



El Rodeo



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Fun Run encourages Pico Rivera to be active

6th ANNUAL
FUN RUN FUNDRAISER
SATURDAY - FEBRUARY 21ST
5K at 7:30AM - 1K at 8:30AM

BY SAMANTHA MUNOZ
AND SALONI PATEL
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

The "Fun Run" in Pico Rivera is a 5k run that is held at El Rancho High School every February to promote the spirit of healthy living and active exercise. The event is also held as a fundraiser to raise money for El Rancho's track and field team. This year will be the 6th annual Fun Run in Pico Rivera, and will be held on February 21st.

This race has many benefits according to Mr. Ray Elliott, track coach and Athletic Supervisor at El Rancho High. He enjoys this event because it "promotes awareness for people to get into the mindset of becoming healthy."

Mr. and Mrs. Elliott, who are also math teachers at the high school, have been in charge of the Fun Run since 2009, and have made it an enjoyable event for entire families. However, much work is done behind the scenes to make the 5k happen. A crucial aspect of race-day prep is making sure the Elliotts have secured a time system with the city and gained support from the Sheriff Department to make sure certain streets are blocked off for the event. Mr. Elliott says another major struggle is trying to "get a gauge of how many runners to plan for," because sometimes runner turnout is higher or lower than expected. Every year, the success has made their hard work worthwhile. Although it had a small beginning, the Fun Run has now blossomed into a city wide community event. Elliott said that at first it was a "high school event, but now it is a community event. It was initially created for the track team, and now it involves all athletic sports."

Senior ASB Secretary Michelle Carmona says, "I enjoy the positive energy and the uplifting atmosphere" that is at the Fun Run. She encourages her classmates and her ASB friends to spread the word of this event.

Anyone that wants to participate can sign up with the Elliotts, pick up a form at the Department of Parks and Recreation off of Passons Blvd., or sign up through pacificcoastracetiming.com/events. This run is not only for adults and teenagers, but children as well. There will be a 1k for children 12 and under, and each runner will receive a certificate of completion after the race. All information regarding pricing, deadlines, and race-day details will be on the Pacific Coast Timing website.

Dons welcome foreign exchange students



BY ELIZABETH JACOME
AND EMILY JAMES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

Every school year, El Rancho High School welcomes foreign exchange students from the Beijing Experimental High School located in Beijing, China. Prior to their arrival, the search begins for homes where they will stay for the next two weeks. The hosting families are required to provide two meals a day and a separate room in exchange for \$1000.

This year, 25 sophomore

Chinese students arrived to El Rancho. During their time here, the foreign exchange students will experience what it is like to be American. Each Chinese student will shadow a Don in order to learn what the campus has to offer. These students were specifically chosen based on their academic classes, electives, and sports. The Dons with the most compatibility to the exchange students were given the opportunity to show them around.

Before his/her arrival to El Rancho, each Chinese stu-

dent is given an Americanized name to make the transition easier. The most common American names like "Jason" and "Katy."

The Chinese students are participating through the AP Enrichment Program, which allows academically advanced students to travel to the United States. Part of the reason for their visit is to learn more about the Universities like UC Berkeley, UC Los Angeles, and UC Irvine.

The educational system in China is full of rigorous academic courses with minimal time for

leisure. This program allows the students to experience the various clubs and extracurricular activities that El Rancho has to offer.

Along with the academic side of the visit, the students also learn the culture that makes up Pico Rivera. The foreign exchange students are exposed to new foods, music, and social norms that they would have otherwise never known about. The whole program is a learning experience not only for the foreign exchange students, but also for the students at El Rancho High School.

Band members "Bleed Blue" at Rose Parade

BY ODALYS CHAVEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Rose Parade, also known as the Tournament of Roses, is held in Pasadena, California each year on New Year's Day. This is a tradition which began in 1890 to celebrate the New Year. The parade mainly consists of rose-themed floats, marching bands, and equestrians, follows a 5.5 mile route primarily on Colorado Boulevard. It is an event that is watched in person by hundreds of thousands of spectators and is viewed by millions more as it is televised in over 100 countries and territories.

Why am I telling you all of this? El Rancho senior and saxophone player, Cesar Perez-Haylock along with Color Guard members and Juniors Gina Leon and Olivia Cuenca participated in this year's Pasadena Rose Parade.

Pasadena City College held auditions for people to be a part of the Pasadena City College Tournament of Roses Honor Band in October. Band members attended the audition with a prepared solo piece and then received a piece they had to sight read (reading and playing a piece without having the chance to practice it in advance.) Color Guard members were to arrive at the audition and learn a piece of flag work. After being given the chance to practice they were to perform in groups



Leon, Perez-Haylock, and Cuenca, members of color guard and band, in front of the band room.

from which the flag line and banner line would be selected. These three Dons were selected and had the chance to participate in this "once in a lifetime" experience as described by Leon.

Preparing for the event, however, required a lot of time and dedication. Practices began in November and continued on every Sunday until the beginning of winter break which meant that rehearsals would be amped up to everyday occurrences. Perez-Haylock "knew that it was going to be physically, mentally, and musically challenging"; he began practicing extra early and started to physically prepare himself for

the intense 5.5 mile long parade.

Cuenca describes the parade as "one of the best experiences of her life." She says that the march did not feel as long and exhausting as she expected. "I thought I was going to be super tired and that my face would be hurting from smiling for so long," she says. Leon was awed by the number of spectators who came out to watch the parade. "I knew there was going to be a lot of people but it still surprised me," she says. "Being in the Rose Parade was simply amazing! I've been watching it since I was a kid and being able to do that 90 degree turn onto Colorado Blvd was

a dream come true!" Says Perez-Haylock. "All the cameras, lights, and thousands of spectators fill you with a rush of adrenaline and also reminds you of the countless hours (and, for some, years) of preparation you put into being a part of such a historic parade."

These students had the opportunity to learn many new things from not only Honor Band instructors, but also from the other approximate 200 students participating in the program. They were able to talk to the other bands and performers who came from distant places such as Hawaii and Japan in order to take part in the world famous parade.

OPINION

Obama's free college plan not all it seems

By Emily James
El Rodeo Staff Writer

Free always has a nice sound to it. Whether it be Home of the Free or buy-one-get-one free, most Americans love this word. However, free may not have as great of a connotation in President Barack Obama's new plan entitled America's College Promise. This new initiative plans to grant a two-year community college education to students completely free of cost by the year 2020, but it is estimated to cost the government \$60 billion over a span of a decade.

Although this plan sounds spectacular to many, it contains numerous faults. The primary problem is that community colleges already have an extremely low graduation rate at an estimated 30 percent, and the students who do graduate often take six years to leave.



President Barack Obama talking about making college affordable.

These numbers are not something to hold a celebration over and do not provide enough proof that more money should be granted toward community colleges.

Moreover, with this new proposition, a phenomenon known as undermatching would

increase severely. "Undermatching" is defined as students who have the academic ability to attend four-year institutions but choose community colleges due mainly to their economic status. Undermatching occurs primarily in lower income Hispanic and African American families; thus, if

community colleges are free, then it is estimated that there will be a serious drop in minority attendance in four-year universities. This drop would only increase the income gap between lower middle class minority families and upper middle class white families.

