

El Rancho High School  
Wednesday, December 18, 2019  
Volume 68.4

# El Rodeo

**Dons play last Powderpuff game  
at Don Memorial Stadium**

*Page 6*

**Check out the special  
Holiday center spread**

*Page 4-5*

**Read all about Harry Styles' new  
album *Fine Line*!**

*Page 8*

**Index**

Opinion - 2

Campus - 6

Features - 3

Sports - 7

Center - 4

Entertainment - 8

Center - 5

@elrodeonews

www.elrodeonews.com



OPINION

Student concerns remain unanswered after assembly

BY DIEGO GONZALEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On December 2nd, the senior class of El Rancho met with the newly appointed superintendent of the El Rancho Unified School District, Dr. Frances Esparza. The meeting was held to discuss alternative sites for the graduation ceremony this year.

Even after the meeting with Esparza, the senior class was not on the same page with the superintendent, which defeated the purpose of the meeting in the first place.

Rio Hondo College, as well as Whittier College, were discussed at the meeting as possible locations for the graduation ceremony.

These graduation sites are a lot nicer than the Don Memorial stadium, and are certainly better than Pioneer High School, the initial site for the graduation ceremony.

The meeting was a complete commotion, and a civil



Seniors express concern about where their graduation will be held.

conversation did not take place between Esparza and the seniors because the class of 2020 wants to graduate in the Don Memorial stadium.

It was stated early in the meeting that El Rancho would not be a possible graduation site due to the construction agenda, and that the cost for postponing the graduation ceremony until af-

ter graduation would be too high.

Although the alternative graduation sites, such as Rio Hondo College, seem tempting due to the larger seating arrangement, it is unjust that only this years' seniors have to graduate somewhere else.

Esparza was presented with a proposition by senior student Angel Marquez in order to make

up for the fact that the Don Memorial Stadium is not an option for graduation, which included the district covering the costs of grad night and prom for all seniors.

The proposition was taken into consideration by Esparza, and was set to be discussed by the school board as a possible compromise. However, in past board meetings the

school board seemed careless to a majority of the public comments at the end of the meeting.

Throughout the meeting, Esparza was also not able to answer questions as to why the construction agenda was scheduled the way it is because she has only been superintendent for a matter of months.

Many questions with regards to the demolition of the B building at the front of the school were also not answered by Esparza due to her lack of knowledge of the matter.

If the superintendent has no knowledge of certain things in relation, then someone who has been a part of the construction graduation plan should have accompanied Esparza in order to give the students the full information.

The construction plan for the renovation of El Rancho is simply taking away tradition from the class of 2020, something that no other class in the past had to experience.

Victoria's Secret leaves mixed emotions after cancelling show



BY ROCIO ESTRADA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

L Brands' Victoria's Secret has recently announced that they will be canceling the annual Victoria's Secret Fashion Show. The reason for this is because L Brands wanted to change the way its signature items were being marketed. Since they believed that the show would not have an immediate impact on

sales, L Brands canceled it.

That being said, the show was not run with the current standards of modern society. They did not diversify their models, thus excluding many people from seeing themselves represented in the memorable show.

Representation in the modeling industry is very important and the exclusion of certain models, in what can be called the

greatest fashion show in history, might actually impact the sales of Victoria's Secret. Representation allows the audience to interact more closely with what they are being presented. It helps models connect with agencies, and it helps end the stigma that only tall, skinny people can be models.

The introduction and inclusion of transgender models (along with other LGBTQ+ models), dif-

ferent-sized models, and models of different ethnicities are vital for companies in today's society, lest they face backlash for excluding these models from their business.

Some people believe that the show was very exclusive, only modeling women of a certain stature with little to no diversity weight-wise.

In comparison, companies such as Rihanna's Savage X Fenty and start-up Third Love have been using models of different ethnic backgrounds, sizes, and weight as well as including transgender models.

Past L Brands chief marketing officer, Ed Razek, said in a 2018 interview with Vogue that transgender models did not belong in the show since "...the show is a fantasy,... It's a 42-minute entertainment special. That's what it is."

Others are not in favor of the end of the iconic show. Their argument is that the show provided an exciting way to look at new lines of undergarments for women. There are also some that be-


lieve that today's liberal climate has made people too sensitive about issues like representation and inclusion of different people.

However, the show clearly caters to a certain tall, thin crowd while excluding those that come in different shapes and sizes. While the show was truly a spectacle, it was not the right fit for today's society if it couldn't change to allow a more diverse group of models in its show.

Overall, today's society is different than the society in 1995, when the first Victoria's Secret Fashion Show was introduced. Beauty standards have changed, and so have companies.

The fact is that Victoria's Secret did not change and did not include these models in their iconic shows.

