

El Rodeo

The Ranch says
goodbye to beloved
staff members

Read about retirees'
post-El Rancho plans

Pages 15-17

Seniors participate in
end of year activities

Look back at
senior week events

Page 13

Learn more about our
graduating seniors!

Grads reveal their plans
for after high school

Pages 8-9

Photo by Franky Leon

Index

Opinion - 2	Opinion - 3	Campus - 4	Campus - 5	Features - 6	Features - 7
Senior Features - 8	Senior Features - 9	Senior Wills - 10	Senior Wills - 11	#FromElRanchoToAnywhere - 12	
Senior Rewind - 13	Entertainment - 14	Retiring Teachers - 15	Retiring Teachers - 16	@elrodeonews	
Retiring Features - 17	Staff Farewells - 18	Staff Farewells - 19	Senior Favs + - 20	www.elrodeonews.com	

OPINION

An early look at the 2020 election

BY ANTONIO ESCOBAR
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Although the election is still over a year from now, the race for the presidency has already begun. Many politicians and pop culture figures have declared their plan to run for office in the 2020 presidential election. It is still early, but the election is already starting to draw controversy and conversation from all parties.

The Democratic Party has generated concern for their seemingly unorganized and unconventional campaign strategies. As of May, the Democratic Party had contributed 24 out of the 26 confirmed candidates. Of those candidates, the most noteworthy are Joe Biden, Bernie Sanders, and Elizabeth Warren. These three political powers and are the most likely to secure a Democratic nomination in the upcoming election.

While it is still much too early to call anything, most people can agree that the candidate most likely to be selected by the Democratic Party is Joe Biden. The former Vice President announced his campaign on August 25, 2019. The Demo-

crats seem perfectly happy to back the experienced politician, as opposed to taking a gamble on a young progressive. However despite party backing, Biden has had his share of problems.

The biggest of these problems is the number of allegations against him regarding his alleged harassment or mistreatment of women. To add fuel to the fire, Biden responded, and said he was "not sorry" for any of his actions. President Trump would later go on to post a video ridiculing Biden's actions. However, the controversy seems to have little to no effect on the former Vice President's campaign, as he is still performing well in polls across the country.

Bernie Sanders is a name most young voters are familiar with. The Vermont senator ran a popular media-centered campaign in the 2016 presidential election, but failed to secure the nomination. Seen as far too progressive by some, and as the future of the nation by others, Sanders has created even more division among an already fragmented party.

Sanders' campaign has raised \$18 million so far, and

Sanders stands as the biggest challenger to Biden's campaign. It is important to note that although Sanders' policies were once considered extreme, most of them have been integrated into mainstream Democratic beliefs. However, this does not necessarily promise a win for Sanders, as many conservative Americans are not in favor of the socialist policies that seem to be rising in popularity. If the Democrats chose to push these policies, they could risk losing the support of more moderate voters.

Another contender for the Democratic nomination is Elizabeth Warren. Warren currently serves as the Senator of Massachusetts, and has had successes in politics and in education. She has helped establish the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and has served as a law professor at several prestigious universities. Warren's progressive platform has proposed complete student loan forgiveness and an increased tax on the upper class to fund universal healthcare. Policies such as these are usually alluring in theory, but are met with challenges when it

comes to execution, giving cause for some voters' skepticism.

Warren is also a source of recent controversy for fabricating stories that claimed she was of Cherokee descent. This caused ridicule by the general public, large media influencers, and even by President Trump who used the story to target Warren's campaign.

In comparison to the Democratic Party, the Republican Party is far more united. Although there is one challenger to the incumbent president, it is common for a president to be given the nomination for re-election. There is no reason to suspect that won't be the case now. This means the 2020 GOP nominee will almost certainly be Donald Trump.

The entire nation is familiar with Donald Trump's beliefs and his policies. Some of these include heightened border control, protection of the second amendment, loosening of government restrictions on the economy, and making sure America is respected by the international community.

On one hand, Trump has accomplished a few of his 2016 campaign promises during his presidency, such as managing

to start talks with North Korea, unemployment reaching record lows, and making the Supreme Court more conservative. However, he has had a multitude of ethical, political, and personal controversies that have turned some of his more diverse constituents against him. Vulgar internet comments, the lengthy government shutdown, and ongoing investigations into his campaign all have tarnished his image in the eyes of the American people as well as the global community. However among the GOP, the president has maintained significant support that he is likely to keep throughout the entire election.

With more than a year to go, there is no telling what will happen between now and the election. However if one was to try to gauge the current situation based on the importance of unity, the GOP is in a much better position to win than the Democratic Party. Only time will tell whether the democrats will all back one candidate like the GOP has, or if they will remain fractured and further damage their odds of success.

School Choice: What is right for our education system?

BY DYLAN JOSEPH
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

When Betsy DeVos became the U.S secretary of education, the debate about school choice reignited. Her appointment as Secretary left one crucial question. What role should the government play in education?

Charter schools are at the center of this debate. A charter school is a publicly funded independent school established by teachers, parents, or community groups under the terms of a charter with a local or national authority. They do not charge tuition and have more flexibility in the curriculum taught to students.

Politicians across the political aisle have supported

charter schools from Obama to Trump. Unlike many issues facing America today, charter schools are viewed favorably by both major political parties.

In my opinion, charter schools are superior in almost every way to public schools. For example charter schools, unlike public schools, have an incentive to compete for students. As a result, they produce higher test scores, provide better education, and best of all, decent food.

The reason charter schools are better than public schools is because they have room to experiment with the curriculum. They can also implement what works and discard practices that don't work with relative ease compared to their public counter-

parts. Public schools, on the other hand, have less control over what is taught and how it is taught.

Despite spending fifteen-thousand per student, the public school education system is still broken. The solution is not to pour more money into the education department; it's to get altogether rid of the system and replace it with something more efficient and productive.

Many developed nations have an education system based on school choice. Sweden, Australia, New Zealand, and other European nations. These countries outrank the U.S in many education categories.

However, there are some downsides to charters. With freedom, people do bad things, and

some charters do waste money, some fail, some are ineffective, but the beauty of free market competition is the lousy charter schools fail and disappear, and the rest improve and continue to excel.

To say charter schools are an improvement is an un-

derstatement, they are superior to public schools, and students would be better off with broader access to them. I'd propose adopting a system similar to The Nordic countries like Norway or Sweden would improve the education system in America.



With charter schools gaining popularity, could this be the end of public schools?

El Rodeo

El Rodeo is published monthly except during vacations by the El Rancho High School journalism class. The *El Rodeo* offices are located at 6501 S. Passons Blvd., Pico Rivera, CA 90660 in room X-1. The paper is printed by *The Gardena Valley News*.

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

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

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

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

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OPINION

Legislators finally stand up for human rights

BY EMILIANO LAFARGA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

In the time I have lived in California, the abortion issue has never been a controversy. With a majority of the people here having liberal views, it has always sort of been the consensus that when it comes to abortion, the only people who can make that decision are women.

In April however, Indiana placed a near total ban on second trimester abortions. In the days following, Ohio passed the heartbeat bill which banned abortions once a heartbeat was detected, and soon after Alabama went on to introduce a bill which banned the entire procedure as a whole.

Immediately after these bills became publicized, social media exploded with women and those with pro-choice beliefs, attacking the bills and the legislators who signed them. For me however, the problem came when it turned from an abortion issue into a gender issue. Women on social media began to argue "it's my body, my choice" and "if you don't have a uterus, you don't have a say."

It has never been about gender though. Once it was re-



Pro-life advocates raise signs against planned parenthood

Photo by Jim Lo Scalzo

vealed that the legislators who had signed these bills were men, women and liberals immediately jumped to the conclusion and assumed it was some sort of way to limit women's rights and saw it as an attack on the whole gender. Yes, the majority of these legislators were men, but for me I believe it was more about protecting human rights than attacking women. The goal at hand was to protect vulnerable and helpless human beings developing inside the womb rather than to attack an entire gender. It is about

saving innocent people. When you have a whole political party (Democrats) rooting for infanticide something has to be done.

The decision to abort doesn't involve just one body either. It involves killing another human being that has his or her own body. And if women and liberals want to argue it's not human then they can't read the facts. At the moment of conception, the first human cell is formed - a zygote.

The zygote is the first developmental stage of a human

embryo and is composed of human DNA and other human molecules, so its nature is undeniably human and not some other species. It shouldn't matter what you call it - whether it's zygote or fetus, once a human is developing no one should have the right to decide its fate. People will also argue that it's okay to abort a child because it's not living since it's not viable outside the womb. However, science has told us that it is considered living once a new

cell, distinct from sperm and egg, comes into existence and that happens once the zygote is formed.

Another big issue when it comes to abortion is rape. Although it is a horrific crime and those who commit such actions should be punished, why should one innocent human be killed because another was victimized? How is it fair that a human who had no say in how he or she was created be killed? Not only that, but abortions due to rape and incest combined only account for less than 1% of all abortions and the victims of this horrible crime always have the option of foster care and adoption as well.

In the end, it is not about gender, it is not about attacking women, and it is not about pushing moral beliefs onto people. In the end it is about protecting human rights. It is about going against the popular opinion in order to do the right thing and giving people the rights they deserve. It should not matter whether you have a uterus or not. You don't need a uterus to have an opinion, or a conscience to protect the vulnerable. Just because these children are still developing does not mean they deserve to be protected any less. If it is human then it has rights.

Politicians rob women of their choice

BY MARISSA DE LA CRUZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

In the last few months, the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, and Utah have created laws and bills that restrict abortion on various levels. The most alarming of which came from Alabama, whose new ban on abortion has been accused of being unconstitutional and unethical.

Under the "6-week policy," women will no longer be allowed to abort the fetus after its heartbeat is detected. Women caught having an abortion will face a class A felony, and if women leave the state to get an abortion elsewhere, they will still be prosecuted for murder in their home state. Any doctor found performing an abortion, in or out of the state, will be sentenced anywhere from 10 to 99 years in prison. This law not only infringes on women's right to their own bodies but it also directly opposes the laws of other states.

There are many misconceptions about abortion that have perhaps given rise to the recent legislative decisions and villainizing of women seeking abortions. One misconception is that women can get abortions at any stage of their pregnancy. However, the usual cutoff date is 12 weeks, or the second trimester, 24 weeks in rare cases, such as if the pregnancy is a danger to the woman. According to the National Abortion Federation (NAF), 88% of abortions happen in the first trimester, over 50% in the first eight weeks.



Pro-choice advocates raise signs in support of abortion

Photo by ACLU of Oregon

Another myth is that women are using abortion as a birth control method, but according to the NAF, 52% of women who get abortions have never had an abortion prior and most women have reported using some form of birth control method before pregnancy.

Many people don't realize that birth control methods do not guarantee full protection either. Condoms have an effective rate of 98% and birth control is 91% effective, these percentages may be high, but they still leave room for the possibility of pregnancy.

Many people believe that women who get abortions are selfish or heartless, but the decision to have an abortion is never easy. The NAF has stated that many women feel that the best course of action is to wait until they're in a more stable situation. 66% of women plan to have children when they are older, finan-

cially able to provide necessities for them, and/or in a healthy relationship with a partner so they don't have to be a single parent. Others wanted to get pregnant, but developed serious medical problems and/or learned that the fetus may develop severe deformities or health conditions.

Almost 13,000 women each year have abortions because their pregnancy is induced from rape or incest. To force a woman to give birth to a child caused by rape or incest is cruel and unethical. Yet with recent laws also implemented in these same southern states that allow rapists to receive little to no punishment, which would mean that women would face more jail time than their rapist. What kind of message is America sending to the world of they can not uphold basic moral standards?

Some pro-lifers claim that women will regret the abor-

tion afterward, but most women have cited feeling relief afterward. Nobody gets an abortion for fun. Having an abortion is a serious decision and most women do it because they have too much on the line. Some women have other children and realize that they may be in mortal, economical, and/or emotional danger if they have another child.

In some cases, a pregnancy can ruin a woman's education and future. Women who are still in high school can be suspended or no longer be permitted to attend class if they're pregnant. A school in northeast Louisiana states, "If an administrator or teacher suspects a student is pregnant, a parent conference will be held. The school reserves the right to require any female student to take a pregnancy test to confirm whether or not the suspected student is in fact pregnant. The school fur-

ther reserves the right to refer the suspected student to a physician of its choice. If the test indicates that the student is pregnant, the student will not be permitted to attend classes on the campus of Delhi Charter School." This policy also states that if the student fails to turn in a pregnancy test or is pregnant that they will no longer be allowed to attend classes.

These anti-abortion laws are not only cruel and unethical but are also a direct hit to women's rights. These laws not only remove the ability for a woman to protect her body, but it removes her right to make a choice. This is the beginning of women's rights slowly being taken away, but we can not go down without a fight. This is a call to action, not only to females but to any males who respect the women in their lives.

CAMPUS

Seniors recognized at Senior Awards Night



Mr. Jacobo bestows award upon Omar Sanchez. Photo by Mr. Crone

BY RENE GALLEGOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

As the month of June quickly draws near, students are preparing for their final moments of the school year. Seniors anticipate this time of year most, since June will be quite literally life-changing for them.

Before the senior class spreads their wings and leave the Ranch, it is custom that

the school recognizes the students for their accomplishments throughout their four years in high school. This senior-exclusive event, Senior Awards Night, took place on May 16th at 6pm.

Here, numerous awards are presented to students of the graduating class. Some of these awards are given with certificates, some with graduation regalia, and some with both.

The first honor awarded

was to the "Top Twelve," which awards the twelve highest-ranking members of the senior class for their dedication to their school work. These students will receive a medal upon graduation. These rankings also include this year's salutatorian, Carlos Bobadilla, and valedictorian, Jessica Castellanos.

The Honor Crest, which recognizes students who have maintained an accumulative grade point average of 3.333 or higher, was also presented to students on this night. These students were given certificates, a senior class mug, and will be wearing a gold stole at graduation.

Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) also received a burgundy, navy blue, and white cord. Members must have a 3.0 GPA or higher, attend a leadership conference, complete a number of community service hours, and actively participate in chapter meetings and

events to qualify for the award.

