

PAINT,

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paid for the heating units and installation, a total of more than \$3,280. The forklift never materialized either.

The October deadline came and went, but Selmer claimed that work was continuing and he would get the RV finished in time for a trip Long had planned around Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving passed and there was no sign of the RV. Then, Long said, Selmer started ignoring his phone calls, text messages and emails.

By the end of December, Long said he and his manager had made several trips to the Scio shop and were unable to catch Selmer at work. He did, however, see the RV.

"It was sitting outside, unplugged and lights and canopy had all been taken off of it. The lights, mirrors and canopy had to be removed to repaint, but there were also things that didn't need to be taken off, like the fan belt and all the screws in the dashboard," Long said.

Keeping the RV unplugged from a power source can lead to other troubles. Even while resting, some components of Long's vehicle, like the refrigerator, need power. Without it, the fridge will eventually suck all the life from the batteries and then fail when the ammonia that helps cool the unit settles.

The pick-up's bumper had also been removed, but no paint work had been done.

While they didn't connect with Selmer, they did meet Rey Garcia, the owner of Rey's Auto which is next door to Selmer's shop. It turned out Garcia would be the one doing the painting, and Garcia said he was told by Selmer that Long had declined to pay the extra amount for the fiberglass.

"He also overcharged me," said Long. "Rey said it only would have been \$300. I was also led to believe that Rey worked for Selmer."

Garcia also tipped Long off to Selmer's past criminal re-

cord.

Selmer has had run-ins with law enforcement dating back to at least 1999 and include multiple convictions for theft, aggravated theft, forgery and even one for sexual abuse and then failing to register as a sex offender. The *Statesman Journal* did an investigative piece on Selmer for fraudulent towing in 2014. Selmer has four registered business names, Mike's Auto Repair and Towing, Northwest Emergency Services, Mike Automotive Repair, Inc. and Auto-Medics Auto Repair. Only Mike's Auto Repair and Towing has a rating with the Northwest Better Business Bureau, it's a D+.

Long returned to the shop in January, and the RV was in even worse condition. Since it was left unlocked, Long went inside and found evidence someone had been living in the RV. There was trash throughout the unit, scratches on the

"I just don't understand how he is still allowed to operate."

— Jerry Long

counters and floors, a sleeping bag, a stash of clothes and the toilet and shower had been used. The roof had also begun to leak.

"I think all the snow during the winter piled on top and it began to leak since it was just left there unheated," Long said.

He did manage to catch Selmer at the site — after leaving for lunch and returning to the shop — but received only more assurances that the work would be completed.

"We were there on a Tuesday and he guaranteed the RV would be done the following Monday and forklift would be delivered next week," Long said.

Selmer, reached by phone Tuesday, March 15, said that Long entered into the agreement with full knowledge that Garcia would be the one to do the paint job, and that his only part in the deal was to strip down the exterior to make way for the paint job along. He blamed Garcia for holding things up.

"Right now, the paint job is done, but there is one part that was not done right and I won't take possession back until it's

repaired. If (Jerry) wants me to take it back, I'm happy to do that, but the job has not been done," Selmer said.

Long said he was under the impression that Selmer and his employees were taking care of all the work until meeting Garcia in December.

Selmer said Garcia has already been paid in full for the paint job. Calls to Rey's Auto in Scio went to voicemail.

In regard to the as-yet, unpaid-for heating units, Selmer claimed that those items were taken in trade for the body work as well as cleaning in the diesel tank on the RV. He did not comment on the forklift. Additionally, Selmer claimed all conversations about the deals were recorded on body cameras and cell phones.

Long denies that the heating units were sold and installed as part of a trade agreement, and said the original estimate and the \$600 extra payment were supposed to cover all the work.

The last contact Long had with Selmer was in January when Selmer met him at a south Salem auto shop to show Long the high-quality lights he planned on purchasing for the RV as a make-good gesture.

