



Nightwatch was a must-watch



Lead actors Sophia Flores and Tony Cortez as Elaine and her husband.

BY EMILY LOPEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's Advanced Drama Department put on their first production of the year, the suspenseful thriller, *Nightwatch* in the Little Theater from December 12-16.

The play kept the audience on their toes. *Nightwatch* is a captivating drama encased with murder, affairs, and deception. Sophia Flores took on the lead role as Elaine.

"Considering this was my first lead, I was both excited and nervous knowing that I was about to take on the responsibility of leading the play," says Flores.

"I knew the role of Elaine had many elements that needed to be portrayed in order for the story to be captivating, so I was determined to better myself with each rehearsal," says Flores.

Being a part of so many organizations, Flores had a lot on her plate. "To prevent myself from getting overwhelmed, I organized my time to help me memorize my lines in an appropriate time frame so that I would be able to work on character development," she says.

"Also, the support from the other characters helped me push through when we had a rough rehearsal," says Flores. Although this was her first lead role, Sophia Flores portrayed Elaine exceptionally.

Flores says, "Elaine has different dimensions and it was a challenge to adapt the different emotions she went through. I think it was an amazing experience to play a person that much different from me."

None of this could have been done without the award-winning drama teacher, Mr. Walsick, who directed the production.

If you loved the performance, don't miss out on the spring musical, *Sugar*, coming up later this semester. Or if you would like to take part in the musical, auditions will be held in the Little Theater, K101, from January 30 to February 2.

Collings returns to the Ranch as vice principal

BY FRANKY LEON
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho welcomed its new vice principal Mr. Charles "Chuck" Collings at the school's most recent assembly.

Mr. Collings is an El Rancho alumni. Collings, who graduated in 1972 was part of boys' Council, senate, varsity football, and wrestling. "High School was one of the best times of my life because I was involved in a lot of things."

After graduating high school, Collings went on to two different universities. "I started at Whitworth College in Spokane, Washington then transferred to University of California San Diego. I got my degree in 1978 then got my masters in sculpture. It's what I wanted to do"

"When I was at UCSD I had worked with a prominent sculptor. He had a crew of workers and I was fortunate enough to be chosen to go with him and his family to southern Switzerland to produce a body of work for one of his galleries. It was my first trip out of the country," Collings said.

During his time in Switzerland, he continued to work on his art. Collings liked creating art so much that he went back to school to pursue a master in fine art at the University of Colorado in Boulder before moving to Denmark where he lived and taught art for 5 years.

Since the late 1990's Collings has worked within the El Rancho district. "I've been in the district for a little over 21 years. For eight years I was teaching students with special needs and then I became a dean for El Rancho for



Back from retirement, Collings enjoys his time back at the Ranch.

Photo by Franky Leon

a short time followed by taking on the role of assistant principal at El Rancho for 5 years. Then, in early 2009, I was principal at the adult school." Before becoming vice principal this year, Collings had actually retired five months prior, but when he was presented with the opportunity to become vice principal he felt it was an honor to assist the school in any way he could. "Who wouldn't want to return to their alma mater?" he said.

Mr. Collings is a person dedicated to his job. Collings lives near the desert, La Quinta to be exact. He drives leaving at 4:30 a.m and arrives roughly around 7

a.m. "I commute once a week and stay in Airbnb's for the time I'm in Pico Rivera. It's always nice to go home after a long week of work."

In his free time, He enjoys spending his time with his wife Tine, pronounced as Tina. The couple met while Collings was living in Denmark and have been married for over 25 years. He enjoys reading but doesn't read enough to his liking. His idea of relaxing revolves a around of golf a couple times a week. As of right now, he is working on establishing his art studio at his house and has been for the past five months. Collings

hopes to finish his art studio within the next couple of months.

Collings is amazed by the amount of friendliness in the school. "The students are the most friendly people and aren't afraid to strike up a conversation, the students makes you feel comfortable." What Collings really likes about El Rancho is that the students and staff all feel like a big family. "You can't find that anywhere else." He finds personal meaning and satisfaction through his "team" interactions with his fellow staff members. His purpose is to help out in any way possible during his time at El Rancho.

El Rancho to host Los Angeles County Decathlon competitions



Members of the team at Montebello High School's scrimmage in November

Photo by Mr. Retana

BY ALEKSEY SOTO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho will be hosting the Los Angeles County Academic Decathlon competitions on Saturday, January 27th. Around 40 schools all across the county will gather to compete in the Interview and Speech

portions of the competition.

The event is only the first day of competitions. The decathletes will only compete in Interview and Speech, the latter consisting of both a prepared speech and an impromptu speech. The other subjects, Mathematics, Literature, Social Sci-

ence, Art, Music, and Science, will be tested on February 3rd.

Currently, El Rancho's Division I decathletes are working hard to make sure that Interview skills are up to par and that they feel comfortable speaking in front of people. They've met with Mrs. Chavez-Diaz, Assistant Princi-

pal of Curriculum, in order to develop and perfect their speech ideas, and have simulated the impromptu and interview portions countless times this week, staying until 6 P.M. in B105 to practice.

"We've been staying after school and teaching each other everything. We even came to school to practice during winter break," says Kayla Perez, junior.

For many of the Don decathletes, it will be their first time ever experiencing what competition is like. Most of the team is comprised of newbies, and only three of its members have any experience.

But, that doesn't make them any less prepared.

Sebastian Carcano, senior, says, "I personally have practiced my speech and impromptu in the mirror. I believe if we bring our A game we can do very well, and even go to state."

Although you won't be able to cheer them on this Saturday, be sure to make it on February 3rd to support your Academic Decathlon team during the Super Quiz in the main gym!

OPINION

New Marijuana Law for Californians



The states shaded legally allow the sell and purchase of marijuana.

By BRIDGET MARTINEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

California residents over the age of 21 are now legally able to smoke and grow marijuana. After over seven million voters voted yes on Proposition 64, a law

was passed on January 1st that allows anyone at the age of 21 years or older to use and process marijuana. Although they are able to process cannabis, the buy limit is 8.5 grams of marijuana and 8 grams of concentrated marijuana. Like every law, there are

rules that must be followed. Most of the rules are simple, such as no smoking allowed in public areas and no smoking while driving. Another law is that businesses selling alcohol or tobacco cannot sell cannabis.

The reason marijuana is now legal is that it helps people in different ways. In fact, cancer patients who undergo chemotherapy use cannabis in order to prevent nausea and vomiting. Marijuana can also help with poor appetites, sleeping problems, seizure disorders, and plenty more.

Having cannabis legalized includes penalties for underage users. If someone under the age of 21 is caught partaking in the use, or possession, of marijuana, they are required to attend a drug education class and par-

ticipate in community service. If anyone is selling marijuana without a license, it's punishable by up to six months in a county jail, a fine up to \$500, or both.

