



# The New Era

Hometown Newspaper of Verdin Davis

Serving the Sweet Home community since 1929

Wednesday, April 26, 2017 Vol. 88, No. 17

\$1.00

## Radio operators step up in 'emergency'

By Sean C. Morgan  
Of The New Era

When everything goes pear shaped and sideways, the power is out, gas lines broken, telephones down, cell towers out of service, roads blocked, bridges fallen or there are any other number of infrastructure failures, radio signals will still work.

That's why a group of local ham radio operators participated in a statewide drill Saturday, April 22, responding to simulated emergencies. Their means of communication is among the most durable, capable of surviving and functioning when the rest of civilization's infrastructure does not.

"We're simulating major flooding," said local ham operator Ken Saunders.

"And high winds," said Edie Wilcox, another.

"We don't have to simulate the wind," Saunders noted, as periodic gusts of wind blasted across their station in front of the Sweet Home Police Department.

See Ham Radio, Page 11



AMATEUR RADIO operators Edie Wilcox, left, and Ken Saunders participate in an emergency drill Saturday at a station in front of Sweet Home Police Department. Wilcox holds up an inexpensive radio useful at the local level.

Photo by Sean C. Morgan

## 5 school board members on May 16 ballot

By Sean C. Morgan  
Of The New Era

Five candidates have filed for five different Sweet Home School Board positions.

Jim Gourley is running for Zone 8, at large; Jason Redick for Zone 7, Sweet Home; Jason Van Eck for Zone 5, at large; Debra Brown, Zone 4, Cascadia; and Chanz Keeney for Zone 1, Holley. All are unopposed.

No one filed for the Zone 2, Liberty, position. Benjamin Emmert is seeking the position as a write-in candidate.

Most terms are for four years. Brown's will be for two years.

### Chanz Keeney

Keeney, a logger with Miller Timber of Philomath and the incumbent in Zone 1, Holley, is running for office again because his son, Blake, is still in the district as a sophomore at Sweet Home High School.

"I'd like to see him graduate," Keeney said. "Now that we're going back to the five-day (school week), I'd like to see that implemented and doing well."

Keeney voted against going to the four-day school week currently in effect. Based on test

See Election, Page 3

## Full house hears about entrepreneurship at RAIN MeetUp in SH

By Scott Swanson  
Of The New Era

A nearly overflow crowd turned out Thursday, April 20, for a RAIN MeetUp at Sugar Vibes donut shop.

The turnout of nearly 30 packed the dining area of the shop as Venture Catalyst Caroline Cummings explained the resources offered by RAIN, which stands for Regional Accelerator and Innovation Network.

"We had 27 people attend," Cummings said later. "That's the highest attendance for any MeetUps I've hosted in any of the other small communities in the RAIN four-county region."

RAIN is focused on stimulating and supporting entrepreneur-

ship in the southern Willamette Valley and the Mid-Coast region. It provides a network of investors and mentors, based in Corvallis and Eugene, to help people start successful businesses, Cummings said.

"Part of the RAIN model is that you can't do it alone," she said, adding that RAIN works with local universities and colleges, high schools, and those offering financial backing and expertise in bolstering entrepreneurship.

Cummings told the crowd that entrepreneurship involves both success and failure, referencing her own experience as a new arrival in Eugene from Philadelphia in 2006. She said she and another woman founded a start-up that essentially was what Pinterest is now, raising

\$650,000 from the community - a record amount for their type of business, she was told.

It failed in 2008 when the recession arrived, but investors were impressed enough that they pledged further support and when she started a second business, a company that offered mobile marketing for real estate agents, she was able to sell it in 13 months and today it employs 70 people.

She said three elements are necessary for a successful business: people, a program and capital.

RAIN's regional accelerators, in Eugene and Corvallis, and pre-accelerators along the coast in Florence and Newport, provide entre-

See RAIN, Page 16



Photo by Scott Swanson

RAIN ATTENDEES, including state Rep. Sherrie Sprenger, left, listen as Venture Catalyst Caroline Cummings talks about the program.

