



# El Rodeo



El Rancho High School - Volume 63- Issue 4  
www.elrodeonews.com

## Elias awarded the Pride 58 award



*Elias receives award at City Hall.*

BY LAURA CASTRO-SPENCER  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Mr. Raul Elias was granted the Pride 58<sup>th</sup> District Award for his involvement in El Rancho's Teen Court, Entrepreneur Club, and Justice League. Assembly member Christina Garcia presented Elias with the award on December 3 at Pico Rivera City Hall. The Pride 58 award is given to individuals that make a positive impact in the community.

Elias said, "I was very surprised I had won because I had never won any awards for teaching. In business, yes I have, but never in teaching." It took Elias three years to organize the school's Teen Court, and he faced many obstacles during the process, but managed to strive past them.

Elias encouraged El Rancho to undertake Teen Court because he knew his students are mature and intelligent enough to surpass the low expectations others have placed upon them. "I know my students," said Elias, "We were told that this was not going to be successful, and we made it one of the most successful Teen Courts in the state of California."

Alexis Hernandez, a Teen Court advisor, is grateful to have Elias as his mentor. "I made a networking connection that opened up a lot of doors and was fortunate enough to work for the city after I graduated, and once that job was done, Mr. Elias offered me the job that I have now. I was fortunate enough due to the fact that I developed a relationship with Mr. Elias that I was able to get a job straight out of high school."

Senior Ivan Cruz, Teen Court's Bailiff, says, "[Elias] definitely deserved the award ASL; he does what he does without looking for anything in return. With the Entrepreneur Club and Teen Court, students gain lessons and experiences that they can take with them after high school. There are students in Teen Court that want to go into the Judicial System after high school. He's the one that got me into Teen Court."

Mr. Elias is greatly honored to have received this award. "I'm going to hang it in my classroom for my students to see. I wouldn't have received it without their help, and I want them to know I'm grateful for all they've done."

## Juniors dominate 50th annual Powderpuff Game



The juniors completely controlled the 2014 Powder Puff game from start to finish as they rolled to a 22-0 victory over the seniors. Desiree Gonzalez scored the first touchdown setting the tone for the rest of the night. Although tensions did arise toward the end of the game causing it to end 22 seconds early, it was nothing compared to last year's unfortunate events. During the lunch time pep rally Andrew Perea, James Garcia, and Bryant De la Torre were crowned senior princes. The halftime performance revealed the night's king to be James Garcia.

## Students step up and make their voices heard



*Reyes, Gonzalez, Menjivar, James, and De la Torre represent the student body by speaking at the meeting.*

BY KIMBERLY GUIDO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Last Wednesday, the first ever Town Hall meeting was held in the El Rancho cafeteria where students had the chance to voice their opinions to the city council and the new city manager, Rene Bobadilla. One student from the following clubs was selected: the

Social Justice Club, Entrepreneur Club, Economics class, AP Government class, and ASB.

The representative students created questions for the council members to answer. The newly re-elected Mayor Gregory Salcido took some of the suggestions in consideration. Dealing with floods in Pico Rivera was mentioned as well as the pos-

sibility of opening up art clubs for the youth of the community.

El Rancho's questions impressed the city council members, including the Mayor. The Council members invite the youth community to help them research on some of Pico Rivera's problems. Improvements to the future of Pico Rivera are now on their way with help of the El Rancho students.

"For the first Town Hall meeting, it went very well because countless positive feedback was given. This was a great opportunity for the city to learn from the youth community and for the youth community to learn about the city. Our new mayor and city manager opened the doors to be more involved with the city. Students have a voice now," said Mr. Elias.

"With the help of club members and class leaders, we organized this meaningful meeting. We now have a stronger relationship with the Pico Rivera council members. Hopefully, we can encourage many other students to be a part of this," said student Anthony Raymundo.

The Dons have been given the chance to form a broadcast and provide a one-hour cable-access. The broadcast will provide news, events, and sports for all students.

After this first successful Town Hall meeting, there is no doubt more are yet to come. It will be the start of a new tradition. Improvements will be made with the questions and outcomes. Stronger relationships with the Pico Rivera city council were made. The Dons finally made a connection with their own community and have opened many doors that will further improve their future.

# OPINION

## Cameras needed to counter police brutality

BY RANDY JESUS LAZARO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

It is sickening to see how easily a badge or title can change a person's actions. The recent observations of police behavior show how the officers are clearly not here "to protect and serve," but instead to act in the brutish manner they see proper.

Cases of police brutality are coming to light in many cities across the country. Citizens are finally beginning to rise against the authoritarian body called the police force. However, while the people are peacefully protesting, police are arresting reporters and tear gassing innocent people.

Cases of police misconduct usually take place around racially segregated communities where the officers feel it's necessary to use racial profiling.

When NWA released their anti-authority anthem, they were not fornicating with the coppers for no reason. They did it to show how they were being treated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Though African Americans made up the majority of the population in the area, they were highly discriminated against by the officers.

A whopping 89% of all complaints filed for excessive police force are ignored. What's the point of having a system



Ferguson police officer attempts to calm down a group of people protesting about recent police brutality.

that's here to "serve" the people, if most complaints go unnoted? It's no wonder so many cops did what they did. They knew they were going to get away with it.

However, with the advancement of technology, the police have to be more careful about where they flog their suspects. Cases like those of Kelly Thomas and Donna Levesque gained international coverage simply because of the well placed location of cameras.

More people should be,

as Brennan Huff was in *Step Brothers*, "watching cops." Even President Obama believes the police need to be monitored. He has requested \$263 million from Congress to give to local police departments. This money will be used for buying body cameras and retraining officers on how to use nonviolent approaches when dealing with civilians. America's tax dollars will finally be used to protect innocent taxpayers, as it should be.

The fact that cops need to

use body cameras to do their job is a perfect example of how the justice system works in today's society. The police force originated as neighborhood vigilantes only to evolve into dogs that must be leashed. They are so ready to attack a probable suspect without any evidence supporting them. As Martin Luther King Jr. said, "We've learned to fly the air like birds, we've learned to swim the seas like fish, and yet we haven't learned to walk the Earth as brothers and sisters."

## ASK M.J.

**How do you know what career to choose in your senior year?**

Many seniors in high school have trouble deciding what career or major to choose. With that being said, it is acceptable, for you, to have no idea what you would like to study. However, if you are the type of person that plans your days or needs to know how a movie ends before watching it, then I suggest taking a test. There are various quizzes online that you could take and each quiz suggests what career is best for you based on your skills.

On the other hand, if you are the type of person that just goes with flow, then you do not have to worry about a thing. In college you will be exposed to different subjects areas, and I can reassure you that you will find a perfect fit for you. So, do not worry and try to enjoy senior year while you can because it is almost halfway gone.

**What if you want to choose one career but have a desire to be another?**

You technically want both, but now do you choose correctly without feeling disappointed?

Many students have decided on double majoring. This simply means two separate majors; you will be obtaining two sets of

degree requirements. With this, you can decide to major on both areas of studies you like without tearing yourself apart on choosing which area to study. However, you have to do research on which schools have your interest of areas because not all universities have the major you want.

However, if you decide that double majoring is too much for you to handle, then you can also major in an area and minor in another area. Again, you would have to do research on what universities offer both the major and minor you want. Double majoring may be too much work to complete, but a minor is half the work of a major and you would still have time to focus in your major.

