

11 school programs receive grant funds

Eleven programs in the Grants Pass and Three Rivers school districts will benefit from the Josephine County Foundation's new Teacher Grants, awarded last week during a ceremony at Taprock Grill's Evergreen Room.

The Josephine County Foundation is an entrepreneurial and philanthropic group, formed in 2011 at Hidden Valley High School, and now comprised of students from the county's four public high schools plus New Hope Christian School. The foundation also provides scholarships and community service projects, including vision clinics, around the county.

This is the first year the foundation has offered the Teacher Grants. Twenty-four local teachers applied for what was originally to be \$10,000 in grants for 10 selected projects. After discussion and scoring of the applications by the foundation's selection committee, an additional \$1,000 was allocated from the foundation, allowing for 11 grants totalling \$11,000.

The awards will benefit technology, music, medical, physical education, ceramics and garden programs.

"We're going to have all sorts of great music lessons, because I'm going to have a projector," said James Vermilya, music director at North Valley High School, as he accepted his grant

of \$908 during the ceremony.

That grant will pay for a special audio-visual projector and mounting system, which will be used for, among other things, working with students on music composition, he said. He expects to use the projector in his guitar, choir and band classes at the school.

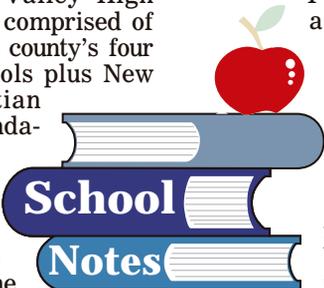
Music programs at Grants Pass School District also will benefit, thanks to a \$792 grant presented to South Middle School orchestra teacher Krista DeBolt.

DeBolt plans to use the money to bring a special music program to the district's orchestra programs at the middle and high schools. The Ashland-based "A Bazaar Folk Music Show" is a workshop with Morgan O'Shaughnessey, a trained fiddle player.

Self-proclaimed "computer geek" Fred Pool, a teacher at Lincoln Savage Middle School, was excited to accept a \$1,300 grant for computer software programs for his classes.

"This will allow me to get a more modern version of computer programs that can be exported to the kids' iPads and iPhones," Pool explained.

Grants of \$1,000 each were awarded for Chromebooks to Sandi Willett, Allen Dale Elementary School; Kaye Paulson, Fruitdale Elementary School;



School
Notes



RUTH LONGORIA KINGSLAND/Daily Courier

Pictured left to right are Rilynn Hansen, Josephine County Foundation president, and foundation members Kali Henderson and Walker York, with two of the 11 award recipients, Fred Pool, Lincoln Savage Middle School computer teacher, and Krista DeBolt, orchestra instructor at South Middle School.

and, Christopher Jelderks, Lorna Byrne Middle School.

Additional \$1,000 grants were awarded to Mike McKinney, of Grants Pass High School, for equipment to start a ceramics club; Kathy Dungey, GPHS, for 30 heart-rate monitors for cardiovascular fitness; Dennis DeCasas, life-skills instructor at Hidden Valley High School, to create a garden for his disabled students; Ginny Groover, HVHS, for 10 new mannequins for CPR training at the school; and, Carla Carter, education assistant at Three Rivers School District, to pay for college tours for students from each of that dis-

trict's three high schools.

"The goal was to make this dynamic and put a spark in the teachers for their individual programs, I think (the foundation's students) achieved that," said Chris Pendleton, Hidden Valley High's Future Business Leaders of America and Josephine County Foundation adviser.

• GARDEN BEDS READY FOR SPRING. The Grounds Guys of Grants Pass, a grounds care company, spent a recent Saturday creating raised garden beds for South Middle School.

The raised garden area is expected to be beneficial for students' science projects, health

and art classes, and for planting edible crops in the spring.

Although the company's maintenance crew doesn't include any South Middle School parents, several crew members are aunts, uncles or grandparents of students at the school, said Bethany Osborne, an eighth-grade science teacher.

Fourteen raised beds were completed by about 20 volunteers, which included The Grounds Guys and their families, during the four hours of work, Osborne said.

"We're really excited," she said. "The amazing crew did such a wonderful job."