Long has sent complaints to the Better Business Bureau and filed others with the Oregon Department of Justice (ODOJ). Representatives of the ODOJ told him they were powerless when it came to the business transactions regarding the forklift and heating installations. Long is still waiting to find out if the consumer complaints will be assigned to an attorney.

Selmer said the audio and visual recordings of conversations with Long have been sent to the BBB to rebut the claims.

"I just don't understand how he is still allowed to operate and I don't want anyone else to be hurt by him," Long said.

HEART,

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to go to because my younger, middle sister sometimes gets on my nerves a little bit," said Purkey, who plays Lenny. "It's not that difficult. Myself, I don't like to release all of that but in the show I get to. It's an outlet where I can do that without actually doing it, without getting in trouble."

The play opened in the Ken Collins Theater on Wednesday, March 15 and runs through March 18 at 7 p.m. with an additional matinee performance on Saturday at 1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and available at mcnaryhs.ticketleap.com.

"It's just about us three sisters and we are all together again for the first time in a very long time and with that comes arguments that we used to have and problems," said Runnow, who plays Babe. "I shot my husband. They're trying to keep me out of jail and then with Meg and Lenny there's a lot of tension."

The play, which also features Cawthon as Meg, Madi Zuro as Chick Boyle, Josiah Henifin as Doc Porter and Matthew Albright as Barnette Lloyd, takes place in the Magrath kitchen with



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley
Camryn Ronnow and Skyla Cawthon share a scene during dress rehearsals for *Crimes of the Heart*.

the audience on the stage and ostensibly in the kitchen with the sisters.

"I think it's necessary for this kind of show because it's such a close, intimate setting, that it brings them right into the kitchen and right in the middle of all the ups and downs that they're all going through," Purkey said. "There are scenes where we are laughing until we cry and then getting angry until we

cry. That's something that's been really difficult is playing all of those emotions in the two hours. But still fun at the same time."

Cawthon has enjoyed spending more time with her co-stars.

"It's been really fun to grow in a relationship with my cast members," she said. "We've been able to get really close, especially with it being a family. I love this show."

MAYOR,

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the housing bubble mostly unscathed, but now faces a housing shortage.

"We still need 214 acres beyond the current urban growth boundary to meet the current needs of the population," said Clark in a nod to continuing discussions about expanding the urban growth boundary that keeps Salem and Keizer within a confined space.

Clark also addressed the issue of homelessness early in the speech. She was part of a task force that spent a year looking at the issues around homelessness in the region

and is now working toward implementing the recommendations that resulted from the process.

"We have a rising homeless problem and we don't have the services and support and safe, secure shelter for them. I want to be clear that the people are not the problem, it's about our ability to take care of the people that we are facing," Clark said.

She lauded the efforts of Salem's Union Gospel Mission and Habitat for Humanity in serving the vulnerable population.

Clark spent several minutes praising the local business community and suggested a revitalized economic development effort was in the offing.

"You bring your A-game everyday and that is the heart of the Keizer business community," Clark said.

At the city government level, there are no staff members tasked directly with economic development. A city task force was convened to discuss a way forward, but meetings have

been intermittent at best.

"I am working with Councilor Bruce Anderson and, together, we are going to be looking at how to redefine the committee to partner with local business to plot the course forward," she said.

She encouraged the representatives of local businesses in attendance to find ways to get involved at McNary High School and help students discover how to continue their journey after receiving a high school diploma.

"If a student takes one career technical education class, the graduation rate jumps to 88 percent. The diploma is no longer the end game for them. Mentoring those students is critical. The opportunities for them open up in business and life when someone comes up to them and speaks to their potential. That goes a very, very long way," Clark said.

If there were any hidden asterisks attached to the Keizer way working, they were reserved for the end of the speech when Clark addressed the state of funding for parks and police. The Keizer City Council has identified both as needs for the city, but one of the only ways to create sustainable dedicated funds is through the creation of fees. That leaves some residents with a bad taste in their mouth.

"We chose Keizer because it works. But, it's old enough to begin replacing and maintain the things we built, and do so in a sustainable way," Clark said.

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