



KEIZERTIMES/Lyndon A. Zaitz
Brad Keizer and his fiancée, Deanna Balster, of Hot Springs, South Dakota, visited Keizer recently and had their picture taken in front of the *Keizertimes* office. The trip was on Mr. Keizer’s bucket list due to his last name. As far as he knows he is not related to city namesake Thomas Dove Keizur.

KPIC flood project continues

By **CRAIG MURPHY**
Of the Keizertimes
Floods often rise quickly. A project to mark historic floods in Keizer isn’t moving quite as quickly.

Members of the Keizer Points of Interest Committee (KPIC) are continuing to move forward with plans to have markings on a sign at Keizer Rapids Park along the Willamette River, denoting some of the highest floods over the years.

The river’s flood stage is 23 feet, 8 inches. That mark has been surpassed several times, with the highest recorded level being 47 feet in 1861. Other highwater marks from the 19th century include 45 feet, 3 inches in 1890 and 44 feet, 5 inches in 1881.

The highest mark from the

20th century was the 39 feet recorded in 1923, followed by 38 feet, 6 inches in 1943. Since 37 feet was recorded in 1964, the only high flood of note came in late 1996, when the water hit 35 feet, 1 inch.

Jill Bonney-Hill, KPIC chair, is looking up information about the 1861 flood. Erica Hedberg is looking up the 1890 floods while Sherrie Gottfried and Charlotte Clark have tagged team to get information from 1943. Kris Adams is gathering details from the 1964 floods and Bev Ecklund is getting information about the 1996 floods.

At their meeting last month, KPIC members watched video of the 1996 floods, which made national news.

Bonney-Hill shared her up-

date about the 1861 floods. “Everything I read said there are no pictures of the 1861 floods,” she said. “The floods wiped out the town of Champoeg, which was never rebuilt. One person went around on horse and buggy to rescue people.”

Gottfried found pictures of the 1943 floods while Anita Zahniser found information about that year. Adams, who moved to town shortly after the 1964 floods, is whittling down the pictures and information she gathered about

those floods. Not surprisingly, Ecklund is having a different problem than most others.

“There’s a lot more information for 1996 out there,” she said.

Ecklund is not only looking up the most modern floods, she’s also using modern technology to get the word out about KPIC.

“I started a Facebook page for this group,” she said. “Type in Keizer Points of Interest on Facebook. Feel free to post or give me things to post.”

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