**How do you get over a guy that you know you have no chance with?**

Unreciprocated feelings are absolutely terrible. Something that I have found particularly useful when it comes to getting over someone who is not interested in you is to distract yourself with other things.

Instead of thinking about the guy who is hurting you, it is definitely best if you hang out with friends and family. Surrounding yourself with the people who love and care about you will make you

feel loved instead of unwanted.

Although people tend to believe that the best way to get over a guy is to find a new guy, I believe that is not necessarily true. Trying to get over someone by infatuating yourself with someone else is definitely simply setting yourself up for failure. I definitely think you should just take some time for yourself and experience new things.

**What can you do to get over insecurities without doing anything drastic?**

The first, and most important thing to know about self-confidence, is that self-confidence does not come from self-image; self-confidence comes from how we feel about ourselves emotionally. In order to overcome insecurities, you first need to change the way you feel about yourself emotionally.

It is very common for an insecure person to feel like he or she is not good enough. These feelings can easily be avoided with a little self-assurance. Next time you look in the mirror DO NOT point out your flaws. Always try to point out the positive things that you see in yourself.

Seeing these positive things in yourself will eventually lead to the most important thing that you

could possibly do to overcome you're insecurities: learning to love your flaws. Loving your flaws is extremely important because you will be happier and you cannot expect other people to accept you, if you cannot love yourself.

**What Christmas plans can I make for my girlfriend? I like her a lot, and I'm really cheap. Please help.**

Christmas is a special time of year to spend with with your significant other, so you should do something memorable. Christmas is also the time of year where money is tight, so here are a few suggestions of fun dates.

Go to the Thrift Store on Passons and look for the ugliest Christmas sweater. The loser has to wear the sweater for the rest of the night.

Drive to Downtown Disney and admire the Christmas decorations and get your picture taken with Micky Mouse.

Pack a picnic and go hiking at Turnbull Canyon in Uptown Whittier. Then admire the view from the top of the hill.

Or you can just spend the night indoors, sitting on the couch browsing Netflix for the cheesiest ABC Family Christmas movie while drinking hot chocolate and laughing at the terrible acting.

## El Rodeo

**Advisor**  
Paul Zeko

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Odalys Chavez

**Copy Editor**  
James Francis Genato Chow  
Samantha Munoz

**Section Editors**  
**News**

Odalys Chavez

**Opinion**

Laura Castro-Spencer

**College**

Nataly Mauricio

**City View**

Breanna Perez

**Features**

Nataly Mauricio

**Christmas**

Marisol Almazan

**Campus**

Elizabeth Jacome

**In-Depth**

Odalys Chavez

Jazmin Hernandez

**Sports**

Randy Jesus Lazaro

David Joel Hughes

**Fun Zone**

Marisol Almazan

**Reporters**

Samantha Munoz

Destinie Campos

Kimberly Guido

Tatiana Jurado

Mathew Aguilar

Saloni Patel

Francisco Ramirez

James Francis Genato Chow

Janelle Mercado

**Photo Editor**

Alexis Serrano

**Photographers**

Heidi Hernandez

Sol Mendez

*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.

# COLLEGE

## College-bound students get a glimpse into college life



The California Scholarship Federation had the chance to take part in a life-changing opportunity.

BY JAZMIN HERNANDEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Senior year has been one of the most stressful years for seniors. So, as a relief from all the chaos and hard work, the members of California Scholarship Federation (CSF) attended the University of California San Diego and California State University San Marcos with the help of club advisor, Nancy Nasouf.

In order to be a member of CSF, students have to fill out a form with their grades. Senior members are eligible to receive an honor cord, which they can wear when they graduate.

CSF aids its fellow students by motivating them to strive for a better future. President Bryant De la Torre says, "We promote a scholarly path and push people to go to college," and "we also give out scholarships." They do this by visiting different universities in order for students to gain an experience of the college life they will be having in the future.

At a meeting a few weeks

ago, CSF created a list of schools that they could potentially visit, and the members voted on the University of California San Diego and California State University San Marcos.

Senior Tatiana Hernandez says, "I gained assurance that I actually might want to make the University of California San Diego a home of mine."

Initially, De la Torre did not think the University of California San Diego was going to impress him because he has his eyes set on the University of California Berkeley. However, the University of California San Diego caught him by surprise. De la Torre says, "The campus is so unique and laid back, and I felt myself attending there so it was a really cool experience."

De la Torre says, "When I was on the campus, I automatically felt this sense of freedom and it feels awesome!" De la Torre was not the only student who felt this way. Hernandez says, "Visiting this college made graduating a reality, because

soon I will be picking a college to become my new home."

Time is going by quickly, and the reality of leaving high school and beginning a new life in college has set in for some students.

If you did not have the opportunity to go on this field trip, do not panic. There will definitely be more universities that CSF will tour. De la Torre says, "We are trying to get a field trip to go up north to see Stanford University and University of California Berkeley, but due to school regulations, it is going to be hard."

Though the thought of a new life in college and moving on from El Rancho may seem terrifying to some students, CSF lends a helping hand to students by making them realize that life after high school is not as scary once you have a glimpse of what college life will be like.

CSF meets every other Thursday in room H-2. You can also visit the College and Career Center if you have any more questions regarding college or scholarships.

### You Are Cordially Invited To Attend A Financial Aid Workshop

DATE: Wednesday, January 14, 2015  
PLACE: El Rancho High School Cafeteria  
TIME: 6:30 P.M.

This informative workshop is vital if your student plans to attend a post-secondary school next year. Financial aid is available for trade schools, community colleges and four-year universities.

The workshop will explain what documentation is needed and how to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The FAFSA is used by colleges, the state and federal government to determine a student's eligibility for grants and other aid. We will also explain the California Dream Act Application for students who do not have a social security number.

In addition to the informational workshop, we will also be hosting a **California Cash For College Application Workshop** to assist students in completing the on-line FAFSA Application.

The on-line workshop will be held on:

Date: Saturday, February 7, 2015  
Place: El Rancho High School Library  
Time: 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM.

High school seniors who attend the workshop may qualify for scholarships. There will also be a California Dream Act workshop for students who do not have a social security number.

If you have any questions, please call the College/Career Center at (562) 801-5325.

### Están Cordialmente Invitados A Asistir Una Noche De Ayuda Financiera

FECHA: miércoles, 14 de enero del 2015  
LUGAR: Cafetería de la escuela El Rancho  
HORA: 6:30 P.M.

Si su estudiante tiene planes de atender una escuela después de graduarse, haga sus planes para asistir esta junta. Hay ayuda financiera para estudiantes que piensan continuar en una escuela vocacional, colegio comunitario o universidad de cuatro años.

Se proveerá información para completar el formulario "FAFSA." Este formulario se usa para determinar elegibilidad para ayuda de las escuelas, del estado y el gobierno federal. También se proveerá información para completar el formulario de "Dream Act." Los estudiantes que no tienen seguro social ahora pueden recibir ayuda estatal y de las universidades.

Además de este taller, tendremos un taller para completar el formulario por el "internet" **Cash For College Application Workshop**

Fecha: sábado, 7 de febrero del 2015  
Lugar: Biblioteca de la escuela El Rancho  
Hora: 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Al asistir, estudiantes del doceno grado podrán calificar por becas adicionales. También habrá asistencia para llenar la aplicación de CA Dream Act para estudiantes sin seguro social.

Si tiene alguna pregunta, favor de llamar a la oficina de colegio y carreras (562) 801-5325.



