

El Rancho High School
Friday, September 27, 2019
Volume 68.1

El Rodeo

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winner is...

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FEATURES

El Rancho welcomes new principal, Mr. Silvas



By DIEGO GONZALEZ & ROBERT RIOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

El Rancho High School is under new leadership for the 2019-20 school year with new principal Christopher Silvas. The newly hired principal is determined to provide the students of El Rancho with an optimum learning environment and enjoyable school experience. Silvas says, “I would want students to know that we care about them and that we are listening if they would discuss what they want in their school.” He wants to ensure that the voices of the students are heard by administration

this year, “I can’t guarantee we would agree on everything, but that students would be heard and that we are willing to implement good ideas.” In coming to El Rancho, Silvas reflects on his past experience as principal of Gladstone High School. “This school is very similar to my last school, and I think I can work together with teachers and students to improve our academic progress and our school climate,” says Silvas. He also enjoys the spirited background that El Rancho has to offer. “There is an existing school culture here based on pride and tradition, and I thought that would be a good environ-

ment to work in,” says Silvas. Although his time at El Rancho has been short, principal Silvas has developed a vision for his current students, “My vision always includes measurable student success that can help them develop their passion about the world,” Silvas says. With Silvas at the head of El Rancho, a new dynamic for academic success and an open minded approach is expected to improve the overall performance and morale of the school. The 2019-20 school year is set to be full of improvement and freshness, something that Silvas is looking forward to play a large role in.

Anthony Somoza is Simply Irresistible!

By GRECIA HARO-FLORES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Anthony “Ant” Somoza isn’t your typical Gemini! His kind and positive energy can be felt from miles away. He’s not only gregarious, artistic, and outgoing, he’s also *simply irresistible!* If you ever find yourself trying to cross paths with this delightful human, good luck because you might find this involved Don in almost every club El Rancho has to offer! He is an active member of Key Club, Leos Club, Environmental Club, Boys and Girls Club, Animal Advocates, Child Development and Growth Club, and Culinary Arts Club. In previous years, he played football, wrestling, and tennis at his former school, Sante Fe High. Though what many may not know about Somoza is that art is a huge passion of his. Ever since he was little, Somoza found himself constantly doodling around his papers, which overtime turned into something much more. “I enjoy all assortments of art such as clothes, regular art, street art,” says Somoza, “I see everything as art in a sense.” “I’d say [art and drawing

have] impacted my life as they’ve become a part of me,” adds Somoza, “Throughout the day, I’m constantly doing little sketches, looking at different art online, and just always interested in seeing more.” His passion for art not only transfers onto a piece of paper, but also onto a plate. Somoza enjoys cooking, trying different foods, and being open-minded about the new flavors he tries. Somoza says, “My cooking interest [was] sparked as I like trying different foods, so cooking myself, I get to try new foods, new taste, etcetera.” Being president of the Culinary Arts Club has allowed him to experiment with more flavors and “take a leadership role which pushes [him] to strive for more.” His favorite dish to eat is a Greek dish called Gyro Rap and his favorite beverage to drink is water. We love a hydrated king! But no matter the activity he’s doing, whether it’d be cooking, drawing, walking, all the verbs, you will never see this guy without his AirPods! His playlist consists of a variety of genres, but he’ll most likely be listening to his favorite artists Frank Ocean, Wifisfuneral,

