



# El Rodeo



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## Decathlon places eighth in their division at state

By ALONZO MURRIETA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On February 7th, the Academic Decathlon team announced that they would be moving on to the state competition. For the next month and a half, the team studied the decade of the 60s and practiced various forms of performances. The competing team, consisting of Jessica Castellanos, Araceli Correa, Antonio Escobar, Rene Gallegos, Maria Juarez, Emily Lopez, Fatima Lopez, Sophia Lugo, and Alonzo Murrieta, and the head coaches, Mr. Melgar and Mr. Francis, would move on to represent El Rancho in Sacramento.

On Thursday, March 21st, the team, along with the accompaniment of Mrs. Rosales, flew out to Sacramento where they would all call it home for the next three days. After landing, the team checked into the Hyatt Regency in Sacramento. The team later attended a quick clicker orientation and a welcome orientation, then, the competition began.

Friday held all of the ex-

ams. The team, along with 67 other competing schools, gathered to test their knowledge in Art, Literature, Economics, Science, Social Science, Mathematics, and Music that all pertained to the 60s. After an intense and draining four hours of test-taking, the team ventured to the local mall and afterwards treated themselves to a sushi dinner.

The next day would consist of all performance tasks, where each decathlete would present a prepared speech, an impromptu speech, and partake in an interview. Soon after each decathlete performed, the team would visit the state capitol and enjoy a lunch in downtown Sacramento as they prepared for Super Quiz. After the three challenging rounds of Super Quiz, the team celebrated their efforts by going to an escape room, where they fortunately made it out with ample time to spare.

On Sunday, the team attended the award banquet and flew home. Altogether, the team brought home 20 medals and a trophy. C-slot Antonio Escobar obtained a Silver in Essay, Silver in Literature, Bronze in Math,

and a Bronze for being the top scorer in Division 3 C-slots. A-slot Maria Juarez earned a bronze in Literature and received a Gold for being the team's highest scorer. C-slot Emily Lopez earned a Bronze in Literature.

C-slot Fatima Lopez received a Gold in Literature. A-slot Alonzo Murrieta secured a Silver in Essay. All team members, as well as Mr. Melgar and Mr. Francis, received a Silver Medal for scoring 2nd place in Super Quiz for Division 3, the team also obtained a trophy for this achievement.

This marked the end of the 2018-2019 Academic Decathlon year for El Rancho. Overall, the team placed 8th place in Division 3 at the State Competition. With the end of competition, the team would

express their goodbyes as the seniors passed down their roles to the juniors. With each senior

to attend UCLA. Antonio Escobar is choosing between Arizona State University and the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, Rene Gallegos is looking to attend UCSD, Emily Lopez intends to commit to San Jose State University, Fatima Lopez and Andrey Yaxcal wish to further their education in Psychology, and Emily Vazquez is looking to attend Cal Poly Pomona. As Araceli Correa, Maria Juarez, and Sophia Lugo begin their journey into the next Academic Decathlon chapter, they will say their goodbyes and their welcomes. If you are interested in joining, be on the lookout for future announcements. Follow @DecathERHS on Twitter for upcoming information.



taking their own path, the juniors of the team were given the role to create and lead the new team into the coming school year.

Jessica Castellanos, Alonzo Murrieta, and Kayla Perez plan

## Awarding winning YA author Carrie Arcos presents to sophomore honors English class

By YAZLIN JUAREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Beloved author Carrie Arcos returned to the El Rancho campus with her new novel, *We Are All That's Left* and words of wisdom for aspiring sophomore writers. Now on her fourth published novel, Arcos seeks to continue to give back to her old teaching department by changing the stigma of reading in high school.

Sophomore Honors English teacher Mrs. Zeko and

*"WRITE. DON'T BE AFRAID TO TAKE RISKS. FAILURE IS THE WAY YOU GROW. SURROUND YOURSELF WITH PEOPLE THAT ARE PURSUING THEIR DREAMS."*  
- CARRIE ARCOS

librarian Mrs. Chodos held a special thank-you party within the Little Theater for Arcos, complete with food, music, decorations, gifts, themed games, and a video recording of Arcos' visit.

In prior years, Zeko's students read and analyzed her most famous novel, *Out of Reach* published in 2012 about teenager Rachel, haunted by her own inner demons, and her search for her meth-addicted brother Micah. *Out of Reach* was selected as a final-

ist for the National Book Awards.

This year, sophomores have read Arcos's newest project, *We Are All That's Left*, a historical-fiction novel following the tragic stories of a mother and daughter, that switches between 1990 war-trodden Bosnia and Herzegovina and the present-day United States. It has been picked as a 2018 Most Anticipated Read by iBook, and has made a good impression on Zeko's students.

Part of Arcos's appeal with young readers comes from her vivid imagination and non-traditional characters. "Her writing style is accessible and elevated at the same time," Zeko says, "she reaches teenagers by thinking like a teen, but then she elevates the stories by incorporating objective correlatives, symbolism, metaphors, and detailed imagery."

Because of Arcos's multi-level writing, Zeko's students

have been able to grasp onto these mature themes and complex emotions and develop their own view on literature. In weekly socratic seminars held by the class-



es, students are able to discuss Arcos's *We Are All That's Left* and topics such as war, poverty, family, mental illness, and grief.

Students are also able to connect with these themes and characters as well. "My favorite character is probably Nadja," sophomore Victoria Stephens says, "which is funny

because if you asked me in the beginning, I would have said she was my least favorite." Sophomore Itzel Valencia says, "Zara is my favorite because I can relate to her struggle to be close to her parent."

To prepare a warm welcome for the author, students had made special gifts, including posters, a thank you card, and a drawings of the characters and front cover. Two years ago, students made decorations themed after another of Arcos's books, *Crazy Messy*

*Beautiful*. Among these included a "Love Is..." wall, True-True-False games, songs mentioned in the book, a luxurious red-carpet, and a graffiti-themed cake.

Aside from background information about the book, Arcos gives curious young writers a glimpse of her world through a writer's workshop exploring the process of editing and publishing. During this workshop, students practiced their creativity in poetry workshops to put themselves in Arcos' shoes. For those students, Arcos recommends to "read and pay attention to what the author is doing on the page,"

In the future, Arcos says she hopes to "to write excellent stories that [she is] proud of to be a voice of hope." Her favorite book out of the four that she has written is her latest piece, *We Are All That's Left*, "I think because it was so personal and challenging to write. I'm super proud of how it came out," Arcos says.

Even if it is not a class requirement, Zeko's students claim that *We Are All That's Left*, or any of Arcos' other novels, will move and entertain any reader. "I would really recommend it to anyone who wants to sit down and 'watch the movie in your mind,' as Mrs. Zeko would say," says Stephens.

