

# TITAN TIMES

VOL. 2, ISSUE 10 | APRIL 8TH, 2024

## IS IVF WRONG?

By Frances Cramer  
Senior, Writer



Photo by CNN

### What is IVF?

IVF (In Vitro Fertilization) is a procedure that people who are incapable of having children use to have a baby. During IVF, an egg is removed from the woman's ovaries and fertilized with sperm (usually the father's) in a laboratory. The fertilized egg, called an embryo, is then returned to the woman's womb to grow and develop. In some cases, it is implanted into a surrogate and she carries the baby until birth.

### Church's Stance on IVF

The Roman Catholic Church is officially against IVF. They believe that the child is treated as a product instead of as a

gift. Our Church says that "they substitute for the conjugal act...which alone is truly worthy of responsible procreation." The reason for this belief is that it would violate the dignity of the child, who has the right to be conceived by two loving parents, as well as the dignity of the marital union. Straying off the topic of IVF, the Church also opposes surrogacy as it is the "renting" of the uterus.

### Alabama Court Decision

On February 16, 2024, the Alabama state Supreme Court announced its decision that frozen embryos created during the IVF process are to be considered life. Because of this ruling many people who want to have children

via IVF are now forced to go out of the state or halt the process. An option for these future parents to ship out their frozen embryos to a state that can do the procedure, however this is slowly becoming more and more unlikely. Shipping and transportation companies are unwilling to partake in this business as they could potentially be charged with murder if an accident damages the embryos. Now is that fair? I asked our two beloved theology teachers for their opinions.

### Mr. Nolte's Interview

Q: Do you agree that frozen embryos are human life?

A: Yes, I do believe that the embryos are life

Q: Do you think that if an embryo is lost/damaged in any way, that the caretaker should be charged with murder?

A: It would depend on the circumstances. If it was negligence on their part as in "I don't care" then maybe. However, if they're doing the best they can and an accident happens, we shouldn't be held accountable for accidents.

Q: Do you think it is wrong for embryos to be frozen indefinitely?

A: Yes, because the potential for life. It's like the line by Jeff Goldblum in Jurassic Park, "When everyone is asking can we do this, no one is asking should we do this."

### Mr. Norman Interview

(They are the same order and questions from the Nolte interview)

Q:#1

A: Yes, I do. What you have at conception is a new human organism.

Q:#2

I believe that they should be charged with manslaughter. It was an accident and it wasn't on purpose to kill the embryo. However if it was done on purpose then they should be charged with murder.

Q:#3

A: Yes, because it turns the human person into a commodity, a product that can be produced and discarded at the wishes of someone more powerful.



Photo by Google

## THIS ISSUE:



See Page 2



See Page 3



See Page 5



See Page 7

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you." - Jeremiah 1:5

# Spring Break

By Ana Sofia Ramirez  
Sophomore, Writer

It is with great sorrow that I say that Spring Break is officially over. This was our last break before the end of the semester and summer vacation. It was also our beloved seniors final break of their high school career. The end of break also means that AP tests are right around the corner.

Even though I am personally really sad that break is over, I had a lot of fun during break and got some much-needed rest. I must say that I did some spring cleaning and caught up on some AP World work. I tried out some recipes and spent some time with my family. I started binge-watching Famous show *Grey's Anatomy*. The Show is currently on its 20th season, and I am just starting season four, so I do have my work cut out for me.



Google

Sophomore Ally Patel, had the time of her life in O'hanu, Hawaii. She spent time with her family on the beach, and if I'm being honest, I'm a bit jealous.

Sophomore Jude Cramer went golfing with his friends Cooper (10) and Matthew (10). In a fun match, Jude accidentally hit a girl in the head. He did not apologize because he is evil.

Mr. Nolte proudly brought in 12 new people into the church during the Easter Vigil celebration. He had been working with them for a year, and is happy that all that hard work paid off with the addition of 12 new members of the church.

Sophomores, and my childhood best friends Samantha Kimble and Alejandra Barragan both got their Driver's Permit! I look forward to being their passenger princess once they get their license :)

Sophomore, Sophia Saldana spent time at home with her brother and future Titan, Junior. Together they watched *Star Wars*. While Sophia binge-watched *Gilmore Girls*, Junior skillfully played the amazing game of MarioKart and Fall Guys.

