



# El Rodeo



El Rancho High School

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## Eighteen Dons witness history: Travel to Washington for inauguration

BY KAYLA PEREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This past Inauguration Day, eighteen El Rancho Dons and their three chaperones, including history teacher, Mr. Saucedo and his wife, were able to witness the beginning of this new era unfold.

During this trip, which took place from January 18th to January 23rd, these lucky students were able to visit several historic sites such as the Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, and two of the Smithsonian museums.

"It was really fun and exciting going to visit these landmarks," says Junior, Angelica Ojeda, "I will cherish this experience forever."

On the day of the actual Inauguration, the students woke up at 4 a.m. and got to the big event at 6 a.m. to wait for the start. While waiting for the event to start the Dons were able to socialize with many people of different cultures and backgrounds.

However, the day after the inauguration is when the students were able to get a real look on society and change, as they took part in the powerful Women's March and were a part of a cultural phenomenon.

Overall, this trip was a great opportunity for students to be a part of history and to get a vivid look as to handle difficult matters in our society.

## Beijing students visit ER to experience Western schooling

BY ALEKSEY SOTO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

For the sixth consecutive year, El Rancho is hosting 28 students and three teachers from the Experimental High School Attached to Beijing Normal University in Beijing, China. The students and teachers arrived on January 10th and will stay until February 14th.

The students get to see what classes El Rancho offers, go to school events, meet new people, and experience daily life as a Don while still earning credit for their classes in China. A student who goes by the English name "Edna" says, "I'm kind of thinking of attending college here, so it's better for me to get used to classes here."

The foreign exchange students live with El Rancho host families as opposed to in a hotel or in a homestay. They also shadow El Rancho students who are not part of their host family.

"I asked Mrs. Senteno to see if I could help out and guide them," sophomore Sam Anguiano said, "It's a fun experience. You get to learn about their culture and they get to experience things they never have."

Dons in classes with the foreign exchange students have



Students from Beijing, China travel to El Rancho annually.

Photo by Daniel Reveles

been able to ask about what school life is like in China. They live in dorms on campus, and their days begin at 6:30 in the morning. They have around seven forty minute classes per day and instead of moving classes each period like we do, the teachers move to their classes. Their school day ends around 5 p.m.. In the dorms, they may do homework until

lights turn off at around 10:30.

"The idea for the students coming over is to see a Western style of education," says principal, Mr. Lyons, "and for us, it's a nice outreach to have them come to our campus and share a little about their experiences."

Lyons also sees the exchange as a chance for Dons to learn more about the world around us.

"I think that the more we can bring outside voices on campus and have students be exposed to different ways of looking at things, the better our perspective gets that we're not a little isolated part of the world," he says, "we're part of a bigger community: the global community."

## Advanced Drama "Lives, Lives, Lives"

BY ETHAN SEPULVEDA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's Advanced Drama Department put on their first production of the year bringing *Auntie Mame* to the Little Theater in K101, on January 19th-21st.

Telling the story of how Mame Dennis, an eccentric, extravagant woman living in the 1920-1930's, raises her nephew, Patrick after his father unexpectedly passes away; Drama shares the message of living life "because life's a banquet, and most poor suckers are starving to death."

Drama President, and senior, Xcaret Estrada took the lead in her final high school play as Mame. "I think it was a great experience and an emotional roller coaster," Estrada said. "Honestly, I don't even know how I tackled this role. All I know is that I worked my booty off and that it was hard to do, but I did it." Estrada also came into the dilemma as to which version of Mame she wanted to portray in the play. "I tried being more of Rosalind Russell's [the original actress in *Auntie Mame* (1958)] than Lucile Ball's version of Mame, but I did more



The drama students prepared endlessly for the play. Photo courtesy of Annual Staff Lucile, which isn't good since it's not Wlasick's favorite portrayal of Mame," said Estrada.

Returning actors, such as Vanessa Espinoza, who played Claire Zachanassian in last year's play, *The Visit*, returned to play Agnes Gooch, Mame's naive secretary. "Apart from Gooch in the

movie *Auntie Mame* (1958), I drew inspiration from the character Tina from *Bob's Burgers* to get the physicality down of a boy-crazy character. You could say that O'Bannion [Gooch's romantic interest] was my Jimmy Pesto Jr."

Although the audience probably didn't notice, the

play wasn't without its hardships, explains Espinoza. "I had a problem embodying a pregnant woman because obviously, I've never been pregnant. Also, my east coast accent would sometimes drop off in some words, so I had to work on that." The cast also struggled to put the play together until the weekend before the play opened. "We literally pulled it together during Panic Saturday," confesses Espinoza.

Despite the drawbacks, one of the biggest highlights for the cast was everyone coming together to finish the production that they had been working on since November.

"The feeling of unity with the whole entire cast was one of my favorite things because we were all in this together," said junior, Ariana Olivares who played young Patrick in the play.

On the topic of high school musicals, if you weren't able to see *Auntie Mame*, don't worry! You can catch Drama's next production, *Little Me* on May 27-29, or even take part in the musical by going to three days of auditions on February 1st-3rd.

# OPINION

## Melania Trump doesn't need your sympathy

BY NAYELI HERNANDEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The First Lady of the United States, Melania Trump, has been ignoring an array of different conversations without having to lift a finger.

Many people have taken to social media to discuss the well being and emotional state of Melania Trump. There are people who seem to believe that Melania Trump is in an unhappy marriage in which her husband treats her poorly. These same people also believe that Melania Trump didn't ask for any of the attention she is getting as a result of being married to an orange.

This is what everyone needs to understand: Melania Trump knew what she was getting into. No, I am not trying to invalidate anyone who has been in an emotionally abusive relationship, as I do not even believe she is in one. Nor do I believe that Melania Trump deserves to be in one, if that is true.

Just because Melania Trump never smiles, doesn't mean that she has a terrible life and is sad. She is married to the commander-in-chief who is not only white, but rich. Michelle Obama always smiled, and was still seen as someone who was always irritated.

Not only so, Melania Trump married her husband in 2005. Donald Trump didn't just sprout from nowhere and decide to have some political views. Before he married Melania, Trump was known for his part in calling for the death penalty in the case of the Central Park Five. He spent \$85,000 in full page-ads in four daily newspapers in New York. For those who don't know, the Central Park Five were a group of Black and Latino teens from Harlem who were wrongly accused of assaulting and raping a white woman in Central Park. They spent fourteen years in jail for a crime they did not commit.

Donald Trump is also famous for his demands for President Obama

to release his birth certificate, as he accused him of not being born in the United States. You might be thinking, "Melania has nothing to do with that" and you would be wrong. In 2011, Melania Trump appeared on the *Joy Behar Show* and supported her husband's racist allegations that Obama wasn't really born in Hawaii.

Melania Trump did not have to go on TV and support her husband in any of his recent actions. For whatever reason, Melania Trump chose to marry and stay married to a fascist.

Let's not forget the time that Melania Trump went and plagiarized Michelle Obama's speech. She knowingly stole work from an intelligent black woman and somehow she's the victim in this situation?

People want her to be a helpless victim in this situation because they believe that she'll soon be able to "come to her senses" and go against her husband. News flash: she doesn't care about any of us, stop holding your breath.