MF DOOM, and A\$AP Rocky. “They are my favorite artists because starting with Frank Ocean, the music style in itself just relaxes me and puts me in a good state of mind, Wifisfuneral is a diverse rapper since he’s able to make different styles of music that just captures all my different emotions,” says Somoza, “MF DOOM just zones me in to the music where I’m just focused into the music, and A\$AP Rocky just has a vibe to him that also touches my different emotions like Wifisfuneral.” After graduating in June, Somoza plans to further his education and major in computer science. Somoza says, “I want to major in computer science as I find enjoyment in coding, to be able to write up a script, and have your code perform an action, feels really accomplishing.” He was introduced to computer science during his middle school years. In 7th grade, he practiced coding in his PLTW class, and programming robots on the robotics team in 8th grade. Somoza believes that computer science is indeed “difficult at times but when you [one] gets the hang out of it,



it boosts up your confidence.” “My favorite thing about computer science will probably be the end feel seeing the code come together, and [have it] be successful in the action wanted,” says Somoza. Still want to know more about Somoza and his love for art, cooking, clothing, and music? Or do you want to know

about his pet dog, Rascal, and pet turtles, Cheech and Chong? Well hey, don’t be afraid to hit him up on Instagram or Twitter! It’s quite simple to find him since his username is the same for both social media platforms: @1of1anthony. Conversations with him won’t disappoint!

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

Editor-in-Chief.....Grecia Haro-Flores

Copy Editor.....Araceli Correa

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Section Editors

News....Grecia Haro-Flores

Features....Araceli Correa

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Reporter.....Rocio Estrada

Reporter.....Miguel Chavez

Reporter.....Marissa De La Cruz

Reporter.....Alejandro Melchor

Reporter.....Angie Campos

Reporter.....Julia Diaz

Reporter.....Maxine Covarrubias

Reporter.....Sophia Lugo

Photo Editor.....Carlos Rojo

Photo Editor.....Alexis Gallegos

FEATURES

Meet ERHS's Newest Teachers!



Vincent Truong

Mr. Truong is El Rancho's newest biology teacher in W3! Truong attended UCLA where he majored in Microbiology. He later pursued his graduate degree in Education at CSULA. Some of his favorite hobbies include rock climbing, playing board games, and watching musicals. In his free time, he enjoys being active, especially at the beach, participating in school events, and most importantly sleeping!



Richard Munoz

Mr. Munoz teaches a variety of subjects from Green Technology to English Language Development. He started his career at Rio Hondo with an associate's degree in Child Development then went to Azusa Pacific University to major in Human Development and to obtain a Master's degree in Educational Technology. He enjoys watching Dodger games with his son, hanging out with friends and family at home, and making music.



Megan Backovich

Mrs. Backovich is El Rancho's new Drama teacher! While she began majoring in theatre, she decided to pursue social work. She attended Cal State Long Beach for both her Bachelor's and teaching credential. She enjoys singing and performing, going to the beach, walks, bike rides, playing competitive trivia with her husband and friends, and binge watching Netflix on the couch with her dog.



Kelly Norris

Ms. Norris is a resource specialist in El Rancho, meaning she supports students in all subjects. She previously has taught Integrated Math and English. She graduated from Cal State Fullerton with a degree in English. In her free time, she enjoys going to arboretums and plants shows while learning about animals, and going to art museums and plays.



Amara Trujillo

Trujillo is a resource specialist at El Rancho. She majored in Political Science at Cal State Long Beach and went on to pursue an Education Specialist credential for Mild/Moderate Disabilities. She enjoys playing guitar, designing graphics, watching dramas, and relaxing with her family.



Anthony Magani

Mr. Magani is a 10th and 12th-grade teacher for English. He majored in Communication Studies at Cal State Long Beach and received his Master's Degree and a teaching credential from National University. In his free time, he enjoys being active, especially at the beach, participating in school events, and most importantly sleeping!

Get involved!

CHECK OUT SOME CLUBS AT EL RANCHO HIGH SCHOOL!

Folklorico Club

Learn how to express yourself with this cultural dance. Meetings are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 pm in the cafeteria. Contact Mr. Magdaleno for more information or text @erhsfolk1 to 81010!

Animal Advocates

Educate the school community about animal related issues and advocate for the animals in our community with Animal Advocates. Meetings are Tuesdays during lunch in A204. To join, simply show up. Applications are accepted year round!

