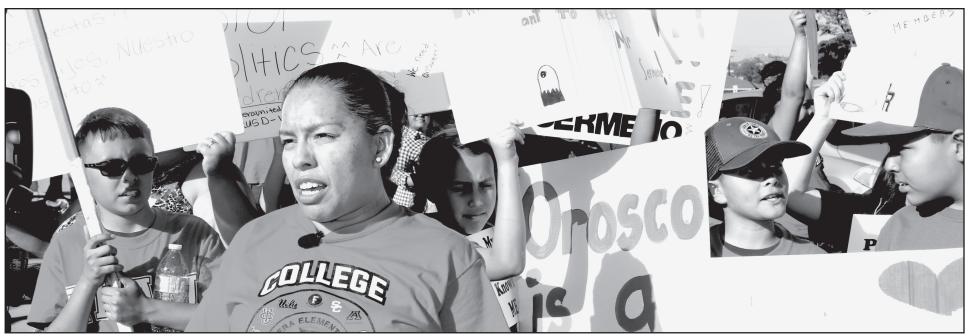


Ad - 12

OPINION

School board's actions leave community questioning decisions



Protestors standing in front of ERHS, defending their principals.

By Fatima Lopez El Rodeo Staff Writer

Over spring break, the El Rancho Unified school board made the decision to terminate and demote certain administrators from multiple schools across the district. Many of those who received notices of termination and/or demotion currently hold high positions at their respective school. Principals like Mr. Genis and Mr. Vasquez were just two of many who are uncertain of their future here in the district.

Terminations and demotions are not problems. In fact, I

believe they are oftentimes necessary in order to keep an organization, a company, or even a district functioning properly. However, the district is going about handing out these notices in a very unprofessional manner. These administrators, staff members, and long-time employees of the El Rancho Unified School District are being terminated and/or demoted without any reason or without receiving a proper evaluation.

The district has an obligation to not only keep their employees up to speed, but to also let students and their parents know about what their plans are. How can the district call themselves an institute for the public if they keep to themselves and make decisions without consulting the people whom they serve? It is hypocritical and even a bit ironic if you ask me.

There are, of course, multiple opportunities to have our voices heard. For example, school board meetings have an open microphone set up at every monthly gathering, but not enough people are going and expressing their opinions. That is where we, the students, the parents, and the staff, have failed. However, changes might be in the district's future if things keep moving in the direction they are currently heading.

On that Monday the entire school district was set to come back from their break, students and parents from Durfee Elementary School protested against what they believed was the unjust reassignment of their principal, Mr. Sam Genis. Students of all ages wore red and began their protest at the elementary school located on Durfee Avenue and ended it at the city hall located a mere 2.4 miles away.

Another protest followed soon after in front of El Rancho High School. Instead of attending the VAPA showcase hosted on that same day, many teachers, parents, and students joined together afPhoto by Selina Torres

ter school to receive answers and explanations to their questions.

Until the school board decides to fully explain their reasoning as to why they have terminated and reassigned certain administrators, those who are concerned for the future of our district will most likely point their fingers to the new high school the district has promised to build. Without further explanations, the students, parents, and teachers of the El Rancho Unified School District remain under a cloud of confusion with only the rumors to keep themselves in the know.

School board president Jose Lara's response to editorial

I understand that changes in school personnel can be difficult for people to understand, especially considering that state and federal law prohibit the district from discussing personnel matters with members of the public. The reason for this is to protect the privacy of employees and to not affect any future employment opportunities. It is not only against the law, but also the wrong thing to do. We care deeply about all teachers and staff at our school sites and

would not want to infringe on the rights of people we care about.

After meeting and talking with multiple parents and responding to email concerns about principal reassignments, I understand that parents, like myself with two of my own children in the district, care tremendously about our school site leaders. One of the most important elements of school leadership is building and maintaining positive relationships with the community and that is one of the

qualities that our school leaders have. As we move forward, we will ensure that we are recruiting and selecting strong school leaders that also have these qualities.

Some parents and teachers that I have spoken too are worried that new programs and initiatives will go away if the principal changes. Others fear the unknown and worry that the next school principal will not be as great as the current one. El Rancho USD is a destination district for school leaders. There

are currently many internal and external school site leaders that ready to continue the growth in our schools as the next principal of our schools. We welcome

I want the community to rest assured that our current programs and initiatives will continue regardless of who the next school principal is. We will continue to support STEAM education, Ethnic Studies, Art, Music and Drama. We will continue to expand our Early Education, Dual and Multi Language, Inter-

national Baccalaureate, AVID, Project Lead the Way, and Athletic programs. We will continue our plan to rebuild El Rancho HS into a state of the art school our community deserves and upgrade our aging facilities across the district. We commit to being student centered in all our decisions across the district.

Warmly, Jose Lara Board President El Rancho Unified School District



El Rodeo is published monthly except during vacations by the El Rancho High School journalism class. The *El Rodeo* offices are located at 6501 S. Passons Blvd., Pico Rivera, CA 90660 in room X-1. The paper is printed by *The Gardena Valley News*.

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

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

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

Ed Code 48907 affirms the right of high school newspapers to publish whatever they choose, so long as the content is not explicitly obscene, libelous, or slanderous. Also, there shall be no prior restraint of material prepared for official school publications except insofar as it violates this section. Advisor.....Paul Zeko
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Every 15 Minutes.....Fatima Lopez

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Reporter..... Ezra Blanco
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Reporter..... Araceli Correa
Reporter..... Stevie Dominguez
Reporter..... Rene Gallegos
Reporter..... Grecia Haro-Flores
Reporter..... Dylan Joseph
Reporter..... Pazlin Juarez
Reporter..... Emiliano LaFarga
Reporter..... Emily Lopez
Reporter..... Fatima Lopez
Reporter..... Fatima Lopez
Reporter..... Alonzo Murrieta
Reporter..... Kayla Perez

Photo Editor.....Yazlin Juarez Photo Editor.....Franky Leon

CAMPUS

District VAPA departments present an Evening of the Arts Some of the performing arts back together for the Night



Valencia Academy performing their folklorico dance titled "Jarabe Tapatio.

Photo by Yazlin Juarez

By Yazlin Juarez EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

For the second consecutive year, El Rancho High School hosted the Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Night for the Pico Rivera community and school district, though with fewer festivities and submissions than the year before due to protests against the El Rancho Unified School District's recent employment decisions. Due to the rallies that

night, many teachers from both El Rancho High School and the other middle and elementary schools chose not to contribute artwork as a form of voicing their displeasure with the school district. Thus, the gym was left almost completely bare, compared to last year, when the gym was overflowing with photography, paintings, sculptures, and macaroni art from the various schools. Of these few remaining pieces, a couple elementary schools contributed artwork to display in the gym including portraits and recreations of classic art.