Hopefully, in the future, people would be able to see themselves represented by models of different backgrounds. Who knows, maybe the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show will come back with all new values, faces, and "Angels".



*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.....**Sophia Lugo

**Copy Editor.....**Julia Diaz

**Section Editors**

**Cover....**Grecia Haro-Flores

**Opinion....**Sophia Lugo

**Features.....**Julia Diaz

**Center....**Alexis Gallegos

**Campus....**Aracli Correa

**Sports.....**Alejandro Melchor

**Entertainment....**Grecia Haro-Flores

**Reporter.....**Diego Gonzalez

**Reporter.....**Araceli Correa

**Reporter.....**Alexis Gallegos

**Reporter....**Grecia Haro-Flores

**Reporter.....**Rocio Estrada

**Reporter.....**Alejandro Melchor

**Reporter.....**Angie Campos

**Reporter.....**Julia Diaz

**Reporter.....**Sophia Lugo

**Photo Editor.....**Carlos Rojo



## FEATURES

Ajohnette Guerra is *Simply Irresistible!*

BY GRECIA HARO-FLORES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

If you've ever suddenly felt a wave of good energy hit you as you're walking down the halls of El Rancho or roaming around the city, it's probably because you passed by Ajohnette "Aj" Guerra. She's a walking ray of sunshine! She's also *simply irresistible!*

Her hobbies include being with her family, making art, being active in general, and playing sports, especially basketball. Basketball has always been a big part of Guerra's life.

"When I was little, I was alone so there weren't people around me so I kind of just taught myself how to play [basketball], you know," says Guerra, "to be outside, not have to be sad and whatever."

Whatever steps she took to learn how to play and improve her skills definitely worked to get her where she is now. Guerra says, "I came to freshmen year [and became a part of] the varsity team."

Her favorite thing about the game is being competitive, but also being able to just focus on the ball and be worry-free while doing so. "My favorite thing about playing basketball is being competitive," says Guerra,



Ajohnette shows her heartwarming smile.

"I'm a competitive person and like being able to lose myself in the game, having fun and not have to worry about real life."

Being the competitive person she is, she also found herself playing soccer for two years and volleyball for one year at North Park Middle School and at El Rancho. However, she doesn't plan to

pursue neither soccer, volleyball, or basketball at the college level.

After high school, Guerra plans to pursue a career that has to do with helping people "like a pediatrician or counselor." She thinks these fields are best suited for her because she's "good with kids, can make people laugh, and [has the passion for]

helping people." Guerra hopes to attend Cal State San Marcos to achieve this goal of hers.

If you weren't already swooned over by her big, kind heart and athletic abilities, her music taste will surely reel you in. Her playlist consists of Harry Styles, Camila Cabello, Khalid, and Drake.

"My older sister got me into One Direction and we stuck with them as they went their own ways," says Guerra, "My older sister and I bond a lot when it comes to Harry Styles."

"I got into Fifth Harmony on my own and Camila Cabello was one of the girls that really stood out to me and she has an emotional side that I admire, kinda like wearing her heart on her sleeve," adds Guerra.

She continues with why those are her favorite artists by saying, "I like Khalid because he's so chill, he has chill music that makes night drives with whoever fun. my cousin loves drake and she got me into him, it's always fun when singing his songs."

Aside from listening to music, playing basketball, and such, you can always find her giving advice. One of her favorite pieces of advice is "people will give up on you, you just have to make sure you don't give on yourself."

If you're ever looking for someone to talk to and possibly even have a one on one basketball game with, Guerra is the person to go to! Feel free to dm her yourself on her Twitter (@ajohnette33) or talk to her in person!

## English Teacher, Mrs. Zeko encourages students to "wander the world"

By Sophia Lugo  
El Rodeo Staff Writer

Everyone knows Mrs. Zeko as the loving, charismatic, mother-like teacher on campus. She attended Long Beach State University where she earned her bachelor's in English/Speech education before moving on to earn her masters in curriculum design and instruction. She has now been teaching for 29 years and currently teaches English 10 Honors.

Mrs. Zeko didn't begin teaching at El Rancho. She first began at St. Paul where she met Mr. Zeko. When she needed to move over to a public school, she asked Mr. Zeko what he thought about the Whittier and El Rancho School Districts. "Since he used to coach basketball at St. Paul and was occasionally on campus at El Rancho," Mrs. Zeko says, "[Mr. Zeko] said he got a better feel for El Rancho, so I took his advice and applied here."

Their love story is a little different than expected. "He stalked me and wouldn't go away, so I kept him," says Mrs. Zeko. She says her favorite part about working with him is, "We get the same vacations, so we can spend time together; we can carpool, so I can apply my makeup, and we know the same people, so we can chisme. Hehe."