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# OPINION

## How I learned that college admissions have always been a scam



**GREEN CARPET**

A representation of how colleges let their greed accept undeserving students in their schools

By KAYLA PEREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

“The rich always buy their way through life, there really is no surprise to this story.” This comment was one of the many I heard after the alleged “college admissions scandal” story broke out in the news. On Mar. 12, United States

federal prosecutors stated that about 50 parents, staff, and “college admission counselors” were charged in a scandal where wealthy parents paid their way to have their children accepted into America’s most elite colleges, even though their grades and extracurriculars were not worthy compared to other applicants. The 50 people that have

been charged include notable actresses Felicity Huffman and Lori Loughlin, from *Desperate Housewives* and *Full House*, as well as successful CEOs, presidents, and chairmen. The partakers in the scandal paid over 25 million dollars to the ringleader of the story William Rick Singer who would help manipulate standardized testing

scores or bribe college officials to get children of the wealthy into colleges such as Georgetown, Stanford, Yale, and the University of Southern California. These children were sometimes guaranteed admission to elite colleges through what Singer called his “side door.” The process of using the side door typically included Singer creating fake athletic profiles for the children, in which he would send to coaches and bribe them to recruit that child as part of a certain sports team within these elite colleges. This process was known to be Singer’s most expensive offer as the “side door” resulted in “guaranteed” admission rather than faking an SAT score to have better chances in the college admissions process. In reality, most of the children recruited never even played the sport they were recruited for and if they did, it was nowhere near the professional level that they had stated within their application. These fake athletics profile were created in collaboration of Singer and sports coaches that would either photoshop the child’s face on to that of an ac-

tual student athlete or have the children pose for photos as if they participated in the sport which is morally wrong on so many levels. The reason I was not surprised about this scandal is because this is something that doesn’t just happen within college admissions, but multiple issues on a global and national level: The rich using their wealth to be above the law or get unfair advantages. Applying to college is such a rough process that one goes through; As a first-generation college student, I was completely lost throughout the entire process and was constantly overwhelmed by how much was demanded of me so, the fact that an individual that didn’t work half as hard as I did in school, stole a spot that could have gone to me or another well-deserving student infuriates me. Operation Varsity Blues is not only sad because of its moral injustice, it gives power to the ideal that money may not be able to buy you “happiness” but can buy you outrageous opportunities in the world that are undeserved, while the ones who actually work have to make those opportunities themselves.

## Where is the money of Pico Rivera going towards?

By MARISSA DE LA CRUZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Pico Rivera, a city we most know as a home or a place where close relatives live, is slowly falling apart. Although there’s a lot to love and admire about this little town, such as its tight clad community and the lively people that live here, we have bad traits; various portions of our city is falling apart from the decay of buildings and streets, there’s gang activity still occurring, and our school system suffers from a very low budget. People would assume our tax rates would be low, however our tax rate is very high. This brings up the question, where is our tax money really going? “The 10.25% sales tax rate in Pico Rivera consists of

6.00% California state sales tax, 0.25% Los Angeles County sales tax, 1.00% Pico Rivera tax and 3.00% Special tax” stated by the website, [www.salestaxhandbook.com](http://www.salestaxhandbook.com). With this, we can accurately see the amount of money we pay for tax and what it’s for, but it doesn’t excuse the fact that places, such as Whittier, have smaller tax rates but have much nicer neighborhoods. Downey’s tax rate is only 10% and Whittier’s tax rate is only 9.5%, which seems to be not much of a difference. Their cities, however, are much bigger, Whittier being 16.44 mi<sup>2</sup> and Downey being 12.57mi<sup>2</sup>, so they have a lot more area and people to take care of. Pico Rivera also claims to not have enough to fix up parts of our town. These areas have buildings falling apart, broken

streets, and high crime rates. Pico Rivera’s crime rate is one out of eighty four people. Yet, we can afford a giant electronic build board at city hall, which has no purpose other than basic announcements. This is frustrating and infuriating because they’re directly telling us we don’t matter, that the city and the people of Pico Rivera aren’t as important as an electronic build board. Even if somebody were to donate money to buy it, why wouldn’t the city council use that money to better the town? Why spend our tax money on things that the city doesn’t need? Our city is still very beautiful, but we’re at risk of losing the beauty of it. The town is slowly falling apart and people are struggling to maintain the lives they worked so hard to maintain. We as the citizens



Pico Rivera’s City Hall and their new digital board

and the future of Pico Rivera have the ability to change the current dilemma that the town faces. We could vote fix the infrastructure, clean up the streets from the continued gang and crew activity, and help the educational system. We have to vote

where our tax money is going and insure it’s going to the right places though. We need to vote to use it for things the city needs, not electronic build boards. The only way to do this is for us to ask city council directly about where our money is really going.

### 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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# CAMPUS

## El Rancho students chosen in National Competition!



Senior Ariana Campos

By KAYLA PEREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This past month, two El Rancho High School students were inducted into the Inaugural Class of "100 High School Stu-

dents America Needs to Know About." These students were chosen through a national competition where students from the U.S. are selected and presented as the next-generation of successful leaders, activists, and entrepreneurs.

The students selected for this awards are noted for their outstanding performance in their academics and extracurriculars, regardless of any challenges they faced.

This competition was created by Workforce Career Readiness™, an organization that specializes in helping students prepare for success in college, careers, and entrepreneurship.

They received thousands of applications and had to select just 100 special students to receive this award.

Senior Ariana Campos was one of the two El Rancho students to be inducted into the Inaugural Class of "100 High School Students America Needs to Know About."

Campos had a list of impressive extracurriculars that she applied with including be-

ing on the varsity swim team and Teen Court for three years, along with volunteering at a local library where she helped with a children's reading program.

Campos is also extremely involved in the Culinary Arts Club and is passionate in that subject as she currently has the highest score in the class with a 106%.

Besides her extensive list of extracurriculars, Campos has also received numerous awards during her high school career such as receiving Principal's Honor Roll all four years of high school and being recognized as a finalist for the 38th Congressional District Art contest.

She plans to use the experience from her activities to help her pursue a degree in communications with a focus on cinematic and digital arts.

The second El Rancho student to win this award is senior Cassandra Saldana. On campus, Saldana is President of the Culinary Arts Club - the largest club on campus with over 400 members along with being the varsity captain of the track and

field throwers' team. She has also received Principal's Honor Roll all four years of high school.

Outside of campus, Saldana is an active member of the community and volunteers at a local hospital. She has received awards for her dedication to the community and has achieved over 100 hours of community service.

Saldana is known for being an outstanding leader and always makes sure to support her team through both fun and difficult times. She plans to use the knowledge of food and nutrition she gained from Culinary Arts Club to pursue a degree in biology and become a doctor.

Both of these young ladies are excited and humbled to have received this award. "To be honest I was surprised, since it is such a small amount of students and around all the USA I really didn't think it would have happened," says Saldana. "I filled out the papers and was thinking it would be fun just to try it out, what's the worst thing that could happen, you know?"

"It feels great to be rec-



Senior Cassandra Saldana

ognized as one of the students chosen for this award," adds Campos. "It was a pleasant [and] unexpected surprise because there were many other great applicants applying for the award. I'm honored to have been chosen."

## Where Are They Now: Carol and Carolyn Kruse

By ARACELI CORREA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

You may have seen them around town with their dog, Sassy, or you may have even bumped into them at 7/11. Whatever the case may be, twins and El Rancho alumni Carol and Carolyn Kruse are a force to be reckoned with! These loveable twins are Dons at heart and are a part of the graduating class of 1970.

The Kruse twins began their years at El Rancho High School from 1966 to 1968. They recall that during their time at El Rancho, there was a strict dress code where all women had to wear dresses. However, this didn't stop them or the rest of the school as they protested against the dress code in hopes of helping the next generation.

Another memory the twins

remember during their time at El Rancho was a lot of the students being forced to drop out of school.

The Vietnam war was a major event that happened during the late 1960s and as a result, many young men were drafted. "You would sit next to one person and the next day they wouldn't be there," says Carolyn Kruse.

During their sophomore year in 1968, they began their career as roller derby skaters. They would receive



a small pay and compete in several events. Their career as roller derby skaters lasted even after graduation, up until they were 26 years old.

They were part of the Los Angeles Thunderbirds, a professional roller skating team, from 1968 to 1978. Throughout their years as Thunderbirds, they would travel to several countries and even appeared on national television! "We traveled to a lot of places like Canada, Australia, Japan,

and the East Coast," says Carol.