Cannabis will be taxed 15 percent for retail price with exceptions for certain medical marijuana sales and cultivation. Because of this, growers who process cannabis will tax \$9.25 per ounce for the flowers and \$2.75 per ounce for the leaves.

From a once frowned upon substance to, according to Addiction Center, the third most popular drug in the United States, cannabis is now legal and helping ease the problems of the unfortunate. The medical research on cannabis is increasing with positive results, but we'll just have to wait and see where its progress leads.

Golden Globes 2018: A protest against sexual harassment and abuse

By FATIMA LOPEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The 75th Annual Golden Globe Awards were not only a time of celebration in the movie making industry, but they were also a wake-up call to many in regards to sexual harassment and assault in Hollywood and across the globe.

Both men and women wore black to protest sexual harassment and abuse. This "black-out" on the red carpet was inspired by a website and movement known as the Time's Up movement.

Time's Up is a site devoted to helping those affected by sexual harassment and sexual assault. The website was created on the first day of the year and it not only focuses on celebrities but also on members of the working class as well.

A large legal fund is available on the website for all who have been victims of harassment or assault. It was created in hopes that many victims will come forward and take legal action without having to worry about any costs.



Oprah Winfrey was one of many who publicly spoke about sexual harassment in Hollywood.

Celebrities such as Oprah Winfrey, Finn Wolfhard, and many others all wore black and a Time's Up pin to promote awareness about sexual harassment and assault and stood in solidarity with survivors of these acts.

Many Hollywood women also took the time to bring important activists and silence breakers to the award show as their "plus ones." Women like Shailene Woodley, Amy Poehler, Susan Sarandon, Emma Watson, and

Meryl Streep all brought along some very important women who have done many things for the activist world and beyond.

While almost all of the red carpet goers were wearing black, only a handful of women made an even bigger statement by addressing #TIMESUP and #MeToo, another hashtag that has been used to support victims of sexual assault, in their winner's speeches. No male winners spoke up and addressed the

issues that are plaguing Hollywood and the rest of the world.

Ironically enough, many male nominees and winners have been accused of abuse and sexual misconduct themselves and nobody had anything to say about it. Christian Slater and Gary Oldman have both been accused of sexual abuse and misconduct, yet they were dressed in all black and donned a Time's Up pin.

Maybe the most contradictory bit of the award show was Kirk Douglas' standing ovation. The 101-year-old actor was honored as a "movie legend" and "Hollywood icon" even though he has been accused of raping actress, Natalie Wood.

The Golden Globes were just the beginning of the #TIMESUP and #MeToo movements. After all, the year has only just begun. Victims of sexual harassment and abuse will no longer be silenced. As the world has seen, this is the year of the victims and survivors.

Apple's parental controls raise red flags

By MARIELA MICHEL
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Many people complain about how young people spend too much time on their phone. "They never take their eyes off the screen." "They are too dependent on their phones." "They need to spend more time socializing." Well, fortunately for these people, Apple has just decided to work on installing parental controls that monitor the time and content children watch on their phones. Unfortunately for youth, these parental controls will provide an invasive online learning experience.

The Fourth Amendment provides people with the right to security from invasion of privacy that includes protection from unreasonable searches on homes, documents, and devices without a warrant. This constitutional right seems to protect everyone except young people when it comes to their cellular devices. Why are they the exception? Parental controls teach

young people that surrendering their right as a human being to online privacy is fine. Children with parents who monitor what they watch and how much time they spend on their device are more likely to become accustomed to living with surveillance and a lack of privacy.

How will children grow up to be if they have such a limited understanding of their rights? How will children be able to recognize the good and bad of the internet if they never experience it?

If parents think these controls are so necessary, monitoring applications, such as Watchdog and Kidlogger, exist, which makes Apple's parental controls completely unnecessary. However, now young people have to deal with the fact that Apple is enforcing their invasion of privacy to avoid criticism from and to appeal to parents.

Parental controls will also be able to monitor how much time kids spend on their phones. Phones have several

functions: reminders, search engines, time and date, communication, alarms, and the list goes on. How many of these will kids have to eliminate from their daily lives if they use up their time?

Calls are unpredictable and it's never clear when a conversation will end, so a kid could spend up all their time on the phone just talking to a friend or family member who won't hang up. Homework can seem endless and without a phone to provide search engines to research a concept where will children turn to? Even parents cannot provide all the answers. As great as books are, they are a hassle to

work with, especially on projects.

Parental controls are not the answer. Studies show that kids with positive offline relationships with their parents are more likely to navigate the web sensibly. Therefore, what a parent has to do to protect a child from the dangers of the web and from becoming overly attached to their phone is maintain principles and be active in their child's online experience, just not invasive.

Kids look up to their parental figure and will learn more from them if they explain right from wrong to the child rather than going to great unnecessary lengths to keep them restricted.



Ready for Valentine's?

A random list of romantic novels in the ERHS library

-
- The Unexpected Everything* by Morgan Matson
- Something In Between* by Melissa de la Cruz
- The Boy Recession* by Flynn Meaney
- The Anatomical Shape Of A Heart* by Jenn Bennett
- The Difference Between You And Me* by Madeleine George
- Boy Meets Boy* by David Levithan
- Forever* by Judy Blume
- Hello, Goodbye, And Everything In Between* by Jennifer E. Smith
- Why We Broke Up* by Daniel Handler
- When Dimple Met Rishi* by Sandhya Menon
- Kiss Crush Collide* by Christina Meredith
- The Education Of Margot Sanchez* by Lilliam Rivera
- The Bane Chronicles* by Cassandra Clare
- It's Our Prom (So Deal With It)* by Julie Anne Peters
- The Lovely Reckless* by Kami Garcia
- You In Five Acts* by Una LaMarche
- Not That Kind Of Girl* by Siobhan Vivian
- What I Thought Was True* by Huntley Fitzpatrick
- Words In Deep Blue* by Cath Crowley
- The Fault In Our Stars* by John Green
- Making Pretty* by Corrie Ann Haydu
- Run The Risk* by Allison Van Diepen
- By Your Side* by Kasie West
- Always And Forever, Lara Jean* by Jenny Han
- Sometimes It Happens* by Lauren Barnholdt
- Pride And Prejudice* by Jane Austen
- If I Was Your Girl* by Meredith Russo
- Signs Point To Yes* by Sandy Hall
- Once And For All* by Sarah Dessen
- Shut Out* by Kodi Keplinger
- Simon vs. The Homosapiens Agenda* by Becky Albertalli
- 99 Days* by Katie Cotugno
- The Selection* series by Kiera Cass
- All The Bright Places* by Jennifer Niven
- Say No To The Bro* by Kat Helgeson
- Perfect Chemistry* series by Simone Elkeles
- The Sun Is Also A Star* by Nicola Yoon
- Perfect Couple* by Jennifer Echols
- After You* by JoJo Moyes
- Things I Should Have Known* by Claire LaZebnik

FEATURES

Junior Joseph Saucedo is *Simply Irresistible!*

By FATIMA LOPEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

You might know him as the ASB Boy's Athletics Commissioner, or as a member of the varsity swim team, or you might just know him as the boy who brought Goldie the Goat to the football games. Whatever the case may be, everybody definitely knows that junior Joseph Saucedo is *simply irresistible!*

Now Joseph may look like your average Don, but we can assure you, he isn't. What other guy can juggle more than one extracurricular activity, lead a life full of fun, and manage to be a scholar Don? We love a dedicated king!

