Chicano Latino High School Outreach Program. It was primarily focused on Chicanos and Latinos and they had four different workshops. "One was on financial aid, another was on the application pro-

cess, and the third one was about EOP which is Equal Opportunity Program for the California Dream Act. The fourth workshop was about college life and student reform," said Mrs. Senteno. In the fourth workshop the students had the chance to ask Long Beach students questions about college.

AVID isn't done with its field trips; it has a list of where students are going next. Around 35 students will attend the next trip which is on March 21st to Six Flags Magic Mountain. Six Flags Magic Mountain will be closed from 6 p.m. to 12 a.m. and only open to AVID students from all over the state.

The next trip will follow soon on March 28th to the California Science Center. This trip is open to sophomores and seniors. Since USC is across from the Science Center, the students will also have an informal tour of USC. A month from then (May 22) will be the trip to UC San Diego (where only freshman and juniors can attend). This will be a one-hour tour where the students get to ask questions to the UC San Diego students and they get to hear from an admissions officer about the process. The freshman and juniors sold an extra box of chocolates to establish this trip.

The last event will be some time during May, which will consist of Kory Minor coming to the campus and speaking to the class. Kory Minor is a friend of Mrs. Senteno from the University of Notre Dame. Minor is well known for playing football for the Carolina Panthers and the San Francisco 49ers. He recently wrote a book called *Make a Touchdown of your Life*. The AVID class ordered a class set of his book and will read it. Mrs. Senteno says, "It's more about a motivational book. About not letting fear get in the way but take advantage of every opportunity."

Mrs. Senteno and the staff redesigned the course categories to be focused on the four areas of AVID that include writing, organization, reading, and collaboration. She says, "We are looking to promote the avid strategies which are just best teaching practices to the entire school staff. We are hoping to become an AVID base school."

Hopefully AVID increases in size and continues to succeed in years to come.



Joaquin (pictured on right)

Mrs. Lilian Lugo-Gonzales, Activities/Athletics Secretary at El Rancho High School, needs your help. Her nephew, Joaquin, was recently diagnosed with leukemia. To treat his life-threatening illness, he needs a bone marrow transplant. No one in Joaquin's family is a match and they are searching the national registry for matches. We are asking you to help Joaquin and thousands of other patients in need a bone marrow transplant. Join us at the event to register to be a donor through BE THE MATCH Registry and see if you are a match for Joaquin or any patient in need. There is a match out there somewhere for every patient...you could be the one to save a life!

Marrow Donor Registry Drive, Ages 18 to 44

Date: Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Time: 8:00am-2:30pm

Location: With Blood Drive
New Gym

Contact Info:
Joyce Valdez
626-373-4000
jvaldez@coh.org

A simple cheek swab
can save a life!

All it takes is 10 minutes of
your time and you can help
save a life!

BE THE MATCH[®]
BeTheMatch.org

#P00483 DEC 2010

Band set to embark to Washington D.C.



Band students practicing and preparing to give it their all at D.C.

BY RUBI MACIAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

What began as a spontaneous idea has now become a reality for El Rancho's Marching Dons, who will be traveling to Washington, D.C. in the beginning of April. This trip, which has been organized since December, gives the Marching Dons a large-scale travel opportunity that they have not had since 2006 when the band went to Puerto Rico.

The trip mentioned in a meeting between the band's uniform donor and Mr. Cordero, the band director, became a possibility when the donor said she could also donate for the expenses of the journey. According to Ilse Llamas-Medina, Senior Drum Major, Cordero "had always wanted to take the band on a trip," but was restrained by lack of funds before the opportunity arose. The Marching Dons will be joined on the trip by Cordero, five instructors, the band donor and chaperones.

According to Cordero, he and his music students have prepared for their trip by "making selections of music and setting up performances." The Marching Dons will be performing at the Walter Reed Medical Center and other locations, attend-

ing a USMC orchestra concert, and touring several historical locations. They have more than ten pieces of music prepared.

Karla Boche, who expects to "make fabulous memories" on the trip, is excited for the group's tour of the White House and hopes to meet Obama. Malin Talavera, who plans to take monumental selfies, looks forward to touring the Smithsonian and performing "at the hospital for sick children and our veterans." Medina hopes that she and fellow travelers may "be able to appreciate our country a little bit more."

The band members show a great appreciation for the colleagues joining them on the trip. Medina says this year's band is "a great group of musicians... they are mature and determined to succeed."

In addition to this trip, The Marching Dons have experienced a great amount of success recently. Talavera says this is important because "the band's success does nothing but encourage and motivate the current members of the program." Boche says, "As a group, [the Marching Dons] have worked hard and I believe the band deserves [its success]."

As well as expressing gratitude to their donor for the trip

and everything that has happened this year, the Marching Dons praise Cordero for his work to bring them so many successes. As Medina says, he is "the driving force behind [the school band] program. He connects with his band and that is the key to a successful band program."

To his students, Cordero's role goes beyond that of a teacher. Boche sees him as "a great role model and motivator" who has "brought out the potential [of the music program]." Talavera says, "He has completely dedicated himself to the program and pushes the members to always improve themselves and enjoy the wonders of music and performing along the way."

