

Eagle



Update

Yoncalla, Oregon

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www.yoncalla.k12.or.us

2026 Polar Plunge

Running into the Willamette River on a cold, windy Saturday morning isn't what most people would call fun. But for about 25 students, parents, staff members, and school board representatives from Yoncalla's Unified program, that's exactly how they described it. On Saturday, February 7, the group took the plunge as part of the Polar Plunge, a fundraiser supporting Special Olympics Oregon.

The tradition began after Yoncalla graduate Taryn (Lowe) Owens attended the OASC Fall Conference and learned about the Polar Plunge. Inspired to bring the event home, she introduced the idea to YHS. As the "Blue and Gold Believers," she and a group of Yoncalla students launched what has now become an annual tradition.

Recognizing a broader opportunity within North County schools, a senior from Elkton later expanded involvement with Special Olympics Oregon by creating a Unified Basketball program as a senior project. Unified Basketball brings together Special Olympics athletes (students with intellectual disabilities) and partners (students without intellectual disabilities) to train and compete as teammates. Students from Elkton, Yoncalla, and North Douglas joined forces to form the "North Umpqua Unified" team.

Following the 2023–2024 school year—and a significant increase in participation from Yoncalla students—Yoncalla became the host site for the program, and the team was renamed "Yoncalla Unified." In 2024, longtime advocate and coach Jerry Fauci passed the leadership torch to Assistant Coach and Yoncalla Culinary Arts/Spanish teacher Matt Sybrant, continuing the program's strong foundation.

Not only does participation in the Polar Plunge continue to grow each year—earning awards for high participation and being a top fundraising school—but involvement in Unified Basketball continues to grow as well. While competing as North Douglas Unified, the team were state champions in 2023 and placed second in 2024. We are proud to see students working together, building meaningful relationships, and supporting one another in such a positive and inclusive environment. Here's to the 2026 Unified season!

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Middle School Wrestling

YSD held its first middle school wrestling tourney ever in January!



Polar Plunge con't from pg 1

If you would like to donate, please click the link below to support the Yoncalla Unified Team and Special Olympics Oregon through February:

<https://support.soor.org/team/796348>

Want to cheer on the Yoncalla Unified Team? Come support them at the Unified Champion Schools South Regional Tournament on Saturday, February 21, at Oregon State University in the Dixon Recreation Center. Games begin at 9:30 a.m.





Yoncalla

**Indian Education
POW-WOW**

**Saturday
May
23rd**

Grade School Pavillion

Grand Entry 1pm

Drumming + Dancing + Vendors

This is a free event and open to the public

Everyone is welcome
All drums will be paid
All vendors welcome

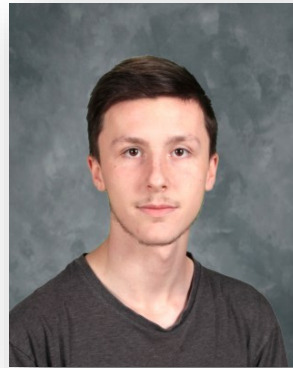
Contact Shannin Stutzman for info Office (541)849-2158 ext 3021
Cell (541)580-3813 shannin.stutzman@yoncalla.k12.or.us

Middle/High School Student of the Month— January

Yoncalla Middle School
Brogan King
February 2026



Yoncalla High School
Jack Austin
February 2026



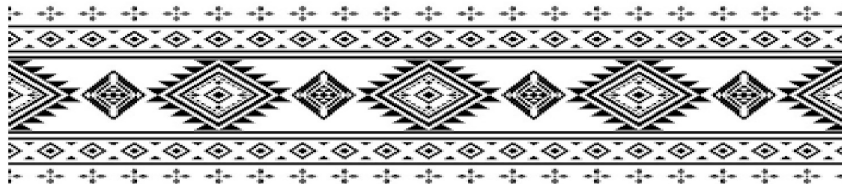
Drumming Schedule 2025-2026

5pm-6:30pm

Grade School Music

Rm. 15

- **Tuesday January 27th**
- **Tuesday February 24th**
- **Tuesday March 17th**
- **Tuesday April 21st**



Pow-wow

Saturday May 23rd 12-7pm

Grade School Pavilion

Upcoming College and Career Events

April 30—College and Career Expo at UCC 9:00-2:00

FNRL & Natural Resource Upcoming Events

2/20 OLC - Oregon Logging Conference

2/27 Neah-Kah-Nie CDE

3/7 UCC/Yoncalla CDE

3/14 Waldport CDE

4/1-3 Fire School

4/6 Southern Oregon Envirothon

4/10 Scio CDE

4/17-18 State Convention

Yoncalla School

District Priorities

1. Each student will enjoy positive, engaging learning environments.
2. Each child will possess the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful in post secondary education and careers, and the self-reliance to be a productive citizen.
3. A strong sense of community is recognized and nurtured among all stakeholders
4. Facilities and finances are managed effectively and efficiently for the benefit of each child.