Outside of school, Saucedo knows how to have fun! During his leisure time, Joseph loves to go horseback riding, likes to hang out with his friends, and enjoys riding his ATV. There's never a dull moment when you're with this adventure-seeking boy!

Si señor, el es de rancho! Saucedo is *puro Mexicano* and

loves his parents' home state of Durango, Mexico. A man who loves his *patria*? Sign us up! Joseph is passionate about all music, but his heart belongs to banda. "I'm very open-minded to all music, but I would have to say banda is my all time favorite. My favorite banda would have to be Banda MS." Bilingual legends only!

As we mentioned earlier, many of you might know Joseph as the boy who brought a goat to the football games, but why would he do such a thing? "I thought it would be a good idea to bring my goat, Goldie, to incorporate the ranch feeling to El Rancho," Saucedo said, "so I pitched it to Mr. Vasquez and Mrs. Leal and they both fell in love with the idea."

Goats aren't the only pets Joseph has. He practically has an entire petting zoo in his backyard! "I have horses, goats, chickens, and five dogs," Saucedo said. A guy with a big heart and a soft spot for animals? We're practically swooning!

Joseph is such a dedicated person, it's no surprise that he



Junior Joseph Saucedo looking like a snack in the quad!

Photo by Sofia Dominguez

already has a future planned out for himself. "I plan to pursue what my father does," Saucedo said. His father is actually an aircraft mechanic! As for his education after high school, Joseph said, "I'm looking for a good trade or technical school." He is, indeed, a man with a plan!

Unfortunately, this pringle is single, but he does not want to mingle! However, don't be afraid to hit him up because he's always looking for new friends. So shoot your shot! "I'm very open to making new friends," Saucedo said, "I'm very amicable!"

If you're looking to make

a new friend this school year, Joseph is definitely your guy. His big heart and million-dollar smile will make it a friendship of a lifetime! Slide in his twitter DMs (@josephsaucedo18) or send him a message on Instagram (@josephsaucedo18), you won't regret it!

Animal Advocates Aim for a World Safe for All Animals



Members of Animal Advocates pictured with club adviser, Mrs. Lamar

By MARIELA MICHEL
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Imagine a world where animals could live without fear of mistreatment or neglect. Imagine a world where pets could live for-

tunate to have a kind owner and a home suitable for their everyday needs and activities. Thankfully, Animal Advocates strives to create such a world for animals of all kinds.

Animal Advocates was established in 2002 by inter-

Photo by Robert's Photography

ested students who asked for guidance from junior english teacher Mrs. Lamar, the adviser. The club began with around fifty members in its first year.

"It was just really fun to see the diversity of students that it

brings in because there's students from all different levels from AP and throughout the student body who for various reasons are really interested in animals and concerned about them," says Lamar.

"Some of them just join because its their own pets and they love them and others because they want to become veterinarians and it's really neat to see that kind of diversity of kids come together with a common interest."

With three dogs of her own, Lamar has been the Animal Advocates adviser for 12 years.

"It's really fun to see how much the kids care about animals and their community," she says.

This year's co-presidents, Alexis Banuelos and Daniella Llamas, plan to make the club more active in the community with the goal of educating their club and bringing awareness to students.

"It's definitely an eye-opener," says Llamas. "A lot of people

don't realize what they can do to help animals. I definitely know more about animals than I used to."

"Me, personally, I really like animals and to be able to help them or to be able to help the community in any way is great," says Banuelos.

In the past, Animal Advocates has worked with the Ozzie Foundation, a local group that raises money to help people pay for pets that have chronic medical conditions, and with the therapy dogs that come to the library in the spring for Teen Read Week.

This semester, the Animal Advocates hope to expand their activities to cover a wider range of topics.

"I actually have a contact with someone who does search and rescue work with dogs and I want to get her in, but we just haven't been able to connect," says Lamar.

Animal Advocates is open to all animal-loving Dons and holds meetings every Tuesday in A-204.

Pride Alliance Provides a Safe Place for All

By SOFIA DOMINGUEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's Pride Alliance club, previously known as GSA (Gay Straight Alliance), is taking steps to make its campus and community a more accepting place. They welcome both LGBT+ youth and their allies (both students and teachers) to fight homophobia on the campus and in the community. They also advocate for equal treatment for youth of all sexual orientations.

Moderated by English teacher Mr. Jenkins and sign language teacher Mrs. Obregon, their doors are open for students to have a one-on-one or a group talk and discuss whatever problems they are facing.

"Our main objective is to provide a safe place for LGBT+ students to be comfortable and awesome," says senior student

president Marina Chavez, "we also want to bring more awareness to the student and staff and educate those who most likely don't know much about the LGBT+ community."

One might think that having a Pride Alliance at a high school will not benefit them directly unless they are LGBT+ but, that is not true. Students whose schools had a GSA were less likely to experience depression and more likely to have higher self-esteem.

Pride Alliance is not only about educating and providing a safe place for LGBT+ students but, they are also about having fun! The club is hosting its first event this year called the Gayties, a eighties themed dance that will take place in the new gym on February 23rd from 7pm to 11pm.

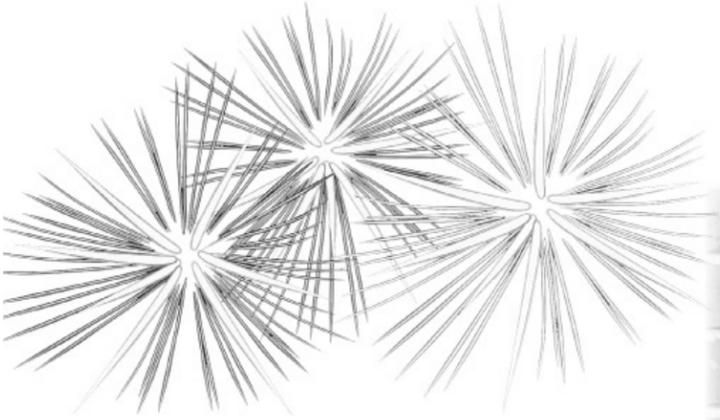
Don't be afraid to make new friends and stop on by! Pride Alliance meets every Thursday at lunch in I-4.



