

DRAG CLOWN WITH A CAUSE



BY ERIC A. HOWALD/OF THE KEIZERTIMES

Photo courtesy of Gia Goodrich

Anthony Hudson, a 2004 graduate of McNary High School, created a one-person show, *Looking for Tiger Lily*, to investigate and interrogate what any of us consider identity. Hudson, with mic, is pictured here in a scene from the show.

McNary alum straddles multiple identities with *Looking for Tiger Lily*

The first time Anthony Hudson saw a performer in drag an idea took root, but it took another 15 years for it to blossom.

"I was transfixed by the creation and my mom being uncomfortable. She saw a man and I saw the most glamorous women I'd ever seen in my life," Hudson said. "It was a realization that none of the gender roles we believe in are real and they could be torn apart."

Hudson's one-person show, *Looking for Tiger Lily*, was recently featured in Australia's YIRRAMBOI Festival, a celebration of art by First Peoples where Hudson was one of only two international artists invited. The show is a semi-autobiographical retelling of Hudson's life growing up in Keizer as multicultural –

Native American and German – overweight and queer. Hudson's alter-ego in the show is a drag clown named Carla Rossi, an immortal trickster who has become Hudson's vehicle for commentary of all sorts.

Carla is – at times – a friend, a rival, a humorous foil and, above all, way to express Hudson's own ideas of gender and identity. The 2004 McNary High School graduate recently returned to Keizer to speak with members of the school's Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) and shared how "coming into consciousness" in small-town Oregon still informs the malleable identity Hudson inhabits today.

"I still don't know where I fall on the spectrum. There are times when I feel male or

female and times when I feel like something else all together," Hudson said.

As a teenager, Hudson's first encounters with queer culture came through online interactions with other LGBTQ+ students and young adults. At the time, students who fell outside gender norms were feeling the heat of a country and world that closed ranks in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. In response, Hudson and some friends started the first GSA Club on the Celtic campus. The community was less than receptive.

"I got death threats, my house was egged on multiple nights and there were parents calling the school and threatening to picket the club," Hudson said.

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SKPS board approves \$1.2 billion budget

BY HERB SWETT
For the Keizertimes

Final budget approval and the promotions of two administrators to assistant superintendent were the highlights of one of the more eventful Salem-Keizer School Board meetings on Tuesday night.

The total budget of \$1,205,712,966 calls for a property tax at the rate of \$4.521 per \$1,000 assessed value. The

assistant superintendents are Linda Myers of Keizer, who remains the district's director of strategic development, and Kraig Sproles of Corvallis, who keeps his position of director of academic achievement.

Only four board members were in attendance, but chairperson Kathy Goss and director Chuck Lee communicated by telephone. Director Jim Green was unavailable.

Director Paul Kylo cast the only vote against final budget passage, saying there had not been enough communication with board members. He also cast the only negative vote on approving the assistant superintendent appointments, saying he had nothing against Myers or Sproles but complaining of lack of transparency there as well.

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Pantsless man stops traffic

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

A homeless man's erratic behavior, included stripping off his clothes, brought traffic to a near standstill on River Road North Tuesday, June 11.

9-1-1 dispatchers received six separate reports of a man walking in and out of traffic lanes at the intersection of Sunset Avenue North and River Road North. The first officer to arrive on the scene, about 12:45 p.m., said multiple construction signs and other debris were already scattered across the road and impeding the flow of cars.

The officer located the suspect, later identified as Matthew Edward Chappell, 46, and began telling him to move out of the roadway. The man refused, picked up a large glass vase and heaved it into the road at the officer. The vase broke across several lanes of travel and then the man then uprooted a medi-

um-sized cross and threw that at the officer.

The suspect then began stripping off his clothes, walked to the center turn

lane on River Road, and unsuccessfully tried to gain entry to two separate vehicles with people inside. He began pacing aggressively in the road and still refused officers commands. He then removed his pants and began running a short distance. He tripped and fell, skidding to a stop on his torso and ending the pursuit.

Once on the ground, officers approached and aimed a Taser at the suspect and he began complying with commands to put his hands behind his back. No force was used during the incident although the suspect was treated by medics from the Keizer Fire District before being transported to a mental health facility.

Criminal charges may be forthcoming.



M. Chappell

KIA Iraq soldier will be honored on highway

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Friends and family of a Keizer soldier killed in Iraq in 2007 will hold a dedication ceremony and unveiling of a highway sign to be posted in his honor on Saturday, June 22.

Pfc. Ryan J. Hill will have a stretch of Oregon highway dedicated in his honor after the Oregon Legislature approved the action earlier this

year. Keizer Mayor Cathy Clark and Rep. Bill Post will be delivering speeches during the ceremony slated for 11:30 a.m. the park named after him in Keizer Station. Ryan J. Hill Memorial Park is located next to Panera Bread.



Pfc. Ryan Hill

Hill was driving a Humvee on Jan. 20, 2007, when an improvised explosive device detonated (IED) near the vehicle. He was serving his first tour in Iraq when he was killed at age 20. The vehicle's gunner was also critically injured.

Post co-sponsored the resolution with Rep. Julie Fahey

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Volcanoes win opener

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Rotary exchange student bids farewell

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A book club with staying power

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Cepeda, Ebbs get all-state honors

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