

San Ramon Valley High School

The Wolfprint

issue 01 | May 2017

Hunting the news for the rest of the pack.



Class of 2017's post-grad plans p.4

What does it mean to be transgender in 2017? p.8

SRV breaks ground on three-story building p.9

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The Wolfprint

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The Wolfprint is a student-run newspaper founded in 1956 that strives to present the student body of San Ramon Valley High School with the highest quality publication possible.

Tell us what you think!

"Letters to the Editor" must be 250 words or less and include your full name, grade level, and the best way to contact you.

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Forget small talk, go for 'big talk'

WORDS RACHEL WOOD

If you had only 24 hours to live, what would you do?

Questions similar to this are asked every day in Dana Shaffer's Oral Interpretation class at San Ramon Valley High School. At the beginning of second semester, Shaffer introduced her students to the movement called "Big Talk."

"I was searching for an activity for my oral interpretation speech class that would help students get to know one another more and continue practicing speaking face to face instead of electronic interacting, and I happened to find this Ted Talk called Big Talk," said Shaffer.

Big Talk is a social movement created by journalist Kalina Silverman that is intended for students to step out of their comfort zone with strangers, and connect on a deeper level of conversation instead of spending their time talking small talk.

"I think that when it was new and fresh it gave students a new fun different way to communicate," Shaffer said. "I saw students breaking out of their shell, I saw students play around with the aspects of one-on-one speaking."

Small talk is that awkward first conversation you have with someone. It is polite conversation about unimportant or uncontroversial matters, especially with acquaintances, most often at social events or in public.

By using Big Talk, making friends is going to be a lot easier. It is a variety of questions that make you think on a deeper level and cause you to reflect on yourself. For example, "What is one of your biggest regrets?"

"I think Big Talk is way more effective. Small Talk is so effortless, and awkward, while Big Talk pulls people out of those situations and is more informative," said San Ramon Valley Senior Nina Mondani.

In college, there are social pressures to meet new people and create lifelong friends. To all the seniors graduating this year and moving onto college, consider the benefits of Big Talk.

This movement is going to help students feel a lot more comfortable settling into their new dorm and making friends.

Silverman said in an email exchange, "Big Talk can help alleviate some of the loneliness college students face, and make them realize that we all are struggling through the same things — that it's better to just talk about them and form real relationships with each other!"

Silverman was a Journalism major at Northwestern University when she got the idea of creating the Big Talk movement. Even though she was surrounded by people at school, she still felt alone.

"I wish I had more chances to skip the small talk and meaningfully connect with my new peers during the nerve-wracking orientation phase of the first few weeks of freshman year," Silverman said.

Big Talk allows students to take that extra step and get themselves out there to meet new people.

(On Silverman's website, www.makebigtalk.com, you can purchase her card game. The deck comes with 90 cards that consist of 90 questions).



STACK OF BIG TALK CARDS. COURTESY KALINA SILVERMAN.

Alabama



Alexandria Brodie



Trent Ashoo

Arizona



Riley Purcell
Julian Sardilli



Katie Bennett
Michaela Courtemanche
Rachel Horewitz
Hannah Kahn
Vanessa Kemp
Jacob Lizano
Teagan Martinovich
Julia Podgorski
Nathalie Riddel
Olivia Scarpa
Rachel Student
Connor Van Brocklin



Forrest O'Connor
Kara Walter
Lydia Ziegler

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Emet Mah
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Dani Vallejo



Austin Borg

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Kamaile Kenny
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COLLEGE
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Nikki Razvan
Madi Reder
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LAS POSITAS COLLEGE

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Amanda Rogers



Jennifer Cima
Madeleine Coronado
Daniel Bhatt
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Jasmine Vora



Adetokunbo Haastrup



ORANGE COAST COLLEGE
Cole Reed



PASADENA
CITY COLLEGE
Kyle Batza



Blake Harrison



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SEA LIONS

Kyler Wisenor



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Colorado State University

Maren Garcia
Gabriella Hagawiesche
Joe Ingrassia
Grant Pisenti
Jack Sprague
Remie Stein