Astronomy Club

Expand your knowledge of the universe and the night sky. Contact Ms. Dorado or club president Carlos Jurado for more information or show up to a meeting on Fridays during lunch in X8.

Cultural Awareness Club

Celebrate diversity and exercise open mindedness while going on excursions and trips to experience other cultures. Meetings are every last Friday of the month during lunch at A206. Contact Ms. Mata or Mr. Jimenez!

Pride Alliance (GSA)

Fight homophobia on campus and advocate for equal treatment for youth of all sexual orientations with Pride Alliance. Members should strive to make the school environment free of homophobic, sexual, verbal, and physical harassment. The #1 rule is confidentiality: What happens in the club, stays in the club. To join, attend Thursday meetings during lunch in Z2.

Environmental Club

Help clean up your community, school, and beaches or simply learn how you can make a difference in the environment! Meetings are every other Wednesday in K105. For more updates on this club, text @gogreener to 81010!

Latino Club

Learn about Latino culture and its influence on other cultures. Take field trips to colleges and volunteer for community service. All students are welcome! Meetings take place on Wednesdays in G3.



Seniors celebrate after their class skit. Photo by: Mr. Zeko

NPR 2019 Results

By ANGIE CAMPOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Last night's annual Night Pep Rally resulted in Seniors taking the win, but with a shocking twist of Sophomores placing second. With a score of 3,343, NASCAR Seniors remain in first place for the class cup. Following the Seniors, Super Mario Sophomores scored 3,192, with Space Jam Juniors following with 3,157, and last but not least, the Freshman of Bell Air with a score of 3,067.



PICTURE THIS

Photos by Carlos Rojo



Diego Ortega pulls forward against Saint Francis.



Varsity football team prepares for their game against Montebello.



El Rancho's mascots posing at Welcome Back Assembly.



Seniors show blue pride at their last Welcome Back assembly.



Sarah Ortega hits a forehand to dominate the game.



Girls' volleyball playing during a game.

CAMPUS

How do you feel about graduating at Pioneer?



SAKEENAH ISLAM

“I’m disappointed in the school for thinking that building a new football stadium and track is more important the students being able to graduate at their own high school.”



ANTHONY SAMOZA

“I think it would’ve been better to start construction after our graduation, but I do hope our graduation being at pioneer means getting more tickets.”



ESTEPHANIE REYES

“I think it’s sad because we don’t get to graduate at the place we spent four years at.”



ALEXIS GAMEZ

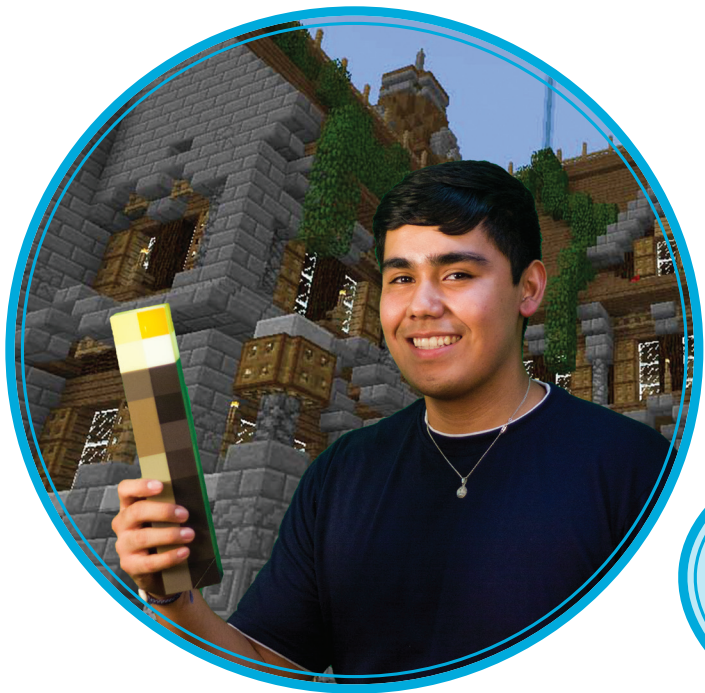
“I want to end where I started.”