You'll die waiting on her. She is a wealthy white woman who will be fine no matter what events transpire.

Maybe a lot of people just have this internalized idea that women are damsels in distress, especially white women, that need to be saved. A lot of people also seem to think that because Melania Trump is an immigrant, she'll somehow make her way to a protest to protect undocumented immigrants one day. Hello?! She's married to the man that just signed the executive order to build a 12 million dollar wall to prevent immigrants from entering the country. She has her papers, she's safe now.

Melania Trump is not the victim in this situation. I do not "feel bad" or have any sympathy for her and I don't think anyone should. Perhaps direct that sympathy to the undocumented immigrants fearing for their lives, or the water protectors fighting against the Dakota Access Pipeline, or the citizens in Flint, Michigan who still don't have clean water.

## WORD ON THE STREET:

### DO YOU FEEL BAD FOR MELANIA TRUMP?



"I don't really feel sorry for Melania Trump because there is something about Donald that she had to connect with and that shows something about her." -Diego Guerrero, 12th Grade



"I feel very sorry for her having to become the First Lady with a president who doesn't understand the value of people's lives." -Johanna Caprietta, 12th Grade



"She's definitely in the wrong and I don't like when people victimize her." -Alex Cantu, 12th Grade

## Dude, You Dress Like A Girl!

MRS. CRISTINA MATA'S DIVERSITY IN LITERATURE AND FILM STUDENTS WERE REQUIRED TO WRITE EDITORIALS BASED ON THE DIFFERENT PERCEPTIONS OF PEOPLE WEARING GENDER NON-CONFORMING CLOTHING. THE FOLLOWING ARE QUOTES PULLED FROM SOME OF THE STUDENTS' PIECES.

"A woman can get away with wearing a suit and slacks to look professional, but you won't see a man wearing a formal skirt because that is seen as unprofessional and silly. There is no specific reasoning as to why people think like this, but it doesn't seem right. Males can be ridiculed for wearing tight women's jeans, whereas women are left alone for wearing baggy men's jeans, despite it looking weird for some people." -Noe Lopez

"If a boy is comfortable enough wearing stereotypical women clothing, everyone should accepting. There is no need to hate and judge someone, regardless of gender, because of the clothing they enjoy wearing." -Stacey Flores

"When we see a movie such as *White Chicks*, we can't help but laugh at two men dressing in pink dresses and high heels. In most movies, a male dressing up in any clothing deemed feminine is used for comedic effect, but why is this? Originally, heels were made for males for practical use and in the 1940's, pink was considered a boys' color. So why can't both genders choose to wear what they want without being labeled and ridiculed?" -Victoria Gonzalez

"Society tells us to express ourselves and to not be afraid of who we are, yet when we do express ourselves we are judged for it... Society should be more respectful and understanding of the individual preferences and we shouldn't feel entitled to question [an individual's] likings. We should view their actions and not their gender." -Jareny Talamantes

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# OPINION

## Women's March proved to be all exclusive

By NAYELI HERNANDEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

In what may have been the largest day of demonstrations in United States history, the Women's March on January 21 was a demonstration full of diversity, strength, and exclusion.

The idea that a march designed to support women's rights, and an array of other social justice issues, would exclude anyone seems unimaginable, if not ridiculous. Yet, many signs and demonstrations at the march proved to center around the rights of white cisgender women.

Media coverage of the march showed that many who participated in the march were wearing pink "PUSSYHAT" beanies, which were created as a way to reclaim the derogatory term used by the now President. This might seem like an empowering product at first glance, but what about the women (or those who also face misogyny) who don't have vaginas? And in the case of the women who dressed in vagina costumes or used signs with vaginas,



The Women's March proved to be one centered around white cisgender women.

there are people with vaginas who do not identify as women.

In an effort to fight for the liberation of women, trans women/non-binary/gender non-conforming people who face misogyny are often tossed aside and forgotten because of the work of TERFs and cisgender people who

don't look at issues outside of the ones that effect them personally.

TERFs are Trans-Exclusionary Radical Feminists. This means that their feminism advocates harm towards trans people, unconsciously or not.

Multiple protest signs at the march contained messages

like "this pussy grabs back" or "pussy power." The problem with such signs, besides the obvious trans exclusion, is that they reduce womanhood to biological essentialism- the belief that we are the way we are because of our genetic makeup.

What many of us, as cis-

gender people, need to understand is that gender is fluid. Genitalia does not equate to gender. We must always keep that in mind if we want to fight for liberation in these trying times.

After the march, women went to social media to discuss their experiences at the march. In reading these experiences, there is a recurrent pattern: many women of color felt out of place or even uncomfortable.

Although the march encouraged any and all issues to be presented, many women of color who chose to highlight issues such as the need for protection of undocumented immigrants or support in stopping the Dakota Access Pipeline, were frowned upon by white women.

If we are not fighting for the liberation and protection of all women, it is useless. It is vital to always check your privilege within any intersection, and remember about those who are affected by the issues that don't personally affect you.

### Word on the street:

"What is your opinion about Trump being our 45th president?"



**Jenny Huevo, 10:** I feel like it's the worst thing that could happen, but I hope he proves me wrong. I don't want him as President but I need him to be a good one.

### Word on the street:

"How do you feel about the Women's March?"



**Jasmine Orante, 12:** "I agree with the Woman's March because in the constitution it says that everyone should be treated equal, so for Donald Trump to say that woman are not as important as men is unfair"

**Fatima Lopez, 10:** I feel like he isn't qualified, his following is very uneducated and rude, and he is a terrible example. He shouldn't be the leader of our country He whines about everything. He offends people left and right but god forbid anybody offend him.



**Hailey Acevedo, 10:** "I'm really proud of society for coming together for such an important topic. I wish I could have been a part of it"

**Benjamin Ordaz, 11:** My opinion is, is that one way or another, this country will change. Only time will tell if the change is good.



## FEATURES

Classic rock loving Carlos Serrano is *Simply Irresistible!*

Photo by Ethan Sepulveda

BY JOCELYN ESTRADA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

If any ladies are waiting eagerly for someone to #ManCrushMonday, the perfect man is available! Classic rock loving Carlos Serrano is simply irresistible. Carlos has got it all from his brains to the glimmering windows of his soul protected by his 2015 Ray Bans. Many guys feel that

quiet mysterious girls are the way to go, but not Carlos. "I adore a girl that doesn't hold back, likes to cuddle and listens to good music." Not the average cheeto-finger licking, "I come late to school with Starbucks" chick. So if you don't fit into either of those two categories, feel free to shoot him a message!

His preferred group to listen to is The Beatles. (No, not black beatles, you hoodlum). So, next time you get a chance to talk to

Serrano, remember that all you need is love! Word to Paul McCartney. Besides love, Carlos can always count on a cheesy, warm and crispy bacon pizza to tingle his senses and never let him down.

In his spare time, he enjoys watching his top two favorite movies "Saving Private Ryan" and "Rogue One," but Serrano admits that he also finds interest in playing the guitar & piano, reading and procrastinating. I guess you can say he's a

bit of an artsy fella! Carlos loves to live in the moment and feel with the "enigma that is the inner machinations of his mind."

