

Art: Former student to fill shoes left by Beck

Continued from A1

In the mid-1980s, a short time after picking up drawing again, he decided to go back to school. He had been working in the construction industry until then, and considered majoring in forestry. But between his emerging love for art and his drive to want to work with kids, Beck decided on art education.

At 40 years old, Beck would find what he calls the "most rewarding job I've had in my life," and soon, a community that would support it through thick and thin.

He spent his first year after graduating from what is now Western Oregon University as a substitute teacher. His first permanent job was in Toledo in Lincoln County.

At the end of his sixth school year in Toledo, his principal received a call from Dal-

las. "The (Dallas) principal asked if it was OK to talk to me to see if I was interested in (working in Dallas)," Beck recalled. "It was a call out the blue."

"I couldn't turn it down once I interviewed for it. It was a good job for me."

Apparently, the district and community believed Beck was the right teacher for the task, too.

"From the first year I was here, I've had so much support from the community and the administration, and it's just been an amazing

place to work," Beck said.

The most distinctive feature of his classroom, the sunroom facing Ash Street, is a good example of the support Beck and the art program has received over the years. Through mostly donated supplies and funding, the room was added after his first year at the school. Then, much to his surprise, was filled with five donated potter's wheels.

"It's been that way since I've been here," Beck said. "Any time I had needed something, somebody stepped forward and helped out."

Students could say the same of Beck.

"He kind of lets you do whatever you want. Whatever you want to make, whatever you want to experiment with, he lets you do and he will help you learn how to do it," said senior Hannah Nelson, who has taken art classes with Beck all four years of high school.

Her favorite form of art is ceramics. She said Beck has taken extra time to show her all the steps. "Earlier today, I helped him glaze all the pieces, and he's teaching me how to do other things — like how the kiln works and how the glaze works — outside of class," Nelson said.

Beck won the Oregon Art Education Association's Educator of the Year award in 2002 and received an Excellence in Arts recognition at the Dallas Community Awards in 2010.

"Every kid needs a place they can fit in. Education is not just for the kids who are smart; education needs to be for everybody."

—John Beck



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

John Beck, second from right, helps a group of students make medallions for the Summerfest Fun Run during his pottery class last week. Beck, who has taught art at DHS since 1996, will retire in June. He said he took the job after receiving "a call out of the blue" asking if he wanted to teach in Dallas.

For Sarah Fast, Beck has been a teacher, mentor and now, a colleague. A former student of Beck's, Fast is now an art teacher at DHS. Next year, she will take over his classroom.

She said Beck is one of the reasons she decided to become a teacher.

"He encouraged me to pursue that love I had," she said. "I feel like Mr. Beck has been a mentor for me for a long time."

Fast knows Beck will be around — he's renewed his license

so he can substitute — but it will still be strange teaching his classes in his room and stepping into his "big, established shoes."

She's hoping she can continue to build on what Beck created in DHS' art program.

"That's just the type of teacher he is," she said. "He makes what we are doing really fun."

Beck will be using his free time to dust off his own art studio, travel, and of course, teach a class here and there.

He said he will miss his students the most after he leaves, though he will likely stay in touch with many of them. Some, like him, had their struggles in school, but found their escape — or their calling — in the art classes he taught.

"Every kid needs a place they can fit in. Education is not just for the kids who are smart; education needs to be for everybody," Beck said. "If they can find an area that they excel in, that makes learning how to do math and reading more enjoyable."

POLK COUNTY WORSHIP DIRECTORY

DALLAS

Calvary Chapel Dallas www.calvarydallas.com
Currently meeting for worship and verse by verse Bible teaching at 628 SE Jefferson St. Worship service begins at 10 a.m. on Sunday. Sunday school is available from youth ministry and below to nursery. Wednesday evening cafe-style Old Testament study starting at 6:30 pm. Come join us for a relaxed study around a cup of coffee or drink. Mens prayer is Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Womens Bible studies are scheduled also, call for times. The Pastor/Teacher is Larry King. Come join us and be a part of God's family here in Dallas. For more information call 503-831-1074.

Church of God of Prophecy New Beginnings - 575 SW Ash St., (corner of Ash & Stump St.) Pastor Raul Lopez, 971-209-0452. Bible Study School 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. (bi-lingual) Bible Study 6:00 p.m. presently studying the book of Ezekiel. We welcome all. Associate Pastor Jim Dickason 503-302-9816.

Church of Christ - North Kings Valley Hwy. Sunday Class 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Sunday Evening Service 5:30 p.m. Thursday Evening Bible Study 7:00 p.m. We are a Bible Based Church. Visitors welcome. For information call 503-420-4010. If no answer, please leave a message and we'll return your call as soon as possible.