Obama's plan makes it clear that education should be made a priority in this country, and that idea is noble. However, a different approach that could be taken is to increase the amount of money the Pell Grant offers. Currently, the maximum that a student may receive from the Pell Grant is \$5,645, which to many students attending a four-year university is close to nothing. So, instead of using \$60 billion dollars to funnel students toward community college, it would be more beneficial to grant this money to students in a way which allows them to choose which type of higher education they wish to pursue.

Electronic waste: a growing pain



By Janelle Mercado
El Rodeo Staff Writer

With the rapid production of technology, electronic waste has developed into an environmental nuisance. Electronic devices, such as cell phones, tele-

visions, and cameras, contain toxic materials that are harmful to the ecosystem. Not too many people understand that when these hazardous materials are deposited into solid waste landfills, the poisonous lead, zinc, and nickel, which most of them contain, pollute the environment.

Unlike banana peels, feces, and deceased organisms, technological equipment is not biodegradable. In fact, most electronics contain material that cannot decompose, and those that are degradable disintegrate into the landscape in a matter of several years and leach poisonous materials into the ground.

Naturally dissolving electronic waste takes time and with the amount of unwanted material transported into landfills each year, the U.S. population is using more resources than can be returned to the environment.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Americans produced an estimated 251 million tons of trash in 2012. Electronic waste constituted for about 70% percent of the toxic material found in such residue. With this large, increasing amount of electronic devices, landfills are filling and closing. Soon, they will disappear, without any available areas to transport human waste.

With e-Waste recycling, the appearance of unwanted electronic materials in landfills is unnecessary. Converting machinery into reusable matter prevents valuable material from entering the waste stream. Instead of gathering more indispensable material to produce even more technological equipment, people should grow accustomed to recycling their undesirable electronics.

All Green Electronics Recycling can recycle any device and guarantee the device won't reach any landfill so schedule a pick up or find a drop off location, just don't throw away your electronics!

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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.

ASK M.J.

If you need advice, feel free to leave your questions in the "Ask M.J." box in the guidance office.



I am having trouble making friends at school, what should I do?

There are actually many things that you can do in order to make new friends. One of the things that I would recommend that you do would be to make friends with students in your classes. This is very useful because you would be familiarizing yourself with students that are in the same classes as you, which means that it would be a familiar face you would be spending time with.

Another way that you could make friends at school would be to join a club or a sport. This is probably the most effective way to make friends because you will be spending an awful lot of time with students that are into the same things that you are

into. For example, if you join the Animal Advocates Club, you will spend time with students who love animals. You should definitely join a club or a sport!

What is a good way to start off a new semester?

A good way to start off any semester is to have a planner or a to-do list. This will help you stay on top of your schoolwork. If you keep a planner or a to-do list with all of your assignments, you can cross off assignments as you do them, which will help you complete all of your work. It is extremely important for you to stay on top of your grades because high school is essentially the foundation for your future.

It is essential that you start off new semesters with good

grades and no missing work because if you start off lazy, odds are you will remain lazy for the rest of the year. I cannot stress enough how important it is for you not to let laziness or procrastination run your life. It is always great to start off a new semester with a positive outlook and a lot of energy!

I'm a new freshman and I was wondering if you had any helpful advice to look out for in my next four years there.

Freshman, High school is indeed a scary place. On the other hand, it is exciting and fun. One main piece of advice that I have to offer is to make the best out of it. You have to take your courses seriously, but at the same time do not let this interrupt your social life. If possible attend every

dance, game and event with your friends. You do not want to look back and realize that you did not have any fun or did not make any important memories to remember.

However, do not procrastinate and complete all of your work. You have to remember that high school grades are essential for college. You should consider taking AP or honor courses. You have to find a correct balance between academic and social life.

You also want to be well rounded. Join as many clubs as you like, just remember the days of the meetings. Also you should try out for some sports, it does not hurt to try it. If you realize that you do not like it, then you can quit. Try to volunteer in your local community events or even at your local church. Colleges want to see that you are well rounded.

CITY VIEW

Economics students earn over \$1 million

BY IVAN CRUZ

Students in Mr. Elias' economics class were given an assignment involving today's stock market. The goal of this project was that each individual student would be given an amount of \$25,000 to buy stocks, bonds, and commodities.

Although the money was not real, the stocks they bought were. Stocks are basically a share in the company. However, the more stocks one owns, the more ownership of the company one gains.

Therefore, if the company starts making money, then the investor starts making money as well. But the way it works is: "buy low, sell high."

If one can buy a stock from a company at \$14.00, and in the next week it increases to \$37.00, then he/she will sell it back to the market making a profit of \$23.00.

Corporations such as Starbucks, Google, Facebook, etc. were used in this project.

Today, the stock market has been the most profitable that it has been in the recent years, allowing for the people who buy into it to become very prosperous.

From all of his periods, there were certain groups of students that made an extreme gain in this process. Some students made a near \$100,000 profit, to the all time high that has been set in all the years that Mr. Elias has been doing this, which culminated in an overall \$672,756.

Here are the responses



Students Noah Barragan, Silena Miranda, Nathalie Quintero, Ivan Cruz, Michael Gonzalez, Julian Garcia, and Joel Galindo.

as to how some of these groups did it. Seniors Noah Barragan, Nathalie Quintero, and Selena Miranda were the highest earners this project has ever had and they were asked, "How is it that you were able to make this enormous amount of money from only \$75,000?"

Barragan then responded, "Well first you need to pick the right stock. If the history for that stock has been good, you can expect to make some money. We researched

this company and were confident we'd make some money."

The second highest group that made over \$100,000 included seniors Joel Galindo, Julian Garcia, and Michael González.

Upon being asked the same question, Galindo responded with, "It's a thinking man's game. You don't need to be some rich guy on Wall Street to know how this works. You either go big or go home, and we went big. If only this money was real..."

This semester has brought

the most money this project has ever done, with 4 groups alone raising nearly \$1,000,000 in revenue. Including all other groups that took part in this, the entire amount would be over \$1,000,000.

For some, depending on what they invested in, didn't make a large profit, but that's how this system works.

Economics is about making all the rational decisions that bring's one the most money and, for these Dons, that's exactly what they have done.

Teen Court Report

BY DARWIN REYES

The January Teen Court session contained two cases: one case pertaining to possession of marijuana on school grounds, and the other case based on a petty theft of lingerie at J.C. Penney. Both defendants admitted full responsibility of charges and proceeded to be questioned by the El Rancho jurors.

The first defendant gave his statement and, throughout questioning, was compliant. However, he disregarded the idea that he was smoking. He stated that he did not have the intention of smoking the marijuana that day on school campus or off campus. The report says the teacher found the students in the locker after the teacher had pursued a strong odor of marijuana. The defendant claims there were others in the locker room who had stronger substances and that was the cause of the odor. The defendant continued on with his story by implicating he did not have recollection of having the marijuana in his possession on that day, but, rather, it had been placed in those pants a few days before. The defendant also revealed he was able to support his habit of smoking marijuana by working for McDonalds. The defendant had been placed in this situation before; he was required to attend drug classes when he was caught on his first offense for marijuana. The case ended with ambiguity, leaving the jurors questioning the honesty of the defendant.