However, the event did not entirely suffer, and much of the performing arts group continued their shows as scheduled. These included many of the middle schools and elementary schools within the district and their elaborate, creative, and cultural performances that reflected on the diverse resources and talents of the district art programs. groups included Magee Academy of Arts and Science, Valencia Academy of the Arts, STEAM Academy, El Rancho Concert Band, and El Rancho Choir.

The middle schools especially contributed several stunning numbers, with well-trained singers and choreographed routines. With these complex routines, students have been able to challenge themselves to become better performance artists. In fact, for many of these younger students, it is their first experience on stage. "It's my first time performing in front of a big crowd. I usually perform at my house for my family," says Maya Cortez of Magee Academy of Arts and Science, "I think I will continue doing art classes in high school."

This event was especially helpful in preparing students for high school and working corroboratively. One of the largest performances was the set of songs performed by five groups, led by El Rancho's own Mr. Keilbach. This ensemble included singers students from the different schools like ERHS Choralettes and Choraleers, Rivera Middle School, the STEAM Academy, and 5th graders from Valencia Academy of Arts. Each school's instructor taught the music on their own and then got back together for the Night of the Arts to make one large group. "We were able to perform regardless [of the protests] and attendance was good," Keilbach says.

> "Our students worked HARD TO PREPARE THIS AND IT WAS OUR ONLY OPPORTUNITY TO COLLABORATE, SO WE DIDN'T WANT TO WASTE IT." Mr. Keilbach

The residents of Pico Rivera take pride in their talented youth and use this night to honor their years of dedication to themselves, their craft, their teams, and their community. As for the future of this event, students and staff are determined to make a better show next year, assuming no further disruptions take place.

"[The choir is] very excited to do this event next year, hopefully be able to make it bigger," Keilbach says, "It's our only evening that all the arts get to be showcased. We don't often get to showcase the performing arts, and I know they take up a lot of resources... But it is such a great chance for all parents and community to come together and enjoy all the work that the students are doing."

ERHS sweeps digital arts categories at 38th Congressional Art Reception

By Yazlin Juarez EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

For the second year in a row, El Rancho Visual Arts Department stuns with more winning submissions in the competitive 38th Congressional High-School Art Competition, rallying support and enthusiasm from students, parents, and faculty.

Held at the Parnell Park Rec. Center in Whittier, El Rancho participants were invited to the art showcase and competition to celebrate with friends and family for all their hard work. In the stage room, the district hosts offered refreshments, creative photo booths, and musical entertainment. Meanwhile, beside separate, there was a large gal- digital photo collage of a multi- raphy and Collage, as well as a senior artist Jessica Castellanos. world jobs," says Mr. Chiang lery that showcased every participants' work from ten different cities, seven different categories, and over 200 submissions.

Families and friends browsed through the two rooms to admire a wide range of pieces, from self-portraits to political cartoons, to still-life charcoal works, to original comic book panels, to oil painting portraits.

For the ceremony, awards were handed out by Master of Ceremonies Scott Smith, since Congresswoman Linda Sanchez was not able to attend the event. With El Rancho's overwhelming number of submissions, the school also took a hefty amount of awards this year.

Most notably, El Rancho student Drew Flores took the honorable 3rd place overall-award for his submission, "Indigo," a



the dining area walls and in a Jessica accepting her 3rd place award in the drawing category.

colored frog-snail and vivid city setting. For this honor, Flores will receive some scholarship money, a ribbon, and recognition from his teachers and family. Flores was unavailable for interviewing at that time, but would like to thank their teacher Mr. Chiang for his support and wisdom.

Last year, another El Rancho student also won a prize in the competition. Senior Yazlin Juarez won 1st place award for both Photography and overall with her photo, "Every Flavor of America." The award came with a scholarship money and paid trip to Washington D.C. where her art has been hung in the Capitol Building for a year.

Some of the other fantastic submission recognized during the competition included the entire category of Photogfew in other categories. These include Yazlin Juarez (1st), Giovanni Guerrero (2nd), Wendy Rodriguez-Miramontes (3rd),and Alex Covarrubias (Honorable Mention). For Photo Collage, winner included our own

Teddy Baruch (1st), Jose Bermudez (2nd), Drew Flores (3rd), and Enrique Lopez (Honorable Mention). El Rancho placed well in other categories as well, including Jessica Castellanos (3rds) and Aidan Lara (Honorable Mention) for Drawing, and Jason Quinones for Print (1st).

For these artists, these competitions are a way of really showcasing their passions beyond schoolwork. "I feel proud of myself for winning because my family is full of artists and it's like a rite of passage for my family to win an art award," says

El Rancho is one of the largest contributors of art submissions: over 30 submissions being from Mr. Zeko and over 20 from Mr. Chiang's class. Last year, the photography classes entered in about 70 submissions in photography alone, and about a dozen more submissions in other various media. Participants of the competition came from Mr. Zeko's photography class, Mr. Diaz's advanced art class, Mr. Diaz's photography classes, Mr. Chiang's digital imaging class, and Mr. Magdaleno's beginning art class.

These teachers have put in immense effort into developing ERHS artists into professionals through the curriculum and competitions. "We use programs such as Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator, programs used by [adult] graphic designers for real-

"They have grown creatively, CRITICALLY, AUTONOMOUSLY, AND PERSONALLY THROUGHOUT THIS YEAR, AND TO ME, THAT'S THE WHOLE PURPOSE OF EDUCATION. I AM PROUD OF ALL OF MY STUDENTS FOR THEIR EFFORTS!"

-Mr. CHIANG

El Rancho has taken part in this ceremony for almost ten years now, and looks to continue the tradition. "Many students have an incredible connection to the arts at El Rancho, and we must continue to nurture these passions," says VAPA Department Head and teacher, Mr. Zeko, "As long as the Congressional Art Competitions run, El Rancho and the VAPA Department will continue to participate in it and continue to win!'

FEATURES

Madame Moghimi-Danesh is très magnifique!

By Grecia Haro-Flores EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

She's more than just a teacher. She is a wife, a mother of three, an inspiration to her students, and the heart of Room O-8. She's Mrs. Angela Moghimi-Danesh!

Mrs. Moghimi-Danesh, also known as Mrs. Mo, attended Cal State Dominguez Hills and received her Bachelor of Arts in Spanish Literature and French Literature with a minor in English in 1982. She also attended The University of La Verne, where she received her Masters Degree.