Seniors who have participated in the Key Club, a volunteering organization that has collaborated with Cedars-Sinai to put on multiple blood drives, were also given cords for their commitment to the club.

If seniors donated at least three times during their fourth year of high school, they were eligible to receive the Blood Cord. So many students received this honor, that it's almost countless!

Aside from graduation regalia, there were students who were recognized for their athleticism. The Scholar Athlete awards are presented to the two athletes, one boy and one girl, with the highest GPAs of their class. This year, the awards were presented to Rene Gallegos and Carlos Bobadilla. These two students were also recognized by the Marine Corps High School Program.

Students who have completed specified requirements,

established by Mrs. Rosales, were able to qualify for the Seal of Biliteracy. Nine students received the medal for their dedication to the French language and 89 students received the medal for the Spanish language.

The National Honors Society (NHS) is a newly-established club that focuses on academics and creating lifelong learners. The senior members received white stoles to wear at graduation.

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) also honored the students who participated for four years and achieved a B or higher in their classes. These students can be recognized by their individual medals.

ROP Sports Medicine passed out regalia for their senior members to collect and wear as well!

These students will be wearing their regalia upon graduation, which takes place on June 5th at 7pm in Don Memorial Stadium.

Advanced Drama presents *And Then There Were None*

BY ALONZO MURRIETA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This month, El Rancho's very own Mr. Olivares and the Advanced Drama troupe presented their production of *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie. This marked Mr. Olivares' second production of his career at El Rancho as well as the first for many of the play's underclassmen cast.

The El Rancho production began with a dress rehearsal on May 8th and the show premiered on May 9th and continued until May 11th.

And Then There Were None is a murder mystery that takes place on Soldier Island, where ten strangers are randomly invited by an unknown host. The play spans over the duration of several days and nights as an unknowing group of ten attempts to reveal the identity of the psychopathic murderer amongst them.

The play opens with Mr. and Mrs. Rogers, played by Hector Guevara and Alyssa Gomez. The duo is a married couple that serve as housekeepers to the mysteri-

ous Mr. and Mrs. Owens, who set the initial exposition of the story.

One by one, all other characters arrive on Soldier Island, where everyone is met with the same confusion. It is not until all ten characters on Soldier Island question the motives of a still unknown Mr. and Mrs. Owens that they realize what is going on.

Shortly after this discussion, a voice blares through the household exclaiming the circumstances in which all ten characters on Soldier Island have caused the death of another human, inadvertently or not.

Chaos erupts with every character defending their circumstances and denying the accusations made. After the discussion, Anthony Marston, played by Gabriel Cruz, dies from drinking a poisoned drink. A shelf that previously held ten soldiers, now holds nine, a symbol of the play's progression until it reaches none.

Oddly enough, *And Then There Were None* was not drama's first choice for their spring play. In fact, the murder mystery took the initial spot of a timeless classic. "Originally we were sup-

posed to do *The Crucible*," said Olivares, "...we read the first act of *And Then There Were None* as a class [and] that's the one that really stuck to the students."

Notable performances within the play were that of Madam Regina Wargrave played by senior Crystal Burgos, Vera Claythorne played by Delilah Fierro, and Philip Lombard played by Ruben Barajas II. Each character stayed in the play until its bitter end. Burgos perfectly executed the role of a seemingly just and moral judge, only to later reveal her true insanity. Fierro stayed convincingly innocent right until her death, and Barajas played the role of a consistently suspicious and ill-intended war criminal.

Aside from putting on their annual spring play, El Rancho's Drama Department also qualified for this year's 49th Annual MACY Awards. Advanced Drama member, Tony Cortez was awarded a Highest Achievement award. Advanced Drama members, Tristan Ramirez, Ruben Barajas II, and Briana Sanchez were all awarded with an Outstanding Achievement award. Galilea Madrid,

Hector Guevara, Geysa Govea, and Burgos all received an Achievement award. Angel Marquez, Brooklyn Ruiz, and Erik Avalos received a Special Recognition award. Samantha Gonzalez and Alyssa Escalera were recognized with a Bright Spot award for their role in the ensemble.

And Then There Were None marked the end of Olivares' first year in major productions for El Rancho High. "It was a big learning curve for me," Olivares said, "but I think overall it was pretty successful. We put on two really great shows."

From here, the drama department only looks for improvement. "We chose [next year's shows] from the ballot we had from the *In the Heights* packets," Olivares said, "I'm very excited to continue the tradition of our audience members choosing what they want to see on our stage."

According to Olivares, not only is the drama department seeking to improve themselves independently, but they also seek to drastically change the type of content they put on their stage. "[El Rancho] is go-



Tristan Ramirez in *And Then There Were None*.

Photo by Angie Campos-Melendez
ing to see a change in terms of themes and the types of shows that we do," Olivares said, "I'm going to keep pushing the envelope to see what we can do and what ideas we can bring up."

\$84,000 awarded to seniors at Senior Scholarship Night



Yulissa Chavez, Kayla Perez, and Alejandro Sainz receiving the \$6000 Bates Scholarship.

Photo by Mr. Crone

BY RENE GALLEGOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Senior Scholarship Night, much like Senior Awards Night, is a new event meant

to recognize the senior class for all their accomplishments.

The main difference between these two events, however, are the awards! This time around, students were

presented with scholarships, not graduation regalia.

The event took place on May 23rd at 5:30pm and over 80 students were invited. The night began promptly with the AP of Ac-

tivities, Mr. Zan Mason, welcoming all attendees. After the Pledge of Allegiance by ASB President, Rene Gallegos, and opening remarks by Academic Affairs Commissioner, Deanna Roldan, the

awarding of scholarships began!

The scholarships awarded during this event are donated from people and organizations throughout the community. The Rivera Baseball Association, Bates Family, Chavez Family, and the Pio Pico Women's Club are a few of the 31 organizations that donated. Altogether, they gave approximately \$84,000 to our students.

In order to receive scholarships, students must apply throughout their senior year for a chance to be a selected recipient. If selected by any of the community donors, the student will be invited to this all-exclusive event to be recognized by the patrons themselves.

CAMPUS

Curtains close on “Night of Spoken Word” tradition

BY YAZLIN JUAREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Ninth Annual Night of Spoken Word performance on May 22nd marked the foreseeable end of the astounding community poetry tradition upheld by the work of Mrs. Chodos, Mrs. Zeko, and the various artists and poets on the El Rancho campus.

The tradition, composing of poets, musicians, and entertainers from Mrs. Zeko’s sophomore English Honors classes, is meant to showcase the extent of the student body’s dedication to literature and the performing arts. The main source of funds comes from a grant from the Flourish Foundation, an organization that provides performing arts support to middle and high schools in the LA area. For the past nine years, Whittier College has also graciously provided the Shannon Center Theater for the school’s use.

However, veteran librarian and patron of the arts, Mrs. Chodos, is the mastermind behind the event. She has helped organize poetry conventions, spirit weeks, collaborations, and performances for the school for the past nine years. Unfortunately, as Chodos is retiring this year, this Night of Spoken Word will be her final masterpiece.

Starting in February, Zeko’s sophomore class learn creative writing criteria and begin writing original group and

individual poems. The best individual performances, ranging from political power pieces to funny friend poems, are selected for the final stage. The students had to condition themselves through “lots and lots and I mean LOTS of practice,” says sophomore Victoria Stephens, including in front of peers, coaches, the photographers, and faculty.

They were not alone however; every year, the students were able to train with local poets. The Flourish Foundation Grant has helped hire published poet Eric Morago to come to inspire and coach the students. He was joined by returning students that also participated in the Night of Spoken Word curriculum with Mrs. Zeko. Among these were former Get Lit poets Esmeralda Barajas and senior Jennifer Becerra, who were first inspired to pursue writing when they were in her class. “This program allowed me to see poetry from a different perspective and allowed me to grow from an insecure shy person to an outgoing and confident person,” says Becerra.

For many students, this was their first experience writing poetry, and even performing for an audience. “I didn’t know what to expect with poems but it was actually a lot more fun than I thought it would be,” says sophomore Melinda Dilaveroglu. “I turned out to be better at it than I had originally thought.

It gave me a chance to express my creativity in a different way than what I’m used to,” she adds.

It is not always easy to get students out of their comfort zone though. “I hate this project at the beginning because the students are really resistant to it,” says Zeko. “By the end of the process, most students have a new appreciation for poetry and almost all of them have newfound confidence for public speaking. When they finally love the project, then I do as well.”

The poets also collaborated with other artists on stage for the full audio and visual experience. Among these were the musical talents of sophomore musicians Arwen Llamas, Ruben Barajas, and Briana Sanchez performing original guitar pieces and covers of the latest hits.

Mr. Paul Zeko-spouse to Mrs. Zeko and El Rancho photography teacher-continued the Night of Spoken Word by having his Digital Photography classes create personalized photos for each team and individual poem. “I want to thank Mrs. Zeko for allowing my photography classes to collaborate with her sophomores,” says Mr. Zeko. “This year was one of the best Night of Spoken Word events in the past nine years. The writing was outstanding and I think my students really utilized their time with the poets to come up with powerful and relevant images.”



Andreal Villarreal and Jayde De la Torre performing their group piece “A Poltergeist of the Past”

Photo by Yazlin Juarez

As much inspiration as this tradition has brought, not all good things can last forever. With Chodos’ upcoming retirement and the Flourish Foundation Grant being diminished, comes the end of a great era of literature. One can expect the many library-based events hosted by Chodos to be in flux as the new administration is settled, including the Get Lit poetry team and the Teen Read Week events.

Many sophomores, faculty, and upperclassmen poets that looked forward to coaching next year have also expressed their sorrow for the loss of these excellent programs. “It’s very disappointing to know that tradition will end because so many kids are missing out on a unique opportunity not only to be exposed to the world of poetry but also to performance and public presentation,” says Stephens. “It just

makes me so sad to think that the classes after us will not have this opportunity,” says Dilaveroglu.

As of now, there is no clear plan for revitalizing the literary department, or if other teachers will attempt to host the sophomore or junior poetry curriculum. “I don’t know what next year will bring,” says Zeko. Whatever happens though, there is no denying that this special tradition has birthed countless writers, artists, and free-thinkers that will continue this passion for performing on the El Rancho campus and in the community. “I will miss providing this opportunity to our students and will miss working with Mrs. Zeko,” Chodos says. “A project that includes the craft of writing, intensive group work, hearing student voices, public speaking, and earned student self-esteem? Couldn’t ask for more.”

Gadabouts to soar across the seas to Eastern Europe

BY FLOR CALDERON
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

In about a week the Gadabouts are going to Eastern Europe to visit Croatia, Hungary, and Slovenia. For nine days the Gadabouts will be traveling to Budapest, Tihany, Ljubljana, Lake Plitvice Area, Split, Dubrovnik.

The full itinerary for the Gadabouts is as follows. On day one the group will fly overnight to Hungary. On day two they will go to the capital of Hungary, which is Budapest. After that the group of travelers will then meet with the tour director at the airport, and visit Momento Park.

For day three, while in Budapest, the group will take a guided tour of the city where they will see Heroes’ Square, Castle Hill, Gellért Hill, and visit Mat-

tias Church. On day four the gadabouts members will be given a free day where they explore and visit Budapest, Tihany, Ljubljana, and Lake Balaton. The group will also enjoy free time for lunch in Tihany, visit the Tihany Abbey, and experience a ferry ride across Lake Balaton.

On day five the gadabouts will either travel to Ljubljana, take a guided tour of the city, and visit the Ljubljana Castle, or they will take the opportunity to explore on their own. For day six the group will visit: Ljubljana to see Lake Plitvice area, travel to the Lake Plitvice area via Postojna, and visit the Postojna Caves.

On day seven: Visit the Plitvice Lake National Park, travel to Split, and enjoy a Croatian farm dinner. Day eight: Take a guided tour of Split, and

visit the Diocletian Palace. Lastly on day nine, the Gadabouts get ready to Depart for home.

The Gadabouts are exhilarating about the trip. Mrs. Zeko, who founded the Gadabouts travel group in 1996, and the club has traveled more than 20 countries throughout Europe and Asia. Mrs. Zeko is mostly excited to visit Croatia. “For me, I’m most excited about visiting Croatia because our last name, Zeko, is Croatian. And For the kids, I’m most excited to be a part of their experiences with new cultures,” says Zeko.

Joselyn Gomez says “I am most excited about eastern Europe because I get to get away from my family and experience a new country and to explore the other side of the world.” Alonzo Murrieta says “I am most excited to leave the United States.” And-



real Villarreal says “I’m excited about seeing the architecture and the sights that really make these countries unique.” One thing that Villarreal is looking forward to on the trip is “Visiting the lakes we’re going to; it seems very serene.” Sophia Lugo says “I’m most excited about seeing the beauty of Eastern Europe. I’m looking forward to experiencing the different cultures. I want to try all the traditional foods they eat.”

There is different kinds of

food to explore and endeavor. “Everything, except fish and bugs, says Zeko.” Other places that Zeko has traveled to include “Budapest, Hungary and Krakow, Poland. I’ve been through Slovakia, and if the Czech Republic is considered Eastern Europe, then there too,” says Zeko. Villarreal says “I really want to try Jota. I really like stew and soups.”

If you are interested in being a part of this once in a lifetime adventure, please see Mrs.Zeko

Word on the Street

What do you plan to do this summer?

BY SAUL VALADEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER



“Going to Laughlin, Nevada to visit family then Las Vegas for one day and go to summer school.”

-Mia Garcia, 9th grade



“Going to summer school, Six Flags with parents and siblings and going to Hollywood Blvd.”

-Ruben Alvarez, 9th grade



“Hang out with friends, going to Knott’s, the beach and a family BBQ. Going to summer school to take a math class.”

-Jade Arias, 9th grade



“Play basketball and travel to Mexico to meet dad’s side of the family.”

-Hector Arevalo, 11th grade



“Going to attend Rio Hondo, work and hang out with friends.”

-Alyssa Arajo, 12th grade

FEATURES

Public service announcement: Save the Bees !