Mrs. Zeko has a love for teaching, but when asked about her favorite part about teaching, she said, "It depends on which day



Mr. and Mrs. Zeko at the Blue Lagoon in Iceland on one of their adventures.

you ask me...my answers could run the spectrum from...the complete fulfillment I get watching a student grow into his/her best self...to...summer vacations."

There are a couple of things she hopes that the students gain after taking her class: a voice, and an appreciation for stories - "A voice to confidently and effectively communicate, academically as well as personally, and an appreciation for stories because they are, after all, what allows us to have a shared experience, to find communion in humanity," says Mrs. Zeko.

She adds, "My goal as a teacher is to matter: by support-

ing, encouraging, and challenging the students... and to let the students know that they matter."

Aside from being an amazing teacher, she likes to cook, even though Mr. Zeko doesn't let her do it often because he says she makes too much of a mess since he's on dish duty.

"Sadly, since becoming an empty-nester, I have taken up puzzling. Is that a word?" says Mrs. Zeko. "I like to walk the beach, ride my bike, read books, travel to new places, and try a lot of new, yummy foods." Sounds like a fun person to be around!

Mrs. Zeko is also the moderator of the Gadabouts

travel club. She has now traveled to 27 countries, some being: Slovakia, China, Turkey, Greece, and the Netherlands.

Her favorite place thus far has been Iceland; "It was otherworldly," says Mrs. Zeko, but Turkey and Morocco are also at the top of her list.

Mrs. Zeko's advice for students is, "In the end, it's not about the grade; it's about the academic and personal growth. *Choose* to be at school to grow into your best self." We love her positive attitude!

As for advice for new teachers, she says, "Invest in Wal-Mart stock. That way you can get back

a little bit of the money that you spend on classroom supplies."

Her final piece of advice goes to the soon-to-graduate seniors. Mrs. Zeko says, "Wander the world. While away, you will see stunning sights, taste delectable delights, and meet many of mankind, but the most important discovery you'll make is YOU."

Mrs. Zeko is definitely someone we can all aspire to be like one day. You can keep up with her amazing teaching on Twitter @erhsgadabouts and you can even join her on the next trip to Ireland, London, and Paris in 2021!



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



## Gift Ideas

**Christmas shopping on a budget?**

Nothing screams Christmas quite like regifting old things you don't use anymore. Here are some ideas that are sure to save you money.

**For the family:**

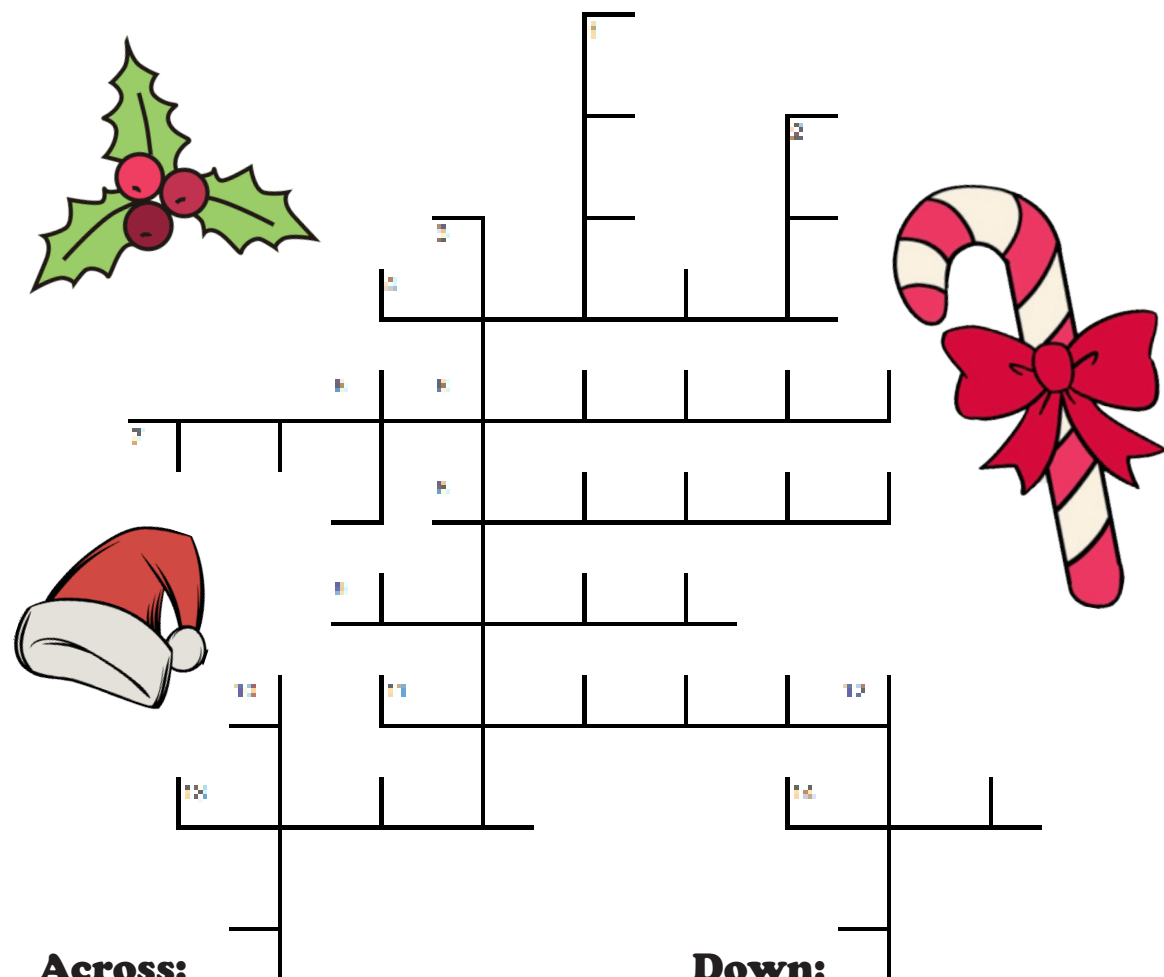
-Give them the gift of a great breakfast  
-Everyone loves the smell of burnt eggs in the morning.