I hope all of you reading had an amazing break, and are ready for the final stretch of the year. It's time to lock in for AP testing. Summer is so close, and we are almost there! We got this titans, finish strong!!



Google

# Shrek The Musical

By Lubianca Gaitan  
Junior, Writer, Editor-in-chief

From the Whimsical swamp of Shrek's humble abode to the amazingness of Duloc, Notre Dame's rendition of "Shrek: The Musical" transported audiences to the enchanting world of fairy tales. As the curtains opened and the spotlights illuminated the stage, it wasn't just the characters who shone, it was the collective effort of our talented cast and crew that brought this story to life. Behind every memorable performance lies a dedicated team of people working hard behind the scenes. As a member of Tech, I had the privilege of helping with things like makeup transformations to quick



Photo by NDHS Media



Photo by NDHS Media

costume changes. One of the most captivating aspects of the show was the colorful characters and our cast did not disappoint. Roman Nunez's portrayal of Lord Farquaad was nothing short of unforgettable. Nathan Hott's hilarious accent as Shrek added an extra layer of comedy to the performance as well.

Princess Fiona, played by Daphne Egizi, was nothing short of mesmerizing, capturing the character's feisty spirit and vulnerability with grace and charm. Meanwhile, Deon Jordan's charismatic performance as Donkey had the audience captivated, with laughter echoing backstage as he delivered his lines with much pizzazz.



Photo by NDHS Media

But the magic extended beyond its main characters. Actors such as Jude Cramer, Michaela Rodriguez, Emma Wooten, and Amanda Martinez brought depth and energy to the ensemble. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the dedication and hard work of everyone involved, from the cast to the crew. In the end, Shrek: The Musical wasn't just a play, it was a journey into the heart of fairy tale magic. We bid farewell to our beloved characters and look forward to future productions.



Photo by NDHS Media

# March Madness

By **Makenna Corea**  
Senior, Writer, Social  
Media Manager

March Madness, aka the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament, held annually in March and is one of the most anticipated sports tournaments of the year. Featuring 68 college basketball teams such as Iowa State, Alabama and San Diego State, these teams compete in a single-elimination 7 round tournament to determine the national champion.



Google images

As of right now, the tournament has reached the "sweet 16" phase, as only 16 teams remain including: Alabama, Duke, Houston, Tennessee, Arizona, Illinois, Iowa State, UConn, SDSU, etc.

Our very own Mr. V has been giving his students the opportunity to place their own predictions on the outcome of March Madness for extra credit. I spoke with one of his students, Sarah Escobar (grade 12), about who she picked and why, along with how she is doing...

here is what she had to say: "I picked teams based on the coolest colors or coolest mascot, and I am currently not doing too hot. However, my bracket has yet to bust!". As you can see, some of his students are taking creative approaches towards winning that extra credit.

Overall, I am a sucker for a good basketball game and am excited to see how all of these predictions play out. Make sure to keep up with the games during your free time, you won't want to miss them!



Google images

UConn is favored amongst the bracket as they have won the title in more than a quarter and have made Final Four a majority of their time playing. A few teams following closely behind the huskies are Houston, Purdue and Tennessee. But according to the fans and overall stats, UConn is in the lead by crushing Stetson 91-52 in the first round, then closely beating Northwestern 75-58 in the second round. Their next game is against SDSU March 28th.



Google images

# Track and Field

By **Anthony Elias**  
Freshman, Writer



This year's Track and Field season has gone off to an amazing start! Since there are so many new people in track it is important for everyone to take the time to reach out and get to know your teammates a little better. This year's track team is filled newcomers, which means that there could be some new talent on the team. I would encourage you to join track because of the welcoming feeling that everyone on the track team would show you. My first experience from joining the track team was that it was really fun, I think that it was fun because of how the meets are conducted. While you're waiting to race you have the opportunity to cheer your teammates on into the finish line. Personally, hearing people cheer me on is what gives me power that last thirty seconds on the track when you feel like you want to give up. Even though track can be a very fun sport it is also very mental which means that even though others can encourage you and push you. You are going to be the one pushing yourself the most and setting goals for yourself.