The second case consisted of another misguided teen who has strong relations to a friend who influenced the defendant to shoplift. A moment of honesty occurred in the courtroom when the defendant admitted to being pressured into trying marijuana. The father was not aware of this incident and was very shocked to learn this firsthand in the courtroom, which made the moment of honesty all the more unveiling. The defendant was pressured into shoplifting but it is believed that she was also easily persuaded to commit the crime due to the news she had received prior to the incident. Earlier in the day, the defendant had received news that, due to her poor grades, she would be placed as an alternative in her cheerleading team. This case was peculiar since the defendant seems to be coming from a loving home with support in several aspects. Nevertheless, the circumstances that led her to commit the crime was her poor choices and friendships.

Teen Court's first annual parent night

BY TEEN COURT

On January 21, 2015, the El Rancho Teen Court held its first annual parent night session at the Pico Rivera City Hall Chambers. The session was targeted to show parents what Teen Court consists of and how this court functions.

The session opened up with a brief introduction from the El Rancho Teen Court Coordinator, who explained the logistics of the court room.

It was the first time the El Rancho Teen Court was open to the parents, so the court tried to accommodate its parents by providing Spanish translations provided by the El Rancho Unified School District.

The session was intended mainly for the parents and their children, so the chambers were packed. The Pico Rivera City Hall Chambers has a capacity of one hundred and twenty-five, and the court had an attendance of about one hundred and fifteen.

Our normal attendance usually exceeds the carrying capacity, but we had to limit the amount of people we allowed to attend because we didn't want parents or children standing.

The El Rancho Teen Court had the opportunity to have great guests attend the session aside



Mr. Cruz accepting his award from City Council and Teen Court members.

from the parents. Among these attendees were Mayor Pro Tem David Armenta, School Board Member Rachel Canchola, Superintendent Martin Galindo, and Director of Community Justice Initiative Criminal and Special Litigation Branch, Mr. Cruz.

Mr. Cruz has been a great supporter of the El Rancho Teen Court. Mr. Cruz has not only helped El Rancho Teen Court, but also helped every other Teen Court in California. Mr. Cruz is part of the California Association of Youth Courts Adult

Board, and he is very proactive within the association.

The session was not only intended to show parents the functions of the court, but also to recognize Mr. Cruz's work and effort for Pico Rivera and the El Rancho Teen Court. Mr. Cruz was recognized by the El Rancho Teen Court as well as the city, and school district.

Mr. Mayor Pro Tem David Armenta awarded Mr. Cruz with a City Proclamation Award. The El Rancho Teen Court also presented an award in honor of Mr. Cruz's

extreme dedication to not only El Rancho, but also the Teen Court program throughout California.

Mr. Cruz especially agrees and believes that the El Rancho Teen Court has specifically worked feverishly to gain respect in the court processes. Due to the dedication of the El Rancho Teen Court staff, Mr. Cruz has reached out to help our program and he invites El Rancho to attend the annual Teen Court Summit.

Alongside these motions, Mr. Cruz has recently begun a S. H. A. D. E. S. program. To this we owe Mr. Cruz the honor of having been able to work with him.

El Rancho initially invited the Whittier Daily News reporters to cover the event, but it was preferred that the reporters would not attend due to the privacy policy held by the court in part of the respect to the case defendants.

We had hoped to publicize the event in order to endorse Teen Court and make Teen Court known to a bigger audience.

Nevertheless, we reached a goal in amazing the parents of Pico Rivera. Our goals, among others, of the Teen Court Parent night were to honor Mr. Cruz, allow the parents to understand the court processes, and have the parents appreciate the work their children have provided in Teen Court.

FEATURES

Deriving Kimberly Serrano

BY JAMES CHOW
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The development of infinitesimal calculus has occupied the minds of very intellectual people, one being the “mathemaniac” of El Rancho: Kimberly Serrano. This math mademoiselle has reached great heights at El Rancho with a 4.5 grade point average and a number two ranking. However, academics aren’t the only point of interest for this girl.

During her senior year, Serrano has become a walking example of El Rancho’s sassy side. “I believe I’m more outgoing this year as compared to my previous years. I attribute this change of behavior to the promise I made myself at the beginning of the school year: I would not let my academic life ruin my social life this year and for years to come,” she says. To fully pinpoint her new outlook, Serrano has dyed the tips of her hair red. “I’d been wanting to dye the tips of my hair for a while now, and I finally decided to go through with my desire over winter break, embracing the motto: new year, new hair.”

Nevertheless, this animated personality isn’t going to let anything hinder her success. “No boy is going to distract me. However, it would be nice to have someone motivating my ambitions.”

Moreover, Serrano’s “Mc-Dreamy” man isn’t based on physical appearance. “I would



Senior Kimberly Serrano standing tall and radiating with greatness.

like a man who’s honest, witty, and adventurous. Aside from that, I’d only want him to be taller than me which shouldn’t be a problem since I’m only 5’2!”

Serrano has established the fact that school is a main priority. She attributes much of her success to her motivated character rather than her inborn intelligence. “Getting to where I am now is not solely based on academic potential. Rather, I put in a lot of hard work and determination in my studies.”

After high school, Serrano plans to attend an esteemed university. “My top four choices for college are Harvard, Stanford, Brown, and USC. I plan to go far and dorm because I want to engulf myself in the complete college experience. Also, I would love to have the opportunity to

experience an independent life. Dorming would, in my eyes, be an economically good decision since I wouldn’t be driving back and forth from school.”

In accordance with her future goals, Serrano wants to pursue a career in mathematics. “As of right now, I am positive that I want a math-related career. With this being said, I did some research on math-related careers, and I stumbled upon pharmacy, which currently holds my interest. Therefore, I may someday be making all kinds of drugs.”

Although she is chiefly devoted to math, Serrano consumes much of her free time eye deep in books. “I love reading, and, because I have read so many novels, my favorite book isn’t limited to one! For instance, I love the Mortal Instrument Series. This par-

ticular series involves brave characters who go on amazing and dangerous adventures. However, two of my favorite fictional characters are Harry Potter and Severus Snape from the Harry Potter series. These characters embody admirable traits such as wit and bravery and give me the opportunity to put me into the novel.”

To Serrano, imagination isn’t just a figment of fantasy. Her creative mind keeps her preoccupied between reverie and reality. “When I read, I like to picture myself in the book. I am engulfed with monsters and fairies all from the unnatural world. I block everyone out when I read to the point where I can’t hear him or her.”

Serrano’s personal life is everything but normal. “I consider myself weird. I don’t like to eat my peanut butter and jelly sandwich together. Rather, I spread each slice of bread with peanut butter and jelly respectively. I take bites of each slice one at a time because that’s how I [jelly] roll. Also, I have obsessive compulsive disorder. Certain objects in my room have to be in their respective places or otherwise I can’t concentrate.”

A mathematically devoted “pi” loving girl, Kimberly Serrano is not the average Jane Doe. She sparks the halls with pep-filled enthusiasm and slapstick sarcasm, making her a number one in uniqueness.



Robotics club prospers with new members

BY DAVID JOEL HUGHES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This year’s Robotics club is more different than ever with two new club advisors, a new president, and a laundry list of new members. Amidst all this change, the club still plans to work together to build a fully functioning robot.

The Robotics club started as a spin off of another club called MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Advancements) in 2010. Since then, Robotics has gone through a revolving door of club advisors.

