

KLL breached contract with city

Council might grant mulligan

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Keizer Little League (KLL) pocketed \$12,000 from concession stand proceeds in 2017, money contractually mandated to be spent on park upkeep. And the Keizer City Council is on the verge of granting the organization a “get out of jail free” card.

Under the terms of a contract with the city signed in 2016, net proceeds from the Keizer Little League Park’s concession stand are supposed to be reinvested in maintenance and improvement of the park itself. In 2017, the concession stand netted \$24,000 and only \$12,000 went back into the park for maintenance.

Keizer Little League President Brad Arnsmeier said the remaining \$12,000 offset costs of running a free T-ball

program for 220 players, purchasing uniforms, equipment, insurance, and as scholarship money for athletes’ families who would otherwise struggle to pay registration costs.

Arnsmeier, who was elected KLL president last year, said he was not aware of the language in the contract until December 2017.

“Had I been aware, we never would have opened the concession stand. The contract, as it was written, was an unfair contract,” Arnsmeier said in a phone interview after a Keizer City Council meeting Monday, May 7, where the financial discrepancy was brought into the public light. Arnsmeier was unable to attend the meeting because he was out of town.

Arnsmeier contended that asking volunteers to work



the concession stand for no benefit to the KLL program was akin to asking them to volunteer for the state. When pressed regarding the definition of volunteering being an act of selflessness, Arnsmeier responded, “When you’re talking about the number of hours it requires to run the concession stand, then that is a very large ask. It takes a tre-

mendous amount of work to get those volunteers to come out and work the stand.”

To be fair, KLL leaders and volunteers have put a large amount of work into rehabilitating the facility. The organization has received two matching grants amounting to \$20,000 out of the city’s general fund in recent years. Led by Clint Holland, a KLL board

member and longtime Keizer volunteer, KLL leveraged that money to secure another \$50,000 over four years from the Rotary Club of Keizer. Volunteer hours and in-kind donations likely amount to tens of thousands more.

However, KLL has been asked twice to submit a detailed budget to the city for

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Post draws a Democrat challenger for District 25



KEIZERTIMES/Random Pendragon

Dave McCall (right) greets a constituent at Keizer’s JC’s Pizzeria Tuesday, May 1. McCall, a Keizer resident, is running to represent Oregon House District 25, which includes Keizer and Newberg.

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Dave McCall is one of the much-maligned California transplants that now call Oregon home. But, after more than 20 years as a Keizer resident, the Democratic challenger to Rep. Bill Post said his views have been shaped as much by this city as the one in which he was born.

“People are more relaxed here and want a relaxed lifestyle. There is a desire for a not-too-complex life that I enjoy,” McCall said.

McCall is unchallenged in the Democratic primary for Oregon House District 25, which means he will square off against Post in November for the seat.

McCall worked in armed security for almost two decades when his job as a manager was eliminated in a reorganization. In the wake of that upheaval, McCall enrolled at Western Oregon University intending to study history, but political science became his passion.

Despite the unexpected switch in careers, McCall said his time as a manager helped him focus on problem-solving.

“I’ve met Bill and he’s a nice guy, but I would rather try to solve the problem than rely on an ideology that says *this* has got to be the answer. He’s so proud of pushing the “No” button. Does that solve the problem? Sometime it does, sometimes it doesn’t,” McCall said.

District 25 encompasses all of Keizer and Newberg, and McCall said one of his most frequent questions is what the two cities have in common. The answer, he said, lies in his platform, which focuses on three areas: businesses,

the environment and education.

“I may be a Democrat, but I believe in commerce. We can create advantages for our businesses to compete in marketplace in the state and the country and the rest of the world,” he said.

Bolstering infrastructure from roads to rails and ports is one way to begin to tackle some of the underlying issues, he added.

He also sees opportunity to merge efforts in business and lessen environmental impacts.

“There is closed a factory just south of Newberg. That land is doing nothing. Why can’t we help the owner to convert it to an energy plant? Why can’t we do something with it other than sit and let it rust?” McCall said. “Why not get together with the owner and say this is how the government can help you if you’re willing.”

