



EL RODEO



El Rancho High School - Volume 60- Issue 3
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Academic Decathlon 2011 Scrimmage Results



El Rancho participated in the Academic Decathlon 2011 Scrimmage on Friday November eleventh. "The team did a wonderful job-especially in subjects they didn't think they would do well on," said coach, Ms. Kristen Oase. The results in the scrimmage shows the students hard work and preparation.

Gustavo Marquez

Honors
Math, 2nd Place
Science, 2nd Place
Art, 3rd Place

Monserrat Marquez

Honors
Math, 2nd Place
Super Quiz, 3rd Place
Science, 3rd Place
Language & Literature, 3rd Place

John Barrios

Scholastic
Economics, 2nd Place
Super Quiz, 2nd Place
Language & Literature, 1st Place
Music, 3rd Place
Art, 2nd Place

Hazel Florez

Scholastic
Economics, 3rd Place
Language & Literature, 2nd Place
Art, 3rd Place

Tammy Nguyen

Scholastic
Art, 3rd Place

Bryan Marquez

Varsity
Math, 2nd Place

Nina Marquez

Varsity
Math, 3rd Place
Language & Literature, 3rd Place
Music, 3rd Place
Art, 1st Place

Chris Rivera

Varsity
Music, 3rd Place
Art, 3rd Place

Isaac Rodriguez

Varsity
Economics, 2nd Place
Super Quiz, 1st Place
Language & Literature, 1st Place
Music, 1st Place
Art, 1st Place

The Mostacheo Men of Movember



Left to right: Mr. Rojo, Mr. Zook, Mr. Justin Diaz, Mr. Daniel Diaz, Mr. Sorenson, Mr. Llanes, Mr. Correa.

By GABBY GARCIA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Movember, the month of moustaches, is not only 30 days of not having to shave every so often, but it's also a month to obtain donations to promote and participate in men's health awareness, specifically prostate cancer.

Anyone can participate in his movement by forming part of a MO team or forming your

own. Here at El Rancho, History teacher Mr. Daniel Diaz, has created a team including Mr. Sorenson, Mr. Justin Diaz, Mr. Llanes, Mr. Zook, Mr. Rojo, Mr. Correa, and Mrs. Katsumara's husband, who introduced this movement to these teachers, and more participants, including students.

The Mostacheo's have a goal to raise \$1,000 by the end of the month and will be growing out their moustaches to ob-

tain donations for Movember.

"Movember is a good motivator because it has people see our mustaches and be inspired to give donations," said Mr. Zook, member of Team Mostacheo.

Although this team is experiencing its first year as part of this movement, the team asserts that this is a very effective way to make people aware of prostate cancer.

"We've already raised \$300 this week, so I think Movem-

ber is effective," said Mr. Daniel Diaz, "It is effective in away that it's funny, and mustaches are suppose to be a conversation starter, so we talk about it, let people know what were doing it for, and we get donations."

Mrs. Katsumara's husband was the one who introduced Movember to Mr. Justin Diaz and therefore, Team Mostacheo was born. "Mr. Diaz told me if I wanted to be a part of this movement, and I was never aware of it, so I learned what it was for, and I liked the purpose of it and so I joined," said Mr. Justin Diaz, "And I think it's a great idea, mustaches create attention to the subject so that more and more people are aware of men's health."

Link Crew has been a great help to Team Mostacheo, in a way that they've created custom-made donation boxes that are placed in the classroom of the teams participants. "Come in, and see our progress and give us some donations," says Mr. Zook.

Also, if you would like to join team Mostacheo, pay a visit to the official Movember website and be a member of men's health awareness. Save time and don't shave for a month, create attention and acquire donations for the purpose of Movember, "Be aware of the cause and donate," said Mr. Justin Diaz.

Coaches Honored by Del Rio League

By DESTINEE ORTIZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Del Rio League honors El Rancho coaches Stacey Salway and Tirrell Wynn as coaches of the year.

"It's awesome [being chosen]. The kids worked really hard." Said boys cross country coach Wynn.

Boys and Girls Cross Country's phenomenal season is the main reason for the coaches' recognition.

It took a lot of hard work and many hours of training for the teams to have such an outstanding performance.

Salway, who has coached cross-country for two years, and Wynn, coach for four years, are both grateful for their talented teams.

"I am very proud of each individual runner," said girls cross country coach Salway.

Being chosen as "Coach of the Year" was a surprise and honor for both coaches.

The greatest part for coach Salway is the experience of watching each individual student improve.

She began coaching students to run long distances while she worked at Rivera Middle school. Now that she is here at El Rancho, she is able to chart



Cross Country coaches of the year, Tirrell Wynn and Stacey Salway.

the progress of the students that have continued running and see how much they have grown.

It is because of these two individuals' coaching techniques that the Cross Country team is able to succeed.

"It was wonderful working with Salway," said Wynn. Wynn was also proud that the runners began to work as a team to accomplish so

much and rather than focusing on themselves individually.

The success of the team and these coaches shows that hard work always pays off.

Cross Country was a strong program last year, this year, and shall continue to be great under the supervision of coaches Wynn and Salway.

The pair cannot emphasize the amount of great work

each team has contributed.

"Great job to all levels of Cross." Said Salway

This distinction of Coach of the Year extends far beyond proud coaches; this honor is one in which cross-country runners of the past, present, and future may take pride. With such competent coaches at the helm, the future of the Boys and Girls Cross burns more brightly than ever before.

OPINION

Alabama Allows Absurd Immigration Law

DESTINEE ORTIZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The fear of strict immigration laws has spread from Arizona to Alabama. Every passing day becomes increasingly difficult for the immigrants that work tedious jobs to improve the lives of their families. The passing bill makes it almost impossible for illegal immigrants to survive in the state.