Cordero, who had heard about recent threats to the existence of the music program at El Rancho due to budget problems, said the program is important because "it not only trains students to become musicians, but also serves as the public face of the school." In a country where most visitors are astounded by the great amount of extracurricular activities students participate in, it must be a great success to see the recent increase in the Marching Dons' popularity, which is bound to attract musically inclined students.



Mr. Alonso's senior Avid class is on the road to success.

CLUBS

Key Club continues to help the community

BY MARISOL ALMAZAN
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

In hopes of helping as much as possible around the community, the Key Club will participate in multiple fundraisers throughout the year. Some of these many planned fundraisers are the "Going Quackers for Kids Race" and the "Relay for Life."

Senior Joseph Jimenez, Key Club Secretary, first heard about the Going Quackers for Kids Race fundraiser through Key Club's Kiwanis advisors. "The club was told about the fundraiser through our Kiwanis advisors, Leslie and Tom Thornton. Key Club is actually a branch of the Kiwanis International family, one of the world's largest fundraising forces," said Jimenez.

The annual Going Quackers for Kids race takes place at Splash! Aquatic Center in La Mirada, and the goal of this fundraiser is simple. "The purpose of this is to raise as much money as possible for the El Rancho Key Club, local schools, and various charities in the area," said Jimenez.

In order to raise this money, each member participating in the fundraiser is required

to sell a duck. The duck will later go into a race for a chance to win up to twenty-five hundred dollars and other prizes.

Jimenez, along with the rest of Key Club, hopes to accomplish many things through this fundraiser. "As a club, our main goal for this fundraiser is to raise as much funds as possible for the children of our community," said Jimenez.

Jimenez is confident that if Key Club continues to fundraise, the community will benefit greatly. "We believe it is our duty to help uplift the community and the best place to start is with the youth of our community. Any money that we can raise toward helping the schools and other places of benefit for our youth is a great way to help the quality of living in our small community," said Jimenez.

In addition to participating in the Going Quackers for Kids Race, Key Club will also be participating in the Relay for Life fundraiser during the summer. The purpose of the Relay For Life fundraiser is to raise money to help fund research for cancer and help cancer patients fight for their life.

Junior Jose Velazco, Relay for Life captain, thinks that it is very important to find a cure for



cancer. "Even though we are years away from finding a successful cure to rid all cancer, that does not stop us from trying," said Velazco.

Velazco and the rest of the Key Club members hope to come one step closer to finding a cure for cancer through this fundraiser. "We hope to put a spark of hope in all those fighting against cancer or those affected by cancer that they can lead normal lives," said Velazco.

Key Club is also attempting to promote cancer awareness in El Rancho. "The whole Relay Committee wants to spread the awareness of how cancer not only affects those who initially have cancer, but that it can happen to anyone. By helping us raise money not only are they putting the human race one step closer to finding a cure but also to ridding cancer forever," said Velazco.

In order to accomplish all these things, the Relay Committee will go out to the Don Memorial Stadium on June 28 through June 29 from 9 a.m. to 9 a.m. the next morning and fundraise money for cancer research by camping out overnight and taking turns walking or running around the track for 24 hours.

"El Rancho has participated in the Relay for Life fundraiser for over six years and we encourage all students to participate," said Velazco.

Both Jimenez and Velazco hope to have as many participants in both of these fundraisers. To gain more information on the fundraisers or to participate in any of these fundraisers talk to any Key Club member.

Through the Relay for Life,

Math Club competes at "the Beach"



El Rancho's Math Club take a break from the math competition.

BY DAVID JOEL HUGHES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On Saturday, March 15, El Rancho's Math Club participated in their 10th annual Math Day at the Beach competition that was hosted at Cal State Long Beach.

Math Day at the Beach is a math competition where hundreds of high schools go to Cal State Long Beach, and each math team participate in a one hour 20-25 multiple-choice exam. This exam involves mathematics ranging from algebra to statistics.

The team prepares for this competition, "by going over problems during Math Club, [and] will usually go over past Math Day at the beach problems," said Francis.

Math Day at the beach is used to inspire students to use creative thinking in order to solve math problems. Mr. Francis said, "It's a competition where students could experience what a math competition

is like. They also get to tour the [Cal State Long Beach] campus."

The students tour the 324 acres of Cal State Long Beach and enjoy a lunch provided by the CSULB faculty. The real stars of Math Day at the beach are the students.

Junior Gerardo Calderon has been going to Math Day at the Beach for the past three years. "The best thing about Math Day at the Beach is the Face-off round. The top four people out of two hundred kids have to solve a problem the fastest," said Calderon. El Rancho's Math club mostly go to Math Day at the Beach for the experience "Our students get involved in a lot of different activities. So being in a top position isn't really a priority," says Francis. The students really enjoy math and learning about it. Junior Cesar Covarrubias says, "I like math because there are many ways to get to the answer and succeed."



Blood Drive

El Rancho High School



Date: Wednesday April 2, 2014
Time: 8 am - 2:30 pm
Location: New Gym
Contact: Mr. Sorenson,
Key Club Advisor
(Sign-up in Room Q2)

Before Donating

- Be in good health
- Eat a nutritious meal
- Drink plenty of water
- Bring valid photo I.D.
- Weigh at least 113 pounds
- You can donate blood every 56 days
- Be at least 17 years old (or 16 with a signed parental consent)
- No tattoos or piercings within the last 12 months

All donors will receive a t-shirt.



