

The Spartan Times

Included
in this
issue:



The First "Paranaut"



Work to Win



Spring Blooms

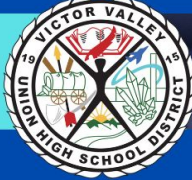
Achieve & Receive

By: Julia Quintana

2024-2025

ACHIEVE & RECEIVE

Testing Incentive Program
for VVUHSD Students



Students who meet or exceed standards in English or math will earn:

11th grade: A \$250 credit for each subject (up to \$500) to be used toward your senior package!

8th grade: A \$100 ASB store credit for each subject (up to \$200) at your high school in 9th grade!

7th grade: A fun trip in your 8th-grade year!

Earn up to \$500 and other rewards for your performance on CAASPP state tests!

**TESTING WINDOW:
April 1 - May 28**

Contact your school principal for more details

Achieve and Receive is a testing incentive program that rewards students who attend VVUHSD schools and meet or exceed the standards on the state test with up to \$500 in ASB credit.

8th grade students who meet or exceed the standards in a subject will be given up to \$100 in ASB credit and 11th grade students will receive \$250 per subject, up to \$500 in ASB credit.

7th grade students who meet or exceed the standard will be able to attend a trip for their 8th grade year.

This year, the 8th grade students who met or exceeded the standards last year in 7th grade were rewarded with a trip to Knotts Berry Farm.

Students are not given cash; they are given ASB credit to pay for things like Prom tickets, Grad Night, school attire, and anything sold through the ASB store.

State testing will be taking place this quarter April 14-22, so make sure to do your best on the test. This is your chance to prove what you've learned. Make it count Spartans.

Review: "Devil In Our Family"

By: Michael Aguirre



Director Olly Lambert and screenwriter Andre Tacy worked with Passion Pictures to release the docu series "Devil in our Family: The Fall of Ruby Franke".

This series exposes the horrific things the kids of the famous YouTube family "8 passengers" had to endure. Ruby Franke's eldest daughter Shari Franke, eldest son Chad Franke, and husband Kevin Franke spoke out against the emotional manipulation and physical abuse they faced in the household.

This documentary was one that was incredibly interesting; if you enjoy watching true crime shows this is a perfect one for you. It was a sad and heartfelt series; the information provided and the items that they talked about were crazy to hear and think about.

This series was rated a 7.5/10 by critics but a 10/10 for me.



SCHOOL LIFE

The First “Paranaut”

By: Aileen Moreno

In late 2022, John McFall, a British surgeon and Paralympic sprinter, was selected by the European Space Agency during its Fly! Feasibility Study to explore the possibility of astronauts with disabilities engaging in space missions.

In February of 2025, McFall was medically approved to launch on a



John McFall, the “Paranaut”

long-duration mission, marking a historic milestone for inclusive space exploration (Space.com).

How did McFall get to this point? Well, in 2000, at 19 years old, McFall had gotten into a motorcycle accident which led to his right leg being amputated; since then, he has won multiple awards for sprinting and earned a bachelor in medicine and surgery (Smithsonian Magazine, Diversity & Inclusion).

The Fly! Feasibility Study focused on evaluating prosthetic functionality aboard the ISS, marking a significant step toward inclusivity in space exploration. This initiative represents a “cultural shift,” according to McFall. McFall was selected from among 22,500 applicants to participate in this groundbreaking project, which aims to make space travel more accessible to individuals with disabilities.

The duration of the mission will be about six months; however, there is no set date for when he’ll be flying (Space.com).

Now, at the age of 43, McFall has established a family life, being married with three children. In support of his career as an astronaut, his family has moved to Germany (BBC, Wikipedia).

Spring Blooms

By: Aurora M

Spring is sneaking up on us, starting Early April ending late June. It brings warmer temperatures and longer days.

Speaking of longer days, Daylight savings started Sunday, March 9. Meaning that our time springs forward an hour, but starting Sunday November 2nd time falls back an hour.

Right after Spring break, testing will occur starting the 7th of April.

April also highlights a series of important events, like Easter, Earth Day, the Coachella Music festivals and more.

Spring Invites everyone to celebrate life and the beauty of the world around us.



Work to win

By: Ivy Tovar

Aaden Ponce and Angelo Mikalinis have officially been recognised as the class of 2025’s Valedictorian and Salutatorian. Both will be accepting their recognition at graduation on May 23rd at the High Desert Church.

Aaden states he feels “proud to get valedictorian” because he never thought he’d get it for simply doing his work. He currently has a 4.14 GPA and he hopes his parents and teachers are proud of him too. Even though his parents were not very strict when it came to grades, Aaden set an expectation for himself to get anything higher than a C and it clearly paid off.

Angelo didn’t necessarily come into the game thinking he’d be the salutatorian; all he wanted was good grades in order to get accepted into colleges. He currently sits at a 4.0 and states “it feels cool to be up there.” He says all his hard work has paid off and he’s glad to be where he is.

Ms. Gallo, senior class advisor, stated, “This year’s senior class is very driven, hard-working, funny, and charismatic.” They are her favorite senior class so far. She informed us that Aaden’s speech will be about what’s planned ahead for the future and Angelo’s speech will be about all the memories of high school.

Every year, two hard working students are named valedictorian and salutatorian of their class. You may not get to be the top scholar in your class, but that doesn’t mean you shouldn’t try.

Many people have had successful lives and they weren’t at the top of their classes. It all depends on you, so, will you be the next Valedictorian or salutatorian?

Dr Seuss once said “ you have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose” (Dr Seuss).



Aaden Ponce and Angelou Mikalinis