Although he soaks up the moments as much as he does butter beer from Harry Potter World, Carlos has high hopes for the future as well.

"My goals for the future are to survive college and discover what I truly want to do with my life. Actually, I don't really have anything planned out specifically." He's got it all down to a science; a future brighter than your Anastasia Beverly Hills glow kit from Sephora cosmetics! If by now you picture our pizza romantic as an indoor grunge geek, you've got it all wrong! Serrano is all about taking risks and going out for some excitement. So if you ever need someone to join you on your late night adventure for carne asada fries from Albert's, this is your guy!

The summer of 2016 was Carlos's prime adventure time, including his trip to an incredible theme park. "I went to Universal Studios and, for the first time, Harry Potter world!" It is clear where Carlos gets his *charm*.

Serrano enjoys flaunting his grey flannel with a t-shirt and jeans around campus, but not as much as he loves to do so in his math class. "Math, by far, is

my favorite because I actually understand what's going on for once. I'm retaking Calculus BC to better my previous grades, and I'm understanding everything much better now." If you ever need a tutor for your upcoming math test, Carlos is the perfect pick to guide you through math, although you may build up a little bit of chemistry, too!

Carlos would not be the person he is today without the motivation and influence of the people he has met throughout his life. "Jose Alcala is my biggest role model right now because he is just such a great guy and he is happy. I want to be like him." Carlos may not always make the best choices, but he's happy with the friends he has made. But "ob-la-di, ob-la-da, life goes on!" Word to The Beatles.

Carlos Potter of Gryffindor would love to give a warm shoutout to those he appreciates dearly. "Shout out to Daniel Ochoa and Jose Alcala for being my best friends and helping me become 'simply irresistible.'"

If there's one final thing Carlos wants all to remember is to never be afraid to start a conversation with him, "I've been told that I'm nice and am a good friend."

There's always a high chance for any lady to match pitch with the heart of the future Ed Sheeran.

## Key Club visits women's shelter



BY ALEKSEY SOTO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Four members of El Rancho's Key Club spread holiday cheer at the Isaiah House, a homeless shelter in Santa Ana, on December 18th, 2016 and donated gifts, served breakfast, and gave company to women in need. The girls started the day by helping prepare and serve breakfast. Then, they talked to the women.

"A lot of them were really happy that we took the time on a Sunday morning to go see them because they don't really have that many people who care for them that way," Amy Rodriguez, senior and club president, said, "and they just kept telling us that they were so thankful for us and they think that it's good that we started volunteering at such a young age."

Rodriguez is credited with starting and organizing the event.

"I started the event because, in middle school, I was connected through the shelter through [the North Park] band and I just wanted to do something more for them and spread the opportunity to others in the school," Rodriguez said.

"I was excited when Amy approached me about working with the Isaiah House and donating clothing there," Mr. Sorenson, Key Club advisor, said, "it was something she really wanted to continue this year as a senior."

The Isaiah House is a women's homeless shelter, although not only women can seek refuge. It has been active since 1987, and offers meals, showers, clothing, and a place to sleep for those in need. If you would like to volunteer and make a difference in many women's lives, get three friends and contact the Isaiah House at (714) 558-7478 to schedule your visit on a Wednesday, Friday, or Sunday.

## Zapien's Salsa grill is the place to be!

BY SAMANTHA BERROSPE  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

As one of the few family-run restaurants in Pico Rivera, Zapien's Salsa Grill is the perfect place to have a family style dining experience. With their traditional Mexican dishes, handmade tortillas, fresh salsa's, great guacamole, and fast, friendly service, Zapien's Salsa Grill is a perfect choice for breakfast, lunch, or dinner.

Located at 6702 Rosemead Blvd., Zapien's Salsa Grill is known for Chef Marco Zapien's cooking. Zapien incorporates his mother's and father's family recipes with his personal recipes, to make the dishes at his restaurant tasty and delicious. His dishes hold true traditional authentic flavors. From breakfast to dinner anything you order will not disappoint. With great prices and big portions, Zapien's makes sure you won't go home with an empty stomach.

Zapien's Salsa Grills' number one priority is making sure that all customers are satisfied with their meals, service and overall experience. The waiters and waitress are attentive and always ready to refill your drinks, chips and salsa and fulfill any other request you may have.

At Zapien's, I had one of the chef's specialties, the Salsa Steak Picado for dinner. The steak was tender, full of seasoning, and the salsa ranchera with sautéed onions, peppers, and tomatoes complimented the steak very well.



The rice and beans were to-die-for and tasted just as if it had just come out of abuelita's kitchen.

From a homely envi-

ronment to friendly service to amazing mouth-watering food, Zapien's Salsa Grill is the place to eat in Pico!

# FEATURES

## Teacher Feature: All the Shigs you didn't know!

BY DANA RODRIGUEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Mr. Randy Shigezane has been in the teaching/coaching business industry for about thirty years. However, how well do you think you know Mr. Shigezane?

Many know who Shigezane, a.k.a Shigs is, but he is far more than a successful coach and a great teacher. When he is not in the gym or on school campus, you can find him at the golf course when he has free time or at home relaxing while watching a game.

Mr. Shigezane's favorite meal is Sukiyaki, a Japanese dish that is served in the nabemono style and enjoys eating at Northwoods Inn located in Rosemead.

Shigs grew up around Pico Rivera. He was born in LA and lived in Montebello, however, he went to high school in Sierra Madre. Shigs started off college at PCC but only stayed one semester. He then went to Citrus College to receive his general education and then transferred to Cal State Fullerton for his Bachelors in Kinesiology. After receiving his bachelors he went off to Azusa Pacific and earned

his teacher credential there.

There is no doubt that Shigezane is a successful and driven man. He is an outstanding coach, teacher, and person. The key to his accomplishments is hard work.

"I've always been under the impression that if you work harder than everybody else, it gives you a chance to be successful, so I've always tried to outwork everybody," says Mr. Shigezane.

Shigs truly loves the atmosphere at El Rancho and has enjoyed working at the Ranch for the past years.

"It's always about the kids, them coming back as alumni. We've had some fun times on our trips," says Shigs. "One year we were down in San Diego for a tournament and one of the kids locked the door that you can't unlock from the outside and my assistant was sleeping in that room. We banged on that door for like four hours and the girl that was in that room literally slept like a rock, we still talk and laugh about it til this day. It's the fun little things that matter over the years. Obviously winning is important, I know the kids learned and enjoyed that part of it but really it's



Shigezane is known for his success with the girls' varsity basketball team.

the experience, being together, growing up together as a group."

Outside of school, Mr. Shigezane enjoys watching sports at home and enjoys listening to Hip Hop and R&B. His favorite song is currently When I See You Again by Wiz Khalifa. He is also a big fan of UCLA (go bruins!).

Yes, it is true that coach Shigezane has been coaching El Rancho's girls' basketball for many years, but what most people don't know is that not only has he coached college athletes, but he also coached cross country for 10+ years. He also coached track and field for over 15 years and was

the head coach in the sport for El Rancho and another high school.