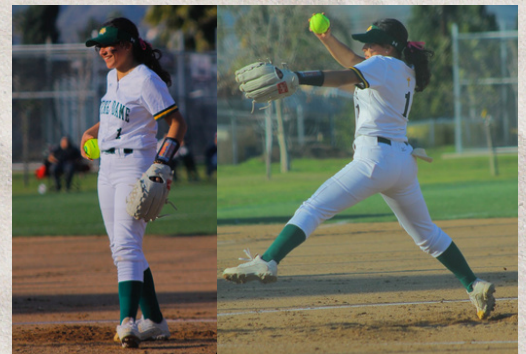
## Athlete of the week: Michaela Rodriguez

By **Ana Sofia Ramirez**  
Sophomore, Writer

This week's Athlete of the week is none other than the amazing and talented, Michaela Rodriguez. Michaela is the star pitcher on our Lady Titans Varsity Softball Team. She is extremely talented and her hard work and dedication shows when she is on the mound.

Michaela has played softball since the ripe age of 6 years old. Almost 10 years!!! She started out in recreational softball, and started playing travel ball when she was 12. Today she continues to play Travel Softball, in addition to playing for ND. Michaela wears #1, and has been wearing it since she was 7 years old

As the starting pitcher, Michaela says, "I really like it because I feel really comfortable with our level of playing and our league." She even says "I kinda have withdrawals when I'm not pitching." Michaela is ranked 7th in her division for most Batters struck out.



Photos by Joshua Avila

Softball is a sport that requires a lot of skill, strategy, and teamwork. Having attended many games myself, I can tell you how hard the players must work to win a game. A lot of time, money and effort must be put in, in order to be a decent player. However, Michaela is more than just a decent player. The only way you could describe her is as a star.

Not only is Michaela a star pitcher, but she is stellar at bat. Michaela leads the team with 0.576 batting average, and with the highest on base percentage at 0.622. Michaela truly is a well rounded player, and the numbers show!

Michaela says that softball is a game of mental toughness. When a game gets rough, she says "you have to fight through, [...] focus on your job, and less on other people."

In addition to to being the star of the softball team, Michaela is also in ASB and Theater. She recommends that Titans get involved at school. She says you don't need to have been playing a sport your whole life to give it a try.

Michaela hopes to one day play college ball on a full-ride, and I am certain that she will. Go watch the next home softball game to see not only Michaela, but the rest of the amazing team!



# Scholar Spotlight

By Lubianca Gaitan

Junior, Writer, Editor-in-Chief

In our community, in the middle of the hustle and bustle of academics, it's important to pause and recognize some of the hard work and effort that some students put into their classes. In this issue, we'll be focusing on shining the light on some students who show dedication and effort in their elective classes. As a reminder, the students are chosen by the teachers themselves, so let's see what some of them had to say.



Photo by Lubianca Gaitan



Photo by Lubianca Gaitan

When it comes to the world of abstract thinking, Grace Alosi and Alex Navarro (pictured bottom right), stand out as active participants in class. According to Mr. Norman, "They're always attentive even when it's hard. They push through and I can see them try to understand and make sense of the topic." Grace and Alex's commitment and efforts to understand such mind-boggling topics is really commendable. When asked how it feels to be chosen, Grace and Alex expressed their gratitude for the recognition and the satisfaction of overcoming any challenges that came their way.

Moving onto Anatomy with Ms. Loyola, where she chose Valos Owen (pictured left) and Julianna Valencia shine as exemplary students. Ms. Loyola praises Valos Owen's and Julianna Valencia's dedication, with Valos also known as Branch around school, states "I'm surprised but happy. Be sure to get my good side too." Seems someone was happy to be chosen and wanted to look his best when being honored.

Last but not least, we have Mr. Ponce's Creative writing class, where Senior Andrew Rivera (pictured bottom left) stands out as a true wordsmith. Mr. Ponce praises Andrew's dedication, saying "I appreciate the effort that he puts into his work, both creative and something that he is happy with, which is the ultimate goal of the class." Good job Andrew! Good job to all our amazing students and keep up the good work, Titans!



Photo by Lubianca Gaitan

# Teacher Feature: Mrs. Rodriguez

By Lubianca Gaitan

Junior, writer, Editor-in-Chief

## Q&A with Mrs. Rodriguez

**When did you start working here?**  
I started subbing here in 2016 and then became a permanent teacher in the 2017-2018 school year. When I was subbing here, I liked the environment of the school and so I gave it a shot because they needed someone for Econ and Government.