-Get them all blankets with pictures of yourself. The best gift is your presence!

**For your friends:**

-Friendship bracelets  
-Make them handmade christmas cards  
-Make them a coupon book they can use  
-Grab a couple socks from the dollar store  
-Grab santa hats and make it a mini christmas table

## Candy Cane crossword

**Across:**

4. Location where Santa Claus is from  
6. Holiday on December 25, 2019  
7. Lead reindeer with red nose  
8. Objects hanging from Christmas tree  
9. Hang it down by the chimney  
11. Jolly man with a white beard and wearing a red suit  
13. Warm snack left for Santa Claus  
14. "Jingle \_\_\_\_"

**Down:**

1. An angry, green character who stole Christmas  
2. Where presents go under  
3. Christmas warm, brown drink  
5. Santa Claus' little helper  
10. Famous snowman's name  
12. Santa Claus' ride

## Dates of the Decade

### Say goodoloye to the 2010s

Ipad= 2010	2013	2016
Lady Gaga's	Ice Bucket	Pokemon Go
Meat Dress= Sep	Challenge= June	frenzy= July
2010	2014	2016
Friday by	An Airplane	Vine shut
Rebecca Black	disappeared=	down= Oct 2016
was released=	March 2014	Tik Tok= Sep
March 2011	The Dress	2016
Gangnam	Argument= Feb	In my feelings
Style= July 2012	2015	challenge= July
The World was	Same=Sex	2018
going to end=	Marriage became	Pewdiepie vs
Dec 2012	legal= June 2015	T-Series= Dec
Harlem Shake=	Leonardo	2018
Feb 2013	DiCaprio won an	Tide pod
Pewdiepie	Oscar= Feb 2016	challenge=
becomes	Harambe became	April 2019
number 1	an internet	Jonas Brothers=
Youtuber= Aug	sensation= May	March 2019

## COFFEE CAKE

By Anthony Somoza

Yield: 15

**Ingredients:**

- |                            |                                |                           |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| -2 cups all-purpose flour  | -1 ½ teaspoons vanilla extract | -¾ cup milk, or as needed |
| -¾ cup white sugar         | -¼ cup all-purpose flour       |                           |
| -2 teaspoons baking powder | -2/3 cup white sugar           |                           |
| -¼ teaspoon salt           | -1 teaspoon ground cinnamon    |                           |
| -½ cup butter              | -¼ cup butter                  |                           |
| -1 egg                     |                                |                           |

**Directions:**

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease and flour a 9x13 inch pan. Make the streusel topping: In a medium bowl, combine ¼ cup flour, ¾ cup sugar and 1 teaspoon cinnamon. Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Set aside.

In a large bowl, combine 2 cups flour, ¾ cup sugar, baking powder and salt. Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Crack an egg into a measuring cup and then fill add milk to make 1 cup. Stir in vanilla. Pour into crumb mixture and mix just until moistened. Spread into prepared pans. Sprinkle top with streusel.

Bake in the oven for 25 to 30 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center of the cake comes out clean. Allow to cool.

## ASK ALEJANDRO

What's better cheez-its or goldfish?

grades up, schools not over yet!

Tie.

How can I save money?

What should I do now that college apps are over?

Apply for scholarship.

There are many being offered this time around. Also, keep your

Don't spend so much. You can do this by not going out so much.

Also, you could try putting away half of the money you get.