ALLIYAH DICIOCO

“I would prefer to graduate at my own high school, but at the same time the stadium at pioneer is nicer.”

ADVICE FROM ALEJANDRO



How do I pass my classes?

I would say just pay attention, take notes, if there is something you do not understand, ask the teacher for help. Take advantage of office hours to catch up on any assignments, and get one-on-one help from the tutors that are in the library.

How do I get someone to like me?

Be yourself, show them that you’re a nice person they would enjoy being around. Be funny. Who would want to talk to a wall? Also, dress to impress. You don’t have to wear expensive things, but dress clean.

What’s the best advice for freshmen?

My advice would be to stay focused, because these next four years could either make or break you. Also, Avoid bad friends, try to surround yourself with friends who you are comfortable with and that respect you.

Chef Luna’s Corner

BY ALEXIS GALLEGOS AND ANGIE CAMPOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

Welcome to Chef Luna’s Corner, where there will be fresh, new recipes every month. Chef kicks off the new year with a healthy and simple meal of quinoa and black beans!

Ingredients

- 1 teaspoon extra virgin olive oil
- 1 large Brown onion
- 5 cloves of garlic
- ½ yellow bell pepper
- ½ cup of carrots cut into small dice
- ½ cup of quinoa
- 1 ½ cups of vegetable broth
- 1 teaspoon garlic salt
- ¼ teaspoon ground cumin
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- salt and ground pepper to taste
- 1 cup frozen corn kernels
- 2(15 ounces) cans black beans rinsed and drained
- ½ cup chopped fresh cilantro
- ½ cup chopped kale



Steps

1. Heat oil in a saucepan over medium heat; cook and stir onion, garlic, bell pepper and carrots until they caramelized (light brown). Add garlic salt.
2. Mix quinoa into onion mixture and cover with vegetable broth. Season with cumin, cayenne pepper, salt, and pepper. Bring the mixture to a boil. Cover and reduce heat, and simmer until quinoa is tender and broth is absorbed, about 20 minutes.
3. Stir frozen corn into the saucepan, and continue to simmer until heated through, about 5 minutes; mix in the black beans, cilantros and kale.

Enjoy!

SPORTS

Dons set their sights on CIF playoffs



Varsity Football Dons take over Montebello with the score of 51-16 Photo taken by Carlos Rojo

By ALEJANDRO MELCHOR

The Dons are off to a good start in their football season with a record of four consecutive wins and one loss. The boys began their season with a loss to Covina’s Northview High School, but have stepped up since and picked up four back-to-back wins against Bell Gardens High School, Garfield High School, Montebello High School, and Baldwin Park High School. “The philosophy of our team is to

play fast, play tough, and play disciplined,” said head coach Adrian Medrano, “I think we have a group of kids who have really bought into the program and care about each other.” Despite having a good mindset for the season, the

team also has some goals they plan to meet this season “We want to win football games and we want to do as well as we can to see if we could sneak into the playoffs, its really difficult in our league to make to play offs because we have a really strong league and it’s also a small league,” says Medrano Senior Nicholas Camano says, “Our goal for this season is to just win and get better as a unit.” “We’re going to try and win league and then see where we go from there,” says senior Angel Gamboa, “We need to focus on buying in and just knowing our stuff because last year we didn’t.” Apart from winning most of their games, the team is really focusing on improving their overall game on the field. “I think we’ve already seen a bit of an improvement and that’s throwing the football,” says Medrano, “Last year, we were really a run heavy team and there were times when we struggled to throw the football. I also think that were showing a vast amount of improvement on defense.” “We just need to buy in and keep working hard and we should be good,” said senior Juan Silva. This team has their goals set high for this football season and they plan to fulfill them. So that leaves one question; will the boys be able to meet their goal of making it to the CIF championship. That’s an answer that only time will tell. That said, be sure to go out and support the Football team by attending their next game which is set to be played tonight at Don Memorial stadium at 7:00pm .

