

# KeizerCommunity

KEIZERTIMES.COM

## Mrs. Matiskainen retires after career in teaching

By DEREK WILEY  
Of the Keizertimes

The summer of 2011 was a scary time for Jill Matiskainen.

She had been laid off from her position at Washington Elementary when right before school started she received a phone call from the Salem-Keizer school district.

They wanted to know if Matiskainen would like to teach at Gubser.

"I was one of the one's that was real lucky," Matiskainen said. "I had worked here (Gubser) before, my kids went to school here and I live a block away."

Matiskainen's started at Gubser as a kindergarten instructional assistant in 1986.

After hearing from teachers that she should get her license, Matiskainen decided to go to school. She was in her 40s.

"I made my daughter take my very first class with me," Matiskainen said. "She had just graduated from high school at McNary and we went to Chemeketa. I started with one class and by the end of the year I was doing five classes and working full-time and taking care of my three kids."

Through the Career in Teaching program, Matiskainen earned her bachelor's degree in management in organization and master's in teaching.

"I'd never been to school before so it was scary," Matiskainen said. "I did summer. I just wanted to get through, at night, weekends, everything. I did whatever I could to get through it."

Matiskainen's first teaching job was at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School in Salem. After seven years, she joined the



Jill Matiskainen is retiring after 13 years as an instructional assistant and seven as a full-time teacher at Gubser Elementary.

faculty at Washington.

Returning to Gubser was easy.

"There were only like two teachers left from when I was here before but I knew the building so that was really comfortable," Matiskainen said. "The staff here is fabulous and they just welcomed me."

Matiskainen taught third grade.

"I love the growth that you see at the end of the year and I just love the kids," Matiskainen said. "I like seeing them when they come in and they're like babies and then we go through the whole year and they're growing and ready for fourth grade. It's just a really rewarding feeling that you get when you work with

them."

The 2017-18 class of Gubser third graders was Matiskainen's last as she announced her retirement.

"That was horrible," Matiskainen said of her final day. "I was crying all day. Mixed feelings, I'm glad to be retiring but yet I'm sad. I've done this for so long."

While Matiskainen, whose hobbies include scrapbooking, sewing and gardening, doesn't know exactly what's next. She does know where she'll be when school starts back in September—Hawaii.

"I've had a wonderful adventure and I worked hard to get to where I am today," Matiskainen said. "It's been a great ride."



Submitted Ryan Russell, division chief for Keizer Fire, oversaw the lawn project, which due to the work of firefighters saved the district an estimated \$10,000.

## Keizer Fire repairs lawn

By DEREK WILEY  
Of the Keizertimes

Tired of seeing dead grass at their station in the summer and hearing there was no money to fix the problem, Keizer firefighters decided to take action themselves.

"We'd had this lawn project planned for the past four or five years and have been trying to do it and there just hasn't been the money for it," said division chief Ryan Russell, who oversaw the project.

When Keizer First District built its new station in 1997, the lawn was put in on the top of the old parking lot over large rocks and asphalt.

"During the summer it all dies off just because there was hardly any topsoil there," Russell said. "We dug out the rock and put down new top soil and seeded it with grass seed."

The district also had two large maple trees with not enough room to grow. R &

R Tree Service removed the trees and two new smaller trees were planted in their place.

"Those maple trees that were put in should have never been put in a spot that small," Russell said.

"There's only about 8 foot of grass there and there's just nowhere for the roots to grow. We've got street on one side and road on the other side. They were both growing against the building. There was nothing to hold them up in a big wind storm."

KFD budgeted \$3,000 for the project but spent closer to \$2,000 in materials, and saved much more in landscaping cost.

"I bet it's at least \$10,000 in savings," Russell said. "We have guys with knowhow and we had a handful of them that wanted to take it on and it worked out perfect. It was a good morale booster for the

guys. They take pride in what we do. They were happy to be involved with it."

Most of the work was done by on-duty firefighters during their regular shifts.

"That's the really impressive part to me," Fire Chief Jeff Cowan said. "They've wanted to do it for a while and they wanted it to be something they could really show and be proud of. You just can't buy that."

### crossword

No Cons Here

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CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

#### ACROSS

- 1 Kennedy and Sorensen
- 5 G.I. Joe's creator
- 9 Fall flower
- 14 Actor Guinness
- 15 Restraint
- 16 Bowling feat
- 17 Prom conveyance
- 18 Kiln
- 19 Palmer
- 20 Alternative plan
- 23 Flow
- 24 Early Norwegian navigator
- 25 Planes: abbr.
- 28 Cuttlefish organ
- 32 Grates
- 36 Ready for use
- 38 Therefore
- 39 Unlikelihoods
- 42 Designer Chanel
- 43 Miss Carter's namesakes
- 44 Caucasus inhabitant
- 45 Obliterates
- 47 Arm of Calif. law
- 49 Quick gait
- 51 Striated
- 56 Without stipulations
- 61 Military acronym

#### DOWN

- 1 Magnesium silicates
- 2 George or T.S.
- 3 Raise an objection
- 4 Tea biscuit
- 5 Prefaces
- 6 Kind of book
- 7 Speech impediment
- 8 Between: Fr.
- 9 Neat
- 10 Teeth
- 11 Beiges
- 12 Silkworm
- 13 Lively dance
- 21 Italian poet
- 22 Bay window
- 26 Cable car
- 27 Sorceress
- 29 Hindu titles
- 30 A Death in the Family author
- 31 Price
- 32 Wedding shower

#### ACROSS

- 33 Cupid
- 34 Humane soc.
- 35 Prone
- 37 City on the Arno
- 40 1964 Nobel physicist
- 41 Antiseptic: var.
- 46 Worn away
- 48 Tines
- 50 Like some waves
- 52 Coolidge's vice president
- 53 Forest clearing
- 54 Slur over
- 55 Welsh poet Thomas
- 56 Single component
- 57 Ibsen's rebel wife
- 58 Baby carriage
- 59 Herb
- 60 Golf club

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