Pride Alliance members pictured with vice president Luis Villegas

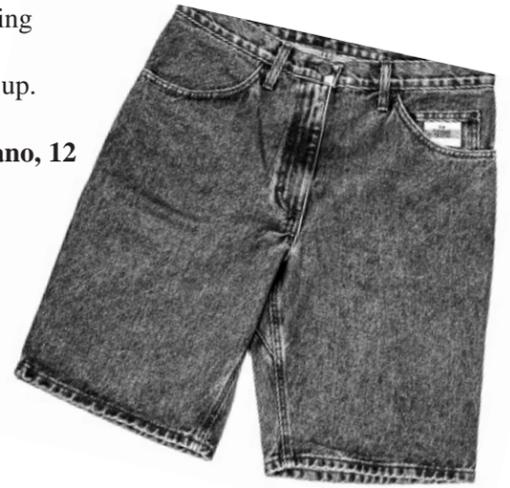
Photo by Sofia Dominguez

WHAT WILL 2018 BRING?



“I feel like we’re going to try something in space, we’re going to see something we shouldn’t, and everything is going to blow up. Also, I think jorts will make a comeback”

Sebastian Carcano, 12



“I think Kanye West is going to have the best album of 2018. I also think Drake is going to ruin his career. As well as, I will get a 4.0 GPA. I think I’m going to cry a lot at the seniors’ graduation.”

Yulissa Chavez, 11



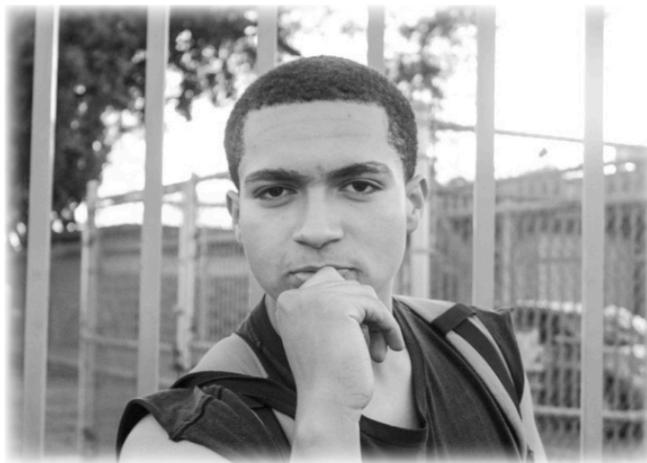
“I am going to graduate, go to college, and do something with my life. I also think that something bad will happen to Donald Trump. That’s not a good thing to say, but I think it will. I feel like something is going to come out of the bad”

Angelica Ojeda, 12



“As a varsity softball player at ER, I have confidence in my team that we’ll be successful in league & even get league champs and add a year to our banner in the gym #RoadToIrvine “

Layla Prieto, 12



“I’m going to win league, go to CIF, get a ring and flex on all of these people at school. Also, I think that the Patriots are going to win the Super Bowl.”

Joshua Esqueda, 11



“I think that the world is going to get proportionally worse, considering everything that is going on. I think Donald Trump will be the same person and hopefully he will get impeached. But, what can we do? Amen.”

Daniella Llamas, 11



“I predict I’ll win big at the MACY awards this year.”

Sophia Flores, 12



“Hopefully, I will win league, break the school record. I also want to watch Black Panther and Avengers: Infinity War.”

Daniel Sanchez, 11



“I predict 2018 to be my best year yet. I hope to graduate high school and experience college, but also make a run in CIF with my brothers”

Rodrigo Saldana, 12



WHAT WILL 2018 BRING?



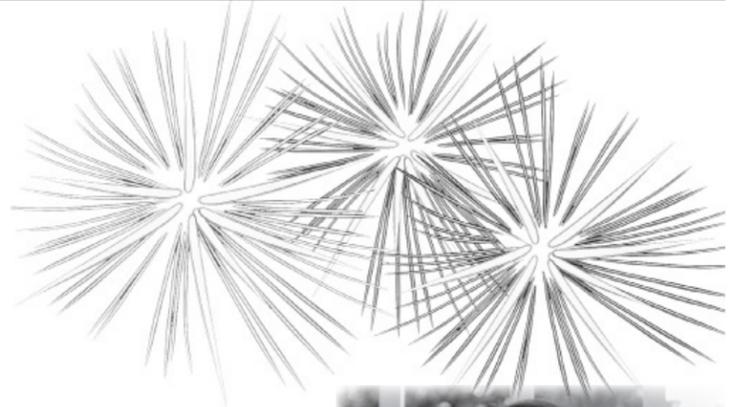
"I think the world will turn into chaos, politically especially when it involves Trump. He's done too much."

Karizma Reyes, 11



"I think we are going to tetter toward another world war. I think I'm probably going to have mental breakdowns from stress and the band room is going to get torn down."

Maria Juarez, 10



"In 2018, I will get my grades up to all A's. I also really want to break the long jump record."

Diego Sanchez, 11



"Well, for softball, I'm really excited about the season because we have a lot of new talent. A lot of the younger girls are really good and I feel like it will be a successful season. But, personally, I'm excited to go to college."

Dominique Jimenez, 12



"I don't know. It's possible for many things to happen. That's all I can say, to tell the truth. I think things are going to go great."

Jesse Zacate, 12



"2018 will be the year I travel to a foreign country."

Miranda Zorilla, 12



"Crocs will be the next big thing"

Melissa Ochoa, 12



"Trump is going to get fired. Period. Innovations are going to happen. Technology is going to be pushed a little bit further. I don't think society is going to evolve a lot, maybe just a slight bit. Maybe even devolve a little bit. We really don't know what we are going to get into."

Joshua Baltizar, 10



"I think the Patriots are going to win the Super Bowl. I hope I get my license so I can spend my time at the beach, the mountains, and go out with all of my friends."

Hugo Silva, 10



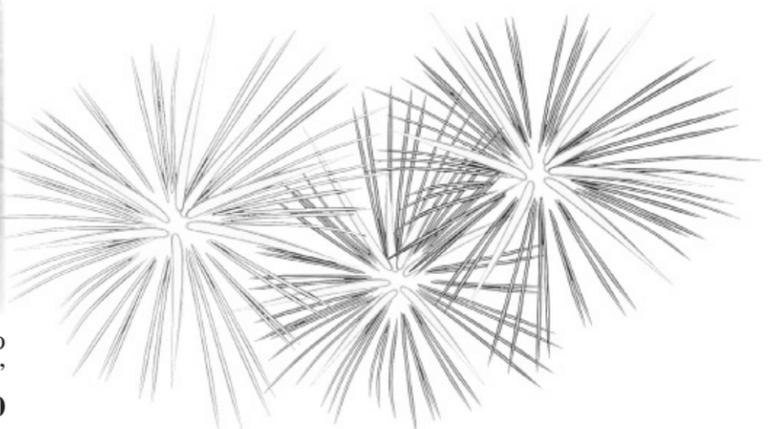
"ASB will keep rigging everything."

