



# EL RODEO



El Rancho High School - Volume 62- Issue 3  
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## Lawson looks to take on new challenges



Lawson reminisces on his times as an athletic director.

BY ANGELICA GAMEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After seven years, geometry teacher Lynn Lawson has decided to resign from his position as El Rancho's athletic director, so that he can begin working on his administrative credential.

As athletic director, Mr. Lawson would do all that he could to ensure that El Rancho's coaches could focus on coaching. "My main responsibility was to make sure that all of the team's schedules, officials, and transportation arrangements were done correctly," explains Mr. Lawson.

Mr. Lawson became athletic director after coaching boys' and girls' basketball and volleyball team for twenty years. "Becoming an athletic director was just the next step up in the natural progression from coaching to administration," says Mr. Lawson.

Being El Rancho's athletic director has allowed Mr. Lawson to broaden his abilities. "I became better at communicating with parents, administration, counselors, players, and coaches," says Mr. Lawson.

Mr. Lawson also enjoyed watching El Rancho's sporting events, especially when his students were involved. "What I like the most about being an athletic director is that I get to see my current and former students out on the playing fields."

During his seven years as athletic director, his most memorable experience was the boys' soccer team's CIF and State Championship run last year. Mr. Lawson really appreciated the support from students, staff, and the community, as the boys' soccer team continued to advance all the way through the state finals.

Now that Mr. Lawson is resigning as athletic director, he is looking forward to having more free time on his hands, although much of it will be spent in pursuit of his administrative credential.

He would like to thank all of the coaches, counselors, and administrators for their cooperation, dedication, and support of El Rancho's athletics during his tenure.

## Dons display their gifts at ER's talent show

BY JAZMIN HERNANDEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This year's El Rancho's Got Talent's audience was full of excitement as the acts took the stage.

By evening's end, Samantha Munoz and Luke Barbosa placed first in the music category; the Songies danced their way to first place in the dance category; the Stunt Devils won first place in the miscellaneous category. The contestants were judged by Mrs. Bauer, Mr. Sorenson, Mrs. Palomares, and Mrs. Brown.

Senior Joey Salinas kept the audience entertained by singing, dancing, and offering a good sense of humor as he hosted this year's talent show. "[Hosting] gives me more practice for what I want to do in life," said Salinas, "I want to be on television and I would love hosting any program. My dream is to host the Golden Globes."

Salinas wanted to be able to share the excitement that he had within himself to the audience. He believes that, when you have a great Master of Ceremonies who can really take people to another level, the show is better all together.

The music category winner, Munoz, sang "Bloom" by Moriah Peters, while Barbosa played the guitar. Munoz was taken by surprise when she heard their name being called for first place. She said, "I cannot believe it."

Barbosa also noticed Munoz's excitement and said, "[Samantha] wanted to cry; I can see it; I tried to turn away but she was like no I don't want to cry."

Munoz and Barbosa were nervous because they had only one rehearsal together, since Barbosa does not attend El Rancho. Munoz said, "We only see each other twice a week, so it was hard



Samantha Munoz and Luke Barbosa display their musical chemistry on stage as they perform "Bloom."

to practice, but we managed to practice together once." Although they rehearsed once together, they did practice on their own.

Munoz and Barbosa didn't join the talent show to win. "We went into it to touch someone's life; that was the goal," said Barbosa, "Winning ended up being a plus." Samantha added, "This is all God's work. We didn't do it to give ourselves props; it's all for God."

The winners of the dance category, known as the Songies, included Andrea Mendoza, Valerie Perez, Ashley Esparza, Bailey Gallegos, Areanna Figueroa, Amanda Gonzalez, Dominique Aldaba and Tayde Felipe. They danced to the song "Applause" by Lady Gaga.

The Songies choreographed their own performance in just two weeks. Amanda Gonzalez said, "I felt proud to

win because we only had two weeks to learn the routine and I felt we pulled it off pretty well."

Amanda enjoyed performing, even though it got nerve racking. She said, "It was a little bit stressful, but it was fun of course."

The Songies decided to dance in the talent show to have fun, and also to recruit girls for the cheer team. "We want them to feel like they can do it too," said Gonzalez.

Gonzalez felt happy when the audience began cheering loudly for them. "When you know that people are supporting you, it kind of soothes your nerves and it makes you think I can do this," said Gonzalez.

In the miscellaneous category, the Stunt Devils placed first. The group consisted of Jessica Sandoval, Saul Rios and Matthew Barajas. Throughout their performance, Rios and Bar-

jas were Sandoval's support system as she was held up in the air.

The Stunt Devils enjoyed their performance. "It felt nice winning," said Sandoval, "I wasn't nervous to fall because I knew that I had a good support system."

Joey got the audience to do the wave twice. Not many hosts can make the audience do things like the wave. Joey said, "I feel that I have the ability to do that, and I've taken the audience to a level that they are going to be willing to accept anything that they see."

Salinas loved the performances. "I give credit to every single person who went up and performed, because, as a performer myself, I know the challenges and difficulties it takes to perform," said Salinas, "they put their fears aside and gave great performances."

So Dons, join in on next year's show and start practicing!

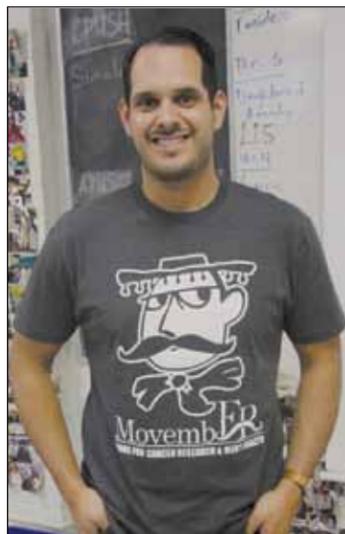
## Staff grow out their 'staches for Movember

BY MARISOL ALMAZAN  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

A group of El Rancho teachers are participating in the Movember fundraiser, an event where they shave off their facial hair and grow a mustache during the month of November, in hopes of increasing prostate cancer awareness.

The participants of the Movember fundraiser call themselves the "MO" team. This year's MO team consists of Daniel Diaz, Steve Francis, Justin Diaz, Ricardo Ramirez, Philipp Rojo, Frank Llanes, and James Sorenson. Their goal is simple: raise 2,000 dollars for cancer research.

Mr. Diaz brought Movember to El Rancho three years ago. The history behind the name Movember is simple. "Movember is a play on words. It combines the words mustache and November and is a time period where men



Mr. Diaz smiles with his mustache and Movember shirt.

try to raise money for cancer research, specifically cancer that affects males," said Mr. Diaz.

The organization specifically focuses on prostate cancer. "In October, Breast Cancer awareness is promoted, but in

November, we promote prostate cancer awareness because prostate cancer is a cancer that only males get," explained Diaz.

Ribbons symbolize Breast Cancer Awareness and Diaz believes that their mustaches are their ribbons. "The mustaches are actually our ribbons, and the whole idea is for people to look at your mustache and start the conversation about the Movember fundraiser," said Diaz.

Diaz and the rest of the MO team hope to help staff members, as well as students, realize that there are many cancers out there and that, as a group, they can make a difference.

There is a reason behind each participant joining the MO team. "I'm hoping we can raise a lot of money and hopefully we will be able to bring awareness of health issues to some staff members and students at El Rancho," said Sorenson.

All MO members believe that it is important to bring awareness to as many people as possible. "Although I am not a cancer expert, I am positive that early detection is key to treating and fighting off the illness, and by promoting awareness, I am hoping we can encourage more people to get check-ups," says Francis.

The MO team is confident that their goal for Movember will be reached. "Considering we have close to 2,000 students at El Rancho, I believe it should be very simple to raise the amount," says Francis.

The MO team encourages people to make donations for this worthy cause.

If any one is interested in making a donation, they can go to any MO team member or visit the website <http://mobro.co/teamoverberhs> for direct donations.

# OPINION

## Black Friday: great deals-but risky

BY NICOLE ZARATE  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The annual Black Friday shopping spree is just around the corner, and many shoppers are excited. But are the sales really worth all the madness? In previous years, there have been many people who have been injured due to insane Black Friday stampedes.

Every year, Black Friday begins the day after Thanksgiving. This year, Thanksgiving lands on the twenty-ninth, which is also the beginning of the Christmas shopping season. Black Friday is an annual retail event stores participate in by dropping all their product prices by nearly half the original price and have many other sales that people cannot resist. Due to such low prices, people tend to forget their courtesy during Black Friday shopping.

