



# Eagle's Nest

## South El Monte High School

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## South Celebrates Spirit Week with Splash of Color

by Kateleene Lao  
Staff Writer

South El Monte High School Eagles celebrates the new year with their yearly Spirit Week. Spirit Week helps all students of all grades come together and show their outstanding spirit for SEMHS with their class colors. This has been a tradition going on every year to bring even those who are strangers in the same class to a bonding and all around fun day. Spirit Week starts on Monday, January 22, 2018 and ends on Friday, January 26, 2018. Spirit Week has specific days for each grade to be able to rock their class color and come early in the

morning to help put up posters and decorate the school to their likings. Students usually would start setting up around 4-5 o'clock in the morning. "I think something that is worthy of being highlighted is how a lot of the seniors did go all out and they weren't dull and the decorations were really nice and out there", states Senior and one of the Drill Captains in South El Monte High School, Natasha Banuelos. Freshman, Kasandra Sanchez, states her opinion on her first spirit day as one of our many baby eagles here at South, "It was really interesting, I had lots of fun and I didn't expect a lot of things to happen but a lot of things did happen so that made it really exciting."



Jackie Esquivel and her fellow seniors celebrate their last spirit week at South El Monte High School. photo by Alondra Guevarra Eagle's Nest Newspaper



Future Eagles get a glimpse at games, clubs, and activities that make South amazing. Photo by Bertha Sanchez/Eagle's Nest Newspaper

by Victoria Martinez  
Staff Writer

On February 2, 2018 South El Monte High School hosted the annual 8th Grade Visitation Day. Introducing the "High School Life" to the future freshmen. Gathering the Cheer, Band, Color Guard and Drill team, to give a happy

greeting to the future eagles. Along with the Host of the 8th Grade Orientation Milca Benitez, giving the greetings and guidance to the 8th graders. Thanks to Uyen for planning the 8th grade orientation, and all ASB for helping out. "The 8th grade orientation is quite important because middle schoolers get a feel for the transition

On Monday, Freshmen wore popping purple, expressing their vibes as our fabulous baby eagles. Tuesday, Sophomores spread their fresh green decorations throughout the school. Wednesday, Juniors wore rocking red and Seniors went all out on their yellow highlighting Thursday. Thursday, Seniors had a special taco lunch and sat in

the quad jamming out to 97.1 AMP Radio. Seniors were also gathered behind the bleachers on the grass area to take their 2018 picture. Tables and chairs were set up before hand, so the seniors were able to go straight to the quad to get their tacos. The tacos were worth one ticket, each ticket was \$5. The seniors got red rice, beans,

and three tacos with any choice of meat to their liking. Spirit Week ended with Blue and Gold day, Friday January 26, 2017. Blue and Good day is when every student and staff dress up in SEMHS colors and attire. This is the day that truly ties every Eagle at South El Monte High School, showing our love and spirit for this wonderful school.

## Eager Baby Eagles Take Sneak Peek of Life at South

sition from middle school to high school." said Milca Benitez. The 8th Grade Orientation, allows for middle schoolers to understand that High School has a lot of clubs to fit every individual student. Allowing students to "Get insight on the High School life and hopefully encourage them to take all the opportunities offered here." Exciting the 8th graders and already planning for their future. The 8th Grade Orientation started with a great introduction by Milca Benitez and Natalie Lopez giving the introduction speeches, and introducing the Future Eagles their class color and Staff. Once all of staff was introduced the 8th graders were separated and introduced to clubs, games, and even got to pick their classes for the next academic year. Separated by their color of bracelet the Future Eagles were separated. Some went to meet their Coun-

selors and pick their classes, which left a face of excitement, wondering which classes to pick with their friends. This was moved on to taking a look at the our chamber choir, singing wonderful songs, and melodies to fascinate and capture the attention of our Baby Eagles. Next was the choosing of clubs and sports, being held in the cafeteria, was filled with excitement from all. Encouraging the Baby Eagles to join clubs and sports to carry on the tradition. Football encouraged all to join, with such confidence, and showing off school pride shouting "WE DON'T LOSE TO EL MONTE!" showing our Baby Eagles the Griffin Bowl trophy. Other clubs encouraged students who are interested or who want to know more about Korean Pop music. Our Journal-

ism class encouraged students who love to write, take pictures and want to tell the world what is going on. Many sports other than Football encouraged our Baby Eagles to go out and try something new, or improve. Lastly was a performance made by our Band, Drill and Color Guard team showing our Eagle Pride and giving a great performance by our Drill Divas. After there was a fun game, this excited many of the students, and created lots of laughter, maybe some awkwardness that was soon relieved once the games were over. The 8th Grade Orientation ended with some tacos, rice and beans which gave a smile to everyone eating them. Lastly a big thank you to all the Students and Staff members who attended and helped make South El Monte High Schools 8th Grade Orientation a day to remember for all.

