



El Rodeo



El Rancho High School

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Ms. Waldron teacher feature

PAGE 2



Marlo Gil discovering dons

PAGE 7



ERHS GIRLS' BASKETBALL CONTINUES DOMINANCE IN DEL RIO LEAGUE



Girls' basketball player, Jaylene Oviedo, shoots for 2 points at round 2 of CIF. Photo by Carlos Rojo

AN INSIDE LOOK AT SHIGEZANE'S COACHING CAREER

BY ALEXIS GALLEGOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With stellar coaching from El Rancho's Mr. Randy Shigezane, the girls' basketball team has been able to receive eight consecutive Del Rio League titles, nine consecutive CIF playoffs berths, and five consecutive second round CIF playoff appearances. With such great leadership, coaching, and teaching skills, Shigezane has proven himself a true MVP of El Rancho!

Shigezane says, "I started coaching track and cross country at Monrovia High School. I played basketball a lot, so I started coaching girls basketball camps. Ever since then, the basketball path began."

Since then, Shigezane has been a girls' basketball coach for over 30 years, including 15 of those years at El Rancho.

When it comes to his favorite thing about coaching Shigezane says, "seeing my players go from kids to mature, young adults." Coach Shigezane has made many memories with his different teams over the years.

If he had one thing to say to his team this year, he would say, "I appreciate all the hard work they put in all year round to continue the success of our program, because it means a lot to them and it's one of the reasons we are a family here."

If you're interested in meeting the spectacular Coach Shigezane, you can find him in his office by the boys' locker room or the main gym!

BY JORDAN URIBE
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Lady Dons basketball team had an outstanding season, going 20-8 overall and 6-2 in league play. On top of that, they claimed the title of Del Rio League for the eighth year in a row.

Senior Sarahid Hernandez describes being league champs by saying, "It's an incredible feeling and definitely something that we accomplished by working hard as a team."

Although they had another very successful season, girls' basketball season came to an end when they lost in round two of CIF against Bishop Amat Memorial High School with a final score of 54-47.

For seniors, this was a very bittersweet ending as this would be their final game playing for El Rancho.

"I feel satisfied with how I left as a player," Hernandez concluded. "I was able to play along-

side some of the best players this school has seen and I am definitely grateful for all my coaches and teammates," says Hernandez. "It's definitely been memorable."

With the season at a close, Coach Shigezane reminisced on the season by saying, "Well we were disappointed our playoff run ended in the second round. We were prepared for a deeper run, but the girls left everything on the court and I couldn't be prouder of them." Shigezane added "Plus, we did accomplish so much. Our eighth consecutive Del Rio League Championship, [our] seventh 20 win season, and our ninth consecutive playoff appearance. We were able to continue our winning legacy".

When asked what improvements Coach Shigazane will make for the next season of girls basketball, he said, "As far as improvements, we will need to replace an outstanding senior class. It will be difficult to improve on those four seniors. Jay-

lene Oviedo and Ajohnette Guerra were four-year varsity players, Sarahid Hernandez was a three-year varsity player and Giselle Merino was in her first year with the team. Their leadership and outstanding play will be impossible to replace, but we will try to continue our winning tradition with the talented players that will be returning. I know they will be ready for the challenges ahead."

With the thought of what next season might bring to the girls, returning players are already mentally preparing for next year. Junior Elicia Moore says that she will prepare for next season by, "Practicing my dribbling and doing my physical therapy to heal faster and get on the court."

"I look forward to getting back on the court and winning league with my team and going far into the playoffs," adds Moore.

It's no doubt that the girl's basketball team is only going to improve in the upcoming years. With their history of winning the Del Rio League title, as well as making it as far as CIF we can only expect great things!

The upcoming season is highly anticipated between students, many want to see the juniors and sophomores take over the seniors place.

Make sure that when season does come around you catch a game or two of these talented individual's bring life to the court!

Boys' Soccer reaches CIF Round 2

PAGE 6



Friendships and couples

PAGE 4-5



Index

Features=2

Campus=3

Center=4

Center=5

Sports=6

Discovering Dons=7

Entertainment=8

FEATURES

Waldron shows passion for educating next generation

BY DIEGO GONZALEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Although Emily Waldron is one of the newer faces at El Rancho, her passion for teaching has helped numerous students on campus. This is Waldron's second year at The Ranch, teaching both the AP United States History and Mexican American Heritage classes.

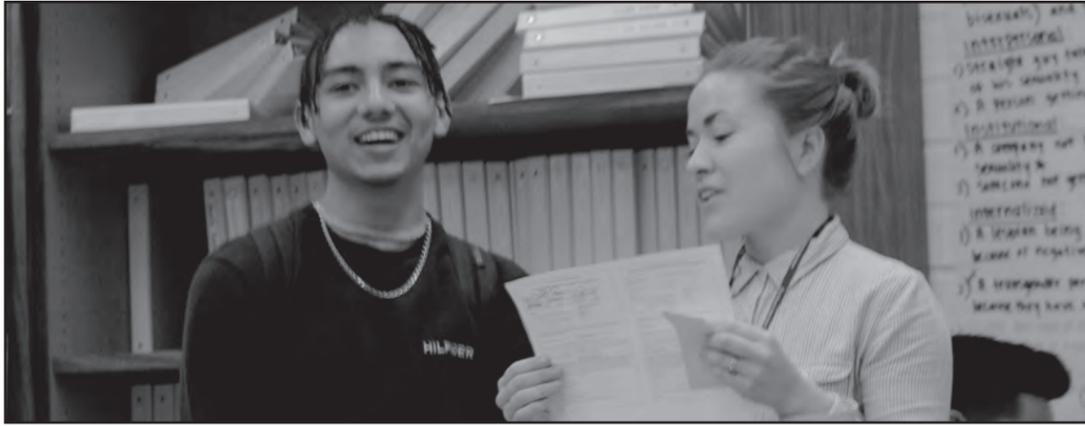
Waldron attended UCLA to obtain her Bachelor's degree in both history and Chicano studies, and after attending Claremont Graduate University to get her master's degree in education.

Before deciding to go down the path of education as a career, Waldron took interest in international affairs as her potential major.

Waldron said, "I was really interested in international social justice issues such as poverty and war initially, so I thought that I wanted to major in international relations, but I had to take economics for the major and I was horrible at it so I dropped it."