## Check out El Rodeo's Christmas Playlist



## Word on the street:

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS SONG



Emily Ramos, Freshman: "Baby, It's Cold Outside" by Frank Sinatra



Edgar Morales, Sophomore: "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" by Andy Williams

Manuel Cevallos, Junior: "Jingle Bell Rock" by Bobby Helms



Lizzie Montejano, Senior: "All I Want for Christmas is You" by Mariah Carey





# CAMPUS

## Interested in hosting a foreign exchange student?

By ROCIO ESTRADA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

It's that time of year, where the foreign exchange students from Beijing, China are coming to El Rancho once more. While on their visit, these students will be able to experience what it means to be a student in America.

El Rancho alumni Natalie Munoz has been one of many students to host a foreign exchange student. Munoz says, "It was my family's third time hosting students from China."

She enjoyed hosting the students saying that she "had a good time learning about their culture and vice versa."

Munoz continues, "Every time they have to leave it always made us so sad. They became a part of our family and we still keep in touch with them. One pair of students from 2018 came back... to visit us again one more time."

Three weeks is certainly enough to create strong bonds between the students, as Munoz has shown. Besides creating new friends with their hosts, the foreign exchange students will also explore how students in America, specifically in Pico Rivera, live their lives.

The foreign exchange students will be able to visit classes and compare them to their own. They will be able to get a taste of cooking with Chef Luna to writing with Mr. Sorenson or solving difficult calculus questions with Mr. Francis .

These students will be able to participate in classes by taking tests or doing homework if they'd like to. The difference in learning culture is fascinating, so there is no doubt that these students will enjoy the educational aspect of El Rancho.

Some activities they might enjoy doing include going out to the Pico Rivera shopping center or having a picnic in Smith Park. These students might also enjoy the Hispanic flavors of Pico Rivera by going to local restaurants such as La Barca and Karina's Tacos.

This program has been going on for eight years, this being the ninth year El Rancho hosts the students from Beijing. The foreign exchange students will be here from January 12 to February 3.

Administration assistant, Annette Sevillano, is one of the people helping to make this partnership work. She believes that the students from El Rancho benefit from hosting the foreign exchange students because they "get exposed to their culture, get exposed to their beliefs..."

She continues "[the foreign exchange students] get to see how our school works and the expectations of our students".

Hosting these students is definitely a wonderful opportunity. If you are interested in hosting a foreign exchange student, go to the main office to pick up a form!

## Juniors overpower seniors in 55th annual Powder puff game



Junior Powderpuff "pepsters" are all smiles as they cheer on the sidelines.

Photo by Alexis Gallegos

By ARACELI CORREA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The juniors defeated the seniors by a score of 9-6 in the 55th annual Powderpuff Game, held on December 12th. The game started off with the juniors leading the first half with a score of 7-6, and eventually they earned two more points. The Powderpuff football

game has been a long-standing tradition for El Rancho students. Senior Melanie Ramirez says, "I decided to join powder puff because I wanted to make memories with my friends for my senior year and to try something new."

For many students, Powderpuff is a way to create memories. "My favorite part was playing as a team and experiencing the whole thing with my

friends," continues Ramirez.

During the halftime show, the junior pepsters' enthusiasm further added to the excitement of the game. Not to mention, they also had a guest appearance from the woman who started it all for the annual El Rancho.

Junior Victor Villegas says, "My favorite thing about powderpuff was doing basket tosses, I knew that I was

not going to fall because my friends were there to catch me."

This was the last Powderpuff game held in the original Don Memorial Stadium, and although it seems as if the tradition slowly dying, students hope that it will continue.

"I'm definitely going to be participating in Powderpuff next year," Villegas said, "It was such a fun experience."

## Give the gift of travel!

Interested in traveling the world with your very own school?  
Join the Gadabouts summer 2021 trip to Ireland, London & Paris



Interested in traveling the world with your very own school? Well the Gadabouts club might be for you! In the summer of 2021 the Gadabouts club will travel to Ireland, London, and Paris.



Scan me for more information!

If you are interested, be sure to see Mrs. Zeko's in A-205 or Mr. Zeko in X1 by December 31st to receive a \$200 discount, \$300 in hotel upgrades, and more!



SPORTS

Boys' varsity basketball prepares for league play

BY SOPHIA LUGO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The boys are heading into their winter season with a record of 3-7. As league play approaches, senior small guard Matthew Partida looks forward to what's coming.

"I'm most excited for this new beginning, new teammates, and a new coach," says Partida, "We're all just trying to make some noise and show what we have been working on all summer and fall."

Coach Matt Spain is the new coach this season. He was previously at La Serna as the assistant jv coach and wanted to take over a program, El Rancho was the perfect fit.

His coaching style is different from what the boys previously knew says Partida, "We had very little time to learn

how to do [his plays] but we got it locked down and it's only been positive for us so far."

