



El Rodeo



ERHS admin looks to address tardy problem



BY BIANCA ARIAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Despite the recent tardy assembly, tardiness at El Rancho continues to be a significant problem.

Now, vice Principal, Mr. Collings and fellow administrators are working on developing a new attendance initiative to encourage students to “Be On Time.” The initiative will hopefully be implemented in late spring or by the fall of 2018.

“We are currently working on a plan that will hopefully encourage students to realize that having good attendance has its benefits.”

“Today, our culture has somehow adopted the belief that arriving to school on time is a choice,” says Mr. Collings.

“There is a problem with many of our students, and in many cases their parents, who do not realizing that punctual attendance to school is no more a choice than arriving to one’s employment on time. It’s not a choice, it is a meaningful preparation for life after high school.”

Collings emphasizes, “What many students fail to grasp, is that arriving to class on time is one of the most respectful acts a student can do for a teacher.

Perhaps one day, soon I hope, our students will understand that this simple gesture of arriving to class on time, will reap more benefits that they can imagine.”



Dons take part in national walkout to protest gun violence in wake of Parkland, Florida school shooting



Dons hold hands in a show of solidarity with the victims of Marjory Stoneman Douglas shooting.

BY DEVENIE ANCHONDO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

In response to a mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida on February 14th where seventeen people were killed and seventeen were injured, students from El Rancho and students from hundreds of schools across the country participated in the #NationalWalkoutDay on March 14th.

Even though El Rancho was scheduled for a lock down drill at 9:45 a.m., students remained determined to walk out and show their support. The lock down drill ended just a few minutes before the national walkout was scheduled.

Students walked out at 10 a.m. in support of gun control and in memory of the seventeen Stoneman Douglas High School students and staff mem-

bers who were killed during the campus shooting. About 200 students walked out for a duration of seventeen minutes, one minute for each student killed.

Senior Evelin Salas spoke out during the event, saying, “We are not willing to wait for another innocent life to be taken because someone had easy access to a gun. We shouldn’t have to feel scared about not making it back home. We want a

solution and we want it now.”

“I know that many people see our movement as a waste of time, but I believe that through unification we can achieve great things,” said junior Jesus Delgado. “We, the youth, are the future of this world, and if we want things to change, we must take action.”

Across the nation, hundreds of students attending Baltimore Polytechnic Institute walked out and showed their support by laying down and staying silent for 17 minutes and students attending Mount Diablo High School broke through locked gates in protest.

The Rio Hondo College Sociology class will be hosting a march/rally in support of gun control on Saturday, March 24th at the parking lot across El Rancho. Originally started by @AMarch4OurLives on Twitter, the event will be from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. but arrive 15 minutes earlier for check-in.

During the event, the following workshops will be held: poster making (begins at 9 a.m.), voter registration (Social Security Number and government issued ID needed), and letter writing to Congress and to the families in Florida who were affected by the school shooting. To RSVP, contact erhsoc@gmail.com.

Blue team surfs to victory in Don Games



The seniors and freshmen joined forces to beat the Gray team.

Photo from the Annual Staff

BY SEBASTIAN CARCANO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Don Games were in full swing during the week of March 12th. The two rivals, the Blue Team (consisting of freshmen and seniors) and the Gray Team (consisting of sophomores and juniors) battled it out over the course of the week in hopes of coming out on top.

ASB started prepping for the event in early February. Members of both teams stayed after school almost every day either decorating or practicing

the skit they would perform the night of the Don Games pep rally.

Activities were held throughout the entire week.

On Monday, both teams went head to head and went all out decorating their respective gates, waking up at 5 am to cover the entrances with posters and streamers. Students were encouraged to dress according to the day’s spirit week theme: stripes for the Blue Team and solids for the Gray Team

Tuesday involved a lip sync competition between the two teams at lunch. The Blue Team’s

theme for the day was Socs, preppy school attire, while the Gray Team’s theme was Greasers.

Serena Perez, senior president, said, “[The competition] was probably my favorite part. It was exciting seeing people step out of their shells and perform all out for their team on that runway.”

On Wednesday, there was a food carnival at lunch. Clubs sold snacks ranging from ice cream sandwiches to orange chicken bowls to pozole. The themes of the day were Blue Team Rappers versus Gray Team Rockers.