BY AMALIA JUAREZ AND KIRELY NIETO MORENO
EL RANCHO STUDENTS



A pair of Bees pollinating a flower

Photo by Newsweek

On the edge of extinction, some people find bees to be a nuisance because of their buzzing, or scary due to allergies. Many people swat them away or smash them on sight. What they don't know is that without bees, the world today would be completely different. Albert Einstein once said, "If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe, then man would only have four years of life left. No more bees...no more man." As the top pollinators of the Earth, they are an important element in the world's interrelated functions. Bees are considered a keystone species, meaning that they are necessary for other species to thrive which greatly affects the ecosystem. Everything is connected: if we lose bees then eventually, we will lose plants, and human & animal food sources will deplete.

The recent disappearance of bees is caused by pesticides, climate change, diseases, habitat destruction, viruses, parasites, and mites. A majority of these causes are created by humans. Pesticides

like neonicotinoids used to kill harmful insects are killing bees and butterflies as well. Parasites weaken the bee's immune system and damage their brain, eventually killing them. Therefore, we should stand up against the use of pesticides by implementing alternative pesticides that are safe for the pollinators or move away from pesticides altogether. Climate change has altered the emergence of bees in spring. Bees that face temporal mismatch are more likely to suffer because they come too early and cannot make food for themselves from spring flowers. They are more likely to

have lower reproduction rates, are less active, and are at a higher risk to attacks from predators and parasites. Humans deeply affect the survival of other species on this planet and should be striving towards the preservation of the decreasing bee populations. Bee populations are declining; some species of bees are on the endangered list and others are already extinct. The rusty patched bumble bee, for instance, used to be common in a majority of states in the U.S but recently they are so few in numbers that recently, they have been added to the endangered species list. The decreasing

number of bees does not only affect their future but ours as well. Research done by the bee conservation group, HoneyLove, discovered that "Bees pollinate 80% of the world's plants including 90 different food crops." A shortage in the bee population can lead to a decrease in pollination and therefore a decreased amount of crops and thus increased prices in the food industry. If bees become extinct then plants may have to adapt to self-fertilizing. Although, this may not help much because this sort of change cannot happen fast enough to fix the pollination issue. It's also un-

healthy since inbreeding among plants generally produce less vigorous, less fertile offspring.

Luckily, there is still hope for a prosperous future with the bees. Scientists, universities, and environmentalists have searched and found solutions to help the bees. Thanks to the perseverance of citizens who strive to save the bees, the government has been pushing for restrictions on pesticides harmful to pollinators. Some have also thought of looking more deeper into the chemical that are harming the bees from the pesticides. They believe if we get to understand the harmful toxin then we could possibly eliminate it in pesticides. Others believe it is best to ban pesticides and insecticides in general. Although pesticides are to protect our food crops it's doing too much harm on the bees.

Our bee service group is trying to make a difference by informing El Rancho High School about the importance of bees. Anyone can make a difference for our pollinators. Simply by planting some flowers in your backyard or terminating the use of these horrible pesticides. Join the mission to save the bees!

Metaxas and Qureshi win 30th annual Zucker teacher award

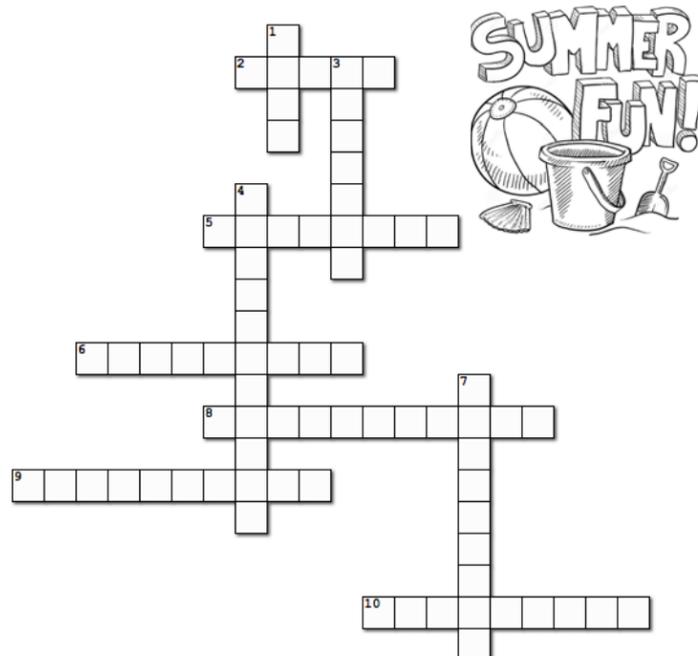


Since 1989, longtime Pico Rivera resident, Natalie Zucker, established an award program that gifted outstanding educators an award of 500 dollars; El Rancho High School since then has kept the annual tradition of awarding two teachers for displaying positive teacher-student relationships, knowledge of content in their respective subject, innovation in the classroom, or professionalism such as punctuality, cooperation, assisting students and colleagues, and enhancing their program. To obtain this award a teacher must be nominated in order to qualify. Because of Zuckers ongoing generosity, the program is still in effect. This year the awards were gifted to two wonderful teachers, Mrs. Metaxas, who teaches English and Literature, and Mrs., Qureshi, who teaches U.S. Government and Politics.

Summertime

Crossword

Puzzle



Across

- 2. A great place to spend a summer day in the sand
- 5. An iconic summer beverage
- 6. Famous sandwich, usually best served with french fries
- 8. National holiday for independence
- 9. Sandals typically worn in the summertime

Down

- 1. Feeling experienced in the sun
- 3. When one goes to the woods to enjoy time outdoors
- 4. Can be avoided by drinking enough water
- 7. A necessity for avoiding burned skin

FEATURES

Kayla Perez is *Simply Irresistible!*

BY FATIMA LOPEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

You might know her as a two-year member of El Rancho's Academic Decathlon team, you might know her as the editor-in-chief of our school newspaper, El Rodeo, or you might even know her as the girl who was posted on Michelle Obama's Instagram account! However you might know her, we can all agree that Kayla Perez is a sweetheart, is extremely kind, and is simply irresistible!

Now I've written a lot of Simply Irresistible features in my time as an El Rodeo Staff Writer, but none are as near and dear to my heart as this one. Kayla is not only my boss but she's my best friend, so please bear with me if this gets a tad too emotional!

Alright, enough of that mushy talk, you all must be wondering what makes this brown-eyed beauty so irresistible! For starters, Kayla is 100% a stellar student. Not only is Perez at the top of her class, but she is also UCLA bound (go Bruins)! She's also fluent in English, Spanish, AND Korean. How cool is that? Imagine receiving sweet nothings from this cutie in three different languages? We're swooning already!

If that wasn't enough, did we mention she's an involved student? Aside from the school

newspaper, Kayla is part of Academic Decathlon and the California Scholarship Federation just to name a few. We love an involved queen! Perez is also a recipient of the NSLI-Y scholarship. She will be leaving the country this summer to study abroad in South Korea for about a month and a half! She's making moves in and out of the country, now that's a power move.

All academics and extra-curricular aside, did we mention that Kayla loves fashion? There is no doubt that Perez is one of El Rancho's best dressed students! From beautiful, flowy dresses to plaid skirts and berets, Kayla's outfits are always on point. "The way I dress is mostly based off my mood that day if I'm honest, sometimes I like to get all dolled up with makeup and heels and channel my inner femme fatale, other times I just wanna wear an oversized sweater with my beat-up sneakers," says Perez. "Some fashion inspirations of mine are Audrey Hepburn, Rihanna, Blake Lively, Zendaya and the Bratz Dolls, I also love the brands Yves Saint Laurent and Chanel but only for inspiration because I'm too broke to afford anything from them." Fashionable, friendly, and extremely focused? She's a dream girl!

She's got brains and beauty,



Perez pictured in Seoul, South Korea enjoying all the hidden gems the city has to offer. Photo courtesy of Perez

but does she have good music taste? You bet she does! Perez's music taste varies from K-pop to alternative to even classic rock. Some of her favorite artists are BTS, The 1975, Led Zeppelin, Tyler the Creator, and Rihanna. The versatility she has, we had to stan!

When this cutie isn't doing something to further her academic career, you'll probably find her on Twitter, tweeting away about politics or BTS or big, Hollywood events. This girl's got some opinions and we love that about her! This queen doesn't hold her tongue and we wouldn't have it any other way.

"When I'm in college I really wanna delve myself into the

world of communications and linguistics," says Perez. "Studying these two pathways will allow me to accomplish my dream of living abroad and strengthening foreign affairs in the entertainment and media industry."

"As for personal goals, by the time I finish college I want to be fluent in 5 languages (English, Spanish, Korean, Arabic, and French)," continues Perez. "I also want to explore LA and find all the hidden treasures within the city, maybe even get a Disney pass."

If this fantastic girl hasn't already caught your eye, then we suggest scheduling an appointment with your optometrist because you clearly need

a new prescription! However, if your heart skips a beat every time you see Kayla's name, then do we have some news for you. Perez is single (unbelievable, right?) and ready to mingle!

However, maybe romance just isn't for you or you'd like to get to know her before you make a move. If it's a nice conversation you want with this sweetheart, then by all means hit her up! Perez is always online (@k_skywalkerr on Twitter, Snapchat, and Instagram) and willing to chat. Don't miss an opportunity to meet one of the most amazing people to come out of El Rancho. You won't be disappointed, we promise!

Meet ER's cutest power couple-Waldron and Diaz!



Who knew a swipe to the right could help you meet your soul mate!

Photo by Yazlin Juarez

BY KARIZMA REYES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

She's the diligent, caring, and inspiring history and ethnic studies teacher. He's

the hilarious, well read, and thoughtful art teacher. Who are these soon to wedded teachers? They are the lovely Ms. Emily Waldron and Mr. Justin Diaz! Diaz is an El Rancho Alum-

nus and started his teaching career here at the ranch. "When I graduated in '99, I told myself I'm never coming back," says Diaz. He has been an art teacher for 14 years now. Diaz says, "having the opportunity to work with my old teachers was hard to pass up."

Waldron has taught AP US History and Mexican American heritage at the ranch for a year now. "I was drawn to El Rancho because of their ethnic studies department," says Waldron. Before coming to El Rancho, Waldron taught 7th grade history at a middle school in Los Angeles.

These "love birds" met each other in a very modern way through a dating app. "We actually both swiped right," says Diaz.

Some things Diaz and Waldron enjoy doing together is rock climbing. "We do a lot

of indoor bouldering," continues Diaz, "it's one of our main ways of staying active." He says, "maybe one day we'll climb on real rocks instead of fake ones."

Waldron and Diaz love to travel and eat. Both of their mottos that get them through life is "food will save the day." They also enjoy going to Echo Park and taking their dog on walks.

Their classrooms may be on opposite ends of the campus, but that does not stop them from seeing each other every so often. "If we see each other [at school], it's so we can have lunch together or just when we want to see each other," says Waldron.

Working together does have many positives. "[Working together] has been kinda amazing," says Diaz, "we can commute together, one of us can drive

and one of us can nap." Waldron says, "we get to divide all the things that make days tedious."

Their students make working at El Rancho all worth the while. "The students every year save the day," continues Diaz, "it keeps me coming back every year." Waldron says, "[El Rancho] is a place I can see myself settling in because of the tight knit community."

For their students, they do have some words of wisdom. "In relation to art, I try to tell [my students] to keep making things," continues Diaz, "and from that, there will be a lot of growth." Waldron says, "highschool can feel tedious and classes can feel tedious, but I tell [my students] that they are building skills they'll use in life."

Pico Rivera Public Library is open Mon-Tues from 10-8, Wed. from 10-6, and Sat. 9-5

Whittier Public Library and Montebello Public Library are open every day except Sunday.

downloads & streaming:
free music, movies, ebooks,
audiobooks & magazines

free printing
free wi-fi
free online test prep

it's always fresh & cool at
the Pico Rivera Library
on Rosemead & Mines

find a good book
encuentra un buen libro

comfortable seating

SENIOR PROFILES

“Gentle giant” Hope Apodaca-Sameniego



Hope showing off her favorite paint brush. Photo by Yazlin Juarez

BY YAZLIN JUAREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

It's a well-known fact that anyone who meets senior swimmer Hope Apodaca-Sameniego dives headfirst in love! This gentle giant, known as “Baby Shots” and “Hopie” by her mutuals, is humble but passionate about everything art and sports.

Apodaca has been a strong member of the girls' Water Polo team and girls' Swim team for all her four years of high school, and plans on continuing after high school. During her time with the Lady Dons, she has felt she built a community of life-

long friends. “After these four years, I've come to feel that I can't possibly live without my sport,” says Apodaca, “My teammates have become my family.”

Apodaca is currently enrolled in Cal State University Los Angeles to major in Biology in the Fall. “I want to become a forensic anthropologist in the future which I'm really looking forward to pursuing,” says Apodaca.

A well-rounded student and friend, Apodaca is a dedicated member of the AP Studio Art class, in which she creates stunning pieces of oil painting and colored pencil portraits. “I've discovered that my favorite medium is oil paint, despite

how frustrated it makes me,” says Apodaca. Her favourite work, “Lilacs,” is from her portrait series comparing romance with the natural environment.

In her free time, Apodaca enjoys reading manga, watching anime, shopping at thrift stores for trendy clothes and cute knick knacks, and spending time with her friends. Aside from her flawless style and cute hairdos, Apodaca always goes the extra mile for her stationary and art supplies. In class, you can see her completely decked out with pastel-colored pencil cases, cartoon erasers, and even scented markers from the Japanese-based store, “Morning Glory.”

Aside from flawless style, Apodaca has a sophisticated taste in music and movies. She tends to lean towards the spooky side, as she is a firm lover of indie-rock music, horror films, and other retro-style art. Her favorite bands are Wallows and Pale Waves, and her favorite movie is “Labyrinth,” starring the iconic and magical David Bowie.

Apodaca also loves to spend time with her goofy family and strange pets, especially her dog Churro, a feisty brown Chihuahua, who seems almost *too* human sometimes. If you want a better taste of her chic life, check out her out on Instagram @because-potatoes!