## ASB President Stays Strong Through Tough Times

by Angelina Tovar  
Staff Writer

South El Monte High School's resilient student, Jasmine Robles contributes her talent on the girls varsity basketball team and her leadership skills as ASB president to the best of her abilities to not only make herself, her fellow student body, and staff proud, but more importantly, her father. On January 13, 2018, Jasmine and her family received the shattering news that her father, Jose Robles, had been denied quick access for his heart transplant due to his lack of citizenship in the U.S. limiting him to 4 weeks - 1 year to live. In other words, because Jasmine's father does not have papers he will not be a priority in getting a new heart which is dangerous in this life or death situation. "I was devastated, my heart dropped. I was so sad and mad

that this would even happen" says Jasmine when she heard the news, "I can't imagine a life without my dad." Her father has positively impacted her life in various ways that she will forever be grateful for. So, she decided to take matters into her own hands and turn to social media to spread awareness about her father's situation. Twitter was a main source that allowed the story to go viral. "I told myself that I was going to everything in my power to help my dad get a heart transplant. So that's



Jasmine Robles and her siblings smile through this difficult time. Photo courtesy of the Robles family

when I tweeted my dad's story in hopes of getting people's attention." Jasmine received many supportive and informative comments with-in that tweet raising her spirits and bringing in nearly \$13,000 in the

gofundme account. As overwhelming as this is, Jasmine continues with her school work and extracurricular activities. There is not a day that goes by that she goes by that she knows she has other tasks to fulfill that her father would be proud to see her accomplish. "What keeps me going is my family. I know my dad doesn't want what's happening to him affect mine and my brother's school life and I want to set an example for my younger brothers that you might be going through

very hard times but you still have to know your responsibilities and keep working hard. Another thing is ASB because I know I have to be at school and lead the class." Of course, at times like this grieving is inevitable, especially towards the one who has been "the backbone of the family" but despite all the hardships, it is important to stay strong for those around you and maintain a positive mindset and that is exactly what Jasmine plans to do. She has two younger brothers, one who is a freshman here and the other is only four years old, who she wants to be a role model for in the sense of getting through tough times in optimistic ways by looking at the bright side. For more information, there is a gofundme account for the Robles family. Jasmine appreciates the support from her friends and family and will continue to work hard for the sake of making her father proud.

## Counselor Guides Students Towards Brighter Futures

by Merisse Palacios  
Staff Writer

From being a great wife to a great counselor Mrs. Burgess is a one of a kind woman. The obstacles she faced while reaching her goals has made her the outstanding woman she is today.

While struggling to be the best mom ever Mrs. Burgess had two children whom she had to take care of while trying to become a teacher. "It was my senior year when I was pregnant," says Mrs. Burgess. While still in high school Mrs. Burgess was pregnant with her first baby boy. After high school she moved on to community college where she had her second son. Life for Mrs. Burgess at the time wasn't the best, but she was determined to succeed and give her best in order to give her two boys what they needed.

In the year 1992 when South El Monte High School first opened Mrs. Burgess made a shot and became a teacher assistant here at South El Monte. She was working as a teacher

assistant here from 1992 until 1994. In 1998 she successfully got her teaching degree and started working.

While already succeeding in life Mrs. Burgess still felt the need to help students out more. She says, "I like to see the way students transform from when they are small to their senior year."

Being a teacher apparently didn't fulfill her dreams of helping students reach their goals. After obtaining her teaching degree Mrs. Burgess decided she could do more. Not only had she gone to Cal State LA, but she also attended Azusa Pacific University.

At Azusa Mrs. Burgess began to obtain her counselors degree. She took interest in the way she could help kids to succeed. Of course while raising her two children and still managing to study this hardworking woman obtained her counseling credential.

She eventually came back to South El Monte and started working as a counselor. "Education definitely changed my life," declares Mrs. Burgess.



Mrs. Burgess: counselor at South El Monte High School

"...we were dating for 7 years," indicates Mrs. Burgess. While striving for success Mrs. Burgess was accompanied by Mr. Burgess.

She says Mr. Burgess is easy going and a great person whom she gets along with just well. He supported her through her rough times and both enjoy each others company. After they dated for 7 years they got married in 2001. They later had two amaz-

ing boys who they are proud of. Mrs. Burgess had 4 boy total who are now great young men. When asked what she liked doing with her spare time she answered, "I like spending time with my family and with my grandsons."

She also said she loves to paint and decorate her walls. She says she's always changing the colors of the walls and has great fun with it. She likes decorating her home and chang-

es things around most of the time. From being a teen mom, to a teacher, later an amazing counselor, a great wife, and an outstanding grandmother, Mrs. Burgess is an amazing role model for all the teen moms in high school who think they can't be successful just because they have to take care of their children. Although life wasn't easy for her, she is an amazing example of what a successful woman looks like.



Mr. Burgess: Teacher at South El Monte High School

by Angelica Avila  
Staff Writer

On the outside, Mr. Burgess doesn't seem like your average romantic, but his relationship with his wife shows otherwise.

In case you didn't know, South El Monte High School's favorite health teacher has been married to the wonderful counselor, Mrs. Burgess, for nearly two decades. Many

speculate what it is like to share a workplace with a significant other, and Mr. Burgess has kindly shared his experiences with this situation.

It is likely that fate played a role in Mr. Burgess's meeting with his future wife. "We met here at SEM," said Mr. Burgess, "I was a teacher/coach and she was an instructional aide/college student."

"One can only imagine the thoughts that rush through someone's head

when they catch the eye of a colleague.

The two worked together for a while before they started their relationship.

Mr. and Mrs. Burgess had an instant connection and have been inseparable since the beginning.

So, what is it like to work at the same place as your spouse? For some it may be difficult, but for Mr. Burgess, "It's really cool, it helps us stay close, and I wouldn't want it any other way."

Working together means Mr.

## Renaissance Man Shares Road to Happily Ever After

and Mrs. Burgess can carpool to work and even have lunch with one another. Not all couples have the opportunity to do this and Mr. Burgess does not take it for granted.

Educators like Mr. and Mrs. Burgess make some of the best parents. When asked about having his first child, Mr. Burgess said, "It was tiring. By the time Mrs. Burgess finally gave birth to our son, I was exhausted."

Mr. Burgess's humor and patience are probably some of the traits that not only his students have seen, but also his children have experienced as well. Starting a family was an exciting experience for Mr. Burgess. He has two children with Mrs. Burgess.