Many people question whether Black Friday is even a safe day to go out because the stampedes can be very dangerous. It never fails that someone gets injured or arrested due to fighting over different items in a store. In 2008, the enormous crowd entering the doors trampled a Wal-Mart employee to death. During the same in-



Black Friday shoppers are excited as they rush into Target in an attempt to get great deals on gifts.

cident, a woman eight months pregnant lost her baby due to the crowd's violence. People become very selfish and greedy during the shopping season, which has become extremely hazardous.

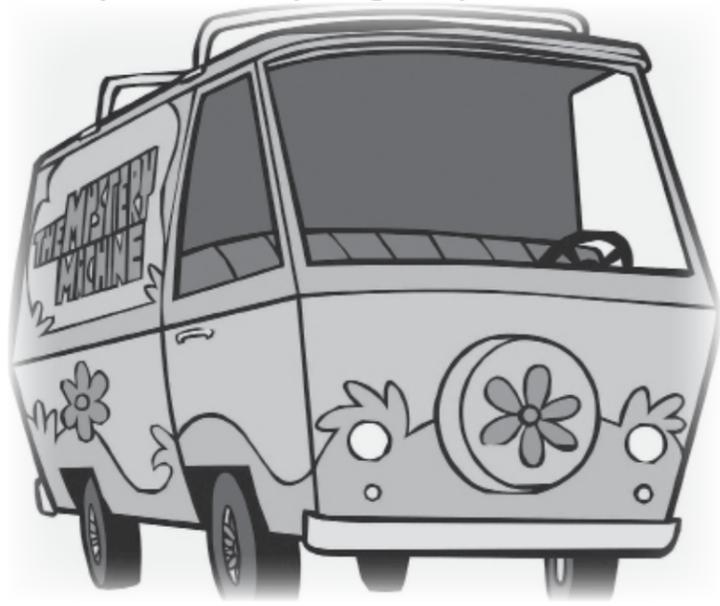
Every year, there are people all around the world who are willing to take that danger-

ous risks on Black Friday just for the ridiculously low prices. People go as far as camping in front of a retail store to desperately wait for the Black Friday sales. The insane crowds progress once the doors have been opened.

Although prices are extremely low during the Black Fri-

day weekend, the over-crowded stores and tension between shoppers makes the event not worth attending. A handful of shoppers believe that waiting for the crowds to decrease after Friday is a much safer way of shopping for the Christmas season.

## Mystery guy's advice to Dons



BY NICOLE ZARATE  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

1. I was talking to a girl, but she did not want anything else but a friendship. Yet, when

I moved on, she became really mean to me and we hardly talk now. What should I do?

- If you have completely moved on, then you should have

no problem with her not talking to you. She clearly does not respect you and you should not let it get the best of you.

2. There is a guy who is just messing with my emotions. I really like him though. What do I do about it?

- Communication is always the key. Let him know how you truly feel, because boys tend to hide their true feelings, so maybe this will be his breakthrough. If you are completely sure that he is only trying to mess with your emotions, then you should stop giving him your attention and focus on more important things.

3. I am an El Rancho football player and we lost badly to La Serna. I do not want to go to school anymore because I am too embarrassed. What do I do?

- Losing is a part of life. It happens to everyone, and

you should not be ashamed of it. School is much more important than a football game; there should be no reason for you not to attend school. If you are that embarrassed then maybe you should talk to your friends about how to handle the situation.

4. How do I get out of the habit of not turning in my work; even if I am done, I still won't turn in my work if I don't like how it is. How can I stop this habit?

- You have already made a start by turning in your question. Not turning in your work is never good, because your grades will be affected most. The way your work is presented is also important, because teachers do not want sloppy work. From now on, you should try and do your work ahead of time as best as possible to assure that it will be turned in on time.



BY RUBI MACIAS AND  
SOL MENDEZ

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

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

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

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

# THANKSGIVING

## A special gift to the less fortunate

By EVELYN GARCIA, EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, Chef Luna is getting ready for his annual charity event. On November 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, everyone is welcome to help pack food bags for homeless people and animals.

Chef Luna has made this event a tradition for six years now. He prepares and distributes food for the less fortunate in downtown Los Angeles. Recently, he has come up with the idea of distributing food to the homeless animals as well. Luna says, "I have seen very skinny, hungry animals in the past that is why I got the idea this year."

Luna says his goal is to "prepare warm and delicious food that can be saved to eat for the rest of the week not just for Thanksgiving." He spends all of Friday, Saturday, and Sunday passing out the meals to the children and adults. He also enjoys staying a couple of hours conversing with the homeless and listening to the stories they have to tell. He likes to see how grateful and happy the people are. Many cry from happiness and thank him, he says.

He would like the students and staff to know, "Any amount of food is helpful. Do not feel like it is pointless bringing in just two potatoes." Luna is accepting any donations. "Preferably snacks like water or fruit, something that lasts for days," he says. He would like to give the people non-perishable food if possible. He tries to stay away from canned foods as well.

If any students would like to help out by either baking or bagging, please see Chef Luna in Q4 anytime before November 27<sup>th</sup>.



## Dons give back to those in need

By NAZARELY NARVAEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Putting on some weight is not that bad, especially if it's for a good cause. El Rancho High School held its annual Canned Food Drive from November 4-15th. Students of all grades were to bring cans from home to contribute to the cause. The cans are to be distributed to

families in need in Pico Rivera.

The Canned Food Drive turned out to be a friendly competition, with the Seniors taking first place with 1,934.8 pounds, the Freshmen came in second with 1,546.17 pounds, the juniors came in third with 1,276.92 pounds and sophomores in fourth with 456.73 pounds. In total, the Dons gathered a total of 5,254.59 pounds worth of canned food!

Many teachers offered extra credit for bringing cans, and some even went as far as making it a test grade. Those who brought cans gained some benefit from it and also helped those in need. Mr. Saucedo's fourth period won first place and a pizza party, followed by Ms. Careon and Mr. Saucedo's class.

For the past two weeks, ASB members were assigned buildings

to pick up cans on Wednesday and Friday. ASB members went into fourth period classes gathering cans labeled by grade numbers.

Chief Justice Priscilla Martinez was in charge of this event, and she explains that it took "a few hours" to tally up the number of pounds. "Yeah, it was worth it. I counted them each day they were picked up, so I counted four days since there were four pick ups. It was stressful, but it went to a good cause," Martinez says. Martinez's hard work will definitely be paid off, because this year El Rancho raised 1,335.59 more pounds than last year.

The cans will be put into Christmas baskets and distributed to families in need at Rivera Park in the month of December.

Everyone knows that having a full stomach is key during the end of the year holidays. Thanks to the thousands of cans contributed by the Dons, families in need will receive a full box of food for the holidays.

### Chef's tip for the holidays



Chef Luna's tip to anyone looking for a healthy Thanksgiving side dish or stuffing would be adding steamed carrots to their meal. They can cook the carrots in unsalted butter to add some taste. Not many people realize that this minor change can help prevent cancer, along with protecting your body from cardiovascular disease, cancer, and help prevent strokes.



# WORD ON THE STREET

What are you thankful for and why?



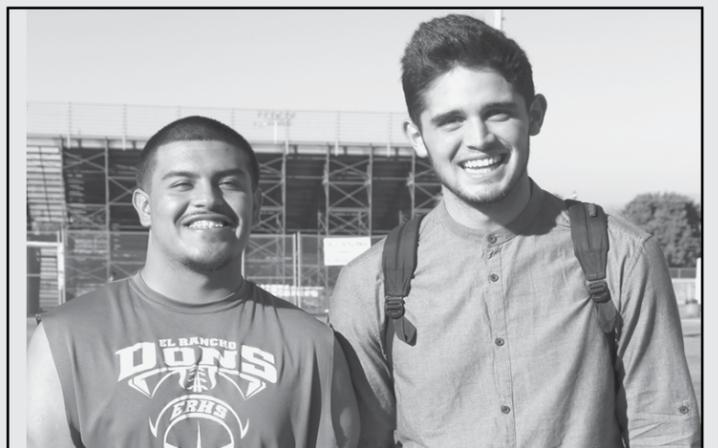
"My friends and family because they are always there for me."  
**Ruby Rodriguez 9th**



"I guess I'm thankful for my friends, because they are always there to support me with school and stuff."  
**Antoinette Salas 10th**



"Family, friends, and the football team, because they are always there for me."  
**Bryan Gomez 11th**



"I guess I'm thankful for my family, friends and God because if it wasn't for them I wouldn't be the person I am today."  
**Jesus Verduzco 12th**