Similar to the Arizona law, police officers are given the authority to arrest drivers who commit traffic violations if there is reason to believe they are in the U.S. illegally. As this was the main controversy in Arizona, Alabama's law has many controversial issues that I find to be far more detrimental.

The bill starts off by making it illegal to enter into a contract with undocumented immigrants. Soon after, it mentions that renting property to undocumented immigrants is a crime. This includes houses and apartments.



Yes, it is essential for all immigrants to become citizens, however, the process of becoming a U.S. inhabitant is expensive and time consuming.

These two issues afflict with immigrants becoming legal residents. These individuals need time to earn money in order to progress in the citizenship process.

How are they to earn money to become a citizen if Alabama does not allow them to rent shelter. A place of residence is needed in order to rest and prepare for workdays. Many of these individuals cannot afford to buy homes, so that is out of

the question. These issues lead us to the next part of the bill. It is now illegal for Alabama business owners to hire undocumented workers. A business that is cited for hiring illegal workers can have its business license revoked. Adding to this section, Businesses within Alabama must run workers names and information through a federal system (E-Verify) to obtain their legal status.

With these restrictions placed on businesses, many immigrants are not showing up for work. Alabama is a state of great agriculture output. The absence of these workers is greatly af-

fecting the harvesting of crops. As the signing of the bill took place, Aliens literally disappeared overnight. Fear has overwhelmed them into hiding and some have even left the state.

Many blame undocumented workers for the lack of jobs available within America. Now there are plenty of jobs available harvesting crops but yet acres are rotting due to the missing workers. This shows that these individuals perform tasks that normal citizens would not.

Over time the decreased amount of illegal aliens can affect America's economy. Even

at this moment, America is losing money due to the decaying crops unharvested in the fields. Prisoners from Alabama jails are now being used to pick the crops.

Alabama's law not only discourages the dreams of adults, but also the dreams of children. Schools are forced to submit information concerning a student's race, national origin, and immigration status. An estimated 1200 students are missing due to these new regulations.

This new immigration law may discourage students from taking part in public education. Students should not have to sacrifice education because of their illegal status. Every individual has the freedom to pursue knowledge.

Immigrants contribute greatly to American society. Some of these individuals pay government taxes using federal pin numbers. Many work hard and abide by American laws. They should be given a chance to succeed in the "land of opportunity."

Occupy Movement Demands Equity: What Occupy Protestors are Attempting to Accomplish

BY DAVID OCHOA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

It appears as if the revolutions in Egypt and Lybia have made a mark in the minds of Americans. A resurgence in protesting not

witnessed since the tumultuous 1960s has been seen in America recently with the "Occupy" protests that are sweeping major cities across the nation and the world.

Many who are unaware of what "Occupy" is and its forerun-

ner "Occupy Wall Street" are probably wondering, "What are these hippies complaining about now?"

Well essentially these protestors, who are made up of not just liberal democrats but republican conservatives, oppose unequal distribution of wealth and power in this country (and the world), greedy corporations, and the support government gives to these robber barons.

The protestors shine a light on the fact that about one percent of the nation controls ninety percent of the country. Angered by the current economy they blame the "one percent" for this recession. Politicians and big businesses, both part of the one percent, do not take any responsibility for their actions.

Their actions have led this once great nation into a downward spiral. Politicians and business people are not known for being truthful, but the American people would appreciate it if they admit to making a bad decision and not keep on passing the buck.

While government aids big business, they do not seem to help the rest. It appears that government has been bought by big businesses, but in reality it is the American people who are buying out big business.

Taxpayer money is being used to bail out big businesses, but these corporations and the government does not seem to try and bail out the American people.

The Occupy Protestors are also pointing out the outrageous salaries that the modern day CEO now receives. CEO's today receive a salary three hundred times larger than that of a regular employee, compared to 1965 when a CEO's salary was

twenty four times greater than that of the average employee.

The one percent earns more than the ninety nine percent, yet pays less in taxes. Even some of the one percent agrees with the protestors.

Billionaire Warren Buffet, angered by this outrageous injustice, stated, "My friends and I have been coddled long enough by a billionaire-friendly congress. It's time for our government to get serious about shared sacrifice."

Big business also controls the media, which has not always painted a pretty picture for the minority. Media needs to report accurately and factually and not be biased.

The media has also been responsible for portraying Congress and other politicians as great enemies. Partisanship prolongs any advancement, socially and economically, in Washington.

With a divide in Washington, bills that can possibly help Americans get jobs will never be passed.

Along with a majority of people supporting the protestors, Occupy has also had the help of celebrities, authors, directors, and musicians including Michael Moore, Tom Morello, Alice Walker, and Susan Sarandon.

Occupy Wall Street comes at a desperate time when the world's economy is on the brink of collapse. This is the time to speak and criticize government.

We live in a time when we are truly able to criticize our politicians and leaders, well for the most part, the one percent needs to realize that unless things change revolution and or possible depression is just around the corner.



Image provided by Google.

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CAMPUS

New Advice Column: Ask Ms. Rodeo!

Q: I really need help. The guy I like asked me out on a date. It was a dare and the guys offered to give him another dare, but he willingly asked me out. Maybe he saw this as an opportunity. My girls told me about the dare before he actually asked me, so I instantly said no to the date. Everyone says he has had a crush on me since fifth grade, and we've always been good friends. I wish I'd said yes, because he actually might go out with me, but I don't want to be asked out if it's fake. Should I say yes, or no?

