

# Oak Views

## The Graduation Edition

### Inside this issue:

|                            |                  |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Graduation Prep            | 2/3              |
| Scholarships               | 4                |
| Scholarships & Awards      | 5                |
| Speeches                   | 6/7              |
| Graduates                  | 8/9              |
| Graduates & class pictures | 10/<br>11/<br>12 |

### OVHS Staff

- Ms. Allen, teacher
- Mr. Deck, teacher
- Mrs. Gnatowsky, aide
- Mrs. Kelem, teacher
- Mrs. Liepman, teacher
- Mr. McGugan, principal
- Mr. Rogers, counselor
- Mrs. Tribe, school psychologist



### Presenting the Oak View High School

### Class of 2018

Derren Cruz, Taylor Devers, Ashlyn Dobbie, Jacob Fuller, Michael Fuller,  
Matt Friedman, Eva Melnik, Parisa Tarani, Jonny Trogman

# Graduation Prep



Eva Melnik



Taylor Devers and her knitting donut necklace



Ms. Allen, Parisa Tarani, Ashlyn Dobbie



Alumnus Hallie Buenafe, Derren Cruz, Taylor Devers, Mr. McGugan, Matt Friedman



At left, Jacob Fuller, Jonny Trogman, & Michael Fuller sign autograph dogs.

At right, alumnus Jordan Eminente assists Derren Cruz to affix his cap. Jordan bonded with this year's graduating class at the senior retreat as he helped run it this year.





Far left, Ms. Allen helps Jacob Fuller with his tie. Middle left, Mrs. Kelem attaches Michael Fullers tassel. At left, Ms. Allen drapes Ashlyn Dobbie's honor cords around her



Derren Cruz



Jacob Fuller, Derren Cruz, Jonny Trogman, Eva Melnik, Michael Fuller



Ashlyn Dobbie's hat



Matt Friedman, Taylor Devers, Ashlyn Dobbie, Parisa Tarani

# Scholarships

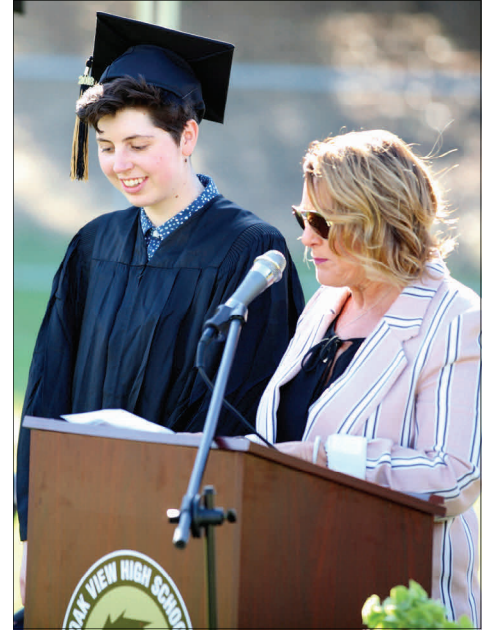
**Sam Manocchia Memorial  
Derren Cruz**



**Conejo Simi Moorpark  
Association of Realtor's  
Parisa Tarani**



**Millie Andress Memorial  
Matt Friedman**



**National Charity League  
Parisa Tarani**



**Christine E. Brown  
Excellence  
Ashlyn Dobbie**



**Staff  
Jonny Trogman & Jacob Fuller**



# Scholarships & Awards

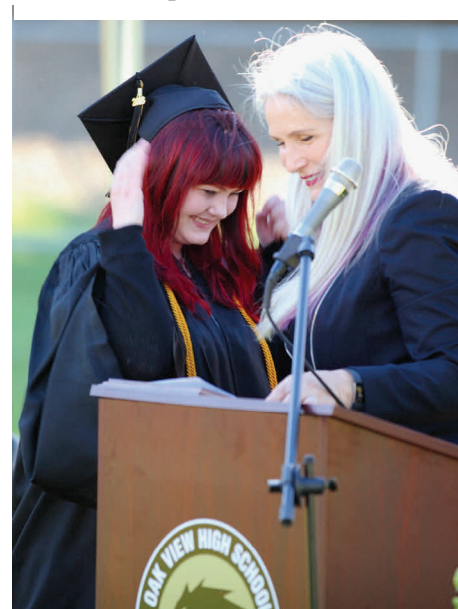
**Craig Hastings Memorial  
Michael Fuller**



**Oak Park Teachers Association  
Eva Melnik**



**OVHS Character  
Taylor Devers**



**Double Honor Cords  
Taylor Devers, Ashlyn Dobbie,  
Eva Melnik**



**Marie Panec  
Michael Fuller**



**Fish Team  
Jacob Fuller, et al.**



## Speech — Derren Cruz



Hi, my name is Derren Cruz I have been a student at Oak View for three and a half years and today I am doing something that I never thought was possible. Today I graduate. First, let me give you some background about myself. I am not a straight A student, in fact I don't believe I've gotten more than one than one A on a report card in all my years of school. I am not great with homework; this is why Oak vVew is great for me. When I am in school, I am working at my best because school is a working environment. But when I get home and have to do homework, there are so many outside distractions waiting for me, things such as my phone or my PS4.