Cross Country hits the ground running

So far, the cross country team has had three meets, and they have hit the ground running. On August 31st, they had their first race at The Great Cow Run in Cerritos. The boys placed sixth out of 13, while many on the girls’ team, such as captain Melanie Navarro, won medals. On September 7th, the team ran at the Rosemead Invitational at Rosemead High School. The senior boys’ team took fifth place out of 26 schools, and the senior girls placed fifth out of 12 schools. There were also a lot of personal and seasonal records broken, and for many underclassmen, this race is a kick-off to the upcoming meets. On September 21st, the team stormed up Woodbridge Invitational at the Silverlakes Sports Complex. Many runners

won medals and broke personal records. Senior boys David Hernandez, Antonio Flores Marquez, Alexander Santa Cruz, Juan Carlos Hernandez, Fabian Vargas, Jacob Funes, and Jaime De Haro all got personal and seasonal records. Boys senior varsity runners Antonio Galicia, Omar Reyna and Ryan Perdomo all broke their PRs. Among the varsity girls team, senior Andee Gonzalez and junior Itzel Valencia broke their personal records. Freshman Leslie Saavedra medaled in this challenging course while breaking her personal record, along with her companions Andie Bonilla, Alexandra Bautista, and Jenny Villareal. The boys freshmen also had their break, with Adrian Barbosa, Eduardo Garcia, Daniel Pascual, and Ishmael Casian joining the club.



Courtesy of: Don Page Antonio Galicia competing in the Great Cow Run

Sophomores Brenda Hernandez, Julianna Vallin, and Ahriana Martinez also broke their personal and season records in this fast paced race. The male counterparts Jimmy Valenzuela and Diego Carmolinga also PR’d. Last but not least, junior George Reyes broke his PR and medaled with his companions Ivan Hernandez, Luis Pina, and Diego Valdez, who although did not break their records, they did receive medals.

How do you feel about no pads for powder puff?



Alyssa Marquez, Senior: “I honestly feel like it sucks. It’s our school’s tradition to play in pads. But it is what it is. </3”



Cristina Martinez, Junior: “I think that we should have pads because it makes it more exciting and we are getting a better feel for football.”



Alyssa Sotelo, Senior: “I don’t think it’s right to break tradition. El Rancho was the only school around here that still used pads for Powder Puff. Without them, it takes away the actual experience of football.”



Emalie Gurero, Senior: “I think we should have pads for powder puff because that’s what makes our school different than other schools, and it’s more realistic to us playing actual football, and we are still playing safe using flags around us.”



Alexia Garcia, Junior: “I feel like we should have padding for powder puff so we can experience what it’s like being a football player. It doesn’t matter if it’s flag the whole idea is to have fun and dress up like a real football player.”

SPORTS

Girls’ volleyball set to open league play

BY SOPHIA LUGO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With preseason games coming to an end, and an overall record score of 4-4, the girls’ volleyball team has defeated Pioneer, Norwalk, Montebello, and Duarte. This year, there will be eight league games. Last season, Coach Adelaida Picon returned to the team after 3 years. This year, Picon was able to select the players. “We are relatively young and inexperienced, so we need to play more games,” she says. The team participated in the Whittier Cardinals’ Classic Tournament, where they finished in second place for the silver division. Compared to previous years, the team is off to a good start. The team is pushing themselves in a way they haven’t before. Captain Desteny Hernandez says, “I feel like this season can be ours, we are a totally different team from last year. We actually want to win and we have worked very hard.” Setter, Serena Rodriguez says, “I think our biggest opponent is ourselves because