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

***Divergent* leaves much to be desired**

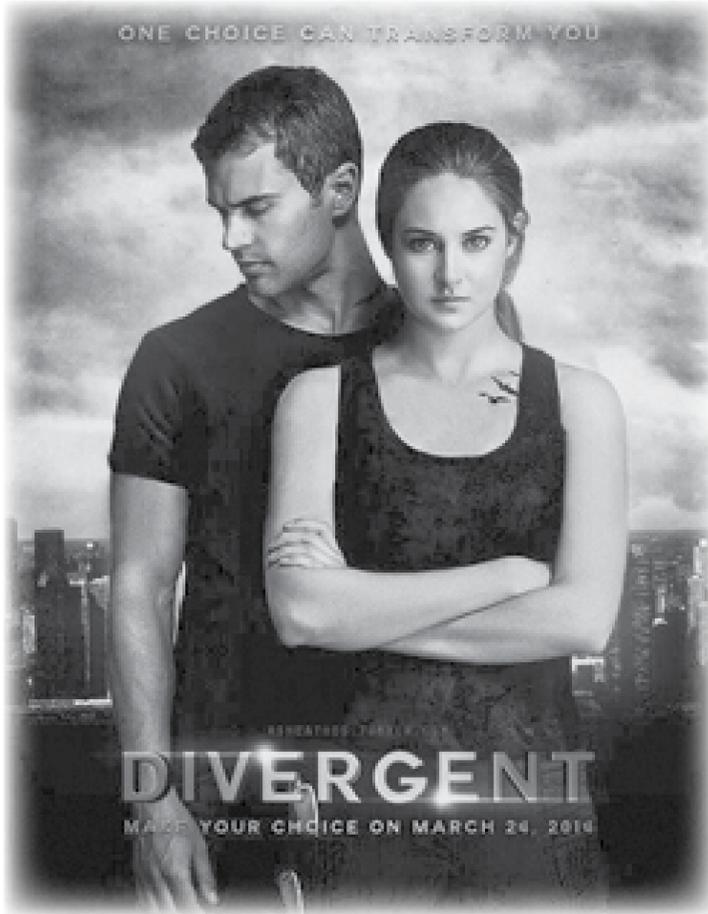
BY NAZARELY NARVAEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Divergent, based on the novel by Veronica Roth, fails in its attempts to make a positive impact, like other young adult hits such as *The Hunger Games* and *Harry Potter*, on the big screen.

The story takes place in the post-war atmosphere of the city of Chicago, where the remainder of civilization has been divided into five factions based on personality. Each faction lives for different purposes: Abnegation (selflessness), Erudite (knowledge), Amity (kindness), Candor (honesty), and Dauntless (bravery).

After taking an aptitude test to help her decide in which faction she belongs, Beatrice Prior is diagnosed "divergent," meaning that her personality reflects the characteristics of more than one faction. Later in the film, Beatrice learns that divergence is dangerous because those who are divergent are less susceptible to being confined and controlled. Beatrice must decide whether to stay in Abnegation with her Quaker-inspired parents or to switch factions.

During the Choosing Ceremony (Harry Potter anyone?) Beatrice ends up choosing to join the Dauntless. After jumping in and out of trains, changing her name to "Tris," receiving a few beatings, and getting a tattoo, Tris learns about the existence of



other people who are also considered divergent. Four, the initiate's trainer who shares the divergence trait and also Tris' love interest, trains her not only physically to pass the Dauntless initiation, but also mentally to pass without exposing her divergence.

As the film advances, Tris and Four find themselves in a battle against the Erudite leader,

Jeanine Matthews, who manages to mind-control the Dauntless through a serum she's created to make them attack Abnegation. After Matthews gets a knife through her hand and a taste of her own serum, Tris makes Matthews shut down her mind-control apparatus.

The film revolves around the theme of "finding who you are." There does not seem to be

any other sacrifice or subplot other than the fact that Tris is trying to find where she belongs. The book itself has a great plot and great character development, but the movie failed to show that.

Sadly, it does not stand a chance against *The Hunger Games* whose director, Gary Ross, has done a great job in keeping the films true to the books. The similarities between the two films are immense. Both storylines deal with female protagonists and both somehow manage to squeeze in some romance. Female heroism, along with the overthrowing of dystopian societies, seem to be at high demand nowadays.

Both *Divergent* and *The Hunger Games* have themes similar to books like *1984* by George Orwell and *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley. Their dystopian society settings are all about ridding humanity of all human characteristics, like the attachment to loved ones. Such themes are not clearly defined in the film adaptation of *Divergent*.

The film itself is entertaining if you can get over the fact that it is not very accurate. If the film adaptation of *Divergent* would have provided as much detail as the book did, it may have created some competition for *The Hunger Games* and *Harry Potter*. Since the competition is nonexistent for now, we'll just have to wait for *Insurgent*, the sequel to *Divergent*, to come out next March.