Mr. Shigezane is often recognized for his success as the head varsity coach but goes unnoticed for being the hardworking person he is. If you see him around campus make sure to smile and say hi!

## Bethania Perez: Better Make Room



Bethania visits the White House to meet with Michelle Obama.

BY NAYELI HERNANDEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

College applications are in and the stress is finally over, unless you're senior Bethania Perez who has recently been admitted to the inaugural Better Make Room student advisory board.

The opportunity was brought to Perez by class of 2016 alumni, Justin Uribe, who emailed the application to college and career counselor, Mrs. Nancy Nasouf. Nasouf required all peer advisors to apply for the opportunity and was also Perez's sponsor for the application.

"I'm super proud of her," said Nasouf, "She's one of my peer advisors, so she's already doing a lot of the work that the program requires.. I'm really excited, especially since we were given the application the week before it and college applications were due."

Out of the 300 students who applied from across the

United States, Perez was one of the seventeen students selected to become a part of the advisory board. As a member of the program, Perez had the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. from January 4th-7th, as part of Michelle Obama's Reach Higher initiative, which is an effort to inspire every student in the nation to reach for a higher education.

In the nation's capital, Perez attended Michelle Obama's last speech as First Lady of the United States and learned more about her responsibilities within the program.

"We basically promote higher education," said Perez. "We give students direction on how to find the resources they need to go to college and we have to hold campaigns every six months."

Not only was Perez fortunate enough to meet the First Lady, she also met some celebrities attending the event.

"We got to hug [Michelle

Obama] and take a picture with her," said Perez. "I also got to meet Usher and Kelly Rowland. I have a picture with Usher and [meeting him] was the best thing," smiled Perez.

The trip to D.C. was one that Perez enjoyed immensely. "It was the best experience ever. If I could go back, I would. It went by too quick."

In terms of gaining insight from her work, Perez hopes to make a difference in our generation.

"I hope to encourage students toward higher education and make a difference in our generation. I hope there's more diversity in the universities and that higher education becomes a priority in most cultures."

Perez was recently honored by the city of Pico Rivera for her role with the Better Make Room Student Advisory Board. She is an ambitious student who will do amazing things for the community and make her school proud.

## The Memory Project



The AP Studio Art class shares their art.

BY DANA RODRIGUEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The AP Studio Art class, led by Mr. Diaz, recently participated in "the Memory Project." The project gives any artist, who wants to get involved, the opportunity to give a memory to the kids who are less fortunate in the world.

The students from AP Studio Art received a group of children's names with their age and favorite color attached, provided by The Memory Project. The children are from Columbia and live in areas where drugs and violence are an everyday occurrence. The photos were placed on a table where The AP Studio Art Students chose the child that best matched their personality. From there, their job was to create a portrait of the child.

This project was assigned this past September and the final draft was due in November. This gave students about three months to make the project come to life.

In order to make this event happen, the AP Studio Art Class reached out to the public to help with funding in order to send

their pictures to Columbia so the children could receive them. For the students to take part of this project they had to pay a fee, not only to make it possible, but to help pay for any materials they may have needed for their pieces. The students thank everyone who helped in making this memorable and moving event happen.

The Memory Project was first introduced by Mr. Diaz when he showed his class a video about the idea that inspired the project. The students were instantly inspired and excited about it.

"Without the student's, this project would not have come to life," says Diaz.

"I really hope Mr. Diaz offers this opportunity to the next class. It's a really great feeling to give a gift that a child can keep and remember," says participating senior, Aaron Gallegos.

"It's a good way for students to understand that art can have an impact whether it be large or small or a personal impact. The effect that these portraits have on these kids is truly heart warming and begin to understand that it's all worth it," says Diaz.

# WELCOME

## What are your New Year's Resolutions?



"I want to spend more time with family and friends and not stress about what I need to do" - Sophia Galvan, 12



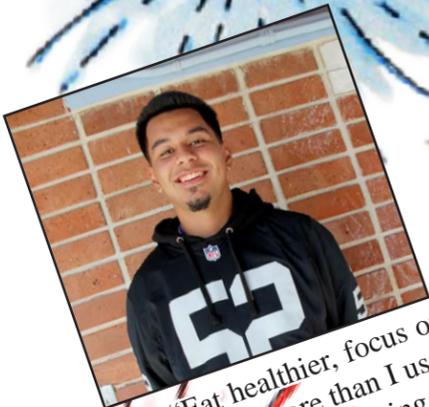
"My goal is to inspire others to be themselves" - Dyllenn Reyez, 11



"My resolution is to exercise more." - Joshua Baltazar, 9



"Use less sparknotes." - Valeria Perez, 12



"Eat healthier, focus on school way more than I used to, and not take anything for granted." - Noah Losoya, 12



"Spend more time with family and keep my grades up this semester" - Crystal Galvan



## Upcoming Movies

By KATHERINE EL RODEO STAFF

- A Dog's Purpose (January 27)
- The Space Between Us (February 3)
- Rings (February 3)
- The Lego Batman Movie (February 10)
- John Wick: Chapter 2 (February 10)
- Fifty Shades Darker (February 10)
- A Cure for Wellness (February 17)
- Fist Fight (February 17)

- Get Out (Feb)
- Logan (Ma)
- The Shack (F)
- Kong: Skull Island
- Beauty and the Beast
- Power Rangers
- Ghost in the Shell
- The Boss Baby

## New Year, New Laws



By ANTONIO CORTES EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

For the hard working, a wage increase will bring more hard earned money to your wallet. Minimum wage will now be \$10.50 per hour. This law has been active since January 1, 2017, so make sure to remind your employer, since not complying can result in losing their business.

For those who love haircuts, you now have another reason to enjoy your regular visit to the barber. Barber shops will now be able to legally serve alcoholic beverages to those of age from opening until 10:00 p.m. Just remember to call a cab/Uber after the first sip.

Those students who plan on attending college, make sure your school has a shower. College students who have moved out, paid for their tuition and are enrolled can now have permission to sleep on campus if they don't have a dorm room.

If you have a sibling under the age of two, remember to put them in a rear facing car seats. This will allow the child to have a greater chance of surviving an accident, and only come out with minimal injuries. Children taller than 40 inches and

weighing more than 40 pounds will be exempt to this law.

If you're an animal lover, you no longer have to feel powerless if an animal is trapped inside a hot car. Bystanders will now have full permission to break a car window in order to save an animal trapped in a car.

Drivers be warned. Drivers will be now be prohibited from driving while handling a smart phone. Phones may be in use if the driver is using earbuds during a phone call. Besides that, phones will have to be placed on the dashboard or onto the side.

Planning on going to work instead of college? Your track record will now no longer be required by your employer. But if there is a felony on your record, you must tell your employer.

Know anyone who is thinking about working for Uber? Before, Uber did a minimal background search on its employees by checking their driving record. Now Uber will have will have full permission to do a background check to ensure the safety on its many users nationwide. Background checks will involve criminal history, driving records, and drug related offenses.

