



The Oregon Legislature has approved and funded \$3.75 million for the new South Willamette Valley **Regional Accelerator and Innovation Network** (RAIN), a broad initiative that “taps into the research and educational expertise of academia and aggressively moves it toward private economic growth,” says Sen. Lee Beyer. RAIN will involve collaboration between UO, OSU and the cities of Eugene, Springfield, Albany and Corvallis. Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy and Corvallis Mayor Julie Manning worked on the initiative, which will focus on nurturing small technology-based companies.

The next **Emerald FEAST** (Financing Eugene Area Sustainable Talent) will be from 6 to 8:30 pm Thursday, July 25, at First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive St. Diners purchase a meal for \$15 to \$25 and vote to donate the evening’s proceeds to one of several small businesses and start-ups that pitch their projects. The FEAST has given away \$2,900 so far in six events.

Share House, a nonprofit southeast Eugene foster care home for developmental/intellectually disabled women, is celebrating 28 years of service Saturday afternoon, July 27, by officially opening a new wing, an accessible new bathroom and a wheelchair ramp. All five bedrooms are now on the first level. Project plans were donated by Larry Beggs, builder was Mick Berlincourt and dozens of businesses, contractors and individuals contributed supplies, cash, landscaping and other donations, says Diane DeVillers, treasurer of the Share House Board of Directors.

A Kickstarter campaign is being launched by **Doug’s Nuts** of Eugene. Doug Furlong is Boss Nut, Kari Furlong is Auxiliary Nut and Lisa Bee-Wilson is Wing Nut. “It takes a lot of hands to support Doug’s Nuts,” says Boss Nut. See dougsnuts.com.

The Springfield Chamber’s monthly **CASH MOB** will be at 4 pm Thursday, July 28, at Affair with Flowers, 1918 Marcola Road. The event invites chamber members to shop in locally owned businesses. See Springfield-chamber.org.

The nonprofit **Springfield Gateway Arch** project is using Kickstarter to help raise \$2,500 to complete a 5-foot scale model of a welcoming arch to be built over Highway 126 near Springfield’s eastern city limit. Springfield once had a landmark arch near Glenwood in the 1920s but it was destroyed by floodwaters after standing only seven years. Google Springfield Gateway Arch to see drawings and find various ways to help the project.

Pacific Pub Cycle of Corvallis is an enterprise that uses a “multipassenger, community-pedaled” vehicle to move people around to visit a string of brew pubs. The business has now expanded to Eugene and had its first run July 18. Details on which pubs will be on the tour are yet to be announced. In Corvallis, the tour includes Block 15, Flat Tail Brewing, McMenamins and Sky High Brewing. The idea originated in Amsterdam. See pacificpubcycle.com or call 632-4343.

Chaos Kolaches celebrated its first anniversary in business July 20 with a party featuring live music by Tita Louisa, a live broadcast on 1450 All Comedy Radio, face-painting for kids and other activities. The shop and coffee bar is at 388 Q St. in Springfield but it also distributes its traditional Czechoslovakian pasties around the valley through catering and special orders. The Chaos crew is Beau Mollinary, Jennifer Petersen and Aaron Nankin. See chaoskolaches.com or call 654-0831.

CAR HELP by Oregon Auto Repair will be offering free classes on “what you need to know about your car” at 11 am Saturday mornings in August at the shop, according to new owner Bruce Robertson. He calls it the “Self Sufficiency Series.” The shop is located at 89962 Prairie Road, across from the Prairie Schooner Tavern. Call 357-7311 to register.

Daisy CHAIN (Creating Healthy Alliances in New-Mothering) has received international recognition for “excellence in staffing and protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding.” The Eugene-based nonprofit was honored with the Care Award for Community Based Health Agencies by the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners. Daisy CHAIN provides in-home care, 24-hour support and mother-to-mother support in Lane County. World Breastfeeding Week is coming up Aug. 1-7 and Daisy CHAIN is sponsoring “The Big Latch On” at 10 am Saturday, Aug. 3, in Monroe Park, 950 Monroe St. in Eugene. Springfield Mayor Christine Lundberg will speak.

NEWS

LIANE RICHARDSON IN HOT WATER OVER PAY

County Administrator Liane Richardson appears to be eroding the confidence of Lane County citizens again. Her efforts earlier this year to increase her pay from \$152,345 to \$175,656, an increase of more than 15 percent, caused public outcry at a time when the county is strapped for cash. Questions have arisen about whether Richardson may have finagled an increase in the money she was getting after all, despite the outcry and despite saying she would say no to an immediate raise. County spokesperson Anne Marie Levis has confirmed that Richardson has placed herself on paid administrative leave.

The county was asking the public for a tax levy and releasing prisoners from the jail at the time when Human Resources Director Madeline Zikes was asking for large raises for Richardson and county attorney Stephen Dingle in a proposal to the County Commission. According to the *R-G*, Richardson was lobbying for a raise in emails, saying that she had job offers elsewhere.

Voters passed the jail tax levy, but the county is still up against funding shortages for everything from homeless animals to public safety to human services, and the jail is still underfunded.