Twitter icon Bryan Herrarte

BY STEVIE DOMINGUEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

If you haven't seen Bryan Herrarte and his best friends around campus, chances are you've heard about him from others or you've seen him on your Twitter timeline as @GayboiCartii.

He's not only known on campus as a funny twitter icon and being seen with his “bad girl clique,” but he's also quite known for his amazing fashion sense. “I've been into fashion actually since about 8th grade,” says Herrarte.

“Tumblr played a huge part in the way I dressed then and ever since then I've been interested in fashion and design. I can't really describe my fashion cause I gain inspiration from so many things such as street fashion, punk and goth subcultures, high fashion, etc.”

If that's enough to make you interested in him, don't fret! Herrarte is happily single, but don't wear your heart on your sleeve though because this one is a heartbreaker! “My relationship status? I'm too busy for boys. I'm too into my bag,” says Herrarte. Don't ask him “Remember that guy you're talking to?” though, because he'll reply with “Which one?”

As for Twitter, you can find his tweets ranging from dragging people, being happy, to talking about his favorite artists. “I love twitter (maybe a lit-



He'll serve face before he'll ever serve this country!!!

tle too much sometimes) luckily all my mutuals are bad b's (including Stevie),” says Herrarte.

Speaking of favorite artists, his fav even follows him on twitter! “Slayyyter follows me and so does my fav Barbiegut. I'm sure you've seen me on your TL atleast once,” says Herrarte.

But, this isn't all he uses Twitter for, “I spend so much time on Twitter. I'm trying to rebrand myself. Social media is such a useful tool guys, use it to your advantage.”

If his follower count on Twitter isn't something to grovel in reverence of, his taste in music sure is. If you were to ask him what

his favorite artists are he would say, “Before I'm ANYTHING I'm a Rico Nasty, Rihanna, Playboi Carti and Slayyyter stan.”

However, this king doesn't restrict himself to one genre, “I listen to so many different styles of music. My playlist will go from Chief Keef and Young Nudy to Paris Hilton and Britney Spears,” says Herrarte, “I even had a scene phase.”

Bryan Herrarte is a bad-die that does not go unnoticed, his friendship is something you can't go without. Like we said before you can find him on Twitter as @GayboiCartii, so hit him up you won't regret it!

Valedictorian Jessica Castellanos

BY ARACELI CORREA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

You may know her as this year's Valedictorian, but Jessica Castellanos is more than the top of her class!

Castellanos will be attending UCLA in the fall with a major in biochemistry. What a scholar! “I plan on pursuing biochemistry in college because I've always been interested in science and teachers like Mrs. Rojo and Mrs. Stubendorff showed me the possibilities in learning about the complex nature of our universe,” says Castellanos.

Although Castellanos got into UCLA she does not fail to mention the struggles she went through to achieve her goal. “The biggest challenge in high school was the college application process because it was something that was out of my hands once the applications were complete I just hoped for the best,” she says.

Not only is Castellanos smart, but she also enjoys art. “I've been drawing for as long as I can remember, so it has always stuck with me,” she says. Castellanos is currently enrolled in her second year of AP Art and decided to focus her concentration pieces on controversies without a biased opinion.

“I chose to do a concentration on controversies because it gave my art a purpose that is beyond just the image,” says



The class of 2019 valedictorian, Jessica Castellanos.

Photo by Emily Vasquez

Castellanos. She says that she has no specific source of inspiration, but rather is “bombarded by stuff and hoping for an idea.”

As Castellano's senior year comes to an end, she reflects on her favorite memories. “One of my most memorable moments is Christmas with friends and finding out that I'm terrible at playing pool,” she says.

One piece of advice Castellanos would like to offer to her fellow underclassmen is “To not stress about the little things. Even if you don't get into the college you really wanted to go to, you're one-hour essay didn't pull through for a class, or you don't know what to major in, don't stress! Stay positive and keep going because things always have a way of working out, but still do your work.”

Student-athlete, Carlos Bobadilla

BY ALONZO MURRIETA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

He's this year's Salutatorian, a student athlete, Math club vice-president, and a Bate's scholar. It seems there is nothing Carlos Bobadilla can't do!

Carlos Bobadilla has been at the forefront of the class of 2019, and now he will be continuing his education at the University of California Irvine, where he will be majoring Civil Engineering. “Being involved in STEM based programs such as PLTW and the Architecture, Construction, and Engineering programs have inspired me to major in civil engineering,” says Bobadilla.

When he isn't running during Cross and studying for his classes, Bobadilla still stays productive. “My favorite hobby is going hiking with my brother or friends on the Whittier trails,” Bobadilla says.

However, it has not been an easy and carefree path. “The biggest challenge in high school was being able to manage being involved in sports and clubs, while also maintaining good grades,” says Bobadilla, “I will miss most of my time spent in cross country and track & field.”

Academics and athletics won't be the only thing Bobadilla remembers, “My most memorable moment was reciting a poem along with my friends

at Whittier college.” A STEM major who enjoys poetry, wow!

As Bobadilla continues onto his next chapter in life, he reflects on his experiences and looks forward to the times to come.

Bobadilla says, “Now that I'm graduating, I feel excited to start college and learn more about my academic interest, engineering.”

As a final send-off, El Rancho's Salutatorian for the class of 2019 has one piece of advice, “Never be afraid to try something new or out of the ordinary because you might just enjoy or like it.”



Future UC Irvine student, Carlos Bobadilla, smiling for the camera.

Photo by Ezra Blanco

SENIOR PROFILES

ASB president Rene Gallegos



Rene Gallegos glowing in the sun.

Photo by Yazlin Juarez

By ARACELI CORREA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

She's your ASB president, she's a decathlete, she's Rene Gallegos! Gallegos plans to attend UC Berkeley this fall and major in engineering physics. Her passion for engineering started when she was very young. "I have always been fascinated by the world and what lies beyond it, and one day I will touch the stars," she says.

As Gallegos moves onto college she says, "I am happy to be spreading my wings and continue in the next chapter of life. This is what I've been waiting for, and now that it's here I couldn't be happier." She is looking forward to exploring her new home but will miss her friends. "Not seeing them every day is going to be rough, but we'll all be okay," she says.

One of her favorite memories here at the Ranch was all the times she's spent after school for

ASB "There were so many late nights and crazy events that left countless stories," says Gallegos. She also enjoyed her time spent in Decathlon. "Every day was always so entertaining and I've made memories with the team that I'll never forget," she says.

Although she enjoyed her high school experience, Gallegos time here at El Rancho wasn't always sunshine and rainbows. "My biggest challenge has always been learning to put myself first. Within all my activities and classes, it felt impossible to make time for myself. This struggle lasted throughout most of high school, but with time I overcame it."

As Gallegos departs onto the next chapter of her life she offers one piece of advice to her fellow underclassmen, "My advice is to simply breathe. Don't hold your breath and stress over the small things," continues Rene, "Everything will work out in the end, just the way it needs to be."

Track star Sean Gutierrez



Sean Gutierrez after a hard days work of gaming.

Photo by Yazlin Juarez

By Antonio Escobar
El Rodeo Staff Writer

There are many remarkable seniors graduating this year. One of them is none other the Sean Gutierrez. Gutierrez has been involved in school through the varsity Cross Country team and the varsity Track team. Throughout the last four years he has earned an impressive 22 medals! Sean has personal records of 15:37, 10:100, and 4:40 for his three mile, two mile, and one mile races respectively. He is a an essential part of the team who always dedicates himself to being the best runner he can.

There is no denying that Gutierrez is quite the athlete. However, this in no way affects Gutierrez's performance in the classroom. Gutierrez is graduat-

ing on the Principal's Honor Roll, and even for recognized for being a remarkable student athlete! Sean works hard in class just like he does on the track. His favorite subjects in school are history and ethnic studies. Gutierrez plans to go to ELAC and later transfer to a cal state. Gutierrez is taking these steps in pursuing further education to one day become a speech pathologist.

In addition to being a great student and a great runner, Gutierrez has also been an amazing friend to all those who know him, and an easy person to approach for those who don't know him. He has genuinely enjoyed his time in high school. He says his favorite part of high school was "meeting different people and becoming their friend." This goes to show the kind and friendly nature Sean

has. He absolutely loves meeting all types of people and is always open to making new friends. He is loved by many people. With his current friends, he regularly goes out and does all kinds of fun activities. The thing he does the most, is eat! He absolutely loves all kinds of food and is always willing to try something new. His favorite foods are ramen and sushi, but he will eat anything if it is good, he is not picky in any way.

He will be missed by the track team, the cross team, and the school as a whole. He has been a positive impact on all those around him, and is a great example of a good student. As the school year comes to an end, he is reflecting on the his high school experience and is growing more and more excited for what the future has in store for him.

Social butterfly, Dylan Joseph

By STEVIE DOMINGUEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Senior Dylan Joseph, otherwise known as DJ, is one of El Rancho's most well-known students. Went to Rivera Middle School? Chances are you probably know him!

This libertarian social butterfly knows everybody, and he means EVERYBODY. "Don't mean to flex, but I know 90% of the seniors and a good chunk of juniors, I find genuine joy in talking to people and interacting with people," says Joseph.

But this socialite just doesn't want to hear your jokes, he wants to know your deepest darkest secrets. "Everyone is different, everyone has experiences that have brought them to who they are today," Joseph says, "and it's interesting to see how people became the person they are today. Everyone has an interesting story to tell despite what they may think."

Despite him getting around, he has a pretty close inner circle of friends. "I don't know everyone of course, but some of my inner circle include my boy Michael, Jesus, Luis, Tony, Antonio, Gabriel, Noah, and the homies Jenny, Alyssa, and Alexis," says Joseph.

But if you're his friend



Dylan Joseph is so social, this seemingly random person who photo-bombed him is actually his friend!

and you are about to yell at him for not including you, hear him out first! "Before everyone else crucifies me for not putting your name, I love y'all but there is only so much space in the newspaper," says Joseph, "I've definitely left out plenty more who are equally important, including some former seniors."

If he seems interesting enough for you to want to strike up a conversation with him movies, TV shows, and video-games are the way to his nerdy heart. Here's just a short list of the games he plays, "My favorites are Grand Theft Auto, Call of Duty, Fallout, Total War and APEX legends. I'm a history

buff so when I was a kid I played a bunch of historically themed games, like strategy games."

Although you might think he's the one for you, he is happily tied down. "I am currently dating Hailey Acevedo, we have been dating for about two years, and we have adopted four turtle babies," says Joseph, "I have a very serious relationship with her, and while we have has some bad times it's been a pleasure, she's a meme queen and she's absolutely adorable."

If you want to be next in line to be his friend, follow him on Twitter @thecurryboi and get to know him better!

Actress and psychic Geysa Govea

By KARIZMA REYES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

She is athletic, she is a sweetheart, she is a thespian, she is sort of a psychic, but most importantly, she is Geysa Govea!

You may know her from her performances on stage in the little theatre, but she has another talent. Govea is in touch with poltergeists and those on the other side of life.

"I'm psychic and I have a sixth sense and can definitely see and hear ghosts," says Govea. Her spooky sixth sense is not known by many people.

Do not let this ghostly party trick make you be afraid of this lovely gal. She may be a little Casper the friendly ghost with her kind personality. Govea says, "I have a big heart."

Some things that do fill this big ol' heart Govea's are mongolian food, Ariana Grande, and herself. Govea's self love is strong and that is what brings her charismatic personality to life.

Govea is not shy to show off her confidence in her clothing. "I love my style and thrifting," says Govea.

In Govea's free time, she is either staying active or bingeing a show. "My free time consists of watching anime shows or going on runs," says Govea.



Geysa Govea posing in front of the Little Theatre.

Photo by Yazlin Juarez

Her cross country days still stick to Govea like muscle memory.

Govea may be saying goodbye to the little theatre, but she is not leaving her theatre days behind her. Govea's future after high school is just as bright as her. "I am going to a four year college to get a BFA in theatre," continues Govea, "and a minor in criminology along with software engineering." She also plans to study cosmetology on the side.

The people Govea met in drama, along with the memories, are her most cherished ones from the ranch. Govea says, "to the friends I've made, especially Angel, Brookie, Alyssa, Marie, Gali, and Ruben, I love yall."

SENIOR

I, Emily Lopez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my love for Spider-Man to Oscar Maldonado, my love for F.R.I.E.N.D.S to Elizabeth Lopez, my ASB tea to Kimberly Gonzalez and Priscilla Ortega, and La Chona video to Araceli Correa, Maria Juarez, and Sophia Lugo.

I, Rene Gallegos, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my hippie-nature to Maria Juarez, my craziness to Araceli Correa, my happiness to Sophia Lugo, my strength and willpower to Alexis Gallegos, my math skills to Sean Menchaca, all my brain cells to Miguel Ornelas, the responsibility of taking care of GiGi to Henry Zepeda, Khaleesi to Carlos Rojo, my spine to Jordan Uribe, the hot weenie dog to Victor Villegas, and finally, the boat and a pair of tweezers to Andrew Ortiz.

I, Sydney Manrique, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: the library table to anyone who is worthy, my love for language to my ASL class, and my writing skills to next year's El Rodeo staff.

I, Sandye Espinoza, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my hall pass to future students. GO DONS! CLASS OF 2019!

I, Jessica Castellanos, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my dark under eyes to Maria Juarez, my crackhead tendencies to Araceli Correa, my last three brain cells to Sophia Lugo, and my constant support to Aidan Rivera. Good luck y'all!

I, Jennifer Becerra, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my right arm to Grecia, my last remaining brain cells to Araceli, and my daily dollar to Alejandro.

I, Ezra Blanco, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my reheated leftovers to Grecia Haro-Flores.

I, Esteban Guerrero, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my bed to my pug, my 4K collection to Franki, my Godzilla plushies to Selena, and finally my photos to my family.

I, Samantha Munilla, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my love for Spider-Man and anything Marvel to Araceli Correa, my position as the Sports Medicine President to Karla Rivas (continue to bug Ross for me!), and my time to take BuzzFeed quizzes during class to Grecia Haro-Flores.