## WORD ON THE STREET

Which colleges did you apply to and did you find it difficult to apply?



"I applied to Cal State Bakersfield, Cal State Fullerton, Cal State Dominguez Hills, and Cal State LA. It was not difficult to apply at all."

-Alex Gaona



"I applied to Humboldt State University and it was not that difficult to apply."

-Alex Ronquillo



"I applied to Mt. St. Mary's and it was challenging, but I'm glad I was accepted."

-Rocio Lopez



"I applied to SCIC Beijing, a martial arts university. It was not that difficult to apply. The headmaster there has replied and awaits my arrival in the year 2016."

-Matthew Gutierrez



"I applied to Grand Canyon University, and I did not find it difficult. I think committing later on to a school will be the real challenge."

-Valeria Hurtado

## CITY VIEW

## A legal star returns home

BY ANTHONY REYMUNDO

The El Rancho Teen Court has become the state of California's model teen court for three reasons: its students, the work ethic of the court, and its outstanding legal and professional facility. The most recent addition is Ms. Rasha Gerges Shields, a Teen Court Attorney.

Shields attended Magee Elementary, Burke Middle School, and graduated from the Ranch in 1994. Shield continued her education at the University of California, Los Angeles (J.D. 2001; Order of the Coif; Moot Court President; Recipient of the Law Guild of Beverly Hills Eleanor Klein Merit Award) and University of California, Irvine (B.A in Political Science with honors 1997; Phi Beta Kappa)

Shields is an experienced trial lawyer who focuses on complex civil litigation, white-collar criminal defense, and internal corporate investigations. She has been the lead trial counsel in federal court and has argued before the California Supreme Court, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the California Court of Appeal, and many federal and state trial courts.

In addition to prosecuting her own cases, Ms. Shields supervised other prosecutors, evaluated investigations for federal prosecution, and trained law enforcement agents. Ms. Shields honors also include recipient of governmental service commendations from the DEA, ATF, LAPD, California Narcotic Officers' Association,



Rasha Shields returns to El Rancho after twenty-years success.

City of Los Angeles, and the L.A. County District Attorney's Office Named a "Rising Star" by Southern California Super Lawyers

Shields initially joined Jones Day in 2003 after concluding her federal clerkships and spent four years as an associate in the Firm working on complex civil and criminal matters and arguing multiple appeals. Shields is committed to public service and has worked on a number of pro bono matters. She and her family immigrated to the United

States from Egypt when she was two years old. She was the first person in her extended family to obtain a postgraduate degree.

Shields knew she wanted to be a lawyer since she was in elementary school. "For a 4th grade writing assignment, we had to write about what we wanted to be when we grew up. I remember telling my teacher that I couldn't decide between being a lawyer and being a teacher. My teacher, who had also been a lawyer, told me that lawyers make more

money. So I decided on being a lawyer. I think she was the first lawyer I ever met, but the idea of being a lawyer had stuck with me. In high school, we had a mock trial in my government class, and my experience there confirmed that I did want to be a lawyer."

Shields was greatly motivated by her family and their desire for a better life. "I think what really motivated me to succeed was knowing how much my parents sacrificed to come to this country. Their careers were in Egypt, but they left everything to start over again for better opportunities for their children. I always assumed that if I worked hard, I would be able to accomplish anything I wanted to. Having that attitude has paid off."

Shields is returning to El Rancho in order to persuade students into studying the legal process. "It is always great to remember where you came from. I have great memories of being a student at El Rancho, even though many of my peers went to fancy private schools. I feel like El Rancho prepared me well for college and for life. I also remember being in class and hearing from former graduates about the great things they have accomplished. I want to give back in the same way. I want students to know that they too can succeed in any profession. I also want to attract more El Rancho students to the legal profession because the legal profession needs more diversity in its ranks." Ms. Shields joins Dr. Marin and Mr. Elias as distinguished alumni returning to the Ranch to help make a difference.



## Teen Court Report

BY DARWIN REYES

On December 3rd, the El Rancho Teen Court deliberated a verdict for two different cases, but the cases share a common element of fighting that was caused by the defendants over minor disputes.

The defendant for the first case found herself in the situation of a fight caused by what she claimed to be controversial looks implied by her attacker. The intense looks of disregard and spite began during school lunch hours when the defendant claims she had been enjoying her lunch when suddenly she had been given distasteful looks by a stranger. She ignored the stranger and carried on about her day, but she then noticed the same stranger after school on her route to her home. As the defendant walked home, the stranger approached her. The strange girl halted her and asked her if they could speak, but this was a ruse, for the strange girl was serving as a distraction, meanwhile the strange girl's companions attacked the defendant from behind. The defendant states that she had been put on by more than one girl, but she was only caught because she followed instructions when the officer arrived on scene and had told her not to run. The jury for this case was conflicted whether to believe the defendant on account of her lying history.

The second case had a simple base that began with a post on Instagram. The post portrayed two women fighting, followed by the caption, "When she talks to Bae." The defendant had assumed the post was directed toward her friend since recent news had situated the girl who posted the picture being left by her boyfriend to be with the defendant's friend. The defendant, along with a few friends of the girl that the post was directed to, confronted the other girl. After an exchanging of words during the heated dispute, one of the opposing girls got in the defendant's face and that is what caused the fighting on school grounds. Although this situation did not pertain to the defendant, she felt a sense of entitlement to protect her friend as she claims any one of her friends would do the same for her. It became more difficult to deliberate on the case once the jury member discovered that the defendant had learning disabilities alongside anger management issues.

Both cases resulted in fair deliberation of community service hours, as well as academic service, such as signing up for a class for human anatomy because it is a passion of the second defendant.



## Wendy's gets a new look

BY LESLIE PEREZ

Wendy's has glimpsed into the future. The new design of the fast-food restaurant is far different than the other restaurants in Pico Rivera. Wendy's has been under construction looking to improve the design of the restaurant. The new design of the restaurant is the latest and most high profile in a series of recent changes at Wendy's. Inside the restaurant is a flat screen TV and a fireplace. Changes have also been applied to the menu. Recently added to the menu were

pulled pork fries and pulled pork sandwiches. Mr. Ross, the owner of the restaurant, said, "I love the cliental in Pico Rivera, and the fact that there are so many people living within a 2 mile radius."

Ross is a big supporter of El Rancho High School, and clubs such as the Entrepreneur Club, Teen Court and the baseball team. "As a business in Pico Rivera, we take money out of the area, and I feel that we must put some of that money back into the area," said Ross, "I like being a part of teaching something that some of them will use for a while."

## Entrepreneur Club secures student internship program

BY LEONILA SARGENTO

For three years, members of the Entrepreneur Club have been urging the administration to offer classes that allow students to develop real world skills and provide students with the opportunity of securing part-time employments in the process.

The TriCities ROP is giving El Rancho High School students the fortune of a business internship. El Rancho students have the chance to thrive and gain a first hand experience into the business world.

This program guarantees great marketable skills, work habits, and abilities will be gained in order to properly enter the working world of business. Not to mention, this program will be providing hands on job experiences and preparation that encourages students to continue their education in an advanced level of study at a university or college of choice.

This opportunity starts on January 27, 2015 and will continue throughout the spring semester. Students will be permitted to finish a certain amount of hours here at ERHS in Z-2 per

week. Unfortunately, this brand new internship is only available to seniors/juniors or any student over the age of 16. All applicants must meet the basic requirements of providing their own transportation, flexible schedules, and maintaining a optimistic attitude along with tenacious work ethics.

