

El Rodeo

An inside look at drama's performance
of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's
Dream!

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prepare for their final parade

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OPINION

Not so restful rest rooms

By ROCIA ESTRADA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

When you are going to the restroom, the last thing you would expect to see is ants crawling everywhere, but that might just happen in the bathrooms at El Rancho.

For the girls, the A, H, and B building bathrooms are the cleanest bathrooms, however they also have some drawbacks.

The A building bathrooms have a distinctive smell and the faucets splash water everywhere. The H building bathrooms don't have toilet paper most of the time and often leak water. The B building bathrooms no longer exist due to the building being demolished.

The other bathrooms share the same qualities, with some being in worse condition than others. The N and Q bathrooms are the worst



G building rest room not available for use.

bathrooms on campus. They rarely have toilet paper and the sanitary napkin disposals are often overflowing. The faucets barely work, and if they do, soap isn't available. The N building bathrooms have ants crawling everywhere and scratched up mirrors. The Q building bathrooms have mosquitoes that follow everyone around while people are just trying to do their business.

The boys also have their own grievances concerning the bathrooms. The A building bathrooms are considered the best, despite the "smoky" ambience and the smashed paper dispenser. While going to the bathroom, students may find themselves in the company of an occasional spider hanging off of the paper towels stuck on the ceiling.

The N building bathroom

is reportedly just a toilet, causing a long wait for students who need to go. If the students go to the cafeteria boys bathroom, they will find food clogging the urinals. If they wish for some privacy, they will have to sit in an awkward position to stop the hole in the toilet stall door that allows everyone to peer in. Perhaps worst of all would be the track bathrooms, where in place

Photo by Carlos Rojo

of urinals, the students get to go in a grossly stained tub.

Stolen mirrors, enormous anthills, and toilets with people's names carved into them. Such is the truth for El Rancho's bathrooms. There are some highlights about the bathrooms though. For example, the bathrooms are environmentally friendly; they hardly ever have toilet paper! Although, this may not be a choice at least they contribute to the fight against global warming.

Regardless of the bathroom conditions, the school janitors have definitely tried their best. It is up to the students to remember that it's not the janitor's - or anyone's - job to clean up after them. We are young adults who should be capable of cleaning after themselves and practicing basic hygiene. Hopefully El Rancho can move forward and have clean, ventilated, pest free bathrooms soon.

Soccer shouldn't be kicked out of El Rancho's future



By DIEGO GONZALEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The current plan for the renovation of El Rancho High School has changed drastically from the original plan presented in the 2018-19 school year, cutting two soccer fields that were included in the initial construction plan.

Not including these fields is a poor decision that is unjust to future generations of El Rancho soccer. Even if the

decision was based on the lack of funds in the school's budget, certain costs could be cut from the stadium's construction in order to construct at least one separate soccer field.

There are four soccer teams on campus, and the original plan for the implementation of two soccer fields outside of the stadium would have accommodated the four teams for practice as well as games.

The exclusion of the soccer fields in the newly

proposed construction plan poses a question for the future of El Rancho Soccer: How will the practices for all four teams be organized in the coming school years?

If the only soccer field on campus is the one outlined on the football field, the practices will have to be held under a time constraint so that every team has an equal practice time.

On average, sports teams practice for an hour and a half to two hours in order to cover many skills that need refining. If the teams were to practice one after the other on the stadium's field, the practices would carry out late into the afternoon.

The elongated schedule would reduce the time

for students to do homework after practice, and if the school wants the students to meet grade requirements at the end of the semester, the lack of time would only make struggling students perform at a lower level.

Although extracurricular activities are optional, and grades are the main priority of the students of El Rancho, sports and after school activities are part of a well-rounded high school experience and staggered scheduling would only make that more difficult to obtain.

On the contrary, practicing at the same time in a small space presents its own difficulties. Practicing in small spaces makes the practice lose its efficiency, affect-

ing the potential success of the sports teams on campus.

Cramming four teams into one field makes the risk of injury a lot more common including loose balls that can hit a player's head if a kick is miscalculated, or a clash between players because of the lack of space.