## E TO 2017!

## Movies In 2017!

BY HERRERA  
STAFF WRITER

February 24)	The Fate of the Furious (April 12)
March 3)	Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.2 (May 5)
March 3)	King Arthur: Legend of the Sword (May 12)
March 10)	Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales (May 26)
March 17)	Diary of the Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul (November 4)
March 24)	Wonder Woman (June 2)
March 31)	Cars 3 (June 16)
March 31)	Stars Wars: The Last Jedi (December 15)

## Gosling and Stone are a dream to watch in *La La Land*



BY ETHAN SEPULVEDA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

*La La Land*, starring Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling, is the second hit from director Damien Chazelle (who also directed 2014's *Whiplash*). While the movie is a musical, don't let that deter you from enjoying a fantastic movie that combines the "Golden Age of Hollywood" along with the "Age of the Prius."

Set in the city of Los Angeles, *La La Land* tells the story of two ambitious lovers trying to make a name for themselves in the "City of Stars." Both Gosling, who plays a talented jazz pianist and Stone, who plays an aspiring actress, shine in this movie, with both actors having tremendous chemistry. The two somehow contrast, yet compliment each other.

As for the musical part of the film, the opening number "Another Day of Sun" can be quite jarring for someone not accustomed to musicals. Soon after the explosive opening that introduces the setting of Los Angeles, the movie

slows down to introduce the two leads that inhabit the city and immediately picks up from there.

While it does share the same beats as many other romance movies and can be at times predictable, *La La Land* builds to an emotional finale that ties the movie together perfectly.

*La La Land* also discusses themes of "success vs. happiness" in a manner that isn't as overbearing as it could be. Also, the use of the seasons in a year as both a punchline and to show that love can be a cycle, is one of the most creative use of the "time card" trope that I've seen.

Lastly, but not least, is the stunning cinematography that is just icing on an already fantastic cake. From extended, one-take dance sequences atop a freeway to a waltz through the planetarium in the Griffith Observatory, every shot seems like a dream come true.

With fantastic leads, gorgeous visuals, and a moving soundtrack, *La La Land* is a definite must-see.

## Ten of the most anticipated games of 2017



BY MICHAEL MARTINEZ AND ADAM ALLRED  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

**1. Resident Evil 7: Biohazard:** Capcom's attempt at trying to reboot the survival horror franchise, Resident Evil 7 will take a different approach and take a first-person point of view. You play as Ethan Winters, who finds an unexpected email saying that his wife is missing. Ethan is led to a mansion where he gets hit unconscious and wakes up in the clutches of the Baker family. Out Now.

**2. The Last of Us Part 2:** The sequel follows the events of the original zombie survival game, The Last of Us; the game also follows the same two characters as they try to survive in this post-apocalyptic society.

**3. Red Dead Redemption 2:** Set in the Old West, Rockstar continues the legacy of the series. Like the previous, RDR2 is an open world action game with a fall 2017 release date. With other games from Rockstar changing from the traditional single protagonist to three, we can likely expect similar changes in this franchise. The game is set to release in fall of this year.

**4. Kingdom Hearts 2.8:** Kingdom Hearts 2.8 is the final chapter prologue, right before the release of Kingdom Hearts III. Having a remastered Kingdom Hearts: Dream Drop Distance, running at a stunning 60 frames per second, coming to console for the first time! Not only that, but Kingdom Hearts 2.8 will also have an HD movie of Kingdom Hearts: Unchained X, and Kingdom Hearts 0.2, so you will be able to play as Aqua to see how she will set into Kingdom Hearts III. Out Now.

**5. Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild:** Breath of the Wild is an open-world action adventure Zelda game. Breath of the Wild is a typical Zelda game, where a single player roams through the world defeating dungeons and bosses in order. Coming out on March 3.

**6. Horizon: Zero Dawn:** Horizon Zero Dawn is an action RPG, with stunning graphics, coming exclusively to PlayStation 4 on February 28. Revolving around an archer whose home is attacked and overrun by robots, she must roam the open world and discover what is going on.

**7. Cuphead:** An old cartoon style platformer, Cuphead moves the player through various levels defeating enemies and bosses. Cuphead is set to release later this year, after several delays.

**8. Tom Clancy's Ghost Recon: Wildlands:** Moving the Ghost Recon series to an open-world setting, Wildlands uses a system of switching between characters in your team, enabling the player to dictate how they want to complete the mission. With a March 7 release date, pick this game up if an open-world FPS sounds fun.

**9. Uncharted: The Lost Legacy:** Releasing later this year, this installment of the Uncharted franchise is a standalone expansion to Uncharted 4. Starring returning characters Chloe Frazer and Nadine Ross, the game acts as a sequel while also being an expansion. The Lost Legacy takes place after the events of Uncharted 4, with the two characters searching for a lost treasure.

**10. God of War:** An addition to Sony's God of War franchise, God of War follows the storyline succeeding God of War III. This installation makes some changes to combat mechanics and also changes from Greek Mythology to Norse. Coming December 2017.

# CAMPUS

## Guest speaker shares stirring survival story with students



Photo by Ethan Sepulveda

BY NAYELI HERNANDEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

*Content Warning: sexual abuse, drug addiction, conversion therapy*

This past Wednesday, the Sozo Youth group joined El Rancho and guest speaker, Kegan Wesley, during lunch as he spoke about overcoming sexual abuse and drug addiction at a young age.

The event was put together by the Sozo Youth group from the Hope Community church at 5044 S Durfee Ave, Pico Rivera, who were invited by the Dons 4 Christ Adviser, Mr. Paul Brandt. The group handed out free burritos to those who attended the event, along with an invitation to another event at the church later that night.

"We just wanted to do an outreach to get people to come to our church and really experience something different," said Youth Leader and El Rancho alumni, Joel Palomera.

Wesley started off his talk with what seemed as two simple stories from his own life, that led

to one overall message: "There's more." He then transitioned into speaking about his experience at a birthday party when he was in the fourth grade, in which he was raped and molested by older men and later an older woman.

"I was ten years old and all I could think was 'Where do I go? What do I do?'" said Wesley. "I started looking for love in all of the wrong places... Whoever would give me love, I was their guy."

The story transitioned into Wesley's struggle with drug addiction as he got older and how he later found solace in the church and God. Wesley also stated that he hasn't touched drugs and has been waiting for the girl that Jesus puts in his path since he first stepped foot in a church six years ago. Wesley also had a message for those who could not attend the event:

"I want everyone to know that they're world changers no matter what and they have a choice in how they're going to change the world, for good or for bad." Wesley is a pastor at a

youth and young adult church in his hometown of Louisville, Kentucky. He also travels around the world to work with youth and young adults, along with participating in other mission works.

It's important to add that in further research on Kegan Wesley, he was found to have spoken on his "struggle with homosexuality" in interviews like CBN's "700 Club Interactive." He was also quoted in an article that dealt with the White House's comments, banning sexual orientation conversion therapy, saying, "I had to say, 'Lady Gaga, shut up. I was not born this way.'" An open letter to Wesley from conversion therapy survivor and national LGBT+ policy activist, Sean Sala, can also be found. Sala calls out Wesley for saying he "used to swish" and affiliating the way people walk and talk to "being gay," while also causing social damage to the LGBT+ community he preaches to, as he encourages the belief that God can "save you" from your sexuality.