This year, new physics teacher Mr. Zhu and Algebra 2 teacher Mr. Galindo decided to both be advisors. “Mostly the students lead themselves and I just provide a space,” says Mr. Zhu. The club has meetings on selective days, and these meetings are held in X-1.

Robotics club gets most of their funds from outside people who are friends with teachers and students, which makes it difficult for the club to pay for the robot.

Ex-Robotics club President Victor Romero, who graduated from El Rancho two years ago, says, “Since I left Robotics it was hard to let go, but the club is in good hands now.”

Romero is now attending Cal Poly Pomona and is majoring in physics. “Robotics gave me a basic understanding of mechanics and electronics; it’s also very helpful in physics.

Aside from new club advisors, Robotics club has a new president, Junior Zachary Hernandez. He has been in the club since he was a freshman, “It seemed interesting, and it would help me develop useful skills.” Zachary says that when he grows up he would like to be a Quantum Physicist.

Although Zachary would like to pursue a career in engineering, there are other students there who go just to learn robotics.

Senior Johanna Martinez has been in robotics for three years, “It’s a really cool club to be in, and who wouldn’t want to be in it?”

Though Johanna does not want to pursue a career in engineering, she enjoys going to the club and learning about electronics and mechanics.

Robotics club is an important club that gives students a glimpse of what a field of engineering may be like. It also teaches students the value of teamwork and working together to achieve something difficult.

WORD ON THE STREET

What do you see yourself doing after high school?



“I want to be a policeman because I feel like it will be exciting and thrilling. My aunt is a policewoman and I have heard her exciting stories.”

-Benny Vega, 9



“After high school I would like to go to college for architecture and design because I have always admired building and designing new things.”

-Alex Escalante, 10



“I look forward to getting accepted into the school of my dreams, UCLA, and becoming a well-known pediatrician.”

-Katheleen Madera, 11



“I look forward to going to college and participating in track. I also want to study fashion design so I can become a model.”

-Giselle Burgos, 12

FEATURES

Roldan chosen in first round of MLS draft

BY ELIZABETH JACOME
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On January 15th, El Rancho High School alumnus Cristian Roldan was selected sixteenth by the Seattle Sounders FC in the first round of the Major League Soccer draft.

Leading up to his achievements include his time at El Rancho, which were just the beginning of what will soon be his professional career. In fact, Roldan says, "If I was told two years ago that I would be drafted into the MLS after my sophomore year in college, I would have said you were the biggest liar."

Prior to the draft, a MLS combine took place where each player competed and was ranked according to their performance and skills.

Roldan was predicted to be the second pick of the round but was instead chosen 16th. Even though Roldan went lower than predicted, he says that "the lower you go, the better the team is."

While at El Rancho, Roldan was on the boy's varsity soccer team all four years. During his senior year, he was named Gatorade Player of the year. Roldan is the fourth boys Gatorade National Player of the Year from California and the first from Los Angeles County.

This award is given to the best student-athlete in each of the twelve sports in each of the fifty states. The honor is based on athletic achievement, academic excellence, and exemplary character.

One male and one female are selected from the twelve National Player of the Year recipients. A national panel made up of



Cristian Roldan, Class of 2012, during the MLS draft that took place in Philadelphia.

sports journalist and coaches then votes on a player. Finally, the two athletes of the year receive their awards at a special ceremony.

In addition, Roldan also graduated high school with an overall GPA of 3.73. Roldan says that his time at El Rancho "helped make the transition from an academic standpoint easier than [he] thought it would be."

Roldan believes Dominic Picon, Intro to Law teacher, has been the most influential person in his life because "he taught me what character is, which goes a long way."

Picon, head soccer varsity coach at the time, says that Roldan was "an extremely hard worker that had a lot of heart on the field."

Senior Francisco Miranda played with Roldan when he was at El Rancho and says, "It was a great experience to have been able to play with a player

that has great talent like [Cristian Roldan]; it's rare to find someone with so much talent yet be so humble." Miranda also adds that Roldan influenced him in a way that made him develop his leadership skills on and off the field.

Roldan credits part of his success to school. He says, "I didn't get where I am today without school. I know I'm leaving early, so I am kind of contradicting myself, but it took a high GPA to get into college."

As for any advice to anyone wanting to take the same course of action, he says, "Take your education as seriously as you can and the rest will come [along]."

After high school, Roldan was recruited by the University of Washington and was offered a full ride scholarship. He then went on to win other awards at the University of Washington, including newcomer of year, Pac-

12 freshman of the year, national freshman of the year and Pac-12 academic honorable mention.

Alternatively, Roldan made the decision to leave school because he was able to sign a contract that offered to pay for his studies on top of everything else that was offered.

He says, "My education is very important to my family and I, and knowing that I have school paid for afterwards made [the decision] easier."

While playing professionally, Roldan will still be attending school by taking an online class every quarter. Roldan knows that getting into a professional environment will only make him a better player and says, "The sooner I'm able to do so, the better off I will be."

Another part of Roldan's success has been his endless support system, which includes his

family. Alexander Roldan, the youngest of the three brothers, who now attends Seattle University, says that he "admires [his brother's] ambition and competitiveness to strive for success."

Alex Roldan was relieved that his brother ended up in a place that benefits the both of them because he is allowed to see him at the same time his brother develops his professional career.

Some of the biggest challenges that Roldan will be facing are "the speed and physicality of playing at the next level." Roldan says that playing professionally isn't a luxury job because "you have to produce to keep receiving a paycheck." However, Roldan was also relieved that the Sounders drafted him because "Seattle has been [his] second home for the past two years."

Roldan is most excited about "being able to share a locker room with guys like Clint Dempsey and Ozzie Alonso." The Sounder season starts March 8 yet practice for the Sounders started the day after the draft and, so far, Roldan says, "It's been a very different change. I'm playing with guys who are now 10-12 years older than me."

Moreover, Picon says that Roldan will continue to be successful because "soccer is his passion. He is totally dedicated to becoming the best player he can be and is willing to learn from anyone."

He also adds, "[Cristian] comes from a great family. I coached all three of the Roldan brothers and what stands out about them is that they were all very good kids that were completely dedicated to El Rancho High School."

Gutierrez and Guirado's Golden Opportunity

BY NATALLY MAURICIO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Ernie Johnson is a well-known name at El Rancho High School. Johnson was the football coach during the long-standing championships of El Rancho during the sixties. As a dedication to him, El Rancho alumni renamed the "El Rancho High School Golf Classic" to the "Ernie Johnson Memorial Golf Tournament".

Each year the tournament fund raises money for the school's athletic department and as an incentive this year, part of the money was given as scholarships to two seniors. The students awarded the money this year were Melissa Gutierrez and Nelson Guirado.

"We wanted the money raised to go back to something for the students," says Mary Chapman, Assistant Principal of Activities. "We asked each coach to nominate a graduating senior from their sport that they coach and the top three boys and top three girls were chosen by the golf tournament committee. Criteria such as academic progress, ath-

letic statistics, and overall good character were taken into account when nominating the students."

Every player in the tournament chose the two winners at the golf tournament, which took place January 9th. The players were given information, such as the students' GPA, and they voted for the students who they felt deserving of the \$500 scholarship.