If these soccer fields remain out of the new plan for construction, the sports teams of El Rancho face problems that could be avoided if the fields were kept in the plan.

The lack of attention by the planning committee to this issue is apparent, and sends a message to the soccer teams of El Rancho that their best interest was not kept in mind during the construction plans.

El Rodeo

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

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

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

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

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Copy Editor.....Sophia Lugo
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Photo Editor.....Carlos Rojo

FEATURES

Miguel Ornelas is *Simply Irresistible!*

BY SOPHIA LUGO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This school-spirited junior is one you have surely seen at school events, or running around campus keeping it in order. Miguel Ornelas, also known as “Gigi,” is *simply irresistible!*

On-campus, Ornelas participates in ASB as his main extra-curricular activity. With difficult long hours, it’s a big commitment not many are willing to take.

Ornelas has been involved in ASB since freshman year, initially being introduced to it by his older brother.

He is also a member of the boys’ water polo and swim team. Ornelas joined swim his freshman year and loves the sport. He plans on continuing swim through all four years of high school.

As for water polo, he joined sophomore year and plans on continuing it through senior year as well. He prefers water polo over swim because “it’s more fun and it’s also tougher.” Ornelas definitely has a competitive drive in to it!



Miguel beams at the camera.

Photo by Carlos Rojo

When Ornelas likes something, he is committed! In his free time, he likes to practice for water polo and help out his school in any way he can. He is somehow always connected back to his school activities.

Ornelas is big on music, his favorite genre is rap and this is evidently seen in his favor-

ite artists. Some of them include Trippie Redd, Lil Uzi Vert, and Roddy Ricch. His favorite songs at the moment are Dolly and Buy it by Lil Uzi, Snake skin by Trippie Redd, and Start Wit Me by Roddy Ricch. “I like music that hypes me up,” says Ornelas.

His favorite movie is *Flushed Away*, one that not many

people have probably seen or remember. “It’s my favorite movie because it was the first movie I saw in theatres,” says Ornelas. It’s the memories that are attached to the movie more than the movie itself.

Ornelas’ favorite food is hamburgers, but honestly who doesn’t love them! They are his favorite because “they’re basic

but they’re so good.” His favorite place to get them is Arry’s.

He has two older brothers that he looks up to tremendously. One, in particular, is his true inspiration, that being Julio Ornelas. He is an El Rancho alumni that is currently attending UC Berkeley. If that isn’t impressive enough, he was also a Coca Cola Scholar for 2018. “He’s really smart and I want to be like him,” says Ornelas.

He has a bright future ahead of him! After high school, he plans on attending community college then transfer to a university to obtain his bachelor’s degree. He then wants to go to the police academy and eventually become part of the SWAT team.

Ornelas still has many things he wishes to accomplish in high school, some being participating in powderpuff and graduating with honors.

Ornelas is very limited on social media, so next time you spot him on campus don’t be afraid to start a conversation and get to know him. He won’t disappoint!

Love is in the Air! Meet Meliza and Adrian



Meliza and Adrian pictured on campus.

Photo by Carlos Rojo

BY SOPHIA LUGO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This power couple has been together for over two years! Meliza Garcia and Adrian Aguirre met their freshman year and have now been together for astonishingly over two years and seven months.

They met through a mutual friend all because Meliza wanted chips. At the time, Adrian was a pop-

ular “vendor”, which made it easy for Meliza to stumble upon him.

Meliza says, “My first impression was that he was really mean and boring, but he’s actually really nice and funny.” Adrian says, “My first impression [of Meliza] was that she was a very smart and beautiful girl that I needed to talk to asap no rocky.”

Adrian slid into Meliza’s DMs and it took off from there.

Soon enough Adrian asked out Meliza and they went on their first date to the movies. They watched *Rings* and ate ice cream after, just like the beginning of a fairytale!

“My favorite thing about [Adrian] is how thoughtful and caring he is. He always makes sure I’m okay and always makes me smile even when I’m sad. I also enjoy his love for clothes and shopping,” says Meliza.