"I am thankful for all the food there is going to be because food is good."  
**Marcelo Aguilar 12th**

# BUSINESS

## Pico Rivera to become home to world class entertainment center

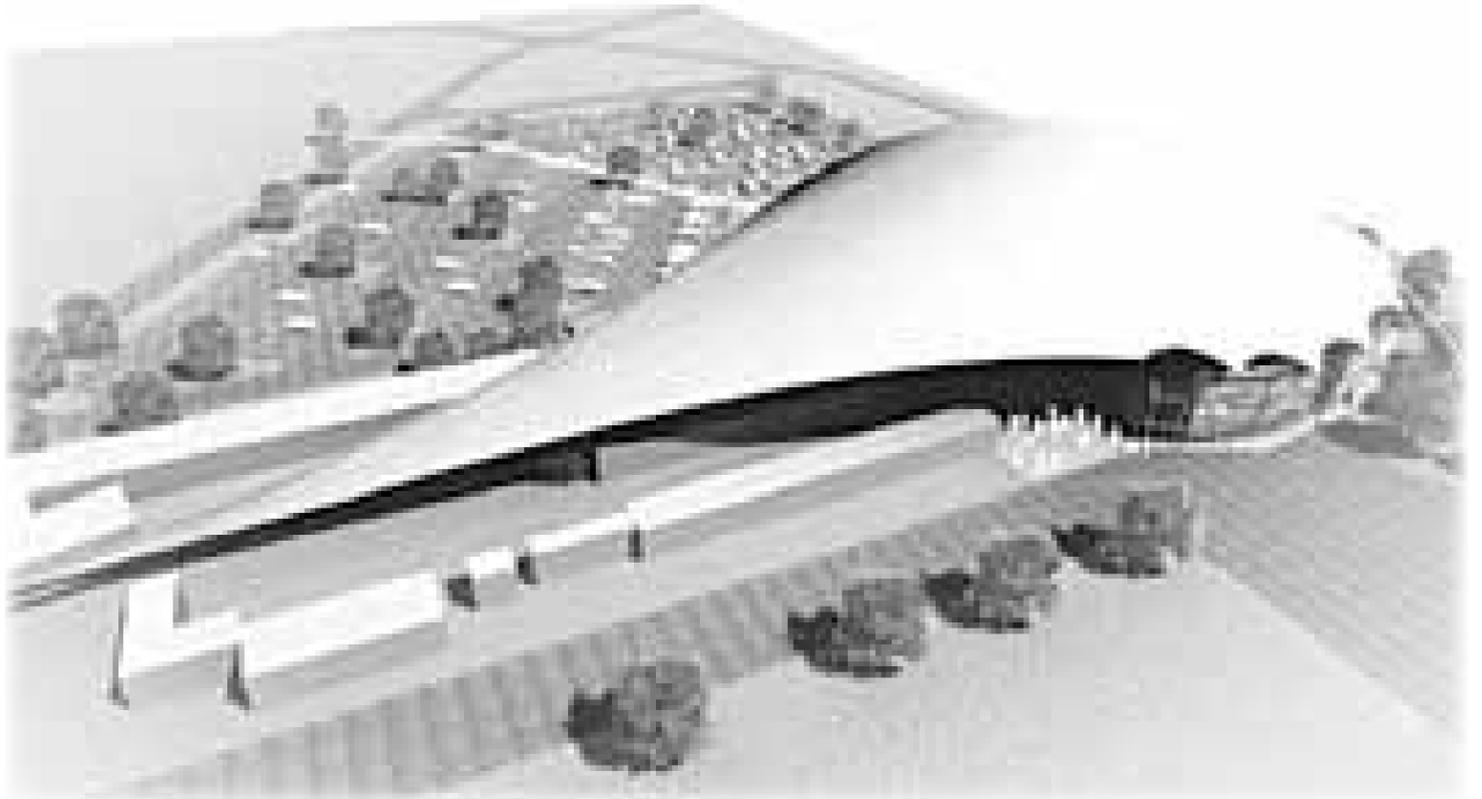
BY DON DINERO

The City of Pico Rivera is experiencing a wave of economic development that is making heads spin. Have you seen our city welcome signs? They are awesome! But the most awesome change to our city view will be the conversion of our current sports arena into a world-class entertainment center.

This new center will rival facilities like the Nokia Center in Los Angeles. The plan is the brain child of the Lopez family, whose corporation, LEBA Inc., manages the current sports arena

The sports arena opened on July 1, 1978 and is modeled in the style of a Mexican "Rancho de Charro," or rodeo ring. It is believed to be the biggest facility of its kind outside of Mexico and has played host to concerts, music and dance festivals, boxing, wrestling and folkloricos.

According to Fernando Lopez, manager of the sports arena, "Our six million dollar investment into converting the open air



The new stadium that's to be built behind the 605 freeway is said to give Pico Rivera more recognition, and bring more jobs to the community.

arena into a domed year round entertainment center that will accommodate not only our existing venues but attract a wider audience with popular music concerts, musicals and community events.

The Lopez family will not only bring a wider variety of entertainment to our neighborhood, they will create about 100 new full-time jobs to the area.

## Small business Saturday 2013



Saturday November 30, 2013 is Small Business Saturday® – a day to celebrate and support small businesses and all they do for their communities. Please join the SBA and organizations across the country in supporting your local small business by shopping at a small business.

### How You Can Participate

#### For shoppers

Find participating small businesses in your area

#### For small business owners

-Get free Small Business Saturday® marketing materials - including sample posters, press releases, and social media updates

-Get free Small Business Saturday® educational materials from Twitter - including tips for writing Tweets to stand out, excite followers, and launch exclusive promotions.

-Join Small Business Saturday® on Facebook and spread the word on other social media

### How Will Our Students Participate?

It is estimated that the student body of El Rancho High School spends close to 3 million dollars on consumer goods and services. Hear how our students intend to spread the wealth on November 30:

- Edith Haro, "I plan on going to eat ice cream at **Elado** located on Rosemead and Mines. It is a small business run by students that graduated from El Rancho High School"
- Anthony Quintana, "In intend to buy bread and pan dulce at my favorite bakery in Pico Rivera."
- Francisco Garcia, "By buying a pizza from **Rio's**."
- Julius Arias, "I am going to post on social media networks recommending people to go to **Fruit Bionicos** (a mall sole proprietorship)."
- Armando Canales, "I intend to buy five raspados from the **Raspado Man**."

## How important are small businesses to local economies?



Small businesses of all types can help strengthen local economies.

BY J. MARIAH BROWN, DEMAND MEDIA

of the total United States private payroll, according to the SBA.

### Economic Growth

While small businesses may not generate as much money as large corporations, they are a critical component of and major contributor to the strength of local economies. Small businesses present new employment opportunities and serve as the building blocks of the United States' largest corporations.

### Contributions

A small business is defined as a business (corporation, limited liability company or proprietorship) with 500 employees or less. According to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), small businesses represent 99.7 percent of all employer firms. Since 1995, small businesses have generated 64 percent of new jobs, and paid 44 percent

Small businesses contribute to local economies by bringing growth and innovation to the community in which the business are established. Small businesses also help stimulate economic growth by providing employment opportunities to people who may not be employable by larger corporations. Small businesses tend to attract talent who invent new products or implement new solutions for existing ideas. Larger businesses also often benefit from small businesses within the same local community, as many large corporations depend on small businesses for the completion of various business functions through outsourcing.

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# CITY VIEW

## The Birth of Pico Rivera



First Pico Rivera City Hall in 1958.

*Following the light of the sun, we left the Old World.*

The towns of Pico and Rivera, from which the city originated, officially began in the 1880s when the Union Pacific, Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe railroads built rail lines through the region.

Blessed with fertile soil, both communities became known for their walnuts, avocados, and other crops, retaining their agricultural character through the mid-1940s.

When a growing influx of new residents came to Pico Rivera after the end of World War II, development began supplanting farming, as the landscape became dotted with housing subdivisions, schools, stores, and churches.

As the population grew, so did residents' collective sense of civic duty and desire to blend the two separate towns.

On January 7, 1958, the majority of voters in Pico and Rivera voted to incorporate each other as one municipality. The decision became official that January 29. Pico Rivera became Los Angeles County's 61st city.

## Why El Rancho High School Has a Model Teen Court

### Two El Rancho Students Appointed to the California Association of Youth Court's Student Advisory Committee



On October 11, 2013, El Rancho High School senior Andrew Gomez was appointed Co-Chairman of the California Association of Youth Court's Student Advisory Committee.