A: I would definitely take up the chance. You said that he has a crush on you ever since fifth grade, right? Maybe his friends just set up the dare so he can take his chance and making it seem like that will be able to save his pride if ever you end up rejecting him. So I don't see the reason why you shouldn't take the risk. If it ends up good and you see his sincerity, then I'm sure you wouldn't regret a thing. But if it ends bad then just build a bridge and get over it. There are tons of other guys out there anyway. You never know, maybe he's everything you ever wanted. Might as well take the risk and accept the challenge. If you don't, maybe you'll end up thinking about what could have been.

Q: I'm sort of new at this school and I still don't have many friends. What can I do to fit in and be liked? How do I learn which groups of kids to approach? How do I know who is most like me and who would hate me?

A: Trust me, it's not as hard as you may think it is. You shouldn't just approach one group of kids; you should try to make friends with as many different types of people as you can. One group may share your interest in music and one group might like the same subjects as you. The best way to start a conversation is to smile at the person you want to be friends with, or you could compliment the person on an accessory or on their hair style, anything you find nice, interesting or different about them. Another conversation starter is to ask someone in your class about homework or about a project, then move on to more general subjects like music, magazines, TV shows, etc. No one will hate you unless you do something to make them hate you. Just smile and talk to as many people you can. Join new clubs; you are most certain to meet people who will share your interests. Just remember be yourself and to be honest.



or more's worth of work, just studying the night before is not enough! This is called cramming and it does not work! You should study even when you don't have tests. If you have a test coming up you should spend about 10-15 minutes each night leading up to the test studying. I find that if you study for tests throughout the school year you don't have to spend as much time studying when it is time for tests or exams. Hi-lighters are great and not just for decorating your page! You should highlight the main ideas and important information as well as due dates. Remember to write it down in your agenda and check your homework twice to make sure you don't forget to do something. Once you know and understand what it is you're supposed to be doing, it's much easier to get it done! Don't forget to ask questions if you don't understand, that's what teachers are for! Time management is also important in studying. Homework is not always fun and when you have lots of other things to do it is easy to blame not having enough time. You should make a plan so that you can find time for all the things you want to do. Hopefully now you can study well. Studying is not hard work, but it must be habitual. And don't worry, you'll be a pro in no time!

Q: I would like it if you would tell me how to study for tests and how to understand homework. I have a really big problem with study habits and homework! If you could help me I would greatly appreciate it

A: I find that throughout High School, students are told to study and do homework but not how this should be done. Tests usually make up a large portion of your final grade, so it is important that you do well in them. Because you have to learn a month



Amsterdam, Brussels, Paris & London-December 2012!

Don't be left out! Join the Gadabouts on our European excursion as we hit the cities and historical sites of the Netherlands, Belgium, France and England. See Mrs. Zeko in **B-105** or Mr. Zeko in **X-1** for more info. Sign up now at eftours.com. Be sure to enter tour **#1076380**.

FEATURES

Chef Luna Speaks of His Love for Food

By BRIANA RIVERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Like most of us who enjoy the art of drawing, photography, literature or maybe even the art of nature, one person in this school enjoys the art of food and salmon, that person is our very own Chef Luna.

Luna has been learning how to cook since he was the age of six by his very own inspiration: his mom. His mom, Angelina, taught him everything he has taught his students and that is not just food but also the art of respect for each other. His favorite dish that she has made for him is cactus.

He attended Le Cordon Bleu and has taken classes in the Art Institution in Las Vegas, which he still attends them to this day. For years he has catered for major celebrities, fund-raisers, and major events. He started out first working at the MGM Grand at Las Vegas for a while. There he started learning the little things to help with his experiences with food. After that he worked at Madre's Restaurant, which as most would know that actor/singer Jennifer Lopez formerly owned. Chef worked there for a total of five years and after his time there he started his own catering business in 2004. In between all that he had a job as a restaurant manager for California Pizza Kitchen. He even worked for Chef Paul McCullough from TV's Food Network. Now he is



Chef Luna in front of his Culinary Arts class.

now teaching here at El Rancho filling the students knowledge more and more with nutrition and facts about food that some of us didn't even know about before.

"Training. Train them vigorously. Vigorously.", Chef says about his classes as they cook around the stoves with the latest recipe Chef has taught them. They have learned about safety and sanitation, the intro to nutrition and now are on their way to making bigger things in the lessons.

His culinary arts club did a fantastic job with the whole Arnie Duncan V.I.P catering and the Lights On event as well. They donated to the Harvest Festival in Pico Rivera and from there they are preparing for their big upcoming 3rd annual Feed the Homeless project. These past two years the club has also participated in Top Chef Masters Invasion and the Jaime Oliver Food Revolution.

"I've always wanted to be a

teacher. I love it. I love teaching," he says about his job here at the Ranch. "I love learning from my students its a new thing everyday from them and its fun. Whenever I have new students in the beginning I put them in groups and as they interact with each other they all start getting closer over the year where they are attached to their group members and its an emotional feeling where you see how well they all are close to each other its like you see a different side to each student and new perspectives and respects to one another." Chef really tries with his students. He shows them how accept one another and that they work as a team together. He really likes the outcome at the end of the year when he sees them evolve as young people. His greatest achievement is making a difference in his student's lives with what he's taught them.

El Rancho High School Will Be Represented at Tournament of Roses

By CLIFFORD BILLINGTON
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Two members of the El Rancho Don Marching band made the Tournament of Roses honor band, which is quite a feat for these Dons, because it shows talent and discipline. It shows how hard the band members work and it also shows how much talent that El Rancho actually has to offer.

