

164 Gallup High students earn diplomas

Written by Story and Photos by Tom Hartsock
Friday, 22 May 2015 15:12



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One hundred and sixty-four happy students became graduates at the commencement exercise last Friday, May 15, in the arena of Red Rock Park. Undeterred by the chilly weather and wind, a very large collection of family and friends attended the event in support of these students.

The lengthy ceremony included the Presentation of Colors by the GHS JROTC, the Pledge of Allegiance led by Lakota Jordan, the national anthem by Blaine Yazzie, and a tri-cultural prayer by: Mia Salazar in English, Govinda Lingayat in Hindu, and Shawn Jim in Navajo.

Dr. Kim Orr, the principal of GHS, welcomed the guests and introduced the special people in attendance. Mike Butkovich, the previous principal, was the guest speaker, and honor graduates were recognized.

The Salutatorian Address was given by Esmerelda Arreguin, and a double Valedictorian Address was given by Kayla Begay and Loisse Ledris, who had tied for the top honor.

Smiles and laughter followed when Lakota Jordan, Alena Gaze, Mia Salazar, Govinda Lingayat, Tilea Reyna, Cheyenne Livingston and Kristel Brown regaled their classmates and the audience with remembrances of their four years at Gallup High.

Then it all got serious, kind of, as Domonic Romero presented the class to the gathering, and School Board President Joe Menini accepted the certification as the students collected diplomas that will mark the next step in their life.

Class Songs were played during the recessional: Don't (you) Forget About Me by Simple Minds; Forever Young by Jay Z; and Don't Blink by Kenny Chesney.

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Congratulations!