

STARS ...

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RiverStars Performing Arts, now in its fifth year of productions, has become a cultural cornerstone of the Illinois Valley, serving 85 families with dance and theatre programming. Origins hail back to a \$270,000 grant from the Oregon Community Foundation in 2013, which has since designated RiverStars a "model organization." RiverStars is a partnership between The Illinois Valley Community Development Organization,

dancefarm and Three Rivers School District. The program is centered at Lorna Byrne Middle School but is open to all public, private and homeschooled youth.

Founder and lead educator Gina Angelique said, "What sets RiverStars apart is not only the quality of the young performers who develop quite a skillset in dance and theater, but their participation in the writing of the original shows which make our work relevant to our own rural community we so joyfully serve. Ultimately RiverStars challenges youth to develop discipline, commitment, responsibility

and artistic risk-taking in order to better contribute to the quality of our productions.

"We start with the TwinkleStars and EverStars who have 2-4 hours of programming a week, then in middle school the ArtNovas have 4 hours of programming a week. Once they have participated in four shows and have completed two years of ArtNovas, they are eligible to audition for the ArtStars, our most experienced and dedicated group of performers who engage in 14 hours of programming a week."

Arts educator Lindsey Jones said, "Every season, the teaching team and I are more

and more excited to see the students growing and finding their unique place as artists. I am constantly amazed to see students who started quietly burst out of their shells. It is a privilege to know these young people and to experience our community through their eyes."

Over the years RiverStars has graduated some top notch performers, and this year we see many new talents coming to the forefront including Owen Dwyer, Annie Hertler, and the debut of Rosemary Stabb. They will be joined by outstanding veteran performers Na'amah Ocean

and Isadora Millay. These groups of young actors and dancers have contributed substantially to the writing and development of the Candyland story, which incorporates a bit of the absurd, traditional dance theater, and personification to create a candyland style.

Angelique added, "An extra special treat for those coming to "Candyland" will be the performance of arts educator Lindsey Jones as King Candy. A fearsome presence (Jones will be performing on stilts), King Candy becomes a ruthless antagonist against whom the characters must

struggle in order to get home. "Candyland" is loosely inspired by both "A Christmas Carol" and "The Wizard of Oz." For those who don't like to sit on the sidelines, there will be plenty of opportunity for audience participation in this year's RiverStars production.

Make your holidays complete by attending RiverStars' annual holiday show. It's a tradition that brings joy to your family and is affordable for all! Call 541-649-2333 for more information and like us on Facebook.com/IVRiverstars.

PUC ...

Continued from A-1

All three commissioners agreed that Pacific Power was not to blame for the lack of consumer choice which they felt warranted Ordinance 2018-006, but rather the Oregon Public Utilities Commission (OPUC): "I don't really fault the utility industry," Hare stated, "I think that's misplaced concerns or judgment. They're doing what they're supposed to be doing by the charge of their board... If you expected anything different you're misguided. It's the PUC is where

I see the fault being; appropriately that's where it should go."

Before the public forum on the matter was opened, Commissioner Lily Morgan declared for the record that she had opted out of a smart meter, fearing this may constitute a conflict of interest. Her colleagues assured her this was not the case, and Hare even went so far as to reveal that his family would have happily opted out had it not been for the monthly rate increase for doing so.

Following the commissioners' comments, DeYoung opened up the public forum. Lasting nearly an hour, dozens of citizens approached the podium during

this period to repudiate smart meter technology and commend the commissioners for procuring protections against it and associated opt-out fees.

Amid all the smart meter bashing, a lone advocate for the technology and Pacific Power employee, Scott Bolton, spoke on behalf of his employer: "I just think for the record we have to just flat-out say this is safe, proven technology; that your customer privacy, your customer data, is private today. It will continue to be private. We do not sell your data to third parties."

Despite the utility company's appeal, the commissioners still

voted to pass the ordinance 3-0. Immediately following this, several members of the audience attempted to applaud, but were quickly silenced by DeYoung as they were in violation of chamber rules. It became clear that the vast majority of meeting attendees were there solely to see the ordinance pass when, after a short recess, the chamber, previously filled to the brim, was almost empty.

It should be noted that Pacific Power, as well as the PUC, urged the board not to approve the ordinance, but rather to postpone until further negotiations could be held. The commissioners were undaunted by these pressures,

however, as this quote from Hare attests to: "I am fine with a threat from the PUC. I'm fine with a threat from the utility company. I'm not interested in taking this to litigation; I'm interested in solving the problem... and it all comes down to affording the consumer the opportunity for choice."