"I always wanted to be a teacher for as long as I can remember," says Mrs. Moghimi-Danesh, "I was very privileged in that I had inspiring teachers throughout my education."

"I wanted to emulate [teachers] and share their enthusiasm for learning," adds Moghimi-Danesh, "I began teaching at El Rancho as a Spanish teacher in 1983 and have been teaching here ever since."

Moghimi-Danesh has taught Spanish 1, Spanish 2, Spanish 3, AP Spanish and French 1, French 2, French 3, French 4, & AP French, as well as English and Catholic Catechism.

Though what many may not know is that Moghimi-Danesh is capable of speak-

ing not only English, French, and Spanish, but also German and Farsi. She learned German as her first language, English once she went to school, took Spanish and French courses in high school and college, and learned Farsi from her husband.

Moghimi-Danesh's advice to anyone wanting to be multilingual like her is to "immerse yourself into the language" and surround yourself with everything of the language's culture.

She's currently teaching French 1, 2, 3, and AP. Her philosophy of teaching is that "anyone can learn as long as they are encouraged and nurtured to do their very best."

Throughout her entire teaching career, she's taught by these words. She loves "challenging [her] students and learning from them on a daily basis."

> "I ABSOLUTELY LOVE MAKING CONNECTIONS WITH PEOPLE AND THAT IS WHY TEACHING NEVER GETS OLD; BECAUSE, I am always learning and EXPERIENCING SOMETHING NEW AND THAT TO ME IS WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT."

-Mrs. Moghimi-Danesh She's created an en-

vironment in her classroom that allows students to come out of their comfort zones and be comfortable with othclassmates and herself.



Mrs. Moghimi-Danesh is a mother figure to all her students.

French 3 student Alexia Cortes says, "I once had a presentation where I commented 'I always compare myself to others and have a low self-esteem,' and she said, 'I won't let you think like that no more,' which made me feel encouraged."

Another French 3 student Angel Valenzuela says, "Mrs. Mo has made me more outgoing. Before I was in my own little space and now I'm able to talk to more people and make friends."

In her spare time, Mrs. Moghimi-Danesh spends it with her family of four. "I absolutely love spending time with my family, my three awesome kids and husband," says Moghimi-Danesh.

Moghimi-Danesh also shared that she is a creative person and enjoys "music, writing, the arts, traveling and going to the movies," but at the end of the day, she enjoys surrounding herself with positive people the most.

Photo by Franky Leon

Moghimi-Danesh says, "I just enjoy being around

people that intentionally make a choice of being positive and having a purpose- a joy and zest for life, a helpful outreached hand, and a humble heart."

Over her years of teaching, Mrs. Mo has "learned to accept and to celebrate diversity." "Everyone is different, but as much everyone's different, everyone's the same as well," says Moghimi-Danesh.

Yulissa Chavez is Simply Irresistible!

By Kayla Perez EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Extremely kind with a smile that shines, Yulissa Chavez is simply irresistible! This walking angel can be found participating in many on-campus activities but has a certain passion for aquatics.

For the past four years, Chavez has been a member of the girls water polo team and stepped in to the role of captain during her senior year.

Over the years, water polo has become more than a sport for Chavez and is now a place she can call home.

"My favorite school activity has been water polo," says Chavez. "It was the first sport I ever joined and it tested my physical abilities to the max and created the best memories and friends, I really miss it now."

Besides water polo, Chavez has also been a member of the swim team for three years, a translator for Teen Court for three years, the Youth Ex-Officio of the Parks and Recreation Commision for two years, and a member of the Key Club for one year.

Her extensive list of activities have allowed her to make many memories, "My favorite memory of high school was my senior night because it was a moment I had waited for



Yulissa displays family photo while on Gadabouts trip at Great Wall of China.

since freshman year and actually being recognized made me cry so much," says Chavez. "Also, having an open sixth has been equally amazing. "

When Chavez isn't busy swimming in the pool you can find her binge-watching her favorite shows, "For fun I like to watch anime or other shows (currently watching Hunter X Hunter)," says Chavez. "I also go to the gym, eat a lot, and hang out with my friends and family."

Besides watching television, Chavez likes to indulge in other sources of entertainment, "I am obsessed with reggaeton and my favorite artists are Ozuna, Maluma & Bad Bunny," says Chavez. "My favorite movies to watch are documentaries and independent films; not really into action (sorry Avengers: Endgame)."

> My spirit animal is a CORGI, THEY HAVE TINY LEGS LIKE ME AND ARE JUST SOOO ADORABLE.

-YULISSA CHAVEZ

As a high-school senior, Chavez is excited for all that awaits her after graduation, "I plan to work as a lifeguard in the summer, go to the beach at least 100 times & attend college in the fall," says Chavez.

"I committed to University of La Verne and am majoring in Political Science," continues Chavez. "My dream job is to become City Manager of a city I feel passionate about."

However, she credits all her success to those that have helped her get to where she is today, "I take great inspiration from my parents, they have taught me the most about life and I always want to make them both proud," says Chavez. "My friend Tina, who helped me the most with my college apps and is graduating from USC this month, I really look up to her.

"Also, Leslie Knope from Parks & Rec, I want to reach her level of enthusiasm for her job and work towards women empowerment!!," exclaims Chavez.

> "I THINK I LIKE MY PERSONALITY THE MOST BECAUSE I AM TRUE TO MYSELF & LOVE HELPING OTHERS." -Yulissa Chavez

When it comes to relationship status, this cutie is unfortunately off the market, "I am in a great relationship with my boyfriend Jimmy, who graduated last year. We're one year already hehehe." However, that shouldn't stop you from having a conversation with Chavez! Not only is she the world's biggest sweetheart but she is always looking to meet new people and helpining others!

Follow her on Instagram (@yo.yulissa) or on Twitter (@ychaveez) to strike up a conversation and get to know this lovely person!

FEATURES

HOSA students learn about leadership at conference



Mr. Ross, Mrs. McCaw, Mr. Alonzo, and HOSA students in their competition attire.

By Araceli Correa EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho Health Oc- State Leadership Conference is

cupation Students of America (HOSA) chapter recently attended the State Leadership Conference in Sacramento. The

an event where HOSA students participate in workshops and competitions with other schools.

The workshops allowed students to learn more about becoming a leader and also strengthen their medical knowledge by meeting medical professionals. Junior Kylie Moghimi-Danesh says, "SLC was a really great experience because I was able to not only spend time with my friends, but also hear the life stories of some amazing guest speakers."

At this year's competition, member Araceli Correa won a gold medal in the interview skills event and Kayla Marroquin placed tenth in the nursing skills competition. Correa is eligible to compete at the national level (ILC) in Orlando this Summer.