"I was very happy when I found out I had won the scholarship since it was the first scholarship I had received" says Gutierrez, "I knew absolutely nothing about the scholarship until I actually found out that I had been awarded it."

On how she plans to spend the scholarship money, Gutierrez intends to buy her college textbooks with it. "My top schools to attend are California Institute of Technology and USC. I would like to major in Environmental Engineering."

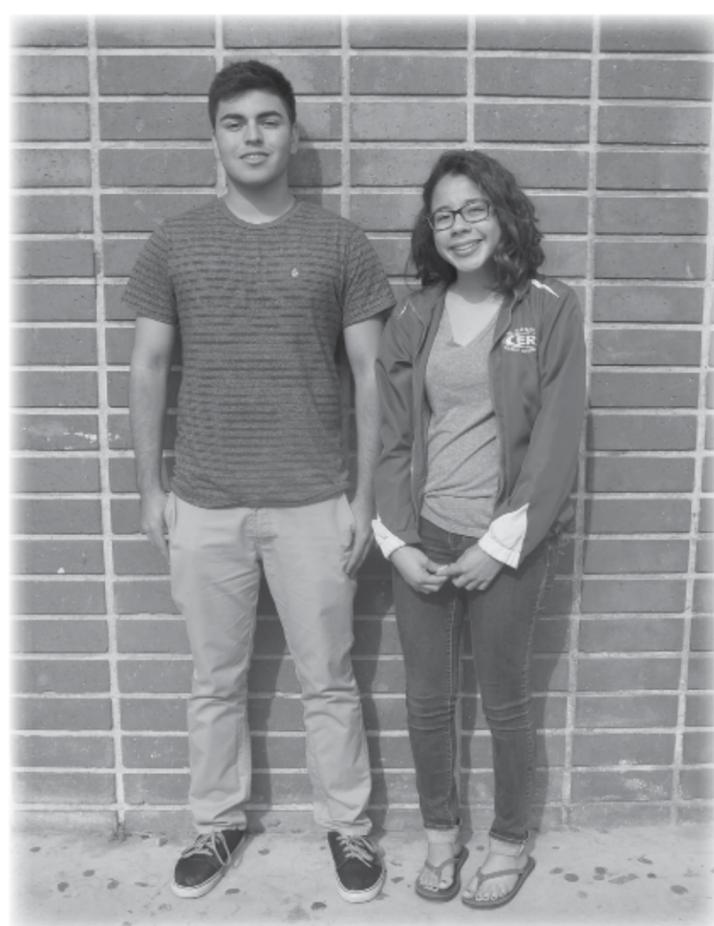
Gutierrez advises any athlete student looking to win any scholarships to "learn to balance sports and school in a way such that [they] don't stress too

much." She believes that "only then will [students] truly be able to do [their] best in both areas."

"Not only do you have to do all your school assignments and study, you also have to keep a healthy social life. Make sure to have a well-rounded schedule and learn to manage your time wisely," says Guirado, the male scholarship winner. "Although you don't have as much free time as you would like, all your hard work will pay off in the end."

That proved to be true as Guirado recently got accepted to the Florida Institute of Technology. "My other top schools of interest are USC and the Carnegie Institute of Technology. I would like to major in Chemical Engineering," he says. Guirado hopes to use the scholarship money to pay off part of his tuition.

For anyone looking to win a scholarship much like the Ernie Johnson Scholarship, Gutierrez and Guirado's words are ones to follow. They are great examples of students who are not only achieving at a high level, but have also made an impact on their team.



Guirado and Gutierrez set an example for all student-athletes.

PICTURE YOURSELF

Rivera Partners with Cal Poly Pomona



The Rivera Eagles Track and Field team during a competition.

By JAZMIN HERNANDEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Contrary to what people believe, Burke isn't the only school in El Rancho Unified to have a technology program. This year Rivera Middle School will have similar courses that Burke offers, although the school will still be called Rivera Middle School.

Rivera Middle School has partnered with California State Polytechnic University, Pomona through Project Lead the Way (PLTW). With this partnership, Rivera Middle School will now offer science-based activities, projects and problem-solving curriculum. Through this, students will be involved in a cooperative part of learning.

This program offers a dif-

ferent approach to learning. Some of the skills the project has to offer to students are scientific process, application of technology, and engineering problem solving. Furthermore, students will know how technological systems work with other systems and how to solve problems with the use of mathematics knowledge and skills in solving problems knowledge and skills. In addition, the students will understand how to communicate effectively through reading, writing, listening and speaking. Lastly, the students will learn how to work effectively with others.

Rivera has added Computer Design and Modeling, Automation and Robotics, and Science labs as elective courses. Also, Rivera has incorporated Computer applications, Engineer-

ing and many other Common Core Electives to get its students ready for the 21st Century.

One of the common core electives is Creative Writing, which is taught by English teacher April Vela. This is the first year that Vela has taught Creative Writing, although she has had a Creative Writing club after school for several years.

Vela describes Creative Writing as "an introduction to poetry." This class basically focuses on reading, writing and reciting poetry. Vela and James Sorenson, an English teacher at El Rancho High School, collaborate together on this course. Vela says, "I get a lot of my ideas from Mr. Sorenson."

Vela thinks that Creative Writing is a great way to start the

process of understanding poetry, a difficult concept to write and at times to even comprehend. Vela also believes that her students need to "express their ideas, emotions, and personal experiences" in order to write poetry effectively.

The core of this course is to have students understand and express their ideas. It is also about practicing and sharing their work in public.

Vela incorporates the students' input by having them have a say in their work. Vela says, "As far as the ideas of what to write and how to write, I leave it up to the students." With Creative Writing, Vela has the opportunity to make a change in the lives of her students. Vela says, "This is the first time the students are being told that what they have to say matters, and I want them to understand this."

One thing that Vela emphasizes with her students is that in order to pass her class, they must recite a poem at her open mic night. Vela hosts Purge Poetry Open Mic Night at the Pico Rivera library. The event is once a month and it is usually the third or fourth Wednesday of the month. Vela says, "It is open for the community; however, most of the people who recite are my students."

Vela prepares her students for their final project by having them practice in front of a stage. Vela says, "I have my students practice in the cafeteria with a microphone. Then, "I have other classes go to the cafeteria and watch them recite their poems." Vela decided to integrate this so her students could get the practice of public speaking.

Now there is the option to take technology courses at Rivera and Burke Middle School. With this advancement towards education, the community will indeed prosper.

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Defining craft and culture at North Park Middle School

By JAMES CHOW
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Distinguished by its marching band, North Park Middle School is one rare gem among three gems in Pico Rivera. However, this school isn't just limited to a successful music department. North Park has implemented new technology to compliment its student-safe environment and has a new policy to motivate students to be successful.

North Park now has an upgraded library with new genres of books and updated computers for the students. Also, this school has presented arts programs, progressing the school to become more art-identified. These new facilities present North Park as a school "with a lot to offer. They have homework club after school and lunch activities [as well]," says seventh-grader Alyssa Marquez.

The environment of this

campus is welcoming and close-knit. Marquez says, "North Park's environment is friendly. If someone has a problem with bullies, he/she can always talk to a staff member." Principal Priscilla Rodriguez says, "One of the things we really wanted to focus on is really changing the culture of our campus. We want to teach kids to become respectful men and women and teach them to gain perseverance." The students do this by shaking hands with staff every day before entering the school.