Adrian says, “My favorite thing about [Meliza] is how she always takes care of me and loves me passionately, I always feel safe and happy in her arms knowing that our love will be forever.” Is somebody cutting onions, or are my eyes just sweating?

Quality time is big for this couple. “One of my favorite things to do with Adrian is going out to nice dinners and driving around

LA,” says Meliza, “My ideal date is going out for a morning walk on the beach then having a really good breakfast nearby. Followed by going out shopping while drinking iced coffee or lemonade.”

Meliza says the most important thing in a relationship is communication, “Being mad and rude isn’t going to solve anything out. Always think about their feelings first.”

“The best advice I can give is to always say sorry when you do wrong and to consistently communicate with one another because communication is key to maintaining a relationship,” says Adrian. We can easily credit their success to their communication skills.

No relationship is ever perfect, they have faced problems just like any other. “We get through the hard times by making sure that

we never fall asleep mad at each other and always try to solve out whatever is wrong,” says Meliza. It sounds like a great solution!

If you’re afraid of shooting your shot, take it from them and go for it! “Don’t be afraid! Get to know the person really well first, then shoot your shot,” says Meliza. “Always shoot your shot because it’s better to shoot it and miss than to not shoot it and have to wonder about what could’ve happened,” adds Adrian.

“I really hope Adrian and I stay together after high school because he’s someone I’m super comfortable with and see a future with,” says Meliza.

This relationship is one we can all aspire to one day have. We wish them many more years together and we’ll be waiting for an invite to the wedding!

Coach Gomez extends his knowledge to the classroom

BY DIEGO GONZALEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

History teacher Pablo Gomez is beginning his second year as a part of the staff team at El Rancho, but a career in teaching was not always his original plan after college.

Gomez attended Whittier College and received his bachelor’s degree in business, but his passion for helping the youth improve and reach their fullest potential overcame him.

Gomez said, “I realized that I didn’t really want to work behind a desk everyday, and an opportunity in education came so I decided to take it and get my teaching credentials.”

However, Gomez’s love for helping kids did not originate from an interest in being at the head of a classroom. Instead it came from his experi-

ence in coaching soccer, a sport that Gomez grew up playing.

“I knew that I wanted to do something with coaching, and teaching is similar to coaching so I decided to try it out and see how it went, and I liked it so I continued to pursue it,” Gomez said.

Gomez has coached soccer at many different levels, but his most impressive experience was helping out the Whittier College men’s soccer team.

Gomez said, “I started out as a graduate assistant at Whittier College four years ago, and that was cool because it’s nice to be able to help out in the college environment and just see the different drills and implement them to my own coaching practice.”

Coaching is also a way for Gomez to stay connected with his passion for



Mr. Gomez shows his pearly whites.

Photo by Carlos Rojo

soccer and practice it even while teaching full time.

“It’s nice to be able to practice with the team sometimes, so it’s fun to be able to compete with college level athletes even though I haven’t played soccer competitively for two years,” Gomez added.

His love for coach-

ing has also opened up another opportunity for Gomez, obtaining him the job as head coach of the junior varsity soccer team at El Rancho.

Gomez said, “My experience as coach has been good so far, it’s nice to be able to get outside once a day, and it’s great to see how the players are progress-

ing from where they started.”

Mr. Gomez has transferred his passion for coaching into a career as a teacher, and his contribution to both the students and student athletes of El Rancho will be an important one for years to come.

GIVING THANKS

CHEF LUNA'S CORNER:
Chocolate Chip Cookies



By Anthony Samoza

Directions:

Want to surprise your family with your amazing baking skills? Have a happy Thanksgiving with homemade chocolate chip cookies!

Ingredients:

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 teaspoons hot water
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 cups chocolate chips

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit
2. Mix together butter, white sugar, and brown sugar until smooth. Beat in eggs one at a time, then stir in vanilla. Dissolve baking soda in hot water. Add to batter along with salt. Stir in flour and chocolate chips. Drop by larger spoonfuls onto ungreased pans.
3. Bake for about 10 minutes in the preheated oven, or until edges are browned.

What are you thankful for?



Andee Gonzalez, senior:
"I'm thankful for Emily Rodriguez, my best friend."