Thursday was the big day. Don Games began at 7:00 p.m. that night. Both teams flooded the gym dressed up according to their theme; the Blue Team were surfers and the Gray Team were dressed for a masquerade. The gym was divided and each side was decorated.

Ten games were played and each team performed a skit. The blue team secured five wins while the gray team got four. One game was not counted. The night concluded with a tie-breaker game in which Blue came out on top. After this, students joined hands to sing the Alma Mater and the score was announced, with the Blue Team emerging victorious.

“It was a very fun and great experience getting closer to all the juniors and sophomores and creating better relationships,” Alexis Gallegos, sophomore ASB president and gray team member, said. “I feel as if my team and I tried our best and had a good time in the process. I believe we did not disappoint.”

Julio Ornelas, ASB president, said, “I am very happy with the results, it was a close one but our hard work paid off. [The] Gray team’s skit was really cute but sorry cuties, we run this beach.”

“Best of luck to next year’s blue team and thank you to the judges for giving us that fourpeat,” Ornelas said.

DISCOVERING DON'S

Andrea Chavez



BY LESLIE PLAZA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Taylor Bañuelos is your all-around student athlete. This quirky blonde has participated in varsity soccer and varsity track and field all while completing AP classes such as AP Calculus and AP English Literature; in addition, she takes Rio Hondo classes like Speech 101 and Sociology. Taylor is also a part of ASB as our 2017-2018 Girls Athletics Commissioner! Though rigorous courses may take a toll on her, Taylor is able to let out some steam on the soccer field. She has played for over 11 years, spending most of her soccer career playing a variety of positions. In addition, Taylor has held her title as varsity soccer captain for two years! She also enjoys spending downtime at home on *Twitter*. Catch up on Taylor's busy life through her *Twitter*! (@Tay_Banuelos)

BY LESLIE PLAZA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Sporty, smart, and outgoing, Andrea Chavez is the stereotypical college-bound student. This senior keeps herself busy through clubs and rigorous courses. She's a member of Teen Court, CSF, Leos and Key Club. She even takes college classes at Rio Hondo Community College on top of AP classes such as AP Stats, AP French, and AP English Literature, all while maintaining Principal's Honor Roll! "Don't give up on your dreams or your dreams will give up on you" is a quote that always helps Andrea stay motivated. She does treat herself by binge-watching her favorite *Netflix* shows like *Grey's Anatomy* in her free time. A fact you may not know about her is that she plays the piano and has played for over four years! You can learn more about Andrea or maybe DM her on *Twitter*! (@andreaxchavez)

Taylor Bañuelos



BY MARIELA MICHEL
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Maria Torres is a passionate sophomore tennis player and student. She plays tennis whenever she has the chance and loves reading a good book in her spare time. Torres is passionate about being an active member of the community and does so by participating in community service events such as Trick or Treat for Hunger, Rose Bowl Decorating, and volunteering for the Key Club blood drives. She is an active participant in clubs such as AVID and Key Club. Torres is particularly proud of being awarded the pathway to biliteracy award in middle school and feels pride just helping as many people as possible. In the future, she hopes to continue making amazing memories and, hopefully, attend a four-year college when she graduates. Torres describes herself as "a weird happy-going girl who always tries to keep her head up no matter the issue."

Maria Torres



BY MARIELA MICHEL
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

From academic to artistic abilities, Jacqueline Ascencio has got it all! Ascencio is an active member of the school with many interests and goals. Ascencio is fluent in Spanish and English, but hopes to study Portuguese, Italian and continue studying French. She believes learning another language is a significant accomplishment to being more successful in society. It opens the door for more opportunities and power. Ascencio uses her power of multilingualism to tutor other students in Spanish as well as French. Being an active member of the Academic Decathlon team, California Scholarship Federation (CSF), and a former member of the Leos Club, Ascencio rarely has spare time, but when she does, she expresses her creativity through drawing. She explains how her time in Mr. Chiang's art class helped her improve her skills and explore different mediums of art. In the future, Ascencio hopes to major in criminal justice and forensic biology to eventually work as a crime scene investigator. She is particularly proud of earning a silver medal in speech for Academic Decathlon and expresses gratitude towards her instructors and teammates. "I am literally the nicest person at El Rancho. Ha as if! Oh honey, I am probably one of the sassiest people you will ever meet," she says.