Carla Boche, Sophomore, said, "Actually, I practiced a lot, all through Christmas break and I just practiced my butt off." For a tenth grade student, making it in the Honor band is a real feat for this young lady. "I felt really nervous, and I didn't know anyone there." For being nervous, she really impressed the judges at the audition. "I was stunned, but I didn't believe it, I didn't make a mistake." Boche said when she found out that she had made the honor from her band director Reggie Cordero.

Paul Espitia, Senior, is the second Don that made the Tournament of Roses honor band. Espitia said, "I practiced during lunch two weeks before and I made sure everything sounded detailed." This is the second time that Espitia has made the Tournament of Roses honor band. Espitia also said, "I was very calm; I wasn't too, concerned on making it, I went in to have fun and see what the judge said." When Espitia found out he made it, he said, "I was pretty excited.



Senior Paul Espitia and PCC Student Esteban De Leon

I felt happy that I made it again but I was even more happy that Carla made it as a sophomore."

Cordero, the El Rancho Dons band director said, "I am very proud, very proud of them."

This director is so proud of his students that his face really lit up when he found out that his students made the honor band. Cordero also said, "They did most of the preparation on their own, but I helped a little."

Principal Sam Genis said, "I am happy for them. It's a carry over from North Park to El Rancho and I am very happy to have them represent El Rancho in the Tournament of Roses. It's an example of hard work and dedication." Genis also said, "It's also a tribute to Cordero for his leadership and hard work." So when you see Carla Boche or Paul Espitia make sure you say congratulations to them for making the Tournament of Roses Honor band, and for having them to represent El Rancho in

Recipe for Thanksgiving: Southern Chocolate Pecan Pie

By: BRIANA RIVERA, EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

For you to know what these terms mean when cooking the pie.

"Bain Marie"-Hot water bath

"Temper"-Sensitive process

Making the Chocolate Inside the Pie

Steps:

Step 1: 1 cup of chocolate morsels

Melt over "Bain Marie"

Step 2: 2 eggs- Do not heat! You must temper

Step 3: 1 cup of sugar - whistle all 3 together slowly

Step 4: 1/2 cup of melted butter (while still mixing)

Step 5: 1/2 cup of flour (while mixing slowly)

Step 6: 1 Tbl vanilla

Step 7: 1 cup of chopped delains (While still mixing)

Bake @ 350 for 50 mins

Pie Shell+Add+Egg wash

2 1/2 cups of A.P. flour

Plus extra for rolling

1 cup or 2 sticks or 8 oz of unsalted butter

Very cold, cut into 1/2 inch cubes

1 tsp of salt

1 tsp of sugar

4-8 tbl of ice water

Optional: sprinkle chopped nuts in crust

Flaxseed

Flaxseed contains low carb whole grain and is rich in omega-3 fatty acids. Inflammation, which plays a part in many chronic diseases, can be prevented with omega-3's (arthritis, asthma, diabetes and some cancers). The flaxseed is high in fiber and it promotes proper functioning for the intestines (yay no back ups!). It also helps prevent type two diabetes so that's a plus for everyone. The flaxseed also helps with your cholesterol to be lowered and weight loss as well as maintaining healthy weight for dieters or anyone who's looking for help on their diets. Flaxseed contains alpha linolenic acid (A.L.A.) a type of omega-3 commonly found in fish. So here is your tip of the month from Chef Luna.



SPOTLIGHT ON CLUBS

Because We all Need a Place to Talk

BY DES DEGADILLO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

As the school year kicked into full gear in September, Gear Up's newest after school program launched at El Rancho. The Teen Talk program offers students a chance to discuss teen issues with their fellow teens every Thursday after school in S 4.

"It's an afterschool program, part of the prep program," said Ms. Bonilla, who is currently a graduate student at USC pursuing her masters in counselling. "It's where teens can come after school to express their opinions, thoughts and ideas about dating, peer pressure, drugs, relationships, and stress management."

Along with Bonilla, Vocational Counselor Roberta Jemenez runs the Teen Talk program. "As counsellors it's our goal to get to students and have more hands on time with them," Jemenez said. "Students have a forum to be able to talk about and discuss issues that are in their lives."

As Jemenez goes on to explain, "all teenagers need someone to talk to, and it's more with their peers here and that's



Kamille Mancina and Natalie Janbakhsh participate in teen talk.

the key thing. They're talking with each other. That's where you get that peer support."

At the moment, the Teen Talk program has a small but consistent core of members who

would like to see more of their peers attend. "I come here often," said senior Natalie Janbakhsh. "It's really fun and we talk about a lot of things. I got some advice on how to talk to my parents."

The Teen Talk program has a promising future as a haven for El Rancho students to get to know one another on a much more emotional level. "It's not exclusive," Bonilla said, "anybody can join."



Full House at the Classic Cards Club

BY JACOB SANCHEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The classic cards club is joining the list of clubs and activities at El Rancho. Mr. Rojo is the club adviser, and had many reasons to create the club, "I saw a staff member made a video game club, and I thought that students would like to join club playing cards."

"Playing Hold 'Em is a hobby of mine and I wanted to share the game with students in a safe environment," said Rojo.

Texas Hold 'Em is a simple game to learn, with each player dealing two hole cards. Then there is a round of betting, once the betting is complete, then three cards are shown, called the flop. Then there is another round of betting, and then another card is shown called the turn card. Another round of betting takes place, then the last card is shown, known as the river card. Then there is one last round of betting then the player with the best hand using 5 cards wins the money or pot.

He mentions that the game teaches many valuable concepts such as: Decision making skills, Constant reevaluation of the situations, interpersonal relationships, and money management.