After graduating from high school, they say their transition to adulthood was rather normal. "When we started skating it felt like we were adults," said Carolyn, "it depended on how your parents prepared you."

Besides skating, the Kruse twins also worked at a printer company and later went on to the inventory business from 1999 to 2018. Carol says, "Starting our career wasn't easy, we weren't prepared for the workforce."

When asked what advice they would give to a current student, they said, "Just do what you want to do and find your place." These heartwarming twins are quite the conversation starters. Don't be afraid to say hello if you ever get the chance of to see them, it will be a moment you won't regret!

## B and C Buildings first to go in reconstruction project



The reconstruction of El Rancho High School is beginning with the removal of the B and C buildings. Professional teams have been hired to conduct the project which will take place during spring break. The North parking lot will be next in the removal process.

# TEEN READ WEEK

Head Librarian Mrs. Jean Chodos hosted El Rancho's annual Teen Read Week from March 18th-22nd. The event was filled with performances from former and current Get Lit Poets, visits from professional therapy dogs, Literary Lunchbag Theater, and meals provided by El Rancho's Link Crew.



*A student petting Billy, a corgi, in the library.*



*Evelyn Contreras presenting her piece "The One."*



*Teachers enjoying breakfast during Teen Read Week.*



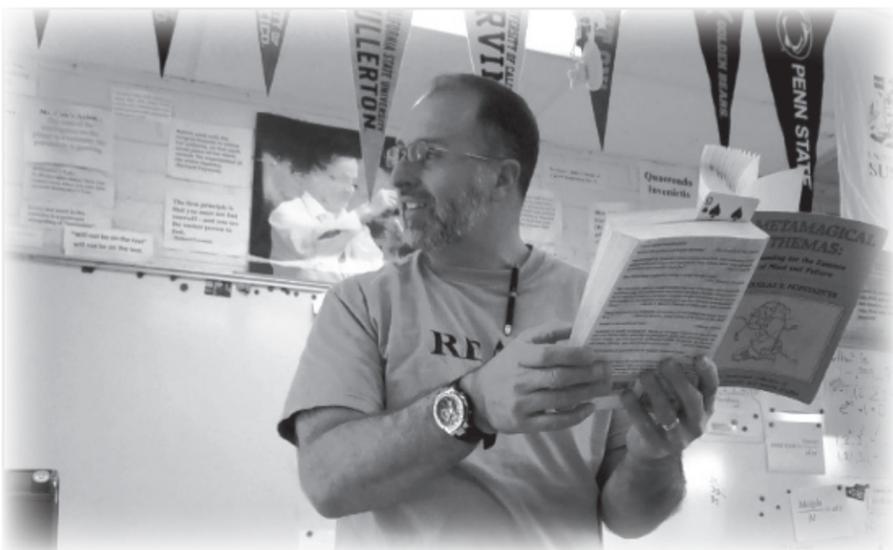
*El Rancho's Get Lit team posing for a picture.*



*Daniella Llamas performing her poem "Dedications."*



*Mr. Flores "cheesing" at the teacher's breakfast event.*



*Mr. Francis reading one of his favorite books to his students.*



*Link Crew leaders pose for a shot.*

# TEEN READ WEEK

Head Librarian Mrs. Jean Chodos hosted El Rancho's annual Teen Read Week from March 18th-22nd. The event was filled with performances from former and current Get Lit Poets, visits from professional therapy dogs, Literary Lunchbag Theater, and meals provided by El Rancho's Link Crew.



Academic Counselors and Mr. Flores discussing Teen Read Week.



Victoria Guerrero presenting her poem "A Letter to America."



Foreign Language teachers enjoying their break.



Breana Hernandez reciting her poem "Diego."



Guest poet performing his "blitz."



Link Crew serving food while dressed as their favorite storybook characters.



Get Lit Players joining together for a photo.



Yazlin Juarez performing her poem "Open Letter to the Tin Man."

# Word on the Street

What do you think about the shamrock shake?



“So like not tryna hate but mint chocolate just ain’t my thing. It feels like a piece of gum and chocolate are trying to have a fight on my tastebuds.”

- **Emily Martinez, 12th grade**



“My opinion is that mint-chocolate flavored foods are a waste of delicious herb and delicious chocolate! The desert should compliment the food and chocolate-mint barely does that with some foods.”

- **Jenny Huevo, 12th grade**



“I think mint chocolate has a fresh taste. You get the chocolate flavor in there, and then you have a little bit of mint that makes it taste good.”

- **Jerry Gomez, 9th grade**



“The first time I tried [the Shamrock Shake] I thought it would be good but I didn’t like it. I don’t think chocolate and mint should go together.”

- **Jose Sarmiento, 11th grade**

## Be like Joe!



This is Joe.

Joe wants to remember his time at El Rancho.

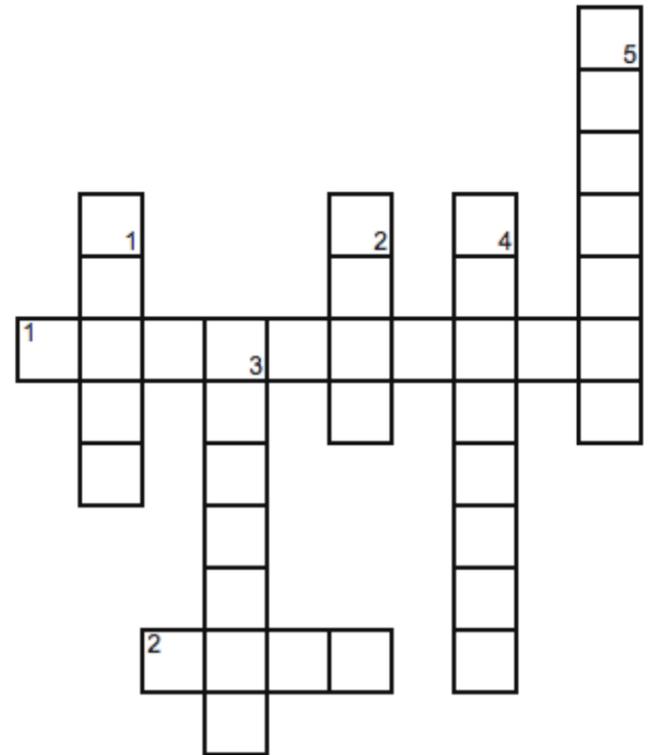
Joes goes online and visits the El Rodeo News website: [www.elrodenews.com](http://www.elrodenews.com)

Be like Joe.

# The month

## Crossword

Submit your answers to [www.elrodenews.com](http://www.elrodenews.com) win a prize!



## International Women’s Month Playlist!



# Advice from Alonzo



*Hey Dons! I hope your second semester is going well, and for you seniors hopefully you’ve heard some good news from one of your schools. In the spirit of all of the college rejections and acceptances coming out this month, I’ve decided to make this advice column college-related. Also, this time I will not be answering questions, I will just be offering my own advice.*

*Seniors: Do not act prematurely on committing to a school. I’ve heard a lot of stories where people commit to a school, and the next day they get accepted into one of their better choices. With the being said, DO NOT miss the date to commit, that’s even worse.*

*Juniors: You’re going to hear this more than just once, but research schools. Believe, there are a ton of schools that, potentially, could be WAY more fitting for you than those you already know of.*

*Underclassmen: Study for your standardized exams. Don’t take the PSAT for a joke, it’s good practice and some schools/programs ask for the scores.*

# of Luck!

## Puzzle!

elrodeonews.com to  
ize!