Jacqueline Ascencio



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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.

FEATURES

Ben Barrientez is *Simply Irresistible!*

BY BREMO MARTINEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Ben Barrientez, senior, is one of El Rancho's smartest and sweetest Dons of all time. But more importantly, Ben is *simply irresistible!*

Ever since attending Rivera Middle School, Barrientez has wanted to be in the Decathlon. This led to him winning first place in the Pentathlon. Luckily, Ben was fortunate enough to be a member of the Decathlon team at the Ranch.

"Honestly, joining Decath was the best part of my year. I got to know Sebastian Carcano, Julio Ornelas, and Andrew Sepulveda, which were the highlights," said Ben.

Ben isn't only dedicated to his academics. He's a member of El Rancho's band. Barrientez wished to join band since sophomore year because he missed playing music. For marching season, Ben decided to play the tuba when the band director simply asked: "who wants to play the tuba?"

Now, he plays a baritone due to his promise he made to the baritone section leader which was that he would play the baritone when he joined band. Ben's passion for music led to him to apply for Whitier College, majoring in music.



Math geek Benjamin Barrientez posing in the Math Club room

Photo By Bremmo Martinez

Aside from being the next Beethoven, Ben focuses most of his time on academics. He's a member of Math Club, Robotics, Mu Alpha Theta, and is currently taking three AP classes. Ben's passion for math has also led to him wanting to become a teacher.

Ben's plans for the future are enigmatic, from majoring in music to becoming a teacher or even an engineer. He's quite the

jack of all trades! Even though Ben has different plans for what is ahead of him, he plans to attend San Francisco State and major in electrical engineering after graduating this June.

When Ben isn't being the best he can be around El Rancho's halls, he's either watching Star Trek or Star Wars, eating, sleeping or taking a "short walk in the afternoon at the beach by myself

in khakis and a button up shirt."

His favorite food is cheese because "you can put it in all types of dishes: like salads or a good sandwich." So if you spend your free time training to become a Jedi or eating cheese, Ben might be a friendly match for you.

I know, Ben Barrientez sounds like the man of your dreams but unfortunately, he is in a relationship. The good

news is that he's always looking for a friend to watch *The Wrath of Khan* with him!

So, next time you find Ben strutting down the hallways in his elegant Decathlon cardigan, playing beautiful tunes from a baritone, or solving equations in Francis' class, know that you're witnessing a *simply irresistible* Don.

W.O.S.-Spring Break Plans?

Xavier Marquez: "Practice, sleep and go to Disneyland."



Alejandro Huezo & Roberto Rodriguez : "We're going to Washington D.C. with ASL."

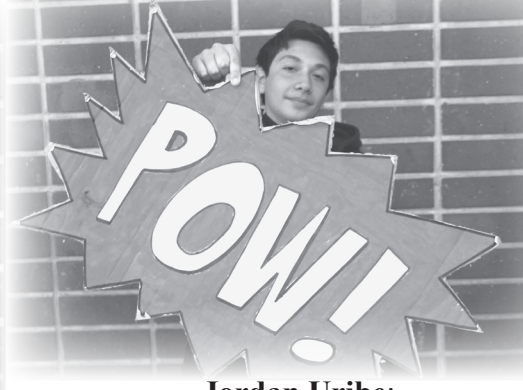
Dylan Joseph: "I'm just gonna play video games."



Jakob Diaz: "Do my missing assignments and have fun, hopefully."



Araceli Correa: "Cry and watch Netflix."



Jordan Uribe: "Sleeping, eating, practicing for drumline."



Delilah Fierro: "I'm going camping on the beach."

MEET YOUR 2017-2018

Part three of an ongoing series that will help El Rancho stu



Mr. Jesus Magdaleno



Ms. Natasha Maillette



Ms. Karen Maldonado



Ms. Anna Manzanares



Ms. Melody Manzanares



Ms. Sharmane Marron



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Ms. Irene Martínez



Ms. Janae Martínez



Ms. Leticia Martínez



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Ms. Crystal Matías-Olaerts



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Ms. Valorie Meleméndez



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Mr. Mark Montoya



Mr. Everett Moore



Ms. Pauline Muñoz



Ms. Samantha Muñoz



Ms. Tracey Muñoz



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Ms. Nancy Nasouf

8 STAFF: PART THREE

Students get to know the names and faces of our amazing staff.



