



Our City News



OUR CITY , OUR STORIES Issue 1, Volume 5

Walking for a Cause

Written By: Joseph Rodriguez

Many people from the Sacramento area came together at Raleys Field on October 5th to raise money to research Lou Gehrig's disease. The event, called Strike out ALS, had dozens of teams with hundreds of participants gaining donations to raise money for their team.

My family took place in this event, and took the 5k route to raise money for a family member who has ALS. We all have a close relationship with him, and we all jumped on the opportunity to chip in and walk to raise money to help him as much as we can.

"We walked and donated on behalf of our family member, who was diagnosed with this disease



ALS Association
Fighting Lou Gehrig's Disease

– known as ALS, at the walk, I seen a lot of brave people battling this disease and living life and not giving up," said Monica Rodriguez.

This member of my family has always meant a lot to me as a person, and as a family member who I can talk to. We liked to talk about movies and he even taught me to build my first computer, which he was an expert in computers and technology in general.

I learned he had ALS last year, and it shocked me to my very core, and I was adamantly terrified about what would happen to him. I then decided to better understand what the disease was, and to take part in the event as soon as it was first brought up,

Continued on pg. 2

RC Journalism Students Meet The Press

Written By: Nadia Benafghoul and Sarina Phoung

Each month, the Sacramento Bee hosts meetings that are sponsored by the California Scholastic Journalism Initiative to promote journalism in high schools from around the capitol region.

At this month's meeting, students from River City High School had the opportunity to hear Capitol Bureau Chief Dan Smith deliver a brief insight on his experience in the field of journalism.

Smith was named deputy bureau chief of the Sacramento Bee in 1999 and bureau chief in early 2007.

His duties consist of managing seven reporters and a columnist whose main focuses



Photo By: Nadia Benafghoul

concern legislation, state workers and elections. Smith constantly meets with his reporters to assign, edit, and discuss new stories.

"You never know what will happen day to day. You never know what's going to spring up," said Smith.

In his lecture, Smith shared the pros and cons of

journalism and encouraged journalism students to promote themselves.

After sixteen years at the Bee, Smith said, "You learn a lot [from journalism] and perform a public service by presenting information to the public."



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Walking for a Cause continued..

because I owe to my family member to help as much as I can.

Lou Gehrig's disease, also known as ALS or Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, is a disease with varied symptoms, such as progressive weakness, difficulty trying to speak, decrease in muscle mass, and more. ALS is one of the five motor neuron diseases, which affects the physical parts of the body, such as eating, moving, and talking. I have seen some of these symptoms appear over this year, which inspired me to join the walk even more.

ALS was very much unknown to the public eye for a very long time, even though reports and articles brought the disease up to the public in the 1800s-1920s. But in 1939, when legendary Yankees' baseball player Lou Gehrig revealed that he had the disease and was forced to retire, ALS became known as Lou Gehrig's disease was brought into the forefront.

The event as a gigantic success,

with 50,000 donated for the fund, and hundreds of participants, which were competing in memory of family members lost to the disease, gaining and donating money for this cause. Everyone at the event was overcome with joy, and celebrations were had after the 5k walk was over hours later.

"I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the Earth, and I might have been given a bad break, but I've got an awful lot to live for," said Lou Gehrig at his retirement speech given in 1939 at Yankee Stadium.



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Where would you go if there was a zombie apocalypse?



11th grade Alexandra Rodriguez

"I would go to Costco to get food and go to live in a bomb shelter because there is only one way to get in."



12th grade Michael Moore

"I would go to the bank and lock myself in the vault along with all my belongings and tons of food and resources."



12th grade Tanya Merva

"Under water with my cat, duh. Zombies can't swim. I'd build an underwater home, and survive and everyone else would die."



Mr. Tait English 12 teacher

"I would go to Track 1 Brewery; it's one of my favorite places and a good way to go out with a bang having my favorite beer."

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*Winner will be announced during the 2nd period announcements.



Behind the Statistics

Written By: Austin Miller

Although statistics is a significant part of modern society, very few people make an attempt to understand it. Clive Thompson, a writer for *wired.com*, explained in his article “Clive Thompson on Why We Should Learn the Language of Data” that “If you don’t understand statistics, you don’t know what’s going on — and you can’t tell when you’re being lied to.”

