



## Features

### College sets records with registered nurses



The graduating registered nurses of Copper Mountain College were honored by the participation of the Navy Color Guard from the Naval hospital in Twentynine Palms.

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**Hi-Desert Star**

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"This is the biggest graduating class of registered nurses!" exclaimed Copper Mountain College Nursing Program Director Leslie Moody as she beamed over the 46 students assembled to receive their nursing pins Thursday night. "We value them."

College Superintendent Dr. Roger Wagner called it "a great day" as he congratulated the new RNs for their successful completion of an extensive and demanding program.

"I have a great deal of respect for your chosen field, as my mother was a nurse for over 30 years," he continued.

He leavened the seriousness of the night with some of her light-hearted advice, like telling the grads that they would always "celebrate the holidays with friends ... at work." But Wagner also gave strong inspirational encouragement to listen, to be empathetic, to make a commitment to growth and to strive to develop a sense of community.

"The best practice for the human heart is reaching down and lifting up," the educator concluded.

Student speaker Elizabeth Thomas spoke for her classmates when she likened their training to a roller coaster. "We held a patient's hand when they took their last breath. We held a baby's hand when it took its first breath."

As the students came forward to be pinned by family and friends, they shared their gratitude in statements that thanked their supporters and fellow students for believing in them, for pushing them, for their flexibility and understanding, for putting them through school, for making it fun, for not letting them quit, for being a rock, for stepping up their duties at home, for helping them through rough times, for keeping them on their toes, and "for patience of infinity times two."

During their course of study, the students raised enough to provide five \$200 scholarships. "We don't want anyone to leave school because they can't afford a book," they reasoned.

After a lamp-lighting ceremony in the twilight, registered nurses in the audience stood and recited the Nurse's Pledge with the graduates.

"We will continue to care about you and have a vested interest in your success," a tearful Moody told the new nurses. "You're one of us and we welcome you."

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