

## KLL under new management

BY MATT RAWLINGS  
*Of the Keizertimes*

At their meeting on Monday, Nov. 15, the Keizer City Council unanimously agreed to grant the management of Keizer Little League to For the Love of the Game, a nonprofit run by Mavericks League owners Jerry and Lisa Walker, plus their son, Mickey.

The contract is for 10 years, with For the Love of the Game's performance being evaluated every two years by the Keizer city manager.

Councilors Roland Herrera and Kyle Juran were absent from the meeting.

"We have some really big visions of what we want to do with the complex, improvements we want to make to not only the fields but to the area itself, and hopefully that will directly benefit baseball and softball in this community," said Mavericks League CEO Mickey Walker.

Some of those big visions include bringing turf to the facility and making the park accessible for other sports.

"Turf is obviously a big thing that we want to have, that is something we would love to be able to accomplish. It's just a long-term plan, not a one-to-three-year process," Walker said. "Not only could it



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— CATHY CLARK

KEIZER MAYOR

benefit baseball and softball, we hope that we can develop it in a way to help other sports, like soccer or lacrosse,"

At the meeting two weeks ago, councilors elected to hold off on signing the contract with For the Love of the Game and requested that the nonprofit work with City Attorney Shannon Johnson to make certain amendments to the contract, which involved capital improvements.

Unless agreed otherwise in writing, the city is not responsible for the costs of improvements. However, capital improvements required as a result of state and federal disability laws shall be constructed by the city of Keizer at their own expense.

Keizer Mayor Cathy Clark, who has been a cheerleader of the nonprofit for months, expressed pleasure in For the Love of the Game managing the complex, and criticized the way the park has been run in the past.

"Over the last 10 years we have seen

there have been some inconsistencies, and that has not served the players well," Clark said. "I'm excited to bring on professional management of the facility that will allow parents to watch their kids play instead of serving nachos."

Before the vote, multiple people criticized the contract, including former Keizer Mayor Lore Christopher, who was not in attendance but offered written public comment.

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## Suspensions decrease, fights increase in first months without SROs

BY JOEY CAPPELLETTI  
*Of the Keizertimes*

In the first two months of full-time in-person instruction without school resource officers, suspensions and expulsions have been drastically reduced in Salem-Keizer schools — while fighting has increased.

The disciplinary data released during Salem-Keizer school board's Nov. 16 work session showed that expulsion violations through the first two months of this year have decreased by almost 90% while suspensions have been reduced by 55%. Fights in the school district, however, have increased by 42%.

Salem-Keizer Superintendent Christy Perry announced in March of this year



Students at Weddle Elementary on the first day of school. Photo by JOEY CAPPELLETTI of Keizertimes

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