Julio Ornelas, 12



"I am going to win league and I'm going to break the school record again. That's about it for me."

Yulong Zhang, 10



MEET YOUR 2017-2018 ERHS STAFF

Part one of an ongoing series to help students get to know the faces of our amazing staff.



Ms. Delia Arriola



Ms. Teresa Baleskie



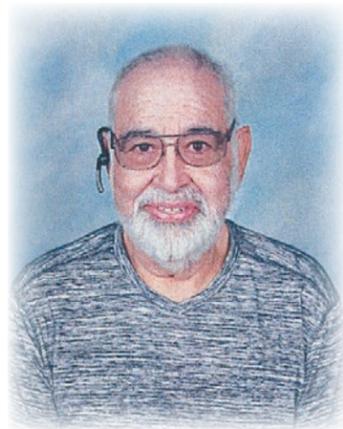
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Scholarships for seniors



BY DEVENIE ANCHONDO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Seniors, are you worrying about being able to pay for college textbooks, dorming, food, clothes, et cetera? College can be too expensive for many students. So what can help you pay for it's expenses? Scholarships. There are websites available to inform you of scholarship opportunities and ways to help you pay for college. These websites help keep students up to date and gives them the opportunity to receive free money. Below are just a few of the many scholarships online:

We The Students Scholarship Contest

Provided by: Bill of Rights
AWARDS: Up to \$5,000
DEADLINE: February 05, 2018
This scholarship is open to high school students between the ages of 14 and 19. You must submit an essay, between five hundred to eight hundred words about the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and their relevance today.

ExploraVision Science Competition

Provided by: Toshiba Machine Co.
AWARDS: up to \$10,000
DEADLINE: February 08, 2018
This scholarship is available to students in grades kindergarten through twelfth. You must work in a group with two to four students. Select a technology that is in a home, school, and/or community and explore what the technology does, how it works, or why it was invented. All applicants must be a United States or Canadian citizen.

Course Hero's Scholarship

AWARD: \$5,000
DEADLINE: January 31, 2018
Course Hero, a website that helps students study for their classes, hosts monthly scholarships with a new question/topic each month. Applicants must create a free Course Hero account and complete an application form. Winners will be chosen based on their responses.

\$15,000 TeenDrive365 Video Challenge

Provided by: Discovery Education
AWARDS: \$15,000, or one of fourteen other prizes
DEADLINE: February 28, 2018
Create a thirty to sixty second video inspiring other teenagers to drive distraction-free and keep the roads safe, and highlight the importance of safe driving.

Parras preaches the importance of self-care



Mrs. Parra teaches students how to be strong.

Photo By Sophia Dominguez

BY KAYLA PEREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

She's colorful, dynamic, powerful, and wears bold earrings that never fail to make a statement! El Rancho High School's Mental Health counselor Mrs. Parras has illuminated the school campus with her enthusiastic aura for the past three years!

Mrs. Parras began her journey in the Mental Health Field right after graduating from UCSD then continuing with graduate school at UCLA, where she earned a degree from the Social Welfare Department in 2010. "I have been in the field of mental health for nine years," says Parras, "I worked in Santa Monica schools for almost six years until I went on maternity leave and returned to work at EL Rancho."

"I was excited to join the school and connect to the Latino community within it as well," says Parras. "In my new position, I hoped to be able to remind

my colleagues and students that it's okay to be vulnerable and that showing our humanity to one another can inspire many."

Parras knows how tough it can be for one to show their deepest emotions and has felt the pressure of judgments since she was a child. "I grew up in the San Fernando Valley in Pa-coima and remember feeling very loved by my mom," says Parras.

"I excelled in school and loved helping people but I could also be a teacher's pet and loner sometimes," continues Parras. "As a teenager I tried to be responsible and daring but I was always worried about people's opinion or trying to be perfect."

However, the most surprising discovery about Parras and her past, is not her wide-range of knowledge in social work or extreme relatability but her various interests in artistry and extensive guilty pleasures, "I love Rihanna and Tom Petty and listen to a lot of Spanish, pop, and techno music,"

says Parras, "I was also a big boy-band fan as a teenager and still obsess over the Backstreet Boys."

"Some of my favorite activities include reading books and eating a lot of flaming hot cheetos," says Parras, "My favorite book of all time is *They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir* by Patrisse Khan-Cullors."

Parras doesn't just spend her free-time delving into the art of life but also takes the time to educate others on the constructive biases of society. "I currently teach Critical Race Theory for social work students at Cal State Dominguez Hills," says Parras, "I know that there are larger forces like racism and sexism that hurt our families and communities, along with the way we feel about ourselves so it makes sense to feel anxiety, depression and suicidal when most of your life you have received messages of being less than human." A hard-working humanitarian with a great taste in music? Mrs. Parras is unstoppable with her impressive degrees and red-fingered flare!

Despite being extremely passionate about her work field now, being a counselor for a high school was not always her first choice as a career, "I thought I wanted to be a teacher and became a substitute teacher until I realized I didn't like it; I liked talking to students about their life instead," says Parras.

"I didn't know there were professional mental health positions in schools," continues Parras,

"Once I learned about the variety of jobs I can get with my degree, I knew that a school was where I needed to be."

Instead of using her unique life experience to separate her from a crowd, Parras uses her bold perspective to connect with her students and colleagues on campus and remind them about what mental health really is. "It's not about being crazy or weak," says Parras, "It's about being the best we can be in all aspects of life, It's about being healthy so we can walk with dignity, It's about being okay asking for help because life is hard."

Even though Parras is content with her life the way it is, nothing can stop this dreamer from her many goals, "My current goals are to write more and earn a PHD in Ethnic studies or Sociology" says Parras, "In the future I want to write a book and work to build a community that inspires people."

Parras uses her past to shape her future in all its sincerity, "I approach people knowing that something difficult has happened and that it's okay to feel hurt, pain, and anger," says Parras, "I also approach people knowing that they are powerful and deserving of kindness, acceptance, and love, even when people act in hurtful ways to others."

When asked if she had any final advice for those wanting to live a positive lifestyle, Parras simply replied, "Self-care, am I right!?"

Dons will get 'tangled' up at formal!

