El Rodeo

Dons play last Powderpuff game at Don Memorial Stadium

Check out the special Holiday center spread

Read all about Harry Styles’ new album Fine Line!

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El Rancho High School
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Student concerns remain unanswered after assembly

By Diego Gonzalez
Editor-in-Chief

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.

Río 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 chosen site for the graduation ceremony.

The meeting was a complete commination, and a civil representation of the legal, financial and ethical implications of each article they write.

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

Esparza was presented with a proposition by senior student Angel Marquez in order to make a 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 that way 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 a copy tradition from the class of 2020, something that to other class in the past had to experience.

Victoria’s Secret leaves mixed emotions after cancelling show

By Rocio Estrada
Copy Editor

Victoria’s Secret leaves mixed emotions after cancelling show. The reason for this is because L Brands wanted to change the way its signature items were marketed. Since they believed that the show would not be out of line with the newly appointed superintendent’s change in the way its signature items were marketed.

The introduction and inclusion of transgender models (along with other LGBTQ+ models), differed-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 underwear for women. There are also some that believe 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 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”.

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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 the student’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. 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 60257, 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 49050 affirms that the rights of the high school news papar 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 state bission.
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 her husband is, “We get the same vacations, so we can spend time together; we can carpool, so I can apply my makeup, and keep the same Lima, 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 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 supporting, 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. “I let her do it often because he even though Mr. Zeko doesn’t make too much of a mess since he’s on dish duty,” says Mrs. Zeko.

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! 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 @erhsmrszeko. You can also see her travel adventures @erhsgadabouts and you can even join her on the next trip to Iceland, London, and Paris in 2021!
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

### Dates of the Decade

**Say goodbye to the 2010s**

**2010**
- **Ipad-**
- **Lady Gaga’s Meat Dress-** Sept 2010
- **Friday by Rebecca Black was released-** March 2011
- **Gangnam Style- July 2012**
- **The World was going to end- Dec 2012**
- **Harlem Shake- Feb 2013**
- **Pewdiepie becomes number 1 YouTuber- Aug 2013**

**2013**
- **Ice Bucket Challenge- June 2014**
- **An Airplane disappeared- March 2014**
- **The Dress Argument- Feb 2015**
- **Same-Sex Marriage became legal- June 2015**
- **Leonardo DiCaprio won an Oscar- Feb 2016**
- **Harambe became an internet sensation- May 2016**

**2016**
- **Pokemon Go frenzy- July 2016**
- **Vine shut down- Oct 2016**
- **Tik Tok- Sept 2016**
- **In my feelings challenge- July 2018**
- **Pewdiepie vs T-Series- Dec 2018**
- **Tide pod challenge- April 2019**
- **Jonas Brothers- March 2019**

### Coffee Cake

**Ingredients:**
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- ¼ cup white sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup butter
- 1 egg
- ½ cup milk, or as needed

**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, ½ cup sugar and 1 teaspoon cinnamon. 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 crumbs mixture and mix just until moistened. Spread into prepared pan. Sprinkle top with streusel. Bake in the oven for 30 to 35 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center of the cake comes out clean. Allow to cool.

### 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:
1. Location where Santa Claus is from
2. Where presents go under
3. Christmas warm, brown drink
4. An angry, green character who stole Christmas
5. Santa Claus’ little helper
6. Warm snack left for Santa Claus
7. “Jingle _____”
8. Objects hanging from Christmas tree
9. Hang it down by the chimney
10. Christmas warm, brown drink
11. Jolly man with a white beard and wearing a red suit
12. Santa Claus’ ride
13. Warm snack left for Santa Claus
14. “Jingle _____”

Down:
1. An angry, green character who stole Christmas
2. ‘What’s better cheez-its or goldfish?’
3. ‘What should I do now that college apps are over?’
4. ‘How can I save money?’
5. ‘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.’

### 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
- **Lizie Montejano,** Senior: “All I Want for Christmas is You” by Mariah Carey

### Yield:

- 16 servings

### Ingredients:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- ¾ cup white sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1½ teaspoons vanilla extract
- ¼ cup all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ cup white sugar
- ½ cup butter
- 1 egg
- ½ cup milk, or as needed

### 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.

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Interested in hosting a foreign exchange student?

By Rocio Estrada
El Rancho 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. They will also have the opportunity to ask 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

By Araceli Correa
El Rancho Staff Writer

The juniors defeated the seniors by a score of 9-6 in the 55th annual Powder puff 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 Powder puff 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, Powder puff 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 popsers’ 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 Powder puff. Junior Victor Villegas says, “My favorite thing about powder puff was doing taped tosses, I knew that I was not going to fall because my friends were there to catch me.”

This was the last Powder puff 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 Powder puff next year,” Villegas said. “It was such a fun experience.”

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.

Photo by Alexis Gallegos

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.
Boys’ varsity basketball prepares for league play

By Alexi Gallegos
El RoDeo Staff Writer

The boys’ varsity soccer team kicked off the pre-league portion of the season with a record of 2-0 and two shutouts. 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 the head of the team for the 2019-20 Del Rio league, and the team is making a splash into their pre-season and league season. The boys came off of a tough season in 2018-19 Del Rio league, and the determination to have a good season this year was a very important factor in their hard work.

Senior Sergio Rodriguez said, “I understand they’re not perfect but I expect the utmost effort from everyone on the team.”

Partida’s personal goal is 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. Cueva’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.

Girls’ water polo ranked #1 in division seven

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 successful.

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,” continued 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 in 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 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 face their next challenge this season, 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.
Harry Styles’s *Fine Line* is more than just fine

BY GREGGA HARO-FLORO
EL RANCHO 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 the 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 find an album full of 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 “Every Time New York,” a song from his self-titled album. In “Every Time 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 “Golden” 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 fine, it’s timeless, and 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 MELCHIOR
EL RANCHO 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 try and stand against streaming services giants 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.

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 and Amazon shares went 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 “Every Time New York,” a song from his self-titled album. In “Every Time 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.

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