Morgan echoed this sentiment, saying, "It isn't for us to weigh the health of each individual. It's up to you if you eat gluten-free or not; it's up to you if you eat ice cream or not; it's up to you if you decide this is a health concern to you or not. That's the point of consumer choice."

STAND ...

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The Portland-based law firm's website provides a definition of the Castle Doctrine: "The phrase "Castle Doctrine Law" is a reference to a legal doctrine which designates a person's house as a place in which that person has protections and rights. The doctrine allows the owner or occupier to use force—up to and including deadly force—to defend oneself or another person against an intruder."

Basically, Stand Your Ground laws extend the protections of the Castle Doctrine, which are limited to an individual's home and, in some states, their vehicles, to all public places. Oregon does not specifically mention Stand Your Ground or the Castle Doctrine in its use of force legislation, but Romano Law drew these conclusions based on state laws: "Oregon law does not explicitly reference the Castle Doctrine by name. However, the combination of Oregon's statutes on use of force and the interpretation by the Oregon Supreme Court essentially mean that Oregon is a "Castle Doctrine" state and a "Stand Your Ground" state.

"The Oregon law on limitations to use

of deadly force is codified in ORS 161.219, which reads as follows:

Limitations on use of deadly physical force in defense of a person:

Notwithstanding the provisions of ORS 161.209, a person is not justified in using deadly physical force upon another person unless the person reasonably believes that the other person is:

- (1) Committing or attempting to commit a felony involving the use or threatened imminent use of physical force against a person; or
- (2) Committing or attempting to commit a burglary in a dwelling; or
- (3) Using or about to use unlawful deadly physical force against a person.

"This statute was interpreted by the Oregon Supreme Court in March 2007. In State of Oregon v. Sandoval, the court ruled that Oregonians have no "duty to retreat" when faced with a violent confrontation. The Supreme Court correctly noted that Oregon law contains no requirement to retreat from an attacker and that previous rulings to the contrary are not only incorrect, but obviously incorrect."

The Court said, "On a purely textual level, ORS 161.219 contains no specific reference to 'retreat', 'escape,' or 'other means of avoiding' a deadly confrontation.

Neither, in our view, does it contain any other wording that would suggest a duty of that kind."

Since 2007, Oregon has abided by this interpretation of the use of deadly force. While the national debate over use of force rages on, Oregon has seen relatively little of this turmoil, a state of affairs that Shepherd touched on: "Outside of law enforcement circles, it is little known that Oregon has one of the nation's broadest self-defense laws protecting gun wielders who pull the trigger—so long as they claim they did it out of fear... In Oregon, the issue has rarely been debated or examined. But the fact is that Oregon has one of the nation's strongest stand-your-ground doctrines, with laws that have been on the books so long they preceded the recent national debate."

The result of these broad and strong laws may surprise you. Per Shepherd, "Oregon in 2016 had the highest percentage—7.4 percent—of fatal shootings by civilians that were deemed justified of any state in the country... That year wasn't an outlier. Oregon has typically ranked among the five states with the highest rate of justified shootings since at least 2010."

Shepherd identified incumbent Governor Kate Brown as being "open to solutions" regarding the amendment of Oregon's broad

deadly force doctrines, relaying this statement from campaign spokesman Christian Gaston: "The governor is committed to hearing from gun safety advocates, law enforcement and responsible gun owners about what policies we can put in place to prevent gun violence."

Challenger Knute Buehler, on the other hand, is more supportive of the laws as they are written: "Every act of violence is regrettable, even in self-defense, and should be thoroughly investigated by law enforcement... I support the right of Oregonians to defend themselves if they, or their loved ones, are in danger of physical harm."

One final note is that regardless of your views regarding self-defense and gun rights, we can all agree that taking a life is a very serious and tragic action. Regardless of what the law says, morality states that the use of deadly force is proper only as a last resort, a notion that attorney Adam Greenman stressed in an article regarding self-defense: "When it comes to the use of deadly force, you should avoid it at all costs. If there is any opportunity to run from danger, that should be your first option. You're much more likely to survive and avoid additional physical injuries and long-term and potentially life-ruining emotional damages than if you choose to stay and fight."

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