



# Agenda Report

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**Agenda of:** March 11, 2025

**Department:** Administration

**Subject:** Proclamation recognizing the outstanding accomplishments of Mr. Jonah Winkler and Miss Juliana Herrera.

**Recommended Motion:** N/A

**Background:** Mr. Jonah Winkler and Miss Juliana Herrera were recognized as Junior Citizens of the Year by the Castroville Area Chamber of Commerce at their annual membership dinner on January 30<sup>th</sup>. These youth have each contributed to the Castroville community in significant ways and have modeled servant leadership through selfless service.

Brief Biographies of both recipients:

Jonah Winkler. He is a senior at Medina Valley. His overall GPA is 4.47 and he is ranked 36 out of 556 which is Top 7%. He has 18 dual credit hours currently.

He is currently Senior Class Treasurer, Peers for Positive Change Officer and a member of NHS and Student Council.

Jonah is a 4-year varsity member of the Medina Valley Swim team and has attained school records and awards. He has also been active in Cross Country and Track and even the short lived MV Water Polo team. He has participated in USA Swimming for several years and is a charter member of the MV Swim Club. Jonah was also a Medina Valley CyberPatriot participating in events and competitions.

Jonah has been employed at Hermann Sons Camp as a Camp Counselor & Lifeguard during the summers. He has worked at the front desk and as a spa assistant as needed at Hillside Boutique Hotel & Spa for many years and had various job roles at the Hillside Texas Bistro Restaurant as well.

Jonah's community service hours and volunteerism includes First Baptist Church of Castroville, Children of the Republic of Texas, Peers for Positive Change, Swim Meets, Track & Cross Country Meets, Castroville Otters Swim Team, Hermann Sons Life Camp Counselor in Training, Special Olympics, St. Louis Day and Candlelight Historic Home Tour.

Jonah is still deciding on colleges and hopes to major in Engineering or Business.

**Here are some highlights from his Chamber of Commerce essay:**

I feel fortunate to have been raised in a charming, historic town that has also allowed me to build lifelong connections. I met my best friend at Music Makers at the Castroville Library, formed friendships in preschool that have lasted through high school, and earned blue ribbons with the Castroville Otters Swim Team. I've made my closest friends in youth sports, library camps, church, and love catching up with everyone at our community events like Old Fashioned Christmas.

When I was born, my parents brought me home to an apartment above the front desk of Hillside Boutique Hotel, which they purchased and worked hard to restore. I spent much of my childhood there, taking on various roles. Through these experiences, I learned valuable lessons about business ownership. Helping my dad with challenging projects sparked my interest in problem-solving, creative thinking, and task completion—qualities that have inspired me to pursue mechanical engineering in college. I always felt proud when the hotel donated or sponsored to help our community.

The sense of community in Castroville is something I deeply value. I experienced this firsthand when my dad passed away during my freshman year. It was a shocking transition, especially with my brother leaving for college. When we needed it most, families from our community showered us with love and care, supporting me through the hardest time in my life. More recently, when my best friend, Cara, was fighting for her life after a drunk driving accident, I was able to offer the same support. These experiences have shown me how fortunate I am to live in a town where people truly care.

One way I'd improve the community is by encouraging young people to become more engaged with Castroville's historic roots. When I was younger, my family learned about our Alsatian heritage, inspiring me to create a senior project assisting the Historic Candlelight Home Tour. High school volunteers had fun learning about our town's history and helped organize the event. The experience sparked a love for the town's heritage that I hope to continue by involving more students in similar projects. As I graduate, I'll encourage the next senior officers to keep this tradition alive in preserving our town's history.

I will always cherish Castroville for its unique community that is empathetic, loving, and cares for one another in times of need. My hope is that more young people will continue to be involved in the community through various activities and gain a deeper appreciation for its rich history. Castroville is truly a special place, and I am proud to call it home.

Julianna Herrera is a senior at Medina Valley. Julianna is currently ranked 10th out of 565 with a 4.73 grade point average. She will graduate in May with 38 college credits and a STEM Science Endorsement.

She is President of the National Honor Society, provides customer service and marketing assistance at Julianna's Restaurant, and is the Social Media Manager for FFA Area 7. She assists with social media and event planning at Alamo Community Church in San Antonio and even served on a mission team to Vietnam for a 10-day children's mission.

She serves as huddle leader for Medina Valley Fellowship of Christian Athletes, is an Area Officer in Area VII FFA Association and Community Outreach Coordinator for Peers for Positive Change.

She is on the MV Swim team and has competed in numerous competitions for Medina Valley FFA.

Her community service includes assisting remedial students as Mu Alpha Theta member and numerous service projects and hours in National Honor Society, Medina Valley FFA, Medina Valley FCA, Area 7

FFA Association, Alamo Community Church, Peers for Positive Change and Texas Department of Agriculture Health Ambassador.

Julianna plans to attend Texas A&M to get a double major in Ag leadership and Nutrition.

**Here are some highlights from her Chamber of Commerce essay:**

“Community” a word that encapsulates a group of people by their location or as Oxford Dictionary would define it as, “a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common”. Luckily for me, I have had the absolute privilege of being raised in perhaps the sweetest community known as Castroville. Although I’m not a native Castrovillian, this community has embraced me fully and completely and built me into the person I am today. Many will say that they can’t wait to get out of their hometown, but for me these familiar roads and faces are ones I hope to always frequent. As a child who has truly grown up before the eyes of our community as they have supported my parents’ craft for many years, I consider this community my livelihood, but most importantly the greatest influence on me and my dreams and aspirations. This community means more than I can possibly put into words, but I’ll start by saying that it is my sweet haven. The people I have met have fueled my servant heart to find a place for all and truly lead like Jesus. They have fostered my love for agriculture, entrepreneurship, and my faith. Without a doubt I know that I will continue to not only work to make this community proud but also make it a place that others love just as much as I do.

Medina Valley ISD is currently the 5th fastest growing school district in Texas. I have seen this growth firsthand as my once 250-person class has grown to a daunting 565. This growth can seem scary to many as the preservation of our history and values may seem at stake, but I truly believe that by making this place somewhere one can’t help but love, we can combat fearful changes. After all, how beautiful is it that we have created such a wonderful community to grow in that others desire to experience? From beautiful celebrations like Old Fashioned Christmas or St. Louis day to the streets of historic Castroville filled with delicious food, carefully crafted pottery, and of course immense Alsatian beauty, we have so much to offer. I feel that we would be doing new members of our community a disservice if we didn't make them feel right at home. I feel that a solution can be found in a welcoming committee in our town. I envision this committee to be made up of highly involved individuals from native citizens in the stage of retirement to driven high school students. By creating a diverse group of people who aim to highlight the beauty of our community to others, we can take one step closer to welcoming new members of the community. These individuals could plan events targeted at newbies that help educate them on our rich history and truly make them feel valued and comfortable. Castroville is truly a slice of heaven, and I aim to introduce this sweet corner of the earth to all those who desire to embrace it!

**Fiscal Impact: N/A**

☐ Budgeted   ☐ Requires Budget Amendment

**Source of Funding:**

**Attachments: None**

**Urgency (0-5 = Low Urgency to High Urgency): 3**

**Impact (0-5 = Low Impact to High Impact): 3**

**Submitted by: Mayor Schroeder**