**Pico Rivera library
opens its doors to
performers of all kinds**



BY LINDSAY PHILLIPS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Pico Rivera's new library hosted the first ever Purge Poetry event. This event is a public one, where people get the chance to recite their poetry, music, philosophies, art, music, or any other artistic ability they may have.

The host of this event is April Vela, a Rivera Middle School teacher and poet. Mrs. Vela was very confident about the attendance of the event because of the help of Emily James, a student at El Rancho.

The idea of having an event like this was inspired by Whittier's Half Off Book Store's *Shout!* poetry night, which is held every second Wednesday of the month. "I thought Pico should have something like that, so I thought maybe the Pico Towne Center would be a cool place. I went to the Pico [Rivera] board meeting in August to pitch my idea, but no one seemed impressed," said Vela.

After that, Vela waited for the new library on Mines and Rosemead to open and emailed the library manager, who responded within days, and they set their first meeting to be held on Wednesday, February 26, 2014.

The event began at 5 p.m. to allow students and Pico citizens to gather and recite their poetry and music. The people who wish to recite make their way to the showroom and write their name on a waiting list and wait to be called up. They recite based on a first-come first-serve method.

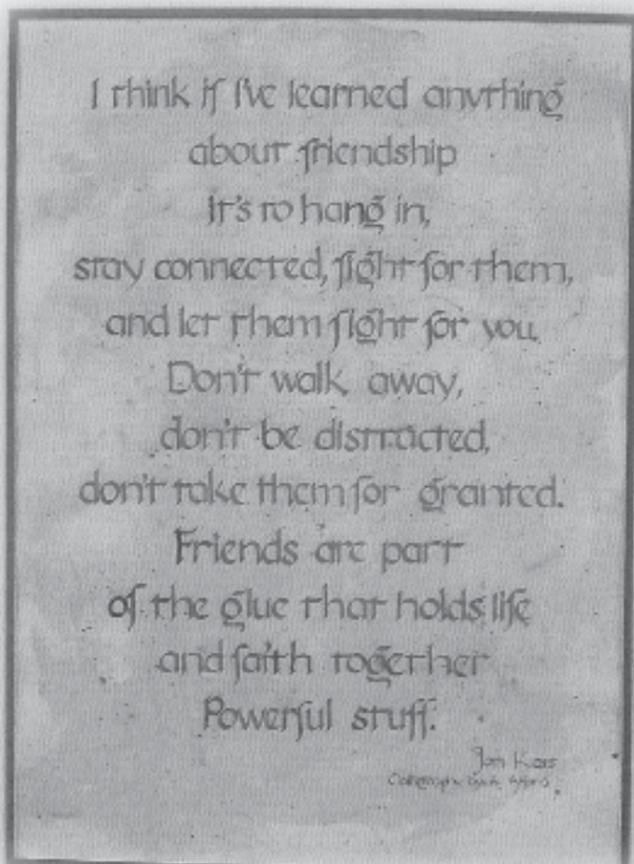
Some teachers even offer their students extra credit if they attend or gain enough courage to perform. Samantha Castellanos (11th), Joseph Cuenca (11th), Emily James (11th), and Antoinette Salas (10th), were amongst those who recited. They recited their own poetry pieces that evening.

All performers are welcome to drop by. Anyone who has an artistic talent, whether it be reciting poetry or music, can take part of the open mic. Group poetry recitations are also welcomed!

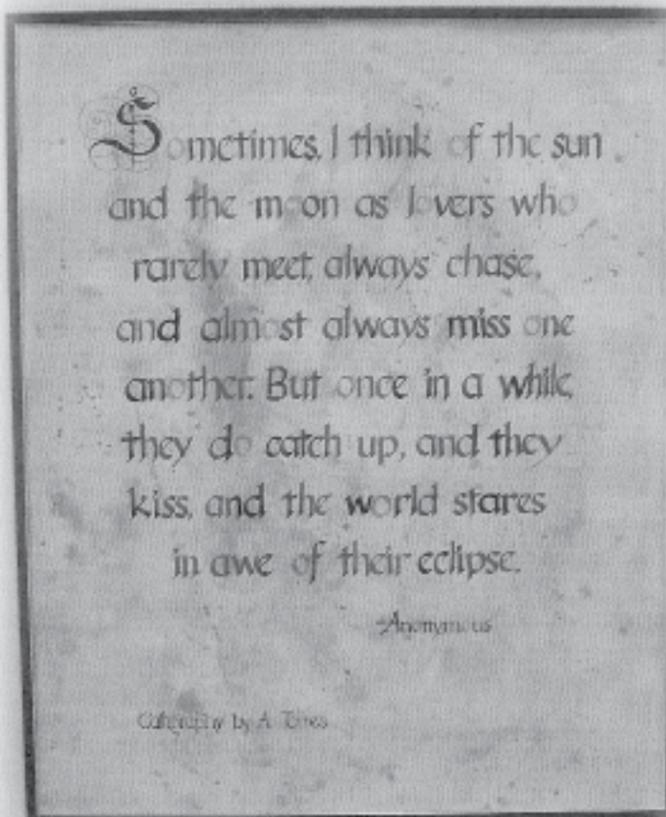
The Purge Poetry event will be held every last Wednesday of the month, but will take a break during the summer and will resume in September. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 28, 2014.