Many may wonder, *how can this help me in life?*, But Hold 'Em does teach the essentials in life listed previously, especially the money management skill. That skill will help you in life no matter what the situation is.

An essential skill for the game, mentioned earlier, is reevaluating every little event that happens, always thinking, and that's life.

Money management is a practical skill that one can acquire from playing Texas Hold 'Em. You need to learn this skill to live a decent life, and be able to make the proper payments.

The club currently has many freshmen Ninth Grader Juan Gariby said, "I joined the club because we get to play poker."

And Some Just Want to Jam



An El Rancho alumnus and juniors Jorge Montes, and Alex Quevedo "jam out" during songwriters club session.

BY CLIFFORD BILLINGTON
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The songwriter club is over three years old and advisor Robert Parra "Wanted a place for students who love music to go, or for students who want to perform their own music." The club is also a place for students who just want to go and jam out with their friends.

He said that the main goal

of the club is "To get musicians with other musicians to collaborate on songs together." He also wants "To perform in classrooms to showcase what they have been working on." And in order for that to work he needs all the support he can get to push the showcase in the classrooms.

Also, he said, "If they ask for help in the song writing process, I will help." He also said

that he "Wants students to come in and learn music or learn how to play a song." And by having students learn music and or a song it give them more experience on their instrument and give them a time to socialize after school.

Alex Quevedo, eleventh grader, said, "I can play whatever I want with my friends and I can help out" this is the reason why he likes the songwriters club. Jorge

Montes, eleventh grader, found out about the club "Through my friend Dennis and he suggested I come and I just came."

Some of the students performed at the "Lights On" event held by the Prep program in the quad. So if you have a chance to go to the songwriter club and you love music it's the perfect place for you.

ENTERTAINMENT

Kelly Clarkson Comes Back Stronger

MARIAH LEOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Nearly a decade has passed since 29-year-old singer-songwriter and actress, Kelly Clarkson, was crowned the first ever "American Idol". Since then, Clarkson has become a force on the billboard charts with her intense and lyrical sassy pop-rock anthems.

Known for her most popular songs, "Breakaway", "Since U Been Gone", and "Because of You", Clarkson excels to the fullest with her powerhouse voice and down-to-earth style.

In 2003, Clarkson released her debut album, *Thankful* which was a commercial success and established herself in the pop music industry. The release of its first single, "A Moment Like This", broke The Beatles' record for the biggest leap to number one, in the history of the Billboard Hot 100 Chart.

Clarkson's song writing ability and incredible voice offer something different that most pop stars don't. Utilizing more of an edgy rock sound, Clarkson sets herself aside from most pop star divas and puts herself in a class all of her own.

Two years have passed since Clarkson has released a new album, and has recently come out with, *Stronger*, which landed in stores and online October 26, 2011.

The new album sees her in a better place professionally, and assures that the empowering title doesn't allude to any specific events from the past year, but rather a collection of deep and sincere thoughts.

Clarkson simply comes off as more confident now and able to



Grammy award winner Kelly Clarkson has released her new album, 'Stronger' in October and is already on it's way to topping the charts..

makechoicesbasedonexperiences.

Some songs off the new and delicate album are, "What Doesn't Kill You", "You Love Me", and "The Dark Side".

Regardless of a bump or two here, Clarkson has still come out ahead majority of the *Idol* winners, and has proved to have the most promise for career longevity.

In a career spanning almost a decade, Clarkson has become the most successful *Idol* contes-

tant worldwide, according to Billboard and Nielsen SoundScan. Clarkson's work also gained her numerous accolades, including two Grammy Awards, three MTV Video Music Awards, and a Women's World Award. Billboard also ranked Clarkson the #14 artist of the 2000s, as well as being also ranked on the top 200 album sellers of the Nielsen SoundScan era at number 187.



Beavis and Butt-Head re-aired with all new episodes.

Beavis and Butt-Head Are Back

MICHELLE CHAVEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The greatly anticipated return of Mike Judge's *Beavis and Butt-head* finally premiered on October 27, 2011. It was 14 years ago that the show stopped airing on its original television network, MTV. The show first aired on March 8, 1993 up until November 28, 1997. This classic American animated television series is about two socially awkward and bored teenagers who live in Highland, Texas. They spend most of their time giggling, chuckling, and criticizing things. Half of the show consists of Beavis and Butt-head sitting on their couch, watching TV shows and music videos from MTV while giving their personal commentary (making fun of the shows). The other half of the show con-

sists of B&B having their daily adventure. The first episode has two parts: 'Werewolves of Highland' and 'Crying'. The first part of the episode starts as B&B are watching the movie 'Twilight' and end up trying to "pick up chicks" by getting bitten by a werewolf that was obviously just an average homeless man. The dialogue Judge uses is humorous and clever. Judge certainly knows how to add just the right amount of perverseness and immaturity to B&B. Throughout the show B&B hysterically criticize shows like 'Jersey Shore' and '16 and Pregnant' in a way that is surprisingly harsh but decent at the same time. It is ironic how MTV allows this show to ridicule their own shows, but somehow it all fits well. Judge

Artist of the Month: Scotty *Idol* McCreery

BY GABBY GARCIA
EL RODE STAFF WRITER

Country music's newest singer-songwriter, eighteen year old Scotty McCreery made history on *American Idol*'s nine year show, being the youngest contestant to win season ten. With 122.4 million votes, 29.3 million viewers and 38.6 million tuned to hear the winner's name.

Just a week after winning the show against runner-up contestant, 16 year old Lauren Alaina, McCreery debuted his new single "I Love You this Big" earning him the highest rated debut album, *Clear As Day* which was released October 4, 2011. As well as its very first single on the Billboard Hot Country Songs Chart since 1984.