## Entek leaders say state concerns about pollution came out of blue

By Scott Swanson  
Of The New Era

Entek, one of east Linn County's largest employers, is facing off in court with state agencies over its emissions of a solvent used in making its products.

The company was granted a temporary restraining order on April 7 by Linn County Circuit Court Judge Tom McHill regarding a "communication plan" by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to launch meetings with local residents and company employees to discuss air quality monitoring near the plant.

The issue surfaced after an April 6 meeting between Entek officials and officials from the DEQ, the Oregon Health Authority, the Department of Justice and OSHA. State

officials said they were concerned about the company's emissions of trichloroethylene, a solvent that, at elevated levels, has been linked to various cancers, possible effects on fetal development and other health conditions.

On April 10 and 12, Circuit Court Judge Carol Bispham heard arguments from both sides regarding whether a longer stay should be imposed and said she was concerned about "inaccurate information or information that escalates a risk that has not been proven to be at that level."

The company said it was set to submit updated and more comprehensive air quality data to the state Monday, April 24.

As The New Era went to press this week, Bispham had yet to rule on the case.

Entek CEO Larry Keith invited about 40 local leaders, including members of the local press, to visit the company's Lebanon plant, at 250 North Hansard Ave., on Friday, April 21, for a tour and a presentation of the company's side of the story.

"We're trying to be open and transparent to the community," Keith said. "Unfortunately, we've been in the media lately."

Entek uses TCE to remove oil from thin sheets of silicon that are then dried, sliced into usable lengths and shipped to customers to be used as separators for lead plates in batteries for cars, trucks, golf carts and a wide range of other products.

See Entek, Page 10



Photo by Scott Swanson

ENTEK CEO Larry Keith explains a cooling system, used to recover TCE during the manufacture of battery separators at the Lebanon Entek plant, during a tour of the plant on April 21.



news@sweethomenews.com



www.sweethomenews.com

## YOUR COMMUNITY

### RAIN

From page 1

preneurial development programs to help prospective business founders learn what they need to know to be successful.

RAIN also connects entrepreneurs to mentors, coaches, guides, investors and facilitators, who can help growing companies be successful and sometimes even join the team, she said.

It also provides opportunities for “angel investors” and venture capital providers to fund business start-ups.

Participants in Thursday’s meeting included a producer of agricultural tools for small farms, a recent retiree from Boeing, a retired businesswoman with broad

local and international experience, a local Realtor, a pharmaceutical products entrepreneur, an individual looking to build his landscape maintenance business, business assistance program representatives from Linn-Benton Community College and the Oregon Cascade West Council of Governments, and a variety of established local business owners.

Also present at the MeetUp were City Manager Ray Towry and City Councilwoman Susan Coleman, and state Rep. Sherrie Sprenger, who last year personally organized a similar meeting between local business people and state agencies tasked with aiding small businesses.

Towry, who was a director of the Grant County Economic Devel-

opment Council in Ephrata, Wash. before coming to Sweet Home earlier this year, said RAIN can help local businesses.

Towry said entrepreneurship, along with business recruitment, comprise the two main elements of economic development.

Entrepreneurship, he said, is a “much more tangible” enterprise than trying to lure established companies to a particular location, which usually does not have a high success rate.

RAIN, he said, provides help most entrepreneurs need – knowledge, funding, low-interest loans.

“RAIN brings a lot to the table.”

He noted that the majority of the crowd at the MeetUp were not entrepreneurs, but he said the people there represented available re-

### RAIN: Upcoming Events

■ **May 2 – Mentor Mixer**

– 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Flinn Block Hall, 222 W 1st Ave., Albany  
– RSVP at [www.meetup.com/Startup-Albany-Oregon/events/238496098](http://www.meetup.com/Startup-Albany-Oregon/events/238496098)  
– Free food, beer and wine. Find a mentor/be a mentor.