Immediately following Mr. Gomez's appointment as Co-Chairman, a second El Rancho student, Alexis Hernandez,

became a member of this prestigious committee. The CAYC was created solely for the purpose of facilitating the exchange of information between emerging and existing California Youth Courts. Youth courts in California have been growing at a phenomenal rate over the last 15 years. In 1991, only two youth courts in Califor-

nia existed; there are now over 80 in California and over 1,400 nationwide. The primary activity of the Association is to help the formation of new youth courts and to help existing courts. According to Camilo Cruz, Administrator Community Relations Los Angeles Superior Court, Andrew and Alexis, "were selected within

a competitive process because of their dedication to the El Rancho Teen Court and their proven success in effectively organizing activities that promote Teen Court in the community. As CAYC Advisors, their role is significant and will help strengthen youth courts throughout California."



El Rancho High School Teen Court Attorney.

The primary role of our Teen Court Attorney is to assist our student jurors in understanding the charges against the defendant and provide guidance in recommending applicable sentencing for guilty defendants. Ms. Pacheco joins Mr. Picon as our court attorneys.

Ms. Blanca Pacheco is a practicing attorney with a law firm in Downey, CA. She graduated from UCLA with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a specializa-

tion in Chicano Studies in 1998. Ms. Pacheco then proceeded to Loyola Law School and graduated in 2002. She passed the CA State Bar Exam in 2003 and has been practicing law ever since. Her legal business consists of helping clients with their estate planning needs, evictions, and D.U.I. Defense. Ms. Pacheco is also an instructor at Downey Adult School. She teaches the Adult School's online paralegal program.

### The First and Only Teen Court in California to Have its Own Psychologist

Dr. Rebecca Gonzalez-Marin is a psychologist who has served the mental health community for over 15 years. Dr. Marin is an El Rancho alum who received her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Ryokan College. She currently has a private practice in Westwood, California; she is affiliated with UCLA Dr. and Professor Daniel Kupper, with whom she develops great knowledge and skill for treating personality and mood disorders. Dr. Marin's educational background includes extensive evaluation of human development, cross-cultural issues, psychodynamic psychotherapy, and psychoanalysis. Dr. Marin treats both adults and children in private practice, as well as families in need of clinical psychotherapy. Her specialty is Atten-



El Rancho High School Teen Court Psychologist.

tion Deficit Disorder in children and adults. Dr. Marin also holds a clinical position at Home-SAFE,

a division Vista Del Mar (VDM) Child and Family Services.

## El Rancho High School Bingo



December 7, 2013

Saturday Bingo for EL Rancho Teen Court  
El Rancho High School Cafeteria  
6501 Passons Ave. Pico Rivera  
Games begin at 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Must Be 18 and Over to Play  
Admission \$15.00 for 60 bingo cards  
\$100.00 Prize Per Game

## FEATURES

## Cristian Roldan is living every athlete's dream

BY ANGELICA GAMEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

You may remember El Rancho alumnus Cristian Roldan who committed to the University of Washington PAC-12 soccer team less than a year ago. He is now accomplishing big things in Washington including earning Pac-12 Freshman of the Year.

Roldan left Pico Rivera in June to begin training with UW. The team welcomed him and has been great to him since. "Really supportive' are the right words for the team," claims Roldan, "they will always be there for me and other teammates."

After contributing six goals (four of which were with his head) and four assists to his team's success, Roldan has been recognized as the Pac-12 Freshman of the Year. "It's a nice individual award to have but it took my teammates to put me in good situations and getting me the ball in certain spots on the field to be successful," says Roldan.

Roldan's UW team also earned the Pac-12 title for the first time since 2000. "Winning the Pac-12 is more important to me [than winning Freshman of the Year]," explains Roldan, "I'm glad we were able to control our own destiny in the end."

During his high school soccer career, Roldan often had his family supporting him at his games. Now that he is playing for UW, it is not easy for his family to attend his games. "It sucks not having my family here to see my games, but I also know they are at home watching the game on TV,"



Roldan showing off his skills for his new soccer team at the University of Washington.

says Roldan. Some of Roldan's UW teammates have welcomed him into their family helping him feel a little more at home.

Roldan came closer to home when he played against UCLA. He grew up hoping to get the opportunity to play for UCLA, but things did not work out. Instead, he was given a chance to play against them.

UW tied against UCLA when they first met this season in Seattle, but UCLA took the match, 2-1, this time around. "Every team goes through ups and

downs," explains Roldan, "[the game against UCLA] was just one and hopefully our only down."

Although his team lost to UCLA, Roldan was able to see his friends, teachers, coaches, and teammates from his hometown. "It was a great feeling seeing so many friends and family at my game," says Roldan, "Never would I have thought that that many people would show up."

Most of Roldan's time consists of soccer, but he still has to complete his student work. "It's hard to balance out

both things, but UW makes it easier for us by having personal tutors for us," says Roldan.

Going into college as a student-athlete, Roldan "expected no time for anything." Luckily, he does have some free time when his team does not have practice, which is only once a week.

Aside from being a student-athlete, Roldan has noticed some things in college that are different from high school. "Teachers don't care if you do or do not show up to class, especially at a big university, so that

is where responsibility comes in handy," explains Roldan.

El Rancho has prepared Roldan for college both academically and athletically. His soccer team helped prepare him for soccer at the college level and his teachers helped him prepare for college academics. "The school has made me who I am today," says Roldan.

Roldan's experience on his high school soccer team prepared him for college ball. "One of the big things that I got from [my high school team] is to always fight for each other, which goes a long way," explains Roldan. His high school coach, Dominic Picon, also taught Roldan many important lessons from the "basics to the technical stuff."

Roldan also played for a club team called UIFC Independiente for four years. "[UIFC Independiente] let me be a leader from day one and pretty much be a player coach on the field," says Roldan. His club team helped him a lot as he prepared to receive a chance to play at the college level.

Roldan is adjusting to life in Seattle but he still misses things from Pico, like the sun. "We don't see [the sun] much... [But] Seattle is a very nice city to be living in," says Roldan.

Roldan plans to major in business or communications in college, but is still undecided. He encourages student athletes who aspire to play college ball to never give up. Roldan also advises people to get out of Pico, and maybe even California, for college because it lets one have new experiences.

## Francisco's fantastic adventures

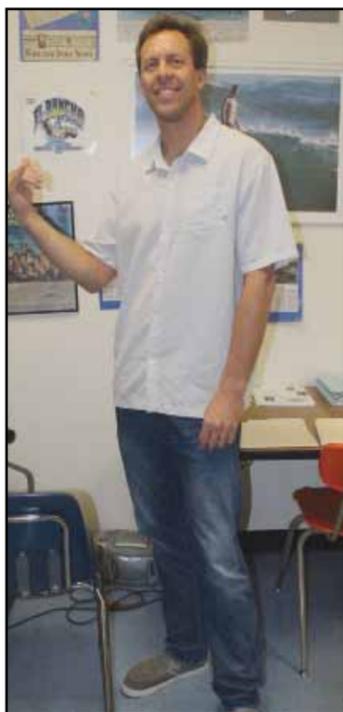
BY DAVID HUGHES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Mr. Francisco, the laid-back surfer teacher in X-3, has been teaching 10<sup>th</sup> grade World History at El Rancho for over nineteen years.

Francisco grew up in Hacienda Heights with his parents and attended Wilson High School. While in high school, Francisco played water polo, basketball, and frequently swam. Mr. Francisco's parents were both teachers who taught at different high schools. His mother taught P.E at Montebello High School for thirty-eight years, and his father taught History at Wilson for thirty-five years.

After high school, Francisco went to Long Beach State and got a degree in History. At Long Beach State, Francisco participated in the same sports that he did while in high school, and he even won a CIF Championship for water polo in 1984 and a CIF state basketball championship in 1986.

"I have made a lot of good friends while in college," said Francisco. After Long Beach State, Francisco attended Walden



Mr. Francisco showing a surfing sign.

University for one year to get his Master's degree in teaching.

After college, Francisco traveled through Europe, to countries such as Italy, England, Russia, France, India, and Nepal. After traveling, Francisco started to teach history at El Rancho and coached

water polo.

"I [teach] history because I like studying the past, how it's shaped and how we live today. My dad was also a history teacher and that really influenced me," said Francisco. When Francisco started working at El Rancho, he coached water polo, "I coached water polo for twelve years. I had to quit because I have three kids now." Not only does Mr. Francisco teach, he also scouts high school basketball players for ESPN.

