

# VOLUNTEER of the Week

presented by



**JIM & JO GRIFFIN**

## Where and how do you volunteer?

"We volunteer in three primary areas. The first is CASA of Marion County which we have been a part of it for 11 years. CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates for foster children. As volunteers we are assigned to a case when children have been removed from their home for safety reasons and stay on for as long as it takes to resolve the issues. We visit the kids regularly, write court reports, and appear in court to advocate for their needs. It is said we are the eyes and the ears for the judge. We also volunteer at our Nazarene church and at Hope Station. Hope Station is for people in our community who work, aren't on government assistance, but need help. We drive for them to pick up food from various sources."

## What does volunteering do for you?

"It meets a deep need; brings such meaning to our lives not found in other endeavors. There is an old song, 'I'll get by with a little help from my friends,' that fits with volunteering. We all need help at one time or another."

## How would you get others to volunteer in their community?

"A commercial from years back said in part, 'You only go around once in life.' That being the case, we want to make the most of our time and energy and volunteering does that. Jump in somewhere. In time, you'll be glad you did!"

# HOMEGROWN, *Continued from page A1*

"I believe that this show is a real slice of humanity. The psychological intrigue is fascinating," said *Omission* director Loriann Schmidt. "People are going to talk about this after they see it."

The story of *Omission* involves a professor, Rue, on the hunt for her missing wife. She finds herself as one of four strangers trapped in a jazz bar during a terrible storm. Alliances are formed and broken, getting-to-know-you games take dark turns, and things quickly spiral towards the surreal as the night wears on. As the storm continues to rage, *Omission* races towards its nightmarish conclusion.

"It is pretty exciting. I love that Keizer Homegrown is working with a new play and is embracing a new piece and bringing it to life. I am really excited about it," said Julianna Gibbons, who will be playing the role of Rue. "I was drawn to those layers and the depth of the show. There is so much in it to explore."

While Schmidt has directed multiple KHT productions in the past, she admitted that directing a world premiere made

her a bit nervous, but her enthusiasm about the script outweighed any pressure she may be feeling.

"When I have looked at the list of people that have purchased tickets, I feel a little bit of pressure. But it is really excit-

*Despite being only 20 years old, Maeve Z has written dozens of scripts for many different theater groups.*

ing," Schmidt said. "One of the things I have really enjoyed is the relationship with (Maeve) and being able to work with her to bring this show to life."

Despite being only 20 years old, Maeve Z has written dozens of scripts for many different theater groups. She said her motivation behind writing *Omission*

came during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic while she was attending the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York, away from her family and support system in Oregon.

"Learning first-hand about loneliness and isolation is really what fueled me to write *Omission*," Maeve Z said. "I just had this vision of a woman desperately searching for her wife and asking for help from patrons in a bar. I didn't know where

it was going when I wrote it, but I like where it ended up."

Maeve Z also wrote a script for the KHT virtual show *Let the Right One Burn* in October of 2020, a play that, similar to *Omission*, involved some scary and suspenseful content. While she writes about a wide variety of subjects, Maeve Z said that she is drawn to stories that tend to be more on the dark side.

Four cast members from *Omission* acts out a scene during dress rehearsal.

Photo by MATT RAWLINGS of Keizertimes



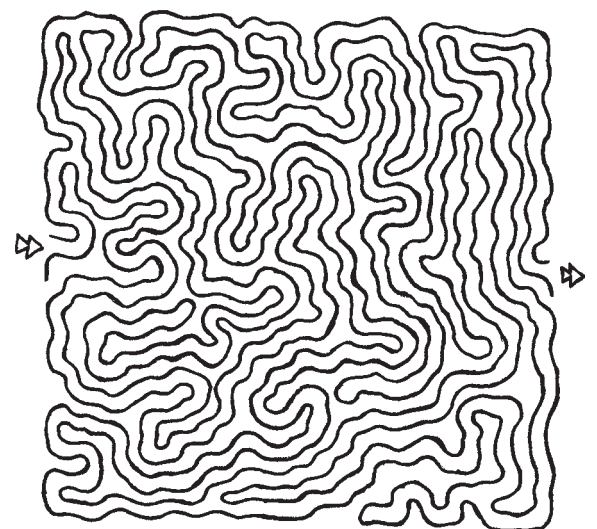
# brainfood

## sudoku

	6		1		3	4	
3		7		4		5	8
2			3	8	1		
	6				2		
	9		5	1	2		8
		1			5		
		5	8		4		9
9	8			7	4		1
	3	4			1		7

Enter digits 1-9 into blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, & every 3x3 square.

sudoku answers pg A26



maze by Jonathan Graf of Keizer