Banning
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Angel Mead
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Banning High School Celebrates the Class of 2025 in a Memorable Commencement Ceremony

BANNING, CA — On the evening of May 30, 2025, the Banning High School stadium overflowed with pride as families, educators, and community members gathered to celebrate the graduating Class of 2025. With the stands filled and hearts full, the commencement ceremony was a powerful tribute to the legacy, unity, and resilience of the Bronco family.

The evening began with a traditional processional to “Pomp and Circumstance,” performed by the Banning High School Band under the direction of Thomas Hepburn. Principal Art Paz delivered a warm welcome, followed by a land acknowledgment from ASB President Jisella Martin. Senior Class President Alan Martinez led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Elizabeth Ledesma sang the National Anthem.

Student Board Member Brian Calderon introduced dignitaries and was later honored as the recipient of the prestigious Principal’s Award. Superintendent Terrence Davis inspired the crowd with reflections on perseverance and unity, pausing mid-ceremony to ask Banning High School alumni to stand. Throughout the stadium, dozens rose—including teachers, staff, and community members—highlighting the deep, multigenerational roots of Banning High School.

"Banning High School is more than a school—it's a legacy," said Superintendent Terrence Davis. "Tonight, we celebrate not just a graduating class, but a community bonded through shared history and pride. The Class of 2025 has left its mark, and we can’t wait to see what they do next."

Principal Art Paz echoed that sentiment, stating, "Our students have shown incredible heart and dedication. Watching them cross the stage was more than a milestone—it was a moment of triumph. I am proud of every graduate, and of the staff who supported them each step of the way."

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In addition to the student addresses by Alan Martinez and Jisella Martin, Salutatorian Denny Riiff and Valedictorian Elizabeth Bautista-Ayala shared moving speeches reflecting on their journey. The Banning High School Band delivered a final performance before the Certification and Acceptance of the Class of 2025, led by Principal Paz and Superintendent Davis. The ceremony concluded with the roll call of graduates by Senior Counselor Matt Beilstein, diploma presentations by the Board of Trustees, the traditional turning of the tassel, and a recessional to "Rocketeer" by Far East Movement.

Special recognition goes to ASB Director Jade Harris, whose behind-the-scenes leadership was instrumental in organizing the ceremony, along with the efforts of the Student Services, Educational Services, Innovation and Technology, Maintenance & Operations, School Safety, Communications, and BHS staff and students who supported the live stream and event coordination.

To view the full program, visit bit.ly/4cnE6At
Event photos are available at bit.ly/4clBmDG

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About Banning Unified School District:
Banning Unified School District serves nearly 4,300 students across its schools and is one of the largest employers in the city of Banning, with over 500 dedicated staff members. The district's mission is to collaborate as a diverse community to develop responsible, respectful, and prepared students who achieve their full potential. Guided by its vision to prepare, inspire, and educate, Banning USD is committed to fostering a supportive environment where students can thrive academically and personally.

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(Photos have been attached)

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PHOTO CAPTION: Graduates enter the stadium walking down the field in their cap and gowns waiving at family members and friends.

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PHOTO CAPTION: Superintendent Terrence Davis delivers a powerful speech to graduates helping them understand the importance of empowerment and perseverance.

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PHOTO CAPTION: From left to right - Johnny Baker, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Dr. Tonia Causey-Bush, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Terrence Davis, Superintendent, Art Paz, Principal of Banning High School, and Victor Herrera, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services.

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