BY SELINA TORRES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

As a Don, you may know El Rancho's campus is usually filled with competition. Whether it's huge events, like Night Pep Rally, or smaller ones like lunch competitions, classes are constantly at battle with each other for class points. However, El Rancho's Dance Commissioner, Sarah Navarro, and other members of ASB are trying not to get 'Tangled' up in planning for Winter Formal.

El Rancho High School's first dance of the new semester will be held at Mile Square Golf Course from 7pm-11pm on February 3. The theme of the night is based off of the



movie *Tangled*. ASB's Dance Commissioner, Sarah Navarro, promises "good music and good food." Though there will be a DJ, Navarro says, "if anyone wants to request a song they can

DM her on twitter (@saraahhn)."

The dance will be decorated in purple and gold and with lanterns. ASB adviser, Mrs. Senteno-Tapia, expects this dance to be "an elegant event and it'll be a

great time to be had with friends."

Tickets for Winter Formal will be sold in the cashiers office until January 26th, or until they sell out. Prices continue to raise each week, so don't wait!

Creative ways to ask someone to formal!

BY EMILY LOPEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

It's that time of year again! Formal is just around the corner and it's the perfect time to shoot your shot and ask that special someone to be your lucky date. Here are some ways to make your ask extra special. The possibilities are endless.

Base your proposal on the person you are asking. You can use some of their favorite things for inspiration like:

- Food
- Movies
- Songs
- TV shows
- Candy



Make it sentimental and buy them some of their favorite things. It doesn't have to be expensive. The most important thing is that you show you care.



Make a poster! Or if you don't have any artistic abilities, pay a range of \$5, \$8, or \$10 at the Activities Office so an ASB member can make it for you!

You can go to them with your set plan or ask them for help.



SPORTS

Girls water polo keeps working to improve



Junior Rene Gallegos focuses on scoring a goal for her team.

Photo by Emily Lopez

BY EMILY LOPEZ AND
SELINA TORRES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

Despite a 0-15 record so far, the girls varsity water polo team is doing their best to keep their heads above water. Though they are struggling, the team is pushing to meet their goals. "It's been a rough season, but we're not giving up. We are making sure things only

go well from here until the end of season" says Laura Valle. "My goal for the team this year is for them to improve individually and as a team," adds April Rodriguez, varsity captain. Team member Rene Gallegos said "Our season is not going as well as we hoped, but I'm sure that we can make a comeback soon." "We've lost some of our strong players over the years, but

we are rebuilding our team to become what we know we can potentially be" continued Gallegos. The games are not the only part the team looks forward to. "I really enjoy the bond I have with my team and the intensity of the sport," says Gallegos. "We've had some good and bad experiences in the water, but our bond is strong. I wouldn't trade it for any other team," adds April Rodriguez. Led by coach Xenia Cas-

tillo, the team is continuing to better themselves "She has put countless hours into helping us improve ourselves and has taught us so many new things," says Rodriguez on Castillo. Though the polo season is nearly over, all Dons are encouraged to support their girls water polo team at their next home game on February 2nd.

Boys basketball looks to bounce back



Senior Sebastian Lara grabs rebound.

Photo by Emily Lopez

BY SELINA TORRES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Though the first part of league has not gone the way they

hoped, the varsity boys basketball team is hoping for a better result the second time around. On January 10, the Dons finished their first home game with a

loss from Cal High with a score of 60-54. The Dons, led by senior captains Josh Ramirez and Jacob Baltierra, are currently in fifth in the league with a record of 0-4. The varsity team hopes to "win league even though they started bad" said Ramirez. Despite the hardships, the Dons continue to have a positive attitude because the team has "one of the best chemistries out of all the other years" said senior, Isaiah Roa. They hope to pull through in the end. "The team has a strong connection with each other that allows us to play well together" said Ramirez. When asked about how the team is currently perform-

ing, Josh Ramirez said "our current performances are just lazy, we simply just don't hustle all the time and our energy needs to be better." He added by saying that this issue can be improved by "just playing hard and not worrying about themselves." The Dons hope to build upon Wednesday's thrilling double OT 93-86 victory over the Whittier Cardinals. Luckily for the team, they still have a couple of games to hopefully accomplish their goal and go to league. The Dons say that their fans can expect to see "a few dunks and a dub." Let's not forget to support our Dons.

Girls basketball continue to dominate league play

BY JENNIFER BECERRA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The girls varsity basketball team slam-dunked their competition this season with an overall record of 14-8. The Lady Dons are currently in first place in league with an undefeated record of five wins and zero losses. After butting heads with Whittier High School, their main rival, the Lady Dons kept the game under control and defeat the Cardinals 56-30, to place first in league. The girls are looking to keep their six year streak alive. "Our goal is to go 10-0 and get first place in league to keep our streak going," says junior Adriana Torres. But the six year streak

can not be kept without grueling practices and lots of hard work.. "We practiced hard every day and we were in many tournaments," says Torres, "we had a game each week and practiced every day except Sundays." The girl's tough training during preseason helped with their team relationships. The team is already strong as it is, but captain Susana Regalado thinks there's still room for improvement. "We are able to play good together, but the season could have been better," she said, "we should have won many of the games we lost." With the team's strengths, there also comes many weaknesses. The girls tend to not stay constant with their plays and ac-



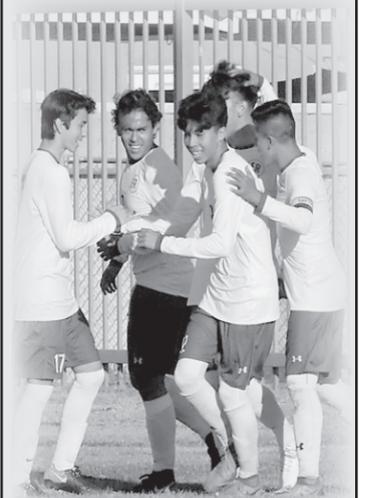
Jaylene Oviedo going for a layup

Photo by Emily Lopez

ording to captain Susana Regalado, the team is not as consistent as they would like to be. However this will not hold the girls back as they make their

way through league. The Lady Dons play every Wednesday and Friday evening, so don't forget to show your blue pride as the girls fight to keep their streak alive!