Dallas Alliance Church - 775 E. Ellendale, Dallas, 503-623-2265. Email office@dallasalliance.org. Lead Pastor Jim Jamieson; and Youth/Children's Pastor Lance Baker; Every Sunday: classes for all ages at 9:15 a.m., Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m., (Nursery provided for a.m. services); Tuesdays: Youth Night 7:00 p.m. in Ediger Hall; Wednesdays: Adult Prayer Meeting 1:00 p.m., Choir practice 6:45 p.m. Call for info on current Bible Studies. Web: dallasalliance.org.

Dallas Church - PO Box 462, Dallas, OR 97338, 503-623-2711. Worship Gatherings: Sundays 10am. Meeting at 450 SE Washington St., Dallas OR 97338. Atmosphere is relaxed, families & children welcome, come as you are, current music & relevant teaching about Jesus. Pastor: Ben Bauman. www.dallaschurch.org

Dallas Foursquare Church—Located at 976 SW Hayter St. on the corner of Washington and Hayter. Worship Service: Sundays at 10am. Youth Group: Sundays 6pm to 8pm. Pastor: Darrin Hausler. We are a multi-generational church with a heart for our community. Our mission is to Love God and Love People to Extend His Kingdom. For more info call us at 503-623-8277 or visit us online at dallasfour.com.

Evangelical Bible Church - 1175 S.E. Howe, Dallas 503-623-2331. Senior Pastor Jerry Franz, Visitation Pastor Allan Wiebe, Youth Pastor Nathan Ensz. Sunday: Worship *8:00 a.m.; *10:45 a.m.; *6:00 p.m.; Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; High School Youth Group 7:00 p.m.; Thursday: Jr. High Youth Group - 7:00 p.m.; 2nd & 4th Tuesday: MOPS *9:00 a.m.; Wednesday: AWANA - 6:30 p.m.; Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 7:00 p.m.; Thursday: Bible Studies *9:00 a.m. & *7:00 p.m. (women); Thursday Group Bible Study 2:00 p.m. *Nursery care provided.

Faith Evangelical Free Church - 2290 E. Ellendale Ave., Dallas, 503-623-8034; Senior Pastor Al Perkins, Associate Pastor Ed Sutter, Worship Pastor Ted Kitzmiller, Youth Pastor Aaron Swank, Ministry of Children & Family Debbie Davies. Sunday School 9:00 a.m.; Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday High School Youth Group 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday Jr. High Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Please call or visit our website for information about other meetings. www.faithfreechurch.org

First Baptist Church - 245 S.W. Church St., Dallas, 503-623-5189; www.gofbc.org; Church Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Fri. 9 am - 4 pm and Wed 5 pm - 7 pm; Pastor Rick Bratton; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:45 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 6-7 p.m.; Everyone Welcome!

First Christian Church - Joyfully Worshipping &

Serving 1079 S.E. Jefferson Street, Dallas, 503-623-2569. Pastor Darren Anderson. "Live Wire Worship" with Praise Team - 8:30 a.m., Adult, Youth & Children Sunday School - 9:30 a.m., Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m. (Nursery provided), Men's Bible Study - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. Christian Women's Fellowship - 2nd Tuesday, 1:00 pm (Sept through June). Please call church office for information about other meetings.

First Presbyterian Church - 879 S.W. Levens Street, Dallas, 503-623-3397. Pastor Sandy Larson invites you to come and share with us. Worship 10:30 a.m.; Adult Sunday School 9:00 am; Men's Breakfast & Bible Study Tues. 7:00 a.m.; Handicapped accessible. Bloodbank 4th Monday of even numbered months. Indoor Play Park.

Grace Community Church - 598 E. Ellendale Ave. PO Box 69, Dallas, 503-623-4961. Senior Pastor-Dave Bertolini, Pastor of Worship & Discipleship-Ryan Bucher, Pastor of Student Ministries-Ben Potloff. Sunday Worship: 1st Service-9:00 a.m. with Kids, Youth, & Adult Sunday School running concurrently. 2nd Worship Service-10:45 a.m. with Kids Worship running concurrently. Nursery provided for 0 - 2 year olds during both services. Office open Tuesday-Friday for office hours visit our website at www.graceindallas.org. All are welcome!

Living Hope City Church - 1156 SE Holman, Dallas. Family Worship 10:30 am. www.living-hopecitychurch.org Equipping Center & Offices 186 SE Mill St., Dallas. For more information call 503-623-6890.

