

High-school students recognized for outstanding work

By **Judy Hoyle**
IVN Contributing Writer

Thursday, April 24, was a big day for IVHS students who were inducted into the National Honors Society.

It was also the day IVHS student Skyla Patton and five other student members of the Josephine County Foundation, representing all five Josephine County high schools, journeyed to Salem. They participated in a celebratory luncheon for receiving the 2014 Governor's Volunteer Award in the Youth Volunteer Program category.

The Josephine County Foundation (JCF) is a student-led orga-

nization which originated at Hidden Valley High School in 2011. Guided by teachers and community leaders, the high-school students formed the foundation dedicated to serving county residents, with the goal of improving community engagement by citizens of all ages. The IVHS chapter was formed this school year and has 25 members. IVHS math and science teacher Erica L. Butler is the group's advisor.

The foundation teaches students about philanthropy, community service project planning, nonprofit management and fund-raising. Through grant writing and other efforts, these students have raised over \$160,000 for community projects and scholarships.

In early April, JCF, AmigoVi-

sion and the IVHS Leadership Class sponsored a free vision clinic at the high school, which included a free eye exam and a new pair of glasses for those in need. The countywide effort served 199 people on that day and 115 pairs of glasses will be distributed in May. Together, with an earlier clinic in December 2012, over 300 people have been served through this project.

Other projects have included a "Care Faire" that provided free dental cleanings, a needs assessment of all the fire stations in the county and a Business Boot Camp for middle-school students.

At the luncheon in Salem this past Thursday, JCF was recognized along with seven other statewide winners in various categories as well as 24 regional winners from all corners of the state. The students also participated in a commission hearing and had the opportunity to speak about volunteerism in Oregon and how youth can help shape the future.

That same day, the families and

friends of the National Honors Society inductees assembled in the IVHS cafeteria to applaud their achievements. The evening began with words of welcome by Principal Casey Alderson who congratulated the students and admonished them to, "Keep that love of learning going. Life is about what you learn and gather along the way."

In discussing the four virtues exemplified by NHS students (Character, Scholarship, Leadership and Service), Alderson said that, "Leadership is about getting others to believe in what you're doing so they will want to follow you."

Alderson described character as the ability to do the right thing, even if nobody else is around to see you do it.

"These virtues form the core of a fulfilling life," he said.

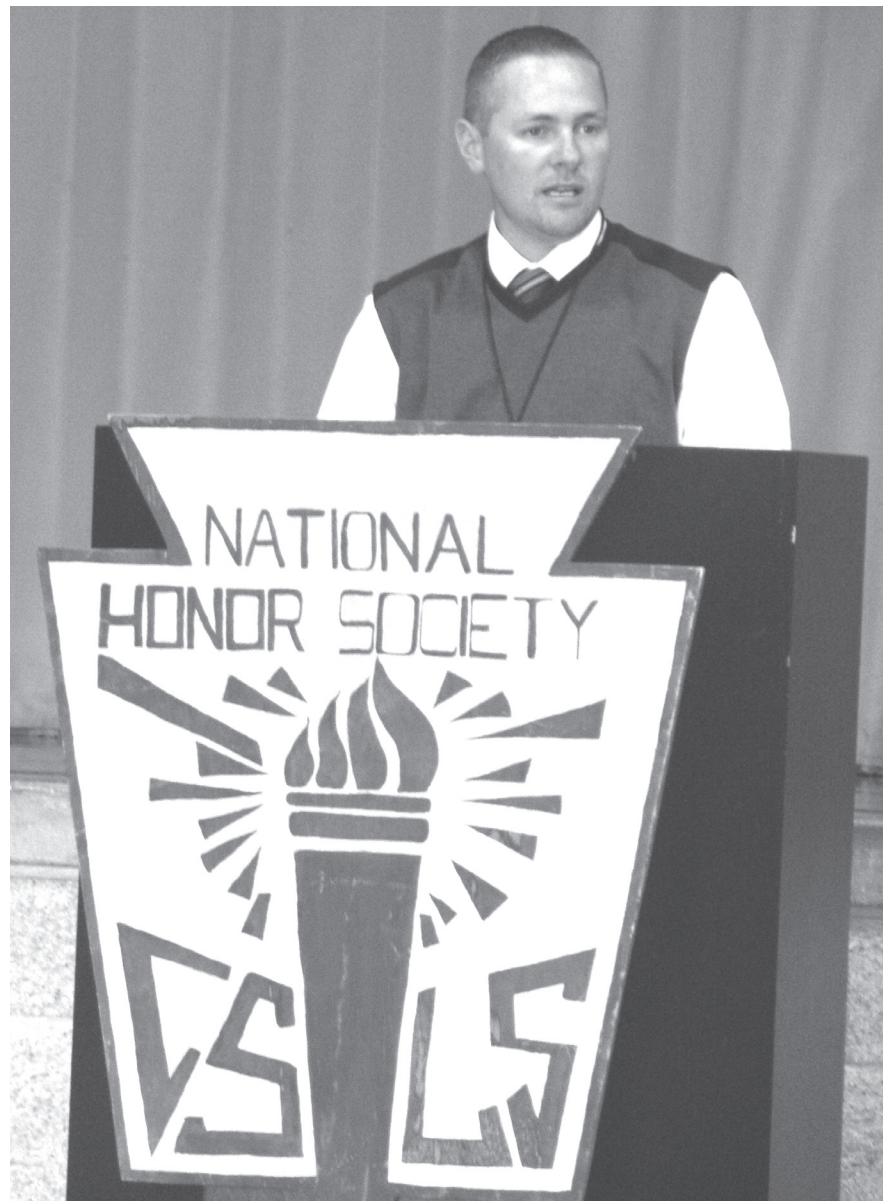
NHS officers also shared their thoughts about these virtues. Vice-president Edilet Rodriguez spoke about character; secretary Amanda Brooks described leadership; treasur-

er and Eagle Scout Brian Bemis explained service; and Samantha Milner discussed scholarship. NHS president Joshua Allan shared the history of the organization from its beginnings nearly a century ago up through the formation of the first chapter of 25 students at IVHS in 1962 and the chapter's official recognition by NHS in 1975.

Nine new members were inducted into the organization. They include Danielle Cain, Ambrosia Hilt, Cassandra Hornsby, Savanna Hoyle, Alexandra LaFlamme, Melissa Meyers, Solomon Newnham, Skyla Patton and McKayla Yeoman.

Seven additional students were nominated and will be inducted in a special ceremony. They include Oberon Fayland, Avery Neville, Kynan Nordal, Aubrey Nolan, Alia Parker, Theodore Teunissen and Torun Zook.

IVHS counselor Patrice Tucker is the NHS advisor.



IVHS Principal Casey Alderson addresses the crowd at the NHS induction ceremony.



Oregon Secretary of State Kate Brown (left) congratulates Skyla Patton following an awards ceremony in Salem.

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