River City’s AP Statistics class recently did a project that focused on how simple changes in the data collection process can change the results of one’s data. One pair of partners did a project on how the wording of a question changes the outcome of a survey.

The questions were “Do you consider yourself intelligent?” and “Do you think you are smart?” When asked about why they chose these questions, Alan Tern senior here at RC, said, “We wanted to see how confidence in one’s intelligence changes with the wording of a question.”

What they found confirmed their expectations. They had surveyed a total of 64 people, 32 had received the first question and 32 had received the second question. For the first question, 78.2% (25/32) of those surveyed answered yes, while 59.4% (19/32) answered yes for the second question. It appears that the wording of their question did in fact influence their responses.

At this point, one may automatically accept this as fact, but those with an understanding of statistics would say otherwise. Mr. Colligan, AP Statistics teacher

on campus explained that, “You can’t be sure; that’s what makes statistics wonderful. You can be more sure of one answer than another, and to do that, look at who’s procuring the statistics... first look at who’s doing the study, and more specifically, who’s paying for it.”

In Statistics, it is always better to choose people to survey as randomly as possible. If you want to survey West Sacramento shoppers, data found by asking the first 10 people you see at Nugget is not as sound as randomly choosing 10 people throughout the Town Center Plaza.

In the classroom they followed a system in order to ensure that their survey data was randomly selected. The system they used was to hand out Q1, skip a student, hand out Q2, skip a student, and repeat. Following a specific process like this allowed their data to be a statistically sound as possible.

It may have been more work than one normally does when surveying people, but it made their data trustworthy. “For statistics to lie, you have to assume there’s some sort of truth they’re steering you away from. In many ways, statistics gets at the idea that there is no truth, there are just different interpretations of reality with various degrees of accuracy,” said Mr. Colligan.

The mathematicians in statistics have actually found a way to mathematically prove how sound a statistics is. Mr. Colligan explained we can prove the chances that the results in this project were due to the wording of the question. How? “By running a two-sample two-tailed proportion z-test, and calculating the P-value associated with [their] data. There’s a 10.57% chance that the difference between the proportions of Yes’s in [their] 1st and 2nd question (19/32 vs. 25/32) is due to just random chance. That leaves an 89.43% chance that it’s the result of the difference in wording between [their] questions,” explained Mr. Colligan

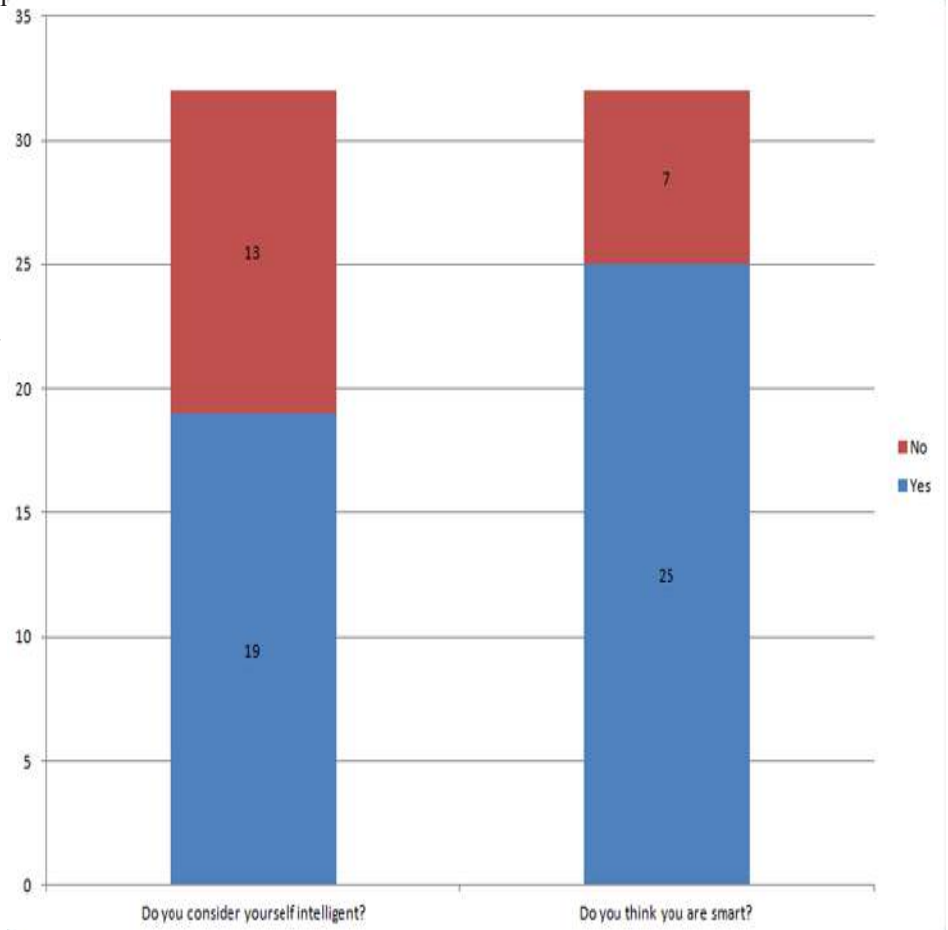
As confirmed by Mr. Colligan, the project is statistically sound, so we can safely say that there is a relationship between the wording of their question and the differences in their responses.