Daisy Martir, sophomore:
"I'm thankful that my family is in good health."



Anabella Soltiero, freshman:
"I'm thankful for my family and ASB and the way my life is going right now."



Natalie Escamia, junior:
"I am thankful for having a big family & all my friends, mostly important my mom who is my best friend <3."



Monica Aguirre, senior:
"I'm thankful for food, my friends, family and music."



Ask Alejandro

How does one get the bread?

Get a job, there are many places hiring here in Pico Rivera. You can find job opportunities on the Don Page in the college and career center tab under employment.

How does a girl ask out a guy?

Befriend the guy first, if you feel things are right then bring up your feelings and ask if they feel the same way. If they don't

feel the same, move on but don't give up, there are plenty of fish in the sea.

How do I become a top computer scientist?

You can start now by taking AP Computer Science Principles and AP Computer Science A with Mr. Crone, then when college rolls around you can choose computer science as your major.



Friendsgiving 101

Having trouble coming up with ideas for your Friendsgiving? Here are some tips.

Invite friends: Gather a small group of close friends and pick a time that works for everyone. Make sure no one left behind!

Friendsgiving with pizza and chips as the meal. It's better to have extra food than none at all.

Good holiday music: It might be hard to find music for thanksgiving music but not all is lost. Put on the Charlie Brown soundtrack and you're

Cute decorations: Grab some cardstock, scissors, markers, or paints and get crafty! Looking up tutorials wouldn't hurt anyone. Gather as much help as possible: Don't be afraid to ask for help.

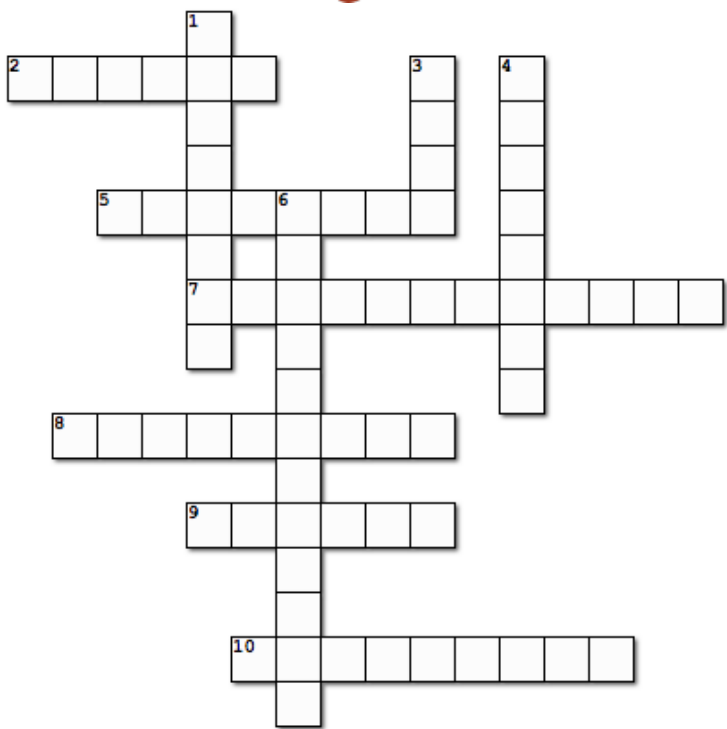
Don't forget games: Grab those board games and start a "Friendly" competition. Pick out some movies or watch the big football game. Everyone likes football right?

Black Friday Tips

- Arrive early
- Bring extra bags
- Be prepared! Know who you are shopping for and what you want
- Set a budget
- Have a backup plan
- Leave the kids at home
- Be strategic
- Save up money
- Stay warm
- Pack light
- Wear comfortable clothes
- Sign up for retail newsletters for discounts and coupons
- Get informed on return and exchange policies before you purchase products
- Divide and conquer
- Stay safe!