Waldron later decided on education as her main focus because it offered many opportunities to help those in proximity to her and impact the next generation.

"I realized that I wanted



Waldron happily assisting a student.

things that were more relatable, things that were right around me in my own cities and communities, so I made the switch from focusing on global issues to education and what was around me." continued Waldron.

Despite not planning to be a teacher initially, Waldron has found a passion for teaching, and she credits this to her interactions with her students.

Waldron said, "I can't really explain why or how, but I can be having such a bad day or be so exhausted, and being able to interact with so many different students every day, and dealing with the challenges and new things that the students present to me is definitely a part of why I enjoy teaching."

Being Waldron's second year at El Rancho, her experience on campus has been relatively short, but has been an experience that she's enjoyed very much.

"My first year at El Rancho was great! I worked at a school that I was very unhappy at before I came to El Rancho, so coming here I was very nervous because I didn't have a good first year of teaching," said Waldron.

"So being at El Rancho is awesome because there's a strong community and all of the students and the teachers have been amazing and welcoming, especially in the history and ethnic studies departments," continued Waldron.

Before starting her teaching job at El Rancho, Waldron had a

Photo by Grecia Haro-Flores

great first impression of the school after meeting some of the staff with her husband, Mr. Justin Diaz.

"I came to Mr. Wawsick's retirement party with Mr. Diaz, and to me it was an incredible welcome to the school because students and teachers came together to say goodbye so I could tell that there were really deep roots here," said Waldron.

Waldron is originally from San Diego, and the move to LA was certainly a big change from her hometown, but El Rancho has provided a very welcoming environment for her.

"I'm not from LA, so it's hard for me to feel like I'm a part of someone's community, so coming here I feel like

there's a community to be a part of and Mr. Diaz came here which I feel gives me a certain connection," said Waldron.

Outside of teaching, Waldron enjoys fitness and athletic activities, and likes to spend her time in an outdoor environment when she has the opportunity.

Waldron said, "I like to boulder climb in an indoor climbing gym several days a week, and sometimes I go camping or hiking when I have the extra time."

In addition to athletic activities, Waldron is an avid viewer of the NBA, and stays very up to date with the Los Angeles Lakers' season, as well as UCLA's March Madness performances.

Waldron also loves diversifying her diet, and loves to try new foods when she's not busy with the work of the day. "I also love to eat, I like going out to eat on the weekends and trying new places when I have the chance," added Waldron.

Mrs. Waldron has definitely been an excellent addition to the El Rancho family, and her contributions in preparing her students not only academically, but for the challenges in life will be valuable to the future generations of El Rancho.

Karina Rivera is simply irresistible!

BY SOPHIA LUGO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Whether you know her as a track athlete, decathlete, or peer advisor, Karina Rivera is simply irresistible!

Rivera is in varsity track and field where she participates in the 4x1 relay, occasionally the open 100 and open 200, and long jump. Her favorite event is the long jump. Rivera says, "I've been doing it since my freshman year and it's been my top event I'm like the 'best' one."

Rivera was a part of the academic decathlon team this year. She says, "I didn't expect it to go the way it did. I genuinely thought it was going to be a lot more stressful but probably wouldn't describe it as that."

She adds, "I grew a lot closer to a lot of the seniors that

were on the team and I'm really happy about that because I made the most out of the few months that we had together. Now we have a strong bond that hopefully will last for a long time."

She's also involved in the math club, astronomy club, and CSF. Talk about well-rounded!

Outside of school she loves to dance. Her favorite type is hip hop or any Spanish songs because she says, "It's fun!" Her favorite thing to do is learn new dance choreography.

She's also passionate about weight lifting and coding. They keep her focused and motivated. Coding even opened her up to her future.

She hopes to attend UCI and major in computer science. She says, "I've been doing CS since I was like nine years old



Rivera looks forward to her track season and college journey.

Photo by Carlos Rojo and it's been kind of very off and on. When I was a junior I took the AP CSP class and that's where it really started and I realized that I wanted to pursue it for the rest of my life and I still do." She definitely has a bright future ahead!

Aside from her school life, she also has a fun side. Her favorite video game is Mario Kart. Her favorite character to use is Yoshi.

She says, "I like his little cart. I feel like it's the fastest one out of all of them for some reason."

Rivera has a wide variety of musical interests. Some of her favorite musicians are YG, Travis Scott, CNCO, and Cardi B.

Her favorite show is *How I Met Your Mother*, she says, "I've watched it since I was nine years old, I've re watched it several times at this point."

Her dream place to visit is the Philippines. She says, "It changes all the time but right now probably the Philippines because my brother's girlfriend, who is technically my sister in law now, is Filipino so I'd want to get to know her side of culture and I just think it's really cool."

Her goals right now are to just have a good track season. After high school she says, "[I hope

to] get into a good college and try to find a stable balance between having good grades and having a social life, maybe even getting a job. After college I just hope to be successful," says Rivera.

A quote she lives by is, "Everything happens for a reason, trust the process." She says, "I feel like I've been regretting a lot of things that have happened but then I'm like whatever it's fine because it's led me to the person I am today and I wouldn't want to change myself."

"All the decisions you make, while they may seem bad at first, ultimately leads to the best outcome so why would you want to change it," she adds.

Rivera's mindset is one we can all aspire to have. You can keep up with this student-athlete on twitter @karinaxrivera.

El Rodeo

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

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

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

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CAMPUS

Decathlon finishes in ninth place out of 39 schools in county competition

BY ARACELI CORREA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho Decathlon team placed ninth out of 39 schools in the Los Angeles county competition. The team won a total of 19 medals; three medals for the subject events, and 16 for the performance events.

The theme this year was "In Sickness and in Health," where the students studied in the seven subjects of Art, Economics, Literature, Mathematics, Music, Science, and Social Science. One of this year's captains, senior Maria Juarez says, "The learning material was not as fun to learn about, but I felt I performed better in the subjects and performance [events]."

Despite the theme, the team still made the most of the year and created that familiar bond. "Academic decathlon was something I didn't expect to go the way it went," says senior Karina Rivera, "It was more fun to bond with some people. It wasn't the bond they had before that but I gotta create friendships with people in my grade that I hope will last forever."