What the students of ERHS don't know is that this business internship is the best offer our college and career center is making accessible to all students interested. Not only will a student participating in this internship earn 510 elective credits per semester, but will also make their college application stand out from the neighboring competition. As we all know, getting into your dream school is important, so making that decision can be made easier with this business internship.

The internship program gives you the experience to help decide whether or not the business career is for you. Along with helping the decision of your major, this will also expose all applicants to many job opportunities available for El Rancho's young teens.

More information can be obtained from Millie Fastrup in G-2.

## FEATURES

## New staff hopes to get back to winning ways



Flores, Goyenaga, and assistant varsity coach, Johnny Molina, training the soccer boys during practice.

BY NATALLY MAURICIO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This year El Rancho's JV and Varsity boys soccer teams welcomed two new soccer coaches, Gerry Goyenaga and Ivan Flores.

Goyenaga, a 2010 El Rancho alumni and new head Varsity coach, is very excited to be coaching soccer for El Rancho. Al-

though this is his first year coaching, Goyenaga is anything, but inexperienced. "I have played soccer my whole life, including here from 2006 to 2010," he explains.

Goyenaga's care and involvement for El Rancho is what led him to decide to coach. "After graduating from school recently, I heard that our program

did not have a head coach and as a former player and someone who was here for previous successes of the program, I wanted to make sure that that continued. I have always cared about this high school," says Goyenaga.

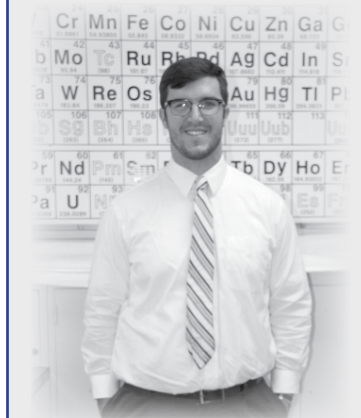
As for personal challenges, Goyenaga believes that patience is the key to overcome them.

"We are trying to turn our program around from a shaky last year and trying to restore a lot of our old successes and traditions. With that, you have to be patient with the players and remember that they are players and that they're in high school as well. They have responded well, and they work really hard. I know that we will reap the benefits of our hard work eventually."

Flores, who has had more experience coaching soccer for his younger brother's team, decided to coach for El Rancho because he "love[s] soccer and all aspects of it is a joy [for him]." Flores believes that although he has found a brotherly-like bond with the team, one challenge for the JV team this season is. Flores is determined to not let that stop the team from being successful. "My goals for this season is to be undefeated and to have players grow."

Goyenaga and Flores both agree that even though the JV and Varsity teams have "a lot of young players," the boys have a lot of heart. The boys' hard work, along with the encouragement that the new coaches bring, will guarantee a promising season for the boys' soccer teams.

## Meet Mr. Weir



BY DAVID HUGHES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This year El Rancho recently hired over fifteen new teachers. One of those teachers is Mr. Weir, the chemistry and general science teacher in room N-4. Mr. Weir attended college at Sonoma State University. He graduated in 2013, and soon after that, he became an El Rancho teacher at the young age of twenty-four.

Mr. Weir was born in a small community named Dublin, California. "It was a small suburban town that was kind of up and coming, it was mostly surrounded by prosperous cities, and definitely a nice area to live in," said Weir. Mr. Weir attended Dublin High School. While there Weir played Varsity soccer for four years and even started a Lacrosse program with his friends.

After he graduated high school, Weir attended Sonoma State University and majored in Chemistry. During his schooling of high school and college, Weir had a number of part time jobs that ranged from summer camps to retail and even became a conduct officer of the residential life community for Sonoma State. "For me, Sonoma State was the perfect atmosphere because it was small enough to make it homely, yet large enough at the same time where you have something to do," says Weir.

After graduating, Weir became a teacher at El Rancho. Mr. Weir says, "I moved down here to try and be in a new area. I got offered the job, and it seemed like a good fit." When Weir arrived at El Rancho, he said that "The faculty was extremely welcoming, and made me feel a part of the family."

When Weir is not teaching at school, he spends his free time at his town home in Fullerton. He frequently watches the *Big Bang Theory* and works out at the gym. It is known to some students that Mr. Weir has a black belt in Karate that he obtained when he was eleven and a half. However, Weir says that he has not practiced since high school, "I haven't practiced because I have been busy with school, but it has definitely taught me discipline and respect to my elders."

Mr. Weir decided he wanted to become a teacher when he was in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The most important thing about teaching to Mr. Weir is the students. He says, "Students are respectful, fun, and ambitious people that are full of tremendous potential."

## Social Justice brings awareness to water crisis

BY MARISOL ALMAZAN  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's very own Social Justice Club is partaking in "The Thirst Project" this school year. "The Thirst Project is a nonprofit organization that goes around the country, bringing awareness about the water crisis in Africa," said president Bryant De la Torre. "The Thirst Project gets clubs like Social Justice to help contribute by collecting money to fund projects and to create, repair, or replace clean water wells," he added.

The Thirst Project was introduced to De la Torre by a friend. "My friend Valeria actually told me about this project, and I thought it was awesome so I brought it to Social Justice. They loved the idea of helping a community thousands of miles away," said De la Torre.

Senior Valeria Hurtado first heard about The Thirst Project at a Key Club Convention. "When I first heard about the organization, I thought it would be perfect for Social Justice because the club wants to improve problems around the world, not just locally," said Hurtado.

Social Justice's goal as a club is to help as many African communities as possible. "Our goal is to provide as much clean water as we can to families that need it because people without water have to walk really far to collect it. They don't have the luxury to get an education and make money so they're stuck in the same cycle," said De la Torre.

De la Torre believes that it is extremely important and neces-



Social Justice Club presidents Bryant De la Torre and Sabrina Moreno show support for Thirst Project.

sary for students to contribute to this project. "I think it's important for students to participate in The Thirst Project because recently our generation has been really caught up in pointless materialistic things and have forgotten how good it feels to give back," said De la Torre. "By participating not only will they be helping a family out, but they'll also be helping themselves out by feeling good about their deed," he added.

In addition to participating in The Thirst project, Social Justice is also planning on creating a garden on campus. "We plan to create a large vegetable garden in back of the M building because the land could be put to good use," said De la Torre. "We want to get people's attention and hopefully inspire them to create their own gardens," he added.

Social Justice hopes to make good use of the vegetables

grown in this garden. "Our goal is to plant enough food to be able to feed the whole club at our end of the year party. We also want to give some vegetables to Chef's class so they can make something good out of it," said De la Torre.

The purpose of Social Justice Club is to give back to the community and with this vegetable garden, they will do just that.

# HOLIDAY

## Cuddle up with a Christmas Classic

By SAMANTHA MUNOZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Is Christmas really Christmas if you're not watching a classic holiday movie? Here are four reviews of different, yet well-known Christmas movies of our generation.

**Home Alone (1990):** In 1990, one of the most beloved Christmas classics was born. The first thing that comes to mind when I hear "Home Alone" is the name Macaulay Culkin, who plays bratty 8-year-old Kevin McCallister. His portrayal of this character gives the movie its timeless charm. The plot, a bratty young boy who wishes to be left alone on Christmas, gets more than what he bargained for. He wakes up to find his family gone (he "got his wish") yet, two robbers are trying to break into his home. We follow Kevin around his large house as he sets up hilarious booby traps to keep the thieves away. This comedic holiday movie will no doubt make you laugh continuously and will remind you to not forget your kid when you go on a huge family trip.