This is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to statistics, and yet rarely anybody understands this section of the subject. Luckily for River City, it has their own AP Statistics class that allows students to better understand the statistics around them.

AP Statistics currently goes under the radar, overshadowed by AP Calculus. AP Statistics would teach us about the math we see every day, yet is often pushed under the rug when it comes time to choose an AP Math class.

Why take Statistics? “Statistics teaches you how to find liars in the world around you,” said Alan.

Mr. Colligan said that “Students should take statistics so they know how to create truths and recognize lies. They should take statistics so they learn that nothing is certain, but instead of descending into nihilism, statistics gives people the ability to calculate uncertainty, plan for it, and accommodate it. They should take statistically so that more people in the world think statistically, meaning critically, logically.”



Anatomy of a Single Girl

Written By: Christina Parshin

Anatomy of a Single Girl by Daria Snadowsky is the sequel to *Anatomy of a Boyfriend*, though you do not need to read the *Boyfriend* in order to understand *Single Girl*.

Dominique Baylor, a pre-med at the University of Tulane is now officially single. Finally recovering from a particularly painful breakup, she wishes to reenter the dating scene full force. Upon returning to visit her parents in her Floridian hometown, where memories of her ex-boyfriend still linger, she is determined to find something to preoccupy herself with, and volunteers at the local hospital.

What she didn't expect however, was to run into Guy Davies, a frat boy at a local college who came to visit his hospitalized friend. Guy is the stereotypical romantic hero, attractive, funny, and intelligent, and Dom can't resist but asking him out.

Ensues a series of dates, each better than the last, and Dom is already

planning their wedding until a fight on the beach thrusts Guy into a new light. He doesn't want romance, marriage, or a relationship; he's looking for friends with benefits.

Shocked by his romantic views, or lack thereof, Dom spirals back into her post-breakup depression until she realizes how pointless it all is. Why *not* have fun? Why must everything lead to marriage, why not just end at summer love? She meets Guy again at a concert and the two agree to a no-strings-attached relationship that they'll break off once the summer is gone.

However, no-strings-attached proved to be more complicated than Dom ever anticipated.

In short, the book was abysmal. It was as Snadowsky sat there wondering how much more cliché could she possibly make her novel.

Anatomy of a Single Girl was the same shade of mundane as most chicklit YA novels on the market. Girl sad. Girl

meets Boy. Girl happy. It was unoriginal and the plot itself seemed forced, drawn-out despite the overall shortness of the novel, as if the author was not quite sure how to get her point across.

The characters were not dynamic, and the novel itself felt like reading someone's daily to-do list, absolutely mundane. And it was frustrating to how repetitive Dom's thought-process was, and how she couldn't feel complete without a boyfriend.

However, Snadowsky does present one idea that should be featured in more Young Adult novels, and that is the practice of safety. Dom makes sure to protect herself from possible pregnancies and STDs, which is a message that should be more widely broadcasted in order to help lower teen pregnancies and the emotional damage that derives from it.

Gravity

Written By: Tommy Rickard

Before I start the review, I want to make a quick note. These past couple weeks I have called both *Prisoners* and *Rush*, the best movies of 2013 so far. These past couple new releases in theatres, really have been that good, these are not just overstatements. And now *Gravity* has joined these films in a tie for best movie for 2013, albeit *Gravity* is a much different than both *Prisoners* and *Rush*.

