

Local man killed in shooting

On Friday, Nov. 2, Richard James O’Coyne, 46, of Cave Junction, was shot to death in his vehicle outside of a rural Cave Junction residence.

According to a press release from the Oregon State Police (OSP), at approximately 8 a.m. a vehicle driven by O’Coyne pulled up to a house on Ken Rose Ln. and fired multiple shots. An occupant of the house returned fire landing at least one shot to the driver, killing O’Coyne.

O’Coyne’s weapon was pointing out of the vehicle window but no movement was seen. As a matter of precaution, Josephine County Sheriff’s Office and Illinois Valley Fire District personnel locked down and a SWAT team was brought in. Officials were able to resolve the situation around 1 p.m.

The name of the shooter has yet to be released and attempts to contact him have not been returned. However, according to OSP the homeowner is cooperating with the investigation.

The investigation is continuing and any further information will be released in cooperation with the Josephine County District Attorney’s office.



Richard O’Coyne

RiverStars gear up for holiday performance

RiverStars Performing Arts premieres an original holiday dance theater show, “Candyland,” Saturday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 9 at 5 p.m. at Lorna Byrne Cafe Theater. Reserved seating is \$20 per ticket, while general tickets are “pay what you can.”

“Candyland” is the destination for a gaggle of adolescent nursery plants who, bored with their repetitive cycles of light, food and water, concoct a plan to get out of the nursery and visit the famed Sugarland where pleasure and copious choices await. Upon arrival, they meet King Candy, who at first seems magical, but slowly evolves into a fearsome antagonist intent on permanently damaging the teens.

Meet Russell the Brussel Sprout, Gracie the Groundcherry, Linda the Loud Lettuce, Pete the Hot Pepper, Little Sprout, Oni the Egyptian Walking Onion, and Tom the Tomatillo in this hilarious and adventurous romp into the fructose-lined utopian world of Candyland. You’ll visit Gusher Falls, Lifesaver Rapids, The Mallows, Pop Rock Quarry, Jawbreaker Cliffs and Laffy Taffy Skies. Each of these lands will bring you on a surprising journey through some of America’s more perilous temptations. When you emerge, hopefully you’ll land safely back in one of our country’s most cherished holiday traditions...the family feast.

SEE STARS ON A-9

Evergreen top students October 2018



(Photo courtesy of Christina Paul for the Illinois Valley News)

K/ Garman, Davin Webb; K/ Patterson, Jozlyn Hewitt; K/ Pitts, Amara Humphrey; 1/ Bonney, Bailee Reed, 1/Senteney, Hunter Cheek; 1/ Snyder, Mason Fee; 2/ Gladding, Skylin Deckert; 2/ Clements, Gracie White; 2/ Gilkey, Daisy Alcazar; 3/ Gragg, Mason Tinchler; 3/ Gutierrez, Jonathan Sanchez; 3/ Nelson, Kira Maloney; 4/ O’Donnell, Daniel Russell; 4/ Bethke, Hailey Ullman; 4/Green, Serenidy Grebisz; and LS/ Keil, Christian Medeiros.

County at odds with state again

C.J. Schatza
IVN Contributing Writer

Smart meters once again dominated the conversation at the Josephine County Board of Commissioners’ Weekly Business Session Oct. 31.

The second reading of Ordinance 2018-006 was held (the first reading took place Oct. 17), which was drafted to modify Ordinance 2018-004 (pertaining to the formal adoption of the Josephine County Code) by adding Chapter 5.30- regulations of utilities’ rates and fees.

To kick things off, Commissioner Dan DeYoung entertained a motion to read the ordinance by title only, which passed 3-0. However, county legal counsel Wally Hicks elected to read the two and a half-page document in its entirety when he came up to give a presentation on the

matter. This was undertaken to showcase minor wording changes that had been made to the ordinance since the first reading.

Hicks designated the document as the “Josephine County utility consumer choice ordinance.” Though not explicitly stated, it is well-known that the board mandated this ordinance in response to Pacific Power’s rollout of smart meters, and, more specifically, the \$36 per month fee that is being imposed on electricity consumers who opt out of the controversial technology. It is also clear that 2018-006 is intended to benefit those consumers that will suffer in the wake of said fee. To demonstrate, here are some notable excerpts from the ordinance:

- The purpose of this ordinance is to protect the citizens of Josephine County from arbitrary and excessive

charges by providing consumer choice.

- Providers (Pacific Power) must provide non-radio frequency digital, digital broadcasting or non-broadcasting, and analog reading and reporting methods to consumers who request such services.

- No provider may impose an economic hardship through its meter reading or utilization reporting method.

- On or before March 1 of each year the Board of Josephine County Commissioners shall identify to providers all consumers who will incur an economic hardship due to the type of meter reading or utilization reporting method used by the consumer.

- Each violation of the terms or provisions of this ordinance is a Class A violation; the fine for which is \$2,000 for each violation. This ordinance is

scheduled to go into effect Jan. 29, following the standard 90-day delay between the passing of legislature and official adoption as laid out in the Josephine County Code. Pacific Power estimates that opt-out fees will become a factor starting Jan. 1, meaning that the reportedly 1 percent of county residents who have opted out will not be able to take advantage of the ordinance for the first month.

Hicks remarked during his presentation that “it was abundantly expressed that the ordinance was really aimed at the purpose of consumer choice.” Given a chance to respond following the presentation, Commissioner Simon Hare added that, “Not affording people the opportunity for choice, I think, is how we got here today.”

SEE PUC ON A-9

Stand your ground, choose wisely

C.J. Schatza
IVN Contributing Writer

How much danger would you need to be in to use deadly force against another person? Would you fight back immediately or first attempt to flee from your assailant? Well, according to Oregon’s laws, you have no duty to retreat when confronted by someone who intends to do you harm.

Thoughtco.com contributing writer Robert Longley summarized these laws best: “State-enacted ‘stand your ground’ laws—sometimes called ‘no duty to retreat’ laws—are often used as an allowable defense in criminal cases involving the use of deadly force by defendants who literally ‘stood their ground,’ rather than retreating, in order to defend themselves and others against actual or reasonably perceived threats of bodily harm.”

Florida was the first state to decree such legislature in 2005. Since then, 33 states have adopted some form of Stand Your Ground law, according to David A. Love, contributing writer for takepart.com. Despite their wide popularity, these laws have been the subject of a national controversy, particularly since the 2012 fatal shooting of 17-year old Trayvon Martin in Florida was deemed justified on account of the legislature.

Earlier this year, a justified shooting occurred much closer to home when a business owner in Portland had an altercation with a homeless person. As reported by Willamette Week contributing writer Katie Shepherd, Joseph “Dymond” Vinci, the owner of a tattoo parlor in the city, came to the aid of an employee of a nearby catering company when transient Richard Hanley threw a plastic lint roller at her in response to an effort to escort Hanley from the premises. A physical confrontation ensued, which ended when

Hanley threatened Vinci with a knife and the latter chose to draw his handgun and shoot the homeless man in the chest.

“In Oregon, when Richard Hanley threw the plastic lint roller, he became vulnerable to the justified use of deadly force,” Shepherd stated in her article. “Had the incident outside the Portland tattoo parlor occurred in Connecticut or Wyoming, Vinci probably would have been indicted, because he would have been required by law to retreat from the confrontation before using deadly force.”

According to Romano Law P.C., “State self-defense laws vary around the country. However, essentially three categories exist: Stand Your Ground States, Castle Doctrine States and Duty to Retreat states. A majority of states in the U.S. are ‘stand your ground’ states and only a minority are ‘duty to retreat’ states.”

SEE STAND ON A-9