> "WE ARE INCREDIBLY PROUD OF ALL OF OUR STUDENTS WHO COMPETED."

-Mrs. McCaw

The HOSA chapter at El Rancho began a year ago when students and teachers alike saw what the program had to offer, McCaw says, "Mr. Alonso and I thought it would compliment what we teach in Project Lead the Way and in our ROP Health classes, allowing ER future health professional leadership training."

"I started HOSA in my sophomore year with other PLTW and ROP students when my teacher brought up the idea of starting a HOSA chapter here," said vice president Maria Juarez. Maria Juarez competed in Medical Math and Biomedical Laboratory Science. Juarez says, " I like that HOSA gives students an insight into what it would be like performing tasks that workers in the medical field would do."

"We are planning to grow our HOSA student members, attend regional state conference at Rio Hondo College, state leadership conference in Anaheim, also lots of fun fundraising to help the members attend the fun, learning and growth opportunities that are gained at the conferences. Most importantly we plan to continue our community service projects bringing awareness of important health issues to our community," says McCaw.

The club will do a pet photo shoot this Saturday to fundraise for the ILC competition in Orlando. Chapter President Alexandra Santiago says, "It has been a great experience working with every member to fundraise for SLC.'

The highly-anticipa ed Buffalo Spot is now open!

By Stevie Dominguez EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

From humble nings and with a strong desire to succeed and help others, a young Ivan Flores began a wing adventure like no other.

After many life lessons and during a time of desperation, president and founder Ivan Flores had the crazy idea to combine two "special" ingredients; a chicken and a potato. Flores' creation gave way to the Buffalo Spot's world famous buffalo fries, and after their longawaited opening in the city of Pico Rivera, standards were high.

Even though it might be a bit on the expensive side, portions at The Buffalo Spot are well worth

the cost. You don't have to just get buffalo sauce for your fries, they offer a wide variety of wet and dry seasoned chicken. And a regular sized portion of buffalo fries is enough to fill you and a friend up!

The Buffalo Spot is a company that has come to be known as not only a place where you will be served the best wings and their world famous buffalo fries, but it is a family-friendly "spot." Their restaurant is not only big and clean but their staff is quick to get your order out.

Although they don't have an extensive menu, if you're craving something other than wings and fries, The Buffalo Spot offers other alternatives. From ribs to salads and even shakes, you are sure to find something for yourself!

With their location so close to El Rancho High School, the restaurant gets many student customers. Senior Julien Martinez says, "I've had their buffalo fries and I loved it, but it's kind of pricey. I would still recommend going there though because, to me, it's worth the price."

Local resident and customer Alex Martinez says, "For just opening, I think the staff is doing good [with their service] and the food is good as well. I am sure as time goes on, they will perfect things and customers will keep coming in. I'll definitely be coming back."

The Buffalo Spot also prides themselves in not only serving the best quality food but also in treating you, your family, and friends,



Photo by: Yazlin Juarez

with the most love and respect that any human being deserves. Make sure you go stop by and have yourself some buf-

by and have yourself some buffalo fries at your local The Buffalo Spot on the corner of Washington Boulevard and Passons!

What is your opinion of The Buffalo Spot?



"It's a little overpriced for just chicken bits and fries. - America Ramirez, 12



"I haven't been there yet but I'm excited to try it soon.' - Angeli Villon, 12



"Their buffalo wings are really good. I think it's worth the price." - Julien Martinez, 12



"I love their buffalo fries and strawberry milkshakes.'

- April Rivera, 11



"I went with my friends and we absolutely love it. It's our favorite spot now!"

- Ariana Montenegro, 10

El Rodeo, PG 6

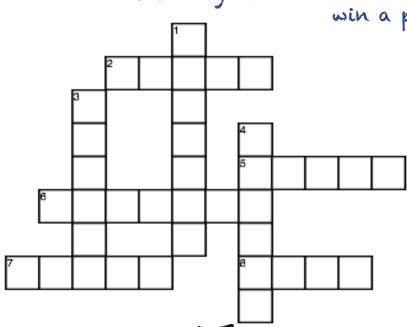
May PlaylIst!



NEW BEC

Crossword

Submit your answers to w



Mey Horosgopes

























Aries: Time to really be your-self! This is an amazing month to try something new or begin a new journey. There should be a lot of positivity for you this month, make sure you enjoy yourself.

Taurus: Makes sure you get a lot of rest this month and keep an eye on your health (especially your mental health) and happiness. Try to not be a big spender this month, stack your paper.

Gemini: This is a great month for you to meet new people and build new friendships and relationships. Don't be afraid to take risks when it comes to ensuring the right people are in your life.

Cancer: There may be some drawbacks to overcome this month for you, but remember to keep working hard as it is important to do so at the moment. Romance sizzles up for you this month; love may be in the air.

Leo: Now is time to focus on the future and start to plan out your time. You can be free to make long term plans and commitments and this is the best time to do it. Make sure you are focusing on what you really want to do.

Virgo: Be cautious of your spending this month, and try to save to prepare for any unexpected costs that may come your way. This is the month to take part in something creative that will fulfill your imagina-

Libra: There may be a lot of development in your personal relationships this month, and know that it is okay to focus your attention on particular people. An important new relationship may blossom this month, so keep open to new people.

Scorpio: This may be a good

month to change things up for you, whether it is a new daily routine, or a change in career. It is time to think about where you are in life and if you are happy with it.

Sagittarius: Try not to let the past get in the way of this month. It is okay to continue taking risks and trying new things. This month might be full of love for you, so keep your eyes open.

Capricorn: There may be some tension in your family life this month, make sure you make time for those who really matter to you. This may be an excellent month for your career/school and passions, so continue to work hard.

Aquarius: This month is a great time for you to change paths if you've been meaning too. You will be pretty busy this month, so be rested and prepared at all times.

Pisces: Your work or school life could experience some positivity this month and this area of your life may need some change too. Your financial position is good this month, so remember you to treat yourself.









Hey Dons! Welcome back and welcome to the month of May! Hopefully your Spring Break was productive and relatively decent. For this issue I was planning on venturing back into more anonymous questions, but, I was met with more dating advice. So, this issue will be half questions and half advice. Also, next issue there I will announce the big changes that are coming to the advice column. Stay tuned!

Finding your passion is an important step to your future and you shouldn't rush that process. If you're even remotely interested in something going on at school, give it a try.

Underclassmen, think about the classes you want before you get scheduled for next year. Try to work out any conflicts that your classes may have, do this as early as possible! If you don't, chances are you'll end up in classes you didn't really want.