## Why do you love teaching?

Honestly, I feel like it's a stressful, but fun job. It's fun to see the students when they get interested in something. That connection or spark when they start to understand the topics. I also feel that I keep learning because as a teacher, you are bound to keep learning.

## What is your favorite class to teach, not having to do with the students?

Regular Econ; especially when we go over personal financing. Even the students who aren't interested in the AP style

of things enjoy it. I also really enjoy teaching government, both AP and regular.

## Advice to students that are going to take your class in the future?

Get your notebooks ready. Also, take advantage of the class time. Especially for my regular, non-AP classes, we do most of the work and note taking in class. Otherwise, very little homework. Take advantage of what we are doing in class. For my AP classes: Read, Read, Read. We will be doing a lot of reading and note taking, so get ready to put in the work.

Mrs. Rodriguez sure is an impressive, strong woman and an amazing teacher, too. If you've seen her around, you've probably seen her with another great teacher, Ms. Olvera. Some would even call them "besties." With this in mind, here what Ms. Olvera had to say in regard to our great teacher, Mrs. Rodriguez:



Photo by Ana Sofia Ramirez

"I really admire her and look up to her as a fellow teacher because she is really dedicated to her students, and she has a lot of heart and passion in what she does." Truly inspirational.

## AP Econ

Now let's delve a little bit into the classes she teaches, starting off with AP Econ. AP Economics focuses on the mechanisms of supply and demand, exploring the

dynamics that shape economics at both micro and macro levels.

## AP Government

Ap Government is mainly about the structures and functions of political systems, going into depth about the complexities of governance and the responsibilities of citizens within a democratic society,

Thank you to Mrs. Rodriguez for being a wonderful teacher and all the hard work and all of the effort she puts into the classroom! Most, if not all, of her students always have something good to say about her or her class, so be sure to look forward to having her in your senior year!

# Dish Diaries

By Carter Worthington  
Senior, writer

## Hello Readers!

For this edition's dish diaries, we're bringing in a fairly new product from the snack bar. The chorizo burrito! Me personally, I'm a big fan of chorizo, especially when it's in a breakfast burrito. Now, this'll set you back \$\$\$, but it's incredibly worth it. Basically, it's a spin on the already existing breakfast burrito, but with chorizo instead of sausage. The spicy chorizo sausage mixed with the fluffy scrambled egg is a delicious fusion of flavors. Get a little green sauce on the side, and it's a perfect dish! Let's talk about the new addition though, the star of the show, the chorizo.

The flavor isn't overwhelming but it isn't nonexistent, it's a perfect balance. The bite the chorizo brings gives it a robust depth and elevates the taste. It's got a loud start, but a slight sweetness mixed with spice. Who wouldn't want to start their morning with one of these? In my opinion, these are a lot better than the regular breakfast burritos. It's got so much more to offer and...it's chorizo! Who doesn't like chorizo and eggs? It's got protein, fiber, and essential nutrients...part of a complete breakfast.

**GUYS THE PIC DOESNT DO IT JUSTICE BUT ITS SO GOOD I PROMISE !!!!**



# Food Dye Concerns

By Sara Sanchez  
Junior, Writer



Photo by Google

Consuming packaged food and drinks has always been a norm. However certain health concerns have been raised regarding what these processed foods contain, such as food dye, specifically red dye. One such red dye, red dye 40, has been linked with many physical and mental health issues such as ADD/ADHD, immune disorders, mind storms. And inflammatory bowl diseases. Despite the lasting, horrific negative effects of Red Dye 40, it contribute to 40% of

all food dyes found in food. Countries have already taken action against such a dangerous chemical by implementing food based bans due top the cancerous risks as well. Red dye 40 can be found in candy, beverages, snacks, condiments, baked goods, dairy products, frozen deserts, cereal, and much more. On March 12, a proposal that would prohibit oubkic school as in California from offering foods and drinks that contain any of a "medley" of dyes



Photo by Google

was introduced by Democratic Jesse Gabriel (*The Guardian*). The proposal is to motivate food manufacturers replace harmful, nonessential dyes with alternatives. An additional goal is to protect the development of children. While it is still unsure whether or not such a proposal with be established, it is important to achknowlege the reasoning behind such proposal and listen to the warning. Many of us are tempted by foods that contain artificial dyes, but we must be cautious of the amount we consume as they can have a lasting negative effect.