Changes come in chunks. North Park has exemplified this in recent years, which is easily shown in its ever-progressing student-staff camaraderie and in its new shift in focus to the arts. Sixth grader Valentin Toscano expresses the same sentiments of Marquez. "[North Park] is a fine environment. It has great teachers such as Ms. Tanielu. She is a great teacher because when you need

the help, she will give it to you. In one way or another, you will learn important concepts in her class." In accordance to the new elec-



tives, many of the students express approval. Toscano says, "I will be involved in comic club as well as

art programs when I move on to seventh grade." Seventh grader Jaime DeHaro says, "I plan on taking advantage of the new elec-

tives [North Park] offers because I want to experience new things." This cordial middle school

has also implemented new campaigns to get students excited about college. Principal Rodriguez recently introduced the Grit Campaign to her students to encourage them to be dauntless and determined. This campaign involves a series of "grit challenges" where kids write down their goals on a yellow sheet of paper and post it on the wall in the school's library. Rodriguez encourages her students through this motion. "The definition of guts is when stuff gets hard, but things don't bring you down." The Grit Campaign embodies "guts" and teaches the students to become successful in their goals despite the struggles.

Furthermore, Rodriguez has also initiated a "Caught Being Good" movement. This consists of students committing considerate actions such as opening gates for staff and complimenting teachers and custodians on their

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Burke Middle School Picks up S.T.E.A.M.

BY MARISOL ALMAZAN
 EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Burke Middle School has recently undergone a major transition. Beginning with the 2014-2015 academic year, Burke Middle School became The STEAM Academy. Principal Elias Vargas says, "The STEAM Academy is a full service magnet middle school with a strong emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math."

This major change was brought about because of the community's desire to offer more to their youth. "The change was brought on by the demand from the community to offer more innovative and cutting edge approaches to education," says Vargas. "Families within Pico Rivera deserve choices and options just as we see in other communities, and we wanted to create a magnet school that attracted families from not only Pico Rivera, but also surrounding cities as well," Vargas added.

Since many parents want their children to attend The STEAM Academy, any student is allowed to apply for the magnet school. "We serve all

neighborhood students, and accept applications from surrounding areas as well," says Vargas.

Natalie Muñoz, an 8th grader at The STEAM Academy, transferred to this school specifically because of Burke's switch to a magnet school. "I wanted to come to the academy because I felt that I could get more education and special electives," says Muñoz. "I thought I would have a great experience with learning different ideas," she added.

The STEAM Academy offers many new things for its students. "STEAM Academy offers Introduction to Robotics and Coding, Environmental Science, Digital Imaging, Studio Art, Mariachi, Google Apps for Education, Video Production, Creative Writing, Engineering and Design, Spanish, and Digital Music Production," he added.

Any student attending is able to take these electives. "Since we operate on a seven-period day, every student here can choose multiple electives in addition to their core classes," says Vargas.

Muñoz, for example, takes her course classes along with two electives. "I am currently taking Google Apps for Education and

Spanish. I am learning new and interesting things," says Muñoz. "I love that we do so many things with technology. It's fun when we use the chrome books to play games that test us on what we have learned. I like the fact that I am being introduced to classes and skills that will help me prepare for high school," says Muñoz.

Although the magnet school has proven to be great, the transition itself has been difficult. "The transition has been a tremendous amount of work for the staff since all of our new course offerings have been designed and created by the teachers themselves," says Vargas. "Teachers have been great, going above and beyond to come together and help create these amazing classes and programs," he added.

All the hard work that the teachers have done does not go unnoticed by the students. "The students truly appreciate all the different classes that are offered to them; they routinely express how much more they enjoy school," says Vargas.

Although many advantages came with the transition, there was also a downside. "The only downside was that many of us

didn't have a traditional summer break; in some cases we only took two or three days of all summer as compared to the traditional three to four weeks, but it was necessary and worth it," says Vargas.

Having no summer seemed to have paid off for all of the teachers in the end. "Seeing the students engaged in their learning and truly enjoying coming to school is truly an upside," says Vargas. "Also, hearing the gratitude from the families, who have repeatedly said they never thought they'd see a school like this in Pico Rivera, has been great," he added.

In addition, the school mascot was also changed. "We changed our mascot from the Falcon to the Jaguars because the Jaguar is a symbol of vision, foresight, and courage," says Vargas. "Being the first magnet school, we have to have all three characteristics in not only the staff, but also the students and families as well," he added.

According to Vargas, The STEAM Academy is something that the community of Pico Rivera needed. Vargas says "This is something our community deserves and being able to deliver it to them has been awesome!"



'Round The Ranch

- Who is the stadium named after? _____
- How many people are on the mural by the pool deck? _____
- In which building will you take Foreign Language? _____
- Which restroom is located next to the college and career center?
 circle one:  
- On what building would you find the class of 2012 mural? _____
- How many tables are in front of the main gym? _____
- Name 3 two-story buildings. _____
- Next to which buildings are the skateboard/ bicycle racks located? _____
- Where can you get laughs for 50 cents? _____
- Between which buildings is the bird house? _____
- Where can you find the giant blue eye? _____



Visiting 8th graders, as you tour the campus try to answer the following questions. Keep your eyes open because the first 3 students to answer them all correctly will be awarded a prize at the end of the tour.



A teacher is given stacks of tickets, with each ticket given to students who are "caught being good." The tickets are then given off every month, giving every candidate a chance to win a gift card to a store of his or her choice. Although the idea of "paying someone to be a good person" might seem dubious, Rodriguez reiterates her goal of establishing good character in each student. "I want students to continue doing good [deeds] without having a reward. With this campaign, we've reduced suspensions. I place more emphasis on being a good student because I want my students to be ready for the college and the business world." Along with these new additions, North Park still maintains its outstanding marching band. Jaime DeHaro says, "participating in the] North Park has been the best experi-

ence of my life because I have met many wonderful people and experienced meaningful moments. Our director has taught us not only to play instruments but has also taught us life lessons that will influence [our decisions] in the future." Echoing the same sense of enjoyment, Sixth-grader Lupita DeHaro says, "[The band] is fun, and I have learned a lot of responsibilities from it." Supplementary to his marching band, director Ron Wakefield has also added new Beginning Guitar Lessons and Advanced Guitar for those who have little interest in taking part of the band but show an interest in an instrument. New innovations amongst old traditions progress North Park Middle School to an avant-garde state. With this artistic approach coupled with new formalities, this middle school has portrayed a sense of maturity, expanding its reputation and stature.

CAMPUS

The Chavez Ravine recounts historical event

BY LAURA CASTRO-SPENCER
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER



Ivy Castillo, Anthony Cervantes, Daniel Barragan, and Elizabeth Martinez perform at the dress rehearsal.

The El Rancho Advanced Drama and Thespian Society will unite tonight and tomorrow night to perform Culture Clash's *The Chavez Ravine*. The production is about the struggle the residents of Chavez Ravine endured as they fought to protect their land from Walter O'Malley, the man who wanted to play ball with the people of Chavez Ravine.

