

## Student Corner: Commerce-community question

Hidden Valley High School's (HVHS's) Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is well-known for winning consecutive state championships, which places them "among the elite FBLA chapters in the nation," according to information published by the Oregon Department of Education. Most recently, they took first place in the state for the 18th consecutive year. HVHS FBLA had eight first-place finishes, more than any other school in the region. Long directed by Chris Pendleton, FBLA is now under the direction of Keith Haley, a business and foods teacher at Hidden Valley, and typically has 40 to 50 student competitors in the program.

In January 2020, 37 HVHS student members of the FBLA chapter competed in 52 events at the Regional Skills Conference in Roseburg. The State Leadership conference will be held in Portland on April 1-4, 2020. The top four state qualifiers will compete at the National Leadership Conference in June 2020 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Members of Hidden Valley's FBLA program were recently asked: **When you are a successful businessperson, how will you give back to the community?**

Here are their responses.

**Leah Beachy, sophomore.** I don't really know what my passion is right now—I'm working on figuring it out as part of my high school experience. But I do know that I would like to volunteer within the education system because it's done a lot for me.

**Maria Cross, sophomore.** I've always been passionate about working with animals, and one day I want to become a veterinarian and maybe open my own business. I want to give back to the community by becoming part of HOPP (Homeless Oregon Pet Project), which offers free treatment for pets owned by people with no income or who are homeless.

**Jose Lopez, senior.** If I were to become a successful business leader, I would donate to the education system so that newer technology and equipment can be provided to students. I believe that one must have the proper tools to get a good education. Because education is important, I would also provide scholarships to high school graduates looking to further their education.

**Kaitlyn Rodrigues, senior.** I see the community as more than the place where you live. After I finish the premedical imaging program offered at Oregon Institute of Technology, I plan to get involved in the community by going to health fairs and educating the public about vaccinations and hygiene and making sure that everyone has an opportunity to be healthy and educated.



Hidden Valley High School FBLA student members. Front row, from left to right: Leah Beachy, Jose Lopez, and Maria Cross. Back row: Keith Haley, FBLA teacher. Not pictured: Kaitlyn Rodrigues. Photo: Barbara Holiday.

### More about FBLA

FBLA is the high school division of Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda, Inc., and is the largest career student business organization in the world. FBLA helps high school students explore college and career opportunities through academic competitions, leadership development, educational programs, networking events with accomplished business professionals at conferences, and community service projects. Members also have exclusive access to scholarships from a select group of academic institutions.

There are around 190,000 US members and 5,200 US chapters in 47 states. International chapters include Europe, China, Thailand, US Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Haiti, Hungary, and Tanzania.

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## NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS



Ruch Outdoor School eighth graders learn to test water for nitrates.

## Ruch Outdoor School students learn about groundwater contamination and testing

BY RYAN KING

This fall, eighth-grade students at Ruch Outdoor Community School (ROCS) began a yearlong project with the Well Water Warriors (Warriors), an advocacy group that helps rural communities understand how to protect their drinking water resource. Students participated in hands-on lessons about what groundwater is, where it comes from, how it can become contaminated, and what to do if the groundwater used for drinking water becomes contaminated. The four-week course aligned with topics covered in science class, including the water cycle, salmon habitat, water quality, and food webs.

Students collected water samples from their homes, conducted tests at the school, tabulated the results, and then plotted the nitrate values on a community map. Nitrate is the most common well-water contaminant. The sources of nitrate are

fertilizers and animal and human wastes. At the end, all testing equipment and supplies were donated to the school for future use.

In addition, the Warriors, with the assistance of a few Ruch students, will conduct a free, community-wide, well water nitrate-testing event at this spring's science fair on May 15 at ROCS, 156 Upper Applegate Road.

The Warriors would love to offer their assistance in working with other schools to conduct large-scale nitrate well-water testing events.

It's never too late to learn more about protecting our groundwater! You can reach Audrey Eldridge from the Well Water Warriors at [wellwaterwarriors@gmail.com](mailto:wellwaterwarriors@gmail.com) or 541-292-1329.

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## Dawn Nowak retires from Williams School

BY JEAN HALL

Staff and students at Williams School are feeling the loss of educational assistant Dawn Nowak, who retired January 31. Having served for years at Williams School, Dawn became much loved and appreciated. She will be greatly missed. The Williams School community wishes her a happy retirement.

The afterschool music program has begun at Williams School, and the

community looks forward to the annual Spring Concert, when music students have the opportunity to perform before a large audience.

Upcoming events at Williams School include the Family Learning Night on February 27 and the Jogathon on the new track on April 17.

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**National celebration to  
welcome home all veterans  
who served during the period  
of the Vietnam War**



Friday, March 27, 2020 • 10 am - 2 pm

A barbecue lunch, service providers, and live music will be at the event.

Please come and show your support. All are welcome!

Grants Pass Vet Center, 135 NE Steiger Street • 541-479-6912

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