## Winter Formal Preview!



BY JOCELYN ESTRADA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The 2016-2017 school year has been full of rough competition and school spirit, but it's time to kick off the sweats and throw on your dress shoes and heels. Thanks to El Rancho's incredible dance commissioner, Sarah Navarro, Winter Formal is a go. So please, "Be our Guest!"

Formal this year is going to be an experience no Don wants to miss. "I've been planning Winter Formal for two months. The theme of 'Beauty and the Beast' was chosen because it won on the poll I ran on Twitter. We came up with the idea because of the movie coming out this year," says Navarro. You don't have to dress up as a beast, teapot or clock to enter, but there will definitely be many beauties and prince Adams all around. Sarah came together with

her fellow Associated Student Body (ASB) members to make the magic happen. "Formal is on February 4th, 2017 at Almanson Court. Our room will be facing a lake," Navarro adds. Incredible students with an incredible view, what a combination! Not only will you get to eat and dance, but you'll have the chance to take incredible photos with your friends to make the memories last.

ASB encourages all to attend the marvelous event. "To anyone who plans not to attend, I think you are truly missing out on a great experience because everyone goes all out and just has a great time," says ASB President, Samantha Leggis. Winter Formal is an event many Dons look forward to every year. There is high hope for an incredible turnout, "I'm excited to see how everything comes together," adds Sarah. See you at the 2017 Winter Formal!

# 8th ANNUAL FUN RUN FUNDRAISER



▶ **SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 18th**  
▶ **5K at 7:30AM • 1K at 8:30AM**



▶ at **EL RANCHO HIGH SCHOOL**  
**6501 PASSONS BOULEVARD**

▶ **PRE-REGISTRATION AND CHECK-IN 6-7AM**

Run, jog, or walk for a good cause. All proceeds benefit the El Rancho High School Track & Field program. Donations are welcomed. Refreshments and awards immediately following the event. Open to all ages and abilities.



Register at El Rancho High School, Mon - Fri, 7:30AM - 3:30PM.  
Questions? Email Ray Elliott- relliott@erUSD.org, Gabriel Garcia- erhstf.garcia@gmail.com or call (562) 801 - 5355 x439

# CAMPUS

## H2O is good for the soul

BY ADAM ALLRED  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

In the most inconspicuous spot of the school, a corner of the H building across from activities, a new water fountain has been installed by the district. Complete with a filter and a top mounted fountain for filling up water bottles, no more must one sacrifice spilling water and getting their hands wet to completely fill a water bottle.

The fountain also features a digital counter to calculate the number of bottles saved from a landfill thanks to it,

which is over as of January 30th 570. More fountains like these could be a step in the right direction toward a more eco-friendly and modern school.

More new things like this fountain could mean that more new stuff is yet to come, such as science equipment and sports gear.

A senior, Mia Alvarez, says she loves the new water fountain "because I bring a refillable water bottle to school every day and I can refill it to stay hydrated." Another senior, Amber Aldridge, says that the water looks and tastes great.

This new fountain



By Ethan Sepulveda  
will prove invaluable in the notoriously hot California summers. Student's struggle to stay hydrated throughout the day will have a new and easier way to fill their bottle with ice cold water. There is a difference

of opinion, though, senior Adrian Flores wishes that the trip for crisp and refreshing water did not have to be a journey. If only there were more than one or all the old fountains replaced with this new one.

The only downside of the new fountain is that there is only one. The new fountain can potentially provide some competition to the old one in the library for best water.

If you're the type of person to bring a refillable water bottle to school, make sure to drop by the H building by the Activities Office to try out the new fountain.

### District offers to pay for AP Exams

BY KAYLA PEREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho High School recently announced that all Advanced Placement exams would be paid for students enrolled for testing in May.

Many students across the globe take these exams yearly to challenge their academic intake, boost their GPA, and receive college credit.

However, the opportunity comes with a cost. College Board, the distributor of the exams, requires every student taking a test to pay a fee of \$93 per exam, which is seen as a financial burden for most students.

"It didn't stop me, but it did give me a limit as to how many APs and opportunities I wanted to give myself," implies sophomore Kassandra Saldana, "rather than taking three AP's, I took one due to the price of the test."

To stop financial issues from interfering with academic potential, the school decided to take action and pay for the exams. Many still wonder, where did the money to pay for the exams come from?

"The money is coming from the same pot that allows the district to pay for the PSAT's," say El Rancho's principal Jonathan Lyons, "it does not affect the other financial pots of the city."

"We felt that one of the stumbling blocks of taking AP's is simply the cost of the exam," continues Lyons, "I think that our goal was to reduce the barriers of AP, to alleviate the anxiety of 'This exam is a lot of money so you must pass it!' and to really let students test themselves to their ability."

The school's AP teachers were very supportive and enthusiastic about this kind act and the many expansions it will bring to the AP program.

"I think it's awesome and is a better opportunity for our kids," says AP Calculus teacher Mr. Francis, "personally, I'm always looking for ways to expand the AP Calculus program, so I think believe that this will be the perfect solution."

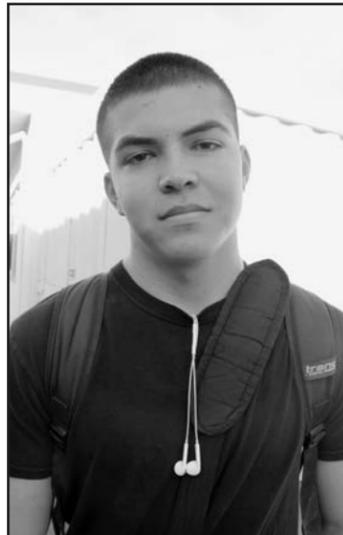
It has not been confirmed as to if the exams will be paid for next year. However, it does seem apparent so students should not be afraid to sign up for AP classes in the 2017-2018 school year.

## Word On The Street

### How do you feel about the new Water Fountain?



"It's a pretty good water fountain, it's pretty easy to use, and more convenient for me."  
- Olivia Ball, 12



"The new water fountain is great because it's easier to get water and fill my bottle"  
- Esmeralda Garcia, 12



"It's a great way to preserve wildlife and reduces the amount of water bottles. It's fast and easy to. #SaveTheDolphins"  
- Julio Ornelas, 11

"The water is not as high quality as I expected, but it's still good to have on campus because I get to stay hydrated."  
- Angel Molina, 11



## Library Corner

Which show is NOT based on a book? Bring the correct answer to ER Library. The first 3 students will receive an In-In-Out free burger coupon.

1. Dexter
2. Game of Thrones
3. Supernatural
4. Vampire Diaries



GAME OF THRONES™

DEXTER

## SPORTS

## El Rancho's Lady Dons keep on rolling

BY DANA RODRIGUEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Before their league started, El Rancho's Lady Dons had a goal of achieving a fifth consecutive league title in girls basketball and a shot for a CIF ring. So far, they just might reach those goals.

The Lady Dons are undefeated in league with a record of 5-0 thus far, dominating every team they've faced. With captains Brittany Corona and Amy Navarro, along with head coach Mr. Shigezane, followed by the rest of the team, there is no telling how far they will go.