When Francisco comes home from work, he is greeted by his wife Carrie and his three sons, Caleb, Cole, and Curren. While at home, Francisco will partake in his number one hobby, surfing, during the weekends and summer break.

Francisco has been surfing since he was seven years old, "The first time I actually stood up on the board was when I was in Waikiki, Hawaii. My friend's brother pushed me into a wave and it was one of the most exciting feelings of my life." Nowadays, Francisco surfs at Newport Beach and San Clemente with some of his friends.



# CAMPUS

## Dons show school spirit throughout the month



*Couple dresses up as Minnie Mouse and Cowboy for Halloween.*



*Karina Chavez attempts to make a catch.*



*David Gonzalez and Christian Posada enjoy their time at the football game.*



*A group of friends show off their Blue Pride!*



*Amber Garcia and Ivan Chavez happily show off their costumes.*



*Jasmin Salazar poses with the school's mascot.*



*Samantha Castellanos shows off her Halloween spirit.*



*Andrew Chandler, Jonathan Semintal, Aaron Escareno, and Daniel Martinez pose in character on Halloween.*



*Joey Salinas hosting El Rancho's Got Talent.*



*Sundance performs at the talent show.*



*Seniors warm-up during their first practice as they prepare for the Powderpuff game.*

## CAMPUS

## Dons contribute to a great cause



El Rancho prepares to send out boxes to Baja, California.

By LAURA CASTRO-SPENCER  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The expression, “a simple act of kindness goes a long way,” can be expressed through El Rancho’s Boxes for Baja.

Boxes for Baja is a charitable act that allows El Rancho students and administrators to donate items to the less fortunate children residing in Baja California. These children will receive the donations around the Christmas season, and thus, students will be sending a little bit of the holiday spirit from the U.S to Mexico.

Clubs like Key Club, AVID, ASB, and Math Club are participating in this act of kindness and hope to encourage other El Rancho students to join also.

Math Club Advisor, Mr. Steve Francis, says that Math Club is part of an honor society called Mu-Alpha Phata. Mu-Alpha Phata partakes in charitable acts around the community and give back to the less fortunate.

“We hope to help out [the children in Baja California] and give them a better Christmas,” says Francis.

Francis is familiar with this charity event. “This is the first time Math Club has participated in Boxes for Baja, but this isn’t the first time my family has participated. It’s a great feeling giving back and we encourage others to take a box.”

Items students can place in their box vary from the gender and age group they choose, but many students forget to put necessities in their boxes.

Many people in Baja don’t carry the basic necessities children here in America have. Items such as clothing, soaps, toiletries, and toothbrushes are items that are often overlooked by El Rancho students.

ASB member Karla Boche is helping other clubs gather their boxes and organize where the box will be after it leaves the school.

“I think the kids in Baja would appreciate a toy, but they would better benefit from a toothbrush or sweater. Some of the items we take for granted here are very much needed over there.”

El Rancho has allowed it’s students, faculty, and those connected to the school to take the chance to let the children in Baja California have a happier and more hopeful Christmas.

Administrators and students helping organize this act hope that next year’s Boxes for Baja will surpass this year’s mark, and more students will take the opportunity to give a little

## James juggles her jam-packed schedule

By ODALYS CHAVEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

At the short age of sixteen, junior Emily James is balancing activities in her life that could break many others. She takes rigorous courses such as AP English Language and Composition, AP U.S History, and still has the motivation to be a part of the Academic Decathlon.

After seven hours of a regular school day, and three to four hours dedicated to Decathlon studies, James takes it even further and is in the process of creating a music magazine of her own. This project is called *Underground Magazine*. Other contributors are her friends Aly Barajas, Armando Valenzuela, Norbet Rodriguez and Hector Macedo. The purpose of the magazine will be to promote local bands who are in need of a broader audience.

James is very fond of poetry. She recites and listens to poetry at Half Off Bookstore in Uptown Whittier once a month. “I think reciting is one of the influences on the creation of the magazine,” says James. She was able to witness a lot artists’ work that fascinated her, yet she had never heard of before. This motivated her to create a media source that would help these talented artists’ work to be discovered.

James admits that the most challenging part of her life at the



Emily James enjoying a well-deserved break from her busy schedule.

moment is time management. With AP’s, Decathlon, her magazine, her family, and her social life, she states that there are not enough hours in the day for her to get everything done. She tries her best to stay organized and avoid stress. “I’m slowly learning how not to procrastinate. But as with all procrastinators, I know that will most definitely take some time,” says James.

She played soccer for El Rancho her freshman year and considers herself a good goalkeeper. She was able to develop her skills with the help of the varsity coach.

James is also a talented public speaker. Whether it is through speeches or poetry recitals she has a fondness for presenting in front of crowds. “The nerves I get before are like the nerves I would get before a soccer game. However, once they’re gone, I feel as if I could do it all over again,” she says.

Along with being able to present effective speeches, she would also consider herself a talented writer. She would like to one day promote herself as a writer by writing her own movies and producing her own scripts.

“During my free time, I usually save babies and puppies. Haha nah, during my free time, I’m most likely with my friends,” she says. She enjoys watching Netflix or visiting Panera with her friends Lindsay and Sarah. If she is not doing that, she is trying her best to go to nearby venues to see bands she likes or other bands she can potentially write about.

She would like to remind students to be on a lookout for her on November 15th if they want to buy a copy of *Underground Magazine* “Because it’s going to be rad.”

## Superb Saturday Scrimmage for the Academic Decathlon Team



Academic Decathlon show off their medals.

By JESSE SANCHEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Saturday proved to be a tremendously eventful day for El Rancho’s Academic Decathlon team as schools across LA County gathered to compete in the pre-county scrimmage. Subjects included Art, Economics, Language and Literature, Mathematics, Music, Science, and Social Science and all revolve around the theme of World War I.

This year’s team includes seniors Susan Aparicio, Adam Dishman, David Juarez, Andreas Moghimi, Monica Ochoa, Jacob Rodriguez and Jesse Sanchez, and juniors Daniel Bautista, James Chow, Mary Garcia, Emily James, Brianna Olivares, Alexandria Parra, Lindsay Phillips, and Darwin Reyes.

The 2013-14 season marks the first time in El Rancho history 15 people were chosen for the school’s Academic

Decathlon. The team is led by co-captains Juarez, Moghimi, Rodriguez, and Sanchez and head coach Mrs. Palomares.

The decathletes are separated into different slots based on their GPA’s: Honors (A-slots), Scholastic (B-slots), and Varsity (C-slots).

A-slot winners included Susan Aparicio (Art-3<sup>rd</sup>), Mary Garcia (Social Science-3<sup>rd</sup>), and Jesse Sanchez (Art 1<sup>st</sup>, Lit 1<sup>st</sup>, Music 1<sup>st</sup>, and Social Science 1<sup>st</sup>). B-slot winners included Adam Dishman (Lit 2<sup>nd</sup>), Emily James (Lit-1<sup>st</sup>) and David Juarez (Art 3<sup>rd</sup>, Economics 2<sup>nd</sup>, Lit 1<sup>st</sup>, Music 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Social Science 1<sup>st</sup>). C-slot winners included Daniel Bautista (Art 3<sup>rd</sup>, Lit 2<sup>nd</sup>), Lindsay Phillips (Lit 3<sup>rd</sup>), Darwin Reyes (Social Science 3<sup>rd</sup>), and Jacob Rodriguez (Art 2<sup>nd</sup>, Literature 2<sup>nd</sup>, Music 2<sup>nd</sup>, Science 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Social Science 1<sup>st</sup>).

The team will be preparing for their next competition in January.

## Justin is just simply irresistible

By RUBI MACIAS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho senior Justin Raya is JUSTIN-CREDIBLE. This socialite and “sass” master, who dressed as Miley “Raya” Cyrus this Halloween, is known throughout campus for his uncensored mouth and universal sense of humor.

Raya can often be seen throughout campus socializing with a wide range of students. He admits that he attracts all kinds of people because he likes talking and “can get a person to open up to [him].”

Whether it is with his natural charisma or admirable confidence, Raya is someone who can brighten your day.

Raya’s qualities for making friends come from his love of “making people laugh.”

What Raya looks for in a relationship is a partner with a sense of humor and personality he can get along with. Ravishing Raya believes that someone who can win his heart must truly be in love and “buy him stuff.”

In addition to being attracted to personality traits, Raya takes the physical into account. He admits that his ideal companion needs to have “a nice butt!”

Although Raya does not admit to it, he is a romantic. An ideal date with this marvelous marshmallow includes “going to a beach



Justin just loves to make other people laugh.

and watching the sun go down while having dinner on the pier.”