I, Natalie Munoz, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my love and dance moves to Karina Rivera, my track spikes to Izabella Ibarra, my batons and 100m running skills to Emily Manzo <3, my hugs to Melanie Navarro, my motivation to Andee Gonzalez, my love for track to Mikayla Lavastida, my jokes to Ariana Kosmicki, my tennis racquet/balls to Sarah Ortega and Celeste Muniz, my sarcasm to David Hernandez and Emanuel Saavedra, my happiness to Eddie Rios, and my 200's to Yulong Zhang.

I, Anahi Hernandez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my roasted mangoes and amazing knowledge to Jennifer Hernandez, my chanclas to Anthony Paniagua, my false eyelashes to Josiah Torres, my Spanish homework to Cindy Robles, all my bummy outfits to Adrian Tofolla, and finally, my really bad junior ID picture to Xitlali Cortes.

I, Sofia Dominguez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my layout skills to next year's El Rodeo staff.

I, Jamie Benitez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my right shoe to Aaliyah Gutierrez, my simp playlist to Sarah Ortega, my clumsiness to Ashley Garcia and Sam Tadeo, my track and xc vlogs to Estephanie Reyes, and my metal straw to David Hernandez.

I, Franky Leon, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my writing skills to next year's El Rodeo staff and my photo editing skills to Alejandro Melchor!

I, Kaylee Amador, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: the name Miss Keisha to Estephanie Reyes, all my knowledge of Sports Medicine to Karla Rivas, and all my jokes to Rocio Estrada. You guys helped make running fun for me. (:

I, Dominique Hernandez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my funny jokes to my Fen, my softball skills to my sister, and my sick moves to my bbygorl Ale.

I, Michael Meza, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my Hot Cheetos money to Alejandro Melchor, my tweeting to Flor Calderon, and my procrastination to all of next year's El Rodeo staff.

I, Daniel Cruz-Natareno, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my Physics book to Pedro, my left shoe to Yulong, and my backpack to Devil Scorpion (Alex).

I, Alonzo Murrieta, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my optimism and CSF leadership to Maria Juarez, my loud car and some Bruin spirit to Araceli Correa and Sophia Lugo, my advice to Alejandro Melchor, my wallet to Flor Calderon, my nonchalant personality to Grecia Haro-Flores, and my sleepiness to all of the above.

I, Evelyln Cervantes, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my American Sign Language Skills to Vincent Ordaz.

I, Angelica Martinez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my encouraging hugs to Antonio, my lucky baseball to Alex, and finally my iconic back-to-breakfast to Natalie Zuniga.

I, Guadalupe Amador, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my weird dancing skills to Robert, my necklace to Alyssa, my Nike shoes to Mia, and my diamond earrings to Cierra.

I, Luis Alfaro, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my gym socks to James Vivar, my membership to Jacob Molina, and my gym locker to Samuel Ornelas.

I, Yazlin Juarez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my camera to Robert, my recipes to Adria Stephens, and my good memories to all of you.

I, Bryan Gonzalez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my music to the school, and my love for the school to all of you.

I, Juleidy Montiel, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: the palm tree in the quad to Linda, Destiny Kayleen, and Litzy, and my seat in the Varsity room to Litzy.

I, Abraham Ramirez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my basketball skills to Kayleen and my diamond earrings to Grecia.

I, Jacobo, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: the N to my friend, and my love for the school to all of you.

WILLS!

I, Charlotte Barrera, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my 400 meter PR to Izabella Ibarra, the gold 4x1 baton to Emily Manzo, my spikes to Karina Rivera, and finally all the good laughs we had with Wendy to Clarissa Estrada.

I, Josh Cabral, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my throwback playlist to Alexis Arroyo, our best moment at the roller rink with Jackie Arroyo ;), my dog Logan to Anne Frank, and finally leaving my best friends in the activities office- the true homies-your friend, Joshua Stuart.

I, Andrew Tarango, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my love and passion for football to Hector Vasquez, my hope and inspiration to Adrian Vasquez, my hard work and dedication to Valentine, and finally to the football players, my never give up attitude. No matter what you guys are in you can get through it and succeed. Continue to fight Dons!

I, Nayt Gastelum, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my sarcasm and obsession with Hot Cheetos to Karla Rivas.

I, Destiny Rivera, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my endurance and speed to Queen Steph, Melanie, Itzel, and Kim; my wisdom and sarcasm to Karla; my eye rolling and ability to resist hot cheetos to Rocio; my captain skills and seriousness to David; my love and motivation to run to all my cross and distance children; and my resilience and grit to my little brother Aidan. Good luck!

I, Christina Cruz, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my awesome dance moves to my sister Gabby!

I, Abigail Rincon, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my tennis racket to Shelby Lopez, my changbin pc to Natalia Buenrostro, my pet rat to Rocio Estrada, and my heart to Sarah Ortega. #sabby.

I, Maggie Grisco, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my whole heart to Anthony Solis, the ASB tea to Delany Lomas and Elizabeth Lopez, my land-swimming record to Carlos Rojo, my parking space to Lexie Gallegos, and all my brain cells to Gigi.

I, [Name], being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: [Items] to Adrian Vaquero, my top-secret [Items] to lan Olguin, my metaphors to Victoria [Items] poor punctuality to Jazmin Lopez, [Items] to Sam Ordaz, and my stinkiness to Amalia and Maria Juarez.

I, Danna Sanchez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my chip addiction to Odalys, and my highschool advice and tips to Luis Sanchez.

I, [Name], being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: [Items] to Jennifer, my poetry to [Name] and my "blueface baby" signature line to Salma.

I, Karizma Reyes, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my love for make-up to April Rivera, my editing skills to Delilah Fierro, and my Mr. Zeko tolerance to Grecia Haro-Flores.

I, Marissa Chavez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my hurdle track spikes to Mikayla Lavastida, my determination to Monica Aguirre, my funny/ corny jokes to Hennessy Navarro, My tumbling skills to Alyssa Marquez, my style to Angel Marquez, my flying skills to Cassandra Fernandez, and my spirit and positive mindset to Jocelyn Recendez.

I, Ashley Chavez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my cross country medals to Azalia Chavez, my crocs to Mallorie Camacho, and my BTS albums to Natalia Buenrostro.

I, Isaac Noguera, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my basketball shoes to Hector Arevalo, my jersey to Bryan Ornelas, and my shorts to Samuel Cuevas.

I, [Name], being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: [Items] to the next group of crazy [Items], my Starbucks addiction and passion to [Items] grades to my niece Jahnean, and finally love to my friends who I am going to miss dearly.

I, Christian Borjon, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my vast knowledge and collection of discography to Alexander Rojas, my luck in tournaments to Joshua Saavedra, and finally my optimism and glow to Rocio Estrada.

I, Cecilia Lara, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my red disc to Isabel Rubio, my patience towards Mr. Sanchez to Vanessa Villa, my pole vault pole to Anthony Ramos, my throwing skills to Jason M. and Mario S. and finally, my math skills to Gabriel Mancera.

I, [Name], being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: [Items] to the next group of crazy [Items], my Starbucks addiction and passion to [Items] grades to my niece Jahnean, and finally love to my friends who I am going to miss dearly.

I, Fatima Lopez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my amazing layout skills to next year's journalism staff (specifically to the Chiefs™), my fantastic ability to write articles to Araceli Correa (trust me, she needs it), my love for Harry Styles and Shawn Mendes to Grecia Haro-Flores, my seat on the bus to Alejandro Melchor, my tea-spilling sessions to Flor Calderon, my love for hugs to Maria Juarez, and my everlasting love and support to Sophia Lugo.

I, Jorge Diaz, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my Michael Kors watch to Miki so he can remember me in combat; all my gatorade bottles in my golf bag to Eyan; my last 4 brain cells to Joel; my eyedrops to Leo; and my golf skills to next year's team.

I, Sarah Simon-Montiel, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my camera and photography skills to Issac Sierra, my wigs to Mr. Zeko, my sarcastic comebacks to Samantha (ASL), my daily oatmeals and orange juice to Angelica T., my Twitter drama to Gabriela M. because she knows how to handle business, my procrastination to Julia Diaz (senioritis is BIG TRUE), my basic Twitter vibe to Jenkins, my struggle to be taller than 5'5 & CIF medal to Eric Diaz, my school spirit to Savannah Padilla, my art skills and paintbrushes to Denisse Garcia, and finally, E.C. I leave hope and love to you in your many adventures. GOOD LUCK UNDERCLASSMEN!!! <3

I, Angelina Gutarra, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my skill on learning how to play video games and learning how to value pets to Luis Gutarra.

#FROM ER TO ANYWHERE



Omar Sanchez

“I ended up deciding on Cal Poly Pomona. I also want to continue playing baseball in college.”



Natalia Reveles

“I got accepted into Cal State LA so that’s where I’ll be going. It’s close to home and I want to focus on a career somewhere in sports medicine.”



Cesar Castaneda

“My plans are to go to Cal State LA and hopefully transfer out to somewhere I can focus on engineering.”



Wendy Rodriguez

“Once I graduate I’m heading to Cal State San Marcos. I know I’m going to miss my brother but I’m also excited for my life and future to start.”



Ximena Lopez

“My plan now is to go to Cal State Dominguez Hills. I want to finish in four years and figure out the plan along the way.”



Eben Zamora

“My plan after high school is to go to Rio Hondo for a couple years then transfer out to a four year.”



Yulissa Chavez

“After high school I’m going to attend the University of La Verne. It ended up being a great choice and I’m really excited.”



Jose Martinez

“It was between UC Merced and Cal State Fullerton. I chose Cal State Fullerton since it’s closer to home and I want to focus on studying engineering.”



Kaylee Brambilla

“Once I graduate I will be attending East LA Community College. Then my goal is to transfer out and attend a four year university.”



Sarah Simon

“I will be attending Dixie State University after high school. It’s in Utah, so away from home and I want to focus on art as well.”



Carlos Mares

“After I graduate I’m going to Long Beach City College and continue playing music.”



Maggie Grisco

“After high school I’m going to be attending UC Santa Barbara. I’m committed and excited for the journey.”

ADVICE FOR STUDENTS

Senior-week rewind!



Gonzalo Lievanos and his pup at senior sunset.



Zelzine Mendez with a cute kitty at senior sunset.



Emily Lopez and Yazlin Juarez relaxing at senior sunset.



Jacob Rivera sitting with his dog at senior sunset.



Seniors defending their dodgeball title.



A group of friends enjoying each other's company senior sunset.



Seniors ready to slide through the quad.



Students participating in the senior slip n' slide.



The aftermath of the senior slip n' slide.

Final advice from Alonzo!



Hey Dons! Last issue I stated that there would be an announcement concerning the advice column, now is the time to make that announcement. I am truly grateful to have carried the torch for this column, answering all of your questions (dating or not), and just offering advice in general were both extremely rewarding experiences. If at one point during any of these issues my advice was beneficial to someone, then I say I did a pretty good job. Back to the announcement. As I mentioned carrying the torch of advice, it's now time to pass this torch onto its next carrier. I pass this advice column onto Alejandro Melchor, a current junior, I know he'll do a great job. Again, thank you all for not booting me out of this position (although you didn't really have a choice). As a final send off, I'd like to offer one more piece of advice:
Aim to live your life without regret!

ADVICE FROM TEACHERS TO INCOMING SENIORS AND GRADUATING CLASS OF 2019



"Start your college applications early don't wait till the last minute to start writing your essays."

Mr. Sorenson



"I don't know I'll tell you when I figure it out meaning life is a journey you never reach some point where you know everything you just learn more."

Mr. Crone



"Try to find out what your interests and passions are and take chances and risks don't be afraid of failing. Don't worry about what other people are doing focus on your own goals."

Mr. Goyenaga



"Don't feel panicked if you still don't know what you want to do, but when you do figure out what to want to do, get an internship."

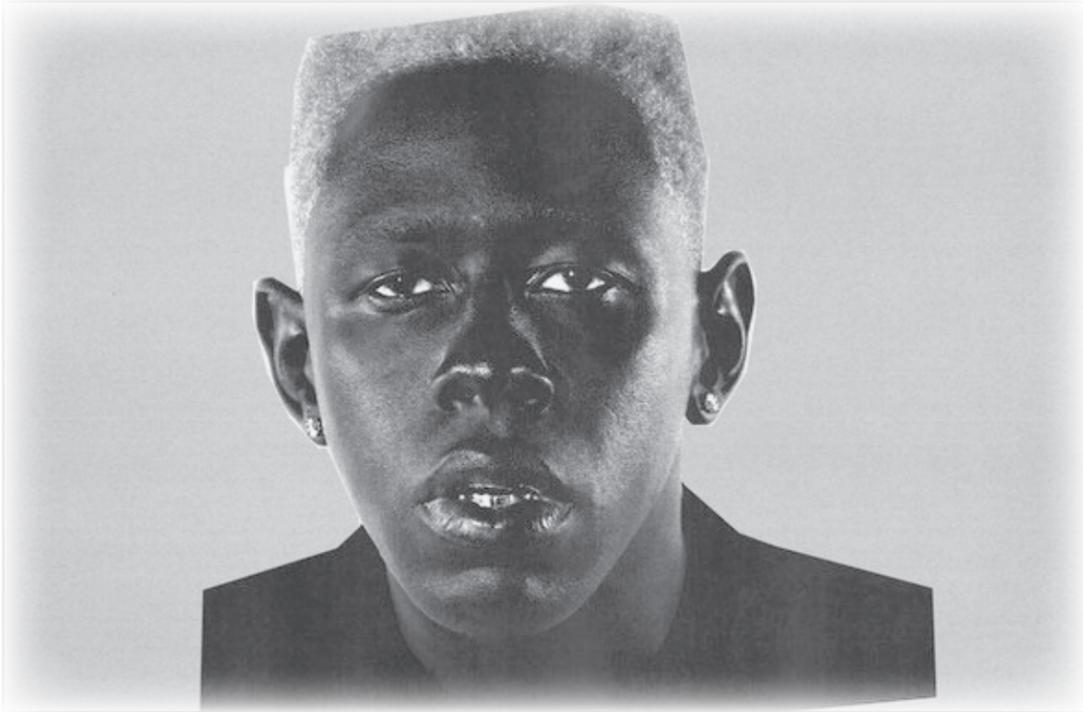
Mr. Diaz



"No matter what you're going into find a way to push forward and look for the next opportunity to find the path that's for you."

