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NEWS

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Golf tournament raises more than \$100,000 for

News

Kaiser seniors enjoy graduation at new stadium

By SHELLI DeROBERTIS

The immobility couldn't be contained for what seemed an endless row of capped-and-gowned classmates who waited for the June 11 commencement ceremony at Kaiser High School to begin.

"Start the wave," yelled one of the seniors.

Members of the Class of 2008 were ready to walk through the gate where they would become the first class to graduate at the brand new Henry J. Kaiser High School Stadium.

The late afternoon sun radiated off the mountain backdrop onto Kaiser's new field, where an unblemished turf waited for the 560 pairs of feet to walk across.

"I'm excited! I'm stoked," said Marwing Cervantes, about being the first class to graduate on the new field.

Graduating senior Eric Torres said he served as an usher in the Magnolia Chain for the Class of 2007, and that he is glad the new field is here.

He said last year's graduation ceremony was held on a dead soccer field and that the bleachers were rickety. "It was sad," he said.

But there was nothing sad about the early evening of June 11, as happiness and excitement vibrated through the line of seniors.



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Schools

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Fohi teacher lauded for inventing new language



Their anticipation included more than just christening the new field; a grad night party was to take place afterward at Disneyland, and the next day would mark a new chapter in the lives of the young adults who successfully made it through school.

Programs such as the California Scholarship Federation, Associated Student Body and National Honor Society have helped high-achiever students set goals.

Careers await both Marwing and Eric, as Marwing said he plans to pursue electrical engineering at Cal State Long Beach, and Eric is seeking a medical degree by starting at Cal State San Bernardino.

Samantha Hughes said she plans on becoming an aerospace engineer, while Stephanie Almaraz said that she wants to become a nurse -- and possibly work locally at Kaiser Permanente in Fontana.

A class in forensics inspired Monique Barraza with the goal of unraveling a career path toward crime scene investigation (CSI).

She said her science teacher, Barry Woltz, helped spark her interest in the field of CSI.

"My teacher was very passionate about it. He just taught it with such a passion," she said. "I just love science."

As visitors filed into the bleachers to get a seat, Mark Marez was at least one parent who was still on the other side of the gate with the seniors.

Marez was taking pictures of his daughter, Sarah, as she stood in the line of graduates on their last day of school.

But being a parent of a high school student won't end for Marez, because he has another daughter who will enter Kaiser as a freshman next year.

"I'm hoping to have another great four years, and hope to watch Kaiser football go to state," Marez said.

When the seniors started to walk through the gate, Jamie Barela's smile reflected pride in his success of what he was about to receive. He said he is the youngest of three kids in his family and the first one to graduate.

"It's kind of crazy, but it's cool," he said. "They didn't think I'd make it."

Jamie said he plans to attend a trade school and work as a machinist.

Martha Martinez teaches Spanish and English at Kaiser, and said she is especially proud of one student who is graduating because he is already a father.

"He has a two-year-old daughter and he's never left the program," she said. "For him, that's a big struggle."

But although the graduating seniors had taken individual paths, they were all seated together in the center of the new field as the eyes in the audience were focused on them.

It was, after all, their moment to celebrate.

LISTED below in alphabetical order are the top 56 students of the 2008

senior class at Kaiser:

Dylan Acker, Michael Acosta, Stephanie Almaraz, Keshia Almendarez, Erica Azzalina, Leticia Barraza, Ulysses Berrios, Karina Cardiel, Marwing Cervantes, Eric Chavez, Erica Clark, Iris Cordova, Jorge Cortez, Efrain Encinas, Angel Esteban, Michael Franklin, Jacqueline Frencher, Meagan Goetz, Nereida Gonzalez, Isabel Gonzalez Gutierrez, Anakaren Gonzalez Juarez, Sable Grimes, Cinthia Gutierrez Lizarraga, Moises Hernandez Nunez, Samantha Hughes, Navneet Kaur, Esther Kim.

Daniel Lozano, Noriel Luna Delgado, Jessica Maccarter, Marissa Martinez, Monica McGuthrie, Marvin Monterrosa, Alejandra Morales, Daisery Osorio, Megan Perez, Alejandro Ponce, Catalina Ramirez Hernandez, Karina Ramos, Natalie Reyes, Derick Rivera, Barbara Roberts, Nydia Rodriguez, Ulyses Ruiz, Marian Saddi, Vanessa Salcido, Cathia Sanchez, Eric Torres, Michelle Torres, Arturo Turrubiartes, Kelley Uykipang, Irma Villanueva, Alexandria Wuebben, Diane Yi, Brittney Yip, Alyssa Zepeda.

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