



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Caps were tossed aloft in the traditional celebration of a milestone in local students' lives.

**GRADUATION:**

Theme of community was prevalent

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were then introduced and gave their speeches. Langley Vogt started off the speeches and offered her list of 10 things she would miss about Sisters High School and the students. Topping the list was, "I'll miss the caring, genuine teachers." Nila Lukens was up next, thanked her 114 classmates and said, "We are indescribable.

"I am filled with a lot of emotions tonight," Lukens said, "but highest on the list is gratitude." She thanked many people, including "thank you class for your adventurous spirit."

Valedictorian Maddi Boettner then provided the most comical speech of the night, describing the quirks of her peers. But she also turned serious, saying, "I've become a better person because of the teachers here, noting that her parents and her teachers "taught me many lessons beyond the classroom."

And she said directly to her peers: "We will always be Outlaws."

That theme of community was expressed often through the weekend.

Graduate Kendra Kemp told *The Nugget*, "The senior class is made of a bunch of different, unique people, but we genuinely care about our school, community and each other, we are a big crazy family."

The graduation ceremony

continued with the senior song sung by Emily Christen, Kendra Kemp and Dakota Wagner, with additional music provided by members of the Sisters High School Band and Americana Project class. Graduation night ended with the presentation of the diplomas by Mark Stewart to the senior class. The seniors then had their recession out of the high school for the last time.

To cap the night, the class was escorted by ambulances, hanging out of buses on their way to the all-night grad party at Juniper Pool to celebrate the Class of 2015.

**FESTIVAL:** Event is marking 20th year in Sisters

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Longley; Australian-songwriter Jordie Lane; Fort Worth, Texas-based Luke Wade and No Civilians; Jonathan Byrd and the Pickup Cowboys; Western swing fiddler Katie Glassman and Snapshot; bluegrass rockers Mountain Heart; Dave McGraw and Mandy Fer; The Weather Machine; Freddy & Francine; Beth Wood; Dennis McGregor; The Ballroom Thieves; Gretchen Peters; Young Dubliners; Tracy Grammer, Chris Rosser; Jefferson Hamer; Buddy Mondlock; Lance Canales & the Flood, Halden Wofford and the Hi Beams; Brad Tisdell, Bob Hemenger, and more.

"For the festival to continue to grow and thrive, we need to bring in new acts that are introduced to our audience and become fan favorites. We also get requests to bring past artists back, so we selectively choose when the right time is for both the festival and the artists," said Creative Director Brad Tisdell.

There will be performances on 10 stages over three days, and this year will include Fir Street Park hosting festival performers to play on a free community stage.

"We get such tremendous support from the community, we want to be sure folks in Sisters get to appreciate and experience some of the music the festival offers, including Fir Street Park and Sunday's free Community Show at the Village Green, hosted by Beth Wood," said Tisdell.

The festival also hosts the 14th annual Americana Song Academy at Caldera, Sept. 8-11, which has become a pilgrimage for songwriters to learn from the pros and build community around music. Teaching artists for 2015 include: Beth Nielsen Chapman; Buddy Mondlock; Gretchen Peters; Ryan Montbleau; Tift Merritt; The Ballroom Thieves; Darlingside; Chris Rosser; Mandolin Orange; Jefferson Hamer; Liz Longley; Jordie Lane; and Jonathan Byrd.

The Academy is already sold out for this year, but registration for the 2016 Academy will open in early November.

For tickets and artist information, visit [www.sistersfolkfestival.org](http://www.sistersfolkfestival.org) or call the office at 541-549-4979.

A complete listing of the initial lineup is available at the website.

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