Alfonso Cuarón's *Gravity* is about two astronauts, played by Sandra Bullock and George Clooney, and their mission above Earth in a satellite and their eventual fight for survival after a cloud of debris destroys the satellite. In the span of an hour and a half, the audience only follows these two characters in this one setting. It is something few modern movies even attempt to do, making this a breath of fresh air after the slog of summer movies.

The entire film takes place in zero gravity in the all-encompassing



darkness of space. With the addition of 3D, this setting gives this film a dizzying sense of verticality, the movie theatre screen seems to disappear and be replaced by a window into space. 3D is known for being a money-grabbing gimmick but it actually contributes to the movie, making it less of a movie and more of an experience. This really is the best use of 3D.

This film only has a couple lines of dialogue, because dialogue is not the most important factor in the movie. Not to say the script is bad, it serves its purpose. But, the visual effects and cinematography are the serious shining stars. The

CGI is groundbreaking, utilizing it in a way to get live actors and make them look as if they really are in zero gravity. While this is something to marvel, the cinematography is just as great for its long uninterrupted shots, causing the action to never slow down as we are always following the characters.

Gravity also has a much deeper meaning, underneath all the action lays a surprisingly deep subtext. In certain scenes, there are subliminal themes hinting to the idea of rebirth after psychologically disturbing events. This gives *Gravity* the extra push to make people possibly see it more than once.

Gravity also stands as a film about homage, echoing scenes from space classics such as Ridley Scott's *Alien* and especially Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*. *Gravity* really is something that can only be experienced on the big screen with the use of 3D, all making for an intense thrill ride of a movie.



Homecom



ing 2013!



A Night in Lights

Written By: Tommy Rickard

The theme of River City's 2013 Homecoming dance was a Night in Lights. The feeling of classic Hollywood was infused into all aspects of the dance. Spotlights shining into the air that can be seen for miles stood in front of the gym, with a red carpet leading up to the door. In H Commons, a giant screen was set up with a projector that was playing The Hunger Games.

Homecoming underwent some major changes this year, including a change in dress code. Now girls can wear strapless dresses, as opposed to when this was completely forbidden. A small change with the dance itself this year was also a new DJ, named DJ V Sol.

Another change is the inclusion of major movie themes into the dance. A real red carpet, huge spotlights and film reels decorated the outside of the gym. A movie in H Commons, simultaneously playing with the dance, added an extra activity for students who felt like getting out of the stuffy air of the gym.

Outside H Commons was a game

truck, provided by We Got Gamez, so students could play video games if they did not feel like dancing.

Sarah Edd, ASB treasurer and senior in Leadership, stated "it was really great to be able to add all these new things into the dance. It made it so everyone had something to do, even if they had different interests".

Ticket prices for homecoming this year ranged from \$12 w/ ASB, \$15 without and \$20 at the door. Presales were low at first, but sales finally increased once it came closer to the 11th.

Reception was split as always about homecoming; some people said that the music could have been a lot better, while others said it was one of the best homecomings because of all the other activities that people could take part in besides just dancing.

Aaron Saelee, senior in Leadership, said "aside from some things I wish we could have fixed, I had a lot of fun at my last homecoming of high school!"



Downtown Apocalypse

Written By: Guillermo Carias & Mason Rex

Every October, Downtown Sacramento has a zombie walk to celebrate Halloween and help raise money for events and charity. People say that it's a great way for attendees to have fun scaring people and dress up as zombies.

"I really wanted to come because some friends told me all about it, and it sounded like fun. I was not disappointed," said David Linder, senior at River City.

The zombie walk started at 6:00 pm in Old Sacramento for make-up, and 6:30 is when the event officially began. There were many people showing their Halloween spirit by dressing up and scaring people in the mall and around downtown. Families with younger children didn't complain and even cheered for the zombies.

At precisely 7:20 PM all "zombies"

gathered into the center and danced to the hit, Michael Jackson song "Thriller".

The make-up artists there were professionals and did a lot of people's zombie make-up. There was fake blood and even torn skin to make it look real so people can have a better perspective of what it would be like to be in a zombie apocalypse.