Turkey Time



Down:

1. First village established by the Pilgrims
3. Season for harvesting
4. Fillings inside turkey
6. Shopping day after Thanksgiving

Across:

2. Sound a turkey makes
5. Popular sport during this season
7. Holiday on November 28th
8. Dessert made from apples
9. Main dish of the holiday
10. Name of ship that sailed to the New World in 1620

Culinary Arts club gives to the needy

By ALEJANDRO MELCHOR
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Thanksgiving is right around the corner and for the past 11 years, it has been a day where Chef Luna and many volunteers go out to the streets of Los Angeles to feed the homeless. Much of the preparation happens at the school and is mostly done by Luna himself and volunteers. "We prepare here in my classroom on Wednesday, the day before Thanksgiving, and then on Thanksgiving, we meet here at 10 am and we leave by 11 am," says Luna. While it is a holiday, Luna does this event in the hope of helping those most in need during a time when they may need it the most. "We go through South Central and Downtown Los Angeles and we drive around looking for families in need, and we take them snacks, waters, and fruit. We don't make meals but we take them baked goods and side dishes", said Chef Luna. Aside from feeding the homeless, Luna and his helpers make sure to gift other essentials to the less fortunate families in need. "On average we make about 200 bags and these bags contain water, toilette paper, toiletries, and feminine products" says Luna, "We also take dog food and cat food because we feed homeless pets and there's a lot of small children out there so we make kids bags with popcorn, snacks, cereal, and socks." If one were interested in supporting the cause, they can do so by donating to Chef Luna's program. "Everybody in our community donates. The best dona-



Culinary Arts Club (pictured above) is set to continue their Thanksgiving tradition by donating necessities to the homeless. Last year we had like 40 to 50 people that went with us, it was a lot of people," adds Luna, "They were all graduates from the last ten years starting back to classes of 2009." Upon being asked as to why he does such kind acts, Luna said, "That's what Thanksgivings all about, giving back."

CAMPUS

Drama troupe puts on Shakespeare’s *Midsummer Nights Dream*

BY JULIA DIAZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho’s advanced drama class put on a production of Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. The comedy is set in Athens, Greece. There are two sets used in the duration of the play, the city of Athens and the other in an unknown forest.

A *Midsummer Night’s Dream* follows the story of four young lovers and a band of terrible actors under the control of a group of fairies that live in the forest.

The Advanced Drama class invited many English classes to watch scenes from the play hoping to persuade students into returning to watch the full production.

Wednesday the cast held a dress rehearsal where stu-



Mrs. Backovich’s drama team pose for a shot after performing *Midsummer nights dream*.

dents and staff were able to watch and take photos, the show dates included Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

With the presentations given many students were under the impression that it would be a serious play with a somber setting.

They couldn’t be more wrong. Shakespearean Language isn’t the easiest to understand in the slightest bit, but even that couldn’t stop the cast from shining. The efforts of the entire department did not go unnoticed. “I think they did an excellent job

one aspect was neglected. “Oh my god absolutely amazing, we were here two Saturdays in a row before the show opened and almost everyone was here working on stuff. They really did a good job in pulling it all together. I rate them ten out of ten,” Backovich when asked about work ethic.

El Rancho’s Advanced Drama department has yet to disappoint, from the acting to the makeup and even the snacks provided they continue to exceed expectations.

El Rancho students and staff alike are anticipating the next production. Make sure you stop by the little theater for the next big thing. The School Musical in the spring! The dates are going to be in late April to early May. The show is still unknown but will be revealed soon, everyone keep your eyes peeled.

Mr. Williams promotes blue pride through class project



Mr. Williams’ class stands for a picture next to their posters made in support of the football team.

BY GRECIA HARO-FLORES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

In honor of El Rancho’s football team making it to the second round of CIF, special education teacher Mr. Ordell

Williams, and his students decided to make posters to show their support for the team.

“What inspired us was the fact that they reached the second round of CIF,” says Williams, “We thought that was a big accomplishment.”

“We want to let people know that we’re Dons too so we want to let them know we have school spirit,” adds Williams.

The signs had phrases written on them such as,

ers was “putting them up on the walls.” Another one of Williams’s students, Melissa Loera, said that the football team is “awesome” and was rooting for them in the CIF playoffs.