Mr. Burgess has had experience as a basketball and tennis coach. Many coaches who have kids teach them how to be confident, cooperative, and respectful. Mr. Burgess is a great father and always finds time to share with his family.

One of Mr. Burgess's favorite activities to do with his family is to travel. Every summer, the whole family takes a road trip to Minnesota. It is so

fun to cruise across the country with my wife and kids," said Mr. Burgess.

Traveling for several hours with a family of four sounds like torture for some, but for Mr. Burgess, when the time comes to pack up and go, he's always ready. We all know that Valentine's Day is a day to appreciate the people in our lives.

While Mr. Burgess can sometimes be mysterious, there is no doubt that he loves his family very much. Some might say that when you have an amazing wife and beautiful children, everyday is Valentine's Day.

Deep down, Mr. Burgess has a romantic side. He likes to make grand, romantic gestures for his wife all of the time. We may never know what those gestures are because Mr. Burgess says, "Nunya," when he is asked about them.

Mr. Burgess is lucky to have such a beautiful relationship with his wife. To have a connection with another person from the very start is so incredibly lucky.

Of course, he will continue to celebrate his relationship and his family on Valentine's Day

## Calibre 50 Brings Real Life Stories Through Lyrics

by Daisy Vergel  
Staff Writer

Without a doubt music is an important part in the Mexican Culture. Three genres of traditional Mexican music would be mariachi, banda, and nortenas. The Mexican Regional genre has had an important consumption trend in recent years. From the history of its people from the 1700s to the present, Nortenas music has grown out. The Mexican culture has a big impact in musical history that is full of many different musical styles and influences. The genre I'm focusing on is

Nortenas, this genre can be very relatable to the students because the music reflects on their roots, and the lyrics show an importance with their personal life's. Nortenas plays different types of music, although the style is slightly tied to corridos. Originally Nortenas and corridos music can be about romance, violence, drugs, money, weapons etc. Corridos are always are changing and adapting to culture influences and social justices. In order to write a history of corridos you would have to write a history of Mexico, because all corridos have a life meaning to it such as a life story.

A Norteno group that is very popular and has been growing since they were discovered in 2010 is Calibre 50, from Mazatlan, Sinaloa they are a charting award winning since being discovered. The group is led by Eden Munoz (vocals & accordion), Armando Ramos (vocals & guitars), Martin Lopez (tuba), and Augusto (drums). They created a video of their song "The Inferno", it brought the people's attention and it also landed them to a recording contract. They made their full album which created them to go throughout the Mexican culture of music. Their style is slightly fresh and innovative and

is accomplished with character instruments of their state, tuba, twelve string guitar, accordion and drums. Calibre 50 earned number one on regional Mexican albums charts with "Guerra de Poder". The album was led by the hit single "El Corrido de Juanito" which raised to being currently top ten of the Hot Latin Songs chart. In "El Corrido de Juanito", the song that speaks most pointedly to the audience about how tough it can be when your in the United States, saying how much immigrants suffer leaving their home (rancho) to go work in the United States,

not attending religious funerals, missing their home and working for long days, being terrified of immigration patrolling around, just to mention some other of the disadvantages. Calibre 50 sings about real life, about what really happens, the group never seems to fail to play. Calibre 50 has become one of the most phenomenon norteno group with success since discovered in 2010, because of their passion towards music. The four young men have earned their success with effort and discipline. They've shown their hard work and dedication to its audience.

## 8th Grade Students Compete for PLTW

by Alondra Guevara and  
Yessenia Bermejo  
Editors

On Wednesday February 8, 2018 it was the 3rd annual middle school competition. This event took place during the day and it was run by PLTW. There were four middle schools that attended which were Potrero, Shively, Monte Vista, and Kranz. Before the annual event some PLTW students attended the middle schools in order to help them prepare and be ready for the competition. There were four separate competitions that they prepared for. There was drone racing, robotics which was also racing, computer science, and IED which was cup stacking. In all four of the sections the middle schools

had to race and their times were recorded to determine the winners of the contests. The contests took place at the same time but in different places of the campus. The drone racing and IED took place inside the PLTW lab and the other races took place in the quad. The four schools finished off the day by going to the little theatre at our campus and having lunch there. While they had lunch, PLTW students announced the winners of each of the competitions. The first place winners of the drone racing were Shively. Second place was Monte Vista. Third place was Potrero. The first place winners of the computer science were Shively. Second place was Potrero. Third place was Kranz. The first place of the IED contest were Monte Vista and Second place was Shively



Students from Potrero work on their robotics skills during the PLTW 8th Grade Competition day

Photo by Alondra Guevara/Eagle's Nest



# Editorials

## PROS AND CONS: VALENTINE'S DAY

The original tradition behind valentine's day is to sacrifice and dogs and peed their hide in order to whip

*How can a person place value on an emotion?*

the women to make them fertile. Yet humans have managed to ruin even through the holiday known as Valentine.

Throughout time it has changed to where humans have placed a value on the emotion called love. A person has to spend money on another just to prove their love for the significant other. How can a person place value on an emotion? Does the more money you spend mean that you love the person a lot? What happens to the people who cannot afford such expensive gift. Does their love mean less. Materials cause for society to tie money with love.

Humans value the expense of the gift or date rather than the thought place into it. In that case anyone can give a person a rolex and it would mean it that they are capable to die for them.

Doing this is an easy way of getting gift and not meaning anything or not having placed a thought into the gift or date.



As another month in 2018 passes, it's easy to think about how time has been seemingly flying by us.

Everyone always said high school was going to go by fast, but it's hard to believe them until it's you about to graduate.

Recently, turning 18 has been a reminder that everything I once saw as far away, has become my life.