Ava Begun
Bradley Gonsalves
Nick Kesler
Cameron Lacey
Nicole Schreitmuller



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AT COLORADO SPRINGS

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Mitchell Butler
Spencer Corbett



Ryan Bayliss

Florida



Joe Sprinkle



Billy Facticeau

Georgia



The University of Georgia

Teagan Cheney

Idaho



BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

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Peter Majmundar
Kailey McKnight
Madi Murphy
Morgan Murphy
Conrad Riccio

Illinois



Cameron Clark



Jordan Miller

Indiana



Ella Kaufman



Claire Peters
Grace Ribera



Emily Berg
Hannah Dillon



Aisling Roberts



Carson Lance

Kansas



Jake Bennett
Cole McCormick

Maine



Volney Spalding

Maryland



William Daseking
Samantha Pearlstein

Massachusetts



Northeastern

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Claire Northway

Brandeis University

Jacob Margolis

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Riley Arbuckle
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Kevin Salo
Wyatt Schneider

Nevada



Nina Mondani



Molly Appleby
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Ryan Hourihan
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Zach Iler
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Kaylee Anderson

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Nelson He
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Kendall Thornton

Texas



Rachel Alford



Griffin Kuhnsman
Ben Hoffman



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JT Carlson
Jacquelin Lawson
Matt McSweeney
Tyler Opacic
Kaela Ranhoff
Nathan Roberto
Aline Spyрка
Kennedy Stadler
Katelyn Thornburg

Utah



Matthew Bertha
Joshua Cook
Cole Halversen
McKenna Jackson
Dashiell Miner
Levi Severson
Emma Wright



Brenden Allio
Andrew Burrill
Gianna Cefalu
Soren McMorris-Ketelsen
Casey Overfield
Jackson Thompson
Amber Sposeto

Virginia



Seth Garff

Washington



Cameron Capie
Ali DiMaggio
Margaret Pasqualina
Thea Pelz
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Allison Moore



Sophie Cannon

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Audrey Lindner
Nickalesh Patel
Casey Pearce



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Ellie Higgins
Emma Luera
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Blake O'Brien
Johan Zetterberg



Michael Harris

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Kyle Souza

Ireland



Sydney Turner

United Kingdom



University of London

Nicole Brodie

Gap Year

Sofia Amaral

Air Force

Robert Chambers

Navy

Shannon Giles

*All information reported to the SRV
College & Career Center as of May 15
2017

What does it mean to be transgender in 2017?

WORDS CASEY OVERFIELD

In a world where the word 'transgender' has become more and more common in day to day vocabulary, the people behind the word are often forgotten.

San Ramon Valley High School senior, Niq Muldrow, whose impact within the local LGBT+ community stretches from a seat held on the GSA youth council to running youth summits and workshops in San Francisco, is a young advocate for LGBT+ students.

Niq loves the sense of unity that is found within his youth council and adds that many kids struggle to find a place where they belong and with people they can relate to, but he finds this within the various groups he is involved with.

For Niq, being transgender means "having to prove yourself to someone every time you get out of bed, being resilient, and learning to love yourself."

Niq works hard every day to do just this, and he is especially involved through the school, where he works closely with administration to encourage classroom discussions and other activities to normalize perceptions of transgender students and their acceptance in the school.

Niq's transition includes taking testosterone, which is a process he has been doing for just over two months and is something which he will never stop. This process includes an intramuscular injection every other week which re-creates puberty. Niq is already experiencing a deepening of his voice, skin roughening, hair thickening, body fat re-distribution, and some facial hair growth.

For a younger student who might be questioning his or her identity, Niq said that "you don't have to know who you are right now. Don't be afraid to be outside of the box with a label, even if you're not sure who you are you yet."

