

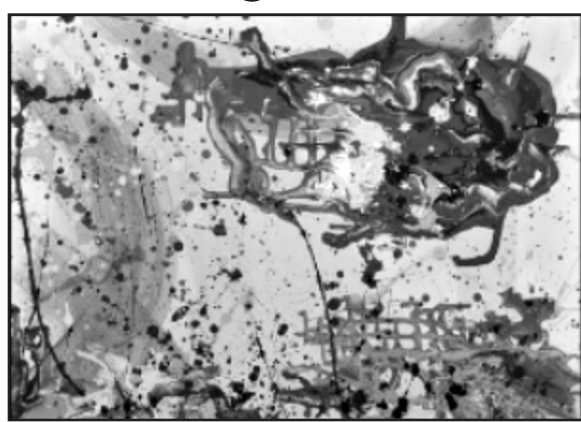
## The Studios features Gigi Lissan's abstract pastels

On Saturday, Aug. 14, local artist Gigi Lissan will present her new abstract pastel collection, new acrylics on canvas and her jewelry collection, "Avec Le Temps," at The Studios' Second Saturday Gallery Tour.

Second Saturday runs from 3 to 6 p.m. It includes refreshments and entertainment, as well as a chance to meet the artist.

Lissan was raised in France before she moved to the U.S. in 1978, where her paintings have been sold.

"My inspiration has always been from great natural beauties of sunsets, changing of the seasons, forests, and lights from my surroundings.



**Gigi Lissan is a fine artist, working in paints, pastels, jewelry and mixed media. Her work is on display at The Studios on First Street.**

Shapes, lines, colors bounce around me and are often projected in my work, frequently based on geometric abstraction," Lissan said.

For the past three decades, "Avec

Le Temps" has incorporated mechanical elements from clocks and broken or abandoned objects.

"The joy of working with recycled materials and searching for various metals in scrap yards to give them a second life is a genuine rewarding experience," Lissan said.

She often mixes the old with the new in creating her imaginative and one of a kind striking wearable works of art.

The Studios at Jayne Smoley Designs, 1458 First St. in Historic Old Town Florence, features several artists as well as classes. Learn more at [jaynesmoleydesign.com](http://jaynesmoleydesign.com).

## Startup Bootcamp with SBDC & RAIN

Starting Aug. 12, Oregon RAIN (Regional Accelerator and Innovation Network) is working with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) for the 2021 Startup Bootcamp. An 8-week online program, the Startup Bootcamp is every Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m., Aug. 12 to Sept. 30.

Instructors will be SBDC's Robert Killen and RAIN's Ariel Ruben.

The course is intended for small businesses and solo entrepreneurs.

People can learn new

skills and how to boost their business in this 16-hour startup training course.

"This will be an excellent program for startups and young businesses alike — and it's free to rural participants in Lane County (not Eugene & Springfield)," Ruben said. "Even if you have been in business for a while and would just like to refresh and sharpen your business skills, this program will be worth your while."

People can sign up now at <https://bit.ly/startupbootcampLANE>.

## Florence Area Chamber of Commerce honored with Tourism Ambassador Award

Recipients of Travel Lane County's annual Tourism Ambassador award are typically nominated by its member Chambers of Commerce and presented to an individual or organization who, through their efforts, has excelled in service to Eugene, Cascades & Coast visitors.

This year, Travel Lane County recognized the partnership it has with each chamber of commerce in the region, celebrating each as this year's Tourism Ambassador winner.

"Our chamber partners know their community better than anyone and over the past several years we have asked them each to select an individual, business or organization that provides exceptional hos-

pitality to locals and visitors. Past award recipients have been a true reflection of the diversity, professionalism and compassion each of our communities offers visitors every single day. They truly deliver the Oregon Experience," said Kari Westlund, Travel Lane County President/CEO.

Florence Chamber president and CEO Bettina Hannigan was on hand to receive the award for Florence. She credits the all-volunteer board of directors and the one other paid employee of the Chamber, Mitzi Hathaway, for Florence's success.

"This validates all our hard work, not only during the pandemic, but the previous four years leading up to the last year. It di-

rectly reflects our board's vision, commitment, and direction, as well as Mitzi's sacrificial hard work throughout the last year," said Hannigan.

As she handed Hannigan the award, Westlund said, "Bettina never misses an opportunity to market her community."

Previous winners representing Florence include Chamber ambassador and volunteer Mike Bones, Siu-

slaw News publisher Jenina Bartlett, Coast Radio KCST/KCFM owner Jon Thompson and founding member and past president of the Florence Regional Arts Alliance Harlen Springer.

"COVID caused all our organizations to pivot and during this time Travel Lane County and Lane County's Chambers of Commerce worked more closely than ever to sup-

port our region's businesses," Westlund said. "This collaboration allowed us to communicate consistently and to provide valuable resources for understanding the ever-changing health and safety guidelines, the latest grant and loan pro-

grams and much more."

Businesses, non-profits and individuals interested in more information about membership and volunteer opportunities can contact Hannigan at 541-997-3128 or [bettina@florencechamber.com](mailto:bettina@florencechamber.com).

**Submit your community, arts, entertainment and other events to**  
[Editor@TheSiuslawNews.com](mailto:Editor@TheSiuslawNews.com)

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