When I used to think about turning eighteen, I thought it meant complete freedom and adulthood.

Senior year is such a different experience than any other school year, (obviously). While it might be stressful at times, it's the year where all your hard work finally pays off.

Despite us seniors being the same age, it's wild to think about how different the places we're in, are. Some of us are driving, working, taking college classes, etc. Then there's those of us who are only focusing on school, and keeping our same routine since our previous years.

Overall, I think we can conclude that senior year is one of the best years of your life, however; whether that be for the fact that you're almost out of here, or for any other reasons.

As Brooke Davis in One Tree Hill said, "One day, you're 17 and you're

Anyone can go find an expensive item last minute just to make up with how they forgot that valentine was a few days away and this is accepted by society because in the person eyes they wasted a lot of money on them so it means that they love them.

What happens when the money runs out and they cannot afford similar gifts as before. It places this expectation that the couple does not love each other at all.

Not only does Valentine place a price on love it also places an image to those who are not in a relationship as they are alone and unwanted. Just because they are alone on valentine does not mean that they are undesirable and should not be deemed as bad.

Gift giving has to be the most stressful action in the entire world. Not only does the person has to find a gift that is thoughtful but it has to what the other person would enjoy and would be around the similar price as the other person gift. When it is time to exchange the gift there is always the moment that your gift sometimes just doesn't measure up to what the other person is giving you, but just like society changed the true meaning and value of love all a person has to do is go to a jewelry and select the most expensive item there and buy it for the significant other.

The holiday of valentine brings stress and hate. Diane Brice, director of Suicide Prevention Service of the Central Coast (SPSCC) said in an article "And then February comes and you're supposed to be in love and you're supposed to be feeling better because it's springtime, but some people don't.

That's when it gets really difficult for people, because of the expectation to feel better

planning for someday. And then quietly, without you ever really noticing, someday is today. And then someday is yesterday. And this is your life."

Being a senior, and being eighteen, is bittersweet. Either way, we should be mindful to live in the moment and make as many great memories as we can.

Everything we have done before has led up to these final moments in our highschool career.

Although I'm sad to be graduating soon, I'm so excited to begin the rest of my life. Whether you're a freshman or a senior, you've got a lot to look forward to; just think about how many more "best days of your life" are out there waiting for you to experience them.

It's easy, especially in this age, to become so focused on things that don't matter. If you chase after materialistic things or money, for example, you're never going to have enough. But if you dedicate yourself to the right things, like being with loved ones and helping/ loving others, you'll always have more than you could imagine.

We still have our whole lives to look forward to; senior year isn't so much an ending as it is a beginning, for all the many great things to come. Live in the moment and don't fret the past nor fear the future, all you can be sure of, is now, after all.

Each year on February 14th, many people exchange cards, candy, gifts, or flowers to their special someone. The day of romance is named for a Christian martyr and dates back all the way to the 5th century, but has origins in the roman holiday Lupercalia.

On this day there is many pros for all the couples out there. They go out on fancy dinners, walks on the beach, and all the lovely gifts one receives from their significant other. Basically a day full of love and joy that one wouldn't probably receive every single day.

It is a day to show off your partner and give them cute little gifts they don't necessarily need to be big gifts either.

But there is also a lot of pros for all the single people as well. Many think that Valentines Day may be a sad day for all the "Lonely", but in reality one can do a lot of things on this "Romantic" day.

Danny Puentes also agrees with this statement. Puentes mentioned that being single you don't have to worry about spending a lot of money on your significant other and worry about your wallet being empty. Everyone likes to have their wallet stacked.

Fatima Trejo mentions a great reason on why being in a relationship on valentine's day is suitable. "A good thing about being in a relationship on Valentine's Day is that you get to spend it with someone you love and you get to share love with one another and feel this romantic day together."

Many people complain about how they see a couple and say "aww must be nice", but Bryan DeLaPaz thinks otherwise.

He mentions that Valentines Day doesn't just have to be a day for cou-



Some people say that dreams are impossible and that they will never come to life. However, they say goals are things people strive for and that they are actually realistic and are possible to achieve.

Despite of that, I believe they come hand-in-hand and the difference between them is very little. Unless we're talking about a dream of meeting a fictional character from a carton. I mean it can be done someone can wear a costume but almost everyone, not kids, know it's fictional.

Back to what I was writing, dreams and goals should be treated the same, for the most part. One should try to aim for whatever they want to do in life, but not completely forget about reality. It is possible to work hard and achieve one's dream career or goal.

As humans we need to take risks and chances. Even if the outcome is failure, that just means experiences.

Time is key in life because it is not replaceable. Time can't be bought, it can't be sold, time just wastes. That is why we can't stop to think deeply about every single choice ever made in life. Sometimes things have to be done in the moment because life can be changed for people in the blink of an eye, and unexpectedly. Which means one can't plan out everything, time will not wait.

ples, but for everyone in general. Anyone could go out and have an amazing day with family, and friends. DeLaPaz also says that many girls

*One can do a lot of things on this romantic day.*

expect all these lovely gifts from their significant other, but in reality love can be expressed in many other ways and a lot of people do not see that and appreciate the little things that one does for one each other.

Natalie Jimenez seemed to also agree with Bryan's statement saying that she could just get out with friends and have fun.

Also mentions how she could go out and buy all the chocolate that will be on sale on Valentines Day.

There also seems to be another way of saying Valentines Day, which many girls refer to as, Galentines Day. Meaning, a non official holiday that is celebrated as a day for "ladies celebrating ladies".

So is Valentine's day really a day for couples only? Just show all your love ones some love, and for guys, shoot your shot maybe she thinks the same way as you and vice versa.