Teenagers are in a very confusing and frustrating time of their lives, especially as they go through high school, and students who may be questioning their identity have an even harder time communicating with and fitting into their bodies and the world around them.

Melissa Bergstedt, who has been a counselor at SRV for almost 10 years, said that she is "in awe at how vocal and passionate" the school's GSA club is and how far they have come and added that "We still have a lot of work to do to fix all discrimination, but we have come the farthest of any other school in the district."

Mrs. Bergstedt is extremely involved with the warm and welcoming LGBT+ students and outside community. When asked to compare the acceptance and knowledge that people today have of LGBT+ students, she described it as "radically different." People used to not question their identities and there were no safe havens for students to truly express themselves.

Her background in the LGBT+ community goes further, since her son, Ashton Coons, is transgender and has been going through the process for a few years now.

Through both her job and personal involvement, Mrs. Bergstedt has engulfed herself into the LGBT+ community by always attending the annual GSA



LEFT: ASHTON COONS RIGHT: NIQ MULDROW
PHOTO BY KEON MACKAY

forum, becoming involved on campus to create a more safe and welcoming environment, and supporting all students through her duties as a counselor.

As both a parent and counselor, Mrs. Bergstedt said that the toughest part of working with students questioning their identities is getting them a safe space where they can begin to understand and reconcile with themselves to see who they truly are, and to then vocalize it to others.

Ashton Coons, a sophomore at San Ramon Valley high school, provided some insight on one of the events that is held within the district for LGBT+ students. The Gay-la is a prom event for LGBT+ students and their allies.

This year, the event was hosted at Monte Vista High School and students from San Ramon, Dougherty, Monte Vista, and Cal High all attended. This event is meant to be a safe space for students to express themselves and for LGBT+ couples to attend the dance, as some school districts do not allow same sex couples at their proms.

Every year, the proceeds go towards a charity and this year, they went to the Trevor Foundation, which is a suicide awareness hotline.

Ashton is an active member of the SRV GSA club, and one of the biggest issues that he wants to see addressed are ones surrounding bathroom issues. He said that students who do not understand transgender people and the fact that they may choose to use a bathroom different than their assigned gender, can view transgender people as less human and not as important.

Ashton wants to remind people that, "this is not just a phase" and that the LGBT+ community is becoming more and more comfortable and confident in the world, and they will continue to spread awareness in their communities.

The acceptance of the LGBT+ community within society has escalated, especially since June of 2015 when President Obama legalized same sex marriage, and now it is time to increase the awareness for the other branches within the LGBT+ community.

Recently on April 18, the San Ramon Valley Unified School District adopted Resolution No. 53, which further promotes "an inclusive, safe and respectful environment for ALL students, employees, and families." The SRVUSD is aiming to create a safe haven for all of their students so that they feel comfortable with themselves and with their education.

SRV breaks ground on new state-of-the-art building

WORDS ELIZABETH FERGUS

On Wednesday, May 17 during lunch, SRV students & staff, along with district representatives, community members, and construction representatives broke ground on the new three-story classroom building. Members from the marching band kicked off the ceremony with two cheerful songs. SRV principal Ruth Steele spoke first, followed by school board president Mark Jewett, as well as Town of Danville mayor Renee Morgan, and freshman leadership student Sarah Kate McElroy.

Trucks, tractors, and other heavy equipment can be seen in the construction site, which has been relatively quiet since last October. Crews are busy digging footings for buildings which are necessary for a strong foundation.

Demolition of outdated classrooms on the San Ramon Valley High School campus was completed last October, but construction only recently began.

The process to approve building plans and funding, which began in October, took about nine months. "Be patient," suggested assistant principal Bernie Phelan in October. The plans were submitted to the California Architects Board, and it was their job to make sure the building plans were structurally sound and safe.

This project allows the district to replace outdated buildings with state-of-the-art facilities that include 52 21st century, technology-based classrooms. Meanwhile, about 40 classrooms have been relocated into portables. The estimated cost of the building, which was funded by Measure D back in 2012, is 64 million dollars.