Ms. Waldron

ENTERTAINMENT

Tyler, the Creator gets first #1 album with *IGOR*

Tyler Gregory Okonma, otherwise known as Tyler, the Creator, poses for his fifth studio album *IGOR*

BY FATIMA LOPEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Tyler Gregory Okonma, better known by his stage name Tyler, the Creator, has taken the music industry and the world by storm. The well-known artist dropped his fifth studio album *IGOR* this month which quickly climbed to the top of the charts. Okonma's album debuted at number one on the Billboard Hot 200 chart. This is his first number one album in his career!

Tyler, the Creator has made music for quite some time now, but *IGOR* is his most special

release yet. All songs on the album were written, produced, and arranged by Okonma himself.

IGOR is the child of a unique blend of different music genres. Tyler, the Creator took genres like R&B, hip-hop, and funk and created a story with his music. He managed to seamlessly blend them all into a new and refreshing sound that fans everywhere have longed to hear for a long time. With his captivating lyrics and pleasing beats, Tyler, the Creator has really stepped it up from his previous releases and continues to garner attention for his work.

Tyler the Creator's album

consists of twelve songs that each display the creativity and the darker side that resides in the star, but his songwriting skills and production skills aren't the only things that make this album the success that it is. *IGOR* is a star-studded album that features many well-known artists, but you wouldn't know because Okonma chose not to list them directly. From Frank Ocean to Kanye West to even Jerrod Carmichael, *IGOR* is chock-full of collaborators.

One of Tyler's most popular tracks off of *IGOR* is "EARFQUAKE" featuring an uncredited verse by Georgia born rapper,

Playboi Carti. This song sounds very similar to something off of *Flower Boy*, but it is fantastic nonetheless. This track is about Okonma's failed relationship. He blames himself for the instability of his relationship with his lover. The beat, Tyler's vocals, and Carti's rap all make this song a hit.

Next on the album is "I THINK." On this track, a strong beat and a buzzing baseline accompany a funky melody reminiscent to the music of the 70s. Aside from that killer combination, the song features backing vocals by none other than the soulful Solange Knowles. On "I THINK," Tyler questions his mental state and his feelings for his lover. Are his feelings real or are they a figment of his imagination? Nobody, not even Tyler himself knows the answer to that.

Another notable track on the album is "NEW MAGIC WAND," that features an intro by stand-up comedian Jerrod Carmichael and backing vocals by singer-songwriter Santigold. This song is a bit more reminiscent of Okonma's older music. With its incredibly loud baseline and violent lyrics, Tyler takes a trip down memory lane, but also manages to incorporate some of his new sound into it. On this track, Tyler tries to convince his lover to stay and not leave him. His pleas are rather demanding and even a bit threatening, but the song itself goes hard.

Next on *IGOR* is "A BOY IS A GUN," (my personal favorite) featuring backing vocals

by Solange. This track features a more Kanye West-like sound with a clear chorus and a sample of "Bound," by the Ponderosa Twins. The use of the synth and the keys also make it a fantastic song. While this can only be speculated, many fans and critics both think that "A BOY IS A GUN," is a nod to Tyler, the Creator's sexuality, which is very up in the air.

The most notable song on the album is the eighth track "PUPPET," that features an uncredited verse by none other than Kanye West. With strong backing vocals by Santigold and a mellow beat, Tyler sings about his lover's grasp on him. He is wrapped around his lover's finger and he doesn't know whether that is a good thing or not. The track itself is a wonderful piece and it's no wonder that fans and critics alike have deemed "PUPPET," to be the best song on the album.

With this album, Tyler, the Creator has proven to the world that he remains one of music's hottest acts and that he is not one to be slept on. *IGOR* is a story of anger and heartbreak, but it is a beautiful one. Okonma's ability to create such captivating stories through his music is what sets him apart from others.

If you're in need of new music or just want to broaden your music taste to some funky hip-hop and R&B, look no further than Tyler, the Creator. His fifth studio album, *IGOR*, is available on all streaming platforms!

Aladdin exceeds box office expectations, but not audience's

BY ARACELI CORREA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Disney recently released the highly anticipated film, *Aladdin*. The film is a remake of the Disney classic animated film from 1992. The film stars Mena Massoud (*Aladdin*), Naomi Scott (*Jasmine*), and most notably Will Smith as Genie.

The film had a Rotten Tomato score of 58%, but an audience score of 94%, despite its harsh reception from critics the movie grossed a total of \$90.5 million and currently holds the title for number one movie at the box office.

The plot closely follows the original; a "diamond in the ruff" named Aladdin lives on the streets of Agrabah and steals in order to survive. One day he encounters a mysterious woman who is princess Jasmine in disguise. Aladdin then meets Jafar, the Sultan's Grand Vizier, and enters the cave of wonders and finds a magical lamp.

The film creates the

same nostalgic feeling the animated film invoked but with subtle differences. Jafar's sidekick, Iago, is more parrot-like in the live-action film compared to his previous comedic relief role. This small change made the movie less entertaining.

However, Will Smith's portrayal of the Genie makes up for it, Will Smith's interpretation lived up to Robin Williams's legacy and made genie's character as great as it was in the original.

There was some debate over the cast, such as Naomi Scott being the perfect fit for Jasmine, and although she may have not been perfect she fit the role rather well and made Jasmine's character more independent. As for Mena Massoud, he was the perfect choice for Aladdin.

Jafar, on the other hand, was not the perfect fit being that he was missing that evil aspect the previous Jafar had. There were many scenes that were cut especially ones with Jafar. Most of the original music was kept, with the



The promotional poster for *Aladdin* depicts Naomi Scott, Mena Massoud, and Will Smith.

exception of two new songs. Although the songs were good and had a meaningful message, it cut time for the movie making some scenes feel rushed and it didn't

fit well with the theme.

The movie alone was a pretty entertaining film, but compared to the original and other Disney films it lacks creativity and the

"Disney-Magic" that many other films invoke. If you're a huge fan of *Aladdin* and Disney remakes, then I highly suggest you watch it.

SAYING GOODBYE

Vasquez cherishes time at the Ranch; seeks new opportunities

BY ANTONIO ESCOBAR
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

At the end of this year, El Rancho High School will be saying goodbye to its principal of two years Mr. Vasquez. Vasquez first started working at El Rancho in August of 2017. During his time as principal he has worked very hard, and he will always be fondly remembered as someone who had a positive influence on both the students and staff at El Rancho. He constantly strived to “create a culture where students are put FIRST.”

“The opportunity to work with staff to create a team environment is the reason I became a principal,” says Vasquez. His motivation and objectives are very clear when one looks at the way he has run the school, and the impact he has had. For the last two years the school has made a huge effort to create a positive culture in which all students can feel safe and happy.

Not only has Vasquez made an impact on El Rancho, but El

Rancho has also affected the life of it’s principal. The connections Vasquez has made at this school are very meaningful to him. “I will never forget the staff and students,” says Vasquez. He believes that those friendships he has made “will last a lifetime,” and there is no doubt that the sentiment is shared by all of his friends.

When Vasquez was asked to reflect on what his favorite parts of his time as principal were, one could sense his enthusiasm and love for the school. “Both of my years at the Ranch were amazing! I love every minute!” says Vasquez. His positivity is not only a sign of a good administrator, but of a good person in general. A person with a good outlook on life is a positive influence on all those around them! The positivity spread to countless other students, and made many people much happier to come to school and learn. Vasquez’s fondest memories of his time at El Rancho are of graduation, and his favorite part of being Principal was “working with staff



Hector Vasquez, El Rancho High School principal

and students to create change.”

Although his time as principal is coming to an end, Vasquez’s effect on the school will not be forgotten. Even as he departs, he works to spread positivity to students. Vasquez

leaves one final piece of advice for his students: “Never give up on your dreams.” He also wants the students to know there is no reason for them to worry for him. Vasquez says he is going to “move forward and see what

God has in the plans” for him.

Finally, he wishes to leave everyone with a quote to reflect on: “Every time I thought I was being rejected from something good. I was actually being redirected to something better.” - Unknown

Chodos leaves behind a literary legacy



Jean Chodos, El Rancho High School librarian

BY KAYLA PEREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

You may know her as the El Rancho librarian, Teen Read week coordinator, or Get Lit sponsor, she’s Jean Chodos! Af-

ter 20 years, Chodos is ready to start the next chapter of her life and is retiring. Her retirement will for sure leave a mark at El Rancho as Chodos has played a huge role in the literary communities on the El Rancho campus.

Her passion for reading and liberal arts has been evident ever since she was a child, “I love reading and have also always been a research and finding-information person, even before the Internet was invented,” says Chodos. Liberal arts are not all that this multi talented legend considered pursuing. “I also considered law school before becoming a librarian.”

Before working at El Rancho, Chodos also gained experience as a librarian by working in public and academic libraries.

However, she fell in love with El Rancho as soon as she began working in the campus library, and wanted to give back to her new home. “El Rancho has given me an entire community,” says Chodos. “I was raised in a tradition of service and this school is where I give my best.”

Having worked at El Rancho for nearly two decades, Chodos can still recall how foreign

she felt during her very first year as head librarian. “I remember feeling very bewildered during my first year here at the Ranch,” says Chodos. “Now, as I leave, I feel very enlightened.”

Throughout her time here at El Rancho, Chodos has made many memories through the countless English department events she has hosted. Some of her favorite memories were made through the Get Lit Poetry Slam, which she has been doing for all eight years the organization has held the competition. “The first time the Get Lit Players performed at ER,” says Chodos. “I was so amazed by the incredible reception given to them by ER students.”

After her retirement, there is currently no one available to carry out these traditions, though hopefully her future replacements will be able to return literature to the Ranch. Because of the Get

Lit curriculum and the Night of Spoken Word performances, hundreds of students were able to express themselves through spoken word. Some students, like alumnus Marcus James, were even inspired to pursue poetry as a profession and reach out to students the same way she did.

Even though Chodos is sad to leave, she will always remember they joy she had working on campus and bringing literature and art to the student body. “The students and teachers are the best part of my job,” says Chodos. “ERHS students and teachers are by far my favorite people to interact with every day.”

After retirement, Chodos plans to “subscribe to Acorn TV and watch lots of British detective shows.” This will give the literary queen the time relax and reflect on the outstanding impact she had on the writers and readers of El Rancho.

Au revoir Mrs. Moghimi!

BY GRECIA HARO-FLORES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After 36 years, Mrs. Angela Moghimi-Danesh, is saying *au revoir* to the Ranch, and *bonjour* to a new chapter in her life.

Moghimi-Danesh began her teaching career at a very early age. “I have been teaching since I was 17. I was a certificated [Confraternity of Christian Doctrine] teacher at 17 and then I received my BA in Spanish Lit and French Lit with a minor in English in 1982,” says Moghimi-Danesh, “I began teaching at El Rancho as a Spanish teacher in 1983 and have been teaching here ever since.”

For as long as she could remember, Moghimi-Danesh always knew she wanted to

become a teacher. Her interest in teaching sparked from inspirational teachers she had throughout her education.

Before she embarked on her long teaching journey, she wanted to gain experience. One of her first teaching experiences was with a young Cuban boy, who only knew how to speak Spanish.

“I taught him to speak, read, and write English,” says Moghimi-Danesh.

Moghimi-Danesh’s retirement was surprising to her students and herself. Originally, she planned to retire next year, the same year her youngest child, Kylie Moghimi-Danesh will graduate.

Moghimi-Danesh was the only French teacher on campus,

and since she will not be returning next year, the French program will most likely not continue next year.

She will miss “spending time with her kids” and “being a kid with the kids” the absolute most. Her remaining days at El Rancho, she plans on doing exactly that, and ending the year strong.

She hopes her students “challenge themselves of being present with each other.”

“It’s not about having the best facilities, not about the buildings, having the best technology. It’s about being present with people, being right there with them, making connections, being together, and learning from each other,” says Moghimi-Danesh.



Angela Moghimi-Danesh, El Rancho High School French teacher

SAYING GOODBYE

Ms. Segal looks forward to retirement but will miss students dearly

BY FRANKY LEON
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After working a little over 18 years at El Rancho, ERWC teacher Ms. Nadine Segal has decided to end her time at El Rancho and retire.

Segal has been teaching almost her whole life. She's taught every single grade and even post high school. "I can safely say that I have been teaching all my life - starting as a youth movement leader, also as a dance teacher, and I studied to be a high school English teacher as well!"

Her passion for education is reflected through her impressive education background. Segal attended the University Of The Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa where she studied

English literature and Biblical Studies, and even earned an honors degree in Drama and Film.

Segal immigrated from South Africa to America in 2001 and shortly after started to teach at El Rancho. Coming to El Rancho was definitely a culture shock for Segal, "I came into a different school system within a different culture. Fortunately, I already had substantial experience teaching English and to diverse students!," says Segal.

Her favorite grade to teach were the seniors "I enjoy the seniors because they are (meant to be) the most mature," says Segal. "However, I also really loved teaching 5 and 6 year olds creative dance and movement, they are such little people!"

Segal is looking forward to

the life that retirement will offer her. "Looks like I have come to the end of the lollipop!," says Segal. "I have been teaching for well over thirty years and I am aware that there are other things I would like to do in my life and I have a lot of reading to catch up on!"

She also plans on spending time with her family, friends and traveling. "I have 4 wonderful grand children with whom I intend spending oodles of time with," says Segal. "I also plan to travel to England to visit my brother, Germany for my sister and South Africa to visit my friends and then Greece, Italy and Israel"

Segal will definitely be missed by her students. "There are countless reasons why I love and will miss Ms. Segal," says senior Samantha A. Barajas.



Ms. Segal, ERWC.