Having recognized the kind act, the football players vocalize their appreciation for the support from their fellow Dons.

“I love seeing any type of support, especially in places where you would not expect it,” says senior David Ortega, “To see how broad of a crowd the team could reach is cool, and it feels good to know people really do care about how we perform.”

“When I saw the post, it was a very amazing feeling,” says senior Justin Cisneros, “It made me tremendously motivated and knowing the supporters will be there no matter the outcome. I thank them.”

Williams plans to do this with his class again for other teams in the near future.

Future Dons picture themselves at “The Ranch”

BY SOPHIA LUGO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

It’s an exciting time of year for the current eighth graders! Over the past three weeks, eighth-graders from the STEAM Academy, North Park, and Rivera Middle School have had the opportunity to visit their potential future high school.

Rivera middle school teacher Mrs. Murillo says, “I want them to get excited about high school. I want them to see all the clubs you have and everything you have to offer.”

The students began their day with an assembly in the main gym where they were introduced to administration, staff, and team captains. They were also informed on some of the available classes and programs they could partake in at the Ranch.

After the assembly, they were given a tour of the school, showing them the sports fields, the Little Theatre, and their future classrooms. This large school is a big change for the middle schoolers. Many found it intimidating but exciting for the memories and experiences they will have.

Principal Mr. Silvas says, “When you come to future don night or some other kind of recruiting activity, we put on a show and you get to see the show but you don’t get to see class. I think that part is really important for incoming students.”

The future Dons concluded their day with a club fair, where they could sign up for some of the clubs that El Rancho has to offer. Some of these clubs included HOSA, math club, Leos club, and CSF. Sports and other educational programs



Eighth-graders sit and listen while being welcomed to “the Ranch.”

were also promoted, some being boys’ and girls’ volleyball, the IB diploma program, and band.

“It’s a great opportunity for the students from our middle schools to learn about the campus, more importantly to interact with students from our campus,

to get a sense from the students perspective of what high school is going to be like,” says Silvas.

Eight-grader Karla Ramirez says, “[My perspective] changed because at first I was scared and now I was given reasons not to be scared and this

SPORTS

Dons fall in second round of CIF to Hemet Bulldogs

By ALEJANDRO MELCHOR
EL RODEO NEWS WRITER

After pushing through the Del Rio League season and the first round of CIF with a record of nine wins and two losses, the Dons traveled to Hemet high school to take on the Bulldogs in the second round of CIF Playoffs, where, unfortunately. They fell short of just three points with a final score of 35 to 32.

Though their season did not end as expected, the Dons still had a good season and finished off with a record of nine wins and three losses.

“Our season went pretty well, I was very proud of how hard we all worked and how much effort everyone gave. We had a nice little run in the playoffs. It didn’t go how we wanted it to end but there was nothing we could’ve done,” said junior Jorge Villa.

“We had a good season, I think we could’ve made a bit deeper in playoffs but overall it was a fun season. I was very proud



Dons battling against Compton High in the first round of CIF playoffs.

of how we as a team really stuck together throughout everything,” added senior Rogelio Estrada.

While the Dons had a good season, it was not easy. They had to work hard to make it as far into the playoffs as they did.

“Challenges that we faced all season was size, but it never brought down our motivation. No matter the size we still fought till the end. Injuries affected us too

because throughout the season people were starting to get hurt and they would have to sit out for like two games, so it became like a next man up type of thing,” said senior Justin Cisneros.

“We faced a lot of challenges throughout the season with people getting hurt all the time and just mentally people weren’t always there,” adds Villa.

Despite having struggled

throughout the season, the Dons have no regrets and feel every part of the season was worthwhile.

“Training all summer, going to the weight room every day. Yeah it takes a toll on your body but it was fun, I wouldn’t take any of it back,” said Estrada.

As the season came to an end it also meant the end of high school football for the seniors.

“I will miss messing

around in the locker room, going to practice every day, and just getting to hit people,” said Estrada.

“I will miss the locker room, there are experiences there that I will remember for the rest of my whole life, also practice was fun too because we always had fun with each other but we also kept it serious because we had games to win,” added Cisneros.

