

RADIO from page 1A

The Amateur Radio Relay League, a nationwide association of amateur clubs and groups, coordinates the event, which this year has more than 40,000 individuals participating across North America. The local chapter, the Central Oregon Coast Amateur Radio Club (COCARC), was formed in 1985 and is active in local emergency preparations.

COCARC members believe the time and energy spent training will be put to the test at some point in the future.

Member Julie McGrew says the training is important considering the likelihood of a major seismic event occurring that will dramatically impact this area.

"Field Day is much more than a contest; it is amateur radio's public open house — an event where hams are given the opportunity to demonstrate and hone the skills which allow them to provide auxiliary communications to their community in times of trouble and emergency," McGrew said. "Perhaps it is this aspect of amateur radio that is best known by the public, since time and again when normal communication

channels fail, ham radio operators provide critical message handling to our first responders and the victims they support."

The need for functioning communication with first responders and governmental support agencies during a natural disaster is critical to minimizing casualties and confusion. One of the essential tools necessary to recover quickly from a natural disaster will be the ability to communicate with areas not affected by the quake and resulting tidal waves. This is where COCARC will play a central role.

While there is a training element to Field Day, there is also a nationwide competition to determine a club rating for successfully accomplishing different exercises during the 24-hour session. One of the challenges is using modes of communication from different eras.

During a single 24-hour period, beginning on Saturday at 11 a.m., these radio operators contacted over 250 similar radio stations operating in 34 U.S. states and three Canadian provinces," McGrew said. "To reach these remote stations, they employed numerous frequency bands and oper-



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

COCARC member Julie McGrew checks data received from other ham radio operators across the United States during the 2019 Field Exercise event.

ating modes, ranging from the venerable 19th century Morse code to modern FT8, a complex weak signal mode recently developed by Princeton University Nobel Laureate Dr. Joe Taylor."

The COCARC group has been operating at very high levels for the past five years and the set-up at Sutton lake Campground was impressive, feeling more like a family gathering than preparation for disaster.

On the one hand, individual members set up thousands of dollars' worth

of trailers and equipment at the center of the main staging area. On the other, there is a covered cooking area that emanates an inviting aroma, coupled with tables full of food and beverages.

While the mission is a serious one, the weekend is also a time for friends and colleagues to cultivate closer relationships. McGrew mentioned the upbeat nature of the event, tempering the underlying seriousness of the practice sessions.

"Saturday, their radios were being used for practice

and pleasure, so a break was taken in the late afternoon, and a barbecue potluck featuring tri-tip, chicken and homemade ice cream was enjoyed by hams and guests alike. Following dinner and some socializing around the campfire, radio operations continued into the evening and through Sunday morning until it was

time to conclude and break camp," she said.

The Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission has warned that a major seismic event could strike at any time with the resulting deaths approaching 10,000 people and causing more than \$50 billion of property and infrastructure damage. These statistics are the reason that the 20 or so dedicated local individuals spent the weekend camped out — to assure that at least some people will be ready for the "Big One" when it inevitably hits.

"Each year, there are some new faces, equipment modifications and system improvements, but one thing of importance remains constant," McGrew said. "When troubling events occur to disrupt normal communications, amateur radio operators are prepared and there to serve."

For more information on the Central Oregon Coast Amateur Radio Club, visit www.w7flo.com or find Florence Oregon Ham Radio Club on Facebook.

LESSON from page 1A

Students are using social media sites more than ever before. Sexting is also becoming more and more prevalent in our society.

Teachthought.com reported that in a nationwide poll, 48 percent of adults and 25 percent of teens have sent sexually explicit text or photos to a partner.

Sexting is defined as the sending or receiving a sexually explicit text or image via a mobile device. A misconception about sexting is that images do not have to be of nude individuals. Sexting can include implied nudity or implied sexual acts. In the State of Oregon, any student engaged in sexting falls under child pornography laws. The punishment of such acts can be severe and financially devastating.

Teter shared with stu-

dents the fines that can be leveled upon parents and that students could end up in the juvenile justice system and have to register as a sex offender. Fines can be as high as \$250,000 and include up to 10 years in prison.

During the presentation, Teter polled the youth, which revealed some sobering numbers. Ninety percent of those students had some type of media account before the sixth grade.

Nearly half those students signed up for their account(s) without their parents' permission. Seventy percent of those students were provided with a mobile device capable of connecting to the internet as early as age nine. Over 70 percent of those students received their device without rules, instruction or guidance of any kind —

and nearly 100 percent of students reported viewing some sort of image that was sexual in nature on a weekly basis.

In addition, every student at the assembly reported being bullied via some kind of electronic device or through some sort of social media account.

Nationwide studies have shown that a large number of children have engaged in sexting as early as 9 years of age.

Teter told the students that he recognizes the pressures they face and how they are continually bombarded by unhealthy sexual images through movies, music, clothing ads and other media forms.

"It amazes me that many parents have provided their child with this powerful device, that can both do a lot of good but also has the ability to ruin someone's

life forever, with no guidance how to use it responsibly," Teter said. "A Harvard study has shown that as the number of social media outlets increase, so has the rate of teen suicide. It's not that these sites themselves are bad, it is that students are not guided how to communicate in a healthy and productive way, as well as how to handle conflict or misunderstandings. When as parents are we going to wake up?"

Teter concluded the presentation with students by giving them inscribed "dog tags" provided by Community 101, that read, "Give respect ...Get Respect." He challenged the students to put that into action, saying, "By putting the needs of others first we can solve many of life's social issues."

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10818 Hwy 36 – Large commercial building on two city lots at the junction of Hwy 36 and 126 in Mapleton, a high traffic area. Metal building with high open beam ceiling, 3 phase power on one meter. Check with Lane County for zoning uses. Property is being sold "as is". **\$50,000.** #2802-18047518

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