

# Burens top MHS citizen

By **TIM HAYS**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

Honor, courage, commitment, sacrifice, integrity, pride, and civic responsibility. These are the qualities of Nicholas Burens. As a second year cadet in McNary High School's AFJROTC program, Burens proved that he was more than just an ordinary student. On January 3, Burens was presented with the American Citizenship Award by Principal Erik Jespersen.

"One of the key elements of this award is community service," Jespersen said. "His teachers have emphasized to me how totally committed he is to this program, and to the tenants of service. That's what our military is about, and to me he was a great person to present this award to."

In order to receive the

award, Burens proved to not only his teachers, but also to his community, that everyone has the ability to strive to be better people than what they are already. During his two years with the AFJROTC program, Burens put in more than 70 hours of community



Nick Burens

service. While on Christmas break of his senior year, Burens volunteered with Operation Home Front. It was in that time that Burens received his awaited recognition.

"He is extremely humble, and he's one of our cadets that always enjoys helping others," Sergeant Robert Garcia said. "After he was done volunteering at this event, Nick took the leftover toys and handed them out in his own community."

Burens has not only helped others, but he has helped himself, as well. When

he joined the fitness team in fall, Burens set out to get in better shape. He did more than just that. In less than a year, Burens lost 50 pounds and took more than seven minutes off his mile time.

"The purpose of this program is to develop citizens of character who are dedicated to serving their nation and community," Sergeant Garcia said. "The thing about Nick is that we've seen that from the first year he joined us. When he found out he had won this award he felt as though there were more qualified candidates. He told me he felt guilty. However, there is no doubt in my mind that Nick earned this award."

Burens also received a national level award: The Hunley Award; given to cadets who actively demonstrate the qualities of honor, courage, and commitment to their unit.

"He shines as a citizen," Master Sergeant Robbie Ellis said. "He is the example of what you want a citizen to be like."

# Hirings approved at Keizer schools

By **HERB SWETT**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

The Salem-Keizer School Board approved a number of personnel changes at its meeting Tuesday, June 14.

Many teacher hirings were approved, including the following for the McNary High School attendance area:

- Temporary part-time: Ashley Swanick, physical education, Kennedy Elementary School.

- First-year probation part-time: Kellie Federico, English, Whiteaker Middle School.

- First-year probation full-time: Haley Petersen, science, Claggett Creek Middle School; Katie Wickham, science, McNary; Shauntel Roberts, emotional growth classroom, Keizer; Tatiana Puskas, fourth grade, Clear Lake Elementary School; James McCaffrey, fifth grade, Clear Lake; Andrea Pfau, physical education, Weddle Elementary School; Karen



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Jokerst, learning resource center, Whiteaker.

- Second-year probation full-time: Caleb Singleton, physical education, McNary.

- Contract full-time: Angela Smith, kindergarten, Forest Ridge Elementary School.

Also approved were the resignations of Melina Bridges, counselor, Forest Ridge;

Kimberly Baertlein, second grade English for speakers of other languages, Cummings; and Savannah Buckner, physical education, Weddle.

Retirements approved were those of Beverly Platt, learning resource center, Gubser and Cummings Elementary School; and Barbara Parker, fourth grade, Clear Lake.

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