

## Grads told to follow hearts



One of 196 graduates from Copper Mountain College's class of 2009 raises his arms in victory after accepting his diploma Friday evening.

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JOSHUA TREE — To the cheers and whistles of supporters who crowded a campus courtyard, Copper Mountain College's class of 2009 graduated Friday evening.

Numbering 196, the graduates included new nurses and certificate holders in trades such as accounting and computer sciences as well as recipients of Associate of Arts diplomas.

"I directed my speech to the young people, but looking out here, I see a lot of people my age," remarked keynote speaker Bert Swift, a retired judge.

Indeed, the rows of graduates ranged from youth who might have been in their teens to silver-haired men and women congratulated after the ceremony by their grandchildren.

Swift urged them all to pursue their dreams.

"When you go out there, if you listen to your heart — not your brain — and care for the people around you, things are going to work out for you," he said. "As they fall into place, remember, they are not coincidences. You deserve every one of them."

