

SUMMER TRAINING

SPORTS — B



Letters to Dad

Sunday, June 18

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

Coastal entrepreneurs prepare for Demo Day

June 21 graduation, showcase features RAIN's 11 new startups

By CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Regional Accelerator and Innovation Network (RAIN) is concluding its first Coastal Pre-Accelerator program with a showcase and graduation during Demo Day on Wednesday, June 21 from 5 to 8:30 p.m. at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St.

RAIN Coastal Venture Catalyst David Youngentob said, "RAIN helps startup ventures that are being founded here on the coast launch and grow their businesses faster so they can reach customers all over country, and potentially the world. With our partners, we've been administering a three-month boot camp for startup founders. These people are your neighbors that you probably already know. These are folks that are trying to launch a company from scratch."

During Demo Day, 11 coastal entrepreneurs will present a 5-minute pitch on their business, talk about how RAIN has helped them and share what they need to scale up to the next level.

"The most important thing is, they are going to tell you about what they need," Youngentob said.

The event will also feature networking time, a keynote address by coastal entrepreneur and Chef Mels' cofounder, Sam Gross. Food, beer and wine will be provided.

The Coastal Pre-Accelerators began in March in Florence and Lincoln City, with six entrepreneurs attending the Florence group and five attending Lincoln City. Each cohort covered a range of topics including marketing and sales, financials and business modeling, and pitching and fundraising. They addressed these topics through seminars and workshops, group and 1-on-1 mentoring, one-page business plans and more.

Here is a peek at the six local businesses in the Florence cohort:

Jesse Dolin — Stoney River Sinkers

Dolin is revitalizing the fishing world by removing lead from waterways. Stoney River Sinkers replace harmful lead with natural stone that is better for people, the environment, and fish and wildlife.

"The key to fishing is natural presentation. What's more natural than a stone gliding down a stream?" he said.

As an angler, Dolin saw a need for a natural alternative and sought to fill a niche. And now, several years into this venture, he is gaining recognition, including winning the Willamette Angel Conference's Speed Pitch competition in May.

"I didn't realize there was this community of support for startups," Dolin said. "I felt that joining the Pre-Accelerator was exactly what I needed because it offered a roadmap to success and connections to mentors who had experience with launching products."

Dolin plans to continue building the Stoney River Sinkers brand through sharing his passion and excitement for lead-free fishing.

See **STARTUPS 7A**

FLAG DAY – JUNE 14, 2017

STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER



PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

The Florence community honored "Old Glory" during a Flag Retirement Ceremony on Flag Day, June 14. Community members gathered together at Veteran's Memorial Park on Bay Street to respectfully observe as American Legion Post 59, local scout troops and other groups "destroyed by burning" flags "in a dignified, ceremonious manner," as part of U.S. Flag Code. Three Flag Day Ceremonies throughout the day gave many people a chance to hear about "The Talking Flag," its history and what it stands for.



Group files to unionize service caregivers

Most Peace Harbor employees included except doctors, nurses

By JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

Service Employees International Union (SEIU) has filed a petition to represent service caregivers at PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center and PeaceHealth Medical Group clinics.

According to the SEIU filing, the union wants to represent: "All full-time, regular part-time, on-

call and per diem service employees, business office clerical employees and guards in the following classifications employed by the employer at PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center."

This includes Peace Harbor Lab, Home Health and Hospice, Rehabilitation and Wellness Center, Orthopedic & Sports Medicine Clinic, the Family

Medicine Clinic, General Surgery Clinic, Internal Medicine/Walk-In Clinic, Anticoagulation & Diabetic Ed Clinic and Women's Health/OB/GYN clinic.

"We fully respect the right of our caregivers to be represented by a union," said Marie Stehmer, senior director of human resources for PeaceHealth Oregon.

See **UNION 7A**

Planning Commission postpones Helping Hands decision

More written input sought before City of Florence's conditional use permit vote

Dozens of people attended the June 12 Florence Planning Commission meeting, most to support the Helping Hands Coalition's application for a temporary conditional use permit to convert property located at 1790 Highway 101 from retail to multipurpose human services.

Helping Hands is a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization dedicated to serving hot meals to those in need and others who need temporary assistance.

The group also provides laundry and shower vouchers.

Helping Hands lost the lease on its former location at 1339 Rhododendron Drive last July. Since then, the organization has been serving hot lunch-

es every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the United Methodist Church at Third and Kingwood streets.

In addition to comments in support of the proposed new location, commissioners heard from several people who lived near the proposed site and were concerned about the effect a concentration of transients would have on the neighborhood's quality of living.

City of Florence Planning Director Wendy FarleyCampbell said, "Our department has commented that they have been working with Helping Hands and that they have no concerns with the proposal."

The commission's concerns over the initial proposed plan include a lack of adequate parking, the placement of an outdoor smoking area and traffic

congestion and flow around Teresa's Sunrise Espresso, which is adjacent to the proposed site.

Initially, FarleyCampbell said, "Staff does recommend approval of this, with the many conditions that are listed in the application."

The recommended approval is for a two-year conditional use permit that would expire June 13, 2019, providing Helping Hands is moved into the site by June 13, 2018.

Commissioners said residents were concerned about loitering, before and after meals are served.

Helping Hands advocate Rick Hamilton said the location would be under 24-hour video surveillance to insure no loitering or overnight camping or parking problems.

See **HELPING 6A**