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SANTA MARIA JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

April 4, 2022

Pioneer Valley High School's Makai Copado and Righetti High School's Steven Villanueva earned first and third place respectively, during the Santa Barbara County Poetry Slam 2022.

Copado, 11th grade, and Villanueva, 12th grade, impressed the judges with their original poetry, enthusiasm, delivery, and audience participation. The county-wide competition took place via Zoom on March 31.

Panther Drama Teacher Selyn Harwin said, "Makai is a very talented and gifted student, and I am incredibly proud that he was able to take home the win this year. Makai's passion for the performing arts extends way beyond theatre and I am thankful the county has given this opportunity for our students to try new forms of self-expression."

Copado's poems included, "What We've Done Is What We Know" and "I'll Love You Forever." Villanueva's poems were entitled, "Peaceful, Screaming, Golden Gleam" and Hammer of Justice."

The competition is a program of the Santa Barbara County Education Office Educational Technology Services Department.

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