Photo by Google

# The Arts

By Elyza Lansang  
Junior, Writer



Photos by Elyza Lansang

Welcome back Titans to The Arts section! This week, I would like to highlight Art Club's Art Showcase! This showcase was featured during the showings of Shrek the Musical. The amazing performance provided by a lovely cast of characters paired with exclusive art pieces helped make the night extra special for all!

While the photo above is only a glimpse of the beautiful pieces that were there, I would like to applaud all of the artists who were courageous enough to present their art! All of the artists pieces were unique in their own way, and it was a great opportunity to show support to all the artists here at Notre Dame.

# March Movies

By Lubianca Gaitan  
Junior, Writer, Editor in chief

Howdy Y'all. During the month of March, I gave myself a personal goal to watch a movie every single day. I'm sad to say I was not able to do so, but I only missed 6 days out of the whole month. For some odd reason, I watched comedies throughout most of the month, but it certainly made my month happier.



Due to the rating of most of these, I will not be going into depth on them. Onwards, some of the movies were Clerks, Ricky Stanicky, Hot Tub Time machine, Juno, Kingergarten Cop, Horrible Bosses 1 & 2, the entire John Wick franchise, The Disaster Artist, and to finish off the month, the new movie Roadhouse.

One of the movies that I really enjoyed was the new Ghostbusters movie, Ghostbusters: Frozen empire. It is in theaters now and I would rate it a 7/10. I am a big fan of the Ghostbusters movies since I grew up watching them and this one was nice as all of the originals reunited and came together to catch another ghost that was threatening the end of the world once again. It's a good movie to watch with the family and just your average action/comedy.



Google

# Team Cole or Kdot?

By Valerie Arredondo  
Junior, writer

## Kendrick or J. Cole?

That seems to be the hottest topic this week! Kendrick Lamar dropped a diss track verse on the album "WE DONT TRUST YOU" which was a collaboration between Future and Metro Boomin. His feature is on "LIKE THAT" with a loud repetitive bear produced by

Metro Boomin himself. Kendrick basically stood his ground as one of the top or even the ONLY top rapper compared to artists like Drake and J. Cole. In response, J. cole dropped an album a few days later named "Might Delete Later". (He really should delete it). Many viewed Cole's diss that was seven minutes long as a good comeback and other would

disagree. As the arguments marinated, people all over social media would discuss who's team they were on. Eventually at the music festival, Dreamville, J. Cole himself apologizing for how lame his did was. In my opinion, Kendrick Lamar is the better rapper by a longshot. I mean, he literally made To Pimp a Butterfly and so many more bangers after bangers. Who's team are you on ?

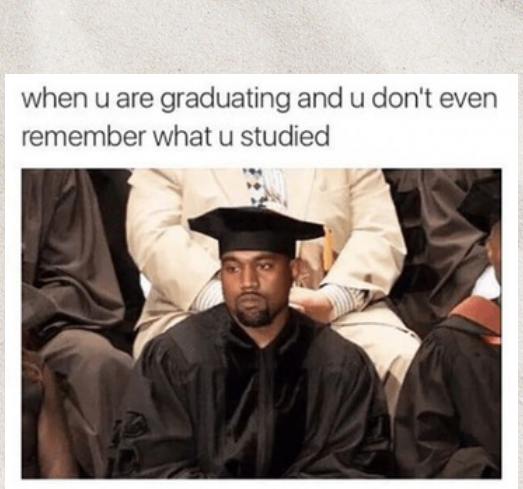
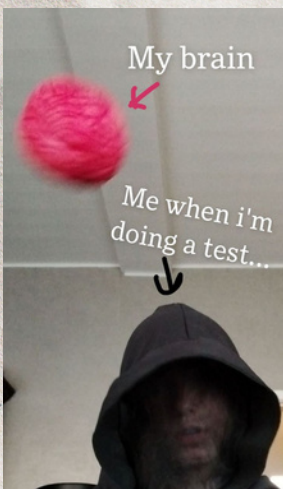


Google

# Laughology

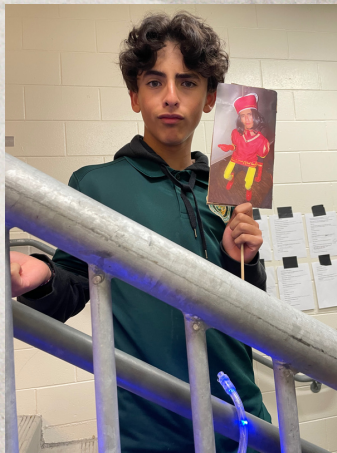
By Notre Dame Students  
Memes sent in by students

Submit your own memes!