Even though seniors will be leaving, the underclassmen feel confident that they can improve their team and have a stronger season next year.

“I want to be a great leader for the underclassmen coming up. Myself personally I would want to set a good example for them and just be a role model to them,” says Villa.

While the boys season may be over, there are still many more to come and the Dons succeeding in securing a CIF Championship in the near future is very possible. Until then we’ll have to wait and see what the Dons will make of their next season.

Marching Dons end their season on a high note

By GRECIA HARO-FLORES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Over the last few months, Marching Dons and Colorguard have demonstrated over and over again that they’re much bigger than just performing at the high school level, which is why it’s no surprise they’ve been awarded for their performances multiple times this school year.

Band and Colorguard director, Mr. Reginald Cordero said, “I think the upper class leadership and the band has been outstanding this year and the pride and traditions that we keep, help train and mold the newer members of the program.”

Their final event will be at the Arcadia Tournament of Bands this Saturday against many other schools. However, Cordero has high expectations for his students. “El Rancho High School has a very distinct Spanish style that no other band in Southern California has [and] that style makes us distinct amongst the 50 other bands,” says Cordero.

For many seniors, this will be the last time they will be participating in a parade as an El Rancho Don.

“I’m feeling sad but relieved that it will be my last parade as a Marching Don,” says senior Joshua Balatzar, “I will honestly miss the constant hustle of new music I have to learn and the intense feeling of per-

forming in front of a crowd.”

“Some of my favorite memories are the long practices [until] midnight and having a performance the next day,” adds Balatzar, “The rush of rushing into the football field to perform for hundreds of people and being called to attention during awards and watching us get a hard earned recognition.”

Senior Alexia Cortez says, “I’m going to miss marching together as one, with the people who always brought out the best of me and have taught me the value of friendship and teamwork. It is bittersweet [and] I’m still in disbelief that this is my last competition.”



Graduating seniors hope to not only leave their legacy their behind, but their “teachings and wisdom to future students.”

“We hope that our teachings evolve as they get passed onto the next generation and the next and the next and the next and so on,” says senior Adan Olguin.

Senior Maria Juarez also had a few words of advice for the next group to come, “For the incoming Dons, I will tell them to *keep on truckin*,’ a quote I got my freshmen year, because when life and Cordero throws you obstacles, you have to be able to take it in stride.”

The sound behind El Rancho’s events will continue to be heard and inspire the hearts of many.

Ernie Johnson Memorial Golf Tournament



Friday January 3, 2020

Registration- 9:00 am- 9:45 am

Tee Off- 10:00 am Shotgun Start

Tournament fee of \$150 pp

Includes:

- Golf Cart
- Locker Facilities
- Banquet Dinner
- Breakfast & Lunch
- Gift Bag

Plenty of raffles and prizes will be on hand.

For more information and RSVP, please contact:

Adrian Medrano

Athletic Director


562-801-7500 ext. 17521

adrianmedrano@erushd.org

California Country Club

1509 South Workman Mill Rd

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ENTERTAINMENT

High School Musical: The Musical: The Series is the start of something new

BY GRECIA HARO-FLORES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With Disney recently releasing multiple remakes of their classics, all you'd expect from their most current project, *High School Musical: The Musical: The Series*, is nothing more than a silly, knock-off version of the original.

However, *HSMTMTS* is not a remake or a sequel. It's more of a homage to the wonderful excellence that is the *High School Musical* trilogy.

Though the setting of the series is a fictionalized version of East High School, it's not the same television universe as the original films, which means the plot and characters of *HSMTMTS* don't interfere with the plot and characters of *High School Musical*.

In the world of *HSMTMTS*, *HSM* is just a movie. Just how Zac Efron, Vanessa Hudgens, and the rest of the original cast are simply just actors and actresses.

The series follows the students of East High and the new drama teacher, Miss Jenn,



The cast of *High School Musical: The Musical: The Series* at the set of East High School

who suggests staging a performance of *HSM* for her first winter theatre production.