Q: Where can I get
help for homework?
A: There are tutors that can be found
in L101 during lunch and before/after
school on most days. Also, there's
always office hours before school
every other Friday.

Q: How do I become a top computer scientist?

A: I'm sure someone from CSA asked this but if not, then I have a great answer for you. Take AP Computer Science Principles / AP Computer Science A with Mr.

Crone! Not only is he a great instructor, but the classes are also super interesting.

However, I am going to be studying Computer Science so this answer is surely biased. (Sorry) High School EL RODEO, PG 7

d Puzzle!

ww.elrodeonews.com to rize!

1. Colorful plants in a field of grass

Powdery substance that causes allergies

3. Spring holidaysurrounded around eggs4. When the bud of a flower opens

The fourth month of the year

Popular flowers in California that are orange red and yellow

Symbol of Easter whom brings Easter eggs

Item hidden on Easter

What college did you commit to?



"I have committed to Cal State Fullerton."

Carolyn Contreras, 12th grade



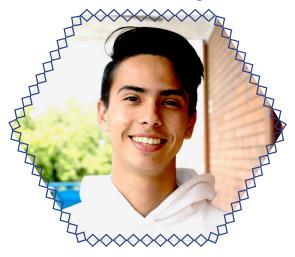
"I committed to University of La Verne"

Zelzin Mendez, 12th grade



"I committed to UC Riverside."

-Daniel Cruz-Natareno, 12th grade



"I have committed to Cal Poly Pomona."

- Jeremy Terriquez, 12th grade

Be like loe!

Joe wants to remember his time at El

Joes goes online and visits the El Rodeo News website: www.elrodenews.com

Michelle Obama inspires America's youth to "reach higher"



A-capella sensations known as Pentatonix performed at College Signing Day to Photo by Yazlin Juarez celebrate young adults pursuing higher education.

By Kayla Perez EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This past Wednesday, the young scholars, artists, entrepreneur, lawyers, scientists and other contributors to our nation's future gathered to celebrate National College Signing day. Thousands of events for College Signing Day took place all over America thanks to former First Lady Michelle Obama and her Reach Higher initiative.

The Reach Higher Initiative aims "to inspire every student in America to take charge of their future by completing their education past high school, whether

at a professional training program, a community college, or a four-year college or university."

In order to make this goal happen, the Reach Higher initiative partnered up with Obama's public awareness campaign, Better Make Room, to help young adults navigate the college application process and celebrate their journey to higher education. One of their pursuits to make this happen is to expand the amount of College Signing Day events taking place around the globe.

"Participation in Obama's annual May 1 College Signing Day has grown from a few dozen schools to more than 3,000 campuses in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico," says Eric Waldo, executive director of Reach Higher.

Obama and other host of celebrities such as LaLa Anthony and Usher gathered together on May 1st for the sixth national College Signing Day in UCLA's Pauley Pavilion. The annual event celebrates high school seniors and transfer students from underrepresented background that are committed to pursuing higher education.

Singer-songwriter, Legend, spoke about his experience attending the University of Pennsylvania and why education is a subject that is close to his heart.

"I really care about increasing access to equity in education," says Legend. "America can't be the land of opportunity unless we make sure our young people, no matter where they come from, no matter how much money their parents make, we want to make sure they have a chance to get a quality education."

Legend emphasized that education is important and can be an eye-opening experience regardless of what career you plan to purse. "I stand before you not only to praise on your accomplishments and successes-which are well deserved-but to encourage you to keep going, keep reaching higher," says Legend. "Your mission as you continue to get your education isn't just to add a credential to your resume."

"Expand your mind while you're in college, meet new people from all over the world, question your assumptions, search for the truth, challenge yourself," continues Legend. "Think about how you can use your education to make the world a better place."

Later in the event, former first lady Michelle Obama-introduced by Conan O'Brien-finalized the importance of higher education and gave her own word of advice based on her experiences.

"I want you all to know, you are about to make the best investment you can possibly make," says Obama. "In order to be here today, you kept on reaching higher for yourselves and for your future."

"You told all those doubters that they'd better make room," continues "That is what this is all about, making people make room for you where you belong."

As she was delivering her speech, Obama shared her own journey through the college application process and how people underestimate her but she always wanted reach higher than their expectations. "They told me that I wanted too much for myself, that I should dream a little smaller, and let me tell you that will happen to you again and again and again," Obama says. "There will be people in your life who will tell you not to dream too big, because they're haters and they don't want any more for you than they think you deserve. So in those times you have to ask yourself whether you're going to believe the haters or whether you're going to believe the truth of your story."



SPORTS

Track and Field comes back stronger



Seniors at their final track meet.

By Emiliano Lafarga EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho varsity track and field season has ended in success this year. Returning from a disappointing season ast year, this season was an improvement as the boys finished second in league with a record of (3-1) and the girls finished third with a record of (2-2).

"We started the season very strong and right now we are all at our best," says senior Natalie Munoz who competes as varsity sprinter and relay runner.

Track and field consists of many events which include hurdles, distance, sprints, pole vault, jumps and throwing. Each of these events consists of an array of smaller events.

This season's success for the team was a culmination of hard work and passion as they bushed each other to the best of their abilities. "Our team puts in hard work and effort into every practice and it shows at races," says Munoz. The passion is also a big motivation for the team who are striving to have fun and be the best they can be. 'I love running with them and I enjoy how we all support each other at every race," adds Munoz.

For many of these athetes, although the team effort is important, breaking their personal record was their main goal. Especially going into fihals, all those who qualified had to make sure they were heading in as ready as possible.

"I put a lot of effort and pushed myself to be the best I can be," says senior Joshua Esqueda who competes in shot put, discusand long jump. For him and many other seniors, this will be their last season to compete at such a level

However, no matter the outcome it's the little improvements as well that have played a big role in the team's success. Rather than umping to the big picture, they focused on their personal goals to help improve the team overall. "For me the season was pretty successful especially since I qualfied for varsity in two out of three of my events," adds Esqueda.

All in all, it took a collective effort and the willingness to compete and improve that proved to be the strong points in this team. In the end, no one can say that this season was anything but success.

Boys baseball seeks CIF Title

By Emiliano Lafarga EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Baseball season is close to the end and the boys' varsity team has secured a playoff spot once again. Despite a rough start, losing three out of their first four games, the boys managed to pick their record back together (7-5) and have only lost one out of their last five games. In the end, the boys used the final stretch of the season to gain the momentum needed in order to advance in to the playoffs.

