

KHT: 'But it's a dance where we're trying to make people laugh...'

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"I love farce, so that was a big draw. Once I got together with the cast and we found the vibe of the script, everything else fell into place quickly," Fitzsimmons said.

Edward Stiner, who plays failed director Victor LePew, said he wanted to work with KHT group as much as anything.

"I've been around and done plays with some of the other groups in town, but never Keizer Homegrown. I've talked with some of the other actors they've had and it just seemed like a fun group," Stiner said.

KHT regular Laura Reid plays Mona Monet, a former star whose best days are likely far behind her.

"She still cops the attitude that she's something worth seeing. She likes to upstage



Laura Reid, Jeff Minden and Kristin Sprauer ham it up on stage during rehearsals for *Drop Dead!*

everyone else," Reid said. That proves to be a difficult task when Jolie Gilman takes the stage as Monet's mother Constance Crawford, an aging stage star who is barely hanging onto life, much less her lines.

"It's so like me: a little spacey, a little wandery and

a little old womanish," said Gilman. "It's been great though because I work hard all day and then I come here and we laugh and have fun and I go home totally relaxed."

Jeff Minden plays Brent Reynolds a classically-trained Shakespearean actor who is almost incapable of

conventional pronunciations. "He's thinks he's all that and a bag of rocks," Minden said. "In the play-within-play he's brought home his latest in a line of wives."

The wife, Candy Apples played by Kristin Sprauer, comes with her own set of baggage.

"She's an ex-porn star trying to break out into legitimate acting and she's very excited for her first speaking role," Sprauer said.

While keeping track of the various storylines can be a challenge, there's a lighthearted feel to the play with a healthy dose of the madcap and chaotic.

"It's almost a bit of dance," said Tavis Evans, who plays Chaz Looney and Drools the Butler, "But it's a dance where we're trying to make people laugh out loud."

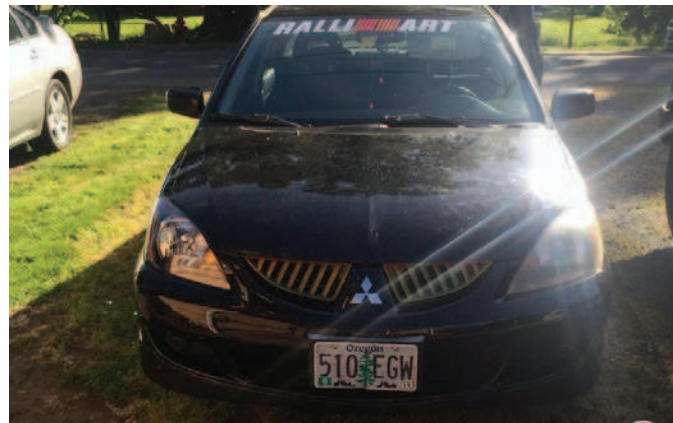


Photo courtesy Keizer Police Department
Some of the distinctive details of this Mitsubishi Lancer helped a teenage girl identify it, leading to Tuesday's arrest of the car's owner, Trevor Philip Highsmith.

ABUSE, continued from Page A1

taking either photos or videos of her with his cell phone.

The student made note of the man's vehicle, license plate and large sticker on the top of the windshield and reported those details to school staff.

"The 13-year-old girl did exactly what she should have done in this situation," KPD deputy chief Jeff Kuhns said. "She was aware of her surroundings and the fact a stranger was videotaping or taking photographs of her as she walked to school. She paid close attention to the details we in law enforcement stress persons in these situations do. Not only did she immediately report this suspicious incident to school officials, she paid close attention to details such as the vehicle description and license plate information that was of great assistance to the investigation. She is a very smart girl who did exactly what she should have done in a situation such as this."

Staff reported the incident to KPD Sgt. Trevor Wenning and School Resource Officer David Zavala, who began looking into the case.

About 24 hours later, Zavala patrolled the area and saw a male in a vehicle matching the description near the intersection of Alder Drive NE and Pleasant View Drive NE. Zavala followed the vehicle and saw it be parked in front of a residence on the 3700 block of Pleasant View Drive. The driver exited the car and went into the

residence.

Once back-up arrived, Zavala asked the driver, 22-year-old Trevor Philip Highsmith of Keizer, to come outside. Highsmith gave consent for officers to search his cell phone and volunteered to go to the police station to be interviewed.

Investigators found dozens of images of child abuse on the phone. In addition, several images of female students were found on the phone, appearing to be walking to or from school. Investigators believe those pictures were taken within the past three weeks.

Highsmith was arrested and taken into custody on 10 counts of encouraging child sexual abuse in the second degree. He was taken to the Marion County Correctional Facility.

The KPD is continuing to investigate the incident and the images found on Highsmith's phone.

Anyone with information is asked to contact officer Zavala at 503-390-3713 ext. 3512.

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HELP WANTED

Part time help at Keizer Heritage Center needed. Six to 8 hours a week. Variety of duties. Heavy lifting required. Contact JoAnne Beilke at 503-393-9660.

0513

FESTIVAL, continued from Page A1

North before proceeding south along River Road before ending at Glynbrook Drive. Parade officials are expecting about 120 entries in the parade, which is the only one for Keizer this year with the ending of the Festival of Lights Holiday Parade.

"The Iris Festival Parade has always been very popular," said Cari Buchholz, who took over as parade chair from Steve Pfaff last year. "It continues to be one of the most popular events of the Iris Festival."

The grand marshal for the parade is Christine Dieker, the recently retired longtime executive director of the Keizer Chamber of Commerce. Dieker is hoping to have her family ride with her as she waves to the crowd, estimated to be about 25,000 strong each year.

"It's going to be very special," said Dieker, who turns 59 on the day of the

parade. "I'm very humbled by the opportunity."

The parade means traffic impacts for that day. Lockhaven will close to all traffic between River Road and McClure Street North at 6:30 a.m., while River Road will close from Plymouth Drive to Lockhaven at 9. After that, River Road can only be crossed periodically along the parade route at Chemawa Road. There will be other traffic impacts and road closures throughout the weekend as well.

Longtime community volunteers Dave Walery - Keizer's Mr. Christmas - and Scott White have taken over as co-chairs for the Iris Festival. Most events will be centered in or around the Keizerfest Tent, located in the field in front of the Keizer Lions Club at 4100 Cherry Avenue NE.

Walery and White have implemented several changes, including a new and improved tent.

"The tent we're using is a new one, with no more strings," Walery said. "That



The parade is always a highlight at the Keizer Iris Festival. This year's parade takes place Saturday, May 21 at 10:30 a.m.

has created a whole bunch of space in front and on the side."

Handicapped parking will be in the Lions Club parking lot, while there will be parking on Manbrin Avenue and Cherry, with hopes for about 100 parking spaces in that area.

New entertainment has been brought in, to go with a renewed emphasis on musical acts.

"We will have entertainment from noon to midnight in the tent on Friday

and Saturday," White said. "We're trying to get more of a crowd for the entertainment down there. There will be something going on in the tent from the start to the end."

For much more about the Iris Festival, be sure to check out the official 60-page 2016 Iris Festival Guide, produced annually by the staff of the *Keizertimes*. This year's guide is once again being sent out to all Keizer households. For additional copies, stop by our office at 142 Chemawa Road NE.

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