Be sure you see the ever-changing calligraphy exhibits in the ERHS library. The display includes 12th century fonts up to present day fonts. Come see Japanese haikus (poems) invented by ERHS students. Students have created watercolor and calligraphy quotes as well as letters and handmade cards with envelopes. Another exhibit is coming soon; don't miss 'em!

-Mrs. Ames



Aracely Alfaro 12th grade



Ashley Torres 12th grade

SPORTS

Golf team swings their way into new season

BY JULIUS ARIAS
EL RANCHO STAFF WRITER

This year El Rancho's golf team, headed by Coach May, will be competing in the annual Del Rio League golf tournament.

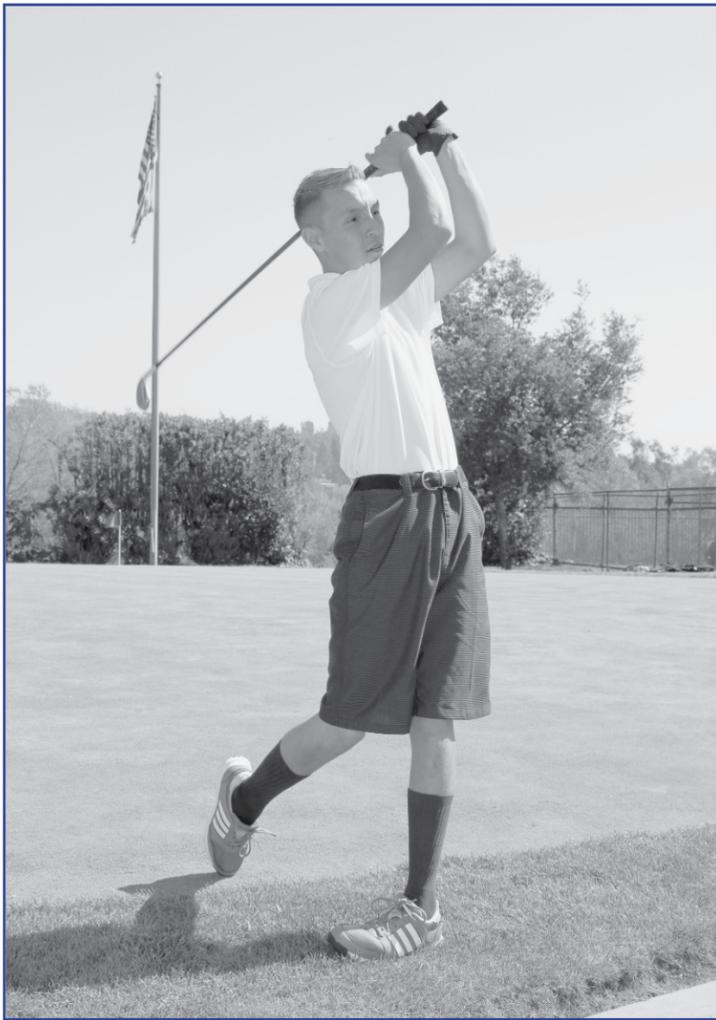
The golf team consists of six golfers: Captain Brian Gomez, Erik Cortez, Nathan Sanchez, Miguel Sanchez, Phillip Ortiz, and Leanne Calderon. The team may have been slightly bigger, however, due to grade trouble with a few players, there will only be the six.

With ten conference matches left before league finals and a team of underclassmen, Coach May says his team is, "getting better," but has a long way to go. "I wouldn't say we're going to be in the top two but if we golf well enough we can get anywhere from third to wherever," due to Santa Fe and La Serna being the apparent favorites this season.

Unfortunately, in golf only the top two teams are able to proceed to CIF competitions after playing against each rival team twice.

Meeting their coach's expectations on their overall performance, the golf team has arrived at the beginning of their league season with a score of one win and one loss, both of which were against Montebello High School.

While a previous win had El Rancho Golfers expecting an-



Miguel Sanchez, sways his golf club in order to hit the golf ball.

other victory against Montebello High School, on Thursday the twentieth, they were defeated by a single stroke. This cost them the match and resulted in a final

score of 233 to 234. It was an unfortunate step down in competition compared to Wednesday the twelfth's win of 253 to 270. Fortunately, both matches

were non-conference and will not affect the team's standing going into league competitions.

To win a golf meet competitors must get their ball into each of the twelve holes on the course with the least amount of strokes possible. However, in a team competition after each team has reached the twelfth hole, stroke counts of each team's players are added up together and the team with the lower number of strokes wins.

While golf is a different sport, according to May it is a great lifelong sport that many people play. "It is a gentleman's sport, a quiet game not a lot of ra ra with good sportsmanship," said May.

Many of the team's golfers would agree that, "the sport can be relaxing or very frustrating depending on where you're coming from. Competitions can be frustrating and when you're playing for fun it really doesn't matter," said May and his team. Many people play for leisure and many more play as a means to forward business endeavors.

Regardless of this season's outcome the underclassmen golfers and their coach are already looking forward to next season. With an absolute team of at least a few returners, their expectations are set fully toward winning.