### Across

1. The mythical creature who guards the pots
2. In a pot at the end of a rainbow

### Down

1. The color you wear on this holiday
2. Four leaf clovers bring this
3. Has 7 colors and can appear after rain
4. The symbol of this holiday
5. The place of origin of this holiday

# Word on the Street

What is your good luck charm?



“Wearing all my earrings because without them I feel weird.”  
-April Rivera, 11



“My lucky two bracelets I wear on my right arm every single day!”  
-Marissa Chavez, 12



“It’d be my red Air Maxes.”  
-Deon Carroll, 12



“This really cool mechanical pencil that I have, I’ve gotten good scores with it on my tests.”  
-Shyanne Gaspar, 9

# LUCKY SCOPES!



**Aries (Mar. 21 - Apr. 19):** Aries, we’re finally in your season! This is your time to shine, my dear. You’ve made it past Mercury in Retrograde, so the world is now yours for the taking! Difficult emotions might have made you feel stuck these past weeks, but just like the seasons, all of that is about to change. As we move towards April, you’re going to bloom into the charismatic person you’re known for being! Take it easy this month and relax, you deserve to treat yourself. This month, you will find good luck and good fortune in your family life! Spend more time with them and bond more with them. Your connection is sure to strengthen, making your family even more tight-knit! As for your love life, anything is possible. It’s Aries season!

**Taurus (Apr. 20 - May 20):** Taurus, how are you? Congratulations on surviving Mercury in retrograde! This definitely wasn’t the easiest for you and you faced many difficulties, but that is over with and now you’re preparing for bigger and better things. This month, you can expect to feel extra productive! You’ve got a schedule and you’re determined to keep it. The spring forward from Daylight Savings Time has lengthened your time to work and it’s also boosted your mood! This month, your good luck resides in that special someone. Whether it’s your boo or your crush, things are going somewhere and you couldn’t be happier! Take it nice and slow though, Taureans aren’t known for rushing into things! The best of luck goes to you, my friend, the stars are with you!

**Gemini (May 21 - June 20):** Gemini, how’s it going? You’ve made it past Mercury in Retrograde! Reflect upon what feelings and emotions you were going through this past month and use that to your advantage. This month, the stars encourage you to feel confident in yourself and the only way to do that is by learning from the past and making things better for yourself in the near future! If you can do this Gemini, good luck will come to you in all aspects of your life. Spring has sprung and now is the time to make a move on

that special someone! Take them out on a beautiful spring day and watch the sparks fly. You’re naturally charismatic, but something about this spring air is making you even more so! Good luck Gemini, you’re going to crush this Aries season.

**Cancer (June 21 - July 22):** Cancer, we hope all is well with you! Pisces season and a Mercury and Mercury in Retrograde is always hard on water signs, especially on your sign, but don’t worry, we’re done with that! Congratulations on making it past an emotional period, but prepare for another one. Aries season is charged with emotions and you are one of the signs who will feel it the most! The best thing to do is harness these emotions and put them to good use. Use all of that energy for something positive! Get some work done, work out from time to time, and go out with friends. All of this will bring you joy for the following month and remember Cancer, lots of joy means lots of good luck! Your love life is ready to take off if you are. The stars remind you to take care of your heart, though. They know you’re still a bit fragile from recent experiences! We wish you the best of luck Cancer!

**Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22):** Leo, how are you? You’ve officially made it past Mercury in Retrograde! How does that feel? We can probably answer that for you! This month, if you allow yourself to, you are going to feel extra confident. We are in fellow fire sign Aries’ season, so that means your energy is just as strong as theirs! Channel that good energy into something special this month. Whether that special something is your family, your friends, or your boo, it doesn’t matter! This month is yours and each decision you make will be a well-calculated one. However, keep in mind that you’re a sign that’s known to get carried away with things, so do be cautious about what you say and what you do, because it will come back to you in the near future! May good luck and good fortune be with you soon!

**Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22):** Virgo, how’s it going? Mercury in Retrograde

is now officially over and you’re ready to step back into your element! This past month, you faced a certain challenge that may have caused you to reflect on your relationships with other people and with good reason too! With spring coming at us in full force, it’s time for some spring cleaning. If someone or something is not treating you right, then it might be time to let them go! Yes, it will definitely be hard, but it’s in your best interest, Virgo! There is nothing you value more in life than loyalty and kindness, so if you aren’t receiving that from someone, remove them from your inner circle. As for your love life, take it easy! Are you sure about what you want? Reevaluate that crush you have on the cutie in your math class. Are they really worth your time? Think about it!

**Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22):** Libra, we hope you’re doing great! It’s safe to say that you’ve made it past Mercury in Retrograde without any significant issues, so hats off to you! This month is going to be a very special one for you. The good feelings of spring are flowing and you’re feeling good, too! Use that energy to be productive this month. Have you considered going all out for spring cleaning? Tidying up your environment and giving it a facelift might be just what you need to kickstart that productive side of you! This month, good luck resides in your friends, Libra! Go out with them and have fun. Strengthen the bond you have with them! You’re the planner of the friend group, so cook up something fun to do and you’re sure to have a fantastic time! As for love life, it’s ready when you are. The boost of confidence and your good energy has you ready for anything life might decide to throw your way!

**Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21):** Scorpio, how are you? Mercury in Retrograde is officially over and it’s time to get down to business. Productivity is a must for you this month! You’ve got a million things to get done and the only thing that can help you accomplish them is a positive mindset and a killer work

ethic. Don’t wear yourself out, though! Just like everyone else, you need rest and relaxation. Feel free to treat yourself one of these days and have a completely dedicated to yourself! Self-care is extremely important to you and your wellbeing, so be mindful of that. This month, your good luck is in your love life! Whether you’ve got a special someone or you’re trying to get that special someone, it doesn’t matter. All that matters is that you’re both having a good time! Just like your fellow water sign Cancer, the stars do want to remind you to be gentle and take things slow. Your heart is one that feels all the emotions, so be cautious! Good luck, Scorpio!

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21):** Sagittarius, how’s it going? Congratulations on making it through Mercury in Retrograde! The difficulties and challenges are finally done with and now it’s time for those good feelings to roll in. This month, we are well underway Aries season meaning the fire is strong and so are you! As a fellow fire sign, your energy is in sync with Aries’ and you’re also ready to make this month yours. Confidence and positive energy are radiating off of you and now is a good time to use it! Put it into your levels of productivity, your friendships, and even into your love life. You’re bound to see plenty of good progress in all of these aspects of your life and that is good news for you. Good luck Scorpio, we’re rooting for you!

**Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19):** Capricorn, we hope you’re doing amazing! It’s safe to say that you have survived Mercury in Retrograde and now you can focus on feeling good. Mercury in Retrograde was somewhat of a difficult period for you, but it allowed you to grow. You’re more in tune with your emotions and life’s challenges are easier to overcome now. This month, focus on being the best version of yourself you can be. Use everything you learned in the previous month and make this Aries season yours! This month, your good luck is in your family relationships. Strengthen the bonds you have with certain family

members and make some great memories with them! As for your love life, the stars encourage you to go for it. You’re feeling confident this month so why not ask your crush out or tell them how you feel?

**Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18):** Aquarius, how are you? Mercury in Retrograde is officially over and it’s safe to say that you made it through! However, the retrograde, as well as Pisces season, really drained you both emotionally and physically. Recharge your batteries not only with actual sleep, but with some meditation too! This is just a suggestion, but being outside in nature is a great way to get back to your energetic self. Go for a walk and enjoy everything that spring has to offer! This month, your good luck is with your friends. Spend plenty of time with them! Do the things you love with the people you love. You work so hard, you deserve to have some time with your friends! Spring has finally arrived and now is the perfect time to go for that special someone you’ve had your eyes on. Take it slow, though! As an air sign, you tend to rush in and out of things, so get out of your comfort zone and allow things to run their course. Good luck Aquarius!