The boys finished in 3rd place in their league standings; however, the journey to their triumphant season was not an easy one. Recent wins over Whittier High School (15-0) and (11-1), as well as La Serna High School (13-4) gave the boys the confidence they need for the remaining games of the season. However, the real challenge awaited the boys as they came up against league champions, Santa Fe High School. Undeterred by their loss to them earlier in the season, the team managed back to back victories against Santa Fe in the final stretch of their league cam-



Christian Robert preparing for the pitch

Photo by Selina Torres paign shutting them out in the

first game with a score of (5-0) and once again in spectacular fashion two days later (9-3).

Even with their shaky start to the season the team did not give up. Although their first performances set them back in the race for a playoff spot, the boys' evaluated themselves throughout the season and did what was necessary to get back to their winning ways. "I can't say I was happy with our performances in the beginning," says junior Damian Ureta. "But our past two games we have been competing the way we have, we will make it far this season," continues Ureta.

This season has been a whirlwind for the team who came off a great season last year having reached the semifinals of the CIF playoffs. The teams' earlier struggles however, did not diminish their hopes of once again achieving this same feat. The boys had the confidence needed to succeed and the proof is in the pudding. "Last year we made it to the semifinals and it was a great feeling but this year we want to win it all," adds Ureta.

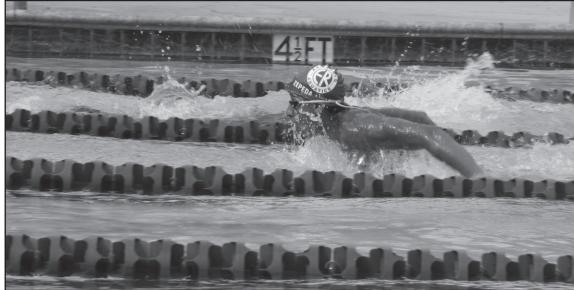
A big reason for their turn

around has also been the strong work ethic the team has shown. "We've been practicing as much as we can," says senior captain Omar Sanchez. Not only this but their strong reliance on each other and how they work as a unit has been their key to success. "We push each other mentally as well and it's put us in the right direction," continues Sanchez.

Such strong leadership and their ability to communicate is what was needed throughout the season if the boys had any hopes of a postseason. However, their competitive drive did not taken away from their ability to have fun especially for the seniors who are in their last year being on the team. "We are not perfect, but I hope to have fun as my last year at El Rancho," adds Sanchez.

With their league games coming to an end, the boys now look forward to a successful postseason and it seems as if nothing can get in their way. However their remaining games will be anything but easy as they face off against top teams and nothing less of a win against all of them will be enough to keep them going.

Boys swim team has impressive season



By Ezra Blanco EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho boys swim excelled in Del Rio League, but unfortunately lost by mere seconds at finals. The Dons still had a very impressive season with an overall score of 8-1 and a Del Rio League score of 3-2.

Coach Philipp Rojo is very pleased with the team's performance in Del Rio League this year. "The boys are seeing all the yards we swim in practice paying off." During practice, the team has covered over 123,000 yards in less than 40 days. That's 70 miles of swimming!

Rojo is also pleased with the change in the culture of the team. The swimmers have become "competition swimmers."

"This isn't just water polo conditioning, it's technique, it's strategy, it's thinking about your body position and when to breathe," says Rojo. "Like my lucky swim-meet t-shirt says, 'Oxygen is overrated.'" When the players achieved that cultural shift, it made a difference in how the athletes looked at their season.

The team finished Del Rio League preliminaries on March 24th. "We had quite a few of our boys hit their goal times!especially our Sub-60 Gang." Sub-60 refers to swimming under a minute, hence the sub-60 seconds. It is the first milestone for any competitive swimmer.

At preliminaries, Marco Cabral and Miguel Ornelas joined Carlos Rojo, Josiah Torres, Victor Villegas, Andrew Ortiz, and Jordan Uribe in the club. They also had Andrew Ortiz swim the 4th fastest 500 meter in El Rancho history, Daniel Borrayo swam under a 1:11 in the 100 Breast, and Rodrigo Osorio break the 1:10 for his 100 Fly. ten of the 14 varsity swimmers made it back to DRL Finals for their individual events.

The goal for the end of the season was two-fold: get each swimmer to maintain their preliminary times and make it to CIF. The team also had Carlos Rojo aiming for "Automatic Times" for CIF. This will be his

Photo by Yazlin Juarez 3rd year attending. He has a good shot of making Top 18 (Consolation Final) for the 50 Free, as well as making the Top 9 (Championship Final) for 100 Backstroke. "Once you are in the Top 9, anything can happen... including qualifying for State," says coach Rojo. California is a mecca for club swimming, so even the Division III consolation times (out of the four divisions) is no easy task. If El Rancho HS was a Division IV school, the Dons would have four to five Individual swimmers qualifying for CIF.

In preparations for finals, the team was in a "taper" for two weeks. "We've logged in lot of yards to get strength and cardio up, which makes muscles sore. But taper practices are less yards, more rest... so you end up maintaining their cardio endurance and resting the muscles... making for "peak performance" moments," says Rojo. He has also talked to each swimmer about strategy, like how fast they need to start, what tempo to hold, breathing patterns, and what swimmer to chase or

keep in front of. "Swimming a 500 is a little different than swimming a 50. And of course, each swimmer's pep talk is different." says coach Rojo. "Some need to feel the pressure of a result. Others overthink a race and you need to remind them that they just need to turn off their brain and just swim. Other's need a reminder that their main competition is the stopwatch, and to forget about everyone else in the pool."

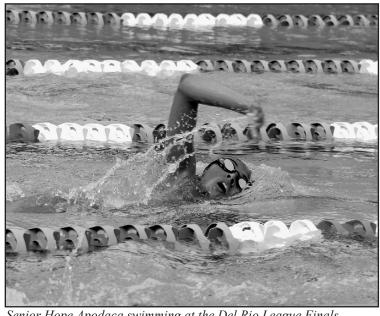
Unfortunately, the goal of making it to CIF was not fulfilled. Both relays missed qualifying for CIF by a few seconds, which is the equivalent to each swimmer being better by half a second. "But that is the nature of swimming, it's a technical sport AND about fitness & athleticism. That's why I love it. You can win or lose a race by 1/100th of a second," says Rojo. "I'm bummed about the boys not getting a chance to earn that CIF patch, but at the same time I'm excited about next year. And so are they. They are already talking about it."

Next season, Coach Rojo is going to condition his team even better. He's thinking about swim sets, (which is the repetitive, interval swims) and incorporating some longer distance sets sooner in the training cycle. There are also a few technical drills he wants to add to make sure the swimmers are as streamline as possible. "This should give our less experienced swimmers a greater chance of improvement on their technique." he says.