Rojas sets sights on volleyball



Bryan Rojas attempts to hit the ball over the net.

BY ANGELICA GAMEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Many athletes excel in one sport, but junior Bryan Rojas excels in two, soccer and volleyball. When Rojas is not out on the field playing soccer, he is helping his varsity volleyball team make their way to CIF.

Rojas did not make varsity volleyball right away, but he quickly worked his way up and made the varsity team his sophomore year. Since then, Rojas has become a big factor on the team. "I always practice hard, listen to the coach, and keep my discipline," says Rojas.

Like most athletes, Rojas is motivated to try his best every game. "Wanting to get a ring and always trying to beat the opponent is my motivation," says Rojas. With his motivation, Rojas has impacted his volleyball team. "A lot of young players look up to me to help them out every day," says Rojas.

The biggest struggle of being a student athlete for Rojas is going home to do homework after a hard practice, but his parents help him work around that struggle. "My parents always tell me to keep working and doing my homework," says Rojas.

After high school, Rojas plans to attend college. If he is given the opportunity to play either volleyball or soccer in college, he is going to take it. "If [I am not given the opportunity to play on a college sports team,] I will just go to a park with friends and play," says Rojas.

Rojas' biggest influence is his senior teammate Alex Roldan. Rojas plays with Roldan on the volleyball court and out on the soccer field. "He has a great impact [on the team] and he is a great leader to all of us," says Rojas.

Rojas' most memorable moment on the volleyball team was when they made it to CIF last year. You can support Rojas and his volleyball team this year as they try to make another run in CIF.

Senior Year: Go Big Or Go Home

BY KIMBERLY LOPEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

From having a total of 12 sacks and 68 tackles, senior Andy Alaniz trades in his shoulder pads and helmet for baseball bats and the smell of the fresh cut grass. It's his second year on the baseball team, but his first time on the varsity level.

"Football and baseball are two very different sports. It's hard to say which one is my favorite one. Football is a high tempo sport, hit or get hit, while baseball, on the other hand, is more of a mental game," says Alaniz.

This year is Alaniz's last baseball season he'll ever have in his high school career. "I feel the same way about my last baseball season as I did going into my last football season: going all out and leaving it all on the field," says Alaniz.

Being runner-ups in the CIF Championship game and placing third in league with an overall record of (9-6), the baseball team has a long way to go. They currently have a (1-1) record, losing their first league game to La Serna High School last Friday.

"We have a good chance on winning league since we have a target on our back for being CIF runner ups. It's a new season but anybody can beat anybody at any given day. Our biggest challenge in league is



Senior, Andy Alaniz, proudly holds his baseball bat for the last year.

ourselves. We've been taught to just worry or focus on the things we can control," says Alaniz.

Four-time varsity veteran Justin Gonzalez is ready to go all out this season. "I feel this sea-

son is going to be a good one if we play like we know we can. I know we can end up where we did last year," says Gonzalez.

Gonzalez currently leads the Del Rio League in most stolen bases with a total of 6 bases stolen and a fielding average of 1.000.

In the team's game against Chaffey High School, Max Preps named Gonzalez Player of the game. He had two hits in four at bats and stole 3 bases. "Gonzalez scored the first, and what proved to be the winning run in the first inning. Not only was he a terror on the base paths, he also managed to drive in a run while expertly patrolling center field. For his efforts, Justin is the El Rancho player of the Game," says Max Preps.

"I think La Serna is our biggest competition in league because they're good at hitting and have a good pitcher, but we can only really beat ourselves. I feel if we take it one game and pitch at a time we can be league champs!" says Gonzalez.

The baseball team managed to come up with a win on Wednesday the 26th against Montebello High School with a score of 6-4.

Come out next Wednesday, April 2nd as the El Rancho Dons take on the California High School Condor's at California High School at 3:15 p.m.

SPORTS

Track prepares for their first meet

BY MICHAEL GARCIA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Track season is almost here as the El Rancho Track team continues to practice hard and prepare for the dual-meets of the Del Rio League. The girls' varsity team was the only one to suffer a loss when they competed against Montebello and Katella High School.

There have been many changes to the coaching staff this year with a total of three new coaches and several old coaches changing positions. Varsity Basketball coach Mr. Elliot has also taken the spot of track head coach due to Mrs. Elliot, former head coach, stepping down and becoming the new hurdle coach.

Cross Country and Wrestling coach Mr. Wynn has returned to track to become the new sprint coach. Wynn was originally the head coach of the track team several years ago, but he has just recently decided to come back to the sport he loves. Wynn says, "I love it... track is what I do. You know, it's a lot of fun."

The three new coaches are all alumni of El Rancho and former track participants. They



Kendrick Conner leads the boys varsity track team into victory on their game against Montebello High School.

consist of a long jump and triple jump coach, Darra Prak, a high jump coach, Michelle Flores, and a pole-vault coach, Stan Carranza. They have all, so far, been

enjoying their time spent with the team, and they, too, are excited for season to begin. High Jump coach Michelle, says, "I love it. I think the kids are awesome

and they have a lot of potential."