Girls’ volleyball before their game against the Condors

pushing through everything from last year to summer and where we are now, isn’t easy. We are coming strong this year for everyone in our league.” They hope to surprise their opponents and show them that they’re new and improved. The team expressed great importance on staying

positive throughout the game, something they have lacked in previous years. Outside hitter, Linda Saucedo says, “We have to work on getting out of our heads and gaining self-confidence. It’s crucial to the game and on being able to work as a team.” She goes on, “If our head isn’t in the

game, we’re not in the game.” The teams’ mind set is to have fun and win while doing it. They want a fulfilling season and to know they gave it everything they had. All the seniors have played all four years of high school. This being their final season,

they hope to make this last one memorable and to be able to think back and remember how much fun they had. Saucedo says, “I’m going to miss having practice with my friends every day and having a sisterhood.” The team has high expectations for themselves. “Our team goals are to compete for the Del Rio League Championship, and make a run in CIF playoffs,” says Coach Picon. Junior Alyssa Briseno says, “My biggest goals this season are to get better as a passer and get first-team all-league.” The girls have a great outlook on this upcoming season. “I’m looking forward to winning more games and proving everyone wrong,” says returner Alyssa Garcia. The team began their season on Thursday, September 19th in a game against Santa Fe. They came out on top with a score of 3-1, acquiring their first win of the season. Their next home game is on Tuesday, October 8th against Santa Fe high school. Their next home game is on Tuesday, October 8th against Santa Fe high school.

Photo by: Carlos Rojo

Boys’ water polo starts season strong



Andrew Ortiz ready to strike.

Photo by: Carlos Rojo

BY ALEXIS GALLEGOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho Boys’ water polo team is off to a tremendous start to their season with an impressive record of four wins and one loss. The dedication and desire to improve their skills this season has shown greatly through their early morning and late night practice sessions in the pool. The team is looking to top their prior season’s success, in which they qualified for CIF but were defeated in a tough away game against Riverside’s La Sierra in the first round of the playoffs. With five games played in the early stages of the season, the Dons are working their way toward a successful 2019 season. The Dons were met with tough competition in their first games, including a closely contested game against Ramona High School, which was capped off by player Michael Amezcua’s game winning goal making the

score 15 to 14 in favor of El Rancho. In their most recent game against Bell Gardens, the team displayed great teamwork and determination gaining their fourth win of the season with a score of 22 to 8, and are looking to build off of their momentum. The players take great pride in their relationships they have built with one another, which to them makes the grueling sport of Water Polo almost effortless. As the season continues, varsity goalie, Jordan Uribe has hopes of, “going far in CIF with my homies.” As the Del Rio league approaches, Captain Andrew Ortiz says, “I am most excited for league games.” The El Rancho Boys’ water polo team will kick off the Del Rio League with their first game against Whittier High School. The boys will look to get a win against the Cardinals, in a game that will truly put their hard work and dedication to the test.

Girls’ tennis seeks CIF playoff berth

BY DIEGO GONZALEZ
& ROBERT RIOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

The girls’ Tennis team has set their expectations high for the upcoming season, and strive to reach the CIF playoffs. Their season started off in an unexpected manner with a record of 4 wins and 6 losses. Senior and third year returner Celeste Muniz has high hopes for her team this season. “My goal for this season is to make it to CIF with all my girls,” says Muniz. The competition in the Del Rio League has proven to be fierce in the last couple of years, but Muniz has the utmost confidence in herself as well as her teammates to persevere this season. “I think this season will be tough, but I think we’ll dominate,” adds Muniz. Coming into her senior season as a returning El Rancho girls tennis player, Muniz has seen growth in her skill as a tennis player in comparison to her past seasons. “I got better at aiming and get compliments from other coaches at my games now,” says Muniz. In addition to confidence from the players, head coach Eduardo Galindo knows the skills that his players possess. Galindo said to yearbook staff, “We have a young group that’s been working hard all summer and motivated to do

well this season.” The confidence that Galindo has in his team is a reflection of the improvement and growth of his players, as well as the experience that he carries as head coach of the program. The team kicked their season off with a win against Norwalk High School with a score of 11-7 but then were defeated in their tightly contested match against Paramount High School. The team is looking to duplicate their win against Norwalk in the com-

ing games in order to catch momentum in their journey towards CIF qualification. These results have boosted the motivation of the players in the early stages of the season, and will be a pivotal part in how they continue to approach the rest of the Del Rio League season. Their shortcomings in the 2018 season will definitely be a huge factor in their strive for CIF qualification, and will serve as motivation for the rest of the season.