Living in the past would mean that you're always wondering why. Why do problems happen to you, why can't you be like others, why it is that you are the way you are. Just why for everything. This will only lead to an unhealthy, unhappy life. It is understandable and inevitable for people to go through this phase as the humans that we are. We need to try to avoid being stuck in the past and move on. However, not move on and be a person who only thinks about the future. Yes, it is good to have goals and dreams but one can't live only thinking about that. Unless, thinking about the future is used as motivation.

Living in the present would be the best for people, that falls between living in the past and in the future. That way people are not too worried but they are also, not thinking about what they could've done in life but can't anymore.

Although it might be very difficult for people, we should try to live in the present. Doing whatever you want to and can in the moment because time flies and it won't stop to wait for you.

We need to take risks and chances even if one fails, that is how humans learn, from experiences. People should make plans for life, but not plans for exactly everything because life can change before your eyes without giving breaks or waiting for you to solve your problems.

The Eagle's Nest is the official student newspaper of South El Monte High School in the El Monte Union High School District. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the general student body, faculty, or school administration. Advertisement rates are available upon request.

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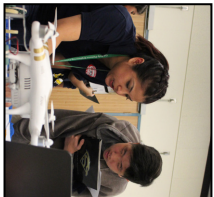
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# Spirit at South

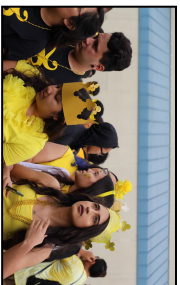
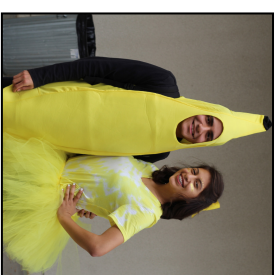
## 8th Grade Visit



# Here's the Start of Something New

## And the End of an Era

Photos courtesy of Eagle's Web staff



## Spirit Week



# In Memoriam



## In Loving Memory of Joe Duran, "CJ"

On January 11th, 2018, one of our very own South El Monte High School security guards, Joe Duran, 54, passed away. Joe Duran was always greeting people as they came in through the front or directed them to wherever they needed to go.



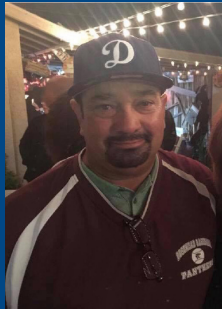
For those who don't know him that well, Joe Duran was also known as "Coach Joe" or "CJ" to others because he had been coaching basketball for over 20 years. He started off coaching his AAU basketball team, Running Rebels, in the 90's and since then has continued his legacy. He starts coaching kids at 6 years old all the way up to 17. Duran wanted

and how to have respect for people who those who were older or just in general. Many of his players grew up to be disciplined in their schooling and in whatever jobs they did. Not only did he just coach travel basketball, he also coached at Rosemead High School and many of the girls that played on his high school team played on his AAU team. Besides basketball, Duran coached baseball at Rosemead as well and just like basketball, he taught his boys how to become better players.



kids to grow up knowing that they could come to basketball practice to have fun and learn new things. Joe taught kids how to be disciplined in practice

Joe Duran grew up with his parents in Palms Spring for majority of his life. He moved down to the Los Angeles County to continue teaching young kids how to play basketball. Duran didn't think that he'd get so many kids to play on his team but many kids did. He coached his team at Garvey Park almost everyday and made sure that



all his players were comfortable and safe since back then Garvey Park wasn't the nicest place. Gang members that wanted to play in his gym would try to come in when he was coaching and play on the court but he had no problem telling them to get out almost everyday just to make sure that his girls were safe. Not only would he care for these girls but he loved each and everyone of his players unconditionally. Joe Duran was the true meaning of a father figure in everyone's life, whether you needed some advice or just a little motivation to get you through the day. Joe Duran always made sure his team had everything they needed. He went out of his way to get his players gear, food, and any other little things they wanted. Everyone always knew Duran as the coach who was a tough man but always had soft spot for his players.



Joe Duran was known as a great man, mentor, and father figure to everyone that knew him and he will always be loved by the people who knew him. Most of his coworkers knew he was also a hardcore dodger fan, he always shared ongoing jokes all baseball season. "He was a character indeed, always had a smile on his face, no matter how rough his day was, he didn't show sadness." Jesse Paz, another of our South El Monte's security shared with much emotion. Another one of our Semhs securities, Ruby, also shared her emotions towards CJ, quoting, "I remember it was a rainy tuesday, that was my last conversation with him, always a great person, never upset, I'm definitely going to continue smiling because of him, still miss him till day."



Seeing how many people talk about and how they describe CJ, without a doubt he was he a fantastic lovely individual. He definitely achieved many things, from being a father figure to many of his former students, a son to his dear mom and father. A positive person, who vanished too soon, but left plenty of people with many great memories with him. Rosemead High School have a portrait of Joe, next to all the basketball trophies won over the years, it's attributed towards him and his outstanding coaching he completed. Joe Duran, will always be remembered and his legacy will continue to go on. Many condolences to our South El Monte security, who in fact won't be forgotten and will live in the hearts of many.

On Sunday, January 14th, 2018 a vigil was hosted at Rosemead High School. Many of his previous players and his family friends came to say their last goodbyes and light a candle for him. A lot of the people that attended the vigil wore Dodger gear, in attribute towards his love for his favorite team and his travel teams' basketball gear.



**May you Rest In Paradise Joe "CJ" Duran.**



## Varsity Soccer Play Tough Games Against El Monte

By Carolina Salas  
Staff Writer

On January 31st, our varsity boys soccer team played a tough home game against El Monte that led to an unfortunate score of 0-4.