**Pisces (Feb. 19 - Mar. 20):** Pisces, how’s it going? We would congratulate you on making it through Mercury in Retrograde, but you already know you handled it like a champ! Sadly, your season is over, but that doesn’t mean the good things have to come to an end. Your positivity and good attitude are here to stay if you can keep up with life’s obstacles and overcome them with a smile! This month, your responsibilities are going to keep you on your toes, so be mindful of that as you decide whether you should take on more responsibilities or less. While life may keep you extra busy this month, don’t forget about some time to yourself! In order to balance everything, you need a clear mind, Pisces and the best way to do that is to have a self-care day. Do your favorite things alone or with your favorite people! As long as you’re happy, you’re sure to de-stress. We’re wishing you the best of luck!

# FEATURES

## Tumbling king Draven Mendoza is *Simply Irresistible!*

BY KAYLA PEREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER



You might recognize him as the voice behind the morning announcements or you might catch him tumbling around campus, social butterfly and flexible king Draven Mendoza is *simply irresistible!*

Mendoza is a charmer with an extensive list of extracurriculars. He has participated in: ASB since his sophomore year and is currently Pep Commissioner, Leader Club, Varsity Water Polo, Varsity Cheer, and Yearbook Club.

His unique resume is a reflection of his own personality, "My favorite thing about myself is how I always try to talk to people, I'm very social and I like talking to people."

Out of all the activities Mendoza has participated in, water polo holds a special place in his heart. "Water Polo was my favorite school activity because the great amount of positive memories that came with being on the team," says Mendoza. "Water Polo is so chill and fun compared to other activities, there was like no drama ever, just funny experiences with your team and coaches."

"My favorite memory of high school is going to water polo tournaments and spending time with my team," continues Mendoza

Outside of school, Mendoza is currently working at a local Pop-eyes. However, he has also had other job experiences at King Taco and Toppings. "Popeyes is so cool and fun compared to King Taco," says Mendoza. "The environment is so much more warm and welcoming compared to King Taco and I get to work with people who are all really nice, even my best friend Laura Maria Valle Chicas."

"I actually did work at Toppings in Downey for like 3 months at the beginning of senior year," continues Mendoza. "The manager was crazy and they didn't pay well tho so it wasn't worth it and I ended up quitting."

When Mendoza isn't busy he likes to utilize his free time to read, watch movies, tumble, or go on adventures with friends.

"I LOVE watching movies, I'd give pretty much any movie a try, (except horror movies, too scary). I can only watch them during the day with other people (\*mon-

key covering eye emoji\*)," says Mendoza, "I love comedies, superhero movies, action, thrillers, dramas, and even romance \*eeks\*."

As for his future goals, Mendoza is generating a plan for what he wants to do after graduating. "After graduation, I plan to travel with friends as well as family, as well as work as a lifeguard," says Mendoza. "In the fall, I plan to start college wherever I do end up deciding to go."

"Right now, I'm mostly thinking about San Francisco State, it's been a school that I've liked since I went on the NorCal trip my junior year," continues Mendoza. "Right now my intended major is Computer Science, but I'm not sure if it's something that I'll stay with, I'm actually very interested in the medical field as well."

In terms of his relationship status, Mendoza is a single-pringle low-key looking to mingle, "Currently I'm not in a relationship, but what I look for in other people is someone who's fun to be around, caring, and easy to talk to."

If you want to get to know more about this tumbling cutie, follow him on twitter @urlocaldraven!

## El Rancho welcomes Mr. Keilbach

BY SAUL VALADEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Mr. Keilbach is the choir director at El Rancho High School and Valencia Elementary School. This is his first year teaching at El Rancho High School. Last year he taught choir at Rivera Middle School.

"Over the summer I found out I was going to be coming this year to the high school," said Mr. Keilbach.

He likes being here at "The Ranch" because the teachers care about the students. "The students here, especially the choir students, work really hard and are dedicated. There is lots of room to grow."

Adrian Ruiz, a junior, shares "I like how he is enthusiastic and tries his

hardest to teach us stuff."

Keilbach believes, "singing in choir can help you in all of your classes, even if you don't plan on being a singer forever."

*"IF YOU WANT TO PUSH YOURSELF AND LEARN SOMETHING NEW THAT'S GOING TO MAKE YOU SMARTER, CHOIR IS A GREAT WAY TO DO THAT."*  
-MR. KEILBACH

"It's something where you can learn how to work with other people, you can learn how to read music, you can travel with your friends and go to festivals," continues Keilbach. "It's a great activity to get involved in and it's a great way to make new friends, choir is like a family."

Mr. Keilbach got in-

terested in music when his friend talked him into trying choir in tenth grade. He loved it so much that he joined another choir and a church choir and took AP music theory.

His love for choir is what influenced his decisions to attend Cal State Fullerton because he knew he wanted to become a choir director and they had a music education program.

Throughout his time in college he sang in the school's choir where he was paid to sing and also worked as a librarian in the school's library.

During Mr. Keilbach's free time you may find him at Knott's Berry Farm enjoying his love of roller coasters. He also likes walking his two dogs- a black lab and a Rott-

weiler- to the park to play.

Mr. Keilbach wants more students to join choir so the choir can grow as much as possible.

He would like the choir to get better at reading music and learning harder songs. Students learn how to sing in tune, match pitch, read

music, and practice healthy vocal techniques. Any student can join concert choir sixth period by talking to their counselor.



Mr. Keilbach encourages everyone to try choir. "It teaches people how to be brave and try new things."

## Word on the Street: What colleges have you been accepted to?



"I've been accepted to Cal State LA, Cal State Long Beach, UC Davis, and UC Santa Barbara."  
-Destiny Rivera, 12th



"Cal Poly Pomona, San Luis Obispo, Fordham, UC Santa Barbara, UC San Diego."  
-Deanna Roldan, 12th



"UC Irvine, Whittier, Cal Poly Pomona, and Cal State LA."  
-Natalie Munoz, 12th



"Cal State Fullerton and Delaware Valley University."  
-Jade Castellanos, 12th



"I got into UCLA, UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara, UC Berkeley, John Hopkins, Harvey Mudd, and Cal Poly Pomona."  
-Jessica Castellanos, 12th

## ENTERTAINMENT

**Captain Marvel soars to the top of the box office**

*Captain Marvel, played by Brie Larson, poses in one of the promotional posters for the film.*

BY FATIMA LOPEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The newest addition to the Marvel Cinematic Universe, *Captain Marvel*, takes us back to the 90s and sets the scene for the next highly anticipated movie in the MCU, *Avengers: Endgame*.

*Captain Marvel*, just like any Marvel movie, completely crushed the competition on opening week and even now, about two weeks after its release, it is still at the top. The film made

\$456.7 million dollars in its first week, making it the sixth-biggest opening of all time.

The movie is directed by none other than American filmmaking duo, Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck. Other notable works by these two are *Half Nelson* and *It's Kind of a Funny Story*. Their newest and most successful film to date stars Brie Larson as Captain Marvel and the iconic Samuel L. Jackson as Nick Fury.

It is a momentous occasion for the Marvel Cinematic Universe not only because the

film was so well received by the public, but also because *Captain Marvel* features the first female lead in the history of the MCU.

The movie introduces us to Vers (rhymes with "tears," which you might shed during this film), a noble warrior hero of the Kree civilization. Without giving too much away, Vers is on a mission to stop the Skrull people, a group of green-skinned aliens who can transform themselves to look like anyone or anything, from invading earth (planet C-53, if you will).