**How the Grinch Stole Christmas (2000):** If you are not fond of Jim Carrey, then this movie is not for you. However, if you are, then you are in for a treat! He stars in this film as the one-and-only Dr. Seuss character, The Grinch, a hairy, green creature who despises Christmas and the joy it brings to the Whos that live in the city beneath his mountain cave-home. Watch the Whoville Whos as they frantically, yet excitedly, prepare for their most favorite holiday of the year, and find out what caused the Grinch to hate Christmas so much. Also, in this movie is



the adorable Cindy Lou Who, who believes that her fellow Whos have the wrong perception about Christmas; it's not all about the gifts, the material items.

**Elf (2003):** A story about a man who thinks he's an elf. A great idea for a movie! The director, John Favreau, wanted the film to have a classic Christmas-story type vibe, as well as wanting to keep a modern point of view on the joyful holiday for the current generation. The story offers the essentials needed to create a modern Christmas classic: humor, originality, adventure, ro-

mance and a lesson to be learned in the end. Though the romantic relationship between Jovi (Zooey Deschanel) and Buddy (Will Ferrell) can feel slightly rushed and unrooted at times, the actors' charm helps to round things out a bit. Ferrell steals the show with his genius portrayal of the syrup-loving elf man, trying to find his place in the world and brings a genuine innocence to the character. All in all, Elf is a fun story that will keep you and your family laughing and will make your Christmas spirits soar.

**The Polar Express (2004):**

This heart-warming CGI film adaptation of Chris Van Alburg's book of the same title will have you revelling in the joy of being a child during Christmas time, while following a young boy (who is not named) on a magical train ride to the North Pole to see if he really believes in Santa Claus. This movie includes musical scenes, golden train tickets, elves, and a hobo-ghost who lives aboard the train that will all keep the family entertained and remind everyone of the happiness and wonder of being a child around Christmas time.

### Top 10 Holiday Hits



By TATIANA JURADO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

1. **All I Want for Christmas is You:** Mariah Carey. The song's lyrics declare that the narrator does not care about Christmas presents or lights; all she wants for Christmas is to be with her lover.

2. **Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas:** Sam Smith. Songwriters Hugh Martin and Ralph Blaine wrote this classic song for Judy Garland's 1944 movie, Meet Me in St. Louis, along with dozens of other songs for MGM and Broadway musicals. This is a new 2014 version by Sam Smith.

3. **Santa Tell Me:** Ariana Grande. "Santa tell me if you're really there/ Don't make me fall in love again/ If he won't be here next year/ Santa tell me if he really cares/ 'Cause I can give it all away if he won't be here next year," the lyrics read as Grande's love life currently heats up with rapper Big Sean.

4. **Little Drummer Boy:** Pentatonix. The lyrics the singer states how, as a poor young boy, he was summoned by the Magi to the nativity where, without a gift for the infant Jesus, he played his drum with the Virgin Mary's approval, remembering "I played my best for Him" and "He smiled at me."

5. **Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree:** Brenda Lee. An instrumental version of the song appears as background music in the 1964 television special Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, which exclusively featured music written by Marks.

6. **Do You Want To Build A Snowman?:** Kristen Bell, Agatha Lee Monn & Katie Lopez. It occurs near the beginning of the film when Elsa has been locked away in her room because her parents are afraid of her losing control of her powers and hurting Anna.

7. **Jingle Bell Rock:** Bobby Helms. The song's title and some of its lyrics are a parody of the old Christmas standard, "Jingle Bells." It makes brief references to other popular songs of the 1950s, such as "Rock Around the Clock," and mentions going to a "Jingle hop."

8. **A Holly Jolly Christmas:** Burl Ives. Ives had recorded two of the songs ("A Holly Jolly Christmas" and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer") the previous year on the Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer soundtrack.

9. **Last Christmas:** Wham! This song is actually about a failed relationship; only the phase "Last Christmas," when the relationship came to head, refers to the festive season. Despite this, it has become an annual Christmas standard on UK radio stations.

10. **Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town:** Bruce Springsteen. It became an instant hit with orders for 100,000 copies of sheet music and more than 30,000 records sold within 24 hours.

## WORD ON THE STREET

What is the worst Christmas present you have ever received?



"The worst present that I ever got was a sweater that my grandma knitted. It looked like it was made for a five year old."  
-Rolando Garcia (11th Grade)



"The worst present that I ever received were Dora the Explorer Hair Clips. Enough said."  
-Sophia Martinez (9th grade)



"The ugliest Christmas present I have received was a smelly perfume. It smelled like the boy's varsity room."  
-Faith Fuentes (11th Grade)



"My aunt gave me a bright blue leather fanny pack. It was a fashion disaster and went straight to Goodwill."  
-Mrs. Costanzo (teacher)

# CAMPUS

## Dons come together for the Holiday season



Senior cheerleaders and players during the Powderpuff Pep Rally in the gym at lunch time.



Seniors attending the first student Town Hall meeting after school.



Seniors during Powderpuff practice.



Senior Isaiah Colon donating blood during the second blood drive of the year.



Leonardo Campos before winning a slurpee.



Senior Powderpuff players getting ready for the game during the Pep Rally at lunch.



CSF during a visit to University of California San Diego and CSU San Marcos.



Sophomore Amber Castillo with a member of Estudianina Guadalupana.



Senior ASB members decorating a tree during the class tree decorating competition.



Senior Ivan Cruz during the student town hall meeting.

## IN-DEPTH: CAMERA READY

## Delgado delights a variety of audiences

BY SALONI PATEL  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Senior Jennifer Delgado is no ordinary *YouTube*; having gathered a subscriber family of 609, Jennifer is on her way to big things. She began *YouTube* “the summer of [her] sophomore year. [She] started very small with a laptop, camera and it was a summer haul. It was horribly edited and the quality was bad.” Jennifer said, “They were the most embarrassing videos I have ever done, yet the feedback really opened my eyes about the world of *YouTube*. Very quickly, *YouTube* became my life because it’s a loving community where you get to share your thoughts and opinions with the help of other’s thoughts and perspective, broadening my perspective. *YouTube* allows me to meet people around the world very easily.”

Jennifer has two channels. One is beauty, lifestyle and fashion related while the other is a vlog channel. She enjoys including comedy skits, and rants into her second channel. She receives great feedback on her channels. Her popularity on *YouTube* has opened many doors such as her partnership with Awesomeness TV and Full Screen. Jennifer says these companies “allow me to receive invites to exclusive events. Awesomeness TV is an online *YouTube* channel that brings to-



Delgado is prepared to tell you all about her life and share with you her trendiest fashion tips.

gether well-known *YouTubers* on one platform. It helps me discover other *YouTubers*. Full Screen is another media company powering the creation of videos with the connected generation.”

One of the highlights of Jennifer’s *YouTube* career is meeting many content creators. The opportunity that she cherishes the most is the daily reports with Hunter March. She says, “Hunter March is the main host of most Awesomeness TV, with whom I recently was given the chance to host a daily report with. These daily reports are, on average, seen by 150,000 view-

ers. This helps me gain a larger audience on *YouTube*. But the main reason why I wish to gain a larger audience is not for fame or glory, but to make at least one person laugh, leaving a positive impact on his or her day.”