During my sophomore year of school I played video games for an extensive number of hours. I was playing from when I got home to when I went to sleep. It was so bad that Mr. Rogers was convinced that I had a gaming addiction. But through the help of this group that he held every week called "boys group" I was finally able to realize my addiction and I was able to seek help to stop my gaming addiction. I'm 100% joking by the way, I have nothing but respect for you Mr. Rogers but the thing boys group helped me with the most was getting me a ticket to get out of class.

But in all honesty Oak View has taught me so much about myself and I couldn't be any more thankful than I am now to have gone to this school. When I was first told that I was switching over to Oak View I thought what probably most of the students who attend this school thought at one point. I thought my life was over. Being a student at Oak Park High, you hear a lot of bad rumors of Oak View and at this time I was a naive freshman and I believed these rumors. But to my surprise, the first day I attended Oak View I saw that these rumors were false. I was welcomed with open arms by

the teachers, staff and surprisingly the students. I quickly adapted to the environment of Oak View because it is a very small school.

The great thing about being in such a small school is that everyone gets very close to each other. Oak View is like a little family and I am very thankful to have been a student here for so long. Oak View has been a wild ride. From failing Mrs. Kellems' Art History class, lying in a tree in Mrs. Liepman's walking class, getting through hell on earth AKA Ms. Allen's careers class, I have experienced it all and this is truly an experience I won't ever forget. I just want to say thank you to my parents and to the Oak View staff.

Mom, Dad, Lolo Pete and Lola Ollie, thank you for putting up with my horrible attitude, weird sleep schedule, and most importantly my messy room. Thank you staff who are here at Oak View because you have helped shape me into the person I am today and you all gave me a second chance at learning. It is because of you all that I was able to find what I want to do after high school. I ship out for Army basic training in 17 days and I couldn't have done it without the help of Mr. McGugan and Mr. Rogers because they are the ones that helped me get in touch with my recruiter. Thank you again for everything you guys have done for me. Lastly I would just like to say a few words to the class of 2018. As Mr. McGugan would say, "You're done"



## Speech — Ashlyn Dobbie

Two years ago I never would have imagined myself standing in front of the class and reading a graduation speech. I just didn't think it was going to happen. I thought I wasn't smart enough to write a nice essay, not popular enough to make an impact. Maybe I just didn't care. I didn't care about a lot of things at the time but one thing was for certain, I didn't care about the people around me.

Now excuse me for breaking the first rule of a good graduation speech and talking about myself... but the hope is that I'm not. The idea is that I'm talking about you guys, too.

Our little class of nine, we've come from all over. We're all here for different reasons. Maybe it was grades, maybe we needed more time in our schedule, to get a chance to breathe, maybe we were just too different from students at a big school. So different but also so similar at the same time. I know we are because after I came to this school, for once I had felt like getting to know the students around me was worthwhile.

When I heard that I had the opportunity to speak for our class of 2018, I jumped on that so fast man. So just listen to me real quick. I'm serious. Listen.

I'm going to tell you something *they* don't want you to know. Whoever that "they" is in your life, I'm going to tell you what *they* don't want you to know. *They* don't want you to be happy. *They* don't want you to be happy, and do you know why? It's because when you're happy, you're on the offense. When you're happy you're going to feel like nothing is in your way, and nothing will stop you from reaching the place where you want to be. And when you reach that point, you can't be controlled. You cannot be controlled. You're in charge. *They* don't like that.

So as long as you do no harm, just go and do whatever it is that makes you happy. Look like whatever you want to look like. Wear whatever clothes make you comfortable and love whoever it is that you want to love. Pick up that instrument you thought you'd never be good at, draw whatever you want to draw even if you think you're terrible and rewatch whatever weird tv show you were a fan of back in middle school. If it makes you feel good, just get out there and do it! Don't grow up and regret never doing the things you always wanted. Because when you're doing what you love and you're vibing and having a great time, you're in control.

I swear it's like people get personally offended by the fact that you can just walk around with a big ol' smile on your face for no reason other than the fact that you just can. Have you ever noticed that? It's actually hilarious. I have to ask myself though, why is that such a bother to people? Why do people get so annoyed by seeing successful, vibrant individuals just going about their day? I mean I wish I had an answer but I just don't. Jealousy? Resentment? Regret that they never took charge of their life? Maybe they never had the ability to because they just weren't... happy doing what they wanted to do. Don't end up like that. Don't let yourself waste away like that.