The play includes doses of American history such as the War on Communism along with the creation of the world famous Dodger Stadium. Director Stanley Wlasick chose this play because El Rancho has a Mexican-American heritage class, and he wanted students to understand how much history lies in the grounds of Los Angeles. In order for the performers to understand what life was like during that time period, Wlasick had his students watch a documentary about the Chavez Ravine and also look at photographs of the community before it was torn down to build Dodger Stadium.

"Dodger Stadium has been there all my life, but I

didn't know anything about the Chavez Ravine," said Amavizca. "It's a really tragic story about how all these people have been displaced." Junior Isaac Carlos sides with the people who wanted to build public housing for the residents of the Chavez Ravine. "They wanted people to come back, so their intentions were good, but I didn't side with Mister O'Malley. After this play I can't look at Dodger Stadium the same," said Amavizca.

Most stage productions are situated on one setting; however this play has two settings, the Chavez Ravine and Dodger Stadium. "In order to capture both settings, [Digital Imaging teacher] Mrs. Cruella was instrumental in helping blow up actual pictures of the Chavez Ravine, and [the illusion of] Dodger Stadium was created by the bleachers. We had incorporated both aspects of the Chavez Ravine," said Wlasick.

Though the Chavez Ravine

story is over 60 years old, Wlasick hopes that students who see the play take away the eternal message that it's okay to "take a stand when they see that a wrong is being done and see that often it's important to stand up and make sure that their voice is heard."

The Chavez Ravine will be playing tonight and tomorrow night at 7 o'clock in the Little Theater. Admission is ten dollars and the profits will be used for the upcoming musical.



Mrs. Eaves's students look at old El Rancho yearbooks.

Students take a trip to Pico Rivera's Past

BY GABRIELLE MAGANA AND
JANELLE MERCADO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

Recently, Mrs. Eaves' Adult Transition class visited the Pico Rivera Historical Museum. The class teaches students skills necessary to transition from high school to the outside world. The class also donated two photos of El Rancho's Cheer Squad of 1959 to the Pico Rivera Historical Museum.

When entering the museum, the class learned that the Pico Rivera Museum itself was originally a train depot that relocated to the southern part of the city. Built around 1887, people were able to ride from the City of Los Angeles to San Diego. During the 1970's the train depot was about to be demolished, but was instead transformed into a city facility. Volunteers of the Pico Rivera History and Heritage Society now operate the Museum.

The students were offered the chance to view photos and various artifacts that tell of Pico Rivera's history. The class was pleased to enjoy an afternoon full of insight, viewing artifacts ranging from yearbooks of past El Rancho alumni, to furniture from the early 1900s. Each observed objects illustrated Pico Rivera's origins and how it continued to develop.

The trip allowed students to learn the history of Pico Rivera while also inspiring them to learn about their own backgrounds. Volunteer archivist and manager, Susana C. Lozano, who was present during the time of Mrs. Eaves' Class trip, stated that visits like these "give students a glimpse of what the city was like in the past. It's easier to move forward if you know where you've been."

Weekly trips such as this gives the Adult Transition class the ability to utilize the skills they learn in the classroom, such as practicing how to walk on side walks, how to cross streets, and how to avoid strangers. This type of knowledge allows the students to become more independent individuals outside of El Rancho.

Mrs. Eaves says she "wants people to see [her students] out there, to socialize with them, and to not be afraid." It's just as important to have learning experiences outside the classroom as it is within the classroom.

Winter Formal '15

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ENTERTAINMENT

MARK
RONSON

FEAT: BRUNO
MARS



UPTOWN FUNK!

Music Review- *Uptown Special*

BY SARAH ARAUJO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Many El Rancho students have heard the vivacious and catchy hit single “Uptown Funk.” At first listen, some might be led to believe that the song is solely by well-known artist Bruno Mars; however that is not the case. “Uptown Funk” is a song featured on Grammy-nominated producer and musician Mark Ronson’s latest album.

The song is one of Ronson’s greatest hits, and has become the most streamed track in a week with a record of 2.49 million downloads. Mark Ronson is also known for his song “Valerie” featuring the late Amy Winehouse on her album “Back

to Black.” Ronson’s album, “Uptown Special” dropped on January 13th, and quickly climbed up the charts. “Uptown Special” is home to many guests’ vocalists from Stevie Wonder, Bruno Mars, and Mystikal. “Ronson’s album presents upbeat sounds and jazzy beats thought to have been lost to another era. It has received positive reviews from critics, who say that the album is “an undeniably sexy (mix) of funk and R&B, with a feature of pop friendly tracks” and a “contagiously cool vibe.”

Some of the more notable songs on the album are “Summer Breaking,” “Feel Right,” and “I Can’t Lose.” Fans both young and old will enjoy this album for its quality sounds and array of talented artists.

• She & Him *Classics* Music Review

BY JANELLE MERCADO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

She & Him features the rather strange pair, consisting of actress Zoey Deschanel and country artist M. Ward in a series of vintage playlists. The band’s newest album, *Classic*, which was released December 2nd, is a mixture of previously existing songs. Featuring thirteen covers of music recorded by several of the golden artists from the 30s leading up to the 70s, *Classics* is a followup to the band’s previous album Volume 3. Ultimately an illustration of the ups and downs of love, the music is perpetually retro and full of jazzy cadences.

She & Him cover songs,

previously recorded by Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra, Elvis Costello, and many more, successfully revisiting the past. With periods of electric guitar solos and soft percussion in the background, *Classics* contains bits of the therapeutic rhythms of the 60s. And when one rolls across the climatic cadence of only the album’s second song, “Oh No, Not My Baby,” he or she can almost envision a musical adaptation of Joni Mitchell’s “California” playing across a room.

Deschanel’s somber tone in “This Girl’s In Love With You” allows the audience to experience a girl’s desirous emotions of love. One is almost certain that M. Ward is responding to Zoey

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From “Teach Me Tonight” to “It’s Always You,” the audience witnesses the joyful aspects of romance through the sweet murmurs of Deschanel. But when “Unchained Melody” begins, the album, with a slow pulse, takes a melancholic turn. The audience can almost hear the longing in Deschanel’s voice in “I’ll Never Be Free.”

Beginning with an optimistic “Stars Fell on Alabama” and concluding with a hopeful “We’ll Meet Again,” it’s clear that *Classics* illustrates a romance story with a retro twist.



LIBRARY CORNER

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- You will pay attention to the announcements, the Don Page, El Rodeo, twitter, and the signs all over campus.
- You will notice school staff wearing their **READ** shirts.
- Your class might come to the Get Lit Poetry Performances.
- 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.
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• You will come to the Book Fair in the library on Thursday and Friday, Feb.26-27, 7:30am-3:30pm. Open all day. Students, cash only, please.

Teen Read Week at ERHS is February 23-27, 2015.



ENTERTAINMENT

MARK
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FEAT: BRUNO
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UPTOWN FUNK!

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Beginning with an optimistic “Stars Fell on Alabama” and concluding with a hopeful “We’ll Meet Again,” it’s clear that *Classics* illustrates a romance story with a retro twist.



LIBRARY CORNER

This celebration of reading is brought to you by the ER Library.

How will you know that it's Teen Read Week?

- You will pay attention to the announcements, the Don Page, El Rodeo, twitter, and the signs all over campus.
- You will notice school staff wearing their **READ** shirts.
- Your class might come to the Get Lit Poetry Performances.
- 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.



