

Cougars perform well at Academic Masters

Judy Hoyle
IVN Contributing Writer

Illinois Valley High School (IVHS) participated in the 34th annual Josephine County Academic Masters competition April 28 at North Valley High School.

Perennial winner Grants Pass High School again bested the Three Rivers School District contenders including Illinois Valley, Hidden Valley and North Valley high schools.

This year, the IVHS team had participation by an exchange student, Jenny Park from South Korea competed in the math portion of the program and won \$300. Her exchange student hosts are Teri and Randy Town. Park plans to attend the University of Nebraska's School of Pharmacy.



Owen Dwyer

Renaissance literary movement.

Owen Dwyer said, "The novel is about a mixed race woman's life during the 1920s and 1930s and the effect of negative influences during her childhood." Dwyer prepared for the competition by writing essays.

No.1 in A minor by Jean-Baptiste Accolay, written in 1868. It's a favorite of many well-known violinists, including Itzhak Perlman. His parents are Carol Valentine and Jack Dwyer.



Ari Dwyer

who was awarded \$300 to answer a question about eclipses. He is the son of Angela and Elijah Graves and he plans to study psychology at Southern Oregon University, with the eventual goal of becoming a criminal profiler.

Each school selects their team from a larger group of 20 to 50 or more students through testing. Over the three decades of the competition, over 3,000 students have competed in one or more of the five disciplines for the honor of representing their school.

IVHS students worked toward the competition for months, competing first within their school for the honor of representing IVHS against the other three public high schools. Total scores include a semi-finalist written exam conducted at Rogue Community College, together with results of the final contest.



Raymond Sutherland

During the night of the competition, the music competitor gives a performance before the audience. The other four competitors are each given 30 minutes to answer a question or solve a problem.



Jenny Park

Carrying on a family tradition, IVHS sophomore Owen Dwyer competed in the English portion of the competition and won \$300. His brother, Liam, was the IVHS English contestant in 2014. Their parents are Kate and Mark Dwyer.

Students in the English portion of the competition were required to read a novel and be prepared to discuss a question about it during the competition. The novel selected this year was "Quicksand" by Nella Larsen, a respected voice in the Harlem



Quinn Dietz

This is the second time senior Ari Dwyer (no relation) competed in Academic Masters. He was an exchange student in Valencia, Spain during spring semester last year.

Dwyer won \$500 for his performance of Violin Concerto

"It's always wonderful to see how these young people manage to put together their presentations in a very short time. It's important to remember that every member of these teams is already a winner of fierce competition to represent their school. Academic Masters is a nationally unique competition that motivates students to stretch academically and musically," Carol Valentine stated.

This is the fourth year Quinn Dietz has been IVHS representative for the social studies portion of the competition and he was awarded \$300. The question he was required to answer was whether the electoral college should be abolished. Dietz plans to study law at the University of Oregon. His parents are Colleen Dietz and Michael Cordia.

Raymond Sutherland was this year's IVHS science competitor,

MEETING ...

Continued from A-1

Cave Junction City Councilor and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteer Jean Ann Miles who recently helped coordinate the I.V. Emergency Prepare Fair weighed in on the Public Safety Outreach Campaign kickoff, "This is a wonderful opportunity to help Cave Junction and the Valley to work together. We're a stronger community when we pool our resources. We're at our strongest when we put our differences aside and work from our commonalities. I really think that's the key. As individuals, we can't do a lot, but there's so much we're capable of doing if we get out of our comfort zones and work as a group."

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