

Florence Antiques/Coast Jewelers grand opening Thursday

Florence Antiques, long a part of the Antiques District on Highway 101, has changed locations, adding Coast Jewelers to its name. Florence Antiques and Coast Jewelers will have a grand opening and ribbon cutting on Thursday, Feb. 1, at 1220 Bay St. No. 100, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Owners Rich Bailey and Tom Bassett say the change "keeps history alive," especially since the death of previous Coast Jewelers owner Liz Breon last summer.

Florence Antiques has been specializing in estate jewelry in recent years. According to Bassett, they had been in talks with Breon about adding some of Coast Jewelers' inventory to Florence Antiques before she passed.

"We thought, if we could somehow acquire her vacant space, and get the Coast Jewelers name, that would continue an almost 70-year presence in town," Bassett said. Bassett and Bailey pur-

chased the business, some of the furnishings, and the name.

Coast Jewelers has been a local business in Florence since 1948. It has been at its current location near the Siuslaw River Bridge in Historic Old Town Florence since 2009.

"It's that many years of history, with several generations using Coast Jewelers for wedding rings, Christmas presents and birthdays," Bassett said.

The store will continue to feature jewelry while showcasing high-end antiques, and will keep a similar setup to Breon's design.

"It was so important for us to keep her name involved," Bassett said. "We honor Liz by doing this, plus we keep that connection. There are enough people in town who knew her. You knew where you stood with her, and there was no BS. She was a caring soul. She was a character, and one of the characters in the book of Florence, Ore."

Bassett and Bailey opened

on Bay Street early in January and are in the process of selling their remaining inventory in a liquidation sale at the location on Highway 101.

"One of the things I'm concerned about is getting people under the bridge," Bassett said. "Being on the chamber's Downtown Revitalization Team, we spend hours talking about how to get people to come further down Bay Street. I think with what's going on up on Highway 101 (with ReVision Florence) and the Public Art Committee's stair project, that's going to help."

In addition, the City of Florence and the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce are working on ways to add new businesses or even a small "parklet" to the far end of Bay Street.

On Feb. 1, Chamber Ambassadors will cut a red ribbon to officially open the Florence Antiques and Coast Jewelers before a Business After Hours event with hors

d'oeuvres.

"That will let people know that 'under the bridge' is now an ongoing effort," Bassett said. "They'll get the chance to see that the chamber's focus extends beyond just the parts people first see on Bay Street. Whether you shop with us or not, we want to get people used to coming under the bridge."

Chamber Executive Director Bettina Hannigan said, "As Florence Antiques and Coast Jewelers combine, they are the newest members of the already thriving Bay Street corridor. As the westward movement continues, they will represent a cornerstone retail outlet. Florence is growing and improving each and every year and our newest addition can only continue that trend."

"The fun thing is that people are getting excited," Bassett said. "This town is alive, and isn't stagnating."

Mayor Joe Henry to speak at City Club Friday

On Friday, Feb. 2, the City Club of Florence will host Mayor Joe Henry, who will give a State of the City Address, discuss the accomplishments of the City of Florence over the last year and explain what is next for 2018.

During his three years in office, Mayor Henry says he has been working to build the foundation for a change in

leadership and culture at the City, allowing Florence to form a 'can-do' attitude that has permeated through the organization.

City Club's program, which is open to the public, will be held in the Bromley Room at the Siuslaw Public Library in Florence from noon to 1 p.m., followed by a short period for questions.

Open House at LCC today

The Lane Community College Florence Center will host a Spring Continuing Education Open House on Wednesday, Jan. 31 at 1 p.m.

The college will be sharing information on upcoming non-credit classes, Outward

Ventures and offering a sneak peek at its planned fall trip to Ireland.

Attendees will have a chance to win a \$50 credit for a spring offering.

For more information, call 541-997-8444.

Siuslaw senior Isaac Griffes earns Eagle Scout honors

Isaac Griffes earned his Eagle Scout rank on Tuesday, Nov. 16, by passing his Eagle Board of Review, the final requirement for the rank.

Griffes, son of Rob and Annette Griffes, began his scouting career in first grade, as a Tiger Cub in Cub Scout Pack 777. There, he completed Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos ranks, and earned his Arrow of Light, before crossing over to Boy Scout Troop 777.

Over seven years in the troop, he accomplished all seven scouting ranks, from Scout to Eagle, and earned 24 merit badges. Griffes served the troop as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, and Senior Patrol Leader, participated in numerous service projects, and planned and led his Eagle Scout project.

For his Eagle Scout project, he worked with Honeyman State Park to design and install a Life Jacket Loaner Station, near the lodge at Cleawox Lake. Griffes planned and gained the park's approval for



COURTESY PHOTO

Isaac Griffes earns the Eagle Scout designation, an honor that only four percent of Boy Scouts receive.

the project. He then led volunteers, including scouts, and parents, in constructing and installing the station.

Griffes joins past presidents, astronauts, and other prominent people, who are numbered among the four percent of Boy Scouts who obtain the eagle rank. He is a member of Florence Evangelical Church, and a senior at Siuslaw High School.

Griffes will receive rank insignias and recognitions at his Eagle Scout Court of Honor, on Saturday, Feb. 3 at 7 p.m. at the Florence Evangelical Church, located at 1318 Rhododendron Drive. Anyone interested is welcomed to attend.

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Chorus registration tomorrow

Register to sing with the Community Chorus on Thursday, Jan. 25, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, 3996 Highway 101.

Auditions are not required. David Aakre will conduct the chorus. Rehearsal will follow immediately after registration until 8:30 p.m. All singers from high school age and older are welcome.

There is a registration fee of \$60 to cover the cost of music and other expenses. Several fee waivers are available and may be applied for at registration.

High school students will automatically receive waivers.

The chorus rehearses Thursday evenings from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church.

For more information, call 541 997-3469.

Watch for the new communitychorusflorenceoregon.org website coming soon.

WEATHER DATA

DATE	HIGH	LOW	RAIN
Jan. 23	51	40	1.51
Jan. 24	48	39	2.39
Jan. 25	47	36	0.95
Jan. 26	48	36	0.49
Jan. 27	52	41	0.32
Jan. 28	58	43	0.04
Jan. 29	55	43	0.85

Rainfall Week: 6.55"
Month: 13.28" Year: 13.28"

Courtesy of Roger Cunningham

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- | | |
|---|--|
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| Tuesday
Authentic Slow-Roasted Pork Po'Boy and Slaw | Friday
Red Beans and Rice with Fried Okra |
| Wednesday
Traditional Gumbo and Cornbread | Saturday
Shrimp and Andouille Jambalaya with Corn Fritters |

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