Senior Celeste Muiz swings at the ball to get the point

Photo by: Carlos Rojo

ENTERTAINMENT

IT: Chapter Two Premieres in Time for Spooky Season

BY MARISSA DE LA CRUZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The beginning of September started off on a rather spooky note with the second chapter of the popular 2017 movie, *IT*, premiering on September 6.

IT: Chapter Two is the second half of Stephan King’s 2017 *It*, not to be confused with the 1990 version. The cast include Jessica Chastain (Beverly), James McAvoy (Bill), Bill Skarsgård (Pennywise), Bill Hader (Richie), Isaiah Mustafa (Mike), and other familiar faces. With such a long running time and great cast, *It: Chapter Two* should have been the perfect successor to the first part, however longer doesn’t necessarily mean better.

The movie takes place 27 years after the 2017 movie and the setting remains in the small town of Derry, Maine. The Losers’ Club have long gone their separate ways and all live very different lives. Richie is a popular comedian, Eddie owns a limo



Penywise being spooky company, and Beverly is married. Though when the people of Derry begin to go missing again, Mike calls the others to return to their hometown and take a final stance against the evil clown, Pennywise, who is stronger than he has ever been before.

The movie’s plot matches the source material, with some minor add-ons and removals. The only major change is in the ending whereas it’s less spiritual and psychedelic than the book.

However, a few critics and fans have a strong distaste for the characters’ writing. FirstPost writer Mihir Fadnavis says, “The characters are also very poorly written as they come across as cardboard cutout versions of their younger selves from the first movie.” Along with this, most movie-goers and critics felt as if the movie was pointlessly long and everything felt very prolonged. Multiple users on famous review site, Rotten

Tomatoes, commented things such as “an epic-length but novella-deep exercise in mild, jokey horror,” “basically a three-hour version of the first film but the only change is the characters are adults and less charming,” and “not really worth a sequel.” Some other complaints were about the movie not being as scary as the last. “Laden with underwhelming effects, a half-baked script, and surprisingly flat performances. [The

movie’s] too-long sequel fails to deliver any of the first film’s surreal, genuinely creepy, under-the-skin scares,” states an anonymous Rotten Tomatoes users.

But just as the movie received complaints, the movie also received high praise from critics. *IT: Chapter Two* got 62% on Rotten Tomatoes. While on Google, 86% of Google users gave the movie a thumbs-up their movie rating feature. Positive reviews were found on many social platforms, one mentioning how *IT: Chapter Two* was “an elaborate fun-house horror movie that [sprung] pop-up gimmicks and boogie-boogie scares steadily enough to excuse its been-there story and self-important 169-minute running time.”

IT: Chapter Two is definitely a movie worth seeing if you desire the see the Losers’ Club’s journey to the end. It’s a good sequel and a great way to end the *IT* movies! Though, be aware that it may lack the charm or scare factor the first movie did.

What’s Going On exceeds expetations



Scotty on the set of “Notice Me”

BY GRECIA HARO-FLORES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Aspiring artist Scotty Sire, better known for his comedic videos on YouTube and Vine, continues to make a name for himself in the music world with the release of his sophomore album, *What’s Going On*.

Sire first gained his popularity on Vine by making skits playing “overly confident, arrogant characters,” videos with his family, and singing videos changing the lyrics to popular songs.