Anyone planning to spend time with this cupcake koala can expect to be at the mall quite often, as it is Raya’s favorite place.

Shopping is a big part in Raya’s life, and one of his main leisurely distractions. Raya says he “loves going shopping” and “can shop all day” because the mall has everything.

Raya does not go to the mall only to browse for clothes. This confirmed bachelor is constantly on the lookout and adds that the mall is his sanctuary, because he can also browse through the “cute people that work there.”

Radiant Raya is simply irresistible because, in addition to being single, he easily befriends teachers and classmates of all ages with his infectious attitude and wildly rad socks.

Snatch up his digits quickly, Dons, before this fierce fox leaves to Germany in December!

## MUSIC

## Boche makes a run for the roses

BY CLAUDIA GONZALEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Hey Dons! When the time comes to reminisce over the memories we made this year and we greet the New Year with a warm embrace, let us support Karla Boche marching in the Rose Parade. Boche, a senior trumpet player and section leader, auditioned along with over 500 other high school students and was selected to participate in the 2013 Pasadena Tournament of Roses Honor Band.

Boche originally auditioned as a trumpeter but was ultimately selected as one of the eleven-member Elite Herald Trumpet Unit. As a herald, she has the honor of leading the Rose Queen and her court. Boche says, "At first, I thought it was a mistake... so I emailed the director to see if it was, but he explained and congratulated me on making it."

Practice was needed if Boche wanted a spot in the ensemble. "I spent two to three weeks preparing different solos since I was undecided on which to perform. It was really the week before the audition I practiced intensely every day at lunch," says



Boche looks forward to representing El Rancho in the Rose Parade.

Boche. "Before my audition, I was really nervous because the people around me were very talented, but I made sure to keep my cool."

Boche's fellow band members have strongly shown their support. Andreas Moghimi, se-

nior drum major, says, "I was absolutely enamored when I found out... the position given to Karla is one many students in college dream of getting." "I would like to say that Karla's achievement shows yet again that the commu-

nity of Pico Rivera is a strong one, and the board of education should continue to support the arts."

Mr. Cordero, Band and Color Guard Director, did not know that Boche would be auditioning again. Cordero says, "she learned the hard lesson of not practicing and being disciplined enough to prepare for an audition, but she took on the challenge and it was nice to hear her practicing and working on her technique and well...she did it! As with all of my students, I love when they reach out to take on challenges!"

With her talent, it's no surprise that she also takes part in the ERHS Jazz Ensemble and has proven to be an exceptional soloist. According to Moghimi, Boche is the "most quirky individual in band and shows great ambition and interest toward her progression as an aspiring musician." "Karla proves that, with a little practice, anything can be achieved," says Moghimi.

Boche hopes that she can inspire her fellow band peers. "I want to show that if a regular person like me can do it, they can too."

So Dons, lets bring in the New Year by supporting Karla Boche as she represents El Rancho in the Rose Parade.

## A fairy godmother for the marching Dons



Photo courtesy of Ms. Kwek.

BY NAZALERY NARVAEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

POOF! The Marching Dons struck some good fortune having found their very own fairy godmother. This humble El Rancho alumna, who prefers her name to remain discreet, has made great donations in support of El Rancho's band program. Her donations have been used for new instruments, striking new uniforms, and an April trip to Washington D.C.

The El Rancho band director Mr. Reggie Cordero met her at a home football game on September 20. "I was standing there with my band booster vice president. We were watching the football game and the band as I was approached by the lady," Cordero says.

The modest lady then asked about the band's attempt to raise money for uniforms and even asked to see them, Cordero explains. "My vice president from the booster club happened to have a picture of the [new] uniform on his phone. So he whips out the picture of the uniform," the woman was captivated by the uniform and asked for their price and how

fast they could get them, Cordero continues. Cordero responded jokingly by saying "Well, if I had a check by Monday, I could probably get them by November." The donor responded with enthusiastic approval, and agreed to get the Marching Dons the new uniforms without hesitation.

"The Marching Dons are extremely excited and thankful that she is willing to help us," the band's head drum major, Ilse Medina says. The Marching Dons' mystery donor has begun to build a great relationship with the band, "She likes to communicate and is trying to get to know the kids in the band," Cordero explains. The band's gratitude toward her is so great that, according to Cordero, they even "got her a crown for homecoming."

"We're really excited for the competitions to come," the band's council president, Malin Talavera says. "Her help has boosted our confidence and [has] caused us to work extra hard on our Arcadia performance," Medina says. The Marching Dons showcased their new uniforms at the Arcadia Festival for bands last Saturday, attracting the eyes, and of course, the ears of the audience.

The band donor has made this year in band an unforgettable one, going out of her way by "flying the band to Washington D.C." in April according to Cordero. The Marching Dons are very excited about the trip, and are willing to give their all to honor their fairy godmother along with the rest of The Ranch. "I'm so thankful for her help and for making my senior year extra special," Medina says. "The El Rancho Band is going to rock it! All thanks to our fairy godmother!"

## El Rancho band: small but mighty

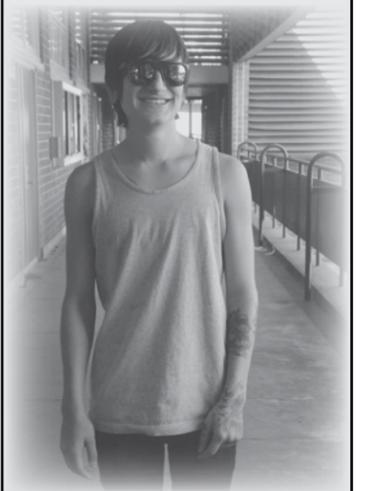


El Rancho band maintains a positive attitude after their competition.

BY MICHAEL GARCIA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho Band and colorguard placed ninth overall out of forty schools in their competition three weeks ago at Loara High School in Anaheim. Members of the band and colorguard were satisfied with this placement, considering only the top schools in Southern California competed in it. The team went into this competition with a great amount of confidence that they would do well, and they did. Band captain Andreas Moghimi says, "Confidence is a huge part in doing well. So if you don't have confidence, then you can expect a low score."

Moghimi goes on to say that even though the El Rancho Band is extremely small compared to other school bands, it is still able to place amongst the larger schools because all the members possess a good amount of confidence. He added, "We're anticipating to build up a lot more confidence by the time Arcadia comes by, which is in one week." Moghimi described Arcadia as being the "superbowl" of band competitions, so he hoped the band would perform well. The band competed this past week at Arcadia, but did not place.

Amador Michel:  
behind the music

Michel and his band get a foot in the music industry.

BY ROBERT GARCIA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Singing along to a favorite TV show's theme song is a part of every person's childhood. El Rancho senior Amador Michel's musical career began in this childlike manner. A few years later, he became the lead vocalist for the five-piece death core band: Prison Planet.

Prison Planet started off in 2008. Since then, they have grown enough to begin playing shows with famous bands such as A Skylit Drive, Sleeping Giant, Carnifex, As Blood Runs Black, and Jamie's Everywhere. "I can't even explain it. At the moment it kind of feels surreal... You know you hear about them and then all of sudden you end up playing a show with them and it's just... wow that's a famous band right there... we're playing a show with," says Michel.

In the beginning of his musical career, Michel was not inclined or accustomed to singing in the method that he does now, known as "dirty vocals". "At first I would sing, but then I said... [forget] the singing! I'm doing screaming. I got into it because of Slipknot. I started listening to Chelsea Grin and Suicide Silence and I was just like 'oh yeah, this is where I'm suppose to be,'" says Michel.

Prison Planet is currently re-mastering their self-titled EP, which was released in October. "We started with drums first and then we started on Rudy Acosta's rhythm guitars and then David Carillo's lead guitars, and then from that, Robert Martinez's bass came in with the bass and then after that I laid vocals on top."

Go on to one of their sites and listen to some of their songs such as *Not In This Town* and *Demonic Ascension*. For a hard copy of their self-titled EP, you can message them on Twitter or Facebook and get a copy with all four songs. Support the local music scene and attend one of Prison Planet's shows!

EP: *Prison Planet*  
[www.facebook.com/prisonplanet](http://www.facebook.com/prisonplanet)  
[www.twitter.com/PrisonPlanet](http://www.twitter.com/PrisonPlanet)  
[www.instagram.com/PrisonPlanet](http://www.instagram.com/PrisonPlanet)

Moghimi says for the team, "We're not really about chasing places; it's always about getting the next highest score." This keeps the team on top of their goals and motivates them to always look for a way of improvement.

