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Keizertimes

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KEIZERTIMES/File photos

City council race still too close to call

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Who will be the next Keizer city councilor? That's a great question, and the *Keizertimes* got it wrong in the Nov. 11 edition of the paper.

The most recent vote tallies had Laura Reid in the lead with 6,005 votes to Allen Barker's 5,950, but the winner of the contest for Position 1 on the Keizer City Council may not be known until Nov. 28 when results are certified.

Here's how the paper biffed the landing: when the *Keizertimes* went to press on Wednesday, Nov. 9, Barker had a slim 81-vote lead with 10,697 votes cast and all precincts reporting. By Thursday afternoon, Nov. 10, more than 1,400 votes were added to the tally and Reid took a 53-vote lead over Barker.

The lead changed because more ballots were processed after the initial totals were posted, said Marion County Clerk Bill Burgess. The Marion County Clerk's Office handles local elections.

The number changed again on Tuesday, Nov. 15.

"We were working on about 2,000 county-wide ballots that needed to be duplicated to make them machine readable," said Burgess in an email.

> "We are still waiting on voters (whose ballots had) signatures that did not match or with no signature on the return envelope."
>
> — Bill Burgess
> Marion County Clerk

Additional Marion County ballots were also dropped off at sites outside Marion County, which led them to be counted later than the totals generated on Nov. 9. The updated totals on Tuesday only amounted to a change of four votes for Reid (3) and Barker (1).

"We are still waiting on voters (whose ballots had) signatures that did not match or with no signature on the return envelope to cure those conditions," Burgess said.

Voters with questionable ballots have until Tuesday, Nov. 22, to remedy the situation.

Burgess said certified results would be available on Monday, Nov. 28.

Opioid addiction treatment growing fast at Keizer clinic

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Part of Justin Nielsen's mission as executive director of Renaissance Recovery is meeting each client where they are.

The result is what Nielsen calls "cafeteria-style" offerings that allow each client to pursue their own recovery goals while drawing on many different paths to kicking substance abuse habits.

"The old way of thinking in the field was that treatment clinics wanted clients to adapt to them and their beliefs and processes, like being exclusively 12-step or something developed independently," said Nielsen. "Even though I support 12-step, there's other subgroups out there that respond better to alternative treatments that didn't used to be available."

At Renaissance, a client might choose SMART Recovery, a science-based treatment program, or Celebrate Recovery, which takes its guidance directly from biblical teachings, or some combination of the two.

Regardless, Nielsen tries to stay on the cutting edge of what's available to those struggling with addiction, which is what led him to rolling out a new opioid addiction treatment program that include buprenorphine, more commonly know by the brand name Suboxone.

Justin Nielsen, executive director of Keizer's Renaissance Recovery, talks with case manager Katie King at the clinic's office.

KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald

The program is only two months old, but it's grown to include nearly two dozen

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Submitted
Michelle Mills at the Crystal Apple Award ceremony earlier this month.

Crystal Apple winner goes the extra mile

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

Counselor Michelle Mills works with nearly 550 students at Gubser Elementary, making sure they all get what they need socially and emotionally.

But she also stays in contact with children once they leave the school.

When one student was diagnosed with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, Mills came up with solutions to help him stay focused and on task both in the classroom but also at home. And when that student was accepted to a different school that could better meet his needs, Mills cleared her schedule to be there on his first day to help with the transition.

"Andre has been at a different school for almost three years and she still checks in to see how he's doing, the boy's mother, Allison Davis, wrote in a letter nominating Mills for a Crystal Apple. "I can honestly say Miss Mills is the best thing to happen to Andre and me. She was his friend when he felt like he had none. Miss Mills was there for his best

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A sign of the times?

Play structure barricaded, hunt is on for repair funds

KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
A play structure at Wallace House Park was blocked off after vandals struck.

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

A $3,500 expense in a city's operating budget of more than $24 million might seem like a drop in the bucket. But you're not Robert Johnson.

Johnson is Keizer's parks and facilities department manager, and a recent act of vandalism has him pondering ramifications that go far beyond fixing a broken slide and bridge on the west Keizer play structure.

"It looks piddly on paper, $3,500 shouldn't keep the problem from being fixed, but it is a huge hit to us. We have to ask ourselves if we can afford it," Johnson said.

Johnson and the city's only other full-time park employee, Don Shelton, had to block off

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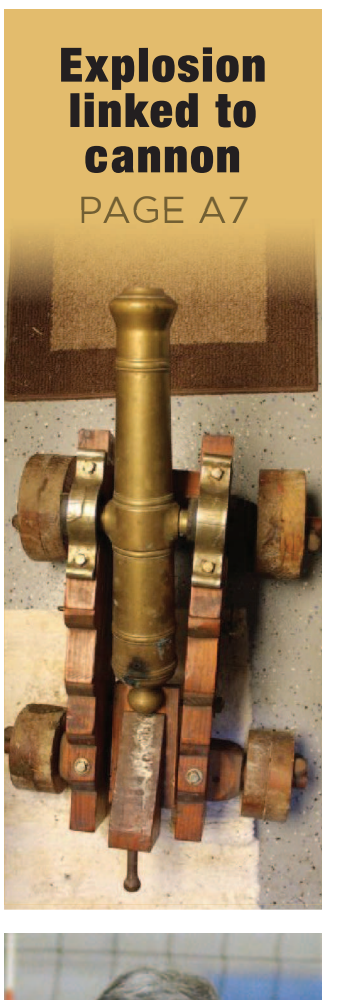

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