

KeizerCommunity

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Behrends retires from McNary



Joe Behrends taught social studies for 16 years at McNary High School. KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

Lessons Learned

A five part series on retiring teachers in Keizer

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

Most teachers had someone in their life who inspired them. For Joe Behrends, it was Mr. Myers.

"I had a seventh grade social studies teacher," Behrends said. "He treated everybody well and you always felt like you were part of the class. You didn't feel left out."

Behrends, who taught social studies at McNary for 16 years, tried to do the same in his classroom.

"If you're part of something, you'll get a lot more out of the kids," he said.

A student at the University of Oregon, Behrends started out as a business major with a focus on accounting. But after his sophomore year, Beh-

rends wanted a change, so he sat down with his dad, an insurance salesman. He asked a simple question—"What do you like?"

Switching majors allowed Behrends to meet his wife, who also retired this year from Chapman Hill Elementary in Salem.

"We can go out together," Behrends said. "It is a very difficult job. It takes a lot of energy to do it well."

At the end of his career, Behrends taught honors freshmen, world geography and AP European History, but over time he's taught just about everything.

"I'm a history guy," Behrends. "I've never taught a

class I didn't like. I've been fortunate to have a lot of kids as freshmen and then as seniors and see the change over time."

Behrends said more is asked of teachers now than when he first started.

He taught at Sprague and McKay high schools before being recruited to McNary in 2000.

"Over my teaching career, kids' skills and ability has gotten better so I think we've raised the bar and it's harder to do stuff with the bar raised, for sure.

"Kids are more challenging. There are a lot more distractions in kids lives now than when I started. It's not just cell phones. It's so many more things."

Behrends said he'll miss the kids and fellow teachers but not grading papers on a Sunday afternoon.

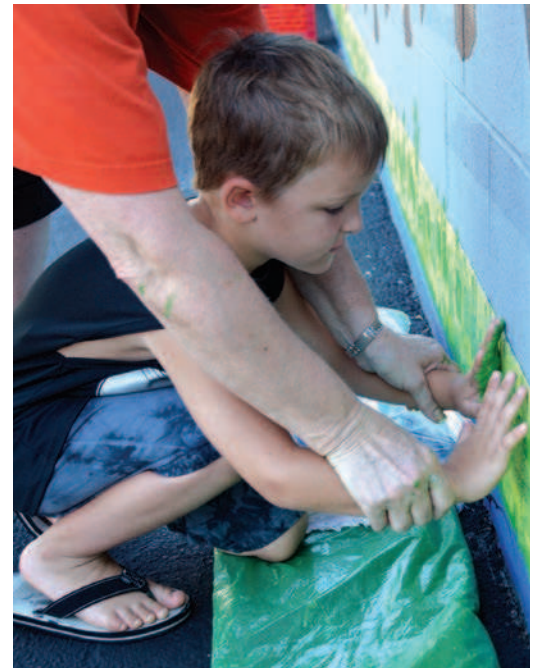
"It's been a blast, great staff, great kids. I think McNary is a great place to be and it will continue to be a great place to be.

"Society sometimes undersells kids. You shouldn't. There's great potential there."

Hands on



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald About 60 local kids turned out to leave their mark on the mural at Town and Country Lanes Saturday, July 23. Lore Christopher, left, paints the hand of McKinley Nelson. Walker Nelson puts his handprints on the wall.



It's not like her.

Mom has always been so patient, but now when I ask her questions she gets angry.

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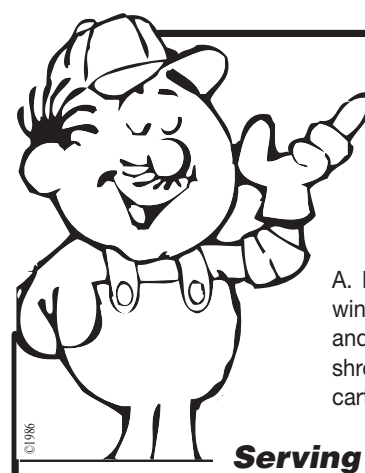
KEIZER MAYOR CATHY CLARK JOINS GATOR AND DENISE



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Father Gary L. Zerr, Pastor
Saturday Vigil Liturgy: 5:30 p.m.
Sundays: 8:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
La Misa en Español: 12:30 p.m.

John Knox Presbyterian Church
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Rev. Dr. John Neal, Pastor
Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Education Hour - 9:15 a.m.
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www.keizerjkpres.org

Faith Lutheran Church
4505 River Rd N • 393-4507
Sunday Schedule:
9:00 a.m. Children's Church
9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study
9:30 a.m. Children's Activities
10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion
Pastor Virginia Eggert

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Children's Programs, Student and Adult Ministries
1755 Lockhaven Dr. NE Keizer
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Keizer Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
6945 Wheatland Rd. NE 393-6843
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Office Hours 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Mon. - Fri.

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