Her career has not always been as smooth as it sounds. She faced struggles to achieve the heights in her career over the years. She says, “One of the major struggles of starting my own channel is learning how to say no. I have had companies that sponsor products for my videos promote themselves. I need to learn how to say no because compa-

nies/*YouTubers* can use your audience to sponsor their products or channels.” Also, aside from the business aspect of *YouTube*, the technical aspect was a struggle. Jennifer says, “Learning how to edit was a self teaching process. I started off with Windows Moviemaker, which was hard because it would glitch a lot and take forever to upload. I recently used Final Cut Pro. Editing and uploading takes about two days.” Despite the obstacles that have tried to bring her down, Jennifer has never been discouraged to put up new content.

Jennifer’s long-term dream

is to become an actress. *YouTube* provides her with a smaller platform to post videos displaying her acting abilities through small skits on her channels.

Jennifer says, “I have been acting/performing since the age of three. I loved the attention as a child. Acting is not a normal career path for a high school student, yet I am willing to face a challenge because it’s truly what I love.

I’ve always liked talking in front of a camera so *YouTube* was the perfect answer.” Jennifer plans to achieve her dream of becoming an actress through many of the extra curricular activities she takes part in. Jennifer says, “At the early age of eight, I joined a community Broadway class, where I began performing in front of larger audiences. My Broadway coach saw potential in me as a performer, and encouraged me to pursue my dreams.

I began taking acting classes at Barbizon School of Modeling and Acting where I furthered my craft in acting. I recently graduated from my Barbizon class and I have been auditioning for student films. I think people get surprised at the fact that I love to perform in front of large audiences because I can be shy at times. I was recently selected to represent my 4th period beginning drama class in the improv off which was pretty cool.”

‘Hauling’ *YouTube* one upload at a time

Angie Danis shows her festive smile for the Christmas season.

BY JAMES CHOW  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Sophomore Angie Danis is nowhere near her sophomore slump; rather, she is taking off with a promising start of a *YouTube* career. This local celebrity can be spotted around campus with her iconic ponytail and dashing smile, two distinct features that embellish her videos.

Danis has recently joined the trend of the *YouTube* limelight. “I started out by watching other *YouTubers*, and I thought it would be fun to [make videos] also; so

that’s what I did,” says Danis.

She claims Bethany Mota, Tyler Oakley, and Troye Sivan are her major influences. “These big *YouTubers* have inspired me to strive to become as good as they are.”

Her *YouTube* videos vary from beauty tips and shopping hauls to vlogs and skits. Her main focus, however, is on beauty-related videos. “I really want to focus on doing more beauty-related videos because I think those videos can help younger girls that look up to me become less [fearful] of themselves.”

Danis is among other local luminaries of the rising *YouTube* movement and has even befriended a few *YouTubers* from El Rancho. “I’m a really good friend of Jennifer Delgado, and I recently met Marcus Alcaraz (two other rising *YouTubers* with humble followings). We started as a group chat with other *YouTube* friends outside of the United States, and we have since grown from there.”

This up-and-coming *YouTube* sensation claims her family and friends have supported her in her Internet career; however, the support has only recently been present. “My parents, [initially,] were scared because I was putting myself and my life out on the Internet. They were also worried about how I would manage school and *YouTube*, but once I started to make my videos, they realized [the situation] wasn’t as bad as they thought. My friends have been very supportive, and they think that seeing me grow would be fun.”

Danis’ classmates have also started taking notice of her videos. “[At first,] most classmates did not know about my *YouTube* channel. I kept my channel on the ‘down-low’ for a while because I was afraid that people would make fun of me. People have always made fun of me when I was growing up, and I hated [their comments]. As my channel grew over the summer,

I began self-promoting more often. I’m still not sure how some of my classmates feel about my channel, but I hope they like it.”

*YouTube* has not only been a reliever for Danis, but also a propeller for a future career. “I really think *YouTube* will help me get out of my shell more because when I was younger, I was really shy. This website has helped me a lot so far, and I think it’s a good basis for my future in either acting or filming.”

Although such a pastime provides for a lot of responsibilities (editing and planning, to name a few), schoolwork is not forgotten in Danis’ plan. “It is really hard to focus on school and *YouTube* at the same time because there are people who are depending on seeing uploaded videos weekly. [However,] I have shifted my focus from *YouTube* to school activities lately, which has prevented me from posting my usual load of videos. [Nevertheless,] I plan on making new videos soon for my audience.”

Danis is currently awaiting new followers to join her on her *YouTube* journey. In the upcoming break, she plans on creating Christmas-themed videos and New Year’s style videos alongside her usual uploads. Rate, comment, and subscribe to her *YouTube* channel, “the-angiedanis,” to get the latest update on her starstruck life.

Dons recommend their favorite *YouTube* channels



# IN-DEPTH: CAMERA READY

## Magnificent Marcus makes his mark on *YouTube*

BY JAMES CHOW  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Quintessential taste in clothes, tasteful classic Ray Bans, and a heartwarming voice sure to attract all viewers to attention, Marcus Alcaraz a.k.a. “Marcus-Daily101” is sure to make his presence noticeable, especially within the *YouTube* community.

Alcaraz started his search for superstardom in the summer season. “[My interest in *YouTube*] first happened when my cousins started uploading [videos to the site]. I just started noticing a lot of people coming out doing *YouTube*, so I started making videos too,” he says. Though his rise to stardom is still elementary, Alcaraz’s continues to stay ambitious. “I just want to become known as a *Youtuber* and I see myself doing this for a while because it helps me express who I really am. I really love doing *YouTube* as it’s [easy] to talk to people about important things [through a computer screen].”

Gaining popularity on *YouTube* is far from effortless. According to a poll from *Business Insider*, only 37.95% of videos gain more than 1,000 views. Nevertheless, Alcaraz’s determination has not faltered. He plans to attain 1,000 subscribers by the end of this year. His long-term goal is to “go to all the *YouTube* conventions and be able to travel and spend time with friends.”

In his path to becoming



*YouTube* superstar Marcus Alcaraz flaunts his sass for the camera.

“*YouTube*-famous,” Alcaraz’s plans to make his dream of collaborating with American *YouTube* personality Anthony Quintal (Lohanthony) into a reality. “I love Lohanthony because he’s so funny and his videos are so cool. Literally he’s “life goals” for a lot of younger boys and younger girls. I’d want to collaborate with him because he’s fun and

inspirational, and he is himself; he’s not this fake person who doesn’t know what he’s doing.”

Alcaraz believes he can make himself known with the varietal content of his videos. “I’ve grown so much in three months. I’ve done so many videos, ranging from different topics. I can talk about certain topics that happened months or a whole year ago,

or I can just talk about my bullying experience. I did a ‘Draw My Life’ video and a ‘Drunk in Love’ parody. I also work on collaborative videos like the ‘Whisper Challenge’ with Jennifer Delgado, and I’ve also done the ‘What’s In My Mouth’ challenge. It’s just a channel that I put all my effort into, and I just have fun doing it.”

Although making videos can be enjoyable, releasing them to the public comes with many consequences. Alcaraz has been bullied on many occasions because of this. “I get hated on a lot. Sometimes I receive [vulgar] comments on my videos, but I look at [this feedback] in a different light. No matter how much negativity I get, I focus on the positivity. Who wants to hear [unfavorable] criticisms that are just going to put you down when [instead] you can hear positivity like ‘I love your videos,’ or ‘I love you!’ What inspires me is the fact that I’m helping entertain people. That’s what I love most.”

