

# KPIC's flood of information

By **CRAIG MURPHY**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

Soon, members of the Keizer Points of Interest Committee should be able to tell you all about historic floods in Keizer.

KPIC members have been working on a kiosk for Keizer Rapids Park detailing some of the biggest floods of the Willamette River in the Keizer area. Discussion continued at the Feb. 17 meeting for the group.

Bev Ecklund will be compiling details of the 1996 floods, when waters reached 35 feet, 1 inch.

Too easy or too recent? Kris Adams will be gathering details of the 1964 floods, when waters reached 37 feet.

Sherrie Gottfried and Charlotte Clark will work together to get information about the 1943 floods, when waters peaked at 38 feet, 6 inches.

Going further back, Erica Hedberg will be looking up the 1890 floods, when the river hit 45 feet, 3 inches.

Jill Bonney-Hill, chair of KPIC, is looking up the oldest and highest flood: the 1861 floods that hit 47 feet.

Debbie Lockhart, the Keizer deputy city recorder who takes

minutes at KPIC meetings, said a kiosk like the Marie Dorion one at the Pfc. Ryan J. Hill Memorial Park is being envisioned.

"Maybe if you get key pictures, quotes and bring it together, then we can all decide," Lockhart suggested to KPIC members.

Bonney-Hill noted she told Bill Lawyer, Keizer Public Works director, the group is still in the information gathering stage.

"We will be coming to the council in the future for funding," she said. "I told the council I would be coming back at a later date to discuss the kiosk."

At this point, there's no timetable for when that date might be.

"We'll come back each month with updates," Bonney-Hill said. "There's no rush."

Lockhart noted the Japanese History Sign project wasn't exactly an overnight job.

"It would be nice to have it by the early fall," Lockhart said. "Gosh, we worked on the Japanese project for years. If it takes time, that's okay."

In other KPIC business:

- Lockhart noted the Japa-

nese History Sign was printed recently by Sign Crafters of Oregon, but parks supervisor Robert Johnson noticed a problem.

"They put it on the wrong paper," Lockhart said. "Robert told them it wasn't the right way. They looked at the order and realized it. They are putting in another layer over it which will make it anti-graffiti."

The fixed sign was installed on Monday.

- Hedberg and her family have been going around to the different geo-caching sites, making sure everything is in the right place.

"One wasn't there, so I just created a new one," Hedberg said, referring to the one by the Thomas D. Keizer statue in front of city hall. "I got a new container. The other ones I've found have all been dry. I am just making sure they are still there and dry."

- Hedberg will be in contact with Dr. Wilbur Bluhm soon to do an interview with him for the Oral History Project. Kris Adams is hoping to make progress on an interview she's trying to do about Terry Staats. Adams was able to do an interview with Alice Jones.

"I did it just the other day," Adams said. "She was a hoot and had a lot of information. She came across great. It went well."

# WKNA annual report presented

By **CRAIG MURPHY**  
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It was a busy 2014 for the West Keizer Neighborhood Association.

WKNA president Rhonda Rich gave an annual report to the Keizer City Council on Feb. 17 and touched on some highlights from her eight-page report.

"We supported Urban Growth Boundary expansion and new land at Keizer Rapids Park, the master plan updates for Keizer Rapids Park and sent a letter of support for the Big Toy project to Marion County and to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department," Rich said. "We provided a voice for the tow truck parking issue, safety concerns at Keizer Rapids Park, the Keizer Rotary Amphitheater series promotion, we represented the Keizer Fire District advisory group with three people and we were represented on the Big Toy task force."

Rich noted WKNA members also organized a tour of KRP for members of the Audubon Society, participated in a community BBQ potluck and had open dialogue with members of the Keizer Police Department at meetings.

WKNA has been active since 2006 and serves approximately 3,200 households. General information on the organization and minutes from past meetings can be found at [www.westkeizer-na.org](http://www.westkeizer-na.org).

## obituaries

### Kelly Jay Nelson

Sept. 26, 1986 – Feb. 10, 2015

Kelly Jay Nelson of Keizer, 28, passed away on Feb. 10, 2015.

Nelson was born in Keizer and lived in the city his entire life. He graduated from McNary High School in 2005.

He worked in numerous fields over the years, with his last being sawing and demolition work.

Nelson is survived by his mother Phyliss Nelson, brother Casey Nelson and grandfather Garry Fergusson, as well as another grandfather and two cousins.

A celebration of life will be held Saturday, Feb. 28 at 4 p.m. at the Hitching Post, located at 8046 River Road NE.



KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy  
Rhonda Rich (front), flanked by Gary Blake, speaks to the Keizer City Council on Feb. 17.

"We try to have items of interest at each meeting," Rich said. "We work with city staff, commissions, groups and River Road businesses. Meetings are aimed at encouraging connections."

Rich recognized the service of Gary Blake, who served on the WKNA board from 2008 until the end of 2014.

"If anyone wants to be involved in active organizations, neighborhood associations are the ones to be in," mayor Cathy Clark said. "Thank you so much for the great work you're doing."

In other business Feb. 17:

- Councilors unanimously approved a liquor license application for the upcoming Gustav's Bargarten restaurant in Keizer Station, which is scheduled to open in mid-April.

The city received the application on Jan. 21, though it was submitted by Gustav's back on Dec. 1. The 5,500 square foot building has a listed seating capacity of 375 people, including room for 136 outside.

No one from Gustav's was present for the hearing, which in the past would have meant at

least one vote against. However, that wasn't the case this time as the application was forwarded without comment to the Oregon Liquor Control Commission for final approval.

- Speaking of liquor licenses with OLCC, the renewals of licenses at 62 establishments in Keizer was brought up.

Not all of the places are still in business, with Pastabilities and Sweet Home Thai Cuisine being two examples, something councilor Amy Ripp noticed.

"There are some businesses listed that are not currently open," Ripp said. "Is that relevant?"

The answer was no and that was the only comment made by councilors. The list was approved and forwarded to OLCC for final approval.

- Councilor Marlene Quinn noted the third annual Pinot for the Parks fundraiser is taking place at Keizer Civic Center Friday, March 13 from 6 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$25 each.

"There are four confirmed food vendors and four wineries," Quinn said. "This is a big fundraiser to help the parks budget."

- Nate Brown, Community Development director for Keizer, said city leaders are still proceeding with the hiring of a code enforcement officer.

"We are doing background investigations now," Brown said. "It is moving forward."

- Councilor Dennis Koho pointed out there are several upcoming listening sessions regarding marijuana.

"I have not seen this many meetings (about marijuana) since my days at Southern Oregon University," Koho said. "I'm just observing now, just like I did then."

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*RIVERfair is presented by Making Keizer Better Foundation, a non-profit organization*

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