McCreery's single was a great way to begin his career as a country singer. "I've always dreamed about having a career in country music," said McCreery. "I just never thought it could happen. I had never given myself the chance. *Idol* gave me the chance and I ran with it. I'm having a good time with it. It's what I wanted to do and I'm making a career of it."

McCreery's album is dif-



Scotty McCreery, 18, is the youngest winner of *American Idol* to date.

ferent from the usual genre fellow *American Idol* winners have made, mixing a traditional country sound with a contemporary flavor young and old may be able to listen to.

McCreery's career began when he was just a young toddler. From an early age in his hometown Garner, North Carolina, McCreery was singing "The Muffin Man"

at the age of three, and listening to Elvis Presley in pre-school.

By the age of 10, he began guitar lessons and soon made his way up to perform-

ing in his school choirs, including high school and many other competitions as a young child.

But when he auditioned for *American Idol* in Milwaukee, Wisconsin he was attending church camp and was still one of the starring players on his hometown baseball team, which he explained as, "A summer just to see what they would say to me, never in my wildest dreams did I expect to become the next *American Idol*."

McCreery often states that his faith plays a big role in his life and that God helps him get through the things he has to face.

McCreery openly tells others that, "he loves Jesus Christ with all of his heart and that he needs to stand by Him all the time because God is the only way he can get through the competition."

He also states that Sunday is his favorite day of the week because he gets to go to the First Baptist Church in Garner and helps his mother cook.

Whether its in his hometown at school or performing on stage, McCreery has gained a widespread group of fans and will be entertaining many for as long as he could.

ENTERTAINMENT

Album of the Month: Coldplay's *Mylo Xyloto*

BY DES DELGADILLO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On October 24, alternative rock sensations Coldplay released their fifth studio album, "Mylo Xyloto." Since its release, the album has become the third to reach number one on the U.S. Billboard 200, as well as the fifth to reach number one in the United Kingdom.

"Mylo Xyloto" is a concept album which tells the story of two lovers, Mylo and Xyloto, whose fates intertwine thanks to an urban gang known as "The Lost Boys." But aside from a compelling story with a happy ending that will leave listeners feeling all warm and fuzzy inside, Coldplay's latest venture into the studio brings nothing new to the table. In fact, the band seems to have put so much emphasis on telling a story through painfully over-produced beats that the alt-rock veterans forgot a crucial element to passable music: originality.

Sadly, if you've listened to either of "Mylo Xyloto's" sin-



Coldplay: from left to right: Guy Berryman, Will Champion, Christopher Martin, and Jonny Buckland.

gles, you've heard the majority of the album, with the exception of "Princess of China," which is only saved by a surprisingly enjoyable duet with Chris Martin and Rihanna. For Coldplay and other bands like them, their true power lies in their ability to grow musically and drastically transform their sound from one album to the next. With

"Mylo Xyloto" there is no such diversity of sound, and the whole album runs together as a result.

Even if one finds the ability to look past the synthesized, overly-colorful music, this chart-topper lacks any lyrical substance. Martin crams this album full of useless cliches like "it's us against the world," or "Hear those

crocodilesticking 'round the world

Hear those crocodiles ticking (they go) ticking 'round the world." What does that even mean? Probably the same thing as this entire album: nothing.

So my overall recommendation is as follows: If you're the biggest Coldplay fan on your block, and you take pride in own-

ing anything and everything with Martin's name on it, then by all means, drop the \$9.99 for the album on iTunes, complete with three bonus live tracks. For the rest of us: stick with what you hear on the radio, because this album isn't even worth the illegal download.