"Torn limbs and human brains is as real as it gets, that's what I look forward to seeing," said Duke Sonnier, sophomore here at River City.

There was an extra cost if anyone wanted to do extra activities. It was fifteen dollars to see live performances, watch a live hypnotist and much more. Some of the activities were for all ages but some were only for adults.

Lodi Street Fair

Written By: Laura B. Valdez



This past weekend, the Lodi street fair was held in the historic downtown area. Visitors walked through 8-10 blocks of vendor filled streets that were selling a huge variety of items from antiques to hand crafted pieces of art, each with their own flair and uniqueness that attracted many to just go see what was going on.

"The turnout is always big and I always leave selling quite a bit of merchandise," said Nail Art Sticker Vendor Linda, who has been going to the fair ever

since she heard about it.

"It isn't my first time here at the fair, I'm always impressed with the turnout and it's great for business," Linda said.

The turnout was indeed impressive. Each block was full of people and vendors who all enjoyed the fair. The variety of stalls ranged from simple food stands to hand-made Marilyn Monroe furniture pieces.

Food stalls offered Gelato, ice-cream, ribs and even wurst to customers.

Walking around the fair you could see clowns handing children balloons and making a few cry with their painted faces.

The fair was full of people from all over California that each attend for their own purposes.

Varsity Water Polo Wins

Written By: Cameron Rinetti

On October 3, the varsity water polo team won their game against Rosemont High held at River City High school at 5:30.

In the first quarter of the game, River City was winning 7 to 0 with a big lead and scoring all the points while the wind was blowing them back.

Towards the end of the second quarter, River City scored 5 more points making it 12 to 1. Junior Stetson Tate, goalkeeper for varsity did a good job blocking the shots in the second quarter.

By the end of the



River City varsity water polo won their first league game against McClatchy on October 1st with the score of 10-7. They continued their winning ways against Christian Brothers on the 9th with a final score of 12-6. Photo By Alexis Ayala

third quarter, River City scored two more points making it 14 to 1 and having a big lead. At the end of the game, the final score was 14 and 1.

This was a really good game for River City and they kept their lead the whole time. The people who scored for RC were Senior Daniel Marquez, Senior

Adam Rodgers, Senior Chris Irish, and Junior Jeret Tiller.

“To prepare for our games, we work hard, practice and condition and worked on the fundamentals” said Adam Rodgers. Practicing helped this team win and they know how to work together.

“I like water polo because its different than any land sports and I like to be in a speedo” said Daniel Marquez



Raider Soccer Looks to Improve

Written By: Gabriel Stoltz



With Varsity soccer losing their last four matches, things look dull for the next half of the season with their opener against El Dorado’s home field and blue track. We are trying to prevent what happened with players and spectators becoming violent on the field said coach Hatfield.

Some players are frightened that with the incident happening once, it could happen again but this time it could be more severe.



River City senior Julian Sanchez passes by and El Dorado defender to lead an attack with fellow senior Carlos Sandoval and Junior Alexis Castro. Photo By: Alexis Ayala

Administrators and supposedly police forces are to observe the game and maintain safety for everyone.

Even though there is a chance that RCHS might not make it to playoffs or be the best, each team should not feel threatened of their safety while playing.

The Raiders have a small chance of making playoffs with a record of 2-0-4, new tactics and playing style may take longer to adapt.

The Raiders play an interesting formation with a 4-3-3, while playing the offside line which some players disagree on.

“I think the offside line is dangerous against some teams because we are trusting the refs with the calls and high school refs are really bad” said Henry Ochoa

It will be interesting to see the outcome of the El Dorado game for without a doubt, it will be a very difficult match for there might bumps, bruises and maybe blood.

Keeping the Desi Culture Alive

Written By: Sharnita Chandra

River City has many different clubs that students can participate in. One of them is the Desi club; its purpose is to promote Indian cultural awareness. Members feel that the club brings something unique to campus.

The Desi Club started in the summer of 2012 and since then has begun to be more involved at rallies with their traditional dances. The dancing introduces students at River City to Bollywood and Bhangra. Bollywood is a style made popular by the growing Indian film industry in Mumbai and Bhangra is influenced by Punjabi folk dance.