When Sire began receiving positive comments about his voice, he decided to experiment with it and created his

first single, “Sad Song.” Later that year, Sire released other songs just for fun that were not meant to be taken seriously.

However, from this trial and error situation came his debut album, *Ruin Your Party*, fairly different to his recent album.

Sire’s *What’s Going On* consists of ten songs that most likely reflect Sire’s personal experiences, considering how in depth the lyrics are when describing things such as anxiety and seeking validation from others.

In June of this year, Sire gave his audience a taste of *What’s Going On* by releasing the first single “Notice Me,” written by Jon Lundin and Scotty Sire himself. “Notice Me” is about how Sire didn’t want attention when he was younger, but now that he is older and wants to speak up, people don’t take him into consideration.

Though like his other songs, he turns his personal issues into more of a message for his listeners. For instance, with “Notice Me,” he moves the focus from himself to his audience, and encourages to “be

careful [in what they are] wishin’ for” because one day they might not want that anymore.

The next single released was “What’s Going On,” also the name of the album. “What’s Going On” shows the essence of the album. It’s a song with lyrics that many find relatable, especially the teenage demographic.

As a whole, the album demonstrates how far Sire has grown as a musician. The songs on the album, including “What’s Going On” are all upbeat, raw, and definitely what Scotty Sire is about!

In an interview with *Hollywood Life*, Sire said, “I think the idea of “What’s Going On” is that there are so many different things that you’ve held for so long, that you’ve finally reached a breaking point and realize that you’ve got some demons you need to address in a healthy way. Not just coping with problems, but actively trying to resolve them.”

He’s truly redefining what it means to be an influencer. Take a listen for yourself! *What’s Going On* is now available all streaming platforms.

Euphoria is a sensation!



Zendaya glowing on national TV

BY MARISSA CRUZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

HBO’s new hit television show *Euphoria*, depicts the rawness of teen struggle and how teens are easily manipulated to fall in the wrong path.

HBO’s *Euphoria*, former Disney star Zendaya Coleman plays the role of Rue Bennet, a 17-year old high school junior who spends her summer in rehab after an overdose.

The young addict finds herself in dangerous situations all in pursuit of finding “euphoria,” the feeling of intense excitement and happiness.

The *Euphoria* cast is full of diversity that includes different genders, ethnicities, sexualities, and people of color. The cast also has acting newcomers such as Alexa Demie and Hunter Schafer, who both had their acting debuts on *Euphoria*.

In an interview, Schafer talks about how *Euphoria* is stepping up the game due to the characters who represent diverse groups of people and how they are being normalize on television, as well as in the acting community. Although, she still hopes for more diversity on-screen.

Many teen viewers have said that *Euphoria* is the most accurate representation of their coming-to-age stories on television nowadays.

Euphoria captures the rawness of life as a teenager and shows it in different perspectives. From abusive relationships to downfalls in family relationships, *Euphoria* demonstrates how these problems affect teenagers in their everyday life.

Euphoria does depict drugs as detrimental, but a few scenes show what makes them “euphoric,” especially for the protagonist, Rue. For a couple of scenes, drugs and abusive relationships can be romanticized, but it is quickly followed by scenes that show what damage they truly do.

Euphoria targets the teen audience and the realisticness of importance for mental health and how hard it makes it to do the simplest of things.

The show recently wrapped their first season, leaving the audience with a major cliffhanger. Luckily, it was renewed for a second season and will return to television screens sometime in the next year or so.

TRENDSETTERS OF THE MONTH



ALLIYAH DICIOCCO
Top: Brandy Melville \$21
Pants: Brandy \$40
Shoes: Doc Martens \$140
Belt: Thrifted \$7



ALEXIA GARCIA
Top: Forever 21 \$17.99
Pants: Pacsun \$54.95
Shoes: Vans \$60

ANGEL MARQUEZ
Top: Dad’s Closet \$0
Pants: Dickies \$25
Shoes: Converse \$60
Belt: Marshall’s \$7