Over summer 2017, L hall which currently houses mostly chemistry classes, will be torn down. The majority of those teachers will be moved to portables.

As construction begins, project excavators will be on the lookout for Bay Miwok Tribe remains. In 2009, 22 bodies were found as much as eight feet below ground on campus.

Phelan highly doubts more remains will be found.

"There has been a total of 2 ½ months of digging and the only thing that surfaced was a dog bone over summer," Phelan said. However, construction workers



SRV GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY
PHOTO BY GIANA LILLIG

will know they've found something if they see a cap under the surface, indicating a body.

In case more Indian burials are found, a local archaeologist will be monitoring the site.

In July 2009, Native American remains were found by construction workers digging a water line. More remains were later discovered as the foundation was dug for the gym, delaying the project as archaeologists were brought in to dig.

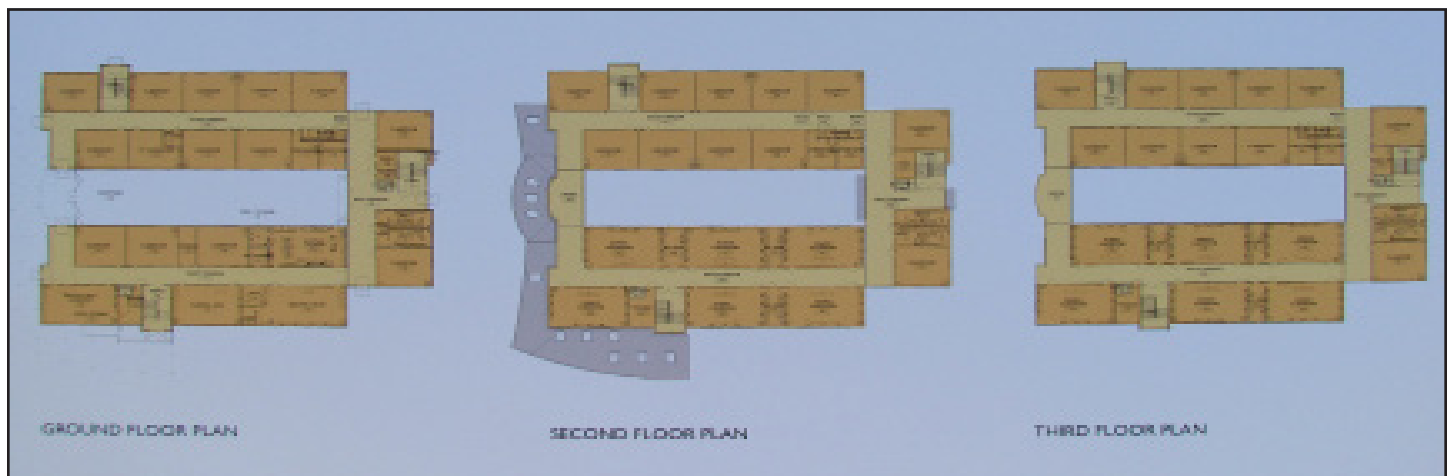
Under California law, when American Indian remains are discovered, the property owner is required to bring an archaeologist and a representative from the tribe that the remains most likely belonged to in order to oversee their removal.

According to the Danville San Ramon News, Andrew Galvan, who has traced his ancestry back to the Bay Miwok tribe that once lived in Contra Costa County, believes the remains were anywhere from 250 to 2,000 years old. They included the bones of adults, children, and infants. After the remains were removed, workers continued to construct the main gym, which was completed in 2010.

Phelan said he's "pleased with how the students are reacting to the construction on campus. So far, there have been no complaints, except the noise."

"Although it may be a hassle having to go around the green fences," he said, "on the positive note, you can hang things on them, such as posters."

Current freshmen can expect to see this construction project finished by their senior year.