Ms. Elvia Natareno De Cruz



Mr. Alan Navarro



Mr. Leo Nerio



Ms. Gloria Ochoa



Mr. Eduardo Golivarez



Mr. Victor Orihuela



Mr. Jaime Ozzy



Mr. Miguel Paniagua



Mr. Alex Paredes



Mr. Larry Patino



Mr. Ray Pena



Ms. Kristal Perez



Mr. Rodney Perez



Ms. Ashley Perryman



Ms. Adelaida Picon



Ms. Elizabeth Plaza



Mr. Ryan Porter



Ms. Parvin Qureshi



Ms. Rosa Ramirez



Mr. David Retana



M. Andrea Reyes



Ms. Bernadett Rodriguez



Mr. Felix Rodriguez



Mr. Manuel Roriquuez



Ms. Gabriela Rojo

CAMPUS

ASB brings a *twist* to Sadie Hawkins

Photo by Annual Staff.

By EMILY LOPEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho hosted its annual Sadie Hawkins Dance on Friday, March 16, 2018. Dance Commissioner, Sarah Navarro, planned the event with the help of others. Sarah Navarro says “Amberly (Ambo) Recendez helped me come up with the theme. She found it in a magazine.”

The theme was Game Night. “My favorite part was having to incorporate the board games because it was something we’ve never done before,” says Sarah Navarro. Sarah says “I danced the whole night and took pictures at the photo booth.”

Pairs were able to battle other couples at different board games. Amberly Recendez says, “being with my date was the best part. “Playing games, like Uno

and Monopoly, taking pictures, and listening to the silent dj was really cool,” says Amberly Recendez, Sadies attendee. “It was crazy seeing everyone jamming out to different music” says Amberly Recendez about the silent dj. The silent dj allowed attendees to pick one of three stations to listen to. Sebastian Carcano says “it was a new experience and it was cool being able to change through stations depending on my mood. However, it could’ve been better.”

“It was really great being able to set up the event, seeing it all come together, and being able to enjoy it with peers,” says Carcano. “We shook the dance floor, and played Twister. It was a great game night,” added Carcano.

A great thank you to Sarah Navarro, Mrs. Senteno-Tapia, and the rest of ASB for putting together the event. It was overall a very successful night.

Teen Read Week April 9-13, 2018

A celebration of reading brought to you by the ERHS Library

All week:

Administrators and counselors will be guest readers in classrooms
Reading quizzes, prizes and awards in classrooms.

Monday, April 9

Come to the Library during lunch and read to a dog! Brought to you by the Library and the ER Animal Advocates.

Tuesday, April 10

Get Lit Players poetry performances during 3rd and 4th periods (main gym).

Wednesday, April 11

Literary Lunch bag Theater in the Little Theater. Brought to you by the ERHS Improv Team.

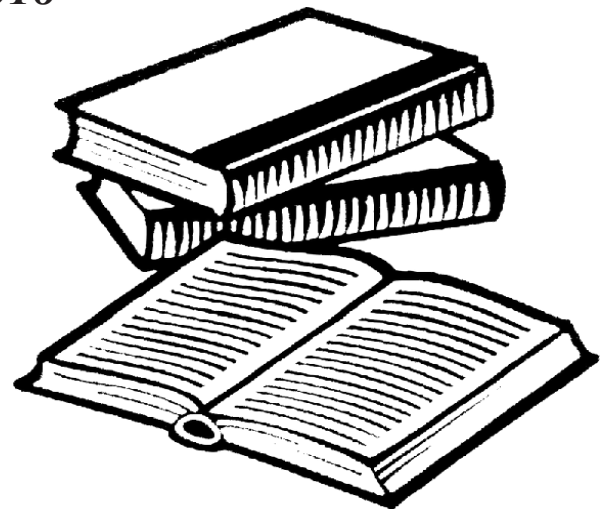
Thursday, April 12

Mrs. Nelson’s Book Fair 7:30-3:30 in the Library, open all day. Students, cash only please. Staff, credit cards accepted. Young adult and children’s books are available.