On the issue of education, McCall said he is supporting the bond measure voters will weigh in on next week, but that he wants to revisit the way state

revenues are shared with school districts. He is still working out the details, but “in exchange for a portion of property taxes school districts collect, the state will share its revenue and stabilize funding.”

“I supported (the bond), but I can see why others wouldn’t. Education is important to everyone whether you have kids or not,” he said.

McCall attended a recent town hall hosted by Post and Sen. Kim Thatcher in Keizer. During the meeting, Post supported enlisting a legion of volunteer ex-military and ex-police officers to provide security on school campuses.

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“I would rather try to solve the problem than rely on an ideology”

— Dave McCall

Raises, water rates draw budget spotlight

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

After two, three-hour long meetings May 1 and 3 the Keizer Budget Committee unanimously approved the city’s proposed budget.

In several regards, the budget is more or less what residents might expect from the city, but there was one noticeable difference. No one bickered over how the city might be able to afford additional police officers. For the immediate future, that problem was solved by creating a service

fee, but it means that some other costs are rising.

The addition of new employees for parks and police will result in an increase of about 9 percent over the last fiscal year. The good news is that revenues are also increasing about 7 percent, largely a result of the new parks and police fees.

Residents can expect a 4 percent increase in water rates this year, a 55-cent increase in stormwater rates and a 3 percent hike in sewer rates.

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KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald

The St. Monica Apartments on Apple Blossom Avenue Northeast will provide shelter and services for young mothers.

New apts. will assist underserved population

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

In the Catholic faith, St. Monica is the patron saint of mothers and Catholic Community Services will soon be carrying out her work in Keizer.

On Wednesday, May 14, from 4 to 6 p.m. the organization will celebrate the opening of the St. Monica Apartments at 151 Apple Blossom Avenue N.E. The apartments will serve young, pregnant women and young mothers who have outgrown foster care or have no other alternatives for housing.

“We expect the building to be certified for occupancy this month and start receiving the first tenants on June 1,” said Jim Seymour, executive direc-

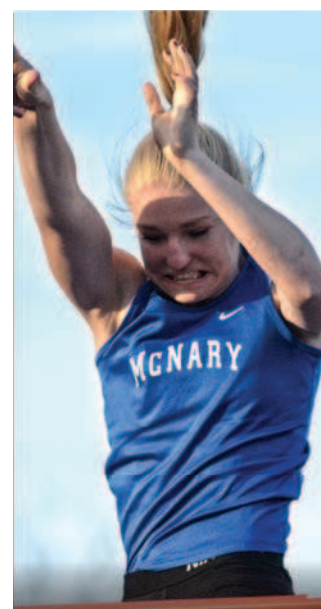
tor of Catholic Community Services (CCS).

Catholic Community Services took ownership of the Apple Blossom site when it assumed responsibility for a portfolio of local properties from the Salem-Keizer Community Development Corporation about four years ago. At the time, the apartments on the site were an eyesore. Half of the complex burned in a fire in 2013 and the other half wasn’t in much better shape.

“There were roofs leaking and other issues, so we condemned it when we took ownership,” Seymour said.

Around the same time, CCS was also rethinking how it administered legacy programs for unwed mothers,

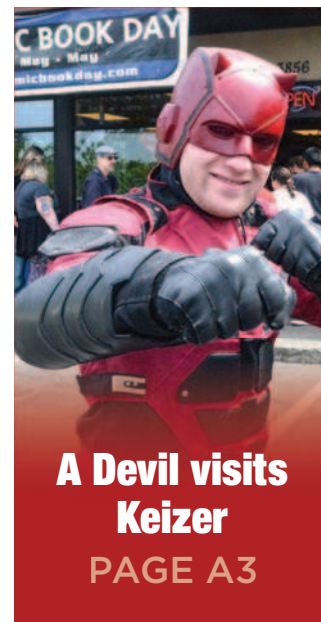
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