Thinking about trying out for the swim team next year? Follow coach Rojo's Twitter account @MrRojoP for updates and news on tryouts!

SPORTS

Girls swim finishes second in Del Rio League



Senior Hope Apodaca swimming at the Del Rio League Finals. Photo by Yazlin Juarez

BY RENE GALLEGOS EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On Friday, April 26th, El Rancho's swim teams raced in their last event of the season: finals. Finals is unlike any other meet, since all schools in the Del Rio League compete at once and is held at Rio Hondo.

Not all swimmers are allowed to compete at finals; they must first qualify. Junior varsity members must rank within the top six of their respective league and varsity must be in the top twelve.

El Rancho's varsity girls team closed the season as second place in league, reaching a total of 242 points. The junior varsity ladies placed second as well with a total of 125 points.

After swimming at finals, many of the member were sad to see the season end. "I love spending time with my team and I love seeing where all our hard work takes us," say junior Monica Guardado.

"I am very proud of my team," says junior Alexis Gallegos, "we all did extremely good this season and did the best we could."

Team captains and seniors Marissa Lopez and Angelica Martinez became emotional after leading their team to second place in league.

"Now that swim came to an end it's a bitter sweet," says Lopez. "I feel accomplished and proud at myself for how far I came, but leaving my team is what hurts."

"Swimming my league finals was so emotional but exciting," says Martinez, "I was happy to see my teammates swim and improve their times and learn new techniques."

Though the team is proud of their accomplishments, the girls are sad to see their senior swimmers leave. "I'm gonna miss the seniors and my lane, especially Savannah, my breaststroke partner!" says Gallegos.

With high hopes for upcoming seasons, Guardado says, "I am hoping, for next year's season, to just do our best as a team and make it to finals again."

Boys volleyball "sets" sights high for CIF

By Alejandro Melchor EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Spring season is coming around and the boys volleyball team has set their sights on earning a CIF championship title. The team had a Del Rio score of 6-2 and an overall record of 17-11.

Starting off their preseason, the team had a bit of a rough ride, "We had a tough preseason that got us prepared for league and right now we are in game four in league with a record of 2-1," said head coach Adelaida Picon.

Despite having had struggled in the preseason, the boys have improved their game and now have a new mission. That is to place 1st and take home a CIF title.

> "Our goals this season are TO BE LEAGUE CHAMPS AND TAKE A [CIF] RING." - Sebastian Rodriguez., 11

"We are trying to stay undefeated for the rest of the season...that's the goal," added senior Steve Francis.

Despite the team having a good start in league, they have run into obstacles along the way. "Our biggest issues are finishing and

also communication on the court,' says senior Alex Bermudez

"I'd saying some of our difficulties are not crumbling in close games and also managing pressure," added Francis.

"Getting used to each other has been an issue, we do have a large senior group, some with volleyball experience some without, but everything is jellying right now and really coming together, it looks like we're definitely going to playoffs and hopefully a deep run in playoffs," says Picon.

With that being said the boys have new tactics for the season, which they have already implemented in their game plan.

"We need to improve on our serving, we do miss a lot of serves and those are easy points that were giving away but as long as we improve on our serves and be more competitive we will be where we want to and that is a CIF championship game," says Picon.

"We plan not to mess around and just keep focused when it's game time,' said senior Cezar Rodriguez.

> "WE JUST NEED TO WORK HARD EVERY DAY AND NOT SLACK OFF. "

- CEZAR RODRIGUEZ, 12

"Well our preseason was very challenging, that definitely prepared us for our league, in return, our league is also very difficult. La Serna has a very good team, so does Santa Fe and Cal high," says Picon. "Everyone in our league is pretty good and so we've been able to compete with everyone in our league and that in turn prepares us for playoffs."

Approaching the halfway mark of this season already, this leaves one question. Will the boys claim a CIF title? It will only be a matter of time until the question is answered. That said, be sure to witness how the season unfolds at there very next game.

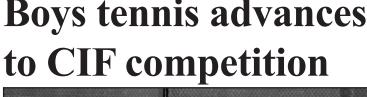




Photo by Selina Torres

The El Rancho boys tennis team is accomplishing big things this year. After

placing third in their overall

By Ezra Blanco

EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

league, the team made it to CIF! The team got off to a rough start this season, but made a fast recovery. "I'm not going to lie, we all could've been doing better as a team," says Kyle Kuang. "But as for the season, I think we'll be at the top more or less." Team captain Bryan Yanez shares the same confidence about the remainder of the season, saying their hard work at practices will

help the season go in their favor.

"Over the years, these players have grown as athletes and made incredible progress within themselves," says Yanez. "When I first started tennis, I didn't put that much enthusiasm into the sport, mainly because I did it to get out of P.E. Yet now I see myself striving for more than just to become the best at my school, I wish to become the best in our league." Some players, however, have remained the same since their first match. "I haven't really changed much as a player," says Kuang. "I've been making good plays since day one."

Coach Eduardo Galindo is proud to announce that the team has already fulfilled their biggest goal of the season, reaching CIF. The Dons played their wild card match March 30. "This year's team is still very young, but very talented," says Galindo. "We will only be losing one player, so everyone will be returning next year and have a shot at fighting for a league championship." His next goal is to help the team improve on moving more effectively on the court to set up for winning shots.

Yanez shares the same goal as his coach. "Since all went well and I managed to surpass my goal, then I will make sure to finish strong, have a good match, and most importantly having fun playing the sport I love."

This year about half of the JV team moved up to varsity, so the new players had a very steep learning curve. "I mostly focused on getting guys to adjust to the speed of playing at the varsity level and getting them to develop consistency in both their forehand and backhand," says Galindo. "Additionally, opponents are more strategic and will create angles to give a challenging shot so our guys had to be able to counter and create their own shot."

Coach Gallindo is already looking forward to next season and ready to recruit more players to come out and join the team. "We were down a double's team all season and our JV guys still placed in league. I'm looking forward to working with JV team and the off season to make them even stronger and also compete for a league title."

Interested in joining the tennis team next year? Follow coach Galindo on Twitter @ MrEGalindo and the team's Twitter account @elranchotennis for news and updates on tryouts.

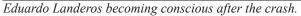


Alexander Bermudez spiking the ball. Photo by Alejandro Melchor

EVERY 15 MINUTES

On April 29th and 30th, ERHS hosted the biannual drunk driving and personal safety simulation.







Grim Reaper waiting to take his next victim from the crash.



Firefighters using the "jaws of life" to save Natalie Munoz.



Grim Reaper taking the life of Anthony Solis



Claudia Salvador being pulled from the totaled car.