- **NEW THIS YEAR:** You might receive a special pass to come and read to the Library Dogs on Monday, Feb.23.
- You decide to get a free **READ** tattoo in the quad at lunch on Tuesday, Feb.25th.
- You will rush over to Literary Lunchbag Theater in the Little Theater at lunch on Wednesday, Feb.25th.
- You will come to the Book Fair in the library on Thursday and Friday, Feb.26-27, 7:30am-3:30pm. Open all day. Students, cash only, please.

Teen Read Week at ERHS is February 23-27, 2015.



SPORTS

Girls water polo stays afloat



Senior Co-Captain Melody Carbajal making a pass.

By BREANNA PEREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The girls' water polo team currently holds an overall record of 14 wins and 6 losses and, a league record of 2 wins and 1 loss as they approach an end to their season.

With only three games left in league, the team continues to accomplish goals they set for themselves when season officially began. "Our communication has gotten a lot better. There are still some things we're working towards, but we're about 50% right now," says Coach Meghan Carbajal. Other improvements that have been evident throughout the season are the team's growth. "It's great seeing the girls become more confident while playing. I'm excited to watch the team grow inside and out of the water," says co-captain Sierra Edwards.

The girls have a noticeable commitment to the team due to their three-streak win against Whittier (19-3), Santa Fe (15-3), and Paramount High School (19-4). Although they lost against Cal High, it was "that game that made the girls push themselves harder so [they] could come back from that loss," says co-captain Melody Carbajal.

As the team prepares for their next match against their rival team, La Serna, the Dons focus on how they can develop as a whole. "I think the girls could use more work on their shooting and getting the ball inside the cage as well as seeing who's open and knowing where the ball is," says co-captain Leonila Sargento.

Despite La Serna being El Rancho's rival team for the past couple of years, the Dons don't feel intimidated. Sargento says, "I don't believe in being feared by my opponents." Edwards has a similar mindset by saying, "my goal is to do my best in helping the team learn to come out strong no matter who or where we play."

As of now the team is shooting for 2nd place in league. However, if the Dons beat the Lancers, then the girls will be in a three-way tie for first place.

Support the Dons on Tuesday February 3rd at 3:15pm when they compete against the La Serna Lancers.

Girls' basketball continues their legacy



Senior captain Sara Gurrola dribbling the ball attempting to shoot a basket.

By BREANNA PEREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Halfway through Del Rio league play, the girls' basketball team has a league record of 4 wins and 1 loss, and an overall record of 13 wins and 9 losses.

In league play, the Dons have 7 competitions left, and strive to win more than, or at least, 20 matches. The team focuses on this goal by fixating on ways to improve their chances of scoring and taking advantage of the opportunities present when on offense and defense. "Offensively we are scoring more. As a team everyone is contributing

during a game, not just one player is doing all the work, and that's really important for us," says co-captain Ashley Miller. Other factors that the team focuses on during practice is to "improve defense and work on shooting free throws to score more," says co-captain Sarah Gurrola.

The goal the Dons are set on this season is making it past the first round of CIF. "We have never past the first round in all the years. That's something that has never been done by the girls, and we want to break that cycle," says Ashley Miller. The girls are off to a good start based on the Dons achieving their goal of

making it to the semi-finals. "We finished 2nd, 3rd, and 4th in the 3 tournaments we competed in, which is probably our best outcomes for 3 tournaments in a single year," says Coach Shigezane.

As of now, the team's focus is playing against Whittier High. Since the Dons lost to them in the first round of league, the girls are currently in second place. "If we put in a good effort at home when we compete against Whittier and win, then we would tie for first place in league," says Coach Shigezane.

The Dons' next match will be against the Lancers tonight at 5pm at La Serna High School.

Boys' basketball team remains optimistic

By MARISOL ALMAZAN
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Halfway through Del Rio League, the boys' varsity basketball team currently holds an overall record of 9-12. In league action, the Dons sit at 1-4, having lost to La Serna, Whittier, California, and Pioneer, and beaten Santa Fe.

Senior captain Arturo Gomez says, "We are not doing too well, but we hope to end with a bang by taking note of the plays we are doing wrong and trying not to keep making the same mistakes."

Senior captain Mark Zesati agrees with Gomez. "I'm aware of the fact that we have had a very slow start, but if we practice enough, I have no doubt that things will start to click again," says Zesati.

Both captains agree that in order to improve their game, they need to pinpoint their weaknesses as well as excel their strengths. "We need to watch recordings of games and see where we made mistakes. From there we could make adjustments on how we play," says Gomez. "I've noticed that we allow our opponents to make too many easy buckets," Gomez added.

Zesati agrees with Gomez. "One of our teams major weaknesses is rebounding. We give up way too many offensive rebounds to the opposing team," says Zesati. "We have to rebound the ball better and keep the game at a faster pace," Gomez added.



Senior captain Mark Zesati attempting to block a pass.

Zesati and Gomez further explained the weaknesses they have noticed in the team. "It is crucial that we make more baskets and shoot a higher percentage. We also need to do a better job at getting back on defense," says Gomez. "We tend to not block as well as we should, but this is a mistake that can easily be fixed if we prac-

tice hard enough," Zesati added.

Although both Zesati and Gomez agree that the team has a lot of work to do, they also acknowledge the team's strengths. "Our teams major strength is the ability to shoot the ball and run out in transition," says Gomez. "I think its great that our team possesses the ability to score as soon as we get out on the court,

Major league athletes who graduated from El Rancho High

By Elizabteh Jacome
El Rodeo Staff Writer

William Nelsen (aka Bill Nelsen)- Class of 1959 former quarterback for the Pittsburg Steelers and the Cleveland Browns

Tom Egan- Class of 1964 former major league catcher for various teams

Scott Reid- Class of 1965 former MLB outfielder with the Philadelphia Phillies

Gene Ellis Klutts (aka Mickey Klutts)- Class of 1972 MLB various positions for various teams

Richard Camarillo- Class of 1977 former NFL punter for the New England Patriots

Randy Flores- Class of 1993 MLB pitcher for various teams

Ronald Flores- Class of 1997 MLB relief pitcher for various teams

Cesar Ramos- Class of 2002 pitcher for the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim

and put pressure on our opponents defense," Zesati added.

A quality that all team members possess, which both captains are proud of is their ability to balance school as well as basketball. "A majority of our players are on top of their school work; however, there are some players that we need to make sure get their work done. Our coach, Mr. Elliot, always preaches that school work is more important than basketball," says Zesati. "For example our coach cut practice short all finals week so that we had extra time to study for our exams," Zesati added.

Gomez has a particular strategy for keeping up with his schoolwork during basketball season. "I balance school with basketball by doing as much work as I can during school, especially 6th period because that is my basketball period meaning I can work on my homework," says Gomez.

With all of the team members school work going so well, both captains anticipate their comeback on the court. "Even though we haven't started out as strong as we liked to, we are still playing hard and fighting for a win every night," says Gomez. "I'm looking forward to making a comeback in league and making it to the playoffs," Zesati added.

Make sure to come and support the El Rancho boys' varsity basketball team as they take on the La Serna Lancers tonight at 7p.m. at La Serna High School.

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WINTER FORMAL WILL BE ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7 AT THE ALMANSOR COURT.