Although the team this year did not qualify for state competition, the two head coaches are still proud of their accomplishments. Coach Steve Francis says, "The team was very



Some of the decathlon members at their award banquet.

young as far as decathlon experience and they worked hard and I'm really proud for them making it top ten in the county."

"Given all the obstacles the team overcame I was really proud of them," says coach Carlos Melgar.

The team really enjoyed their time with his year. "[My favorite part was] making friends because you feel really connected to these people," says junior Kimberly Herrera, "You can trust them and they are always

there to help and support me."

One of the decathletes' favorite events is the super quiz. Francis says, "It's the one event where we can cheer them on as a team."

As the team moves forward to next year, many of the junior members are preparing. "I look forward to helping out the newbies, especially with music since I am going to take charge of it," says junior Hilario Perez.

The coaches also have their plans set for the following

Photo Courtesy of Susan Bishop

year. "We hope to once again go to state and to have all of the students to have an enriching experience in our program," says Francis. They want to continue to grow the program and have their students enjoy their experience.

If you're interested in being selected for the team there will be an informative meeting in late March. Coach Melgar says, "They should join, it's an interesting experience. You will learn to become a good public speaker and have fun."

Sorenson's hair is no longer longer!

BY SOPHIA LUGO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

AP and CP English 11 teacher, James Sorenson, has waved goodbye to his beloved ponytail. After about ten years of growing his hair out, he decided to finally cut it, at the benefit of others.

Sorenson is the advisor for the Writer's Society club, and was looking for a fundraiser to run at the Don Memorial Stadium Farewell event.

Sorenson says, "All of the good items like pizza, tamales, and drinks had already been taken by other clubs, so we were looking for something and I had been thinking about what my wife had said so I offered [cutting my hair]."

His wife had told him, "I want to see you with short hair sometime in my life." Which he thought were direct orders from her telling him that he needed to cut it, but she doesn't even remember saying that.

The deal was for every \$20 donated, Sorenson would cut off an inch of his hair. "I thought maybe they would get a hundred bucks or something, I didn't imagine they would get \$300. In fact I told them, if they get \$300 I'll cut my hair completely short like a buzz cut," says Sorenson.

He ended up cutting off his entire ponytail and although it wasn't a buzz cut, it was enough to satisfy the donors.

"When I left that night around 8:45pm they were at \$196 so I knew that was ten inches and I started thinking I should just go



Sorenson with his long hair.

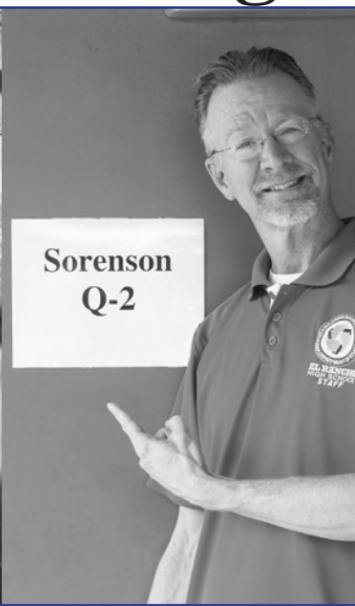
Photo By Mr.Zeko

ahead and cut my hair. The president of the club, Victoria Stephens, said I'll email you the total because I knew if it was \$300 it was going to be a short short haircut. I didn't look at her email until Sunday and I got [my hair] cut Saturday," says Sorenson.

He adds, "I was worried that they were going to demand a buzz cut on Monday like I would roll in and they would say wait a minute, that's not short enough."

He asked Cesar Cruz, a student that donated, if he donated to see the ponytail gone or the buzz cut, Cruz responded, "I just wanted to see the haircut. It doesn't have to be a buzz cut."

Sorenson says, "They didn't push the issue so I didn't want to cut it shorter. But if they would have de-



Sorenson with his new haircut.

Photo By Carlos Rojo

manded it I would've done it."

Sorenson plans to donate the hair saying, "Last time I cut the ponytail I used Pantene because they work with the American cancer society and that's a non-profit that I want to support but I got on their website and I found out they no longer take real hair."

The ponytail was a total of 14 inches braided, a bit longer straightened out. He says, "I think it's going to go to a place called wigs for kids. They provide hair pieces for children so I thought that would be a good place to send my hair."

Sorenson adds, "I'm gonna keep it short for a while. I like it, a lot of people said that they liked it so I'm gonna keep it short and see if I can maintain it."

Although Sorenson be-

lieved his wife wanted his hair cut short, she didn't necessarily say she liked the new style.

"I didn't tell her I was getting my haircut so she was pretty surprised. Does she like it? I think she's okay with it, she said, 'I married you with long hair so long hair is okay with me.' I think she's trying to be nice, she's not trying to say I hate it even though it might not be her favorite," says Sorenson.

The new haircut was a surprise to some of his students as well. He says, "They thought they had a sub."

When it came to teachers, they generally recognized him but definitely noticed the change. Sorenson remembers math teacher and cycling buddy, Mr. Francis' first words being, "Hello stranger."

"I would not have done it except for the donations and the fundraiser. I would still have long hair if it weren't for that fundraiser," says Sorenson.

We all have to thank George Avila, the student that walked around the stadium encouraging people to donate.

Sorenson says, "There were a lot of people who donated, a lot of students donated, anywhere from 30 cents to 20 dollars, but George helped out an awful lot by recruiting a bunch of people to donate."

The last time this miraculous event, Sorenson's hair being cut, occurred was in the 90s. You can catch Sorenson in Q-2 anytime throughout the day to see the new style yourself!

El Rancho celebrates a week of love



Photo By Melanie Navarro

BY JULIA DIAZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Week of Love was a student-organized spirit week that promoted love campus-wide. The plan was brought to life by none other than the bubbly, ASB academic affair officer Angie Campos!

The entire week was filled with Valentine-themed activities, from showing your relationship status through clothing to wearing red and pink attire. No two activities were the same.

There was no doubt that the students had a blast putting together the entire event. "The event went pretty well," said Campos when asked about the planning process.

"We loved making Valentine's day posters, decorating the hallways, and watching the students participate right along with us."

Not only was the week advertised throughout campus it also managed to make it off of El Rancho's school grounds!