■ **May 11 – 9th Annual Willamette Angel Conference**

– 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Historic Whiteside Theater, 361 SW Madison Ave., Corvallis  
– RSVP at [willametteconference.com/attend-the-event](http://willametteconference.com/attend-the-event)  
– Half-day conference, company pitches, featured speaker Eric Breon, CEO/Founder of Vacasa.com, and plenty of networking opportunities. Lunch, beverages, snacks included, plus evening reception at Sky High Brewing & Pub. \$95 through April 28, \$110 after April 28.

sources for local existing or would-be businesses.

“We have people who want to

help businesses,” Towry said. “Our local businesses have to understand that help is out there.”

### Real Estate

From page 15

Lebanon; one-story residence, additional details not listed; 2.88 acres; \$320,000.

■ 38234 Elm St., Lebanon; one-story residence, additional details not listed; 0.60 acres; \$100,000.

■ 970 23rd Ave., Sweet Home; residential improvements, additional details not listed; 0.05 acres; \$55,000.

■ 35665 Hwy 228, Brownsville; two-story residence, additional details not listed; 5.00 acres; \$375,000.

■ 535 Angelee Ct., Lebanon; one-story residence, additional details not listed; 0.16 acres; \$184,900.

■ 291 Berry St., Lebanon; one-story residence, additional

details not listed; 0.15 acres; \$120,000.

■ 3226 Columbine St., Lebanon; one-story residence, additional details not listed; 0.18 acres; \$155,400.

■ 1145 2nd Ave., Sweet Home; one-story residence, additional details not listed; 0.11 acres; \$136,000.

■ 655 14th St., Lebanon; one-story residence, additional details not listed; 0.22 acres; \$175,000.

■ 40764 Hwy 228, Sweet Home; one-story residence with attic and basement; 4.98 acres; \$285,000.

■ 2376 Mountain River Drive, Lebanon; two-story residence, additional details not listed; 0.18 acres; \$287,000.

■ 620 Oak St., Brownsville; one-story residence with attic, additional details not listed; 0.19 acres; \$150,000.

■ 28597 Santiam Hwy., Sweet Home; one-story residence, additional details not listed; 7.41 acres; \$283,580.

■ 29838 Santiam Terrace Road, Lebanon; double wide mobile home, additional details not listed; 4.72 acres; \$131,895.

■ 2485 Stoltz Hill Road, Lebanon; one-story residence, additional details not listed; 0.36 acres; \$110,000.

■ 835 Wagon Wheel Drive, Lebanon; one-story residence, additional details not listed; 0.63 acres; \$213,000.

■ 1530 Tamarack St., Sweet Home; commercial improvement, additional details not listed; 8.80 acres; \$3,750,000.

■ 37247 James Pl., Lebanon; one-story residence, additional details not listed; 0.28 acres; \$167,000.

■ 5903 Nandina St., Sweet

Home; double wide mobile home, additional details not listed; 0.19 acres; \$112,500.

■ 26976 Doe Mountain Road, Foster; one-story residence, additional details not listed; 2.50 acres; \$50,000.

■ 1195 Crowfoot Road, Lebanon; one-story residence, additional details not listed; 1.00 acres; \$160,000.

■ 31509 Berlin Road, Lebanon; one-story residence, additional details not listed; 0.46 acres; \$234,000.

■ 430 11th St., Lebanon; duplex residence, additional details not listed; 0.27 acres; \$50,000.

■ 2010 Stoltz Hill Road, Lebanon; commercial property, additional details not listed; 0.17 acres; \$90,000.

■ 1200 9th St., Lebanon; property with manufactured structure, additional details not listed;

2.58 acres; \$165,000.

■ 909 D St., Lebanon; one-story residence, additional details not listed; 0.15 acres; \$191,000.

■ 2800 Cascade Drive, Lebanon; one-story residence with attic, additional details not listed; 2.50 acres; \$175,000.

■ 2463 Harding St., Sweet Home; one-story residence with attic, additional details not listed; 0.96 acres; \$70,000.

