

Man killed in altercation



(Courtesy photo for the Illinois Valley News)

On May 19, at approximately 9:18 a.m., the Josephine County Sheriff's Office (JCSO) responded to a report of a stabbing in the parking lot of Ray's Market in Selma. The deputies arrived to find Frank Norman Chambers, 46, of Selma dead from apparent stab wounds.

JCSO requested the assistance of the Oregon State Police Criminal Division. Detectives responded and assumed the investigation.

The subsequent investigation revealed a physical altercation occurred in the parking lot between Chambers and Ramon Eduardo Rodriguez-Acosta, 58, also of Selma. Rodriguez-Acosta was taken into custody and is detained at the Josephine County Jail. Rodriguez-Acosta is being held on manslaughter in the first degree, which carries a bond of \$5,000 or \$50,000 cash. Additional charges include unlawful use/carrying a dangerous weapon.

This is an ongoing investigation and no further details will be released.

Siskiyou Field Institute held recycling discussion

“We forget that the top layer of the ‘Reduce, Reuse, Recycle’ triangle is ‘Reduce.’”

Cassie Tiefenauer, Southern Oregon Sanitation Outreach Assoc.

Iris Chinook

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On Friday, May 11, as part of the Free Learning Programs series at the Siskiyou Field Institute, Cassie Tiefenauer, Southern Oregon Sanitation's new Recycling and Educational Outreach associate, gave an informative presentation on the changes in the recycling industry as a result of China shutting their doors on the world's recycling. The Chinese import ban (due to excessive rates of contamination), in combination with the 2015 closure in Oregon of two paper feed stock mills used in recycling paper products, has left Oregon recycling programs in limbo.

One thing that Tiefenauer wanted to emphasize above any information on recycling is the idea of reducing the amount of trash that SOS customers generate in the first place. “Right now, a lot of things that are no longer recyclable, such as newspaper, paperboard (cereal boxes) and plastics, are just going into the landfill, she said. “We forget that the top layer of the ‘Reduce, Reuse, Recycle’ triangle is ‘Reduce.’”

Consuming less is the most powerful way to cut back on the amount of trash that needs to be recycled or land-filled. Included are some ways that we can avoid creating trash in the first place. And, if you pay for trash collection or to haul your trash to the transfer station, this

will save you money, too.

The second-best approach to contend with our trash is to reuse, repurpose, and give away things when they can no longer serve their original purpose.

You can take this test:

Over the course of a week, before tossing out your garbage, take a closer look at how much trash your family produces. Put it all in a big bag and weigh it. You'll likely be surprised by just how much stuff you throw away. One study in the United States revealed that each citizen generated an average of 4.4 pounds of trash per day.

What is the best way to pare down your trash production? Reduce the amount of one-time-use items and reuse as many products as possible. Here's how:

Say no to single-use items.

One of the largest sources of waste is the packaging that comes with single-serve items, such as coffee or snacks and beverages. Other single-use offenders include paper towels, plastic bags, plastic straws and disposable silverware. Instead of paper towels, look for reusable micro fiber towels. Use picnic sets instead of the disposable stuff. Buy or make cloth napkins that can be washed. Bring your own container for a doggie-bag substitute when you eat out. Quit using straws or use paper straws.

Seek out e-waste resources.

One of the fastest-growing types of waste is electronic, ore-waste. Old computers, televisions, and other electronic gadgets are piling up in landfills. What's worse is some components in those devices are made with potentially dangerous chemicals. To dispose of electronics, first check with the manufacturer; some have store drop-off programs. And electronic stores sometimes have electronic recycling days.

Give up using plastic water bottles. According to the Water Project, it takes over 1,000 years for plastic water bottles to bio-degrade naturally. So the next time you forget your reusable water bottle at home, make the eco-friendly decision to purchase water sold in a Tetra Pak, like Flow. If you do have to buy bottled water check out YouTube for creative and useful things to do with the bottle; you'll be amazed!