The Child Development club was able to share the love with Rio Vista's elementary school children.

Monica Aguirre spoke on behalf of the club and described the activities that took place. "We had arts and crafts where they could make a little popsicle stick heart."

Aguirre said, "We had coloring pages and a backdrop, we helped them make their own Valentine's Day cards."

"We helped them have quality time with their families the day before Valentine's day." The club was able to give a great experience to children while having a great time.

Aguirre encourages anyone who has an interest in child development to join their club meeting every other Thursday in Y-2 during lunch!

"Overall the Week of Love did not go as planned, but it did start a new tradition." Angie shared, "dance parties during lunch!" So the next time the love bug comes around don't be afraid to show love to those around you.



Photo by Hailey Abbott

LOVE & FRIENDSHIP

Eric & Serena

Eric Diaz and Serena Rodriguez are the "it" couple! They have been together for already one year and two months and their love for each other just keeps growing. Rodriguez says, "We met my freshmen year after my volleyball game. He shot his shot, first, after the game and shortly after we started talking." After getting to know each other, it didn't take long before they knew they were the ones for each other. Rodriguez says, "Sure I love all of his perfections, but mostly I love all of his imperfections because that is what attracts me most...nothing could ever make me doubt my love for him. His smile is contagious, his voice is the only song I want to hear on repeat, his eyes are the only diamonds I need, it doesn't matter where I am, he makes me feel at home because he is my home. I love all of him because without him my heart wouldn't be complete." In response, Diaz says, "I love how she's always there for me and supporting me. And I love how she smiles and how I get butterflies when I see her." After many dates and plans together, Diaz says, "My favorite memory is when we were on splash mountain and we got all soaked and her falsies came out." Rodriguez says, As for advice from the couple, Diaz responds with, "straight up, communication." Rodriguez adds, "Don't be too quick to give up when you face an obstacle, because when you get through it, there's always a better

Galilea & Brooklyn

Brooklyn Ruiz and Galilea Madrid have a best friend relationship who everyone adores! The two became best friends, "the summer of eighth grade doing a production of The Little Mermaid," says Madrid, and have been close since. Over the next three years, the two became closer. Ruiz says, "I love how I can say anything on my mind and she won't judge me. She supports my crazy energy," Madrid adds, "I love her sense of humor and how well we get along." Over many sleepovers and hang outs, Ruiz's favorite memory of them together is when, "we went on an adventure in DTLA and made lots of friends." Madrid agrees, she adds, "My favorite memory of us together was when we camped outside of a Brandy Melville sale because we got no sleep and made lots of good memories." While being asked for friendship advice, the two responded in sync, "communication is key." Want to hear more best friend stories and adventures? Find the talented Brooklyn and Galilea in your very own El Rancho Little Theatre!



Sophia, Alexis, & Breanna

Breanna Gomez and Sophia Lugo became best friends in 4th grade. A couple of years later, Gomez met Alexis Gallegos. Gomez introduced Lugo to Gallegos. All three clicked and "have been inseparable since." "I love our friendship because no one is ever left out and I know I can trust them with anything," says Gomez, "Also at this point, Sophia's house has become mine and Lexie's house too because we are there every weekend. At the end of the day, I wouldn't trade my small circle for anything in this world." Some of their favorite things to do together are having "bestie sleepovers" and going on adventures in Lexie's car. "My favorite thing that we do together is when we bestie cuddle in 30 degree weather on the cement at three in the morning outside outlet sales," says Gallegos. "Sophie is definitely a smarticle particle and loves school even though she may not admit it [and] Lexie is the best person on aux and we both love to shop," says Gomez, "Although Lexie is very, very smart, sometimes she has a hard time comprehending our conversations but I love that." "I would describe Bre as bipolar and abusive sometimes, but in a loving way," says Lugo. "I love them with all my whole heart," says Gallegos. This throuple is unlike no other. They are the perfect mix!



Andres, Sergio, & Fernando

Before this infamous trio was created, there were only two: Andres Arzate and Fernando Saldana. As any great love story, Arzate and Saldana started as rivals in their third grade handball tournament. Sergio Rodriguez came into the picture in the summer of 2016. Saldana, being the rope tying the trio together said, "Sergio was the missing puzzle piece, nice and short." Many wonder how a friendship goes strong for this long. The answer being all three have had the same classes since junior year. Keeping the chemistry alive also comes with hanging



outside of school. They enjoy hitting the town, playing video games, and having sleepovers. At said sleepover, Arzate is big spoon, Rodriguez middle spoon, and Saldana little spoon. "It's more of a fork", adds Rodriguez. With high school coming to an end, these set of besties do plan on keeping their friendship alive. "It's hard to manage a friendship going to different universities and colleges, then over time eventually at the end of the first semester you know which friendships you'll keep long-term," says Arzate, "We'll definitely stick together.



Andee & Emily

Andee Gonzalez and Emily Rodriguez are a one-of-a-kind friendship. Luckily, the two have known each other since they were born. Gonzalez says, "We've known each other since we were babies...literally. I attended her mom's baby shower, as an infant, when she was pregnant with Emily. We've just been friends since we were babies. We went through preschool to high school being best friends." Having spent almost 18 years being best friends, the two have gotten to understand each other on a deeper level. Gonzalez says, "I love how she understands me like no one else does and we just get each other. We're like the same person. She's just a little extra and I'm more mellow and I'm also taller." Rodriguez adds, "I think our favorite thing about each other is that we literally complete each other, like we wouldn't be the people we are today if we wouldn't have met." Because of the many days and nights spent together, Rodriguez says, "I can't really pinpoint any favorite memories, I think every time we see each other we create better ones." Being best friends since birth, the two have been through many ups and downs together. As for advice for many best friends out there, Rodriguez says, "I don't know about advice for friendship because I basically got mine handed to me, but I would say to choose the person who would pick you first over anything and anyone #loyalty." Similarly, Gonzalez says, "I don't really have any I just got lucky." Want to know more about the incredible Andee and Emily? Find them around the ERHS campus locked arm in arm!

