

RAIN seeks applicants for Coastal Pre-Accelerator Program

12-week boot camp-style programs in Florence and Newport begin in mid-March, applications due Feb. 27

The Oregon Regional Accelerator and Innovation Network (RAIN) is now accepting applications for its first coastal pre-accelerator program. The pre-accelerator, which will be offered in Florence and Lincoln County, is a 12-week, bootcamp style program for the best and brightest startup companies on the central Oregon coast.

Applications are available through Monday, Feb. 27, at bit.ly/FloCoPreaccelerator for Florence and bit.ly/lincopreaccelerator for Newport.

Applicant companies must be based in coastal Lane or Lincoln county, plan to sell nationally and create jobs.

Four to six companies will

be selected for each pre-accelerator, which begin in mid-March. The cost is \$99 per company, and the fee includes a one-year subscription to the online business plan software LivePlan.

"Over the past year and a half, RAIN has hosted many educational and networking events on the central Oregon coast, but this is the first multi-week program designed to help take an early stage startup from concept stage to launch stage, or from selling product to scaling the company," said Oregon RAIN's Coastal Venture Catalyst David Youngentob.

The Florence pre-accelerator begins on March 15 and concludes on June 14 with an



(From left) Patricia Immel, Carl Hulan and Jayne Smoley are just three Florence-area entrepreneurs to partner with RAIN to expand and accelerate their ideas. In late January, Immel received \$250 and a one-on-one meeting with a mentor to work on her latest endeavor, a prize won during a RAIN speed-pitch competition.

PHOTOS BY CHANTELE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

open-to-the-public Demo Day exhibition and graduation for the cohort. The Newport pre-accelerator, which will cover the same material, begins on

March 22 and concludes with its Demo Day on June 21.

"Rural communities want and need programs that help advance innovation. It would be difficult for the City of Florence to support such a program by itself, but we found a sustainable way to do so by leveraging local dollars with funds from the county and state. Our entrepreneurial community has grown by leaps and bounds since we partnered with RAIN in the fall of 2015, and we believe that the pre-accelerator will help our innovators reach even greater heights," said Erin Reynolds, city manager of the City of Florence.

Over the course of 12 weeks,

the company cohorts will cover a range of topics including marketing and sales, financials and business modeling and pitching and fundraising. They will address these topics through seminars and workshops, group and one-on-one mentoring, one-page business plans and more.

Time commitments include two weekly sessions of three hours each, with an additional 10+ hours per week of homework.

"Innovation is very important to Lincoln County as our population is well-educated and self-motivated. We can leverage our strength in marine industry and ocean sciences.

The pre-accelerator will provide the structure and guidance to help our entrepreneurs turn an idea into a thriving business," said Caroline Bauman, executive director of the Economic Development Alliance of Lincoln County.

The RAIN coastal pre-accelerator is supported by the cities of Florence, Newport, Toledo and Lincoln City, Lane and Lincoln counties and The Ford Family Foundation.

RAIN is an Oregon consortium of government, higher education and the business community. It was founded by the State of Oregon's Regional Solutions network and funded by the 77th Oregon State Legislative Assembly to advance the formation of high-growth innovative startup companies located in Lane, Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties.

In coordination with many cities and communities throughout the region, RAIN is partnered with two accelerators to create a collaborative environment to assist entrepreneurs in establishing viable companies that generate jobs, wealth and opportunities for the region.

For more information about RAIN, visit oregonrain.org.

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Habitat receives grant to repair senior housing

The Florence affiliate of Habitat for Humanity (FHFH) has received a two year grant which will be awarded to the organization's "Aging in Place" program.

The grant was made available by the Meyer Memorial Trust (MMT) which awarded \$100,000 to the organization. The grant was allocated to contribute to the completion of 48 home repair and disability modification projects in Florence.

Ken Gaylord, Director of the Aging in Place program said,

"Our small Florence Hab-

itat affiliate is so proud. It is wonderful to receive this kind of recognition for programs that make a difference in the lives of our senior citizens."

Florence is one of two communities in the state that received the MMT grant.

The process for receiving this grant began in 2014 with the roll-out of the FHFH "Neighborhood Revitalization and Home Repair Program."

This program proved to be so successful that it was used as the model for the grant winning "Aging in Place" program.

PFLAG invites all to Valentine Party at LCC

PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) invites everyone to a "Be My Valentine" party Tuesday, Feb. 14, at Lane Community College, 3149 Oak St. in Florence.

There will be games, snacks and prizes and the fun begins at 6:30 p.m. in room 158.

Invite friends and neighbors as all community members are invited to attend this event.

No RSVP is necessary for this free public event. For more information, contact Linda Yoder, secretary, at 541-590-0944 or email [lin dayoder@hotmail.com](mailto:dayoder@hotmail.com).

Join Us In Worship
4 lines, approx 15 words, \$10 a week
4 week Minimum
Deadline 3 p.m. Mondays.

To be included in this directory contact
the Siuslaw News at 997-3441, or drop off
information at 148 Maple St., Old Town, Florence.

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Pre-Denominational (Romans 16:16)
1833 Tamarack Street (2 blocks east of Hwy. 101 on 18th St.)
Bible Study: Sunday 10 a.m.; Worship: Sunday 11 a.m.
www.churchofchristflorence.org

FLORENCE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

12th and Nopal -997-9020
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
10 am Wed., Women's Bible Study
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Online Worship Service@ www.florencenaz.com

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1318 Rhododendron Dr. -- 997-2523 - Worship at 11:00 AM -- Sunday
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