ARCHITECT RENDERING OF THE NEW BUILDING FLOOR PLAN

Feminism Club: empowering the youth of today

WORDS JULIA MAOGGI

A hidden treasure in the midst of a sea full of teenagers, the SRV Feminism Club has been hard at work this year, empowering and leading students in their quest for conquering biased attitudes and prejudices.

"I'm so proud of the safe place we have created," said junior and Feminism Club Co-President, Selen Ozturk.

"We empower the people in this club to make a change. It all starts small," said senior Sam Mihalic.

As Vice President of the Feminism Club, Sam Mihalic, alongside Selen Ozturk and Niq Muldrow, presidents of the Feminism Club, remind students what true empowerment entails.

According to senior and Feminism Club member Devon Shields, feminism is "basic human respect."

Freshman Grace Johnson defines feminism as, "the power to do everything and do what I want to do." And freshman Lauren Batza believes feminism is "loving people and accepting people."

The club was founded out of frustration with the way some students disregard feminism as an important movement. According to the leaders of the club, some students live in a bubble and choose to push away other students who appear different than themselves; others are afraid to stand out, participating in an activist movement in which their friends might not be a part of.

However, the club's members strongly encourage participation in the feminist movement, for not only will students help millions of women who are brought down everyday, but students will also be given a strong support system that consists of people who all want to make a difference.

The club has participated in numerous diverse events, all revolving around the idea that equality



THE FEMINISM CLUB DISCUSSES UPCOMING EVENTS

PHOTO BY GIANA LILLIG

is freedom and community is harmony. "Next year, we want to coordinate monthly community service events," said freshman Abby Hasselbrink.

This year alone, some members of the Feminism Club have participated in the Women's March, while others have been involved with the Grassroots Campaign, an organization that promotes a variety of social issues, and the Million Mom March, held to advocate for stricter gun control.

"We also work a lot with administration and teachers to educate everyone," said Shields.

The Feminism Club promotes devotion to human rights, including equal rights for women, as well as an overall attitude of acceptance for all people.

Students can join the club and become active in the community. Even in a community as small as Danville, students have the power to create change.



MEMBERS OF THE FEMINISM CLUB MEET DURING LUNCH ON THURSDAYS IN CLASSROOM 15

PHOTO BY GIANA LILLIG

Open mic night: coffee and music

WORDS RACHEL WOOD

If you like a dash of music along with your coffee, The Coffee Shop in Walnut Creek hosts an open mic night every Tuesday at 7 p.m. Every week, people gather around to drink coffee and enjoy locals sing.

Sarah Kidson, 18, who discovered her singing talent when she was a little girl, started singing at The Coffee Shop about four months ago.

"I love it!" she said. "It's introduced me to so many people who share the same passion that I do, and sharing my music is always fun."

Kidson is not nervous about performing in front of people due to the comfortable environment The Coffee Shop creates. The smell of roasting coffee beans, the variety of lounge chairs, and the soft, warm lighting all make The Coffee Shop a place you would want to be after a long Tuesday school day.



SARAH KIDSON PERFORMING AN ORIGINAL SONG
AT THE COFFEE SHOP'S OPEN MIC NIGHT
PHOTO BY RACHEL WOOD



A PERSONALIZED LATTE FROM THE COFFEE SHOP
PHOTO BY RACHEL WOOD

The environment is accepting to people of all ages who decide to sing, play guitar, or speak poetry.

"It's a great place to hang out and socialize," said Gabby Silva, 20, a patron of the coffee shop.

The Coffee Shop has locations in Walnut Creek and Lafayette. They serve different kinds of coffee, pastries, and there is also a bar menu. For details, go to <http://coffeeshop411.com/>.

Scholarships, Scholarships and More Scholarships!

The combined class of 2017 received hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships! By accessing the SRVHS Naviance platform, seniors reviewed local and national scholarship opportunities. Also, the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) allowed many of our students to receive reduced tuition rates at participating college programs outside of CA (GPA requirements often applied). SRVHS students were also awarded merit scholarships provided by in state, and out of state, colleges with GPA's ranging from 3.0 and above (school dependent).