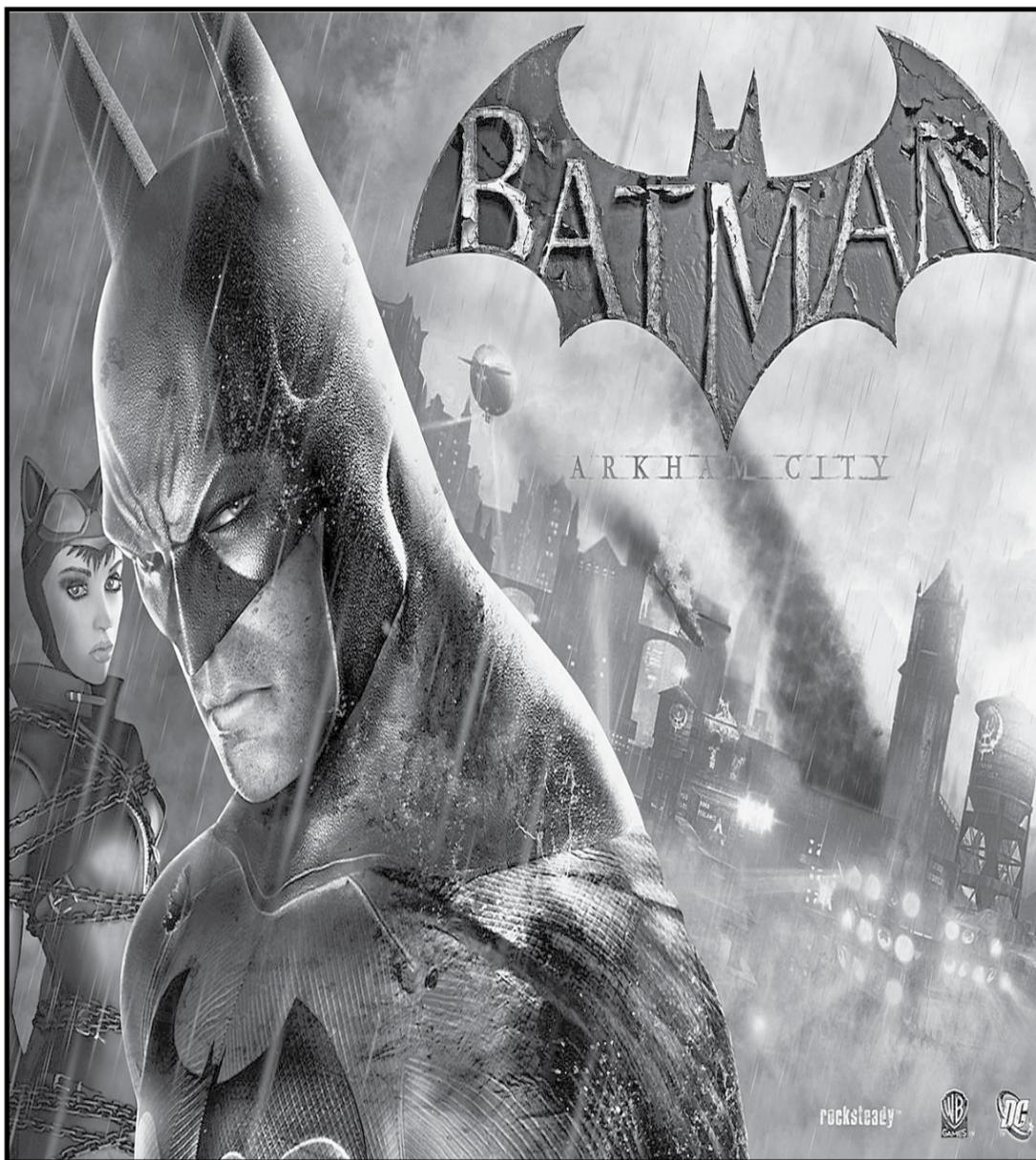
Batman: Arkham City Game Review

BY KARINA CERDA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Admit it, we have all thought about being a superhero at one point. The power to stop notorious villains and saving the helpless city can all be in your hands now. Proclaimed by many critics as a 'fantastic game to experience', Batman: Arkham City the video game delivers an exciting look through the eyes of Batman as he battles through the out of control, criminal filled Arkham city to bring back a much needed justice system.

The game starts you off as Bruce Wayne a billionaire playboy from Gotham city, as he asks the town for help to have Arkham city shut down because of the danger it holds within. Arkham city is a town surrounded by prison walls, kept away from the outside world, and filled with Gotham City's most violent and crazy minded prisoners. It also holds many famous villains from the Batman legacy, such as Two-Face, The Riddler, Poison Ivy, and the most notorious villain, The Joker. Originally the prisoners were kept on a small island outside of Gotham in an asylum. It was taken over by The Joker and then stopped by Batman (from 2009's Game of the year Batman: Arkham Asylum). While continuing his protest, Bruce is then captured by Hugo Strange, and a man who wants to have control of Arkham city. Hugo informs Bruce that the city will not be shut down, and reveals that he knows Bruce's Dark Knight secret identity.

You play as Batman as you battle through Arkham City to regain the control of the town's prison system and help save officers and innocent people from their captors. The game



delivers an exciting story that lets you fight historic villains in their own plot to take control of the city. You also have the freedom to explore the city on your own with side missions, puzzles, and combat challenges. With so many different objectives to complete, the game delivers hours of amazing and fun gameplay which makes this purchase worth while.

Batman: Arkham City was received extremely well by critics around the world. The Australian Official PlayStation Magazine gave the game a perfect 10 out of 10 and said that it "is not only the best superhero game ever made, it's one of the best games ever made...it brings the caped crusader's world to life better than any comic, movie or television

show before it." The game continues to have a fantastic reception from critics and fans of Batman, who have helped it sell over 2 million copies its first week. Arkham City is already considered to be the best video game of 2011. Can this be true? You will have to play and see for yourself.

This Day In History

BY JORDAN MAGANA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

1865 - Mark Twain's short story *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County* is published in the *New York Saturday Press*.

1920 - Apollo Theater (Academy, Bryant) opens at 221 W 42nd St NYC

1928 - Release of the animated short *Steamboat Willie*, the first fully synchronized sound cartoon, is shown.

1930 - Musical "Smiles" with Bob Hope/Fred Astaire premieres in NYC

1940 - New York City's "Mad Bomber" George Metesky places his first bomb at a Manhattan office building used by Consolidated Edison.

1949 - NL batting leader (.342) Jackie Robinson wins NL MVP

1963 - The first push-button telephone goes into service.

1966 - Sandy Koufax announces his retirement, due to arthritic left elbow

1975 - Black-Panther leader Eldridge Cleaver returns to US

1975 - Calvin Murphy (Houston) ends NBA free throw streak of 58 games

1981 - Phillies 3rd baseman Mike Schmidt wins his 2nd consecutive NL MVP

1985 - Paul McCartney releases "Spies Like Us"

SPORTS

Girls Varsity Tennis Season Comes to a Close

BY JACOB SANCHEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho varsity Girls Tennis team returns to Prelims on Thursday. Co-Captains Lezley Barrientez, senior, and Christina Garcia, junior, were excited and nervous for Prelims this year.

Barrientez stated, "I was nervous at first, but I played last year so I kind of knew what to expect." Barrientez was ecstatic this year because she made it to the next round despite last year attempt which lasted two and a half hours. Barrientez was cheered on from her fellow teammates as she progressed onto the next round.

"It's pretty good to play against all the schools again

for one last time before the season ends," Garcia said.