Aside from this extremely

important mission, Vers is also on a journey of self-exploration. The young hero was rescued by the Kree, but she had no memory of her past. All she knows is that her life was once on earth.

*Captain Marvel* is a huge success for the Marvel Cinematic Universe. The film has dominated the box office, but it also won the hearts of audience members everywhere. Throughout *Captain Marvel*, the role women have in society is heavily questioned. Vers is told she cannot be a hero because she is

too emotional. When she arrived on earth, she is told to smile for a man. However, our hero Captain Marvel refuses to stick to those traditional views on women and proves everyone wrong.

The most "girl power" moment in the film is during one of the film's most intense fight scenes. When the first few seconds of "Just a Girl," by No Doubt play in the background, it's clear to the audience that this woman is about to do what women do best. She's going to kick some butt! Without getting too political, *Captain Marvel* did a great job of portraying the struggles all women face, not just the things that cool superhero women face.

Also, did we mention that it came out on International Women's Day? In my opinion, that is an amazing homage to women and young girls all across the globe. In this day and age, positive female representation is key and *Captain Marvel* includes all that and more!

Let's say superhero movies aren't for you, that's not a problem! *Captain Marvel* has a great message about empowerment and proving to others that a woman can (and often do) save the world. If superhero movies are your thing, then *Captain Marvel* directed by Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck is just the film for you! It's a great addition to the Marvel Cinematic Universe and it answers a lot of questions regarding the next and final installment of *The Avengers*.

One final thing worth mentioning is, if you love cats, then I encourage you to watch *Captain Marvel*. Trust me, you'll thank me later!

**S.O.S.! The Jonas Brothers are back!**

BY GRECIA HARO-FLORES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

2019 is no longer the year of the pig. It's the year of the Jonas Brothers! On the midnight of March 1st, the Jonas Brothers released their first song in over six years titled "Sucker," and also an accompanying music video the same night, leaving the internet *burnin' up* with excitement.

The video features Kevin and Nick's wives, Danielle Jonas and Priyanka Chopra Jonas, along with Joe's fiancé, Sophie Turner. The three couples were filmed having the absolute time of their lives at the country estate, Hatfield House, as the trio sang about being "suckers" for their women.

"I'm a sucker for you. You say the word and I'll go anywhere blindly," the brothers sing, "I'm a sucker for all the subliminal things no one knows about you."

The "Sucker" music video accumulated more than 17 million views on its release day, demonstrating their still existing fanbase of devoted Jonatics and making it one of the most watched music videos of 2019 thus far.

However, a new song and

music video wasn't how the Jonas Brothers had planned their return. About a year and a half ago, the band was working on a documentary with Amazon.

Initially, the documentary focused on their childhood, their time in the industry together, and where they are now in their personal lives/careers. During the filming, they realized there was this magic when they were a band that they would all love to feel again, which Nick shared on *Carpool Karaoke with James Corden*.

The focus of the documentary has now shifted to "a personal, behind-the-scenes look at the brothers as they reunite for their upcoming tour," according to *The Hollywood Reporter*. There is no set date on the documentary, though, fans are speculating it will be released before or after their highly-anticipated reunion tour.

Although Nick is the one to praise for bringing the band back together, he is also to blame for their break-up in October of 2013. Joe previously revealed in a Reddit AMA that Nick wanted to pursue a solo career in acting and creating music of his own. Nick confirmed this statement



*Brothers Joe, Nick, and Kevin in their album cover for their latest single "Sucker."*

earlier this month on the *Late Late Show with James Corden*.

During their six-year break-up period, Joe created a pop band called *DNCE*. The group consisted of Joe as the lead singer, Jack Lawless as the drummer, Cole Whittle as the bassist and keyboardist, and Jinjoo Lee as the guitarist. *DNCE* made their debut with *Cake by the Ocean*, which rose to No.9 on the charts immediately and went quadruple-platinum. Following their hit song, they released one

studio album, but haven't released any new music since then.

Nick released new music of his own as a solo artist. His albums titled *Nick Jonas (2014)* and *Last Year Was Complicated (2016)*, included hit songs such as *Jealous* and *Touch*, that also escalated the charts quickly. Aside from his musical career, he followed his acting dream and took part in major film pictures like *Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle*.

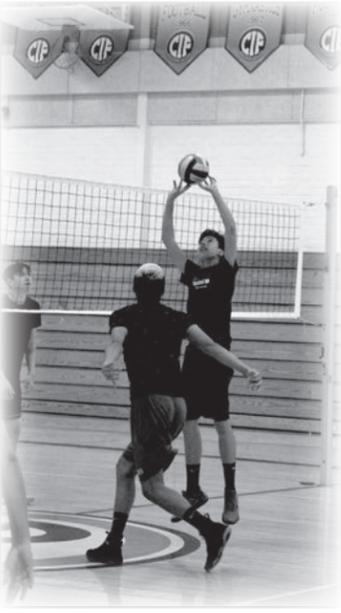
Meanwhile, Kevin decided to stay out of the spot-

light, and start a life with his wife Danielle. Years later, they had their first daughter, Alena Jonas in 2014, and their second daughter, Valentina Jonas in 2016. Unlike his brothers, Kevin may not have chart numbers, but he is a successful entrepreneur and a wonderful dad.

If the Jonas Brothers reunion has taught us anything, it's to never lose hope, because you'll never know when your favorite boyband will make an epic comeback!

## SPORTS

## Boys volleyball trains to win league title



Martin Aguilar jumping to spike the ball. Photo by Yazlin Juarez

BY DYLAN JOSEPH  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Boys volleyball preseason is over and league is about to begin! The team is confident for the new season as they have coach, Mrs. Adelaida Picon, leading the team to new heights.

Team captain Steve Francis is excited for this season. "I predict we will do very well in league and that we can go very deep into CIF," says Francis. "Last season was disappointing, we can and will do better this time."

As an ambitious captain he has some important goals for this season. "I want us to achieve our fullest potential and push ourselves harder than ever before," says Francis. "we need to work better as a team as it is important to strive for greatness."

"I think we are gonna do very well this season," continues Francis.

This season has had some major changes from last season, "We have more people who want to win and they have what it takes to do it," says Francis

However, success is nothing without some struggles. This season the team has had some ups and downs but the team works hard to "stay together as a team and not be afraid of each other while we are down, we need to play through large deficits," says Francis. "We need to play for each other rather than just ourselves."

The captain has a few tricks up his sleeve and is "gonna work harder than ever this season."

The entire team looks forward to the new season with Coach Picon leading the team. Picon commands respect from her team and with her leadership the team is confident they will do quite well. The captain has nothing but respect for the coach stating "Picon is great at taking kids who have never played and turning them into good volleyball players."

Show you blue pride and catch their next game April 3rd against Santa Fe High School.

## Baseball hopes to reach CIF as underdogs

BY EMILIANO LAFARGA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Baseball season is in full swing and the boys' varsity baseball team has kicked off their season with a disappointing record of 2-3. The boys ended preseason with a record of 5-4, but began their league play with an away loss to La Serna (7-0). Fortunately they bounced back with a big win over Whittier High School (11-1) which gave the boys a big confidence boost and hopes of reaching CIF playoffs once again.

Although, after a loss to California High School (7-4), the team's postseason future is in jeopardy. They currently sit 4th in the league standings right behind Santa Fe, California, and La Serna, who are tied for first place. On top is La Serna High School who are on a two game winning streak which has given them an edge over the rest of the teams competing in the Del Rio League.

Another recent loss to Santa Fe High School (6-4), has further set the boys back only making their challenge harder. At this rate the team will need to pull off miraculous performances in their remaining games.