Senior point guard Samuel Cuevas says he looks most forward to, "senior night and playing with my close friends one last time."

The team is more determined than ever to succeed. "This year's team is more dedicated and has a better work ethic than last year's team," says Cuevas. As a team, they'd like to make some noise and make a good run in playoffs.

Cuevas says their key to a successful season is, "listening to what the coach is telling us to do and play hard every game." Partida pushes his team by expecting a lot from them saying, "I simply hold them to a high standard, I understand they're not perfect but I expect the utmost effort from everyone on the team."

Partida's personal goal is



Alex Duenes going in for a lay-up.

Photo by: Mr. Crone

to make first-team all-league and all-area. "I've pushed myself by doing off-season training such as working on my shot or getting stronger," says Partida. Cuevas's

personal goal is to have a winning season and make the playoffs. He's pushing himself to be better by playing in his free time and making his skills better.

Sports have had a personal touch on these players. Cuevas says, "Basketball has made me more mature and being a committed hardworking person."

Partida says, "Basketball makes me a more calm and patient person. I have played ball for at least a decade now and the one thing I love most is seeing my hard work all these years pay off on the court."

Despite their great preparation, they have a tough road ahead. "Our biggest challenge this year is Santa Fe," says Cuevas, "Most of them are returners and they were already a good team last year."

As the boys continue on in their season, it is unknown what they will make of it. Be sure to check out the team as their first league game is set to be played at home on January 8th, where they will take on La Serna.

Soccer team's strong bond is key to success



Senior Sergio Rodriguez dribbles the ball up the field.

Photo by: Carlos

BY DIEGO GONZALEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The boys' varsity soccer team kicked off the pre-league portion of the season with a record of two wins and three losses. The team started off their season with two wins, but went on to lose three consecutive games, all by a score of 1-0.

Coach Gerry Goyenaga is at the head of the team for the 2019-20 Del Rio league, making this year his 6th consecutive season with the team.

The team prepared for their season early in the school year in order to be ready for the fierce competition in pre-season and league.

"To prepare for this season, our team began prac-

tice in June in order to build our chemistry, and we constantly also went as a team to the gym to get our bodies ready for season," said senior Sergio Rodriguez.

The boys came off of a rough season in the 2018-19 school year, and the determination to have a good season this year was a very important factor in their hard work.

Rodriguez added, "Our team has changed drastically and I feel that we are a lot more connected than last year, our chemistry together is altogether very strong."

This season, the team faces a tough group of teams in their schedule, including Cathedral High School who was ranked number nine in the nation last season. The Dons lost the game by a score of 1-0, but

proved to be a worthy competitor.

"The game against Cathedral really tested the team in the sense that they had been our toughest opponent, and to be able to not only compete but contend at their level made me realize our team was special and we were capable of competing at the highest level," said Rodriguez.

The team this year consists of a roster with many new faces to the varsity squad, and leadership is a very important factor for their success this year.

Senior and captain Joseph Reyes said, "As captain of the soccer team, I feel that my responsibility is to guide my teammates to set as an example on and off the field."

As a third year varsity returner, Reyes has very high hopes for the team and hopes to find success in his senior season.

"My goals for this season are for the team and I to win league undefeated, win CIF, and win State by concentrating on one game at a time." Reyes added.

As well as hard work, the team members value the close relationships that they have built with each other throughout the course of their years in high school.

"My teammates and I have a pretty strong connection since most of us have been playing alongside even before high school. We consider our relationship as a brotherhood, where we always have each other's backs," Reyes added.

The team's bond is also one of the keys to the boys' success according to Reyes. "Our relationship helps us stay together during tough moments and helps us play better since we understand each other's strengths and weaknesses." Reyes said.

The boys hope to return to their winning ways in the coming games against Rancho Alamitos and Montebello at home in order to catch momentum for league competition. The Don's first league game is on January 7th against the La Serna Lancers at Smith Park.

Girls' water polo ranked #1 in division seven



Coach Castillo giving a pep talk to the players during a game

Photo by: Carlos Rojo

BY ALEXIS GALLEGOS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The girls water polo team is making a splash into their winter season! The team has been off to a good start with an overall record of 4-2 for pre-season. With such a strong start, the girls' water polo team has hope that their season will follow just as secure.

Junior, Alexis Lara says, "It's been going good, we've been training hard this year, and we have gotten really close. We all hope to have a good season." The team plans to start their season off strong and are preparing for league.

As league competition approaches, senior Sakeenah Islam says, "La Serna is our biggest challenge this season," compared to previous seasons, the girls have more determination to defeat La Serna High School.