Raul & Giselle

Besties turned bae power couple, Giselle Perez and Raul Aguilar are a force to be reckoned with! These two have known each other since the fourth grade, Aguilar saying, "Giselle was rude." When seventh grade came around, the pair became friends and the rest is history. Their first date was at the Little Theater movie night watching IT. Many can spot Perez and Aguilar at one of their two hangout spots, Luna Maya Pupusas and Bati Bionicos. When speaking about the start of their relationship, Perez confessed, "His sense of humor drew me in." While Aguilar explained, "Her eyes and mysterious nature is what caught my attention." When spilling their pet peeves about each other, Aguilar reveals that "Giselle complains." "Sometimes Raul hugs me too tight not knowing his own strength," says Perez. As for advice for others they both agree to "get to know your bae before committing" and "it's the small things that count."



David & Emanuel

Emanuel Saavedra and David Hernandez are the epitome of meant to be! They were destined to become best friends. The two originally met in preschool at Miller Elementary School, but their friendship came to an end when the school was closed down. It wasn't until years later when they met once again during their Catechism class. "We talked very little, but we didn't get close until we joined the cross country team at our middle school, Rivera," Saavedra said, "There we found a thing we both liked doing, running and exploring new places." And to this day, Saavedra and Hernandez still find themselves running together. "That is probably our favorite thing to do," said Saavedra. Other things they enjoy doing together is working on their Spanish and Calculus homework, while spilling some tea. Saavedra and Henandez are the perfect balance. While Hernandez is more of a "serious, funny guy," Saavedra is on the more "goofy, weirdo" side. As the high school chapter comes to an end for both Saavedra and Hernandez, the boys hope their seven to eight year long friendship continues as they share the same love for academics and sports. "Our memories and experiences have strengthened our bond, and the common interests we share have allowed us to grow even closer," says Hernandez. "We've both been through a lot, but we're always there for each other to help deal with it. I love my homie David," says Saavedra.



SPORTS

Boys soccer finishes season with CIF appearance

BY DIEGO GONZALEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The boys' varsity soccer team has concluded their season after a tough loss to Redlands East Valley in the second round of play-offs. The game ended with a score of 2-1, but the Dons fought to the end in a tough contested game.

The team ended their season with a record of 13 wins, nine losses, and three ties. However, after a rough season in the previous year, the Dons returned to the top of the Del Rio League after winning the league championship this season.

Three year varsity player and senior Eric Diaz believes that the team could have gone further in the playoff bracket, but enjoyed the season with his teammates.

"I think we should've gone far in playoffs. With the kind of team we had, we never gave up, we enjoyed every playing with each other, and most importantly, we were there for one another. I will never forget a team like this," said Diaz.

Despite being one of the oldest members on the team, Diaz felt that he built a meaningful connection with all of the younger guys on the team.

Diaz said, "I think the relationship I built with my teammates is memorable. I enjoy everyone and we have strong connections. I love how I got to build close relationships with the underclassmen, especially the freshman."

After four seasons with the team, Diaz feels that this season is one of the most memorable, and his senior season will forever be a very important part of his high school experience.

"I think the thing I am going to miss the most about El Rancho soccer is playing with my brothers on the field. After playing four seasons of high school, I say this season is far the best of them all," Diaz said.

Diaz left his mark on the program after three great seasons on the varsity team, and his last season this year definitely influenced the younger players on the squad. He hopes to leave a legacy for those who come into the soccer team after him.

Diaz said, "My final message for the team next year is to always support your brother on and off the field, and play the game like it's your last one."

The tough loss to Redlands put the team out of playoffs

early, but assistant coach Francisco Gonzalez takes pride in the team's performance and acknowledges the effort that they put in.

Gonzalez said, "I think that the team showed a lot of heart in tough situations this season, and even in the last game when we were so close to tying the game and taking it to overtime, none of the guys on the field gave up on each other."

Gonzalez also acknowledged the overall bond that the team built during the season, and credited a lot of the team's success to the togetherness that the team showed in the practice and games this year.

"I think that what made this group special was that we definitely felt the sense of camaraderie between every single member on the team. I think that from the freshmen, all the way to the seniors there was a bond that kept everyone together," added Gonzalez.

Although the team did not reach their overall goal for the season, Gonzalez still believes that the team had the talent and the capability to make it further in playoffs.

Gonzalez said, "I think that the team had a mix of talent and hard work that I had never



Junior Adan Villarreal looks to receive a pass.

Photo by: Carlos Rojo

seen in my three years coaching at El Rancho, and I feel that we were capable of making it to at the very least semi-finals this season, but I'm proud of how the team performed regardless."

The team's potential for success was never doubted, and their work ethic through-

out the season was one of the many things that made the team very strong contenders for success this season. The boys left the season with a sense of pride, and the season will surely be one to remember for the program.

Girls water polo reaches CIF for first time in five years

BY JORDAN URIBE
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho girls' water polo team has been able to end its five year CIF "drought" and have much more to prove as they proceed into the semi-finals.

Girls' water polo had a very successful season going 14-10 overall, which earned them the top team in Division 7.

Junior Galilea Madrid explains her transformation as a player by saying "I can confidently say that I am definitely not the same player I was freshman year, I think what best describes my transformation is what my coach always tells me "play smarter, not harder" as a freshman, I didn't understand the game as well as I do now and played rather rough and didn't care for any of the rules as long as I got to score but now I understand that it's not winning that matters so much, but rather how you win. Now as a junior, I pay attention to the rules of the game and actually understand how important they are and I'm definitely a better player because of that".

Despite having a very successful preseason, the team had a very rocky league season having a Del Rio score of 1-3.

With their heads held up high, the team was hopeful that they would still progress and continue their season and secure a CIF position.

Since the girls water polo team had not made a CIF appearance since 2015, the news that they would be going to CIF had the team very excited and happy.

Junior Natalie Escamilla says "I'm very proud of my girls



Girls water polo attempting to score a goal. Photo by: Alejandro Melchor

for making [it] this far we've worked really hard to get to this point and it's so rewarding to be able to say that we finally have made it to CIF after five years."

The first round of CIF is always a very nerve-racking game, as it's a make it or break it game.

Junior captain and goalie Roselyn Duran says "I was definitely nervous but also very excited because I knew we were given an opportunity that we very much deserved!"

With the team having a "Ring Season" mentality, they showed the opposing team, Nogales High School, what they were made of and finished the game with a score of 15-3.