The previous year, the boys had a spectacular season and finished in first place and comfortably went through to the CIF playoffs. They even managed to get to the semi-finals where they suffered a heartbreaking loss. The



Christian Robert facing off against Buckley pitcher.

Photo by Selina Torres

team and the coaches were hoping this year they could perfect their game and work on their mistakes that sent them home last year.

So far, this doesn't seem likely and the team knows they must make some big changes in order to go back to their winning ways. "One thing we can improve on is having a better mindset about practice and games," says junior Damian Hurrieta. "We are a very good team and as long as we have the right mindset we can beat anybody," he says.

Despite the two losses the boys still have high hopes of reaching CIF playoffs once again. "I know that we are going in the right direction," says senior captain Omar Sanchez.

In order to do this, the boys will have to face off once again against the two teams who beat them, La Serna High School and California High School, a tough challenge but not impossible. The team are looking to gain the dominance they once had, to push through into the postseason.

However, it is a team effort that will be needed in order to help them push through this. "We push each other mentally as well to improve each other's game and mentality," says Sanchez who has been playing varsity for four years and has been captain of the team for three.

One thing that raises attention however, is their relentless determination and ability

to still compete. The team still shows glimpses of that championship contending team we saw last year and it is only a matter of time before they find their rhythm once again. "The team is just getting started, just wait until we get running," says Sanchez.

With strong leadership and willingness to compete, no one should be counting this team out. The team still has eight games left to prove they deserve a shot at competing in CIF and will be looking to capitalize as underdogs.

Be sure to catch the boys out on the field in their next game April 10th against Whittier High School!

## Boys swim remains undefeated



Emiliano Orta competing in the medley relay.

Photo by Selina Torres

BY EZRA BLANCO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho varsity boys swim team remains undefeated with an overall record of 7-0 and a Del Rio League record of 2-0.

Captains Carlos Rojo and Daniel Borrayo are confident about the new season and are looking forward to league. "[We] feel like we just have a stronger team this year than last year," says Rojo.

Borrayo wants to lead the team the same way as last year, regarding how far they advanced in CIF. Both captains have one goal in mind this year: make it to CIF finals and hopefully reach state.

Head coach Philipp Rojo also has some goals set for this season, both team and individual. "Of course we want to be competitive in every dual meet," says

Rojo, "I think we have a very good chance of taking second in Del Rio League (DRL) again."

His swimmers are much more competitive with each other this year than last, especially for relay spots and bragging rights in their favorite events. He spends most of this time reconfiguring relay teams based on how well each swimmer did in their last meet, which is a great problem to him as their coach. "This year's team is younger and hungrier than last years. We graduated seven seniors last year, but it feels like we are picking up right where we left off last year," says Rojo.

This year's team is much more flexible than past teams, he has more swimmers that could swim three to four different strokes or distances. This helps a lot when a swimmer has a family emergency or falls ill and can't make it to the meet because it allows Rojo to rotate other people into those events and still be competitive.

The El Rancho Boys swim team plans to finish what last year's team started: reaching Del Rio League once again and using their advantages to place even higher than last season. Go show some support to the swim team at their meets every Tuesday and Thursday at 3:15 pm!

## Tennis look to qualify for CIF

BY ALEJANDRO MELCHOR  
EL RANCHO STAFF WRITER

With the arrival of spring comes El Rancho's boys tennis team. The boys started their season with an overall record of 1-1. "As right now we are doing good as a team but I feel like we need to push harder to be the best," says junior Luis Garcia.

This is a shared sentiment among the boys team because of an disappointing season last year that ended with the boys taking fourth place in league and with a record of 4-8.

Although the boys have made it this far, this did not happen without struggles especially now having such a fresh new team.

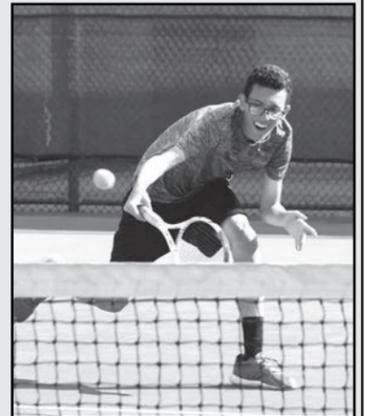
"Last season wasn't that great for us since most of the players on JV were new. On the varsity team most of the players were good because they were seniors and people who have been on the team for more than two years," said junior Joshua Carmona.

To improve their play, this team has invested much time into working on technique.

"This year we plan to practice more during the week and on the weekend," says Garcia, "we are also trying really hard to make our doubles and singles really good to qualify for CIF."

"For improvements, we've been working on our forehands and backhands and also just keeping a rally with the other opponent," adds Carmona.

Despite making improve-



David Lopez returning a serve.

Photo by Selina Torres

ments to their performance on the court they have focused on also making improvements on their mental game.

"We also have a coach that has been really helping us so far and pushing us to be the best we can," says Carmona

"This year we've improved by practicing harder and paying more attention to our coach," said Garcia

Although the team still has a whole season ahead of them, it is evident that they have their standards set high for these next few weeks.

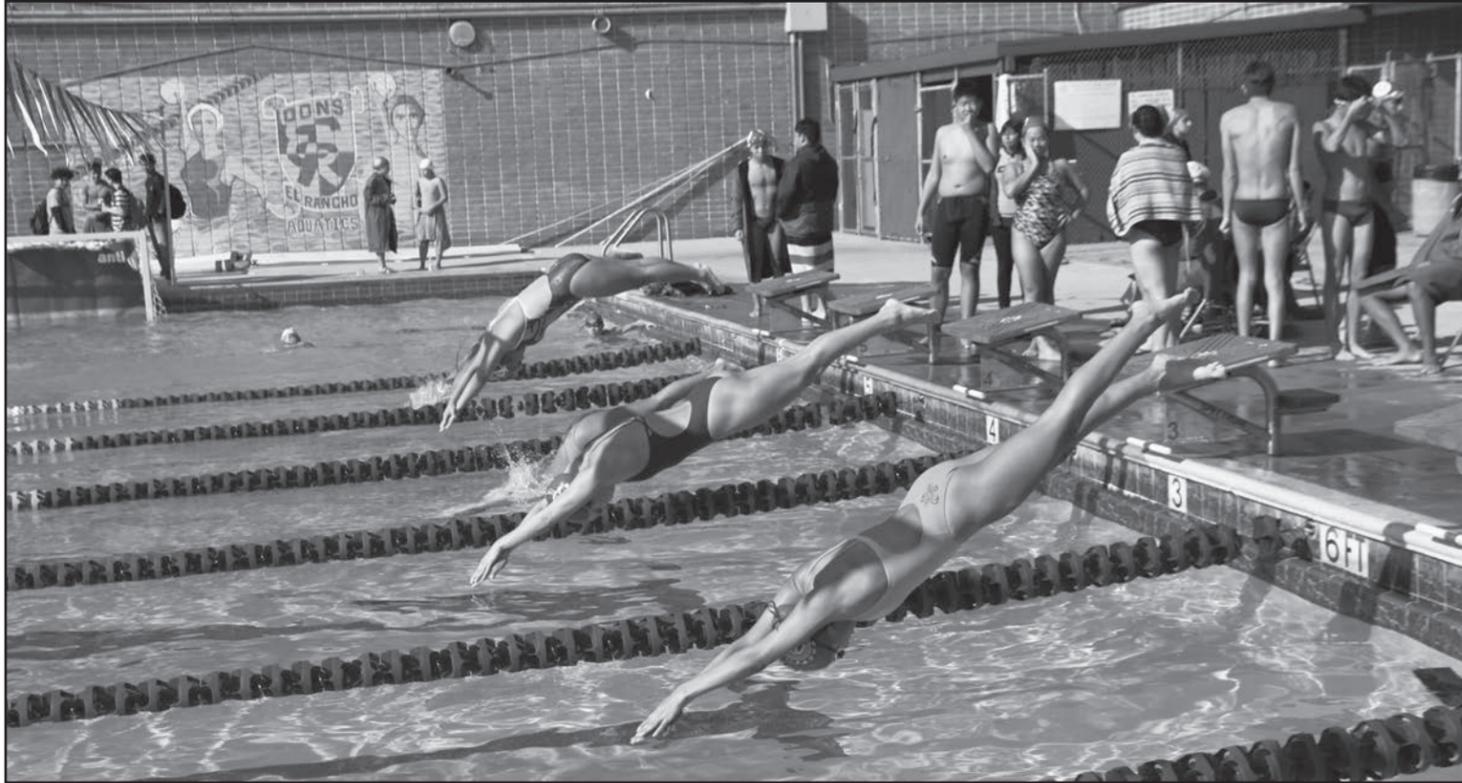
"My goals this year is to lead my team to be number one in the league," says Garcia .