"When I heard that the high school where *High School Musical* was shot had never staged a production of *High School Musical: The Musical*," says Miss Jenn, "I was shocked, inspired, and triggered as a millennial."

Many musical theatre enthusiasts take a shot in the dark and audition to play the roles

of the iconic movie characters.

Nini (Olivia Rodrigo), auditions to play the role of Gabriella Montez and gets the part with her rendition of "Start of Something New."

Her ex-boyfriend, Ricky (Joshua Bassett), who lacks interest in musicals, auditions to play the role of Troy Bolton in hopes to get Nini back, despite knowing of Nini's new boyfriend, E.J. Caswell (Matt Cornett.)

This sets the stage for a love triangle, rivalries, new friendships, and *popping, locking, jamming, and breaking*.

The show has distinct features that heavily resemble shows like *The Office* and *Parks and Recreation* such as the camera zooms and the hand-held shots. Some might even compare it to the musical comedy-drama series, *Glee*.

The series stars Olivia Rodrigo, Joshua Bassett, Matt Cor-

nett, Sofia Wylie, Larry Saperstein, Julia Lester, Dara Reneé, Frankie Rodriguez, Mark St. Cyr, and Kate Reinders, all incredibly talented actors and actresses.

However, viewers have their fingers crossed that a former Wildcat will appear on the show, maybe an Ashley Tisdale or Vanessa Hudgens. One could only hope.

Rumor has it that Lucas Gabeel, who portrayed Ryan Evans in the original films, may make an appearance and sing a song with the theatre group of East High.

High School Musical: The Musical: The Series premiered on Freeform, ABC, and Disney Channel on November 8. The official launch was on November 12 on Disney+, and moving forward, you will only be able to stream it through Disney+. Sorry Netflix and Hulu users!

The first season will consist of ten episodes, and has already been renewed for a second season. It's what the show deserves!

It definitely didn't stick to the status quo of Disney Channel's recent flop television series, and it's definitely worth watching!

Hold on to your heart and grab some tissues: Last Christmas Movie Review



Emilia Clarke and Henry Golding in *Last Christmas*.

BY JULIA DIAZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This month the highly anticipated holiday Rom-com *Last Christmas* was released.

The movie stars Emilia Clarke as Kate and Henry Golding as Tom Webster, two lovers who meet in an unconventional way.

The movie was directed by Paul Feig and written by Bryony Kimmings and Emma Thompson.

Box office revenue reached \$11,441,055 opening weekend. World wide that number climbed up to \$35,669,695. The movie brought in \$10,660,695 more than it's production budget.

The movie follows Kate, former singer and full-time elf, in her struggle to figure out her life. Kate's life is far from normal, her family fled from Yugoslavia during the civil war and found themselves in London.

Kate lives her life getting drunk, hooking up with random guys, and couch surfing while she avoids her mother. She works in a Christmas store for her boss, Santa, who is at her wits' end with the blonde.

When all seems lost a handsome stranger stumbles upon the store by the name of Tom. A kind-hearted man with a

fascination for the small things in life leaves a strong impression on Kate. Their first encounter was far from romantic, if you would count a bird pooping in your eye as an encounter.

The pair find themselves walking around, Tom shows Kate the hidden beauties of the city. The more they wander in the night, the more their attraction grows. When Tom isn't off making deliveries or volunteering at a homeless shelter, he can be found in Kate's company.

Last Christmas can hardly be called a Christmas movie, while it was filled with Christmas elements the main focus was elsewhere. Critics claim that the movie was a huge bust with many plot holes and too many cliches.

Despite the critic's harsh reviews, the audience around the

world raved for *Last Christmas*. Rotten Tomatoes scoring has the movie at 44% in critics review and 80% in audience reviews.

I believe that audience's favor the movie because of its heartfelt message and sarcastic humor. The entire movie left the theater in giggles with each new twist and turn. While there were definitely strong scenes, there were numerous that lacked in comparison.

The ending left a sour impression, with the build up and character development the sudden twist in mood was a punch to the gut. Don't let the name fool you *Last Christmas* is not your average Christmas story.

If you're looking for a comical movie that isn't overly festive, grab your family and head to the theaters!

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