The captains of the team have also been recently chosen. The captains are Martin Ruelas, Mayra Nuñez, Gissele Burgos, Evelyn Burgos, and Wyatt Sandoval, Adrian Perez, Roxanne Sierra, and Richard Ayala. To be chosen for captain, each athlete had to submit an application and be interviewed by the panel of coaches.

Everyone is excited for the season to begin and is confident going into it. Captain Martin Ruelas says, "I gotta say im nervous even though I've been here for three years. You know, you never know what to expect in these meets and I gotta say I'm really excited."

Many of the expected returners for this year's team did not return, which caused for the varsity team to be low on seniors. Kendrick Conner, a junior who runs the 100m, 200m, and 400m, says, "We lost a couple seniors, but we can still come back strong, come out hard this season, and take the win."

The team has their first league meet against Pioneer High School this week on Thursday, March 27 at home.

The girls' varsity softball team captains are back

BY MARISOL ALMAZAN
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The girls' varsity softball team show their enthusiasm to start off a new league season by welcoming back their varsity team captains.

Coach Stephanie Gonzales believes that the varsity captains that were chosen are perfect to get the job done. "Varsity captains were chosen because both girls are 4 year varsity players and have the most experience on this team. They show leadership and set good examples for the underclassmen," said coach Gonzales.

Senior captain Anissa Sanchez, believes that her duty as captain requires her to set a good example for the team. "My duty as softball captain is to always encourage my teammates to be the best they can. I need to be a good role model and pick them up when they are down," said Sanchez.

Senior Aiyana Leal-Robles, varsity captain, also believes that she has to set a good example for the rest of the girls. "My duty as a varsity softball captain is to keep the team positive, to make sure the team represents El Rancho well, and to push the team to perform at the best of their abilities," said Leal-Robles.

Both Leal-Robles and Sanchez have similar goals for their team. "My goals for this upcoming season are to do well in league and go far in play-offs, but more than anything I want to have a fun and memorable season," said Leal-Robles. "We also want to take league

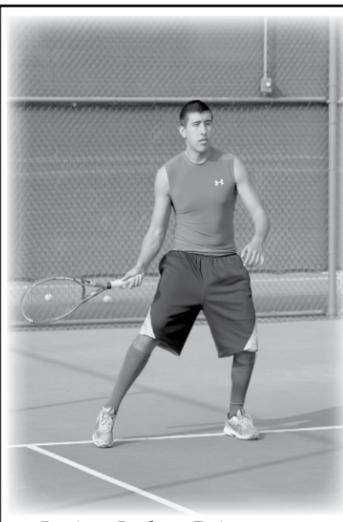
and win CIF," added Sanchez.

Coach Gonzales also has great goals for the girls' softball team. "My goals for the girls this season is to win League and win CIF. They have the potential to go all the way if they stay focused and work hard at their game," said Coach Gonzales.

Coach Gonzales believes that in order to accomplish these goals, the girls must work on their weaknesses and enhance their strengths. "If I had to say a weakness that the girls have is getting down on themselves when a mistake is made or we are losing in a game," said Coach Gonzales. "The strengths that the girls have is even though they are down in a game they will battle back till the end of the game. They will not give up even if they lose," said coach Gonzales.

In addition to accomplishing these goals through improving the teams game, Coach Gonzales believes that the relationships amongst the girls has a lot to do with how they play out on the field. "The relationship amongst the girls is very unique. On the field they cheer each other on, push each other to work hard and most importantly they have each other's backs. Off the field a lot of the girls are best friends. They trust each other and do many activities together. That transfers over to the field and creates a great dynamic," said Coach Gonzales.

The girls varsity softball team have their first official league game on April 4 against California High School at the El Rancho varsity softball field.



Junior, Joshua Briseno gets ready to hit the ball.

The boys' varsity tennis team welcomes a new face

EL RODEO STAFF WRITER
VALERIA HURTADO

Spring has arrived and boys tennis season has begun. Mrs. Dorado, formally known as Lippstreu, is the varsity coach this year. Seniors on varsity have one last chance to bring home the title of league champions before they graduate from the Ranch.

Junior Joshua Briseno and Senior Jaime Aloï return to the team and are welcomed back as team captains. "It is an honor and a privilege and I am determined to help my team succeed. When I first found out, I had a little moment of hysteria," says Briseno.

The boys must prepare a speech to persuade their teammates why they should be captains. "It was a good feeling inside. At that point I felt like I was going to lead the team," says Aloï.

Last year, boys' tennis placed third for league, qualified for CIF and placed as CIF Run-

ner Up. Now the boys are back and hope to avenge themselves against Santa Fe High School. Last year at the CIF Finals the boys lost to Santa Fe's number one doubles team. "Our biggest competition as of right now are La Serna and Santa Fe," says Aloï.

In addition to welcoming old players to the varsity tennis team, Dorado also welcomed a new and younger face this year, Ricardo Ibarra. "For my first season, I hope to be able to play against good players, if not even better, so I can be prepared when league starts," says Ibarra, a sophomore on varsity.

A problem that Coach Dorado faced this season was that several players did not make grades, which caused them to miss out on pre-season. If they are able to bring their grades up by the time progress reports are sent home, they will be able to play in time for league. "If I have free time during class, I will do my work for the majority of my classes, so that when practice or games are over and I am exhausted, I don't have as much work to finish at home," says Briseno.