"Our goal for this season is to just progress as a team and become a stronger team", says Carmona, "We plan to qualify for CIF by having a strong doubles team."

With that said, these boys will have the goal to go far this season so be sure to go witness them play in their upcoming season.

# SPORTS

## Girls swim maintains a strong season



Girls swim diving into the end of their league.

BY EZRA BLANCO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho girls swim team started off their season strong. Varsity holds an overall record of 6-1 and a Del Rio League record of 2-0.

Confidence is at an all time high in the swim team, especially in captains Angelica Martinez and Marissa Lopez. "I think the swim season will go amazing because our team has been working out and giving it their all these past four meets," says Martinez.

*"I THINK THIS WILL BE A GREAT AND UNFORGETTABLE SEASON, HOPEFULLY ONE OF OUR BESTS."*

-MARISSA LOPEZ

Many swimmers have come a long way since they first started. Martinez began swimming as a freshman and has grown with her team, collecting knowledge from past swimmers.

*"I FEEL LIKE I AM STRONGER AND MORE COMFORTABLE WITH MY TEAM."*

-ANGELICA MARTINEZ

"I love them all and feel proud to be a part of it." Lopez has transformed as a swimmer by putting in the extra work. She joined club swimming and used the extra hours of exercise to her advantage, making her an even better swimmer for the team.

This season, the Lady Dons are focusing heavily on not only

improving their techniques to get better and faster, but also team bonding and peer motivation.

*"I FEEL LIKE [LOPEZ AND I] WOULD NOT SO MUCH AS LEAD BUT GUIDE THE TEAM."*

-ANGELICA MARTINEZ

She plans on getting the relay team all the way to CIF. Strength and endurance are a very big priority for head coach Xenia Castillo, so she's making sure that the team is in top notch shape for each meet by staying consistent with training and keeping a high level of intensity at every practice.

Castillo has one major goal in mind for this season:

for the girls to have a better feel for where they stand in comparison to the rest of the league. Huge differences have been noticed between this year and last year's team. "I think this year we have managed to get into shape a lot quicker," Castillo says.

*"IT'S EXCITING TO SEE WHAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED BEFORE WE GET TO FINALS."*

-COACH CASTILLO

Go show some support to the El Rancho Girls Swim team at their meets every Tuesday and Thursday at 3:15 pm!

Photo by Selina Torres

## Softball begins league play



BY FLOR CALDERON  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Varsity girls softball season has just begun and the girls are looking forward to pushing themselves more than they ever have before. They currently have an overall record of 6-6 and stand 0-1 in league play.

A goal for the team "... is to constantly improve on the offense and constantly work together to build up one another," says Lelani Larez, a senior on varsity. "The girls have an impressive defense and amazing energy throughout the entirety of every game."

Another goal for the girls softball team would be "Mak-

ing it to CIF," says Brynn Romero, a sophomore on varsity.

One of the many memories that the team shares is singing the alma mater on the bus on their way back after a game. Another memory is having team bondings at a teammates house where everyone would sing and dance to their favorite disco songs.

However, underneath all the good times are bad times as well.

*"AS INDIVIDUALS WE TEND TO PUT OURSELVES DOWN WHEN WE MAKE ERRORS, BUT EVERYONE HELPS TO COMFORT AND PICK EACHOTHER UP."*

-LEILANI LAREZ

One thing that the underclassmen are going to continue carrying is leadership from the upperclassmen. "[Because the seniors are graduating this year] The seniors would leave leadership and yes, we will all carry that in our heart for next year," says Ramirez.

Catch them at their next home game against Whittier high school on Tuesday, April 2nd at 3:15 pm!

## Golf "putting" in their work



BY STEVIE DOMINGUEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Varsity golf started their season March 19 with a victory over Santa Fe and in hopes to continue their drive, their putt landed short as they lost to La Serna. But with a team a third bigger than in the past, Coach May is already making plans for next year's golf season.

He plans to split the current co-ed team into two separate teams, one for the boys and one for the girls. Senior Jorge Diaz says, "Golf is a tough sport, physically and mentally. However, if you're willing to put in the time and commitment, you will build up confidence and improve your game."

With their concentration and commitment, varsity golf plans to take league and have at least half of their players qualify for CIF individuals.

*"PLAYING GOLF HAS BEEN SUCH A GREAT EXPERIENCE. EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE A BIGGER TEAM THAN THE PREVIOUS YEARS, YOU REALLY GET TO KNOW EVERYONE AND LOVE THEM AS A FAMILY."*

-JORGE DIAZ

Coach May has high hopes saying, "I am very excited about the team this year. We're scoring fairly low on our matches." Unlike most sports, scoring low in a game of golf is swell. Although the CIF cap is at 210 strokes per game, El Rancho manages to stay below the radar even in their losses. Although they lost the Dons scored 157 against La Serna.

Make sure to show support of the Golf team as the team tees off against La Serna April 2nd.

## Sports medicine club seeking new members



Sports medicine together to help athletes.

Photo by Emily Vasquez

BY EMILY VASQUEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This is the first school year that El Rancho has a sports medicine club, headed by ER's Athletic Trainer, Dr. Ross. This club provides students who are interested in sports medicine and other medical fields with hands-on experience and internship hours; covering football, basketball, and soccer games.

"Sports medicine has been difficult because we have to memorize the anatomy to know how to handle an injury, but it has overall been a great experience," says senior, Dontaylor Maxwell. In the club, students learn hands-on medical skills such as taping, wound-care, bandaging, splinting, and other emergency care services. These students get the experience they need to be able to provide others with emergency care if needed too.

The club currently holds a group of eleven students and Dr. Ross hopes to have more students that are interested in the medical field join next year. The club had their first competition March 23rd where they competed against 120 other high schools in California. The scores have yet to be released, but you can find out more on [www.elrodeonews.com](http://www.elrodeonews.com).

The club's next competition, will be the Health Occupation Students of America competition March 27-30. They will be competing in sports medicine as well as other healthcare field competitions. They are hoping to place in the top ten schools and Dr. Ross has high expectations for his club stating, "at least two of the members will definitely place in the individual scorings." These competitions allow students to showcase the various skills they have learned throughout their time in sports medicine club.

Next year, Dr. Ross hopes to expand the club by getting more freshman, sophomores, and juniors to join. The club is looking for students with the desire to go into the medical field after high school. There will be announcements and meetings in April for those who want to join.

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