

Keizertimes

SECTION A

JULY 20, 2018

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KLL walks off \$13K in debt

City council shrugs

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Withholding nearly \$30,000 in payments to Keizer Little League complex proved to be nearly a break-even proposition for the organization running it during a meeting of the Keizer City Council July 16.

Two months ago, it was revealed that Keizer Little League (KLL), the organization charged with the maintenance and management of the park fields, kept \$13,434 of concession sales it was contractually obligated to reinvest in the facility itself. During the past eight weeks, the city's finance director assisted the league president and secretary,

OWED		FORGIVEN	
SLOT & TOURNAMENT FEES	\$ 15,030	FORGIVEN DEBT (CONCESSION REVENUE)	\$ 13,434
CONCESSION REVENUE	\$ 13,434	TO PAY	
TOTAL OWED	\$ 28,464	DELINQUENT SLOT FEES	\$ 13,550

Brad Arnsmeier and Lisa Buik, respectively, with compiling complete financial data on the group's activities. When the report was released last week, it turned out KLL owed more than double the initial amount. KLL also kept \$15,030 in slot fees and tournament revenues amassed in 2017. According

to the contract, those revenues should also have been put into the account of the park complex.

Offering no apologies, Arnsmeier told city councilors that the KLL board concluded that a 50/50 sharing of concession revenues was "an equitable split. I hope that when we finish the

process tonight that you agree."

Arnsmeier said he told City Manager Chris Eppley in January of the plan to keep the concession revenues while waiting to see if the city would retroactively amend the park management contract to include concession revenue sharing with the management group.

Arnsmeier did relatively little talking during the meeting, but city staff made that easier. Before getting into the detailed review City Finance Director Tim Wood heaped effusive praise on Arnsmeier and Buik.

Eppley also stepped in to defend the KLL organization.

"When we first started looking at this, I asked (Wood and City Attorney Shannon Johnson) the ugly question: does anyone think that KLL was embezzling money?" said Eppley. "Tim was able to say, 'no.' None of us believed that it was the case. This is an issue of transitory boards who are not professional bookkeepers. If kids weren't playing baseball and the fields weren't in great shape, I would be a lot more concerned."

In exchange for the retroactive change to the contract splitting concession sales and permitting the managing organization to keep tournament

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Vandals to Junior Olympics
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ONE-YEAR GONE

KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley
Lou Sumetz, left, with Cynthia Martinez Perez's mother Angelica and step father Cesar Castillo, talks about their faith during the last year at a candlelight vigil on Monday, July 16.

Vigil gathers community to support search for mother

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

One year after Cynthia Martinez Perez of Woodburn went missing from a Keizer night club, family friends and complete strangers gathered on Monday, July 16 at Chalmers Jones Park for a candlelight vigil.

"She's always in our hearts and minds and prayers," said Angelica Castillo, Cynthia's mother. "We miss her, we love her, we need her back. We want to keep Cynthia's name going to where she does not get forgotten and knows how much we love her."

The vigil was planned by a Keizer woman who never met Martinez Perez but related to her story.

"I live in Keizer and I'm a single mom of three," Rebecca said. "I can't imagine

my three children laying their head (down) every night not knowing where I was. I want to give her children those answers. I want to find their mother and what happened to her. I'm her voice. She's still out there somewhere and we need to let her children know where she is."

Martinez Perez's family and close friends were blown away by the comfort they've received from strangers like Rebecca.

"I just really want to thank the community for coming together and doing all of this for people that you guys didn't even know to begin with," Cielo Larios said. "I would like to thank the Hispanic community as well, just thousands of people have come together with

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'It's the hardest, best thing we've ever done'

By CASEY CHAFFIN
Keizertimes Intern

Jessica Ratliff had five kids in her home: four of her own, and one foster baby. Then a Department of Human Services (DHS) worker called: Can you take a foster sibling set, two kids under the age of two?

"How many people have you called?" Ratliff asked.

Twenty-four people. Ratliff was the twenty-fifth.