Boys soccer remains undefeated



Boys varsity celebrating together after goal.
photo by Mr.Crone

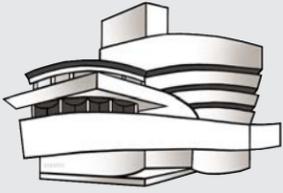
BY JENNIFER BECERRA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho boys varsity soccer team has, once again, shown their talent as they make their way through the season. With a current overall record of 13-3-2. They are currently undefeated in the Del Rio League with a record of 6-0. The boys have high hopes that they will keep their win streak going and make it to CIF as well. With their sights set on a ring, the CIF one that is, the boys will have to work hard individually and will have to work even harder as a team to accomplish this goal. "As a team, we all want to win CIF," says varsity player Steve Acuna, "but for now, our focus is on league." Like any good team, the boys varsity soccer team is working on improving their team as much as they can and in any areas that they can. "When we're late to practices, we get in trouble," captain Gabriel Viramontez said, "so time management can be difficult and it's something we need to work on." Whether it's a issue with their skills or a simple tardy issue, the boys are working hard to correct their mistakes. The path to becoming Del Río League champions, making it to CIF, and qualifying for state is difficult and is filled with many challenges, but the boys are not phased. "We have a tough road ahead of us," Acuna said, "but hopefully we make CIF and from there, we hope to qualify for state." Don't forget to show your blue pride at the boys next soccer match on Tuesday January 30, at Santa Fe.



ENTERTAINMENT

Free museum day in LA!



BY DEVENIE ANCHONDO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Dozens of museums and galleries will participate in Southern California's annual Free-for-All Day on Sunday, January 28th. In total, there will be thirty nine museums participating. During this special day, general admission will be free but this offer does not apply to these ticketed exhibitions. Below are just a few of the following museums that will be participating:

The Broad is a contemporary art museum, which opened in September of 2015. Home to more than 20,000 works of art, the museum features two floors of gallery space and a worldwide lending library. In present time, The Broad has had over two million visitors.

The California Science Center both educates and entertains families, by letting them explore the world of science. The Science Center features interactive exhibits, live demonstrations, innovative programs, and films.

The Getty Museum, short for J. Paul Getty Museum, first opened on January 2006. Located on the Westside of Los Angeles, the Getty Center seeks to fulfill enjoyment with Greek culture. The Getty has visual arts by collecting, conserving, exhibiting and interpreting works of art of outstanding quality and historical importance.

LACMA, short for the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, opened to the public in 1965 and has over 1.5 million visitors annually. With a variety of art styles, tourists and local residents are drawn to its art and exhibits.

The Museum of Tolerance, established in 1993, is dedicated to challenge their visitors to understand the Holocaust. Visitors get to explore the history of the Holocaust and the prejudice and discrimination in our world today. The Museum of Tolerance features interactive exhibits, special events, and programs customized for people of all ages.



Does Logan Paul deserve a second chance?

BY LESLIE PLAZA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

YouTube star Logan Paul caused an uproar on January 1st due to a video-blog uploaded on *YouTube*, which contained video of a dead body. Paul and his brother, Jake Paul, discovered a dead body in the forest of Aokigahara and posted the video publicly. Did the Paul brothers go too far?

Aokigahara is a forest on the slopes of Mt. Fuji in Japan, and it's also known as the "suicide forest." Between 2003 and 2010, over 200 bodies have been removed from the forest, and Japanese officials no longer publicize the number of deaths due to a striking increase in suicides this decade.

The Paul brothers and other friends decided to camp in the Aokigahara forest in hopes to experience living in a haunted environment. Getting further into the forest, the group spotted a hung figure and begin calling out to it, as if it were a joke.

Once he discovered that the figure was a dead body, Logan Paul continued to show snippets of the body. The friends later called police, and the body



was removed from the scene.

Paul tweeted out an apology a few hours after the video was uploaded, mentioning that his power and fame was used incorrectly and that it wouldn't happen again. The next day Paul tweeted a video apology, this time saying that he simply wanted to advocate suicide prevention. This led to an uproar that went beyond the *YouTube* community.

Paul said to *TMZ*, "Everyone deserves a second chance, bro." But, should it be that easy? Does Logan Paul truly deserve a second chance?

The demographic of subscribers on Paul's *YouTube* account are children between the

ages of 9 and 15. From the half a million views on the video, over 25% of the views were of that age group. Paul's actions can eventually reflect the actions of those children.

Additionally, Paul receives payments from *YouTube* depending on views, videos, and subscribers. From the over half a million views on that video, Paul received about one million dollars in profit.

Logan Paul doesn't deserve a second chance. Publicly humiliating a person who has passed crosses a line of respect.

This isn't the first time Paul has caused drama. He also published a video in Japan in which

he dresses in a kimono, a straw hat, and thong sandals. Many rose to argue that his videos were racially incorrect and offensive.

Paul left *YouTube* for almost all of January, until he posted a new vlog on January 24 bringing awareness to suicide and depression. Paul must abandon his old style of videos and keep a humble reputation in order to recover.

On a serious note, suicide and depression is a scary situation that affect people of all ages. If you are in need of any assistance or help as far as depression, don't be afraid to ask out friends, family, or the adults in your campus. Call 1-800-273-8255 for the National Suicide Prevention Line

Album Review: *Camila* by Camila Cabello

BY KAYLA PEREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Half of her heart is in Havana, half of her heart is dominating the music charts. On January 12, Camila Cabello's long awaited album *Camila* was released, sending her fans into a frenzy worldwide.

In a matter of hours Camila was able to reach #1 on over 100 iTunes charts, breaking the record for most #1's on iTunes for a debut album. Shortly after in the following week, *Camila* and

the album's main single *Havana*, also soared to the top of the *Billboard* 200 and *Billboard* Hot 100 charts, making her the only female artist to have two consecutive #1's since Beyonce in 2002.

Cabello is not new to the music scene, but the route to her success was nothing short of simple. It was only 5 short years ago that we first fell in love with her on the *The X-Factor* U.S., as she was placed in the girl group, Fifth Harmony, and instantly recognized for her unique and raspy vocals.

How to keep your New Year's resolutions!

BY LESLIE PLAZA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Hey Dons, have you made any New Year's resolutions? Are you beginning to slip? Whether it being exercising more frequently, trying new foods, or getting a 4.0, here are quick and easy steps to help guide you to a successful year.

1. Tell people about your resolution(s) - This may sound conceited, but this is actually a great step towards your goal. By telling others, you allow yourself to follow expectations that people give you. For example, if you tell your best friend you want to lose 15 pounds by the first of June, they will have that expectation towards you. Ultimately,

you won't want to let your friend down, so you'll feel the need to actually accomplish your goal.

2. Take it slow, build it up - The best way to continue your goals is by taking baby steps! If you want to start trying new foods, don't dive into trying octopus right now! Try out food within the area you want to try, but start slow, such as shrimp or crab. Just make sure to work your way up to the top, don't just throw yourself in the water without knowing how to swim.

3. Time management, worst enemy - Studies show that one of the main reasons people don't complete their goal is due to time. TIME IS NOT AN EXCUSE! If you're moti-

However, her career took a big leap once she decided to leave the group and pursue her own solo music due to artistic differences. Cabello describes the time as "the kind of chapter you never want to read out loud," and views making the album as a way of "finding herself again."

