

'Double-Double' traffic will snake through stadium lot



By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

A meeting of the Keizer City Council drew two Portland television news crews to town Monday, Dec. 2. The big event of the night: approving the use of directional signage for the opening of In-N-Out at Keizer Station.

If the announcement of an opening date was expected, Community Development Director Nate Brown made it clear that the city is as much in the dark as everyone else.

"We do not have an official date, they will not release it until just before the opening. They have not shared the date or, as far as I know, come to a firm conclusion of when that date is," Brown said.

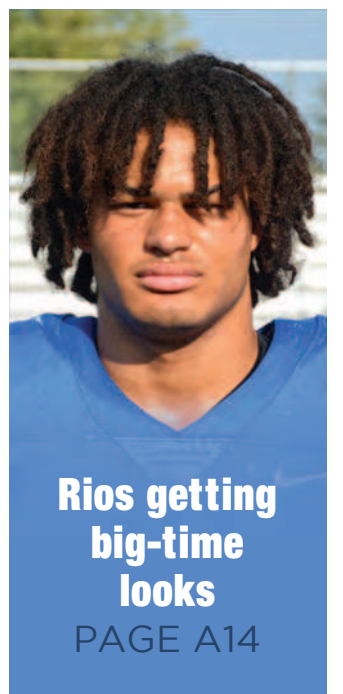
"They are planning a small army of people to help and hiring a traffic control firm that is trained to deal with the safety issues opening presents."

— Nate Brown,
Community Development
Director, City of Keizer

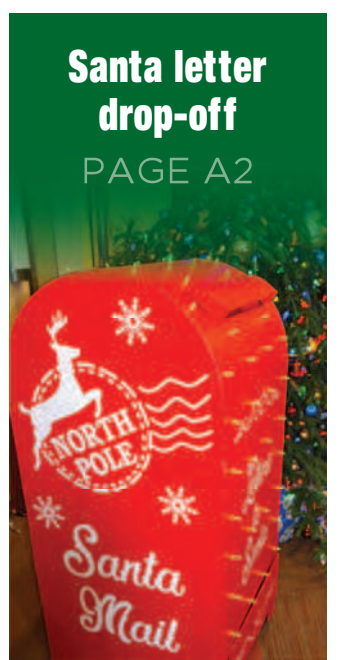
In-N-Out typically does not announce the opening of a new store until about 48 hours before it actually happens.

The council did approve the use of additional signage in and around Keizer Station to direct traffic when the opening occurs. No specific sites were designated, but the burger chain and its contracted traffic team will not be allowed to create dedicated lanes of travel. The approval of the signage means that In-N-Out has

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Rios getting big-time looks
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Santa letter drop-off
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Lights on
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Volcanoes will become Campesinos for six nights
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NOW PLAYING: 'Christmas show for grown-ups'

By MATT RAWLINGS
Of the Keizertimes

For those looking to see a lighthearted production that puts the audience into the holiday spirit, this play might not be for you.

However, if you're in the mood something that features some off-color humor about what it's like work at a department store during the holiday season, then Keizer Homegrown Theater's rendition of *The Santaland Diaries* might be just what you're looking for.

Performances are at 7 p.m. on Fridays, Dec. 6 and 13 and Saturday, Dec. 7. Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. will be on Dec. 8 and 15. On Saturday, Dec. 14, the performance will start at 5 p.m.— which will give people the opportunity to walk down to River Road and enjoy the Keizer Holiday Lights Parade at 7 p.m.

Traditionally, Keizer Homegrown Theater has family-friendly productions fill up the majority of their season. However, Linda Baker, who is the founder of the theater and director of the show, decided to go in a different direction for the final program of the year.

"I just thought it would be



Jeff Sargent plays a frustrated Macy's Department Store elf in *The Santaland Diaries*.

fun to do a Christmas show for grown-ups. How many candy cane and gingerbread shows can you really go see?" Baker said of the PG-13 show that features some adult language and crude humor.

"It's clever and raw and I think it's a nice antidote to all the sugar we get during this time of year."

The Santaland Diaries is based on a comedic essay by David Sedaris, which highlights his time working as a Christmas elf at Macy's Department Store.

The essay was originally read by Sedaris on National Public Radio's Morning Edition in 1992. In 1996,

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Rent discussion ends in whimper

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Anyone holding their breath that city officials might make moves to alleviate rent burdens in the city should stop. Having fulfilled the mandate of state officials to look at the issue within Keizer, city officials opted to continue having conversations but prescribed no specific relief.

"This is very market driven and we are going to have a difficult time controlling it," said Councilor Elizabeth Smith. "Until the market balances a bit more between single family homes and multifamily units, we are going to have to continue to revisit this and allow the market to continue to correct itself."

Mayor Cathy Clark noted the city's continued involvement in efforts to alleviate local homelessness, but that only affects one part of the problem.

Resident Sarah Anderson was one of only two members of the audience to speak up on other aspects of the rent-burdened picture.

"The people who are seeing the rent spike are the same ones that are unable to become homeowners," Anderson said.

"Is a rent increase supplementing new taxes and fees or putting money into new cars and savings accounts?"

— Sarah Anderson,
Keizer resident

"Is a rent increase supplementing new taxes and fees or putting money into new cars and savings accounts?"

Recent actions by the Oregon Legislature to put a cap on rent increases is having a detrimental effect in the short term, Anderson added.

"Renters are seeing even more of an increase with the caps coming next year," she said.

Last year, Keizer was designated as one of several rent-burdened cities in the state. About 54 percent of renters in Keizer are paying more than a third

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