The players bond as a team is what allowed them to have such successful preseason as they were all able to count on each other as well as being able to work together.

"The bond with my team is unexplainable, we help each other grow not only as teammates, but as people. I know can always count on them...no matter what, I love them all they're my dawgs for life till the end," said Escamilla.

Going into round two of CIF, the team was ready and mentally prepared for the next opponent, Nordhoff High School.

"My thought process was just making sure we learned from our first-round game and fixing the mistakes that we made. Which we definitely did. And making sure we stayed calm no matter what kind of pressure we were on" says Junior Melissa Hernandez.

Once again with the "Ring Season" mentality, the team defeated Nordhoff with a score of 12-8.

Now being two opponents away from the title of CIF Champions, Coach Xenia Castillo is preparing the team for their Semi-final opponents by "Getting video ready to break down, showcase the things that are working well and fine-tune what still needs improving for the next game. Trying to keep everyone focused on the end goal by highlighting what has made us successful and what brought us to where we are now, says Castillo."

The team is very much ready to claim that title and Senior Captain Karinna Lopez shows her feeling on going on to semi-finals by stating "I feel accomplished, it's an honor being able to make it so far. I'm so happy for the support from everyone and hard work from the team."

Boys basketball finish off memorable season



Senior Samuel Cuevas goes face to face with opponent. Photo by: Carlos Rojo

BY: ALEXIA GARCIA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The boys' varsity basketball season has sadly come to an end after a tough 55-39 loss to Santa Fe. They ended off with a record of 7-20 putting them last place in league. The majority of the players were new to the varsity team but showed lots of improvement throughout the season. Sophomore captain Matthew Partida said, "We accomplished a lot as a program, a new and improved El Rancho basketball team is in the making." During their off-season the team was introduced to a new coach, Matthew Spain who has been coaching basketball for a total of 11 years. Before coaching at El Rancho he coached at La Serna High School for six years and at Pioneer High School four years before that. Spain was attracted by the opportunity to become head coach and "the close knit family of El Rancho and the Pico Rivera community." Spain was also a basketball player him-

self, he played all four years at La Serna High School and still continues to compete in tournaments throughout Southern California, Arizona and Nevada. Spain believes that he has a lot to offer to the young players through his coaching ability and knowledge of the game. Although their season did not go as planned Coach Spain says, "the seniors did an amazing job teaching the younger players about basketball and helping them prepare for their remaining years at El Rancho." The season was a big learning experience for both the players and Spain. For next season he expects a big improvement as they will have a lot more experience under their belt. Spain would like to bring the kind of culture and success he had at La Serna as a coach to El Rancho. He hopes to do this by implementing "more discipline in a lot of areas [which] comes with a lot of practice and repetition." He knows that "the players are very excited for this process leading up to next season."

Editors Note: Girls soccer wrap up will appear in the March issue.

DISCOVERING DON'S

Jaime De Haro: "The Most Spirited"



Jaime De Haro is ready to become the next viral TikTok star. Photo by: Jordan Uribe

BY ROCIO ESTRADA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

He's an activist, an actor, and an athlete! Jaime De Haro is one of the most active students at El Rancho High school. He is

involved in many clubs and organizations such as ASB, Social Justice Club, California Conference for Equality and Justice (CCEJ), and Advanced Drama. His favorite clubs out of all are Advanced Drama and CCEJ.

When asked why he prefers these clubs, De Haro says, "CCEJ has made me a better person."

"The first time I went to camp, I was immature," De Haro says, "At training, I grew as a person with people who gave me the motivation to grow and become a better facilitator and teach the youth about equality and justice. It's amazing to go to camp now [that] I'm teaching and setting a new example in my way."

De Haro also talks about his experiences being a member of Advanced Drama. De Haro says, "I've grown as an actor which involves musical

theatre and plays that I've been in. I have learned to be more confident in anything I do."

Besides school activities, De Haro is also a part of a local dance studio. "I also really love performing arts and entertainment since I was a kid. I loved to sing and started because of Victorious," says De Haro.

"Other than singing I love to dance and act. I dance to musical theatre, hip hop, and Mexican style music," he says, "I've danced to Mexican style culture and acknowledged the luck I had to be Latinx."

"As to hip hop, I started taking hip hop classes at a local dance studio called Snow Globe Perspective, but have also performed in all night pep rally and don games skits," adds De Haro.

But what motivates De

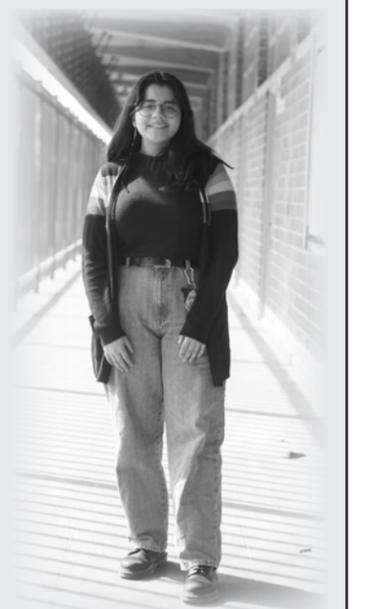
Haro to be a part of so many activities? De Haro says, "I love to help out my community and do what I love at the same time."

"Many of these clubs have taught me to be a better person and it comes from motivation from rejection, and most importantly my own thoughts," De Haro adds, "At the end of the day, I'm the only one who can decide what I want for my future and what I have to do to get what I want."

After all these activities, De Haro finds free time saying, "During my free time, I love listening to music, exploring LA, shopping, going to the gym, self-care, and lastly sleeping and eating."

Jaime De Haro always has time for new and existing friendships. If you would like to get to know De Haro better, you can follow him on Twitter, Instagram, and Tik Tok @jedorah.

Victoria Guerrero: "The Ice Skater"



Victoria Guerrero holds a talent not many have, iceskating. Photo by: Carlos Rojo

BY RODRIGO OSORIO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Unfortunately, ice skating is not a high school sport, but if it were junior Victoria Guerrero would surely be a Del Rio League Champ!

Guerrero started her passion for ice skating at the age of eight when a coach invited her to be on his team because he noticed her tremendous skill in the sport. Guerrero says, "I started taking lessons and then I realized that I really enjoy this."