"I'm happy with what we have accomplished as a team so far. I feel like we have worked hard to get where we are now," says Navarro.

"I think our season is going great. Our defense is our strongest strategy," adds freshmen varsity player Jaylene Oviedo.

"These girls have worked hard to be this successful. They're a talented group of players," says Shigezane.

Their hard work is not the only thing that motivates and makes this team successful. They



Lady Dons are undefeated in league with an 18 game streak.

are pushed to be their best day in and day out by their coach, Mr. Shigezane. "Shigs always finds our mistakes during games and when practice comes we fix our mistakes. He's also very specific on explaining things to us on the court," says Oviedo.

"Our coaches have dedicated so much time into making us the best players we can possibly be and we couldn't thank them

enough," adds Navarro. "I think we are successful because we have such great team chemistry we are all super close on and off the court. We also have a great coaching staff and we are all year around which makes us be prepared."

Even considering their success and accomplishments, the team manages to stay humble and never underestimates their competition.

Photo by Kayla Perez

"We play every team the same, no matter how good or bad a team is, we were taught to always have great sportsmanship and not be over confident, but trust that we are a great team," says Navarro.

However, no team is perfect. The Lady Dons are no doubt stacked with talent and are successful but they too, have things to improve

on in order to play their best.

"I hope to improve our confidence as a team because I feel like we sometimes can tend to focus on the negatives about us," says Navarro.

"I hope we can fix our offense, not saying we don't stable offense I think we are doing good but maybe finishing our plays," adds Oviedo.

Since league is quickly coming to an end, it has an emotion toll on the senior players.

"It is a bittersweet feeling because I am very sad that it's going to be my last season playing with girls. I have been with all my four years, but I know that the younger kids will continue to keep the girls basketball program successful and also I know that the seniors this year will leave a legacy to be remembered," says Navarro, "I hope to be an inspiration to my teammates so they can push themselves to be better than I ever was."

The Lady Dons play every Wednesday and Friday night. Make sure you don't miss a game and go out and support the Dons as they fight to make their goals become reality.

## Boys basketball fights through tough losses



Jimmy Valenzuela reaches for victory, at the start of the game, against Santa Fe HS.

BY DANA RODRIGUEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The boys varsity basketball season isn't going quite as planned for the Dons but they aren't giving up without a fight. On the positive side, the team is full of talent and potential. There are still seven games left which means there is a chance for the boys to pick themselves up and place for playoffs.

With a league record of 1-4 they're experiencing some setbacks. "It's not how I wanted

it to turnout, but we have a lot of younger guys that just need to adapt to the varsity level. It's not about wins and losses, it's about just growing as a team and preparing for the future," says senior captain Noah Losoya.

Another challenge these boys face is going through the transition of receiving a new head coach, Jason Chacon, who replaced long time head coach, Mr. Ray Elliott.

Although Chacon wasn't new to the program (he was the assistant coach)

the change wasn't easy. "The transition for us was hard as a team but we had to move on," says, captain Jacob Baltierra, junior.

"Our new coach brings a lot of energy to our team and makes us feel comfortable, it's great," adds captain Sebastian Lara.

"I'm not gonna lie it was tough going through a transition like that, but at the end of the day, we are the same team and we just have to focus on what we have to do in the classroom and on the court," concludes Losoya.

Photo by Daniel Reveles

"Well I've been an assistant at El Rancho for the past ten years, so parts of the transition were smooth in that I've built relationships with teachers, administrators and parents," adds Chacon.

"I'm proud that these boys have come together to believe in something that's bigger than themselves. They were consolation champions at the Sierra Vista Tournament and took 3rd place in our own Blue Pride Classic," says Chacon.

"To keep the team positive, I talk to them almost like every pos-

session to just guide them through every situation whether it's good or bad so they could learn from their mistakes," says Losoya.

"We motivate ourselves and our teammates to do our best and to stay positive no matter the circumstances," says Lara. With this mindset guiding the team, there is hope for the Dons to maintain their goals.

Despite the way their season is turning out there are great things these boys are doing. "I'm proud of my team because they are starting realize how much every practice or game means and that something so little can change a whole game!" Says Losoya.

"No our record doesn't reflect our talent our record is bad but we have talented players on our team we just have to learn from our record," says Lara.

"There's no way it reflects our full potential. These are teams we should compete with. I'm proud that our team has stuck together through this," says Baltierra.

"We are a young team with some sophomores and juniors who haven't played varsity before. My goal is to get these guys to believe in one another and their ability to compete against anyone," says Chacon.

"Our challenge right now is to get out of our slump of a losing streak and to overcome it we just have to share the ball and trust each other what we do on the court," says Losoya.

The boys still hope to compete for the rest of the season and qualify for playoffs. Be sure to be there supporting the team as they battle it out through the rest of season.

# SPORTS

## Boys soccer sets goals both on and off the field



Boys Soccer members huddle up for a photo.

Photo by Mr. Zeko

By JOCELYN ESTRADA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This year, El Rancho's varsity boys will be heading toward yet another Del Rio League

championship. After multiple wins and a current history of fourteen wins, one loss, and two tied games, the boys continue to work hard and pave the road to the CIF championship ring!

The Dons successfully improve their skills and say they make each other proud. "The teams progress has grown in a positive way that has been earned by hard work," says junior Steve

Acuna. "We have progressed by sacrificing and understanding our own mistakes and correcting them to our greatest ability."

With high hopes buzzing through each player, they are proud of the journey they have taken thus far.

"I feel like we have come far from where we started two seasons ago. Even though I wasn't on varsity, watching the team grow to what we are today is the best part, and we're only getting better," says senior Keillan Goyenaga.

The team has definitely got their head into the game and value the opportunities they have been given. However, they are well aware of what they need to improve on to continue their streak.

"We need improvement in starting our games off with intensity and not waiting until the second half to step up our game," shares captain Armando Godoy. "At practice, we mainly work on passing or shooting drills. I think it's really important to share the ball

during practice so it comes naturally in the game, and we keep the ball away from the other team."

Not only is it about the physical commitment, but the mental one as well. "We must work on our consistency and not have any compassion toward anyone who lines up on the same field as we do. Every game from now on is a battle and we must show no weakness" says Acuna. The boys are working hard to make their mark on the field and bring home the title.

Although every player has a different strategy, they all share the same expectations and hopes for the team.

"My goal is to help and be there for my teammates, as they would for me, take care of league, take CIF and bring back the name of soccer to El Rancho," shares Goyenaga. Reaching the CIF championship is something the team reaches high for, and knows that every Don is behind it too.

## Girls soccer passes up the chance for league

By NAYELI HERNANDEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's Girls' Varsity soccer team hopes for a strong ending to their struggling season.

With a 1-5 league standing for the season, the girls haven't had the most ideal of seasons, but they see it all as a learning experience.

"We've improved from last year, but we're not getting the results we had hoped for. We're still working on it, it's not over," said senior Varsity captain, Diana Gamez.

The girls recently played against Santa Fe High School, which resulted in a 0-1 loss for the team. They hope to look upon themselves as a team to improve themselves for their next game against Pioneer High School today.