# Behind the Scenes

By The Titan Times Team



**People Featured:**

Serena Waked (11), Joshua Avila (10), Deon Jordan (12), Nathan Hott (11), Roman Nunez (9), Lily Webster (12), Amanda Martinez (11), Nadia Guzman (Alumni), Carter Worthington (12), Marbella Ceron (Alumni), Jude Cramer (10), Nichless Calderon (9), Matthew Baculo (11), Jonathon Medrano (10), Somadina Kpaduwa (12), Lubianca Gaitan (11), Jared Rodriguez (11), Adrian Reyes (10), Nicholas Kendall (11), Ellison Tolenti (11), Adrian Bin (11)

**Submit your own pictures!**

# Advice Archives

**Submit an Advice Request!**

By Lubianca Gaitan

**Q: Ppl be bringing stuff up to me that they weren't even around for and judging me for it, it's annoying. I shrug it off but deep down it hurts bad. Idk what to do, it gives the worst anxiety ever. Please help me idk wat to do.**

**A:** I totally get that. Sometimes people like to judge and assume things simply because the truth gets twisted or because some people just like to spread rumors to put others down. Although it's hard, it's best to just continue to not pay much attention to it, but I would be more careful of who you say certain things to or who you hang around because if people who weren't around are bringing these things up, they must have found out somehow. It could've been unintentionally that someone shared what happened and if so, just have a nice conversation asking them not to share your personal details. Anxiety can be bad, trust me, I definitely understand, but if you don't think about it as much, then eventually it won't bother you and that anxiety can lessen.

**Q: How do I get over my ex. It's been almost a year and I can't seem to get over him.**

**A:** At this point you need to reflect upon yourself and see why you're still into him. What did he have that any other guy doesn't? If he doesn't seem to care, then why should you. You are a strong woman and don't need to be fretting over a man. We're in high school, so we still have our whole lives ahead of us, meaning that dwelling on a guy that's just a chapter in the story of your life is not worth it because he could be blocking out the doorway of your heart when someone else tries to enter. My best advice is to focus on yourself and your self-worth. You never know when the man of your dreams might come into your life, but you'll be too focused on your ex to notice.

**Q: How do I get an A?**

**A:** You need to put in the effort into your classes and actually try to get that A. Pay attention in class. If your friends try to bother you, just ignore them and go on with what comes first, your education. Having trouble understanding the topic? Talk to your teacher, ask questions. Study at home. Use outside tools such as Khan Academy or Online study guides. Your effort and hard work will then be reflected on your grades. If you're really struggling still, try tutoring, or talk to your teacher as to how you can bring up your grade when needed.

## The Titan Times

[notredameriverside.org/titantimes](http://notredameriverside.org/titantimes)

**Editor-in-Chief**

Lubianca Gaitan

**Managing Editor**

Mrs. Arguelles

**Staff Writers**

Elyza Lansang

Ana Sofia Ramirez

Frances Cramer

Elizabeth Tran

Sara Sanchez

Valerie Arredondo

Carter Worthington

Jude Cramer

Chris Campbell

Anthony Elias

Thomas Huelskamp

**Social Media**

Makenna Corea

**Photography**

Joshua Avila

Lubianca Gaitan

Questions regarding the Titan Times should be directed to Editor-in-chief Lubianca Gaitan at [lg1209773@ndhsriverside.org](mailto:lg1209773@ndhsriverside.org)

**New Issue bi-weekly on Mondays at 3pm**

applesandoranges

**PREORDER**  
*Online*

SCAN ME

SCAN ME

[www.applesandorangesfoodservice.com](http://www.applesandorangesfoodservice.com)

**Doorbell Property Management**

818 N Mountain Ave, Suite 209, Upland, CA 91786  
Phone: (323) 285-5557

Visit our website

**Want to promote something for your club?** Contact Editor-in-Chief Lubianca Gaitan with your request to advertise your event or club!  
Email: [lg1209773@ndhsriverside.org](mailto:lg1209773@ndhsriverside.org)