She competes with her team California Gold. "They're like my little family and I wouldn't replace them for the world," says Guerrero. She recently won first place at a singles competition with skaters from all around the country.

Guerrero says that one of her favorite things about skating is that "it literally tears you down but it feels damn good to get back up."

When Guerrero is not skating, she loves passing her free time by listening to music. Some of her favorite music artists include The 1975, Conan Gray, and My Chemical Romance. She says that she enjoys "talking about different artists and how their music makes me feel."

Guerrero also holds cabinet positions at different clubs on campus. She is secretary of The Writers Society and President of Building Bridges Club. There is a strong chance that you might catch Guerrero advocating for the oppressed and what she believes is right.

"Trying to educate people about certain issues at a young age is a good thing because if you grew up in a certain household where it's mean and ignorant, when you grow up, you're not going to find the motivation to change," says Guerrero.

In the future, Guerrero plans to move somewhere on the East coast and study psychology to become a therapist or psychologist. If you would like to get to know this kind-hearted person, follow her on Instagram @bumvictoria and Twitter @bumvictoria_.

Marlo Gil: "The Creator"

BY AMANDA ESCOBAR
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Senior Marlo Gil is very inventive and she expresses herself by creating oil paintings, making clothing, and making rings out of nickels.

Gil started her journey into oil painting during her freshman year of high school. "I found my inspiration from going to museums and seeing all the realistic art," says Gil, "I thought I'd take a stab at trying to achieve a somewhat realistic painting."

She enjoys painting from her observations, "I get inspired by the beautiful world around me," says Gil.

She began making clothes at the very young age of seven years old. "At first I was horrible at it," says Gil,



Gil holding one of her art masterpieces. Photo by: Alexis Gallegos

"Eventually I got access to the internet and I would watch videos on how to create patterns and basic clothing items."

Apart from using the internet to help her learn more about making clothes, she enjoys watching the show, *Project Runway*. "I found the show

Project Runway, which is where I get most of my inspiration [from] designers such as Christian Siriano, Hester Sunshine, and Brittany Allen," says Gil.

Gil loves to make clothes for herself because she has a particular style that she wants to embrace. "Stores didn't carry clothes

that fit me the way I wanted them to fit me and that discouraged me from shopping," says Gil. She made her own clothing so she can feel comfortable and confident.

Currently, Gil is enrolled in AP Studio Art class. "My teacher Mr. Diaz has high standards, but he gives great feedback and the students are all very supportive," says Gil. She enjoyed this class because she believes that it has pushed her and has helped her further her skills as an artist.

Her plan is to continue making clothes, to continue her oil painting, and to further her skills in both areas. "I would like to minor in art and perhaps open an art studio where I can host sewing and oil painting classes," says Gil.

You can keep up with Gil by following her Instagram accounts, @marlo.g.art and @marlo.tiffany!

Adan Villarreal: "The Athlete"



Adan Villarreal continues his family's legacy by being a part of the El Rancho boys' varsity soccer team. Photo by: Jordan Uribe

BY ANGIE CAMPOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

He's number 28 on the soccer field, but number one in

our hearts! Aside from "whipping up a mean egg," junior Adan Villarreal has one passion and one passion only, soccer.

Villarreal started playing soccer when he was five years

old for an AYSO team at Smith Park. His love for soccer came at a very young age. "I basically grew up surrounded by the sport," says Villarreal, "I love the game, I love playing soccer."

Sticking with club all these years, Villarreal plays for Pico Gunner Fc as a striker. Villarreal got inspired to play soccer by his older brothers.

"My older brothers both played here at El Rancho during their years of attendance," says Villarreal, "I wanted to continue the tradition of playing for the school." Villarreal has kept the tradition very much alive playing on the varsity team as a center defensive midfielder at The Ranch.

During his freshman and sophomore year, Villarreal confessed he was scared of boys' soccer coach Gerry Goyenaga. "I was terrified. Over the years, I got really chill with him," says Villarreal, "He's a good coach."

Villarreal was been awarded Second Team All-League with

three goals and one assists in 22 games. Being a junior, Villarreal has one more year with the El Rancho's boys' soccer team. Even with some very talented seniors leaving, Villarreal is confident there will still be a good team.

"We still have a lot of good players, but there's always room for improvement," says Villarreal.

When not playing soccer, Villarreal enjoys playing Call of Duty, going to the gym, and staying on top of his grades. Talk about a student athlete!

With giving his final thoughts on his love for soccer as a whole, Villarreal says, "My favorite thing about soccer is being free on the field and just playing with my boys you know."

"It's memories I'll hold on to forever playing with my closest friends," says Villarreal.

If you want to get to know this incredible athlete and discuss who would win in a one-on-one between Ronaldo and Messi, hit him up on Twitter @adanvilla21.

ENTERTAINMENT

Kian and JC change the YouTube game once again



Kian and JC started YouTube in
BY AMANDA ESCOBAR
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Kian Lawley and JC Caylen are two very unique individuals, but together they are remarkable at what they do. Collaboratively, they create thrilling content which got them to the 3.7 million subscribers that their channel currently has.

Kian and JC have been content creators for around eight years now. Their channel features daring challenges and filmed videos that were unlike any other. Over the years YouTube has changed many ways since their journey began and these two have contributed to these changes by creating their popular series called, "The Reality House".

The series first came out six months ago, it became popular in the YouTube world so they decided to film another season. Season two made its debut a month ago and ended about two weeks ago. No other YouTubers have thought of taking the game of creating to the next level.

This web series is about a group of thirteen people, mostly all apart of the YouTube community. In the ten episodes, they compete against each other in challenges. The last one standing is the person who receives the grand prize.

In the first season, Crawford Collins took home the grand prize of \$25,000 in cash. In their most recent season, they upped the stakes and the winning prize was \$50,000 in hard cold cash.

The contestants had to go through challenges such as becoming a human claw machine to eating aged raw fish. This experience was mentally and physically draining for each contestant in different ways.

Kian and JC are among the few people that are trying to make YouTube a platform where a reality series can be created other than the daily vlogs that are commonly posted. They are always thinking of ways to make their content better even if it means going the extra mile.



Justin Bieber makes a comeback!

BY GRECIA HARO-FLORES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

You'd think if Justin Bieber was in the studio for five years creating his most recent album, *Changes*, there would be something game-changing about mostly every song on this album; however, it's not much different than what's played on the radio already.