Junior Melissa Hernandez adds, "We're communicating way more than we used to... and making sure we all work on our weaknesses and making sure we don't stick to what we know, but going out of our

comfort zone and playing other positions so we don't just rely on one person for a certain position." The team plans on fixing mistakes from previous seasons to improve on the upcoming one.

Islam adds, "An improvement that my team and I have made is that we all have worked very hard as a team every day during practice, in and out of the pool whether it's during weight room or pool practice, we all are always putting in our hardest work."

The players take great pride in the relationships they have built with one another over the past seasons. Senior Karla Callejas adds, "The things I'm excited for this season is to play my last home game, to make more memories, and to have many more laughs."

As the season continues, captain Alexis Ortiz says, "My goal is to make it to CIF with my team." As the Lady Dons are number one in CIF Division Seven, they set their eyes on making it to the finals of CIF playoffs.

Come out to watch our girls aquatics team at their next home game against Santa Fe High School on January 21, 2020.



ENTERTAINMENT

Harry Styles’s *Fine Line* is more than just fine



Harry Styles on the cover of his sophomore album, “Fine Line.”

BY GRECIA HARO-FLORES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

No male artists in the music industry today are on par with Harry Styles, and with his sophomore album *Fine Line*, he proves it. Styles somewhat drifts away from the sounds of his self-titled debut album, and experiments with psychedelic rock and folk, to create a musical masterpiece and one of the greatest albums of 2019. *Fine Line* was released on December 13. It debuted with over 35 million streams on Spotify, reached #1 on iTunes in over 25 countries, and had every song occupy a spot on the US Top 20 Spotify chart. Before the start of his new era, Styles shared a one word cryptic tweet that read “do” in October that received over 140,000 retweets and 650,000 likes that sent fans into a spiral of questions. Styles’ mysterious activity continued when billboards with the caption, “Do You Know Who You Are?,” were spotted in several cities around the world. Fans immediately connected it back to the singer when they noticed the acronym “TPWK” written underneath, which stands for “Treat People With Kindness”- a

message Styles is known for. Shortly after, Styles released the lead single “Lights Up.” He went on to make multiple announcements like a new tour and a celebration show at The Forum the day of the release; and promoting the album in various forms such as doing double duty on Saturday Night Live. Styles even created the fictional island of Eroda to promote one of the songs featured on the album called “Adore You.” The upbeat pop song, “Lights Up,” took many fans by surprise because it was completely different from his first album’s lead single, “Sign of the Times,” a five minute and forty second rock ballad. “Shine, step into the light. Shine, so bright sometimes,” sings Styles, “Shine, I’m not ever going back.” During an interview with Capital FM, Styles explained the meaning of “Lights Up,” and said it was about freedom, self-reflection, and self-discovery. Throughout the album, you’ll find a few other songs about self-reflection and self-discovery; however, you’ll also find songs about being in love, heartbreak, and the *fine line* between both. The album has 12 tracks

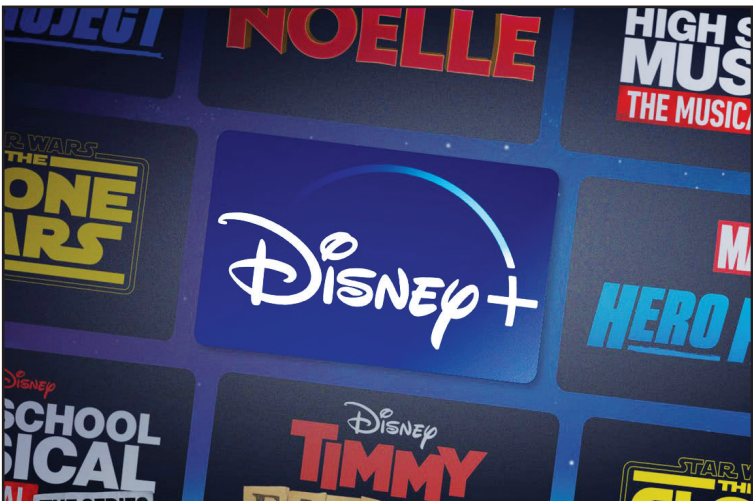
and lasts 46 minutes. The first song on the album is called “Golden.” It’s easily one of my favorites from the album. It’s the type of song you would play as you’re driving down by the beach with your hands out the window feeling the summer breeze or the type of song when you’re just having the time of your life. Though it’s not confirmed if it was intentional or not, in “Golden,” Styles wrote what seems to be a continuation to one of the lyrics in “Ever Since New York,” a song from his self-titled album. In “Ever Since New York,” Styles sings, “There’s no antidote for this curse.” In which, he finishes off in “Golden” by singing, “Lovin’ you’s the antidote.” A lyrical genius I’d say. Up next on the album are “Watermelon Sugar,” “Adore You,” and “Lights Up.” They gave fans a taste of what Styles’ album was going to sound like, considering how they were released before all the other songs, or at least they thought it was. Each song in *Fine Line* has its own personality. “Falling” and “Fine Line” are the more melancholy tracks. If you’re looking for songs to cry to, these would definitely be the ones to listen to. In “Falling,” Styles “brings his agony to life.” In an interview with Zane Lowe, Styles shared that he “had started to feel [himself] becoming someone [he] didn’t want to be and that was really hard” for him. He also shared how he wrote the song in an impressive time of around 20 minutes. “Fine Line” exhibits such a liberating tone that makes you reflect on your past, present, and future. It’s quite the emotional song. “Cherry” falls under the same category tone wise, as it’s about a break-up. In fact, at the end of the song, Styles features a voice note with his ex-girlfriend’s voice. The songs “To Be So Lonely” and “Canyon Moon” show that folk-esque sound. “She” is a total ten out of ten, and becomes eleven when the two-minute guitar solo by Styles’ guitarist, Mitch Rowland, strikes. Like “Golden,” others feel good songs of the album are “Sunflower Vol.6” and “Treat People With Kindness.” They’re the songs of the album that make you want to get out of your seat and dance. *Fine Line* is more than just fine. It’s stupendous, immaculate, you name it! Give it a listen for yourself. *Fine Line* is now available on all streaming platforms.