I don't expect everyone here to take something away from this. But if I can just get one of you to see the way I've learned to see things, that's all that matters. So there's two things you can do here. You can look at me standing in front you with blank faces and glassy eyes, thinking that I'm just another person who pretends they have their life together and feels the need to preach about it. That, or you can *do something about it*. Are you hearing me? You can do something about it. I don't care about the fact that I'm the hundreth person to tell you that. I'll keep on saying it. People are going to try to make you feel like you're nothing. Are you really going to let them do that? If someone is ruining your day, ruin THEIR day! By loving yourself. It's awesome.

And just try to be kind to others while you're at it. We kids - and yes that is what we are, what we *all* are - already have so many people trying to tear us down, it's time to start helping each other back up.

Look I'm not perfect, I'm probably not even the most qualified person to be giving this speech. I've been a jerk, I've hated people, I've hated myself. I realized that it was such a waste. I learned to live by a new rule. Hope you understand - Take no \*\*\*\*, do no harm. Make sense? I would have everyone in the audience say it with me but I feel like that's just pushing it.

Guys, we are so young. We have so much potential to do great things. Amazing things. So as we continue on with our journey, blazing new trails, never forget the person who got you here. You.



## 2018 Graduates

### Derren Yujuico Cruz -

Derren is unfailingly kind, warm, and funny. He has a great love and



honor for his family and an abiding faith in God.

Derren understands the value of hard work and expresses gratitude for all of the gifts he has been given. He is a faithful son, friend, and a true citizen of this country. Keep those shoes shined, Derren, the Army will love you for it.

### Taylor Rae Devers

Taylor may be an enigma to those who don't know her, but those of us who do have loved watching her blossom into a strong leader, a gifted student, and a true and loyal friend.

She can always be counted on to say the right thing, do the right thing, and be the right person. She is a born editor and is sure to make magic for all of us to enjoy.



### Ashlyn Ellen Dobbie



launching pad to a life of art and adventure in the wilds of Florida and beyond. We will miss her wonderful sense of humor, her gift for conversation, and really, just everything about her.

Ashlyn is a multi-faceted human who brings delight and positivity into all she does. She is a valued creator of our school culture, making her time here

### Matthew James Friedman

Matt came to us a shy, even timid young froshie four years ago. I'll never forget the day you exclaimed "I love it here!" bursting with happiness at having found a home. It hasn't always been an easy path we've travelled together, but no journey worth taking is without bumps. As much as you have changed, you have changed us too, so much for the better.





## 2018 Graduates

### Michael David Fuller

Michael is a hero horse rescuer, and is already well established in his adult responsibilities. He rides rodeo and works nearly full time while planning a career as a firefighter. Michael has a great respect for nature and a deep love for horses. And he turned out to be a pretty good writer, too! We will miss our true Oak View High School cowboy!



### Jacob Lee Fuller

Jacob knows who he is and is comfortable in his own shoes. I have enjoyed his love and knowledge of history, and we have had many wonderful con-



versations over the years. He has made my classes more interesting with his contributions. We hope you will match this with your love of gaming and create the next great video game.

### Eva Danielle Melnik



An early graduate, Eva is driven to accomplish her goals for her education and adult life. She has a lot of school pride and was a vital part of

ASB. Her warm smile is endearing to all who have the privilege to know her, showing care and concern for all. Her natural talents in understanding and supporting others will make her into an excellent psychologist.

### Parisa Setareh Tarani

Parisa has grown from a wonderfully silly, wide-eyed freshman to a mature, driven, headed-to-college-and-a-teaching-career graduate. I will always cherish our talks, our notes, and our knitting sessions because they revealed you as such a compassionate yet practical, fun yet hard-working young woman. I'd say the world will love you, but it already does.



## 2018 Graduates

### Jonathan Martin Trogman

Jonny is such a charmer, and has a wonderful sense of humor. He has already enrolled in college and is earning credits toward a degree. He loves his family and has made many friendships here at Oak View. Always smiling and cheerful, his presence will be deeply missed.



### Ian Stewart McGugan

You first came to us as an intern counselor, so wide-eyed and delicate. We know that's when you first began developing and applying your famous resilience.

You joined the staff at a crucial turning

point in Oak View's history, reinvigorating our program, our campus, and our staff. You have brought us a wealth of new classes, Flex Friday, and a lot of school spirit. Your football rants, kickball homeruns, and accidental student injuries made every Thursday a treat. We were so proud to help nominate you for your win as 2017-18 ACSA Region 13 Continuation Education Options Administrator of the Year, a wonderful accomplishment for someone with only 5 years as a principal. From us and all the graduates: You're done.





For access to these and more pictures, email: [sallen@opusd.org](mailto:sallen@opusd.org)

## Oak View High School

5701 E. Conifer St.  
Oak Park, CA 91377

Phone: (818)735-3217  
Fax: (818)735-3290  
E-mail: [sallen@oakparkusd.org](mailto:sallen@oakparkusd.org)

**Respect,  
Resilience,  
Responsibility**