Living Word Faith Fellowship - 830 SE Shelton Street, Dallas, 503-623-9062. Pastor Joan Siewert. Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m. Wednesday Worship 7:00 p.m. Children's Sunday service 10:00 a.m., nursery provided. Men's fellowship second Saturday of month breakfast at 8:00 a.m. at Murphy's Restaurant, Dallas. Pastor Michael Van Dyke in charge of men's fellowship. Call for additional information. Website: www.proclaimhim.org

Salt Creek Baptist Church - 15075 Salt Creek Road, Dallas, 503-623-2976. Senior pastor David Curtis. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning Worship 10:50 a.m. Nursery provided for worship services. Classes for all ages. Wednesday Senior High and Middle School Youth at 6:30 p.m. Please call for information about other meetings or visit our website at www.saltcreekchurch.org.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church - 589 SW Birch, P.O. Box 450, Dallas 97338-0450. 503-623-5872. Services on Saturday: 9:30 A.M. Sabbath School Bible Study for all age groups. 10:50 A.M. Worship Service. Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9 to Noon. Pastor: Lary Brown

St. Thomas Episcopal Church - 1486 SW Levens St., Dallas (at the corner of Levens & Cherry) 503-623-8522. Email: stthomasdallas@gmail.com 10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Eucharist. Sunday School and Nursery Care available during worship. Sundays 1:30-3:00 all ages FREE singing lessons. St. Thomas Episcopal Church 1486 SW Levens Dallas. Call Rebecca 503-559-5205 with questions. The Episcopal Church and St Thomas Welcomes you — please join us.

Trinity Lutheran Church - 320 SE Fir Villa Rd, Dallas, 503-623-2233. Pastor - David Pederson. Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m.; Kids Church during 10:00 a.m. Worship. Youth Group HS/MS 11:30 a.m. Sundays. Free Medical Clinic 1st & 4th Saturday of each month. www.dallastlc.org. Catch us on Facebook.

United Methodist Church - A church with Open Hearts, Open Minds & Open Doors. 565 SE LaCreole Drive, Dallas, 503-623-2481. Pastor-Rev. Quinton Kimbrow. Worship Service 10:55 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Child-care available. Handicap access. All are welcome! Email: dallasumc@westoffice.net Website: www.sites.umcdallas.com

Valley Life Center (Assemblies of God) - 1795 S.E. Miller Ave., Dallas, 503-623-4116.

Pastor Chris Barker, Children's Director, Crystal Barker, Sunday Morning Service 10:30 a.m., Wednesday Family Night 6:30 p.m. Please call for more information or visit our website at www.valleylifecenter.com

FALLS CITY

Falls City Christian Church 233 S. Main Street, Falls City, Oregon 97344, 503-787-3104 Sunday Service: 10 am; Website: www.falls-cityucc.com

Falls City United Methodist Church - 242 N. Main Street, Falls City, 503-851-3213. Pastor Rebecca Strader. Morning worship Sunday 9:20 am. All denominations are welcome. www.falls-cityumc.org

Mountain Gospel Fellowship - 303 N. Main, Falls City, 503-787-8037. Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Worship Service 11:00 a.m., Wed. Dinner 6:15 p.m. Everyone welcome just as you are. Join Us!

Seventh-Day Adventist Church - 205 N. Main, Falls City 97344, 503-787-3907. Pastor Lary Brown. Sabbath School Sat. 9:30 am-10:40 am; Worship Service 11 am. Community Service Center (Food Bank) third Wed. of each month, noon-3pm.

INDEPENDENCE

Buena Vista Community Church - 11355 Church St., Buena Vista. Independence. Pastor Larry Lyon. Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Morning Worship 11 a.m.

Cornerstone Church of God - 4395 Independence Hwy, Independence, 503-838-5119. Sunday Service 10:30 a.m., Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. Nursery available.

First Baptist Church - A warm, friendly church that cares about you! Located at 1505 Central Church St., Independence (across from Central High School); 503-838-1001. Senior Pastor Michael Parks. Sundays: Worship Service 11 am Wednesdays: AWANA 7 pm (during the school year). Thursdays: Youth Group 6:15pm. Join us for small groups and life groups throughout the week. *First Baptist Church has ministries for children, youth, adults, families and seniors, throughout the week. Check us out at www.independencelfirstbaptist.com*

Life Center Foursquare Church - 437 D Street, Independence, OR Phone: 503-838-6507. Pastor Larry Grateak. Worship Service and Sunday School starts at 10:30 a.m. Various Studies, Prayer Groups and Home Fellowships available throughout the week. Call for more information. You are welcome! Find us on Facebook.

River Valley Fellowship - 210 S. 5th St., Independence. Phone: 503-949-1523. We are a friendly, loving church family of all ages that would enjoy including you! Sunday morning 10:45 service with a children's program that follows worship. Midweek adult bible study, monthly fellowship get together and weekly youth group. Find us on Facebook for an inside view! We love having visitors and would like to have you check us out.