Friday, April 13

Staff Coffee, Appetizers and Desserts in the Library beginning at 7:30 a.m. Served by Link Crew literary characters.

Mrs. Nelson’s Book Fair 7:30-3 in the Library, open all day. Students, cash only please. Staff, credit cards accepted. Young adult and children’s books are available.



WASC Committee visits ERHS



By ALONZO MURRIETA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Committee visited El Rancho from March 4th to March 6th for its school review. The WASC Committee’s purpose is to visit schools and colleges around the nation and evaluate them to see if they are considered “credible.” Schools that are credited are viewed as reliable with the quality of their outcomes as opposed to schools that are not.

On the day that WASC arrived ASB, band, student volunteers, and staff welcomed the committee with open arms. After the welcoming, volun-

teers gave a tour of the campus and showcased numerous programs that the school possesses.

For the next two days, WASC members walked through the campus and in and out of multiple classes. While on duty, the committee members asked students questions about the school, evaluated teaching, and noted things they liked and disliked about the campus.

To minimize the mark-downs and maximize the positives, students were asked to behave, while teachers was cautioned to stay away from lectures and tests and instead incorporate activities that they would hold in their classroom.

The last WASC visit was

held three years ago. Vice Principal Mrs. Chavez Diaz, was told by the committee that “[We] did not do [ourselves] justice. [We] did not brag. [We] did not really represent everything [we’re] doing.”

Fortunately, El Rancho has stepped up their game since then. Chavez Diaz went on to say that, “this year they came in and said our Culinary Arts program is amazing and that our band was amazing.”

Still, a good report isn’t the only outcome of the visit. The WASC visit itself is a reminder and a learning moment for staff. AP Calculus teacher Mr. Francis said, “[The visit] does make me reflect and take into account that I’m making sure to meet the needs of everybody in my classroom.”

MRS. NELSON'S BOOK FAIR



A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT YOUR SCHOOL!

DATES: April 12 & 13

TIMES: 7:30 - 3:30

PLACE: ERHS Library



www.mrsnelsons.com



SPORTS

Softball off to a strong start

Boys volleyball prepares for league



Alex Bermudez serving the ball.
Photo by: Mr. Crone

BY JENNIFER BECERRA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The boy's varsity volleyball teams season is off to a great start with an overall record of four wins and one loss.

The boys hope to make the most out of their season. "Our goals this year are to get the Del Rio League title and make it as far into CIF as we can," says varsity captain Bryan Zepeda.

In hopes to be league champions, the boys strive for improvements during practice. "We always work hard during practice. We aren't afraid of making mistakes," says varsity player Steve Francis, "we focus on improving every day."

With every new season comes new players, but that doesn't stop them from motivating each other. "Our chemistry is terrific, we enjoy each others company," says Zepeda, "and we aren't afraid to tell each other to step it up."

With the returning player's strong chemistry and the new players developing chemistry, the boy's confidence is great this year. "If we continue to progress as fast as we have been, I believe we will be in contention for a league title this year," says Francis, "but we have a good chance at winning league."

"I haven't seen a team that loves the game as much as this team, we never see volleyball as a chore we just have fun playing together," says Francis.

Don't forget to show your support for the boys at their next home game on March 27 at 3:15 in the main gym against South Pasadena High School!



Girls softball lines up with Head Coach Ralph Del Campo for team pictures.

Photo by Sofia Dominguez

BY SOFIA DOMINGUEZ
EL RODEO STAFF

With a new year and a new coaching staff, head coach Ralph Del Campo and the El Rancho Softball team hope to improve upon the previous season. With a preseason record of seven wins and three losses, CIF hopes are bright.

Although it is Coach Ralph Del Campos first season as varsity head coach, the player's aren't new to him, "I've coached half of these girls since they were in tee-ball," says Ralph. "I have watched these girls grow up and become great softball players."

Not only does he bring experience and history to the softball program but he also brings a strict work ethic and regime. Coach Ralph says, "I am expecting these girls to get to CIF, we have the talent and the capability to make it there if we stay focused and work hard at our game."