The raw emotion is evident as the album begins with it's second main single, "Never Be the Same," in which Cabello's vocals encase a strong belt as she sings about the pain and pleasure within love.

The theme of vulnerability continues throughout the album and is especially notable in "Consequences," which speaks about the bittersweet reality that comes with love as you learn it's ups and down.

However, you can clearly see the growth of Cabello as an individual through the tracks "Real Friends" and "She Loves Control," which discusses the

want to have a genuine connection between friends and taking control over your life to live it the way you want.

Throughout the album's tales of trials and tribulations, Cabello also showcases her youthful and sultry persona in "Inside Out," "Into It," and the chart-topper, "Havana." Her passionate and carefree love for music is established through catchy beats, that make you want to wind your hips, while singing about her transition into adulthood.

Overall, the album is a geniusly constructed love letter to pop music, telling the story of a young girl with a dream and determination like no other, as she faces the harsh reality of life.

Cabello may have been just a small girl born in Havana, Cuba but with her kind heart and ability to capture happiness with all it's rough edges, she is an artist slowly being unveiled to the world and *Camila* is just the start.

ated to do something, you'll make the time for it. Research conducted by British psychologists shows that young adults spend over six hours on their phone a day. Eliminating some time from Twitter can make the difference between getting from the starting line to the finish line.

4. Fake it 'til you make it - If you want to do good, you have to feel good! Most people gain a boost in confidence and charisma when they're feeling good about themselves. Whether they wore a different perfume or their favorite t-shirt, people accomplish more goals when not faced with doubt or insecurity. So treat yourself!

5. Focus is key - Focus on what your goal is and imagine



yourself in the future with your goal met. Think about how you'll look, feel, and how others will see you or what they'll think about you. We all imagine our goals but let our daily lives get in the way. Don't forget to believe in yourself!

DISCOVERING DON'S

BY BRIDGET MARTINEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

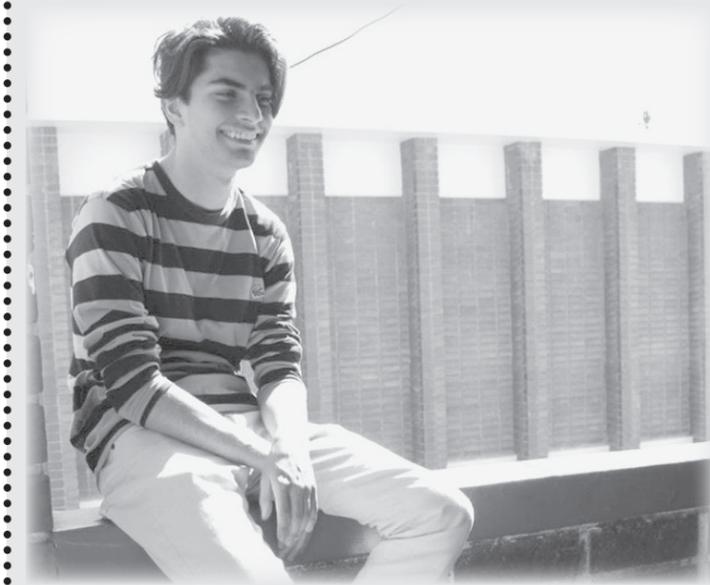
Skylah Saenz "The Artist"

As soon as Skylah Saenz, senior, could hold a pencil, she began drawing. At a young age, her drawings weren't perfect. They mainly consisted of doodles and wacky lines. Saenz learned to love the simple act at a young age, never knowing it would impact their life. Pictures speak a thousand words, and Saenz agreed that drawing helped her express herself better than words ever could. In high school, Saenz



Self portrait painted by Skylah Saenz.

learned about art techniques and theories that led to making great art. As time went on, Saenz continued to practice drawing something every day. Saenz has high visions for her future. The overall goal she wishes to accomplish is to sell her art pieces to people all around the world, although it does not stop there. Saenz wishes to make her own cartoon and have it hopefully air on Cartoon Network one day. Continuously, Saenz wants to illustrate for children books and create visual representations for music albums. Art lets us express ourselves in a numerous amount of ways. As for Skylah Saenz, it's helped her since she was a young child and will continue to until her elder years.



Alex Garcia pondering over his musical future.

Alex Garcia "The Musician"

Senior, Alex Garcia has been drawn to music since he was a young boy. Garcia's older brother listened to a variety of music which influenced him to also like the same music. Once his older brother entered middle school, he joined the band and played the saxophone, which led to Garcia's certainty of wanting to do something with music. When it was Garcia's turn to enter middle school, he joined the band in hopes of following in his brother's footsteps and play-

ing the saxophone; however he was offered to play the trumpet.

Although it wasn't the instrument Garcia wanted, it greatly impacted his future. Once high school came around, Garcia joined the El Rancho's Marching Dons. The more Garcia played, the better he got, and after years of playing, music helped his mathematical ability, his well being, and it let him express himself with something words couldn't explain. 11-year-old Alex Garcia never knew picking up a trumpet for the first time would lead to him not only becoming the Trumpet section leader for El Rancho's Marching Dons but discovering who he is.

Margaret Gutierrez "The Poet"

Since the 5th grade, senior Margaret Gutierrez has used poetry to be heard by others. Growing up with two mothers led to Gutierrez getting bullied in school. Once the bullying began Gutierrez began holding things in and became very reserved. As Gutierrez grew up, her mind expanded to new things and her heart began to feel for equality. She began believing

in civil rights, animal rights, and anything leaning for equality. Gutierrez continued her poetry as she got older and wrote about the things she believed in, and she did it all to be heard. In her sophomore year of high school Gutierrez was inspired by Marcus James, a former El Rancho graduate who led El Rancho's Get Lit team, performed his poetry on stage at the school. Ever since then, Gutierrez loved the idea of performing which led to her joining the Get Lit team. Gutierrez's beliefs have made her who she is today, and her journey is only beginning.



Photo of Margaret taken by Michael Torres.

Kirk Islas

"The Videographer"

At the age of 11 Kirk Islas, senior, became fascinated with creating videos. After making a parody music video with his brother, just for fun, his outlook on creating content changed forever. Islas felt accomplished after watching the final outcome of his first video. Ever since that moment, Islas felt urged to create. Islas finds himself looking back at his work with nostalgia. Eventually, he wishes to further his career and enter the film industry. Whether it be a movie director or a Coproducer, Islas does not mind the position as long as doing what he loves is in the job description. If you find yourself watching a movie in a couple years be sure to pay attention to the credits to see the one and only, Kirk Islas.



Islas takes a selfie with his camera equipment.

El Rodeo



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

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

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

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