Be smart with bags. Try to use paper rather than plastic when packing fruit and vegetables in the store. Make sure you take reusable bags with you when shopping. Also, when packing lunches, use reusable bags. A half a dozen reusable bags can easily last your family a whole year as opposed to several boxes of the disposable alternative.

SEE SFI ON A-10

County versus Grants Pass duel set in Nov. for commissioner

Anita R. Savio

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The results are in and the seven-person field of aspirants to be county commissioner has been winnowed to two. Josephine County voters will decide between Ron Smith and Darin Fowler in November's general election. Fowler came in at 4,670 votes or 22 percent of the total 21,220 votes cast, while Smith came in at 4,041 or 19 percent of the total.

According to Smith's statement in the Voter's Pamphlet, he is currently a supervisor at Western Sign Systems in Grants Pass. His listed occupational background includes previous small-business owner, management in the automotive industry, Christian ministry leadership, grassroots community organizer and property rights advocate. Smith states in the pamphlet that “If you want government off your back and out of your bank account, vote for me.”

Darin Fowler stated his occupation as small-business owner, with a background in electrical contracting. He was previously mayor of Grants Pass and a Grants Pass city councilor. He also lists his participation in a number of governmental and semi-governmental organizations and commissions.

Fowler's statement says, “Darin is financially conservative, both in local government and his own business. He believes this is vital in government services, and that county commissioners must conduct business in the most efficient, cost effective and transparent way possible, without placing additional financial burden on future generations.”

In another local race, for the newly created Judge of the Circuit Court, Position 5, the top two vote-getters in a three person race, Matthew G. Galli and Matt Corey, will face off in the general election. Galli came out with 46 percent of the vote and Corey with 31 percent.

In a statewide race, Knute Buehler won the Republican primary to face off against sitting Democrat Governor Kate Brown, who handily won her primary with 82 percent of the vote.

Also, in the officially non-partisan race for state Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries, former Democratic Rep. Val Hoyle, whose candidacy was strongly supported by the state Democratic Party, won against Tualatin Mayor Lou Ogden.

Incumbent Republican Rep. Carl Wilson ran unopposed, garnering 7,524 votes. In November, he will face Democrat challenger Jerry Morgan, who garnered 2,898 votes.

In the U.S. District 4 Republican primary, Art Robinson won in a fifth attempt to unseat longtime Democrat incumbent Peter DeFazio.

CJ explores funding options at the pump, soda fountain and the bud bar

Christopher Roll

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In a rather short city council meeting May 14, the biggest news came from Cave Junction Mayor Daniel Dalegowski. In order to find a more stable funding source for law enforcement, Dalegowski stated that the city council would be considering new taxes such as a gas tax, sugary drink tax and cannabis sales tax.

For reference: The city attempted to put a gas tax on the ballot in 2016 that met strong resistance. According to the State of Oregon's Fuels Tax Group, with current gas usage, the tax would roughly bring in \$36,000 for every 1 cent per gallon tax. And with regards to a cannabis sales tax - the state of Oregon also allows a 3 percent tax on marijuana that must also be put to the voters in the fall.

The main points in the council's agenda were

to address four proposed resolution/ordinance changes:

1) Resolution 840

Small City Allotment - Street Repair and Municipal Code Change 17.14.030E.1: This would change the current code to determine when a traffic impact analysis would be necessary. It was decided to table this while Public Works continue to pursue a grant from Oregon's Department of Transportation.

2) Resolution 842 is a proposal allowing residents to live in recreational vehicles during construction or remodeling.

3) Resolution 843 is a proposal that provides workers' compensation to volunteers such as public safety, board members and nonpublic safety volunteers. Both Resolution 842 and 843 passed with four votes in favor, and none in opposition.

SEE CITY ON A-10

What's bugging Christy this week? See Crawlies with Cri on A-12