Over 175 students received one, or more, scholarships from the following institutions!

School	Award	School	Award	School	Award
Arcadia U	AD Distinguished	Arizona State	New American	Baylor U	Dean's Gold
Biola U	Eagle/Presidents/Dean	Boise State	WDR/Gen	Brigham Young U	Freshman/Presidential
Chico State	Academic Merit	Cal Poly SLO	Frost/Meritorious	Chapman U	Academic Merit
Clemson	Academic Merit	Colorado School of Mines	Academic Merit	Colorado Christian U	Academic Merit
CU Boulder	Presidential	Colorado State	Academic/WDR	Columbia U	Odyssey of the Mind
Loyola	Merit and Arrange	FIDM	Involvement Award	Gonzaga U	Dossant/Academic
Marymount U	Presidential	Lynn U	Academic Merit	Marquette U	Presidential/Pese
Michigan State	Presidential	Nazarene Bible College	Service Award	Oregon State	Marquette
Northern Arizona	WDR	Pepperdine U	Athletic Award	Pitzer College	Academic Merit
Pacific Lutheran	Academic Merit	Rochester Inst of Tech	Academic Merit	St. Mary's College	Beaulieu/Academic Merit
Point Loma	Academic Merit	Seattle U	Campion Scholarship	Southern Virginia U	Marriott Scholarship
Nazarene U	Dean's	Texas Christian U	Academic Merit	U of Arizona	Arizona Excellence
Santa Clara U	Archibald Day	U College Dublin	Global Excellence	U of Chicago	Dean's Scholar
Syracuse U	Capstone Scholar	U of Denver	Dean's/Pioneer Award	U of Georgia	UGA Classic
U of Alabama	WDR	U of Maryland	Presidential/Academic	U of Nevada Reno	WUE/Nevada
U of Colorado	Academic Merit	U of Portland	Presidential/Arthur A. Smith	U of Redlands	Advantage/CAHNR
Colorado Springs	Academic Merit	U of Southern California	Presidential/Academic Merit	U of Tennessee	Academic Merit
U of Indianapolis	Academic Merit	U of Utah	Academic/Marching Band Award	U of Washington	Volunteer Scholarship
U of Oregon	APRX/Summit/Lucien Asant Awards	Whitworth U	Whitworth/University	Willamette U	Purple and Gold, Odyssey of the Mind, Doggie Family and Willamette Award
U of San Francisco	Academic Merit				
U of the Pacific	Pacific/Regents/Dean's				
Washington State	WDR/Cougar Award				

THANK YOU to the many organizations who offered scholarships to our students and congratulations to all of our students who applied for, and received these scholarships and more!

NEOTC, Cabrillo Civic Club, HMC Designing Future Foundations, Adelle and Aldo Alessio Scholarships, Hispanic Scholarship, Alamo Women's Club, SRVHS PTA Senior Scholarship, Blackhawk Republican Scholarship, Blackhawk Women's Scholarship, San Ramon Valley Women's Federated Scholarship, Golden Eagle Scholarship, Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen's Award, The Chesson Perry Alumnus Junior and Jacob Murray Scholarship, The CA State and local PTSA Volunteer Spirit Award, CA State PTA 12th District Award, LGHT Activist Award, Mustang Soccer Club Academic Scholarship, Veterans of Foreign Wars Essay Contest, SRV Community Theater Award, SRVUSD Student Recognition, Blue and Gold Leadership Award, Scepterist Violet Richardson Award, SRVHS Alumni, Academic Boosters, and Athletic Boosters Scholarships, Majumdar Family, Greenbank, Montair and Rancho Romero Alumni, Nora Freitas Scholarship, Danville Lion's Club, Danville Rotary, Danville Chamber of Commerce, and Danville Women's Club, California Scholarship Federation, Coach Vin Kessian T-Bird Pride and Lady Brady Spirit Cheer.