



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

**Oregon Youth Authority**  
**Director's Office**  
530 Center Street NE, Suite 200  
Salem, OR 97301-3765  
PHONE: (503) 373-7212  
FAX: (503) 373-7622

June 17, 2010

## ***NEWS RELEASE***

Contact: Ann Snyder, Interim Communications Manager, 503-378-6023,  
[ann.snyder@oya.state.or.us](mailto:ann.snyder@oya.state.or.us)

### **Small but significant commencement occurs in Clatsop County**

It was the smallest commencement in Clatsop County – perhaps in Oregon.

A 17-year-old Washington County youth received his diploma Thursday afternoon from South Jetty High School at the North Coast Youth Correctional Facility in Warrenton.

The youth wore the traditional cap and gown. His parents attended. There was cake. Commencement speakers were the graduating youth, history teacher Brett Gilfillan, lead teacher Robbie Porter and OYA clinical director Mary McBride.

Although Thursday's commencement had only one graduate, Porter said South Jetty High School has granted diplomas to eight North Coast YCF youth during the 2009-2010 school year (and to 52 youth since 2004).

High school graduation is significant because education, along with treatment, is considered key to helping youth offenders pursue productive, crime-free lives after they return to the community. The Warrenton-Hammond School District provides South Jetty High School education staff through a contract with the Oregon Department of Education.

North Coast, a 50-bed facility that treats male offenders with substance abuse issues, is one of 11 facilities operated by OYA. The state agency has custody of approximately 900 offenders in correctional and transitional facilities in Albany, Burns, Florence, Grants Pass, La Grande, Salem, Tillamook, Warrenton and Woodburn, and the agency supervises approximately 1,100 youth on parole and probation in communities throughout Oregon.

# # #