## SPORTS

## Girls' volleyball team rides the "roller coaster"

BY JAZMIN HERNANDEZ  
EL RODEO WRITER

This is the first season in many years that the girls' varsity volleyball team did not go to CIF. The girls' varsity volleyball team started league rough, losing eight out of ten games. In their second to last game of the season, the girls managed to win against Whittier.

"It was a struggle to get out of the deep hole we dug ourselves into," said junior Crystal Lopez. The team consecutively lost all of its games at the beginning of its season, and it was difficult for the girls to get back up.

Most of the girls agreed that they were not fully focused and lacked communication as well as team bonding. Without these skills, the girls had trouble trying to win. "We needed more heart during the previous games," said junior Elyssa Toress.

After winning their first game, junior Samantha Gallegos said, "It will be a great motivation for us to win our last game at pioneer." Junior Elyssa Toress also agrees with Samantha and said, "I feel we are making a comeback; we just plan to end it strong."

The girls agree there were many factors that caused them to not reach their maximum potential. "Volleyball not only takes skills, but it takes team bonding and creating close relationships in order to know who we're playing with and I feel that's one thing we lacked," said Lopez.

Senior Brandi Suarez felt that they were missing the mental aspect. "Our mentality held us back because when we do well we are proud of ourselves and when we do badly we break down and give-up," said Suarez.

As the girls reflect on their season, they realized that they would have changed many things. Sophomore Destiny Johnson said, "I would have stepped up and been a better leader earlier



Girl's Varsity Volleyball get ready to spike the volleyball

in the season rather than later."

Although, at first, some of the girls did not get along, they managed to put their differences aside and get along. Even though the season did not go as it was planned, the girls had fun. Suarez said, "We have had our ups and downs, but in the end we all stood by each other and it helped us win our second to last game of the season."

No matter what they go through, at the end, the girls love their team and head coach, Adelaida Picon. Senior Jennifer Soto said, "Mrs. Picon is a really good coach."

All the girls agreed that Picon helped them deal with their feelings due to many lost games. Senior Iliana Alameda said, "She pushed us no matter what. She always had high ex-

pectations because she knew we had more potential than what we thought we did." Soto said, "She never let us quit at all. Quitting wasn't an option for us." Suarez said, "she helped me be a better competitor, have confidence in myself, and knew what was best for me. She helped us be prepared mentally and made us stronger." Even though, at times, Picon yelled at the team, "she was doing it out of love, not to hurt us," said Suarez.

Picon made sure to teach the team something during their season. "Athletics teach you a lot of lessons and this year the girls learned a very big lesson that it takes passion, art and never losing the feeling of doing your best," explained Picon. She calls this season a "roller coaster" and knows that it has

been very emotional for the girls.

Alameda said, "Here in volleyball you learn that in competition you have to give everything with passion and strive for it no matter what because in the outside world it is going to help us, the same completion and passion that Picon taught us."

Picon knows she did her job as a coach and feels proud. She said, "If I didn't teach them a lot of volleyball skills, I taught them a life lesson and I believe the lesson that they learned this year will definitely help them out in anything that they do in life."

The team has positive attitudes toward next year. Lopez said, "I'm looking forward to next year's season and see what other competition we have next," while Suarez said, "I hope they kick butt next season."

## Dons bet big and win big with a wildcard



Senior Captain Veronica Torres prepares to serve the tennis ball

BY NICHELLE RENTERIA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The girls' varsity tennis team ended its season with a 5-5 record, landing it 4th place in

league. After submitting an "at-large bid" the Dons made it into the wildcard round, for which they won. They lost in the first round of CIF to Cerritos High School.

The Dons submitted an "at-

large bid" in order to make it into the wild card round. It was no longer in their hands to dictate if they made it into the wild card round, but luckily for them, they did.

The three Del Rio League teams, La Serna, California High, and El Rancho, all had to play a wildcard match to make it into the first round of CIF. Out of these three teams, only La Serna and El Rancho made it past the wildcard game.

The Dons played a wildcard game against Summit High School where the Dons won 14-4.

The Dons' victory against Summit sent them to the first round of CIF against Cerritos. The Dons tried their best but Cerritos came out victorious 17-1.

Before heading into CIF, the girls' varsity tennis team played their last league game against Whittier. With the score being 12-6, El Rancho lost.

Although their CIF run

ended when they lost in the first round, senior captain Veronica Torres was proud. "We really tried and I'm proud of my girls for [giving it] their all [in every game] and they really tried," says Torres. They did not make it to the first round of CIF last year, so that also made Torres happy.

It was senior Stephanie Galvan's first year on varsity and she was proud of her team. "I personally thought, as a team and individually, we all had a successful season by both doubles and singles qualifying for prelims and continuing our season to CIF first round," says Galvan.

Having made it to the first round of CIF was an accomplishment for the team. The girls' varsity tennis played well this season making them the second strongest team in the Del Rio league. "I think we did good overall. We made it to the first round of CIF," says Natalia Sanchez.

## Sports Results

## Football



California- W (22-15)  
Santa Fe- W (45-13)  
La Serna-L (43-8)  
Dominguez- L (41-0)

## Girls Volleyball



La Serna-L (3-0)  
California- L (3-0)  
Whittier- W (3-2)

Pioneer-W (3-2)

## Girls Tennis



Whittier-L (12-6)  
@ Summit- W (14-4)  
@ Cerritos- L (17-1)

## Boys Waterpolo



El Modena- W (12-11)  
California- W (11-8)  
Schurr- W (16-6)  
Whittier- W (8-6)  
La Mirada- W (14-6)

## Boys &amp; Girls Cross Country



Mt. Sac Inv.-2nd  
Whittier Narrows Inv.-4th  
League Finals-1st

## SPORTS

## Dominguez Dons Down ER Dons in first round of CIF

BY ANGELICA GAMEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Dons may have ended their CIF run earlier than expected, but they had a memorable season, ending league with a record of 4-1. Their only loss was to the La Serna Lancers. They faced Dominguez High in the first round of CIF where they lost 41-0.

The Dons were feeling confident going into their first round CIF game against Dominguez High School. "Dominguez likes to run the football and we're good at stopping the run... as long as we go out there and execute, doing the hitting...we will come home with a win," said coach Vinnie Lopez. Senior captain Jesus Verduzco knew that they would have to be physical in order to get the outcome they wanted, which was to win.

Unfortunately, the Dons lost to Dominguez. "I'm devastated that we lost," says senior David Ramos, "we worked hard to get into the playoffs but the reality of it is that all things don't always go your way."

Before going into CIF, the Dons held a 4-1 winning record throughout league until they



Dons battle against the Santa Fe Chiefs.

faced the Lancers. Going into the game, Lopez felt good and looked at it as "an opportunity to play for a league title and we couldn't ask for more." The team knew that it was going to be a challenge.

The Dons remained scoreless until the last seconds and lost 43-8. "[La Serna has] a good football team," says Lopez, "we lost our focus and you can't do that against good football teams."

Verduzco was disappointed about the outcome against the Lancers. "I think that it was a bad

game for us because we could've done better," says Verduzco. He also wished that the Dons had taken advantage of any opportunity to score that they had.

The Lancers participated in the CIF finals these last couple of years, so their level is something the Dons may see again in CIF.

After losing to the Lancers, Verduzco realized "how much harder [the team has] to work in order to achieve [their] goal." Senior Ryan Araujo added, "[We have to] stay disciplined throughout the

whole game and not lose focus."

Lopez was proud of what he saw against the Lancers and described it as "a humbling experience." "I think that our kids came out with hunger to win again and continue playing so it should be a good lead into [the game against Dominguez.]"

Before facing the Lancers the Dons had two other important games, against the California Condors and Santa Fe Chiefs. "[The team] hasn't beaten Cal in 4 or 5 years and Santa

Fe in 3 or 4 years...[beating] both of those teams in the same year [was huge]," said Lopez.

Those two wins guaranteed the Dons a spot in second place. "We haven't been a solo second place team in sixteen years so it was good for us," explained Lopez. Verduzco looks at this as "a turning point of all the other [football] teams that have been here."

One big reason behind the team's success is Lopez. It is his second year coaching at El Rancho and he has led his team too many things that they haven't done in a while. "I feel like they are buying into what I am selling and they are doing a fantastic job and working their butts off," says Lopez, "I am proud to be here and I am really proud of our kids."

Another factor that the team had this season was a lot of senior leadership and their defense. "The defense, led by nine seniors on the defensive side of the ball, was just playing excellent football, and we still are," explains Lopez.