Disney+ becomes a rival streaming service to Netflix and Hulu

BY ALEJANDRO MELCHOR  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

In the past month, the Walt Disney Company launched its newest app, Disney Plus. The app is a streaming subscription service that has the majority of classic and latest Disney movies and television shows. The app also includes content from Disney owned companies such as Marvel, National Geographic, Pixar, and *Star Wars*. The number one top-grossing app, which was put out to rival against streaming service giants such as Netflix and Hulu, proved successful as it saw massive growth within its first day of being released, being downloaded 3.2 million times within the first 24 hours, and has now more than 10 million subscribers. Part of the app’s success is a direct result of the cost of subscription. A Disney Plus subscription as of right now is set at \$6.99 per month or \$69.99 per year, more affordable than any other available streaming services. With a membership, one can stream hours of movies, tv shows, and documentaries all on one ad-free platform. While the app is cost-friendly, the majority of the hype surrounding the app revolves around the fact that there is so much to watch! The app has hundreds of the latest favorites, but also all-time Disney classics. Some of the classic blockbuster films that the app has to offer include *Aladdin*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Star Wars: A New Hope*, *Avengers Endgame*, and *Tim Burton’s The Nightmare Before Christmas*.

The app has even taken a step toward creating Disney Plus originals like their streaming counterparts, Netflix and Hulu have done in recent years. Some of the Disney Plus originals include *High School Musical: The Musical: The Series* and *Star Wars* based series, *The Mandalorian*. With the app continuing to gain many subscribers every day, it has certainly had its impact on the stock market. According to an online article published by Time Magazine, upon Disney Plus’ release, Netflix shares fell as much as 5 percent to \$349.36 shortly after the open in New York Friday, sending its market as low as \$152.5 billion. On the other hand, things went well for Disney as its shares jumped to a record high, adding as much as \$25 billion in market value, for a total of about \$235 billion. While the app keeps progressing, Disney has plans to bring even more films to the platform. That said, it is a fair deal for those who really enjoy watching Disney movies and TV shows and would like to have the luxury of watching them wherever and whenever. So if you’re looking to binge-watch all your favorite Disney movies or reminisce over all your favorite childhood shows, Disney Plus is where it’s at!



Disney Plus has quickly become a popular streaming service.

WHO DO YOU THINK IS THE ARTIST OF THE DECADE AND WHY?



“Bad Bunny because his music has different topics and he comes out with music constantly.”  
-Salma Arceo Gil, 11th



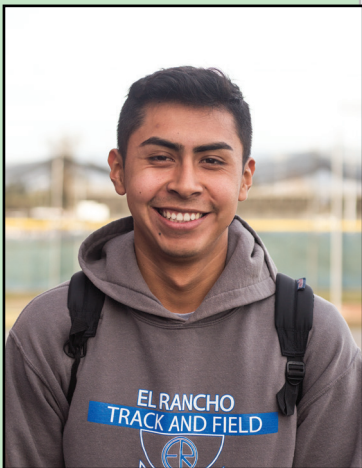
“My favorite artist of the decade would be The Weekend because I like the rhythm of his music.”  
-Yoselyn Avalos, 11th



“Bryson Tiller because of his versatility.”  
-Linda Saucedo, 12th



“Joey Badass because his music is timeless.”  
-Jacob Aldecoa, 11th



“I am undecided because the decade was long, many artists came up, and then there was those who were consistent throughout the decade.”  
-Emanuel Saveedra, 12th