He isn't all talk either. To back up his claim of making it to CIF he has been pushing the girls on and off the field. "They can have lots of talent, but if they don't also succeed in the classroom they won't be seeing the field," says Ralph.

Coach Ralph believes that to accomplish these goals,

the girls must work on their weaknesses and enhance their strengths. "If I had to say a weakness that the girls have is getting down on themselves when a mistake is made, or we are losing in a game," says Coach Ralph. "The strengths that the girls have is even though they are down in a game they will battle back till the end of the game. They will not give up even if they lose," said Ralph.

In addition to accomplishing these goals through improving the teams game, Coach Ralph believes that the relationships amongst the girls have a lot to do with how they play out on the field. "The relationship amongst

the girls is unique. On the field they cheer each other on, push each other to work hard, and most importantly they have each other's backs. Off the field, a lot of the girls are best friends. They trust each other and do many activities together. That transfers over to the field and creates a great dynamic," says Ralph.

So, show your blue pride and support the varsity softball team for their first league game at home April 10th at 3:15 p.m. against Pioneer. Make sure to bring some snacks and get ready to cheer on the girls as they take on the Titans!

Baseball stands undefeated in league



Dons listening to post-game speech from head coach Patino.

BY EMILY LOPEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This season the boy's varsity team currently has a record of 2-0 in league and 7-3 overall. They have been doing well so far in league. "Our team is doing is really great. You know we have a lot of talent and everyone is just in sync with each other" says Varsity player, Omar Sanchez.

"I like how close we all are and the brotherhood we share," says Daniel Valles. The team is very proud of the way they are coming together. "Damian threw a no hitter in the today's [March 9th] game and I'm just looking forward to league cause we are going to bring something to the table," says Omar Sanchez.

The team's greatest secret weapon is "our team spirit.

We are always loud just trying to hype up our guys and we have each other's back we all trust each other to the end and we just get things done for the most part," says Omar Sanchez.

"I feel pretty confident about the way we'll perform this season due to our great coaching staff and commitment of the players," says Daniel Valles. Daniel is proud to call himself a member of our varsity baseball and hopes to "keep working hard and win a spot on the field." He has high hopes for his team and their future success. "We're gonna win League and then move on to take CIF!" says Daniel Valles.

Baseball is a sport to look out for. Go support them on Friday, March 23rd, at their next home game where they hope to remain undefeated in league.

Track and field overcomes hurdles

BY JENNIFER BECERRA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Track season is almost here as the El Rancho Track team continues to practice and prepare for their upcoming meets of the Del Rio League. The team attended Condor Invationals at Cal High.

The Dons have been working hard and practicing for their upcoming season. "For practice we do warm ups and stretch a lot but it's never the same. We practice hard and long hours, sometimes up to 6 days a week," says senior Erika Haro.

"I joined track because I needed to stay fit and it looked

pretty fun," says junior Melissa Mayorga, "but now my relationship with my team is very strong and we're all united."

Although it's still pre-season the team has high hopes for their season. "I feel good about this year, there's good competition but good times are constantly being raced every day," says Mayorga, "we have a lot of new pole vaulters, jumpers, and throwers which is a great bonus!"

Show your blue pride at their first meet on March 22 at the ERHS Football Stadium as they take on the Santa Fe High School Titans!

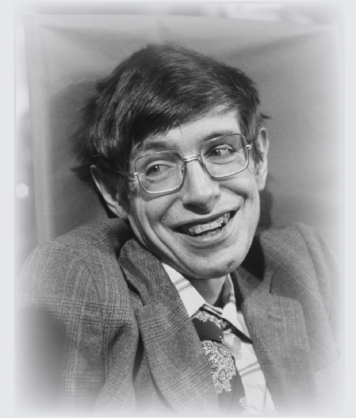


Hurdlers get a jump out of the blocks.

Photo by Mr. Crone

ENTERTAINMENT

Remembering Stephen Hawking



BY ALONZO MURRIETA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The well known theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking passed away on March 14th at the age of 76. According to his family, Hawking was said to have died peacefully in his home located in Cambridge, England.

Hawking was iconic for multiple reasons. He contributed theorems to the theory of general relativity, he had discovered more about black holes and their functions, and he was also the author of numerous best selling novels such as *The Theory of Everything* and most widely known, *A Brief History of Time*.