The clubs creators are Shabrina Kumar and Karishma Becha, both currently seniors. "We both started [the club] from scratch because it is something that we truly care about and we want the idea of cultural



Desi Club performs at last May's Move-Up Rally. Photo By: Michael Briscoe

involvement and pride to spread in our generation," said Karishma.

While spreading culture throughout the school and community Shabrina added, "I really wanted to do something outstanding to show on our college applications, so we thought we should get more involved in our school."

Not only does the Desi Club participate in school rallies, but also in food day, where they sell tradition food like samosas and chutney.

The club also had a fundraiser where they painted henna body art on students for a small donation.

Karishma said, "I enjoy the fact I can be proud of my culture and learn more about it instead of shying away. I enjoy the feeling of pride in a community of people."

Shabrina added that although managing a club can sometimes be difficult, "Desi Club is new so it is a fun experience to see how things work around our school."

"This club is important because it is a way for me and others to keep our culture alive in a generation where it isn't as important or popular," says Karishma.

GSA Awareness at River City

Written By: Alyssa Reamer

Every Tuesday, at River City, students join together for Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) meetings. The students meet and share stories about their personal experiences.

Junior and president of GSA, Tony Bias, says, "I formed GSA because I believe there's not a lot of knowledge on LGBT (Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender) people, especially like the T."

Tony identifies himself as transgendered. Currently in California, there is an estimate of 6.2 million students that are identifying themselves as transgender.

GSA is formed to make a safe environment on campus for students to come and talk because not everyone is comfortable talking about this but when people go to the meetings, hopefully they will open up.

"I think I want a big affect on this school. Like I actually want to have a mini pride during lunches with like flags so people know that we're here and that we're like here to stay and that they just need to be tolerant and accepting of us," says Tony.

He's hoping GSA can go to this



year's San Francisco pride, a huge parade for the LGBT groups.

GSA is open to everyone. Members are hoping that it grows throughout the year. Every member in GSA is respectful and to show that they are accepting and respectful, they snap their fingers after someone shares their stories.

"Awesome. It's an amazing environment and I'm glad they put it in this school because most schools don't

have it, and it's just good because people usually don't talk about these kinds of things," says sophomore, Brannen Wright. Brannen hopes he can accomplish helping people feel comfortable with themselves and coming out to people.

"I'm trying to accomplish awareness. I think awareness and acceptance, the fact that people don't really accept gay people and I think it's because they don't know about them because they don't understand. I think if we get together as a group and try to get them to understand it'll work out," said Freshman, Kayla English,

Kayla feels that she can just go to the meetings and talk about her problems because everyone there understands because they have the similar things going on in their lives. She has only seen GSA at three different schools and is actually happy that we have one here

"We meet every Tuesday at lunch and sometimes we'll meet afterschool. I'll let members know ahead of time," says Tony.

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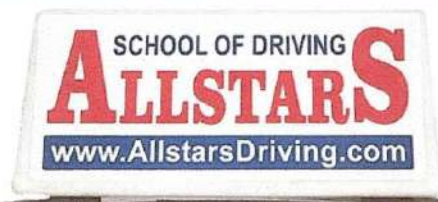


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RC Student Featured in The NY Times

Written By: Nadia Benafghoul



The New York Times Lens Blog asked teenagers across the nation to submit photos of their hometowns for a project called “My Hometown.” Thousands of teens responded to the opportunity to visually portray the uniqueness of their communities with a chance to be featured in the prestigious NY Times.

The resulting images, collected from 45 states, is a variety of photos that document the family, friends, and places that makeup the diverse hometowns around the country. These young photographers captured both urban and rural areas through their own eyes.

In order to submit photography for this project, participants had to either be enrolled in high school or be 14-18 years old. Submissions began on March 20, 2013 and ended on May 1st. All submissions had to be uploaded under the supervision of a photography class teacher or program instructor.

Among the more than 3,000 teens that submitted a photo was River City’s very own Ali Head. Her image of the Old Sugar Mill near downtown Sacramento was included in the NY Time’s blog slide show - number 78 out of 145 selected.

Ali was a student in Mr. Fogle’s 2013 spring Photojournalism class when she participated in the “My Hometown” project.

“I was very excited to see Ali’s work published, especially for her because she is such a great artist,” said Fogle.

The interactive online gallery of moments, revealing the lives of American teenagers nationwide, can be found at www.nytimes.com/projects/2013/lens-my-hometown/.