



Associated Press

Hidden Valley High School Future Business Leaders of America members Melody Lindorf, Nicholas Stark and Chris Pearson stand for a photograph with recent Business Boot Camp project winners from Fleming and Lincoln Savage middle schools. Pictured, from left to right, are: Lindorf, Leah Staten, Natalia Pate, Alizae Cratch, Kennedy Whitman, Stark, Brenna Bare, Jenelle Hurley, Kami Keith, Trent Yanko, and Pearson.

Students learn about enterprise

Charities benefit as Future Business Leaders craft inventions

Local middle schoolers learned about free enterprise, entrepreneurship, and how to create their own business product. And, a few local charities benefited financially.

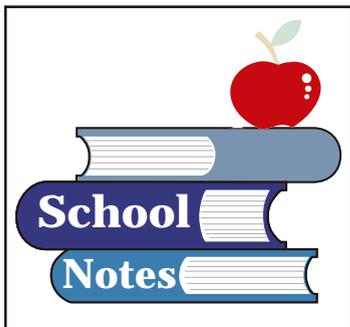
All this, as Hidden Valley High School's Future Business Leaders of America club held its annual Business Boot Camp at Fleming and Lincoln Savage middle schools.

Last month, Hidden Valley FBLA members Nicholas Stark, Christopher Pearson and Melody Lindorf went to the middle schools and provided information and instruction for the students during the two-week program, which culminated with final student presentations on Dec. 16. Products conceptualized by the students ranged from wireless ear buds that are noise canceling to a volleyball that helps improve an athlete's skills.

The winning presenters were awarded monetary prizes to be donated to the charity of their choice.

The prizes were funded by the Josephine County Foundation, a student-led organization that came about in 2012 as a business plan developed by Hidden Valley High School FBLA students. The organization now includes students from each of the four Josephine County public high schools and New Hope Christian School and uses the "creativity of youth to find solutions to impact the community's future," according to the foundation's website.

Prize winners from the 2014



FBLA Business Boot Camp were:

— Students from Lincoln Savage Middle School earned \$1,000 for Relay for Life and \$500 for the Rogue Valley Humane Society.

— Fleming Middle School students earned \$250 for Rogue Valley Humane Society.

Lindorf, who also serves as vice president of the Josephine County Foundation, said she was glad to be part of the Business Boot Camp.

"Watching the students get excited about innovation, entrepreneurship, and helping non-profits in their community gave me a sense of pride that our Future Business Leaders of America project could make such an immense difference," she said.

• **FREE EYE CLINIC AT NORTH VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL.** As anyone who wears glasses knows, getting a regular eye exam and a new pair of prescription spectacles every so often is vital for proper vision. But it also can be costly and sometimes gets put off when money is tight. North Valley

Future Business Leaders of America plans to help with that cost for some Josephine County low-income children and adults, offering a free eye exam from professional optometrists, during North Valley FBLA's Free Eye Clinic, scheduled for Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the school's gymnasium. Free prescription glasses for participants will be dispensed at a date to be announced later.

Those receiving an exam need to bring identification, but no other documentation is necessary, according to Deborah Acosta, North Valley High School business instructor and FBLA adviser.

Appointments are suggested, as walk-ins are only allowed from 2 to 3 p.m. To make an appointment, or for more information, call Tyler at 541-218-9440.

• **NOMINATE AN EXCEPTIONAL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR.** Do you know a preschool teacher or daycare provider who excels in providing a solid social and educational foundation for the children in their care; helps parents understand and appreciate the developmental stages of children; provides support and mentoring to others working with children; and, helps raise community understanding and support for issues impacting families?

It's time to nominate that individual for the 2015 Sharon Marchant Achievement Award, an honor that annually recognizes an exceptional Josephine County early childhood educa-

tor.

The award is named for Sharon Marchant, a longtime Josephine County educator and volunteer and a founding board member of Coalition for Kids in Grants Pass. Marchant died in 1999. She began her career working as a teacher's aide at Lincoln Elementary School and later worked as a kindergarten teacher at Bethany Presbyterian Church. She also worked for 13 years at Tinkerbell Preschool and five years at Southern Oregon Head Start.

"The difference that Sharon made was not just in her teaching or volunteering but also in the values that she exhibited and taught in all her work," according to Carolyn Kohn, chairwoman of the Sharon Marchant Achievement Award Committee.

The award recipient will be honored with a cash award and plaque on Feb. 27 at the Early Childhood Education Winter Conference Reception in Medford.

To make a nomination, download the form from the Coalition for Kids website at www.cfk-gp.org. Submit the nomination by Jan. 22 to Carolyn Kohn, 1024 S.W. Zane Grey Court, Grants Pass, OR 97527.

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