It was noticeable in the first half of the game that our boys were struggling when there were many slips and falls, but we will continue to support them.

**Adrian Meza** also mentioned that "the toughest part was seeing the El Monte team keep scoring."

When asked what could have been improved at the game, **Daniel Gomez** implied "we could've attacked and man-marked more."

**Adrian Meza** added on by saying that the outcome could've been different with a score of

"3-2... with defense being in tact and us taking more shots."

With many strategies being possible of course this game could've taken many turns and surprises.

**Gomez** also gives his team some motivational words to "try your hardest at all times and never give up", simple but effective words.

The most important thing is that these boys went out on the field and gave this game their all.

Although this game wasn't the brightest we will always be cheering them on and helping them keep their heads up.

Always remember that without darkness one cannot see the stars.

We can compare their games and this one will help show off the other amazing games they've had. Good job boys and Good luck!

On January 31st our La-

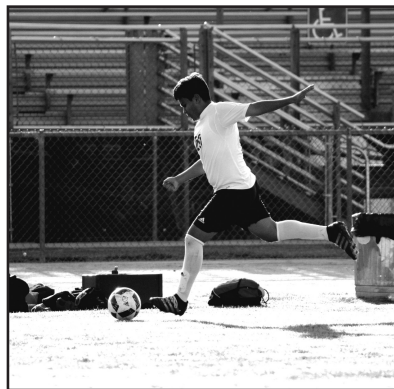
dy's Soccer Varsity Team played a violent game against El Monte at Basset Park.

The girls did a great job of keeping up and staying strong throughout the game with the final score being a tie of 2-2.

When asked what was the toughest part of the game, **Yvonne Razon** told us that "In the 15th minute of the second half we were down 2-1 and out goalie got hurt and was sent and was sent to the hospital, it was an important game and we couldn't lose. So it was tough to continue to play but we kept fighting and got that tie."

These girls really do work hard to prove to be the best and the bond to keep playing after such an incident is remarkable.

With many outcomes and possibilities to the game she told us



## Eagles' Experience Gets Them Win on Senior Night



By Eric Magana & Joseph Rodriguez  
Staff Writer

On February 2, 2018 South El Monte Girls Basketball took on the undefeated Gabrielino in their second round in the Mission Valley League.

Last time South El Monte took a tough loss against Gabrielino and they seek revenge on their home court.

Before the game, this year's seniors were given flowers and honored in their last home game.

In the first quarter South El Monte struggled to pass through the Gabrielino defense, but our Eagles managed to score some points to put pressure on Gabrielino and be able to pick the victory.

The second quarter, South El Monte had some great plays

that turned into points. **Aliza Mora, Eva Ahumada, Kattie Vazquez** and **Yaire Blanco** all scored for South in the first half.

During halftime South El Monte trailed 11-36 against Gabrielino. South El Monte Girls Head Coach **Jay Gauthier** made his coaching magic to motivate his players to work better as a team and score more points.

As **Atahisna Rojas** stated "During the games when we are down and we come together as a team to try to win the game we are scoring points and we are trying to get our confidence up.

I will tell someone new to keep trying and never give up and to just keep having a positive attitude."

In the second half our Lady Eagles came out stronger and showed more aggression towards its opponent.

South El Monte made more turnovers in the third quarter which prevented Gabrielino from scoring and the Eagles took advantage of the turnovers and scored.

Each player in the Eagles roster had a great game, both offensively and defensively throughout the entire game.

South El Monte took a loss against Gabrielino with the final score being 72-31.

Lady Eagles are being motivated by the loss to come out the next game and try to do there best to come out on top.

As **Yaire Blanco** stated "The development to do better in the upcoming game is to work together and being on the same page and understanding what are we doing on the court. I feel that I've improved the most in communication on the court. To prepare myself for a game I have great mentally before the game."

With the season coming down to a close not only our lady eagles want to win the rest of the game.

They also want to make much memories when they were a team especially for the seniors which this maybe their last sport that they might play before graduation.

As **Jasmine Robles** stated "The strategy for the rest of the season is to create more memories and get more wins for the seniors. I feel that I've become more aggressive and as a team we learned from our mistakes and to learn from them. The advice that I always remember from my coach is to always work hard, never give up."

Lady Eagles are ready to play for there last two season games against Rosemead and Marshall. Good luck Eagles!

On Friday, February 2, South El Monte basketball held its annual Senior Night honoring the years of dedication our Seniors have put into the program.

The game was played against the Gabrielino Eagles which are under .500 on the season,

so South El Monte was looking to take control of this contest.

The five seniors being represented for the night were: **Daniel Olmos, Jacob Veliz, Samuel Ortiz, Sal Tovar, and Manuel Aguilar**. All five of these skilled 4th year players played their hearts out for their last home game and it proved to prevail for the team.

The high efficient play of **Sal Tovar, Daniel Olmos,** and **Sophomore, Robert Felix** helped the SEM Eagles take care of business over the Eagles winning the game 67-61.

With this being their tenth win the team has already far surpassed the woes from last year's horrific season.

With a playoff spot in the glimpse, South El Monte is striving towards subtle progress.

After the win **Sal Tovar** gave his thoughts on the teams playoff chances with this victory. "I think that if we just win these next two games and play our best, we should be ok heading into the playoffs."

The other Senior playmaker, **Daniel Olmos** keyed in by saying, "We just have to trust that if we play good, we should get in."

South El Monte is currently 6-4 in the Mission Valley League, but the team is still being overshadowed by league heavyweights, Arroyo and Mountain View. Still with an above .500 record the CIF qualifying committee is sure to let them in their division bracket.