Hawking's life began in Oxford, United Kingdom on January 8th, 1942. As he grew up Hawking did not believe himself to be in the best place academically. However, this changed with the years leading up to his college education. Near his time of entering college Hawking found himself to be intrigued by mathematics, only to later develop a passion for it.

At the age of 21, Hawking was diagnosed with a motor neuron disease titled amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, otherwise known as ALS. After his diagnosis, the future scientist became discouraged and had lost all motivation to continue with his studies. Being unmotivated to work, Hawking had pushed through his depression and regained his passion and goal to finish his studies.

Hawking would live on to contribute ground-breaking work to singularities. He would then co-discover four laws of Black Holes. Hawking's most famous accomplishment in science is disproving the idea that nothing could escape black holes. Hawking countered this theory by proving that black holes emit radiation.

Even though he was an iconic scientist and diagnosed with a fatal disease, Hawking was not an overly-serious man. When interviewed Hawking's daughter Lucy Hawking gave comments on her father's personality. Lucy would go to say that Hawking was "an extremely stubborn" man and even to have a great sense of humor.

Given two years to live, Hawking had miraculously pushed through for more than 50 years with his condition and both posed and answered questions that will forever be influential to humanity and it's survival.

A Wrinkle in Time fails to meet audience's expectations



Even with star-studded cast, film did not meet audience's standards.

BY FATIMA LOPEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Disney has, once again, dominated the box office this month with *A Wrinkle in Time*, starring Storm Reid, Oprah Winfrey, Mindy Kaling, and Reese Witherspoon. The film, directed by Ava DuVernay, is an adaptation of the classic 1962 novel of the same name written by Madeleine L'Engle. It hit theaters earlier this month with a 33.3 million dollar debut, slightly lower than what analysts expected it to earn.

Even though the film didn't do as well as analysts expected, it climbed to the second spot on the box office during its first weekend, making it a historic weekend not only for Disney's studios but for African-American directors as well. The only film that ri-

valed its reign on the box office was none other than *Black Panther* directed by Ryan Coogler.

The film centers around Meg Murry, a young girl who explores the cosmos in search of her scientist father. With help from her adopted younger brother, Charles Wallace and her close friend, Calvin, the trio explore the depths of space making many friends and visiting many planets along the way.

The trio has a little help from three celestial beings known as Mrs. Whatsit, Mrs. Who, and Mrs. Which (Witherspoon, Kaling, and Winfrey, respectively). Together, they go in search of Meg's father and also take down the evil being simply known as "It." And yes, L'Engle took the famed pronoun long before Stephen King did.

Take a journey to Hope World in in J-hope's "Hixtape"

BY KAYLA PEREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

It's J-hope's world, we're just living in it. On March 2nd, 2018, BTS member Jung Hoseok aka J-hope released his highly anticipated "hixtape" entitled *Hope World*.

The mixtape instantly soared to number one on iTunes in over 63 different countries, including Canada, Brazil, England, and the United States. Shortly the week after, the mixtape rose to #63 on Billboard 200 chart making him the highest entry for a Korean Solo artist on both charts.

Even though the mixtape quickly received positive responses and gathered many accomplishments, the production of the mixtape was not always easy. The mixtape took over 3 years to make and has been a long process but J-hope has always endured the tough time-commit-

ment with patience and positivity.

"My fantasy had always been making a music video and performing with music that I had created," said J-hope in a recent interview, "I also wanted to put my own story to music and share it with the world."

The 7-tracked mixtape is passionately articulated through a vibrant tone of music as J-hope soundtracks his most cherishable moments and ambitions from being a young street-dancer to international K-Pop star.

"[BTS members] RM and SUGA releasing their own mixtapes was the motivation for my own project" says J-hope, "I have been and continue to be deeply influenced by them, from the day we began to where we are today."

The self-representation of J-hope's life is evident from the beginning as the mixtape opens with it's self-titled "Hope World," which J-hope describes his "first business card

The film, in itself, is a bit of a disorganized story. Just when you think you've understood what's going on, the movie will throw you a curveball. *A Wrinkle in Time* seems to lack a good flow and it's pacing is rather odd, but its visuals make up for it.