"She is like a second mother to me and was there for me through a lot of things. I wish her the best on her retirement"

Though her time at El Rancho has come to an end, she

Photo by Franky Leon

will always remember the joy she had teaching at El Rancho, "You guys have so much life and soul and humor and I will miss that the most," says Segal.

De La Loza set to leave El Rancho but his wisdom remains with students

BY ALEJANDRO MELCHOR
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After teaching in the El Rancho Unified School District for 28 years, El Rancho's very own Art teacher, Mr. De La Loza, will be waving goodbye as he sets forth into retirement.

Although his career as a teacher is nearly over, De La Loza has enjoyed every bit of it and what it has brought to his life. "I've become part of the community, I've had students who were in my 5th-grade class come back to be my students in high school, so I've been here long enough that I've become part of the community," says De La Loza.

Some of his fondest memories that he's had the Ranch were mainly in the classroom. "I've enjoyed working with the students, especially when I taught

the advanced class," he adds.

He also enjoyed seeing his students progress and be successful. "It brought me much joy to see Mr. Magdaleno, who was my student in 5th grade and in high school, become a teacher, and I'm proud of that," says De La Loza.

Despite leaving after such a long time of being a teacher, there were some moments in his career that he could never forget. "I would miss the students primarily. As I've said before to other teachers, when I come to school, working with the students is not much different from being at one of my family parties where I have all my nephews and nieces and for that, I've enjoyed it," says De La Loza.

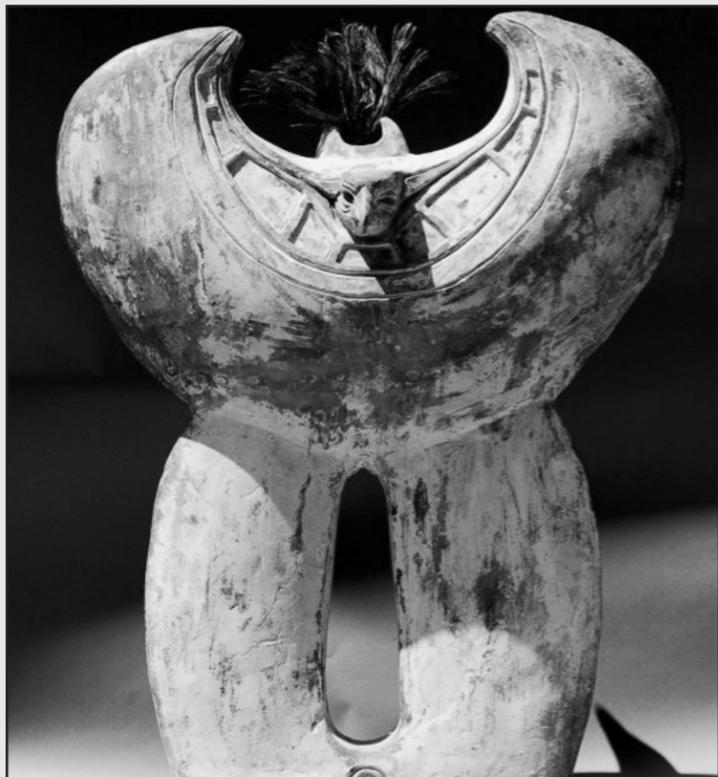
Moving forward, De La Loza plans to keep working in art and keep busy in his craft. "I'm going to keep working as a sculptor, my goal is to keep going after

public art jobs and do as much as possible. That's always been my primary goal," says De La Loza.

Some of his most famous work can be found displayed publicly in Los Angeles. "I have done a lot of public artwork, such as the Mariachi Plaza, one of the Metro Stations, LAPD (Los Angeles Police Department) officers memorial and several other projects," says De La Loza.

Since De La Loza's last year of teaching is now over, he has one final message to tell the students of El Rancho. "Believe in yourself, and also realize that if you're persistent and get yourself into school, many doors will open down the road," he says.

Be sure to check out more of De La Loza's amazing artwork on his website Alejandrolaloza.com.



De La Loza's "Cuahitli."

Courtesy of Alejandro De La Loza

Mrs. Welch-Ebert ready to travel the world after 31 years at The Ranch

BY EZRA BLANCO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Mrs. Welch-Ebert began working at El Rancho High School in 1988 as a Spanish 2 teacher. After 31 years, she is finally ready to start the next chapter in her life and is retiring. After retirement, she is going to travel, read novels, and volunteer for various charitable organizations.

This summer, she will travel to Hungary, Slovenia, and Croatia with the Gadabouts club, led by Mr. and Mrs. Zeko. She will also be joining the Gadabouts next summer on their trip to Japan.

Her inspiration to pursue teaching as a career came from her family. She was encouraged to pursue this path by both of her parents growing up. Her mom worked as an elementary school teacher, while her dad wanted her to have a good job.

She feels that being a teacher was always the plan for her. "Everything went right

into place for me to become a teacher," says Welch-Ebert.

Teaching has proved to be her calling as it became a creative outlet for her and a way for her to help the community. Her favorite memory at El Rancho was working with all of the students throughout her years.

She enjoyed teaching her students a new language and helping them become fluent in it, as it would give students more opportunities as they grow up. Learning a second language "opens doors for [students] in college, at work, and in life," says Welch-Ebert.

Junior Adrian Vaquero appreciates the time he got to spend in her classroom. "She's very kind, she always says hi and bye," says Vaquero. He also shared how helpful she has been, always offering help to students who struggled with their assignments.

Vaquero admires how positive she always was in the classroom the most. Vaquero describes her as "an inspira-



Mrs. Welch-Ebert, Spanish 2.

Photo by Ezra Blanco

tion to everyone she meets."

Seniors Marissa Chavez and Felicia Machuca are leaving El Rancho with fond memories of Mrs. Welch. "Mrs. Welch puts lots of effort in her appearance, she's very stylish," says Chavez. She also admires how dedicated Mrs.

Welch is to teaching Spanish.

Machuca is very grateful to have taken her class because Mrs. Welch's work tactics surrounding presentations helped her get over her fear of presenting in front of people.

Mrs. Welch played a great

role in the El Rancho school community, positively affecting the lives of many students and fellow faculty members. She encourages students to always do their best work and to remember, "You will always learn if you try."

SAYING GOODBYE

Lawson reminisces about his time at the Ranch

BY GRECIA HARO-FLORES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Mr. Lynn Lawson has been an *integral* part of The Ranch, but after 29 years of teaching, he's saying goodbye, taking with him blue pride and tons of memories.

Education has always been a big part of Lawson's life. "I come from a family of educators as I have two brothers, two sister-in-laws, and two nieces, one who works in the district, who are all teachers," says Lawson.

Lawson studied Business Management and Finance at Arizona State University, where he earned his Bachelor's degree. Lawson said, "I've owned and operated several businesses and I recently started a new business, which I plan to manage during my retirement."

It's quite evident that Lawson loves numbers, but he is also a fan of sports. During his career, he has coached Volleyball, Basketball, and Tennis. He was also El Rancho's athletic director for eight years.

As he looks back at his time at El Rancho, Lawson reminisces his experiences. "One of my favorite memories at ER was many years ago right before the first Academic Decathlon was held at El Rancho,"



Mr. Lawson, *Intergrated Math*.

says Lawson, "A Blue Pride day [was] scheduled for a Saturday and they asked some teachers to help supervise the clean-up."

"I was told to expect around 20 students to supervise. On that Saturday, over 700 students showed up to clean the campus," shares Lawson, "Helicopters were flying over the school because they saw so many students entering school grounds."

"The school looked great

and El Rancho's blue pride was on full display that day," said Lawson.

Being a former Don, Lawson will always bleed blue. To present-day and future students, Lawson advises them "to control [their] own dreams and ambitions."

"Get as much education as possible, and don't feel pressure to choose a life or career path to please someone else. Always be true to yourself," says Lawson.

Photo by Ezra Blanco

Schneidman bids farewell to the science department

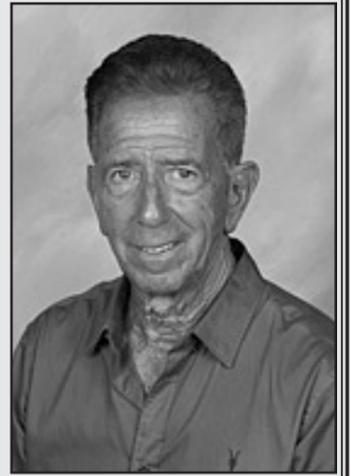
BY FLOR CALDERON
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After 16 years of working at El Rancho, Mr. Schneidman has decided to bid his farewell. Through his time at El Rancho Schneidman has taught multiple subjects within the science department.

Throughout his years of teaching at El Rancho, Schneidman has made many cherished memories with his students. He takes honor in the respect and responsibility that his students behold, "The students are just amazing and that's where I choose to keep my focus," says Schneidman. "By far our students have a quality about them that honors respect."

Schneidman became a teacher as a result of him trying to avoid being drafted into the military.

"Initially, to be truthful, I was trying to avoid fighting in the war. And yet, this was a blessing since this is a great profession," says Schneidman.



Mr. Schneidman, *Living Earth Biology*.

Schneidman genuinely enjoys teaching students and never got tired by the thrill the job offered. "Each year was better than the previous one," says Schneidman.

One final thing that Schneidman wants everyone to know about his experience teaching and working at El Rancho is that has "teaching is all about making a difference, hopefully the students I've had an impact on have learned to reach their full potential."

Espinoza leaves an impact on two decades of El Rancho students



Mrs. Espinoza, *Student Counselor*. Photo by Yazlin Juarez

BY ARACELI CORREA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This year many of El Rancho's staff will be saying their farewells to the school including the counselor, Mrs. Olga Espinoza. Espinoza began working in the El Rancho Unified School District in 1982 as a special education teacher at North Park.

Since then she decided to become a counselor at El Rancho High school about 20 years ago. "I wanted to impact students in a positive way," says Espinoza. When she first started at the Ranch, Espinoza felt overwhelmed because of the large number of students. "Over time it became manageable and now I'm doing something completely different," she continues.

Before working at El Rancho, Espinoza was a lifeguard and an adaptive aquatics instructor at Mt. Sac college. "It was a different environment because it was mainly adults," says Espinoza. She also served as a college aid while attending college.

The imprint the community at the Ranch has left on Espinoza is inspiring. "I'm glad to see students grown up and see how they are contributing to society, you see they came a long way."

Her favorite moments here at El Rancho would be the graduation ceremonies. "I have so many memories here, but all the graduations that I've been to would be my favorite," says Espinoza.

She's proud of her students and being able to make an impact on their life. "Making sure to be part of a student's graduation who was planning on graduating, it's amazing to see a student grow into a young adult," says Espinoza.

As Espinoza moves onto the next chapter of her life she looks forward to what is to come. "I plan to do a lot of things, most importantly having fun, traveling, and gardening," says Espinoza. "It will be a little adjustment but I'm excited!"

Aside from her future plans, she enjoys a little gambling and being able to socialize with her friends and family.

One piece of advice Espinoza wants to resonate with her students is, "Have a plan after high school and don't stop learning; hopefully, that plan includes college or postgraduate training and certification."

As Espinoza bids her last goodbyes, don't be afraid to thank her for her contributions and dedication to her students and fellow staff members.

Rojas plans to further musical passions after 37 years at El Rancho



Mr. Rojas, *AP Psychology and Sociology*. Photo by Ezra Blanco

ALEJANDRO MELCHOR
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho High School will be saying goodbye to one of their longtime teachers, Mr. Rojas. Mr. Rojas has taught at El Rancho for 37 years, and has paid his dues.

Rojas has taught many different subjects over the years including Sociology, Psychology, World History, English, Economics, Introduction to Social Science, AP Psychology, and US History.

Mr. Rojas has spent a long time teaching at the Ranch, in turn, he learned a lot while he was here and enjoyed his experience overall. "My time here has been both difficult and great and everything in between, I had to learn

how to not take myself and everything so seriously," says Rojas, "And so gradually I learned how to relax and to have fun and to let the subject flow instead of trying to shove it down people's throat."

Although Rojas spent most of his time in the classroom, he also spent a great deal of his time on the basketball court. "I played basketball as a hobby along with many of the other teachers here."

Aside from teaching and playing basketball Mr. Rojas is passionate about music. "I've played bass for over 40 years," says Rojas, "I have a band right now, and I've played professionally for many years."

Even though Rojas is moving on, he will definitely miss El

Rancho. He will hold many of the memories that were made in his classroom close to his heart. "The interactions with students have always been the highlight because it keeps you young, interacting with students is what makes the job fun and being able to see them progress and actually learn things when sometimes it feels like you're pulling teeth is great," says Rojas.

Aside from the students, Mr. Rojas will also miss his colleagues. "The friends that I met here, some of them will be lifetime friends, some have retired and some are still working here, but I know that I've gained a lot of really great relationships here among the adult faculty and the administration," says Rojas.

After leaving El Rancho, Rojas plans to travel the world and focus more on his music. "I want to do more traveling, my brother and I want to go to Europe and Asia, see Israel, the holy land," says Rojas. "I'm definitely also going to put a lot more energy into music, I've always wanted to do that anyways."

Having reached the end of his teaching career, Rojas had one last message for the students of El Rancho: "Stay interested in something, be a passionate learner, don't ever give up, don't get swallowed up by the negativity that's around us all the time in our culture, be passionate and pursue whatever it is that is your passion, if you're following your passion then you ought to go after it with everything you've got."

STAFF FAREWELLS

Kayla
Perez

Hello my little peeps! It's been coming up to 3 years that I have been in journalism and now it's time to say goodbye :(I honestly don't know where to start, I never thought that this day would actually come and tbh I'm a little emotional and crying as I write this but it's okay I'll get through it. So let's see, hmm where should I start? The time I spent during high school has always been complex, I was never one that really enjoyed it lmao and those of you that know me know that I hardly ever showed up; however, Journalism always made my days enjoyable and became my safe haven in this stuffy place we call high school.

