

Development news tops 2018 in Review

It should probably be no surprise that the three biggest stories of 2018 had to do with development. It's something of a sign regarding how starved Keizer is for a diversity in shopping, eating and entertainment. But big things were happening outside that realm as well. For the first time in years, thanks to a parks services fee, the city officials got to argue what work it wanted to do in its parks instead of how to say, 'No.' A equal fee helped fully staff the Keizer Police Department in almost a decade. There were some hits, one enormous miss, and a lot in between. This is the year that was 2018 in Keizer news.



In-N-Out plans Keizer location

In August, a development manager for In-N-Out Burger quietly took a seat in front of the Keizer City Council and announced the corporation was looking place its first Portland-area location in Keizer Station.

"The Keizer location will serve as a new benchmark and entry into Portland and other metropolitan areas," said Kori Seki.

Seki dropped the news because the business needed a sign code adjustment allowing for additional signage on awnings. One of the signature markings on In-N-Out buildings is palm trees along the edges of its awnings and it wouldn't have been allowed under previous rules.

Keizer Times posted the news on Facebook within minutes and, by the following morning, the news had spread across every major news outlet in the Willamette Valley and some even further afield.

Earlier in December, In-N-Out filed location plans with the city. The restaurant will be 3,995 square feet with a drive-thru and outdoor seating. The address will be 6280 Keizer Station Blvd, behind Outback Restaurant. The plans will now go through permitting and be assessed system development charges.

In-N-Out serves up burgers, fries and shakes with a not-so-secret assortment of special orders.

Cinema deal unspools



There were building plans in the can, a signature on a lease and promises of recliner seating and the ability to pick your spot without a mad rush. Then, with something like Thanos's snap, it all went away.

We're talking, of course, about the Keizer Station cinema deal that dissipated when construction costs soared above expectations. After more than two years of planning, cinema owner Chuck Nakvasil pulled the plug on plans to locate a cinema off Keizer Station Boulevard in July 2018.

Nakvasil cited "substantially higher" bids for construction of the nine-screen complex as the reason for pulling out of the lease. The termination was permitted under the

terms of a lease agreement with the city that was contingent on successful financing of the project. Nakvasil had to have a signed lease to apply for financing and confirmed bids to finalize the financing of the project.

The deal would have been a first for the city, which planned to retain ownership of the property and use the income to help offset payments to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). Some limited improvements were made to the property in anticipation of the cinema construction. Keizer City Manager Chris Eppley hoped that those efforts would make the space more appealing to the next business with an interest in the space.

Walmart by Winco arrives

Keizer residents and Winco shoppers from all around rallied to bring a version of the discount grocer to the Iris City. The idea's champions found out in 2016 that their calls had been heard, but the doors didn't open until 2018.

With more than three dozen early, eager shoppers lined up outside the entrance to Keizer's newest grocery store, Walmart by Winco, store manager Derrick Dukes unlocked the doors 30 minutes earlier than planned. Traffic into the store was non-stop for several days as the regulars and the curious stopped in to see what Walmart brought to Keizer.

The store ended a drought in grocery shopping options within city limits. Roth's IGA closed in 2012 reducing Keizer to just Safeway and Albertsons. Albertsons and Safeway then merged and Albertsons closed its Keizer location in 2015. The former Albertsons at Creekside Shopping Center was converted to a Haggen, as the Washington-based grocery store chain undertook an ambitious growth streak to take advantage of the merger between Safeway and Albertsons. Haggens' plans fell apart spectacularly and, by September 2016, Haggen closed.



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2018 in Review

School response inconsistent with policy in wake of threat, bullying at Cummings

By MATT RAWLINGS
Of the Keizer Times

On Nov. 28, during a lunch recess at Cummings Elementary School, a third-grade girl pulled a knife on one of her female classmates and threatened to kill her according to a Dec. 19 article from the *Statesman Journal*.

The article also stated that, after the knife was taken away by a member of the staff, a male student choked the victim for "snitching."

Lillian Govus, director of community relations and communications with Salem-Keizer Public Schools (SKPS), acknowledged that an incident between three students did occur, but said she could not confirm details regarding what happened or comment on the version of events in the *Statesman Journal* story.

When situations like this happen, it is the school's job to engage the threat assessment team, which consists of law enforcement, school leadership, counselors, behavior specialists and teachers.

According to school officials, the threat assessment team was engaged, and the two students who were the aggressors in the incident had their parents called immediately to discuss disciplinary action.

"We always do our best to call parents first so they can hear from trusted adults who have all the facts," Govus said.

However, the victim's parents were not called or notified of the situation and did not find out about what had happened until the victim's father picked her up

from school later that afternoon.

Even though the school was able to contact the parents of the two kids who were the aggressors in this incident, Govus claimed that the school didn't call the victim's parents because the situation "happened toward the end of the day."

The victim did not attend school on Thursday, Nov. 29 or Friday, Nov. 30. Contact between the two sides was made on Nov. 29 via phone call, but the parents of the victim didn't meet with Cummings Principal Magda Romero until the following week. All three students were back in class on Monday, Dec. 3.

When a student brings a weapon to school, district policy states officials will generally:

- Confiscate the item.
- Contact the parent.
- Refer to law enforcement.
- Issue suspension with recommendation for expulsion.

In the case where a student assaults another person, they will not return to the classroom until his/her assigned consequence has been completed. The policy states that they may be reassigned to another class or school.

In the event of an assault, school district policy calls

for making referrals to law enforcement and to consider options such as: a 10-day suspension, restitution, expulsion, and mental health evaluations of counseling, in addition to the consequences for bringing a weapon to school.

When students are found to have been bullying or threatening other students, possible consequences include: conflict management meetings, in-school or out-of-school suspension, referrals to law enforcement, conferences with parents prior to return to school, possible continued suspension leading to expulsion and evaluation of a student's mental health.

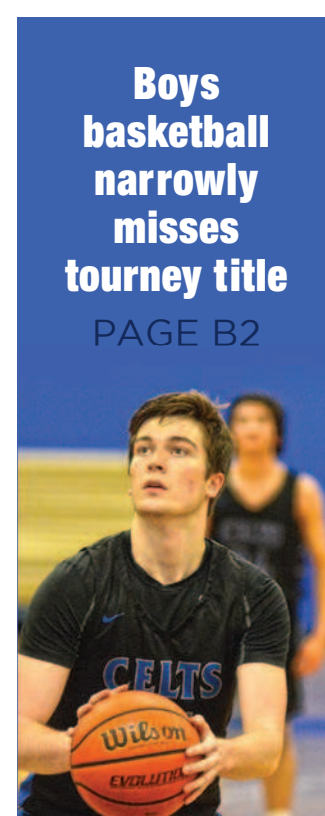
Romero believes that she did everything in her power to follow district policy despite all three students returning to class on the same day, only five days after the alleged threats and assault.

"It's my job to make sure we're following what that handbook says for discipline," Romero told the *Statesman*. "That's why the student was able to reach her parents before I could. I have never put parents off to come meet with me. I have an open door policy, they can come in whenever."

"Dealing with situations like these are not easy, and she moved quickly to ensure her students were safe."

— Lillian Govus
SKSD spokesperson

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