St. Patrick Parish, Catholic - 1275 E St., Independence. 503-838-5801. Father Henry Guillen Vega Masses Sat., vigil 5 p.m.; Sunday 9:30 a.m. (English), 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. (Spanish); Weekdays Mon, Tues, Wed, & Thurs. 9am, Saturday 7 p.m. (Spanish). Evergreen Nursing Home: Holy Days 9 a.m. (Eng) & 7 p.m. (Eng/Span). Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 3:30-4:30 p.m. or by appointment. Religious Education: RCIA Mon 7:00-8:30 p.m.; Mid-High & High School Grades Mon 7:00-8:30p.m.; Grades 1-4 Tues. 7:00-8:30 p.m. WOU Campus Ministry: Mass Sun. 5:00 p.m. at 315 N. Knox St., Monmouth followed by a social hour.

MONMOUTH

Christ The King Christian Church - Meets at 959 Church St. W., Monmouth 7:00 pm Satur-

day Night. Christ The King Christian Church is a conservative, contemporary, charismatic Biblical Church. At Christ The King we learn: the truths of the Bible, how to live Biblical truths, how to please God, and how to be a blessing to all people. Come and join us as we learn and grow together. Everyone is welcome. Wally Wildman, senior pastor. For more information call 503-623-2262. www.ctkmonmouth.com

Christ's Church Methodist & Presbyterian United - Come care and share with us. 412 Clay Street West, Monmouth, 503-838-1724. Pastor Rebecca Strader. Worship Service 11 a.m. Call for information on small groups.

Church of Christ - 127 N. Heffley St., Monmouth, 503-838-2360. Minister - Dan Brewer, Youth Minister - Jon Siegrist. Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Worship Service 10:45 a.m., Sunday Evening Service 6 p.m., Wednesday Service 6 p.m.

Faith Lutheran Church - 200 Monmouth-Independence Hwy., Monmouth (the church with the lighted cross on the "S" curve). School Year Schedule: Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 9:00 am; Divine Service of Holy Communion 10:30 am. Pastor Dallas C.R. Dubke. www.FaithLutheranMonmouth.org; 503-838-3459. Everyone is welcome!

Heart to Heart Church - 191 N. Monmouth Ave., Monmouth (across street from WOU). Pastor Jim Miller. email: Jim@h2hchurch.com. Sunday School for children and adults 10:00 a.m.; Worship Service 11:00 a.m.; Prayer & Praise 6:00 p.m.; Seekers Night - Monday 6:00 p.m.; Children & Adult Bible Study - Wednesday 7:00 p.m.; Seven Cities Worship Service Friday 8 p.m.; Everybody welcome. Information: church 503-838-0537. www.h2hchurch.com

Monmouth Christian Church - 959 Church Street W, Monmouth, OR 97361; Office: (503) 838-1145; Fax: (503) 838-1162; Email: mcc@mymcc.cc; Website: mymcc.cc; Lead Pastor: Sean Biltzer; Pastors: Ulysses Vela, Mary Weinbender, & Seth Halligan; Sunday Worship Service: 10 am, English & Spanish; children's programming for birth to 6th grades also available. Momentum (7th & 8th Grades) meet Tuesdays 6:30-8:00 pm MCC; Join us this Sunday in person or live online at www.mymcc.tv.

New LIFE Ministries - we're growing in Polk County! CHILDREN'S CHURCH NOW AVAILABLE! We are a God-loving, Bible-believing, non-denominational church body. This church is a little different, in that it's not just a church service, but is all about being a "service church". We strive to seek out and serve the needs of the community. It is our hope that God will use us to make a difference. Come join us! We meet at Ash Creek School, 1360 N 16th Street, Monmouth every Sunday morning at 10:00-11:00 am. Our minister is Marion Seick. Feel free to call us at (503) 871-5207. Please come visit and worship with us this Sunday!

Praise Assembly 189 Monmouth Ave S., Monmouth (locations in McMinnville and Willamina as well). Our English worship gathering is 11 am on Sundays, followed by a Spanish service at 2 pm. Kid's church available for 12 and under. Youth group meets at 9:30 Sunday morning. Other ministries include: Celebrate Recovery (Tues, 7 pm), College Bible study (Wed, 7 pm), and Spanish Bible study (Thurs, 7 pm). Please check our website for the most up-to-date information, www.praiseonline.net, or call us at 503-837-0300.

St. Hilda's Episcopal Church 245 Main St. W., Monmouth, 503-838-6087, sthildaschurch.org Sunday Eucharist - 10:00 am followed by Fellowship. Children's Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 am. Wednesday Worship at 8:00 am and 7:00 pm. Nursery care provided. Call for periodic small groups and celebrations. All are welcome!