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RCC launches pilot ground school

Aspiring pilots can take the first step toward earning a license to fly by attending pilot ground school at Rogue Community College.

The 10-week course begins Jan. 7. Classes will be held from 6-9 p.m. Thursdays at the RCC Table Rock Campus, 7800 Pacific Ave., White City. Tuition is \$350.

The non-credit class will prepare students to take the Federal Aviation Administration written exam, according to instructor Austin Johnson. The FAA requires ground instruction prior to taking the multiple-choice test. Upon successful completion of the class, Johnson will provide students with an endorsement to take the exam.

“This class is designed for anyone looking at earning a private pilot license,” Johnson said. “Pilot ground school will get the first step out of the way. It’s also for people wishing to learn more about aviation.”

Johnson is lead flight instructor for Pacific Aviation N.W., Inc., based at the Grants Pass Airport. He earned a bachelor’s degree in aeronautical science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Ariz. Johnson, who served as a flight instructor at the university for seven years, has taught in Grants Pass since 2005.

Classes will cover a range of topics including basic aerodynamics and flight characteristics, weather theory, reports and forecasts, and airplane performance and limitations. Other areas include weight and balance calculations, cross-country flight planning, and general aviation regulations.

For more information contact John Osbourn, RCC Workforce training coordinator, at 245-7847

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