

EAST OREGONIAN

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2019

143rd Year, No. 180

WINNER OF THE 2018 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

\$1.50

Affidavit reveals stabbing victim may have known attacker

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

MILTON-FREEWATER — Milton-Freewater police officer James Farr found Christian Rodriguez-Calvillo on his kitchen floor, soaked in blood.

Farr was on duty in the small town Friday when he got the callout at 12:24 a.m. to respond to a stabbing at 604 Ward St., the duplex Rodriguez-Calvillo, his girlfriend and their toddler called home, according to the police affidavit to search the residence, surrounding area and vehicles. Milton-Freewater detective Morgan Dunlap drafted the affidavit, a public record, later that day to investigate the death of Rodriguez-Calvillo as a murder.

Fresh blood soaked Rodriguez-Calvillo's shirt and covered his hands, arms, torso and face. Rodriguez-Calvillo gripped his chest with both hands. He labored for air and grimaced. Farr applied pressure to help stop the flow of blood from the wound in Rodriguez-Calvillo's chest. The affidavit also recounted the officer asked Rodriguez-Calvillo who stabbed him.

"I don't know," he replied. An ambulance rushed Rodriguez-Calvillo to Providence St. Mary Medical Center, Walla Walla, which transferred him to Kadlec Regional Medical Center, Richland, Washington. He died en route at 3:25 a.m. He was 22. Officers interviewed Rodriguez-Calvillo's girlfriend and their neighbors, photographed much of the residence and obtained a DNA sample, according to the affidavit. Police saw droplets of blood in the living room but noted there was no visible blood on the sidewalk or

the covered porch. Police also looked at Rodriguez-Calvillo's cellphone messages.

The affidavit revealed Milton-Freewater police questioned whether Rodriguez-Calvillo's did not know who stabbed him. Still, officers have yet to make an arrest. Police Chief Doug Boedigheimer has stated the homicide is an open investigation.

Rodriguez-Calvillo also went by the name Cristian Alejandro Rodriguez, among other aliases. Munselle-Rhodes Funeral Home of Milton-Freewater is in charge of arrangements for his services.

SALEM

CAPITOL CHAOS



AP Photo/Sarah Zimmerman

Protesters flood the steps of the Oregon Capitol on Tuesday to push back against a Republican walkout over a climate change bill that has entered its sixth day in Salem. The president of the Oregon Senate said Tuesday there weren't enough votes in his majority Democratic caucus to approve a landmark climate bill that has sparked a walkout by Republicans and left other key issues, such as the state budget, in limbo.

Senate President Peter Courtney says HB 2020 doesn't have votes to pass Senate

By CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE,
AUBREY WIEBER AND MARK MILLER
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Seven minutes. That's all it took for Senate President Peter Courtney to thrust the already tense Capitol into sheer chaos Tuesday.

Senate Republicans have vacated the Capitol in protest of landmark legis-

lation to cap the state's greenhouse gas emissions, making the building a tinderbox sensitive to tiny political sparks.

Senate Democrats can't vote on the bill — which passed the House last week — unless at least two Republicans are present.

Courtney, an old-timer Democrat from Salem who has led the Senate since 2003, stepped up to the dais Tuesday morning with a remarkable declaration: House Bill 2020, a landmark proposal, did not have the votes to pass the Senate.

"No one has told me to say this," Courtney said. "There is no strategy to what I'm about to say. There's just

Peter. House Bill 2020 does not have the votes on the Senate floor. That will not change."

Some of his fellow Democrats in the chamber — who are divided on the bill — appeared caught off guard.

Courtney didn't say outright that the legislation is done for. But Senate Majority Leader Ginny Burdick, D-Portland, did.

"These votes are not suddenly going to turn to yes," Burdick told reporters Tuesday afternoon. "We are certain of that. I would call it dead."

Over the past few weeks, the vote count in the Senate has been in flux

See Climate Bill, Page A8

High-tech tools help with 2020 census in remote areas

Census Bureau using aerial and geographic technology to gather needed data about remote communities

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS
Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The U.S. Census Bureau is using new high-tech tools to help get an accurate population count next year as it faces challenges tallying people of color who live in remote places and can be wary of the federal government.

The agency is using aerial images of rural communities and hard-to-reach areas to verify addresses and determine where to send workers to ensure everyone is counted, Census Bureau Director Steven Dillingham said.

Satellites and planes take photos, and bureau employees compare the housing captured in the images to digital maps from the last census, in 2010. It takes a fraction of the time needed by workers in the field.

The agency has used geographic technology since 1990 but has never had access to such accurate tools from the air, said Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop, head of the bureau's geography division.

That technology — known as geographic information system, or GIS — uses computers to analyze neighborhoods, land formations, rivers and other data captured by satellites or traditional mapping.

The new technology to improve the census comes amid concerns that tribal areas and communities of color may be undercounted in the every-10-year tally that determines the amount of federal money states receive and whether they gain or lose U.S. congressional seats.

The U.S. Supreme Court is deciding whether the Trump administration can add a citizenship question to the 2020 census, which opponents say would suppress the count of immigrants who fear revealing their status to federal officials.

The Census Bureau also is facing criticism for planning internet and telephone questionnaires, which advocates say would be more likely to overlook rural areas without reliable communication infrastructure.

See Census, Page A8

Over 100 years, and nearly 500 miles

Echo Rural Fire Protection District covers a sizable chunk of Umatilla County with a slim crew

By JESSICA POLLARD
East Oregonian

ECHO — In a city that spans less than 1 square mile, an unassuming fire station sits at the edge of downtown.

The Echo Rural Fire Protection District, made up entirely of volunteers, covers 496 square miles, handling all fire and medical calls that originate south of Stanfield between Pendleton and the Morrow County line. And they are currently doing it with a crew of fewer than

"We really want to keep our

numbers higher because you really don't know in a volunteer fire department how many people are in town or in-district," said Fire Chief Delbert Gehrke.

In the last two months, two active volunteers moved away. And while ERFPD has never been unable to respond to a call, volunteer availability during emergencies has been slim before.

"It's a concern of mine," Gehrke said.

The ERFPD came into about a third of the land it protects today a few decades ago when Umatilla County wanted to reduce the amount of "no man's land" — land that doesn't have fire district protection — in the county, according to Gehrke. The *East Orego-*

See Echo, Page A8



Staff photo by Jessica Pollard

A golden fire hydrant outside the Echo fire station stands in memoriam to Murl A. Berry, former fire chief of Echo Rural Fire Protection District.

