



Oregon

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NEWS RELEASE

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OYA foster youth overcome adversity to graduate, pursue dreams



Left to right: Tyson Walton, Principal Jerry Peacock, Dan Stinson and Stephen Spenst

Three youth living with foster families under the supervision of the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) will graduate Sunday, June 2 from Baker High School in Baker City. Tyson Walton (left above) entered the OYA system at age 14. He is an honor student and varsity athlete (football, wrestling and track) and plans to attend Eastern Oregon University after graduation. Dan Stinson (third from left above) has been in state custody since childhood but overcame past struggles to earn membership in the National Honor Society and play varsity athletics (football and baseball). He will attend the University of Oregon this fall, having already earned 18 credits while in high school. Stephen Spenst (far right above) has been in OYA care for the past 4 years and has excelled at varsity athletics, including wrestling and track. He plans to attend a local community college after graduation. Baker High Principal Jerry Peacock (second from left above) praised the three young men for “overcoming much adversity in their lives to achieve success and the promise of a bright future. I am incredibly proud of them.” To learn more about OYA’s foster care program, or to become a foster parent, visit www.oregon.gov/oya or the OYA Foster Care Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/OYAFosterCare>.

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