

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE HOSTS AWARDS DINNER. Read more inside the Tahoe World.



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JUSTIN SCACCO / JSCACCO@SIERRASUN.COM

Caps fly into the air at Surprise Stadium as the Truckee's class of 2023 celebrates graduation.

Class of 2023: Truckee High School celebrates seniors

Justin Scacco
jscacco@sierrasun.com

TRUCKEE, Calif. — Truckee High School seniors tossed their graduation caps into the sky above Surprise Stadium on Saturday, celebrating the end of their high school careers.

“It is not everyday that a graduating class gets to look back on 13 years set with the same peers and friends but in the last few weeks, that is exactly what I’ve been doing,” said Senior Class President Julia Egan during

her graduation speech. “As the years have turned to months and months have turned to weeks, I have begun to find gratitude for Truckee and Truckee High everywhere I look.”

This year’s graduating class of 200 students was awarded \$950,000 in scholarships from local businesses and organizations. Graduating seniors propelled the school to championships in football, skiing, golf, and swimming.

“I never believed that this day would come,” said Valedictorian Sophia

Wasson. “We have prayed for its swift arrival, crossed days off our calendars, and counted down the hours, minutes, and seconds. And now that it’s here, I’m sorry it is because it means leaving friends who inspire me and teachers who’ve been my mentors, so many people who’ve shaped my life and my fellow students lives by celebrating our triumphs and supporting us during our lowest moments.”

The Class of 2023 endured the outbreak of COVID-19 early on in their

high school careers and remote learning days that came along with it, completed numerous community projects, and landed hundreds of scholarships toward higher education.

“I’m confident that every student behind me is going to take on meaningful and impactful work in their life, because that is just who we are,” added Egan. “We are hard working. We are deep thinkers. We are determined and unique individuals who don’t easily quit. We are Truckee kids at heart.”

Lakers celebrate graduation

Justin Scacco
jscacco@sierrasun.com

TAHOE CITY, Calif. — Stormy weather couldn’t keep the North Tahoe 2023 graduating class from celebrating as 102 Lakers received their diplomas.

From time spent remote learning and dealing with historic weather to sports championships, dances, and friendships that will last a lifetime, North Tahoe’s seniors moved the tassels on their caps to the left side on Monday before tossing them into the air at the school’s gymnasium.

“We created so many issues but also triumphed through the ones that were forced on us,” said senior Frances Gramanz. “No one sitting in front of me has had a normal high school experience because each and every one of us are pretty abnormal ... I am blown away with what we have done despite all of those struggles, trying to rebuild what high school should feel like even when we didn’t really know ourselves.”

The Lakers graduates were a part of the school’s state champions in boys and girls’ cross-country, girls’ soccer, snowboarding, alpine skiing, boys’ golf, and track and field.

“We are leaving as graduates, but we will always be a part of this community,” said Senior Class Vice President Jolie Griffin. “We should use what we have learned to make a positive impact on the world around us. So, I challenge all of my fellow graduates to go out into the world and chase after your dreams with unwavering determination.”

North Tahoe’s senior class received more than \$600,000 in local scholarships.

The home of the Lakers is also the home of tomorrow’s doctors, lawyers, teachers, psychologists, musicians, engineers, architects, and nurses,” said senior Ella Costello. “We’re here to celebrate our triumphs, our achievements, our victories, and the journey on which we’ve all embarked towards our future destination.”



COURTESY PHOTO

North Tahoe students celebrate graduation on Monday in Tahoe City.

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Pine Nuts: Sec. Austin launches Navy's Generation Z

I love to catch commencement speeches when I can, for oftentimes they hold as much value as the degrees themselves. I've delivered a few clunkers myself that were forgettable, and I regret getting those kids off on the wrong foot. But I happened to catch Secretary of Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin's recent address at the Navel Academy, and it went into my "Memorable" file as unforgettable. Here are a few of the gems...

"It is great to be here, even though the first person I



McAvoy Layne
Columnist

met said, 'Beat Army!' And it is indeed an honor to help welcome the next generation of Sailors and Marines to what is the finest Navy that the world has ever known. Graduates, today belongs to your loved ones too. And let's give them a round of applause.

You chose to come to this

Academy. And despite challenges that nobody imagined, you chose to keep coming back, and to keep pushing, and to keep growing. You know, all those choices add up to character. And all those decisions add up to integrity. And all those deeds add up to leadership.

You seek wisdom. You practice discipline. You treat others with dignity and respect. And you will defend our democracy with honor, courage, and commitment. Graduates, over the years, I've learned that leadership is not just what you do, it's who

you are. And your leadership will be at the very heart of America's work to forge a more open and more peaceful 21st century.