The main goal of the group is to find Murry's father, but the interstellar travel is what makes the journey worthwhile. The scenery is very CGI based, but it truly brings everything life. Creatures and landscapes you could only ever see in your dreams were all brought to life in this movie. At times, the animation did get a bit too over the top, but like any Disney live-action, CGI is a must.

DuVernay's adaptation of the film features a very diverse cast and the director's bold choice in making Meg Murry a biracial girl spoke to many. Storm Reid plays Murry so well, she embraced the awkwardness of Murry's character and even added a little bit of her own flair to her.

Not only did DuVernay put together an almost all person of color main cast, she also tackled issues that we don't see very often in film and media. In the film, Meg has a love/hate relation-

ship with her hair and that's what makes her character one of the most relatable in the entire film. Her struggle to fit in and love herself for who she is really stands out in the film. Murry is also bullied by Veronica (Rowan Blanchard), a classmate of hers. We later find out that the bully has issues too. Veronica actually suffers from an eating disorder and has body image issues of her own as well.

These topics are hard to discuss especially in a movie that is aimed at a younger audience, but DuVernay and the cast do a wonderful job of putting that on the big screen. The film, after all, is all about love. Whether it was a daughter's love for her father or a girl's love for herself, that didn't matter, the main idea that is supposed to be taken away from this film is that love, no matter what kind, always defeats the evil.

If you're thinking about watching *A Wrinkle in Time*, keep this in mind: DuVernay's adaptation of the film vaguely resembles the novel, so if you're looking for an exact and accurate version of L'Engle's story, you're going to be disappointed. If you just want to watch an adaptation of a classic novel you might have read as a child, then *A Wrinkle in Time* is the right movie for you.



in the life of a musician" and that she wrote the track to show the world who J-hope really is.

The mixtape continues a feel-good dance vibe through the following 4 tracks "P.O.P (Piece of Peace) Pt. 1, Day Dream, Base Line, and HANGSANG," which J-hope insights as pieces of him that are authentic to who he is and who he portrays to people through his music.

The mixtape takes a deep turn of raw emotion in "Airplane" which feature a snippet of J-hope and his members singing together

as he reminisces about his dream to fly an airplane as a child.

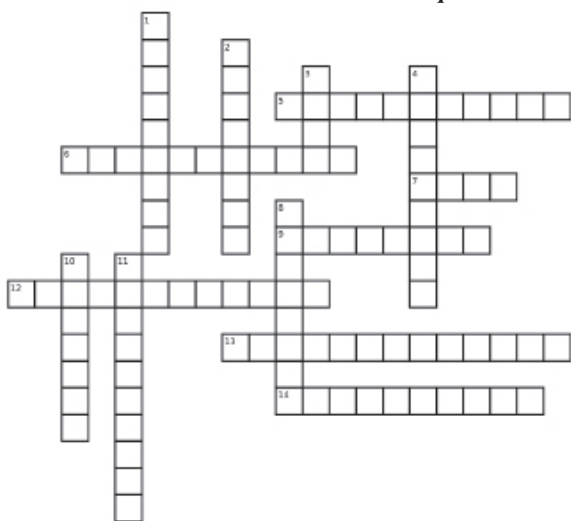
Finally, *Hope World* ends strong with "Blue Side (Outro)" in which he describes as him "melting into a song."

"When I listen to this song, good memories come back to me," says J-hope This song is about wishing to go back to when I didn't know anything."

Hopeworld was a day dream worth the wait and we can only hope it doesn't end here.

Crossword Puzzle

The first person to deliver correct answers to X-1 wins a prize!



Down:

1. 2018 Sadies theme.
2. Sport that is 2-0 in league and led by captain, Jason Vela.
3. This month's Simply Irresistible plays this instrument.
4. Latest BTS mixtape.
8. Team that won Don Games.
10. Pizza connoisseur who is infamous for his footwear.
11. Assistant Principal of Curriculum.

Across:

5. A walkout was staged against _____.
6. The week everyone is waiting for.
7. Came to visit campus for a week.
9. Student organization that supports freshmen.
12. "A Wrinkle in Time" stars _____.
13. Scientist who died on Albert Einstein's birthday.
14. Leading the tardy policy at ERHS.