Dorado believes that the boys have nothing to worry about during league. "League should go fine. A lot of people who were challenges were seniors last year, so our number one doubles team should be number one in league overall," says Dorado. El Rancho's number one doubles team is juniors Joshua Briseno and Adrian Tovar. Out of thirty teams, they are number one out of every school in league.

League begins on April first. Aloï and Briseno agree, "Our goal is to go back to CIF and this time we will win"

Carbajal hopes to swim to victory



Melody Carbajal, ERHS Junior and captain of the swim team.

BY BREANNA PEREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Most high school students find it difficult to balance extensive A.P. and honors classes while being involved in sports, but Junior Melody Carbajal proves that she can handle both. In addition to being a part of the varsity water polo team and swim team since freshman year she also manages to be involved in the Junior Olympics for women's water polo.

She's gone to the Junior Olympics for women's water polo since the age of 10, and she has won two medals. The first medal she received was for second place in the Gold Division during her second year in attendance. Then, last year she earned second place in the Classics Division.

What drives Carbajal to her success is her family's support. "My mom and dad are definitely my number one fan's, and they do everything to make sure I play." Her inspiration behind joining water polo and swim was from her older sister, Meghan Carbajal, who's also the swim coach at El Rancho.

Carbajal plans on continuing water polo in college, and in the future hopes to be a part of USA's Women's water polo team to compete in the Olympics.

Until then, Melody is focusing on doing her best during swim season. "I've managed to keep 1st place in the 100 meter breast stroke." While trying to stay undefeated she's also hoping to qualify for CIF. "I'm working on dropping a lot of time this year because I'm only one second away to make it into CIF," she said.

While preparing for CIF and staying on track with her school work she's also captain of this years swim team. "The [team] has been doing amazing and they've worked hard for what they've achieved," said Carbajal.

So far the Dons have won two out of the four meets they've competed in. Although the team had lost their first two matches of the season they're staying optimistic. "Individually we've had wins, but since swim is based off of a point system we sometimes won't win an overall swim meet."

One of the swim teams focus this year is the 200-meter relay, since they're only one second away to qualify for CIF.

To support the swim team at the next home game the match will be against Paramount High School today at 3:15 pm.

FUN ZONE

FEELING LUCKY? CHECK YOUR MARCH HOROSCOPES

BY DEBBIE BARAJAS, JULIA ORTIZ,
AND SOL MENDEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

Aries: This month is an adventurous month for you. Be sure to work on your current goals, and be determined to finish them. Your love life is going to be new and exciting: you may meet someone new! If you're in a relationship, be wary of complications. Make sure to be organized and balance out your life to avoid any stress.

Taurus: This month will be very productive for you! Your self-confidence is boosted and you feel like you can do anything. Get involved and be sure to make the right choices. Relationships will be tough right now, and the communication between you and your significant other will feel distant and lonely. If you're single and you have met someone, don't expect it to last long. Relax this month! It may be stressful, but take care of yourself first.

Gemini: March is going to be an okay month for you. Taking on challenges will be easy at first, but expect difficulties and complicated situations. But this month is definitely the month of love for you! If you're in a relationship, you will be more loving, and work hard to make your significant other feel loved. Appreciate the good you're surrounded by.

Cancer: This month will be a pleasant month for you! Any challenge will be a piece of cake for you, and you'll hardly feel stressed. If you're in a relationship, you'll begin to question many aspects, and you will try to revive your relationship to what it was in the beginning. Things will clear up for you, and you'll end the month feeling self-confident and sure about every part of your life.

Leo: This month plenty of minor



distractions will come your way. Make sure you keep focused, prioritize wisely, and be dedicated to all the right things that will set you on the right direction.

Virgo: Over the course of time during this month accomplishments will be difficult to reach and things may get rough. It is important to continue your daily journey and remember to keep striving to your destination without losing hope.

Libra: Throughout these weeks be aware of your surroundings. also be aware of things that may

take you on a detour and get you side tracked. You have to maintain yourself and be wise as to what path you choose.

Scorpio: This month will be easygoing for you. Be thankful of the people that continue to stand by your side and by the others you accept with your arms wide open. Don't forget to show them that you care and display your thankfulness because they will guide you through.

Sagittarius: You have taken great care of yourself. You are a good communicator, Sagit-

tarius, and you are usually quite thorough in presenting what you have to say. A recent exchange, though, may not have been as clear as you thought it was.

Capricorn: A dazzling and brilliant idea once had you very excited and ambitious. When this idea was new, it was all you thought about. But over time, with some investment of your energy and creativity, you have begun to feel somewhat less enthusiastic.

Aquarius: Be careful that you don't allow anger or fear to prevent you from putting forth

your best effort on your social or school engagement. You may be so preoccupied with the unfairness of something that it keeps getting in your way of things. That is why it is so important that you calm down.

Pisces: You may be feeling a little bit pessimistic lately about the way some new venture is unfolding in you life. It doesn't look hopeful. It doesn't feel inspiring. It is instilling a sense of disappointment in you already. But the key word to go back to Pisces, is "unfolding".

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