These hardships act as Alcaraz’s motivation to succeed. Despite these obstacles, Alcaraz retains his quirky state and encourages others to follow their dreams. “When you have your dream, look forward to it. If you don’t, it may never happen. If you’re feeling down, just always think of something that makes you happy. Stay true to yourself; who cares what negative people think? Just think about all the people who surround you and love you.”



### Ortiz is not afraid to shine

BY ODALYS CHAVEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

School presentations are often a nightmare. When it comes to public speaking, some people simply cannot tolerate standing in the limelight. Others, however, enjoy the thrill of the attention, and simply cannot get enough of it. Sophomore Madison Ortiz, age fifteen, has been acting for about a year now and is living out her dream of becoming an actress. She stumbled across a school called, Gary Spatz, a young actors conservatory. Ortiz auditioned for the school and has “enjoyed the adventure ever since.”

Ortiz is represented by Royalty Rope Management (RRM) and studies at Second City Improv and attends Gary Spatz, The Playground A Young Actor’s Conservatory. She is an all around actress and participates in commercials and even plays.

One day, her manager contacted her and asked if she wanted to audition for a Doritos commercial. “I went into the audition room, and they asked me to act the script out; two days later, they called me and wanted me for the ‘mean girl’ part,” says Ortiz.

Since she just started a year ago, her acting career is just beginning unfold. She is currently focused on training at her acting school, so she can get her “feet wet” and learn what the real world of acting is like.

“I’ve been able to meet new, interesting and such friendly people that I feel will be lifelong friends and will definitely will be working with in the future,” says Ortiz.

Apart from acting, she also participates on El Rancho’s soccer and track team. “When I get called for an audition, I either have to leave my practice early or just jump in the car after practice and get ready from there,” says Ortiz. In academics, she endures long hours of honors homework, but “it is worth it all in the end,” she says.

Ortiz plans to act professionally in the future and live out her childhood dream. Ortiz says she is “willing to do whatever it takes, even if it means going to countless auditions.” She is striving to attend a big institute like NYU and participate in their performing arts program. She is a shining star who is sure to go far, both literally and metaphorically.

## WORD ON THE STREET

### Who is your favorite actor/actress and why?



“My favorite actor is Boo-Boo Stewart because he is Asian, attractive and a good singer.”

-Samantha Chavez, 10



“My favorite actress is Shirley Temple because she relieved people of their problems with only a few quarters.”

-Giselle Santana, 12



“My favorite actress is Angelina Jolie because when she acts in movies she is phenomenal and intrigues people with her beauty.”

-Jose Velazco, 12



“My favorite actor is Chris Pratt because I like his work in *Guardians of the Galaxy* and *Parks and Recreation*.”

-Joaquin Arabia, 11

## SPORTS

## Girls' soccer sets sights on league title



BY FRANCISCO RAMIREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This year, the girl's soccer team is hoping to show the Dons that they are champion material. The team so far, according to Varsity captain Natalie Meneses, "gets along and works well together." This year, they hope to achieve their goal which is to win league and get further in CIF.

The varsity team is more experienced compared to years before and has many returning players. Many of the team players "have been playing since they were young." According to Meneses, "The team has great chemistry." A team needs to make sure everyone does their part and sticks to each individual's strengths, in order to stand out amongst every other competing team.

However, no team is perfect and all of them have their weaknesses. So far, they have played two games. After a tough match against Cypress, the Dons lost 2-1. Nevertheless, the loss proved to be a positive factor for the Dons in their next game against St. Mattias, in which they won 10-0. Even with this boost of confidence, the Dons still have to face their rivals, La Serna. La Serna has proven to be great competitor every year, but the Dons are not going down without a fight.

Winning league is something every team desires, and this year, according to senior Danielle Nunez, they "plan on taking league, game by game." As long as the team "keeps [their] mentality and sticks to [their] strengths, then league should not be a challenge." The Dons seem ready to take on any challenge and come out on top.

Throughout their training, the girl's soccer team has worked not only to improve for themselves, but also to leave a mark on our school. By training everyday, not only are they becoming better, but they are also pushing each other passed their limits. By training together, the team unites and becomes a family.

With last year's outcome, the girls, especially the seniors, want to end their high school career with a much more improved record. As long as the team works "on being a team, and [helping] each other on their personal weaknesses," then the Dons should have no problem proving that league is not a difficult competition, and CIF could possibly be theirs.

## Boys seek to improve before Del Rio action



*Sophomore Joshua Gomez tries to take the ball away from opponent.*

BY FRANCISCO RAMIREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Soccer season has just begun and the Dons are hoping to win the league and get to CIF. This year, new coaches and players have joined the team.

El Rancho's soccer players need hard work and dedication to reach their goals, and the boys have contributed nothing less than what they're capable of.

For many players, this is their final year and they want to make it to CIF as far as pos-

sible. As a new team, people need to stand out and become leaders, and that is where the captains show their strengths.

Francisco Miranda and Bryan Rojas are the two varsity captains who show that they are true leaders. Both Miranda and Rojas believe the team is "young and inexperienced;" however, they also say "the older players just need to push them in the right direction."

Rojas says, "The new guys just need to come together as a group." When it comes to soccer everyone has an important role to

play, which is why, with eleven players, it takes some bonding. When the players do come together, not only will they look better on the field, and display a sense of unity that will show people that they are determined to win.

Winning games is not always easy, especially when a team is full of "young players." Miranda says, "The team's goals are not only to become league champs, but to also win the CIF title." However, Rojas says, "The team needs to work on finishing the play, not just creating it."

With a pre-season record of 1-3, the Dons have got off on the wrong foot. With a 2-1 loss to Jordan, a 1-0 win against Lynwood, a 2-0 loss against Katella and Montebello, the Dons are heading towards a very rough season.

Rojas says that these games are to prepare the team to "come together." When the team is able to achieve this and, "score the goals," then the Dons will be sure to win it.

El Rancho Boys' Soccer will be participating in the Duarte Tournament on the 26th.

## Girls' water polo prepares for league

BY BREANNA ELENA PEREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The girls' water polo team is currently 6 to 4 overall as they set to open league play.

The Dons are led by seniors Melody Carbajal and Sierra Edwards along with junior goalie Lea Sargento. These girls were chosen based on their individual characteristics and their dedication to the team.

Melody Carbajal's sister, head coach Meghan Carbajal, says she chose Sargento because "she brings everyone together and always has the team in mind" adding, "she does everything for the team." Edwards was selected based off of her leadership qualities and knowledge of the game, whereas Carbajal was recognized as a defensive leader, as well as having a strong presence during each match.

Although each individual shares the same title, they each have their own goals and aspirations for the team. "I hope to help the girls play as one team together, and help them thrive as an individual," says Sargento.

Carbajal says, "I think my job as captain is to keep their spirits up, and always push the team to do their best."

The team's goals this year vary from wanting to reduce the amount of turn-overs, being 100% on their 6-on-5's, scoring every



*Varsity Captains Edwards, Carbajal, and Sargento out of the water during practice.*

possession, and working as a unit.

"Of course every year we strive to win league, if not that, then we defend our second place title," says Coach Carbajal.

In order for the team to reach their goals, Coach Carbajal believes the team should primarily work on communication the most. "The girls like to force the ball into opportunities that aren't best for them, so I want them to talk to each other more during a game," says Coach Carbajal.