## Commissioners impose limits on Edgewater stays

By Audrey Caro  
Of The New Era

An ordinance amendment limiting overnight stays at Edgewater RV Park and Marina goes into effect on July 17 after it was approved last week by county commissioners.

The amendment allows limiting overnight stays at up to 10 campsites at the location to a total of 30 days between May 1 and Sept. 30; and no more than a total of 180 days between Oct. 1 and April 30.

Linn County Commissioners unanimously approved the change at the April 18 Linn County Board of Commissioners meeting.

“We don’t want our parks to be long-term stay,” said Commissioner Roger Nyquist. “It’s not what we’re wanting to do.”

During that same meeting, Brian Carroll, Linn County Parks Director, asked the commissioners for authority to sign a contract with Emery & Sons Construction Group to install a boating pump-out station.

The Emery & Sons quote for the installation is \$113,519, higher than the engineer’s estimate of \$110,000.

A previous resolution authorized the Oregon State Marine Board to fund an ADA accessible sidewalk and boating sewage pump-out station at the Edgewater Marina.

The total grant project had an estimated cost of \$110,000.

OSMB has agreed to fund approximately 95 percent of the project, \$105,00, and the county parks department agreed to fund the remaining \$5,000 from a combination of accounts and equipment, according to a memo from Carroll to the commissioners. No county general funds will be used to fund this project.

The OSMB staff is requesting an increase in the amount of grant funding from their board.

The OSMB grant will cover the increase in costs, Carroll said in the memo, with no increase in Linn County’s contribution.

**LEARN ABOUT LEBANON!**  
**SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEW**  
**LEBANON LOCAL**  
**MONTHLY NEWSPAPER!**

12 ISSUES DELIVERED - ONLY \$20 PER YEAR  
 12 ISSUES DELIVERED OUTSIDE LINN COUNTY - \$25 PER YEAR (U.S. ADDRESSES ONLY)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

SEND THIS FORM ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK TO: LEBANON LOCAL PO BOX 39, SWEET HOME, OR 97386  
 OR CALL US WITH YOUR VISA / MC PAYMENT (541) 367-2136

**GROCERY**  
**OUTLET**  
 bargain market

**Lebanon Grocery Outlet**

2540 S. Santiam Highway  
 Lebanon, OR 97355  
 (541) 258-8800  
[www.groceryoutlet.com](http://www.groceryoutlet.com)  
 Find us on

**LIBERTY REAL ESTATE**  
 MANAGEMENT & SALES LLC

MARYANN MAXEY GRI  
 PRINCIPAL BROKER IN THE STATE OF OREGON

940 MAIN ST SUITE E  
 P.O. BOX 858 LEBANON OR 97355

OFFICE: 541-451-4243 | CELL: 541-990-0940 | FAX: 541-258-8081  
 EMAIL: LIBERTYREALESTATE97355@GMAIL.COM

**Like-Nu**  
**APPLIANCE, Inc.**  
**SAVE BIG!**

- Reconditioned Large Appliances
- New & Used Parts • Fast Repairs
- 90 Day Warranty on ALL
- Pickup of Un-Wanted Appliances

**Huge Showroom - Huge Inventory!**

(541) 259-1131 • 2711 S. Main Rd.  
[WWW.LIKENUAPPLIANCE.COM](http://WWW.LIKENUAPPLIANCE.COM) | BEHIND BI-MART IN LEBANON

*The Laura Gillott Home Team*  
 Your Real Estate Resource for Linn & Benton County

We're #1 Because You're #1 to Us!

Laura Gillott, Sheri Ellis, Jason Moore, Bill Fletcher, Shoshie Horner, Jamie Fletcher

Office: 541-451-2211 Call/Text: 541-791-4454 TeamGillott.com  
 1055 W Airway Rd #102, Lebanon OR 300 SW Ferry St, Albany OR 1121 NW 9th St, Corvallis OR

Keller Williams Realty Mid-Willamette

**LEBANON**  
 Oregon