"We need to improve on finishing on the field. We have

opportunities, but we don't finish them," said senior Hillary Portillo.

"I think we need to work on playing as a team," added Gamez.

Even with a need to see improvement, the girls agree that the team, as a whole, has a great bond.

"I feel like we're always having a good time because of our bond and we always make each other laugh," said Gamez.

For the seniors on the team, the girls hope to see better results until the very end. Many of the girls that are playing for their last season hope to make it worthwhile during the last four league games, as some won't be able to continue as they move on to college.

"We saw the past seniors and always thought, 'Why are they crying?' but it hits you when you're the senior," said Portillo.

The girls may have had



Patty Herrera steals the ball from an opponent.

Photo by Ethan Sepulveda

a rough start, but they hope to continue to pull through and refuse to give up this season. Be sure to show some spirit

and support the girls today as they play Pioneer High School!

## Girls water polo swims away from league

By ANDREYA YAXCAL  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With only a few games left, the girls' varsity water polo season is quickly coming to an end. After some ups and downs this season, the team hopes to finish their last games strong.

These last few games were rough but the girls always dominated until the very end. "We had a lot of injuries," says Coach Castillo, "but we had a really good success with the new girls, which

was really exciting to see." While hoping to have won league, the girls know what they need to improve on. "We struggled more because it was a new team, but they learned their strengths and we

helped them get better," explains Varsity captain, Sara Polanco. After the results of this season, the girls are still satisfied knowing there is still time for improvement. "I know we could've

done better in some games, but I know that we're a good team," argues Rene Gallegos, "we tried our best, and I'm proud of us."

With little time to end this season, underclassmen are ready for what next season has in store for them.

"Next year, I hope we pick it up so that we could come maybe second in league," says Rene Gallegos.

"I hope we improve on a lot of stuff that we are not so strong on," adds Mia Carbajal.

Coach Castillo also is excited and cannot wait for how next year's varsity team will be.

"A lot of the other girls already played with varsity," she says, "they have an idea of what it is to be part of that team."

With some time for improvement, the girls' varsity water polo season isn't finished yet. Their next home game is today against Whittier High School.



Girls water polo warms up for an exciting a match.

Photo by Noah Perez

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## New Year Horoscopes



### Aries

You're putting others before yourself too often and it's time to take a break! Learn to just relax and kick off your working boots. Accept the help people offer you and be aware of your physical & mental stability!

### Taurus

Time to pick up the pace! Even though you've been chillin', it's time to put some effort into your life, second semester has begun! Maintain that carefree spirit, but remember to get your priorities straight!

### Virgo

Leave the drama for your mama! You've got too many problems on your hands. It's time to mind your own business and better yourself. Focus on you, boo!

### Sagittarius

Second chances are rare, so take advantage of them when they come your way! You know right from wrong and it's time to make your mark and leave others in awe.

### Scorpio

There are a lot of new obstacles that are coming into your life, but before making any rash decisions, do some soul searching. After all, you know what's best!

### Cancer

Don't forget to manage your time and organize your priorities. You've got a big storm coming, so don't be afraid to ask questions and request some guidance. Your attitude is what counts most!

### Gemini

Even though you may have been experiencing some hardships, it's time to let it go! Good karma is coming your way, and you'll finally feel at your full potential. Live life and be happy!

### Libra

Even though things are going great for you, don't get too comfortable! Remember where you came from, things won't always be this easy. Get out there and work it!

### Capricorn

It's time to find a new hobby that'll help you keep your mind healthy and busy. No more sulking around! Stick with your passion, but be sure not to lose yourself within it all.

### Leo

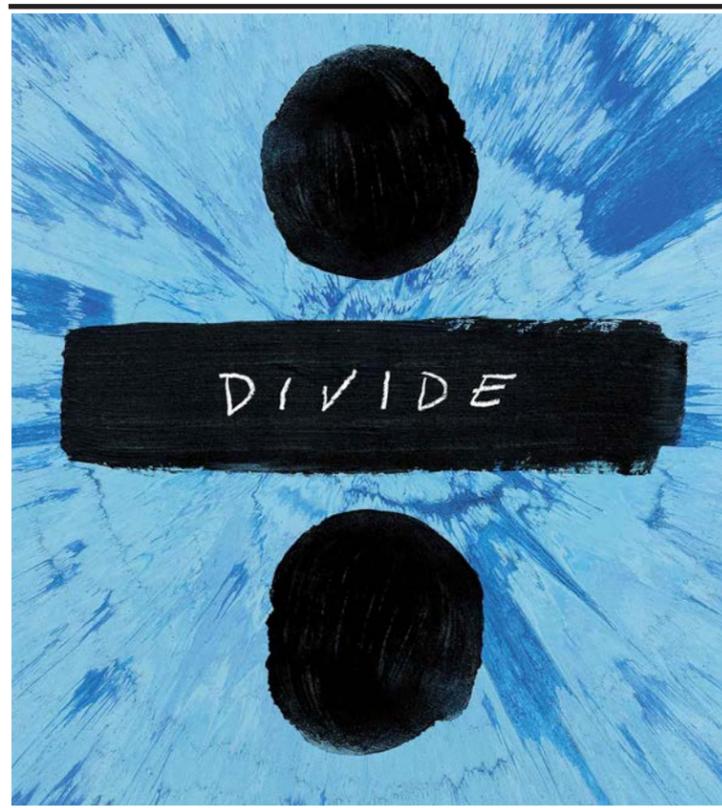
Love is coming your way! Don't be afraid to put yourself out there and make your interests known. Be confident and never be discouraged, the love pool is always open!

### Aquarius

Throughout this hectic life, your hunt for happiness is coming to an end. You've done an amazing job in putting yourself out there, and you'll realize your strength soon enough.

### Pisces

Watch your temper! Everyone has feelings, and you need to put yourself in other's shoes. Don't get caught up and abuse your strength. Not everyone has an ego like yours!



## Ed Sheeran is back and better than ever!

BY ANDREYA YAXCAL  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Early this month, Ed Sheeran released two songs, 'Shape of You' and 'Castle on the Hill', from his new album 'Divide.'

Within the same week, they were released, both of these singles hit the top charts and blew away Spotify's record in less than 24 hours.

Ed Sheeran states that he is "truly overwhelmed with the reaction to these new songs. I've never had anything like this."

One of the released singles, 'Shape of You' was

originally intended to be on Rihanna's new album 'Anti.' However, Sheeran decided he would not offer the song when he "started writing lyrics like 'putting Van the Man on the jukebox' and thought 'she's not really going to sing that.' So we decided halfway through that this would work for me."

The 'Thinking Out Loud' singer has revealed that as inspiration for his new album he used the memories he made with his Cherry Seaborn on his time-off from work.

"I'm actually the happiest I've been and

it's because I had a year to spend with someone. I've always started relationships then gone off on tour," states Sheeran.

The full track list was released and consists of twelve songs plus four songs for the deluxe version. Fans noticed a familiar title for one of the songs "Galway Girl" and are eagerly guessing that it will be a cover of the Irish blues song by Steve Earle.

The album will be released on March 3 and fans could not be more excited for the fantastic music that awaits them.

## Presidential Inauguration :

