

Sisters salutes...

Judy Stewart "Moma" wrote:

"Seventeen years ago I was summoned by my family to move from Santa Fe, New Mexico, to Sisters to be near their busy family. With two older sisters, who needed lots of guidance, I found myself in the company of a 2-year-old grandson and we were together often. I think I spent hundreds of hours watching him play in Village Green Park and licked as many ice cream cones from Sno Cap Drive In. I watched him grow through all of the phases that our children go through.

"Without getting too sentimental, as grandmothers have a tendency to do, I want to share the results of investing myself in my grandson.

"With many interests, his feats have been shared in *The Nugget* through the years: honor roll, astronomy club, science club, ski club, an advocate of re-enactments of the Civil War and he was interviewed at age 11 due to an enormous foxhole which was dug on his father's property in Camp Sherman.

"Instead of spending his senior year at Sisters High School, Christopher Lundgren made application to United World College and is accepted into their two-year program. With campuses worldwide he will be off next year to UWC in Montezuma, New Mexico, situated in an old castle-like building in a very beautiful part of the state.

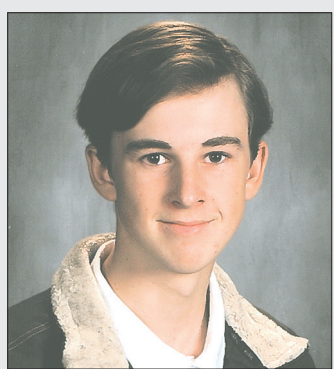
"Christopher was offered a \$50,000 Davis scholarship because the school likes the picture of what he represents.

"So, I'm saying 'Farewell' to my wonderful friend in the autumn because he grew up far too fast and now must go out into the world and find out how he will fit into it.

"I want to share this happy event in a world full of coronavirus, protests and fear to remind us to anchor ourselves to the goodness around us and realize that such good opportunities are still happening.

"Thanks to this sturdy, devoted little town and all of our great parents, grandparents, and teachers, Sisters produces great kids.

"Good luck to Christopher and all of the youth launching out in different directions."



GRADUATION: Sisters High School made the most of the moment

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direction of choir instructor Rick Johnson. Another student, Ian Cash, and his father Brian, then pulled it all together.

Before fully getting underway with the ceremony, Hosang shared special thanks to a number of people and organizations, including the Sisters Rodeo Association for the use of the facility and providing volunteers to make the event happen.

"This has been a huge community effort, which is why I love being part of the Sisters community," he said.

Hosang also recognized three high school staff members who are leaving the district this year, including teacher Andy Scheele, who will be working at the school in Warm Springs, teacher Leah Soloff, who is moving to Chicago to be closer to her son, and para-professional Rongi Yost, who is retiring.

Applause was replaced with horn blasts.

Rather than giving

separate speeches, seven valedictorians — Lola Green, Lydia Bartlett, Olivia Hougham, Joelle Asson, Kate Bowen, Maddison Anderson, and Evan Martinez — collaborated on a video message that included some "lessons" they learned during their school years, including how attitude matters in the face of adversity.

One said, "In the blink of an eye the last of our senior year was taken from us and we all had to process the frustration and sadness in our own way and in our own time, but from this we have grown in new ways."

Another added, "It is important to recognize that we are never truly alone... now is the time to place the common good ahead of our personal desires by working together."

"We are all responsible for the future...we can decide to live carelessly or we can decide to live with the intention to exceed who we were yesterday. Let's go out into the world and choose to care."

Following the theme of never being truly alone, seniors Brianna Bachmeier, Chloe Gold, Sierra



PHOTO BY CHARLIE KANZIG

Elijah Gurney and Garrett Kersavage celebrate their commencement.

Henneous, Bryanna Marlatt, and Victoria Shelswell-White were featured in a pre-recorded video version of the song "Stand by Me." Like the national anthem, producing the video required special effort. Expertise from local videographer Sam Pyke and music mixing by band teacher Tyler Cranor made it possible.

The Sisters High School tradition of having graduates present a flower of thanks to a significant adult led seniors to exit their cars momentarily to fetch the roses set outside and make delivery. Sisters

Floral generously donated flowers to each senior as well.

Another tradition, a musical slideshow of graduates "then and now" featuring baby pictures contrasted with senior portraits, was the final piece before Hosang began calling the graduates to go forward from their cars to receive their diplomas.

Just as the first senior drew to the stage, the wind died and the sun peeked through in the west, a bit of a gift and perhaps a symbol of hope to the class of 2020 after a challenging year.

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