Edwards believes the team needs to improve on how they

compete in the beginning of a match. "Although the team can do better in starting out the game strong, we work together, and put up a fight," says Edwards.

Another improved attribute would include the teams dry passes. "Working on our dry passes would help us grow overall play-by-play," says Carbajal.

As the team progresses further into pre-season, the Dons have consistently been putting their time and effort into practice each day. "The girls are working very hard. They

do dry land, weight room, and swim, so they're putting in a lot of hours," says Coach Carbajal.

The time the team spends and will continue to spend together has helped them develop strong connections and has helped them become a good group of friends who are all very close-knit," says Carbajal.

Don't forget to come and support the girls' water polo team at their next home game afterschool against California High School on Tuesday January 13th at 3:15pm.

## SPORTS

## Garcia, Gomez, and Zesati lead Boys' Basketball



Senior boys' varsity team captain, Mark Zesati, takes a shot during a recent game against George Washington Prep.

BY ELIZABETH JACOME  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The boys' Varsity basketball team is off to a strong start having won six out of nine games, making them 6-3 overall. Three senior captains, Daniel Garcia, Arturo Gomez, and Mark Zesati, are currently leading the team. Zesati says, "It's nice being captain of such a great basketball team." Gomez adds by saying, "It feels good to be recognized for all my hard work and dedication."

Being captain comes with

great responsibilities, and Garcia says, "With responsibility, you have to be able to be an example not only for the Varsity team, but for the entire basketball program."

These captains were identified for their hard work on and off the court. Zesati says he was chosen to be captain because he is the "point guard of the team." Garcia says that a player that is picked with a leadership role is normally someone "with experience and who accepts the challenge."

All last week, El Rancho was holding its annual "Blue Pride" basketball tour-

namment. More than a dozen teams competed in the event, which ended with Bonita High School as the overall champion.

The boys won their first game versus La Puente by a score of 71-65. Next up, the score for the Montebello game was 87-73. The Rialto game was a close call with the points adding up to 71-69. Following that was the game against Huntington Park, 80-69. They also won against Shalhevet 61-49. Lastly, the Dons dominated over Gertz-Ressler 86-25.

The boys also suffered a few tough losses which include

the game against Marina by a score of 41-71, the game against George Washington Prep by 55-69, and Heritage Christian 67-71.

The team has been working together to be successful throughout the season by staying dedicated and prepared for each game. They have been conditioning since last spring and their hard work is showing. Garcia says, "The season is going exceptional so far because we are all united." Zesati adds by saying, "Our offense is clicking and everyone on the team is contributing."

One of the contributing fac-

tors to their success is how great everyone is coming together as a team. Garcia says "We're not just friends who play basketball, we are also a family." While there is always room for improvement, the boys remain hopeful. Zesati says, "I believe we could go as far as we want."

Make sure to show your support! The score for the game on Thursday night, against Calvary Chapel, can be found on the El Rodeo news twitter, @elrodeonews. You can also look for the score on the online website, elrodenews.com.

## Girls' Basketball looks to defend their league title



Forward Crystal Rodriguez looking for an open teammate during the St. Paul game.

BY RUBI MONZON  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's girls' Varsity basketball team is starting off the season with a record of 2-4 at the South El Monte tour-

namment. Senior captains Sarah Gurrola and Ashley Miller continue to lead their team this year.

So far, the girls have played against Temple City, Garfield, Los Osos, St. Paul twice, and Arcadia. They won against Temple

City 53-50 and Los Osos 61-48. They lost to the other three teams (Garfield 56-64, St. Paul 37-70; 44-57, and Arcadia 33-62).

Gurrola and Miller say, "Our first pre-season games were not what we expected,

but they were a good way to help us know what we need to work on."

Unfortunately, not all the varsity players were able to play during the tournament. The games were against the last cou-

ple of years' alumni team. Therefore, the Junior Varsity team played for them with only three Varsity players on their team.

The girls' basketball team feels confident in this season because they want to defend their league championship title. Gurrola says, "We still have a lot of work before season, but if we work hard, we will get there."

The team's confidence comes from their strengths. Gurrola adds, "We need improvement, but we are a hard working team."

Even though the team has its strengths, they also have their weaknesses. Gurrola adds, "As of right now, we are not doing very well defensively, but we are working on it."

Miller believes the team could be successful if the team players do their part and improve what they are struggling in. She says, "This year, we can be just as successful if we put in the time and effort."

Miller feels like no matter how much work they put in, there is always room for improvement. She adds, "We are prepared, but we can always be better."

# FUN ZONE

## Spot the Differences

The first five people to spot the 21 differences will win a prize!  
You may claim your prize in X-1.



### Jamberry Nails for a Cause

Please take a few seconds to read the information below:

This fundraiser is very special to me. I am raising money for my brother to help him get back on his feet. He is starting over after he was involved in a life changing accident last March. My Brother's life changed instantly. He was hit by a car walking one morning. He was diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury following the accident. Since April my brother has been in a brain injury rehabilitation facility where he has been working hard to try to get better. He has made significant progress and will be



released in January. In the spirit of giving this season I decided to have a fundraiser to help him get back on his feet. Everything I make from orders placed under this party will go to my brother. Please consider placing a Jamberry order for a good cause. I know my brother will appreciate any and all help.



Get some Christmas shopping done and support a great cause! Thank you!

Order at: <http://Attea.Jamberrynails.com>  
Attea Costanzo- Email: [acostanzo@erusd.org](mailto:acostanzo@erusd.org)  
Ext. 281

\*Donations are welcome and will be picked up upon request.



### Library Corner

El Rodeo Christmas issue 2015

The first three students who bring the correct WRITTEN answers to Mrs. Chodas in the Library will receive a prize. ONE entry per student.

Fill in the Blanks.

1. "\_\_\_\_\_ was as dead as a door-nail"
2. "Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents, grumbled \_\_\_\_\_"
3. "\_\_\_\_\_ hated Christmas! The whole Christmas season!"
4. "\_\_\_\_\_, as you know, were wise men—wonderfully wise men!"
5. "And \_\_\_\_\_ has made a magic so that it's always Winter in Norria—always winter, but it never gets to Christmas."

6. The White Witch  
Is In:  
a. The Magi  
b. The Grinch  
c. Old Manly

### HOLIDAY SONGS FOR THE SIGNS

- **ARIES:** *Baby It's Cold Outside* by Michael Buble and Idina Menzel (2014)
- **TAURUS:** *Santa Tell Me* by Ariana Grande (2014)
- **GEMINI:** *Winter Wonderland* by Jason Mraz (2003)
- **CANCER:** *Little Saint Nick* by The Beach Boys (1963)
- **LEO:** *Jingle Bell Rock* by Billy Idol (2006)
- **VIRGO:** *Santa Claus is Coming to Town* by Bruce Springsteen and Bon Jovi (2003)
- **LIBRA:** *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* by Jewel (1999)
- **SCORPIO:** *Do You Want to Build a Snowman?* by Kristan Bell (2013)
- **SAGITTARIUS:** *All I Want for Christmas is You* by Mariah Carey (1994)
- **CAPRICORN:** *Feliz Navidad* by Jose Feliciano (1970)
- **AQUARIUS:** *This Christmas* by Chris Brown (2007)
- **PISCES:** *Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer* by Elmo and Pasty (1983)