All of the girls knew each other and there was a friendly and relaxed atmosphere at the prelims, because of how well El Rancho knew the other schools.

All these girls play tennis, but why they do is their own reason, "My mom got me into tennis when I was young and it kind of stuck" said Garcia. Barrientez stated, "It started in my freshman year. My mom made me tryout even though I didn't want to, but I'm really glad that I tried out. I made amazing friends in tennis."

Garcia plays tennis, because she feels relax, she can forget about everything, and it is at the end of the day. "I love it, it's my favor-

ite sport, plus it's both a physical and mental sport" Garcia stated.

Barrientez stated, "I love tennis, it makes me really happy, and it's a stress reliever."

Barrientez wants to get a medal from prelims and make it to C.I.F. and most of all, to make sure that her girls have fun playing tennis.

Garcia's goal is a simple goal, and yet it is one that most athletes seek, and that is to succeed in matches and make it the next level.

Each member of the team has her own personal goal, but the entire team shares at least one common goal: to use prelims to leave a lasting impression on every one of their future opponents.



Junior, Jackie Escobar, plays intensely against opposing team.



Boys Waterpolo Team Secures Wildcard Spot in CIF

BY JACOB SANCHEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's Water polo team who took third for league, played against Cypress High School on Friday, which is the last game before the beginning of C.I.F. The Dons battled it out with the Centurions of Cypress, but ultimately lost the battle 11-7.

Coach Samuel Wright said that the boys were not focused during this game, because the loss to LaSerna effected their performance and they could not control their excitement for attending playoffs.

Co-captain, Senior, Rodrigo Guzman said, "I feel that throughout the Cypress game our team chemistry faded." This doesn't seem to worry Guzman much because he aims to restore the team's chemistry. The Cypress loss has not discouraged Guzman or Hernandez to give up, as they try to rebuild their team's confidence before C.I.F starts.

Co-Captain, Senior, Jovan Hernandez said, "I feel as though the Cypress game did not properly display our true potential. We need to work on our offense, so El Rancho can show what we have been working to."

Looks like the players need to stop worrying about the past and future games, while they train for upcoming games. Their

focus must be on the present. The Cypress game was one of El Rancho's decent matches, even though the referee did make some questionable calls against El Rancho's water polo team, which really hurt the Dons during their match.

Despite the lost to cypress, the Dons still train hard for C.I.F that is just right around the corner.

Coach Wright said that the biggest accomplishment for the team will be winning games within C.I.F. "Hopefully our seniors want to be the first team to do that in awhile because then it'll been worth it and a climax of a good season" said Coach Wright. Guzman said, "Fortunately, we have determined our place in league and if we can keep up with La Serna, one of the top teams in our division, then we can end up in the quarter or semi-finals this season."

"I'm excited of having our team going to C.I.F because the game will give us a chance to show how we truly well we play," stated Hernandez.

While the El Rancho Water polo team trains for their next unknown opponent, the guidance of coaches and captains will help the team, gain their confidence back and make a statement at C.I.F.

*****Results of game not available at time of print layout.**

Cross Country Team Triumphs in League

BY PEDRO HERRERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Baliee Henry advances to CIF Finals with a time of 17:17, which is a new school record for the three-mile. She broke the previous record, which she held too. The boys unfortunately fell short and missed CIF Finals by one point.

Coach Wynn said, "It was a good race everybody gave it their all." Some girl improved their personal best times, which is very good. The guys tried their best but just fell short.

Henry finished top 20 in the race, she says she felt good while she was running and knew she was doing well. Wynn says, "She has to finish top ten on Saturday and keep working hard because it is going to be a tough race."

Henry has the support of her team. She races at Mt. Sac again and hopes to improve time to move onto state.

Junior, Andre Hernandez, was on junior varsity and got moved up to varsity to race. "It felt good, the hard work finally paid off," said Hernandez.

The Boys and Girls El Rancho Cross Country Team take



Crosscountry members warm up before big race.

first in the League finals and become Del Rio League Champs. They are both off to CIF Prelims.

"I wasn't surprised." The kids worked hard and they deserved it," said Coach of the Year, Stacey Salway. Senior, Sara Gonzales, said, "It feels amazing to be league champs." We didn't have to share the title; we didn't have to be Co-champs this year.

The Dons are also proud of their coaches who were named Coach of the Year.

Coach Ty Wynn said, "Its

hard to accept this award because I think there is other coaches that deserved it more than I do; they just don't have the hard working kids I have." Salway, "I am very proud and honored but not surprised." "My kids made me Coach of the Year."

As the season ends they have to look into next season. Salway expects nothing but good things because they have young talent. "We are going to be as good or even better," says Salway.

Football Team Looks to Next Season

BY PEDRO HERRERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After a loss to Whittier (35-14) the El Rancho's Don season came to an end with the record of (1- 4).

Junior, Brandon Rico said, "We did good but we could have done better, it's just bad the way we ended the season."

Coach Zepeda believed that their only challenge was Santa Fe but he was wrong they face even more challenges. They played good games week in and week out but something was missing.

Senior, Josh Lopez said, "To start the season we were doing great and all of us were working hard but as the season ended things changed."

For Senior, Mark Lopez, high school football is over and is



Seniors Mark Lopez and Josh Lopez prepare for an upcoming play.

very disappointed because he loved to play. Both, Mark and Josh Lopez have to prepare for their other sports were they hope to succeed.

Rico still has another season left and thinks him and the team can make a run for the league championship.

First before winning a championship the team needs to fix their current issues. Rico said, "There is a lack of leadership and people started giving up."

There is a lot of hope for next season because there is a lot of young talent.