As President Theodore Roosevelt once said, 'A good Navy is not a provocation to war. It is the surest guaranty of peace.'

Class of 2023: Wherever your career takes you, remind the world of what you stand for, and what America stands for. Honor. Courage. Commitment. Democracy. Liberty. And the rule of law. The lessons of this academy will always steer you true. And

when the fog rolls in, let the values that you have learned here be your lighthouse.

Class of 2023: We will all be cheering you on as you make our country stronger, and our democracy deeper, and our world safer. Congratulations.

May God bless you. May God bless your families. And may God continue to bless the United States of America."

To my mind, Lloyd Austin is the right man in the right job at the right time. His Z generation graduates are out there on the job right

now, and our world is a safer place. I would like to meet the good Secretary and shake his hand. I would also like to ask him why the Marine Corps does not field a football team.

I suspect it is because the Marine Corps is all about protecting the country and our allies, and has no time left over for protecting a quarterback. This supposition I hope might elicit a smile from our most capable and good-humored Secretary of Defense, Lloyd Austin.

Audio: <https://anchor.fm/mcavoy-layne>

We must protect our tremendous assets – public lands

Our nation's protected public lands are tremendous assets to our western communities. They play a critical role in our way of life and support our businesses, outdoor recreation and tourism economies, as well as our communities' health and well-being. Moreover, by permanently



David Polivy

protecting more public lands, we can sequester carbon, make areas more resilient, and mitigate the devastating impacts of

climate change — something Californians are all dealing with daily.

California offers an incredible diversity of natural landscapes and ecosystems that need to be protected for future generations. Encompassing rangelands, high mountains, expansive deserts,

and rocky shores, many of these places fall within the boundaries of the 15 million acres managed by the Bureau of Land Management within the state with millions of acres potentially eligible for administrative protections. Moreover, these landscapes help drive California's outdoor recreation economy, which contributes over a half a million jobs and over \$50 billion to the state economy.

We must do more to protect these important places for future generations which is why I commend the bureau on its recent guidance that prioritizes the conservation of wildlife, cultural resources, and encourages tribal co-stewardship of BLM resources. I am also happy with the Bureau of Land Management's recent announcement of a proposed plan that shifts the bureau's focus towards updating and modernizing the agency's tools and strategies for managing lands. With mounting impacts on the nation's public lands, and the growing importance of public lands for recreation and conservation, the proposed rule would help ensure that these landscapes continue to provide abundant and well-connected wildlife habitat, supply clean drinking water, and power local economies.

Known as the "Public Lands Rule," the plan highlights the need for the agency to work with local communities to focus on the conservation of land, water, and wildlife to ensure communities can combat the growing impacts of climate change. It also encourages local BLM managers to work more closely with tribal nations to ensure cultural resource protection in California and across the West.

The creation of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern would also help the BLM foster more habitat connectivity on public lands. Species used to roam freely across the continent, but are now often isolated on 'biological islands' which leads to declines in their numbers. By prioritizing a network of connected public lands, this trend may be reversed and threatened species can be helped to rebound.

The BLM has not always designated as many ACECs as they could, despite the agency's acknowledgement of the positive effects that they have to "protect important resources, unique scenic landscapes, and people and property from hazards on public lands." I urge the BLM to follow through on the commitment to create more ACECs on California's

public lands through this and upcoming processes.

If we are going to truly address the climate and biodiversity crisis and protect our water resources and lands, the BLM must do all that they can to better conserve and protect our nation's important public lands and waters. There is strong support for such actions. In 2022, businesses that depend on BLM lands sent a letter calling for greater protections and over 120 Western local elected officials, including myself, likewise called for greater BLM conservation.

As both a local elected official and outdoor industry business owner, I hope this rule-making process will be an opportunity for western voices to be heard during the comment period that ends on June 20.

It is time for the Bureau of Land Management to use conservation mechanisms that support outdoor recreation, local economies, and tourism industries as well as provide certainty for rural and gateway communities to make long-term investments.

Dave Polivy is co-owner of Tahoe Mountain Sports and is vice mayor for the Town of Truckee.



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Burning Questions: Who wants to talk about orange skies?

It's early evening in the Green Mountains of Vermont. The faded wooden rocking chair creaks softly as my sneakers push against the floorboards of the porch overlooking a lush sloping meadow; I can hear conversation and



Jaena Bloomquist
Columnist

laughter floating from the

barn beyond, where writers from all over the country have gathered to share their work and learn from each other. As one of the more introverted ones at this conference, I'm keeping