Their season is now over an end and there are things that will be missed. "[I will miss] everything from practice, to the games, to just hanging out with your brothers," says Verduzco.

## Cross Country looks to place at State

BY NAZARELY NARVAEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho Cross Country Varsity boys crowned themselves champions of the Del Rio League. The varsity boys defeated the California Condors at Del Rio League finals to win league and gain entrance to CIF preliminaries. The varsity boys record for league was two wins and one loss.

Previous to League Finals, the Dons hosted an invitational at Whittier Narrows on November first in which the varsity boys ran in trainers instead of flats. Ruben Ruiz said, "We really didn't treat this as a race. We wore our trainers because it was a workout for us."

Coach Wynn, along with his team captains Gefry Sarco, Elias Powell, and Alexis Hernandez went into league finals with con-

fidence, as they knew it was very possible to bring the league title back home. The team captains and Coach Wynn agreed, "We did what we said we would do and got first place. The next goal is to get out of prelims and from there we will see where we go."

Coach Wynn has his boys' team aiming for state champions, so the next step is to prepare for CIF prelims and CIF finals. The varsity team's expectations are to finish in the top four of their heat at the CIF prelims and then finish top seven at CIF finals and advance to state.

The El Rancho girls' varsity team finished league with a solid second place to their rivals, Whittier, and will also be advancing to CIF prelims. Ana Galicia said, "This year we were a good team, but we kept it realistic and second

was what we were aiming for."

After finishing second at the Whittier Narrows Invitational, the girls knew they would go into league finals with a solid team. Finishing second at league finals moves the girls' varsity team to CIF aiming to advance with the boys on their goal to reach the state competition.

As both varsity teams move on to CIF, they will be training their top nine girls and boys. The boys' varsity team includes Gefry Sarco, Elias Powell, Salvador Salas, Ruben Ruiz, Daniel Aguilar, Donald Brown, Alexis Hernandez, Lenny Sosa, and Steven Avellar. The girls' team consists of Melissa Gutierrez, Alma Colindres, Monica Lemus, Jessica Mancera, Ashley Grejeda, Esmeralda Morales, Ana Galicia, Heaven Vasquez, and Olympia Martinez.



Martin Alcala shoots for a goal.

## Boys water polo takes 2nd in league

BY BREANNA PEREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Boys Water Polo Comes to an End

The Dons ended their season with a record above 500, placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in league, and walked away with wins against longtime rival teams: Whittier and Cal High. Although they achieved so much during league, the team wasn't fortunate enough to proceed to the next level of CIF.

The team won their second to last league game against Cal High by three points, with a final score of 12-9. Then won again against the Whittier Cardinals by scoring in the last minute and a half, finalizing the score at 8-6. In addition to the victory, the team broke the 10-year cycle of losing against the Cardinals and "did what other water polo teams in the past couldn't do," said fellow team member Martin Alcala.

Although the Dons lost their CIF game by 12-4, Coach Pringle said he would have been happy with a win, but felt that, "no one gave up and the effort was genuine". The team still managed to score in the last 11 seconds of the game, and, even though it wasn't enough to win, Co-Captain Ricardo Robles said he's still "proud of the team for coming this far, working together, and just trying their best."

Pringle's feelings towards the season overall has been positive, and he feels optimistic for next year's water polo team. "I'm really happy with the senior class. We accomplished a lot of goals, and [although] it was a transition for them with a new coach, they were very professional about it," says Pringle. As for next year's team, Pringle thinks the seniors have "left a good example for the underclassmen and hopefully can build on it."



Boys varsity team that will compete at CIF Finals for Southern California.

# FUN ZONE

## Horoscopes

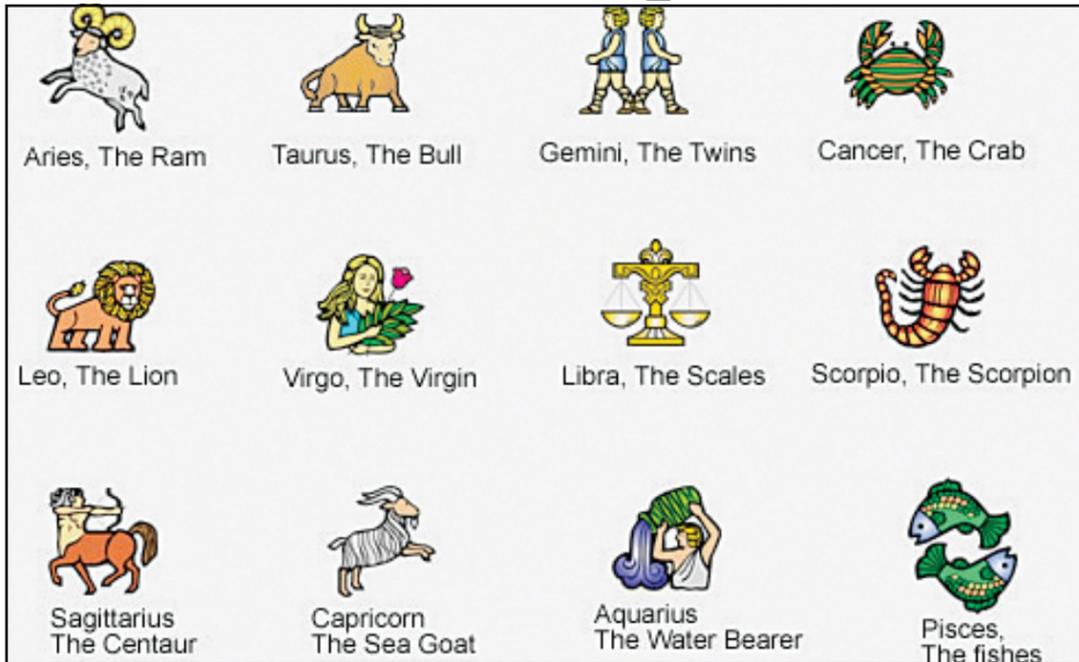
BY SOL MENDEZ AND JULIA ORTIZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

**Aries:** You're known for being very outgoing. Keep it that way. You will have a great month compared to your previous one. Keep your head up high and be friendly like you normally are. It's a happy month to spend with family and friends. The holidays are coming! Enjoy them.

**Taurus:** Fridays are perfect for you. There's nothing that will stop your great style. This month will be tough but don't let that stop you. Don't push people away. Try to get a better understanding of things from a different point of view. You're smart. Make the right choices. Not everything is perfect. You must learn that.

**Gemini:** Things may not be going your way, but it's probably your fault. You need to control your personality and not be selfish. You'll hurt the people who love you with your actions. Take time to analyze your actions. It's not right to hurt people.

**Cancer:** Yes, you're a dreamer and somehow always moody. The moon changes the way you'll be this month. Emo-



tion is good but tone it down a bit. Stop overthinking and keep calm. You must take control. Don't let your emotions manipulate you. Be smart and try to have control over your mood.

**Leo:** Things or situations may not be going as planned and you can hide it very well, but on the inside it is a complete different story. Try not to overthink

it, because, come the end of the week, you will be distracted by something else; a crush, perhaps?

**Virgo:** Before dreaming big, set daily goals. Having a daily challenge can build you up and prepare you for your future. Be realistic in what you want to accomplish, but don't be afraid to fail.

**Libra:** Your day seems to

be going just fine and dandy. Not for long. Stress is coming your way. Take a deep breath and handle things one at a time because difficult times don't last forever.

**Scorpio:** HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Taking a glance at your past may boost your future. Remember all your successes and the lessons you've learned. You may also recognize a re-

peated situation or behavior.

**Sagittarius:** You are very full of energy this month, so make sure you're using it wisely. It's a really good time for you to explore new places and meet new people-Get out there and do something!

**Capricorn:** It is certain that there is a significant other for you coming along the way. This individual is standing right before your eyes, so make sure to keep your eyes wide open and notice the clues being thrown at you.

**Aquarius:** Are you feeling lonely? Or a bit left out? Is it because you've been left out of certain events lately? Hey! Keep your head up no one has forgotten you. Sooner or later the love & admiration from your friends will become more obvious.

**Pisces:** This is your month to start something new. Lately, you've been trying to approach things but they always backfire on you so try to take things slow or maybe just step by step and only then you should proceed; only doing that will only bring you success.

### Thanksgiving Question



Who was the first important woman writer and poet in the American British colonies?

- a) Anne Hutchinson
- b) Pocahontas
- c) Anne Bradstreet
- d) Virginia Laydon



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



## THANKSGIVING MAZE



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