Ratliff said yes, for the meantime.

"When you tell me you've called 24 other homes, I can do it, but I can't do it for long," she said. Foster families often have to provide short-term care while DHS workers find suitable long-term placements, often outside of Marion County. Ideally, there would be open foster homes available for immediate long-term care, but that's just not the case. There are too few foster families and too many kids in foster care.

Foster parents usually show up in the news for the wrong reasons: abuse, mismanagement of the foster stipend, and so forth. But the cameras don't show up to document the foster parents working hard and doing the best they can for the kids that come into their care.

"I think because there's such negativity in the press around foster care lately that

FOSTER CARE

The foster care system in Marion County is struggling to meet demand.

This is the fourth part of a continuing series in the Keizertimes investigating the state of local foster care and shedding light on ways to get involved.

Check back next week for another installment.

no one wants to go get involved with it. When all you see in the headlines around it are scandals and abuse, people don't want to sign up and do that," Ratliff said. But that's not the mindset the community needs.

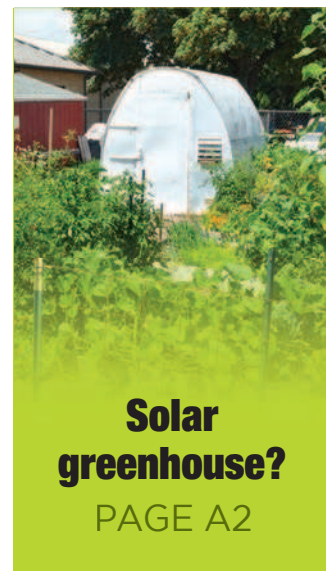
"If people don't like what they see on TV about foster homes, they need to step up and be the good foster homes. We just need people to step into that role and give these little children what they need," she said.

Ratliff and her husband opened up their home to foster youth just under four years ago and have generally fostered kids under the age of four. They've taken in about eight long-term placements and many more short-term placements over that time.

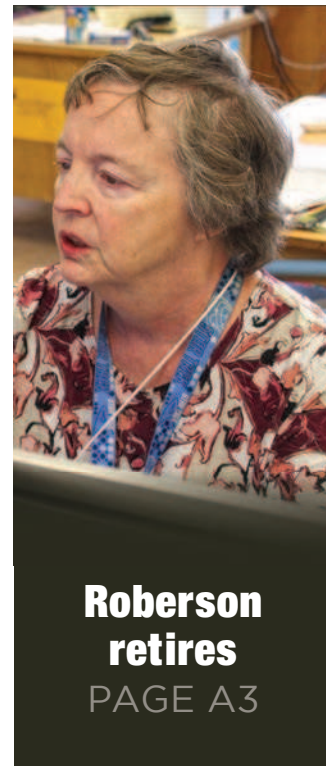
"It's the hardest, best thing we've ever done," she said.

But foster parenting isn't a task to be taken on lightly. Foster

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Solar greenhouse?
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Roberson retires
PAGE A3



7-on-7 football
PAGE B1

Council requests halt to recreational shooting

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

The largest contingent yet of west Keizer neighbors turned out at the Keizer City Council meeting Monday, July 16, to request a halt to recreational shooting at a quarry in West Salem.

About 40 neighbors were in attendance while about a half-dozen pleaded with city councilors to do something.

For the first time, Sheryl

Bauer, who was in her kitchen on June 2 when a bullet from the quarry penetrated her home exterior walls and stopped two feet away from her, offered public comment on the incident.

Bauer was holding back tears as she spoke, saying, "We're doing this for ourselves, but we are also doing this for our neighbors. We got to know them a lot faster than we expected and they are

wonderful, wonderful people and everybody is scared to death."

Bauer and her husband, Tom, moved to their home on Raphael Drive North not long before the bullet came through the wall.

Tom added the couple was most fearful for the lives of their grandchildren who have been lifted up and set on the

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File
This quarry across the Willamette River in Polk County is where shots are originating from.



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