## Mighty Eagles Take on Gabrielino For Their Last Duel

By Cecilia Jurado  
Staff Writer

On January 30th, the Mighty Eagles went head to head on the mat with the Gabrielino Tongvas.

The dual meet took place here in the South El Monte gymnasium and the intensity was through the roof.

Every wrestler was determined to bring their best to the mat in order to come out victorious.

With the Eagles looking to come out victorious, every wrestler was on their game.

It was senior night for the SEM wrestlers so every senior was recognized for their excellent work throughout the entire season.

Each senior had written a small

speech and it had been presented by their coach before they had wrestled.

Starting off the evening first were the Lady Eagle wrestlers. Everybody was kept at the edge of their seats as the girls came out with a victory.

With wins from **Crystal Soto, Jacqueline Esquivel,** and **Araceli Maya,** as well as many other wrestlers.

With these wins the final score for the Lady Eagles was 26-4.

Following the Lady Eagles were the JV boys and following them, the varsity boys had taken the mat.

More intense battles from the boys had kept the crowd on their feet.

With wins coming **Ramzes Lucas, Omar Rangel, Danny Puentes,** and **Eriel Bar-**

**rales,** as well as many others.

With the boys putting up a very good battle, the final score was 37-33.

Although the boys had fallen behind only 4 points, it was a great way to end the season knowing that they had all given it their all.

They performed their best and were proud of their performance.

After a great season, many of our South El Monte wrestlers have qualified for southern section CIF.

Speaking to a couple, each had many positive things to say about their team and their future.

**Jaqueline Esquivel** speaks on her highlights of the season and how she and her teammates improved. She says, "I really liked and enjoyed how much our girls have

improved this season, especially since a lot of them were new."

**Jackie** also talks about her personal experience on the mat. She says, "Some of my dual meets, when I had been close to losing I always came back and ended up on top."

**Jackie** as well as many of her teammates had an outstanding season.

Speaking to another phenomenal wrestler, **Ramzes Lucas** tells about his experiences on the mat and what he thought of his team this season.

He says, "My favorite part about this season was performing to the best of my abilities."

**Ramzes** then describes how he plans to prepare for CIF. He describes his attitude and strategy. He says, "I plan to stay calm and score

points by taking my opponents down and showing my strength."

He then tells how this year the team had united as one. Last but certainly not least, **Danny Puentes** tells about the journey of his first year wrestling.

**Danny** says, "I liked the community and the sense of being able to work as a team in order to reach a certain goal."

He further explains his relationship with his teammates, "Even though we're out there alone on the mat, in practices we are all united as a family and pushing towards one goal."

Overall, our South El Monte wrestlers had an amazing season, as well as a fun filled senior night.



## Successful Senior Looks Back on Her Years Here at SEM

by Daniela Azucar  
Staff Writer

Senior, Alejandra Torres, has spent her years at South El Monte High school in multiple sports and clubs. "I've been involved in Tennis since last year, so for two years now, and a bunch of clubs like CSF, FBLA, Mundos and MECHA, also in Upward Bound," says Alejandra Torres.

For community service she volunteered to help out in numerous places such as the Church Fair.

Aside from volunteering she interns at Birch Aquarium in U.S Capitol and La Jolla. Alejandra Torres states "CSF helps me get volunteer hours and give back to the community and FBLA gives me insight in business so that's interesting for me"

As a freshman she joined the tennis team on a whim. "I had heard through my friends before that it wasn't that hard so I, wanted to try it because I used to be really shy so I wouldn't try my best, so I joined because my friends Natalie and Alex were going to try it out too.

"When I tried it, I really liked the one on one because I rather blame myself than others for missing the ball or getting mad. It seemed like

the easiest sport at the time but over time I learned it wasn't," said Torres.

Although she enjoyed tennis she doesn't see herself continuing the sport in college. "I won't join tennis after highschool, I was good but not college ready good"

Besides tennis she also joined basketball and although she enjoyed watching the sport she prefers not to play.

An interesting story you may not know is that Alejandra joined because of her favorite show.

"When I played basketball I only wanted to play because of my favorite show, One Tree Hill. The main guy, his number is 23, so when they said they were giving out the jerseys I rushed, actually I ran, and tried to get 23 but they didn't have it," said Alejandra.

"I got the other main character's number, which was 3. That's why I played with number 3 and it was all because of the show that I wanted to try basketball," states Alejandra Torres.

Out of all her years here she enjoyed her freshman year the most due to her having a fresh start to meet new friends and find herself.

"I only came in knowing one person which was my best friend Carlos, who graduated last year. So I really loved my freshman year

because everyone I know now, I met them in highschool and didn't know them before, so that was cool."

"I also came out in the Grease play. I was part of the background, but I came to every rehearsal so I Loved that play and loved meeting everyone. Now as a senior everyone already has their friends but as a freshmen everything started so that was the best part," Alejandra states.

After highschool Alejandra wants to go to a four year University and focus on a major in anything that has to do with design. "I would like to be a fashion designer or interior design, which is why I joined FBLA because of business and I want to go into marketing or something like that."

Some people who have supported her would be her friends as she states, "I would like to thank my best friend Carlos Armendariz, who graduated and left me, he's been the one I know the most for 13 years now and we basically grew up together."

"Also my best friends Julissa Amezcua and Karolyne Garcia, as well as my boyfriend, Daniel Olmos, who helped me through my struggles and always manages to put a smile on my face," Torres says.

Although she has been supported by numerous people throughout her high school years she would especially like to thank Mr. Castillo and Mr. Escamilla, "They motivated me the most because they're the one who's talked to me about how to prepare for college and think about everything that comes after highschool. And I can talk to them like a regular people, like friends."