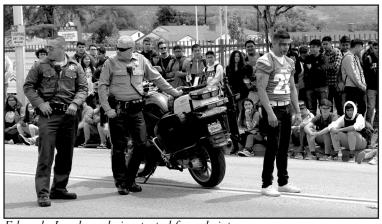
Claudia Sandoval being rushed to the ambulance.



Natalie Munoz being immobilized and rushed to the hospital.



Ms. Munoz after finding out her daughter was in an accident.



Eduardo Landeros being tested for sobriety.



Anthony Solis's corpse waiting to get taken by the coroners.



Choir singing while the fallen students walk into the funeral.



First responders and parents paying respects at the funeral.

ENTERTAINMENT

BTS continues to break records and inspire world's youth



BTS poses for concept photos for their extended play, Map of the Soul: Persona.

BY KAYLA PEREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

BTS is back and dominating the charts more than they ever have before. After reeling in two chart-topping albums Love Yourself: Tear and Love Yourself: Answer, South Korean boy-band BTS returned with their new seven-track EP, Map of the Soul: Persona on April 12th.

The EP debuted at the top of the Billboard 200 chart with 260,000 units, making it the band's third #1 album on the Billboard 200. Because of this, BTS is the first group since The Beatles to rank #1 on Billboard 200 with three different albums within a year. Both groups made their records within 11 months yet, BTS beat The Beatles by one week.

The success of the new EP is not a surprise as it was already breaking records prior it its release with approximately 3.02 million copies sold during its pre-sale period - doubling the pre-orders of their prior album Love Yourself: Answer.

The EP's title-track "Boy with Luv," featuring American singer Halsey, also achieved high rankings in the charts as

it debuted at #8 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. This is the group's second ever entry into the top 10 ranks of the Billboard Hot 100 chart, after their "Fake Love" hit #10 last year.

Another track within the EP titled "Make It Right," which is a collaboration with British-singer Ed Sheeran, also debuted at #95 on the Billboard Hot 100, making BTS the only K-pop act to have two simultaneous hits on the chart.

This era for BTS not only furthered their success chart-wise but also helped them continue their global domination performance-wise.

On April 13, BTS performed their title-track "Boy With Luv," for the first time on the American-comedy show Saturday Night Live, and recently performed it in a legendary stage collaboration with Halsey at this year's Billboard Music Awards. This year's award show was a special night for BTS as they won the "Top Social Artist" award for the 3rd time in a row along with "Top Duo/Group."

The band was also recently featured in TIME magazine as a part of the 2019 TIME 100 List where singer Halsey spoke about them in an interview and praised them for their influence on the youth in society stating: "Behind those three letters are seven astounding young men who believe that music is stronger than the barriers of language. It's a universal dialect."

That universal dialect will continue to spread internationally as they will bring the album on tour next month through their stadium concert series, Love Yourself: Speak Yourself, which will see the group tour North and South Americas, Europe, and Asia in the upcoming months.

Avengers: Endgame shatters box office records

By Fatima Lopez El Rodeo Staff Writer

The newest addition to the Marvel Cinematic Universe, as well as the final installment to the Avengers series, *Avengers: Endgame*, tore our hearts out of our chests and reminded us that heroes never die, so long as their memories are kept alive.

Endgame, as did every other Marvel movie before it, completely crushed the competition. The film grossed a whopping \$1.2 billion in its opening weekend. This is the biggest opening weekend in movie history. In fact, many box office analysts are not ruling out the idea of Avengers: Endgame actually overpassing Avatar's \$2.8 billion and becoming the top-grossing movie of all time.

The movie is directed by none other than American filmmaking duo, the Russo Brothers. Other notable works by Joe and Anthony Russo are Avengers: Infinity War and both Captain America: The Winter Soldier and Captain America: Civil War. Their newest and most successful film to date stars a plethora of notable actors. Endgame features Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans, Brie Larson, Tom Holland, and Chris Hemsworth to name a few.

It is a bittersweet moment for the Marvel Cinematic Uni-

verse because it marks the end of an era. Without spoiling the movie for anyone who hasn't seen it yet (if you haven't already, I'm afraid you've been living under a rock), *Avengers: Endgame* bids farewell to the original Avengers, the ones the world has come to know and love.

The movie picks up right where *Infinity War* left off. Thanos, the deviant from the planet Titan, succeeded in snapping away half of the entire universe and many familiar faces have also been snapped out of existence. An extensive manhunt for Thanos begins and thus the Avengers' final mission begins.

While the heroes who survived the infamous snap (oh, and Ant-Man too!) start their mission to undo what was lost, they are also on a mission to make sure that nothing that has been created (or conceived) within the last five years goes away either. A certain Avenger has too much to lose and he is definitely *not* taking any chances!

Avengers: Endgame is a huge success for the Marvel Cinematic Universe. The film shattered box office records, but it also won the hearts of audience members all across the globe. Throughout Endgame, we are reminded that the Avengers are not just a group of superheroes who intend to save the universe



The star-studded promotional poster for Avengers: Endgame.

from its untimely doom, they are also a family. The strong, familial bonds that are on display throughout the film remind the audience to be grateful for whoever is a part of their life at the moment. Whether it's a friend, a significant other, or a family member, it does not matter. They are a part of the audience member's life today, but can easily be out of their life the next.

Avengers: Endgame has officially kicked off the summer box office season and, if you love superhero movies, I highly suggest you watch this film. Be aware of its runtime, though! Three hours and one minute are quite lengthy, but if this review has said anything, it is that these three hours are well worth your time. If superhero movies aren't for you, Endgame is still the

movie to watch. Those odd references you've been seeing all over *Twitter* will finally make some sense if you end up watching it!

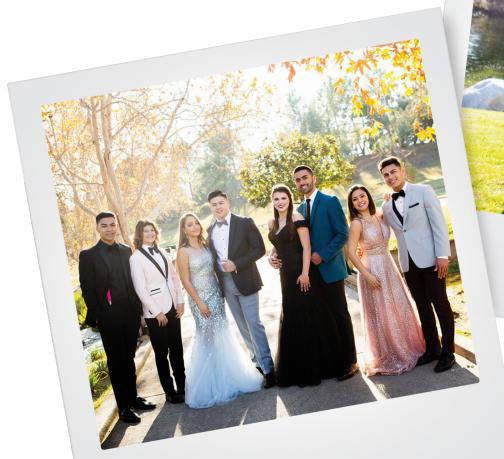
One final word of advice for those who will watch: bring some tissues! From what I saw, not a single dry eye was present in the theater. For many, *Avengers: Endgame* really pulled on the heartstrings, so who knows? It might pull on your's too!

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