When I first joined my sophomore year, I was just an awkward 15 year old girl trying to branch out and find a new hobby/club to be a part of. I had stumbled upon journalism after my lord and savior Jocelyn Estrada tweeted out saying they needed more people to join and soon found myself in a room of 10 wonderful people and learning how to pop out an issue every month. That year was truly one that I will cherish and made me even more excited for junior year. Ahhh junior year, I'll never forget Zeko's face as he walked into the room and realized his patriarchal ways would be overthrown as the entire class was filled with feminists. My Junior year is one that I will always remember as it was my first step into becoming a leader within the classroom and prepared me extremely for my final year aka this year :(

I thought that last year was hard after having to say goodbye to all the seniors, but now that it is my time to leave, it's even harder especially when I don't want to go away. As I first came into this school year and was honored the title of Editor-in-Chief a lot of worries and fears overcame me. Would I do a good job

Emily
Lopez

I can't believe this is already our last issue of the year. This whole year has been an amazing experience. Journalism has taught me more about myself and has become an important part of my high school experience.

When I joined journalism last year, I didn't know what to expect. I had always loved reading the newspaper and I was excited to learn about all the work that goes into a paper. The small staff that ran the newspaper was an amazing group of women who



just like my predecessors Aleksey and Nayeli? Would I be able to be a good leader and help support people to the best of my abilities? Would I REALLY be able to handle another year of seeing Zeko's bald-and-blinding head? I can't answer these questions myself but can say that this year has helped me grow as person and leader more than any other year and even though it was really hard sometimes I hope I made you guys proud and was able to be a good role-model for you all and thank you for even giving me the opportunity to do so. You guys have all been such inspiration to me throughout this entire year and words cannot explain how much I have appreciated all of your efforts. From brainstorming to writing articles to stay late for layout even though we were all functioning on one singular brain cell; all of you guys are what have helped El Rodeo continue to function and grow as a publication and I am beyond grateful. Alright time for me to stop ranting and say goodbye individually lmao.

worked day and night to produce a paper. They inspired me to do more and become more involved with the program by becoming the editor in chief for our website.

I am so glad that I joined and I am going to miss our brainstorming, Zeko's random tangents, and my amazing staff. Journalism introduced me to people who I would have never gotten the chance to meet and I am grateful for all of them. Not being here next year is definitely going to be difficult, but I can't wait to hear about all the amazing things that our juniors will accomplish next year. I know you will do Kayla, Selina, and I proud. :) Love, Emily Lopez <3

The first senior I would like to say goodbye to is Emily Lopez. My bb Emily (~ 3~)♥ thank you for always pulling through and offering me emotional support through the year. You are such a chill and calming soul, I probably couldn't have gotten through this year without you. Thank you for always helping me stand against Zeko and for taking care of my child-the website- you have done a good job parenting it and have raised it better than I ever could, love u bb <33.

Next is homegirl Selina Torres. Seli thank you for all your random remarks made at really weird times, I will always appreciate the awkward yet funny silence that came after those. Thank you also for doing a great job with the Twitter, you have really pushed our platform and it's amazing seeing it all, I wish u the best at Berkeley <33 (even tho Bruins are better but it's okay ig).

Karizma, thank you for all of the work you've done and for pulling through even though you hated

Selina
Torres

Wow. I can't believe it's already time for farewells.

Honestly, when my counselor put me into journalism, I wasn't looking forward to it at all. It seemed boring and I didn't know anyone. But, over this past year and a half, journalism has become a second family.

When I first found out that I was an editor, I was excited, but also scared. Having an online division was completely new this year and it was up to me and Emily to figure out how it should work and how we will make it work. Though it was rough at first, and I was stressed out of my mind, we found our groove and the El Rodeo Twitter has been thriving since. We gained over 200 followers and none of it could have been done without my staff: Laura, Gabriel, Fermin, Isaac, Candice, Krista, Salomon, Michael, Emily, Emiliano, and Alejandro for a while. I know that having weekly, or sometimes even daily assignments was annoying, but your hard work has not gone unnoticed and I am extremely grateful for each and every one of your persistence and positive attitudes.

When it comes to everybody in print, I just want to say

it half the time lmao. I'm glad that journalism brought us close together and will never forget your conversations about *****, even when it seemed too stressful or seemed like it would take so long to get it done.

Stevie Steve, thank you for always playing bops during the class and for drowning me with affection, I can't wait to be friends forever and wish you the best of luck at CSUDH. BTW we're also getting P-1 tickets next tour wait for it!

Fatima, you never fail to amaze me with your talented writing skills. Thank you for being a writing inspiration to me and for helping publish the paper, there were times when I didn't think we would be able to get it out but your help is what made us successful, can't wait to see you at UCLA in two years. :)

Franky! Life was so gray when u left last semester and I'm so glad to have you back <33 you are such a precious soul and I love you immensely! Keep being gorgeous bb <3.

Jenn! My Get-lit Queen! Thank you for all your hard work and for helping copy edit even when you weren't supposed to, I'll miss you and wish you the best of luck after high school!

Rennieeeeee, you know I love with my WHOLE heart, even though getting you to finish your article on time was a tough mission, I appreciate how much of a team player you are and can't wait to decorate your dorm at Berkeley. Stay golden my love UwU

Alonzo, homie, IDK what to say for you because I'm gonna see you at college and I feel weird saying a goodbye soooooo thanks for your copy-editing, ily bro.

Yazlin, you truly were a QUEEN this year with photos and writing, I'm so thankful for getting to collaborate and spend time with you in another school activity and can't wait to see all the amazing things you accomplish at UCSC, you make me soft omg bye <33. Now for my junior bb's! Gre-

cia there is no person that I am more PROUD of to continue my reign lmao. I see all the potential you have and can't wait to see the amazing leader that you become, I know you will do amazing and I'm always a phone call away if you need me.

Araceli SIS, you are and will always be my favorite crack-head, I will make sure to Rabbit you all the time in college, see you at UCLA in fall 2020 KSKSKSKK.

Alejandro, you are literally BABY, I'm so thankful to have gotten the chance to know you, make sure to always keep in touch love yuh homie.

Flor, even though you have only been in here for a semester, I really hope you like the class and enjoy it even more next year. I'll miss you so much omg.

To everyone else, I'm sorry I didn't get the chance to get close to you but I appreciate and am grateful for all the hard-work you guys put in, I wish you nothing but the best during your life after high school, love you all!

Lastly, thank you Mr. Zeko. I remember the first time we argued and I almost threw my shoe at you because you made fun of my article. After 3 years of being a part of the staff, you have not only become one of my favorite teachers but a role model to me and I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for always advising me and help me in times I felt completely lost. Despite how many times we argued, I am going to miss you extremely and could no have grown as a writer, leader, or person without you. I hope I have made you proud as an Editor and will make sure to visit. Thank you for literally everything.

Finally, thank you to all of those took the time read the paper, website, and Twitter, you have made the crazy ride all worth it.

I'm so grateful to have been given the honor of being editor-in-chief, good luck to all of the staff members next year, I'll make sure to visit and call me if you need me (~ 3~)♥



that I am proud of every single issue that you put out. I know it was stressful- from deadlines and layout changes to Zeko's constant pushing you guys to rearrange and adjust to what *he* believes should be in the paper- you guys pushed through and were able to put out great issues every month. Kayla, my love, you did an amazing job leading them and I'm so happy to have had the chance to work with you these past years.

My last and (oddly) hardest farewell goes to Mr. Zeko. Over the past two years that I have known you, you have easily become one of my favorite teachers. You are the class I go to when I don't want to go to my actual class, the person I can rant to about pretty much anything (because you already know I'm

crazy and can deal with it), the person who feeds me when I am hungry, and one of the biggest supporters of not only myself, but El Rodeo as a whole. Even though you force us to read for 20 minutes, even though nobody really does, it is your passion for journalism that keeps the class functioning and successful.

I want to take the time to say good luck to the future members of El Rodeo. As stressful as the class is, I hope it becomes a second family to you, as it did to me. Araceli, if you see this, please continue my streak of arguing with Zeko hehe.

El Rodeo, thank you for the memories, the food, the laughs, and the people. I am honored to have been an Editor-in-Chief this year. BYE!



STAFF FAREWELLS



Alonzo Murrieta

Hey all. I'm Alonzo Murrieta, I gave the advice for this year's newspaper and I also wrote some articles and did other important things at some point. I'm not sure what I'm supposed to write

here, but apparently anything goes. Journalism has been cool, staying late was pretty stressful at times but that doesn't matter much now. It's cool and you should join. Nice knowing y'all.

Franky Leon

These past two years in journalism have gone by so fast and I almost don't want these final days to come to an end but at the same time I'm excited for the life I have ahead of me. When I first joined journalism I was a bit skeptical only because I wasn't the best writer ever and I was afraid of criticism. However, joining journalism was the best decision I've made these past 4 years. I've created so many amazing friendships and memories that will last a lifetime.

with half the class, helping each other out with quizzes and most of all poking fun at Zeko. I'll definitely miss the sense of pride I felt when the newspaper would come out because that was all of our hard work.

Stevie Dominguez

I only took Journalism last year because I needed a class to fill in my 6th period and even though I didn't join with good intentions, I don't regret it. I came into this class not knowing anybody thinking this class would be an easy A. But oh boy I was WRONG. I've met some of the most amazing people in this class, including my best friends. Although, Journalism came with more work than I thought some of my best memories are still crying over a layout page and staying to finish the paper until 9 pm.

I'll miss the late nights we spent eating pizza and chugging soda trying to put the newspaper together. I'll miss the music Stevie would put on during class, playing shell shockers

Zeko, I'm not sure if I have ever said this to you but thank you! At the beginning I was scared to turn in my articles to you because I was afraid of criticism but your criticism has made me into a better writer. I'll miss seeing the top of your shining bald head while you're on your computer and the bark you would do during layout.

I'll miss every single senior on the newspaper because I know that each and every one of us are going our separate ways with college whether it be across the state or country but one thing I know for sure the friendships we have all created here are unbreakable! I'll miss you all, goodbye!!

Saying goodbye is hard, but I want to take time to thank all sections of our hard working staff and especially our editor-in-chief and my best friend Kayla



Perez. Without you Kayla our paper would NEVER come out. For Fatima, I am so incredibly lucky to have met you when I did and I wouldn't be here without you. For Karizma, I really can't believe I've known you for so damn long but I love you nonetheless.

Stevie, you've been my journalism buddy since day one and I loved staying super late at layout with you. Grecia, I'm so glad you decided to look past my very scary RBF and talk to me. Araceli, I thought I was going to get real tired of you because of decath and all, but having you on the staff was a dream come true. Alonzo, sometimes you make me want to punch you, but your comments (and sometimes lack of) are what made the class as memorable as it is to me now.

Everyone else, please don't feel bad, you hold an equally important place in my heart, I've just got a word limit to work with.

Overall, I would like to thank our wonderful advisor Mr. Zeko and our editor-in-chief Kayla Perez for making this newspaper staff the best it can be. I also want to give one more thank you to you guys, our readers. Without you guys, there wouldn't be a newspaper, so thank you. Thank you for reading through all the typos, the misprints, and the blunders, it means a lot to me <3

Karizma Reyes

I honestly only joined journalism because I wanted to spend more time with Kayla. It was the best decision I have ever made my junior year. I have gotten close to so many people through the newspaper.

I don't regret spending late nights doing layout because the print staff is the BEST and made it worth it. I'm going to miss all the times we were assigning articles and left sports articles to no one, sorry Ezra and Alejandro.

The best part of coming to journalism 4 days a week was that there is so much love in the class. I love and will miss the hugs I get from Alonzo, Jenn, Kayla, and Stevie.



I will for sure miss my junior babies they were perfect. Thank you

Grecia for being so precious. Alejandro you are so baby, OUR baby. Araceli please keep the cursed energy you have and make journalism next year fun. Flor

thank you for being the freckled beauty to LIGHT up journalism with your presence *chef kiss*. Being in journalism was such an unforgettable experi-

Jennifer Becerra

I honestly don't know why I joined Journalism but it was one of the best decisions that has happened to me. High school sucks and it was really lame but this class made it just a little less sucky. From hearing Zeko bark when we stayed late for layout or when we got to play games and eat food after release day.

Something I definitely will miss is hugging Sam, Stevie, Karizma, and Grecia. Thanks to this class I got to meet new people (Grecia, Araceli, Alejandro, etc.) and get closer to others (Karizma)

I'd especially like to say farewell to Grecia, Sam, and Karizma. I'm going to miss annoying you guys with my affection and witty jokes. Your innocence (Grecia) or lack thereof (Karizma and Sam)

And for all the other friends I've made through this class I appreciate you all so much, and for the juniors returning next year I wish you all the luck and I'll miss you guys.

(Also a special shout out to Mr. Zeko for putting up with us for so long.)

made me the happiest! Although I won't see you guys everyday anymore, you will all definitely be in my heart. <3

Zeko...even though a lot of the times you were irritating and somewhat annoying, you will always be one of my favorite teachers. You were funny, annoying, but most importantly you were very caring. Thank you for supporting me with poetry and for showing me what true confidence looks like, because you're very proud of that bald head.

Lastly, I'd like to say farewell to Kayla. I know we're not super close but having this class with you made me see what great human being you are! Thank you for inviting me to your family parties and to go out and eat with you and our mutual friends.

Farewell to all you juniors who will join Journalism again, please make this class as fun as you guys made it for me. I wish you all the best of luck with Zeko and deadlines! Love you all <3

SENIOR FAVORITES

As the school year has come along, various new things and trends have popped up. From movies to fast food places, El Rancho's seniors have gotten the chance to choose their favorites.



BEST ALBUM: BILLIE EILISH WHEN WE FALL ASLEEP, WHERE DO WE DO?

42%



BEST MUSICAL ARTIST/ GROUP: DRAKE

36%



BEST MOVIE: AVENGERS: ENDGAME

57%



BEST T.V SHOW: BLACK MIRROR

39%



BEST PLACE TO EAT: CHICK-FIL-A

35%



BEST APP: SNAPCHAT

46%



VIDEO GAMES: SUPER SMASH BROS

27%



BEST TEACHER: MR. JENKINS

37%