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Congrats to the Rancho Cielo Class of 2019!

On a sunny day in June, student speaker Nayely Olguin-Camacho addressed a crowd of proud family members and fellow graduates at Rancho Cielo’s Commencement Ceremony. “I didn’t feel like I would finish high school because I thought nothing I did was ever good enough,” Nayely said. “Luckily, staff here at Rancho helped me realize I had so much potential, and if I was determined I could achieve anything.”

Nayely’s story is one that is relatable for many of the people listening. After being unsuccessful in a traditional high school setting, Nayely and 31 other students received their John Muir Charter School high school diplomas. The students were part of the Construction Academy and Drummond Culinary Academy. Students from the Silver Star Youth Program at Rancho Cielo received diplomas from the Monterey County Office of Education.

In addition to the academic instruction, students also learned valuable vocational skills giving them a competitive edge in the job market. 21 students earned vocational certificates in subjects like solar installation, construction, culinary, and advanced culinary.

The future is bright for these graduates! They are joining the labor force with their newly learned skills. They are heading off to college or culinary academies with a total of $35,000 in scholarships.

As she wrapped up her speech, Nayely left her fellow graduates with a bit of encouragement. “For all of you graduates who have shared, if not my exact experiences, many of my struggles, the journey does not end here. It’s only beginning.”
Family Fun Day was filled with free activities and entertainment for families. About 1,500 people attended the event. They saw live performances, visited the garden, fished in the pond, ran in the Ranch Dash, spent time with animals at the petting zoo by Wonder Wood Ranch, participated in a cake walk, played with the MY Museum Wheelie Mobilee, and more. There were also over 20 booths at the Resource Fair who provided families with useful information about services in the community.

24 teams competed in the Corporate Dodgeball Tournament. Each team had their own uniform, team name, and entrance song. Congrats to the winner, Blue Power from Coastal Tractor! They powered through the loser bracket and beat the team from the winner’s bracket TWICE to claim victory. They get to keep the Perpetual Trophy until next year’s tournament.

Thank you to the over 200 volunteers who helped make this event possible! A special thank you goes out to Art Alvarado and his BBQ team, the National Charity League, and Notre Dame High School. The event was co-chaired by Pam Butler and Kim and Mike Costa.
Thank you to all of the Family Fun Day Sponsors

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Judge John Phillips Legacy Circle

Creating a sustainable financial base so that Rancho Cielo’s programs can thrive into the future, the Judge John Phillips Legacy Circle is a group of visionary people who have named Rancho Cielo in their estate plans for endowment purposes. You can become a member of the Legacy Circle by arranging for a Planned Gift through your estate, or by making an outright cash gift over time. Those who have committed to Rancho Cielo’s future so far:

Anonymous (6) • Troy Boutonnet • Joseph Branner Trust* • Stan & Susie Brusa • Ricky & Cecy Cabrera • Carlota Cano Estate* • Don & Barbara Chapin • Costa Family Farms • Mitsuko Couch Higashi • Honorable Richard & Karen Curtis • Bert & Bella Cutino

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Arlene Mead • Orradre Ranch LP • Honorable John & Patti Phillips • Joy Rosales • Bob & Laraine Sanford • Joanne Taylor • David S. Wilkinson • Suzanne Pierce Zellmer, Zellmer Living Trust

*Deceased
RIBBON CUTTING FOR THE
Ted Taylor Ag Vocational Center

Join us as we celebrate the opening of the Ted Taylor Ag Vocational Center which offers training for highly-skilled, living-wage agricultural jobs PLUS a high school diploma.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2019
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Rancho Cielo Youth Campus
710 Old Stage Rd., Salinas

Please RSVP by October 17 to Allison Cady
831-444-3507 or acady@ranchocieloyc.org.

Visit our website: ranchocieloyc.org