Attorney Barry Davis sent a letter to the county this week that referenced “out of the ordinary adjustments to Richardson’s take home compensation” that were exposed by a whistleblower.

According to a statement from Jim Steiner of AFSCME in response to *EW*’s questions about the letter, “The letter did not get into specifics but after that letter went out, the union separately requested information about compensation, compensation changes and exceptions to county payroll policies for Liane Richardson and Stephen Dingle since Jan. 1, 2013.”

Steiner says, “Whether Davis’ letter or the union’s request for information had anything to do with Liane Richardson being placed on administrative leave is anyone’s guess at this point.”

The county held an executive session at 9 am July 24 “To consider the dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent who does not request an open hearing.”

The session remained closed, meaning that the media can attend but not report on what was discussed, and the commission decided to issue a prepared statement, which *EW* will post online.

Richardson reportedly sent emails to the county board that she then forwarded to the *R-G*, but not *EW*, in which she acknowledged “that she requested that the county’s finance department make the payroll change.” The *R-G* says “she disclosed that because of the arrangement, she has now received payments for sick and vacation time beyond what she is contractually entitled.” The county spokesperson has disputed that characterization.

If the county decides to pursue an investigation into Richardson’s recent actions, and it costs taxpayer money, it would be in one of a string of investigations involving Richardson that have cost the county many thousands of dollars. — *Camilla Mortensen*

CLIMATE AND FOREST ACTION-PACKED WEEKEND

Kayaks and canoes blocking fossil fuel shipments going down the Columbia River, women and transgender activists climbing trees and studying decolonization: Summer is when activism heats up in the Pacific Northwest, and it’s just in time because Oregon is facing climate-affecting threats from all sides such as logging in native forests and shipments of oil and coal. Summer Heat: Columbia River Climate Action takes place July 27 in Portland, and the Trans and Womyn’s

Action Camp is taking place July 24-28 in the forests outside Oakridge.

Portland Rising Tide’s Summer Heat is focusing on the onslaught of fossil fuel projects that are using the Columbia River as an oil and coal pipeline. After a morning of workshops and speakers, participants will hit the river in kayaks, canoes and watercraft for a “peaceful, symbolic blocking of the river to show that we will not stand for the Columbia River becoming a chute for dirty fossil fuels,” according to Rising Tide. Eugeneans are planning to join the action; for more information see Mary DeMocker’s Viewpoint in the Letters section.

The array of climate change inducing threats on the river is dizzying: coal trains along the river from the Powder River Basin and oil trains from Bakken and from the dirty Canadian tar sands, as well as barges on the river itself carrying megaloads of tar-sands-extracting equipment up to the Port of Lewiston. Brett VandenHeuvel of Columbia Riverkeeper, which has been fighting to protect the river from coal and oil proposals, says, “It’s all intimately connected. The Columbia is threatened to become a fossil fuel highway, coal, LNG and oil and potentially tar sands oil — this Vancouver terminal would allow any petroleum products, thousands of train loads a year of tar sands oil.”

VandenHeuvel says it’s time for people to take a stand on preserving the Columbia River and its salmon runs from these threats. He adds that he is “hopeful that Gov. Jay Inslee takes a very hard look at a whether Washington and the Columbia River should become the fossil fuel middleman for the rest of the world.” Inslee will make the final decision on the oil project after review by the Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council.

For those who can’t bus, bike or carpool to Portland for Summer Heat, or who want to focus more on forest issues, the Trans and Womyn’s Action Camp (TWAC) Cascadia — “kicking patriarchy out of the woods” — is also accessible by bike and carpool. The camp starts July 27 and runs through the weekend. The camp features workshops on confronting trans exclusion and transmisogyny in activism, strategic campaigning, dealing with the media (including one with this *EW* reporter), climb training, dealing with environmental racism and more. For more information or to contribute to the camp’s fundraising efforts, go to twac.wordpress.com. — *Camilla Mortensen*

WETLANDS CAMPING BAN BRINGS PROTEST

Activists have again pitched their tents to protest the lack of places homeless people can sleep, this time in the West Eugene Wetlands. In early July, the Bureau of Land Management began clearing camps of homeless people from the wetlands. SLEEPS (Safe Legally Entitled Emergency Places to Sleep) is camping at a site near Danebo and Pacific in solidarity with those who have nowhere else to go.

While BLM plans restoration work on wetlands locations that have been camp sites, homeless advocates say that homeless people have no other alternative, so the work is futile. “Don’t you understand that people are just going to come back because they have nowhere else to go?” asks advocate for the homeless Alley Valkyrie. “You’re wasting your time; you’re wasting money.”

Valkyrie says that choosing between homeless people and the wetlands is a false dichotomy. “They’re falsely setting up the environmentalists against the homeless advocates in, frankly, what’s a very effective way,” she says. “If the city gave them somewhere that wasn’t delicate environmental property where they could be, they’d be there.” Valkyrie says she wants safe places for homeless people to sleep that are closer to restrooms and other services.

Homeless advocate Reagan Clark says that creating a situation in which homeless people’s best choice is to sleep in the wetlands outside of town is dangerous. “The drug abusers tend to steal from the people who do not [use drugs], so we need something that addresses that need,” he says. “These are innocent people who are being completely alienated and