Don't get me wrong. I love the Biebs, but I was definitely expecting more than what he put out there. The songs on the album just seem very generic.

Changes was released on February 14. It received 40.4 million streams in its first 24 hours on Spotify, marking his biggest debut on the platform ever. It's also predicted that the album will reach number one on Billboard's 200 Chart on its first week, which would be his seventh album to do so.

From December 20th to 31st of 2019, Bieber posted five dates to his Instagram: December 24th, 31st, and January 3rd, 4th, and 27th. Evidently, all these dates had something to do with his now released album, *Changes*, and ten-part YouTube Original docu-series, *Justin Bieber: Seasons*.

On January 3rd, Bieber released the album's lead single, "Yummy," in which he went from singing a more innocent "baby, baby, baby, oh" to an innuendo-filled "you got that yummy-yum, that yum-yum."

It definitely wasn't a crowd

pleaser, and it's not what the majority expected from Bieber. I didn't like the song at first, but after hearing the song multiple times, it's finally grown on mine and I could totally vibe to the song.

The first song off the album is called "All Around Me." It was a great opening song to *Changes* because it has a soft, soothing tone and it's about how his wife, Hailey Bieber, and how she's changed his life for the better. Super cute and romantic.

"Nothing" like having someone for you," Bieber sings, "Someone beside you when it's time to lay down."

It's pretty clear that Hailey was the muse behind not only this song, but the entire album. Bieber continues to express his love for his wife through the songs, "Habitual" and "Come Around Me." In both songs, you could really hear how Bieber's vocals have matured throughout the years, and I guess you could say that for his lyrics as well.

For instance, if you play one of his classics like "U Smile" and then a new song like "Come Around Me" back to back, you hear a crazy difference; and if you were with him since the start of his career, I'm positive you had a little proud moment because I sure did.

"Habitual" was first heard in Bieber's YouTube series *Seasons* episode 3. It was said that the beat and song were originally for American record producer, Poo Bear. In fact, Poo Bear's voice was



Justin Bieber promotes album "Changes"

still left on the track during the intro/refrain and outro of the song.

Track four is titled "Intentions," which features American rapper Quavo. It's one of my favorites from the album. In this song, both Bieber and Quavo shower their significant others with compliments singing, "gorgeous, make 'em drop dead, you a killer" and "when I create, you're my muse."

After "Intentions," the following songs are "Available," "Forever" (ft. Post Malone & Clever), "Running Over" (ft. Lil Dicky), "Second Emotion" (ft. Travis Scott), and "Take It Out On Me." I wasn't much of a fan of either of these songs, because there's wasn't much substance to them, but his heavenly vocals save the tracks.

Out of the entire album, the songs that I will be

adding to my playlist are "Get Me" (ft. Kehlani), "E.T.A.," "Changes," "That's What Love Is," and "At Least For Now." The lyrics, vocals, and melodies of these songs are just beautiful.

In summary, Bieber's *Changes* is not a bad album, but it's also not the best. I definitely prefer his old stuff more. Perhaps, maybe in the future, this album will grow on me like "Yummy" did, but for now, it's not my go-to listen.

One thing I do admire about this album and Bieber though was that even though he headed towards the generic rap type of direction, he didn't use heavy autotune like some rappers nowadays, and I was able to hear his angelic voice that I love so much. Give it a listen for yourself. *Changes* is available on all streaming platforms.

P.S. It's still disappointing



P.S. I Still Love You released Feb. 12th on Netflix

BY ARACELI CORREA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Netflix has just released the sequel to Jenny Han's hit book series, "To All the Boys I Loved Before." The new Netflix original, *To All the Boys: P.S. I Still Love You*, follows the relationship between Lara Jean and Noah Centineo, played by Lana Condor and Peter Kavinsky.

In the precursor, Lara Jean wrote letters that she made for each of her crushes throughout the years, however, the letters never got out until her little sister sent them to every single person respectively. To cover up her crush at the time, she pretended to date Peter Kavinsky who also had his reasons to benefit from this, however, their "fake dating" transitioned into a real loving relationship.

In the new movie, it shows the different aspects of the relationship, especially the tense moments of frustration and bickering. At the beginning of the film, Lara Jean is going on her first real date with Peter and is very excited.

Once she arrives back home, she sees a letter from one of her previous crushes, John Ambrose, who is played by Jordan Fisher. Instead of responding right away she talks it over with Peter who convinces her to not write back.

Moving forward, the film continues Lara Jean signs up for a volunteer opportunity in one of the senior homes in her area. Once Lara Jean starts volunteering in the senior home, she is shocked to find that John Ambrose is also volunteering there.

She talks to him and apologizes for not responding to his letter. They begin to get closer and

decide to meet with their middle school friend group at their old hangout spot, a treehouse.

Lara Jean tells Peter about the get-together and he gets upset over the fact that she and John Ambrose planned it together. While hanging out in the treehouse, you can feel the tension between John Ambrose and Peter, as well as Gen and Lara Jean.

The rest of the movie follows these moments of Lara Jean and Peter constantly arguing with one another to the point where they decide to take a break.

Although the movie has some nice aspects to it, I feel as though it bit fast-paced with a lot happening all at once. The parts I truly enjoyed were the scenes with John Ambrose because it shows a different part of Lara Jean's personality. I understand that Peter has an immense love for her, but the connection between Lara Jean and John had something different. I also enjoyed the character development for Gen.

One thing I did not like was how they portrayed Peter and Lara Jean. In the first film, they acted so differently from one another. I know that couples can have fights, but I felt that this conflict was too excessive in both parts.

If you haven't watched the film, I highly suggest it because you get to see the new characters and how they play into the story.

Billboard's Top 10 Songs of the Week

- 1) The Box- Roddy Rich
- 2) Life is Good- Future ft. Drake
- 3) Circles- Post Malone
- 4) Dance Monkey- Tones and I
- 5) Don't Start Now- Dua Lipa
- 6) Roxanne- Arizona Zervas
- 7) Memories- Maroon 5
- 8) Someone you loved- Lewis Capaldi
- 9) Intentions- Justin Bieber ft. Quavo
- 10) Blinding Lights- The Weeknd