Although her parents were always in her business she says



Senior celebrant Alejandra Torres

that in the end that helped her always stay focused on her schoolwork and what was most important for her to go to college.

Because she is thinking about going into design she wishes that she took a plw class so she could be one hundred percent sure she will like it.

she started of her highschool life as a timid student, but through the years she became more open dueto drama,tenis, and her friends.

Tennis has helped her because she would have to make sure to not let any of the points she earned slip by. Her views on tennis have grown over time



Seniors Celebrant Alejandra Torres and Salvador Tovar

Salvador Tovar talks about how he looks up and appreciates his parents, "My mom and dad are my heroes they've given me so much. The unconditional love is amazing to me. They're the best parents anyone could ever ask for, I'll do anything to make them proud."

Salvador's father has made a positive impact on his football career.

He would like to give a special shout to his coaches who "worked me out tirelessly," and to all his teachers "who helped shape my thoughts and opinions for adulthood." Tovar's coaches always make sure that he does his best, whether it

comes to basketball or football.

He would also like to thank all his friends "for making high school special for me and unforgettable. Special shout out to my offense of linemen for clearing the path for me, I couldn't have done anything without them."

Sal Tovar is a great student/athlete . who cares deeply about his friends and family . Tovar plans on furthering his career in college. Salvador always keeps a positive mindset in everything he does and everything he puts his heart in . Sal Tovar is now leaving SEMHS after making a big impact.

## Record-Breaking RB Hopes to 'Rush' to Celebrate Senior Year

by Salma Martinez  
Staff Writer

Athletic, dedicated, motivated, and ambitious are a few words to describe Salvador Tovar. Salvador has been a part of SEMHS' football, basketball, and track teams.

He talks about his history with these sports, "I'm involved in our football, basketball, and track programs. Basketball and football actually have been special to me,

because I've been playing since I was a little kid. Football when I was 6, basketball when I was 9, and I just started track my sophomore year." All of the sports that Tovar has played throughout his highschool years have been the best times. Salvador is the type of athlete who always puts his time and energy into each sport.

When asked about his memorable moments of high school he says, "It isn't just one thing, it's

everything, my friends, the teachers, and even homework. Most of all the Friday nights, hearing the chants from the stands, and playing underneath the lights, practicing in 100 degree heat, those days will always be special to me." Tovar misses all the fun times he had with his friends and all the late night practices with the boys.

Senior Salvador is a driven student athlete and takes his goals seriously, "The goals I had set for myself were to break a couple of running back records but I ended up beating all of them. I never imagined me being an All State player, and I ended up completing that, it's something I'll never forget."

Salvador plans on going to play in Hawaii in an All Star football game after graduation, which he is very excited for.

According to him, there is more than one thing that has made this year exciting for him, "The most exciting part of my senior year is embracing the time I have left with my friends, and my teachers making sure i'm not a bad student and just behaving."

For his free time Salvador enjoys playing video games and being able to relax at home.



Senior celebrant Sal Tovar

Photo by Bertha Sanchez/Eagle's Nest

## Cupid's Cheesy Pick-up Lines

by Sofia Alvarez  
Staff Writer

Valentine's Day is a day of spending time with your significant other and showing appreciation for them. Although most people believe valentine's day is for couples, you and your friends can also enjoy this day. Not only can couples take this day to count but friends and family can too. This day is for everyone who has a special place in your heart. From special gifts, chocolates, and cheesy pickup lines everyone should have a chance to experience this awesome day.

"Are you google because you're everything I'm looking for"- Ivan Booming

"Are you a light switch, because you're turning me on"- Miguel

Gonzalez

"Do you work at Little Caesars because you're hot and ready"- Joey Fregoso

"Are you a magician because whenever I look at you everything else disappears"- Alejandra Sanchez

"Are you Australian because you meet all of my koala-fications"- Bryannin

"Do you have a map, because I keep getting lost in your eyes"- Andrew Peralta

"There are 21 letters in the alphabet right? Oh, nevermind I missed U R A Q T"- Crystal Soto

"Are you from China, because I'm

China get your number"- Victor Mendoza

"Are you from Tennessee because you're the only 10 I see"- Daniel Gonzalez

"Guess what I'm wearing?", the smile you gave me"- Leslie Cardona

"Are you a keyboard because you're just my type"- Esther Alvarez

"I might as well call you Google because you have everything I am looking for"- Daniel Alvarez

"Your hand looks heavy, let me hold it for you"- Anthony Alvarez

"Are you a camera because every-time I look at you, I smile"- Breanna Ayvar

## The Life of the SEMHS Alumni

by Samantha Pardon  
Staff Writer

South El Monte's memorable alumni throughout the years, leave current students wondering where they are now, and how their life has changed.

One of the many great alumni would be Jessica Vasquez. A valedictorian who graduated in the year 2016.

As time goes on people change. Jessica states "I've naturally become more independent and recognize what's good for me and what I could do without. I've also met a lot of wonderful people from such diverse backgrounds that help break down stereotypes that we're all exposed to growing up."

"Lastly, I try to show gratitude every single day and recognize how fortunate I am to have the education and support system that I do," says Vasquez

While in her highschool journey, Jessica Vasquez worked hard to achieve a GPA over 4.0. Which allowed her to continue her studies in University of California, Berkeley.

She tells us, "I'm receiving a full ride from UC Berkeley through the Regents' and Chancellor's Scholarship for the entirety of my undergrad career."

With the aid of her school, she was able to spread her knowledge by "teach[ing] high school students and adults in under-resourced communities who have not had the time/money to go to school."

Like many college students, Jessica partakes in activities of her liking. Including; salsa dancing, song covers, road trips to San Francisco, and hanging out with friends.