

It's Here!

Florence Area FOODIES BINGO

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PLAY TO WIN • SAVE YOUR RECEIPTS • JULY 1 - JULY 31, 2020

The Siuslaw News office, 148 Maple St. in Historic Old Town Florence, will be closed Friday, July 3, in observance of July 4, Independence Day.

Look for the special Friday Edition of the Siuslaw News!

Local couple perishes in tragic capsizing

The Aquarius sinks with owners Amber & Kyle Novelli aboard

BY JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

Florence is mourning the loss of Amber and Kyle Novelli, owners and operators of Novelli's Crab and Seafood, who passed away Monday morning as their ship Aquarius sank off of South Jetty Beach Monday morning.

"With a heavy heart I am saddened to inform the many award-winning crab chowder followers of the passing of Kyle and Amber Novelli," a family member posted on the business's Facebook page. "Sharing their love of crabbing was always their dream. Their personalities will forever leave a lasting impression on anyone who met them. In the spirit of my mother, I will be selling what's left of our cooked crab and then we'll be closing the shop for the foreseeable future."

The family asked the community to keep the family in their thoughts and prayers.

Soon after the post was made,



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

This week, the community honors the loss of Kyle and Amber Novelli (right), who passed away in a boat capsizing early Monday morning, with flowers and more near the couple's crab and seafood restaurant on the dock of the Port of Siuslaw.

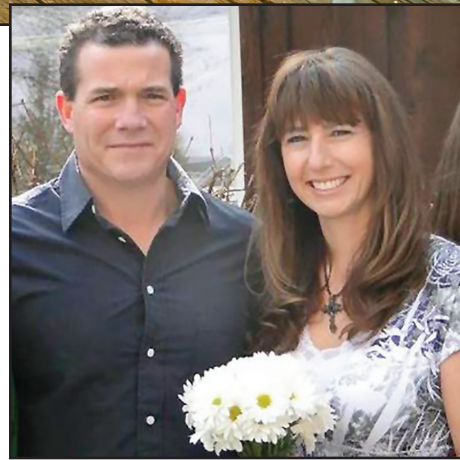
Novelli's opened once more at its location on the Port of Siuslaw docks in Historic Old Town Florence to serve the last pot of chowder as community members gathered to share their regards and memories.

At 1:50 a.m. on June 29, United States Coast Guard (USCG) watchstanders at Sector North Bend received a distress call from the Aquarius, which had struck the south jetty and was taking on water. Three were on board — Amber, Kyle and one unnamed individual.

According to USCG, conditions

on the scene were 6- to 8-foot seas, with occasional 10-foot waves breaking the bar.

A rescue helicopter crew left from Newport and arrived at the scene at 2:50 a.m., where crews from two USCG stations — Siuslaw River and Umpqua River — were already searching the scene. They were assisted by first responders from Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue and Western Lane Ambulance, who combed the shores for survivors.



COURTESY PHOTO

The unnamed crew member was found responsive and was able to confirm that Amber and Kyle were aboard the Aquarius when it sank.

See NOVELLI page 7A

Friends of Florence returns to the road Monday

"I know it has been a hardship for many people in Florence and surrounding areas who are dealing with cancer to have to find their own way to the valley for their radiation sessions," said Tom Grove, board chairman of the Friends of Florence. "Now we believe that we have come up with a plan that will keep everyone safe and allow us to continue our mission."

Friends of Florence, a nonprofit transportation service founded in 1985, has embraced changes necessary under the novel coronavirus COVID-19 to help friends and neighbors treat cancer, recover fully and live.

Committed Friends of Florence volunteers have been transporting cancer patients to health facilities in Eugene and Portland for treatments unavailable in the region for more than three decades. The group was formed for the sole purpose of helping area residents during what is often the most difficult challenge they will face in their lives, fighting cancer.

See TRANSPORT page 7A

One additional confirmed local COVID-19 case as Lane County conducts rural testing

Free tests to continue today in Florence

BY JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

Lane County Public Health (LCPH) will be offering free COVID-19 tests for Florence area residents today, the final part of three rounds of testing that began in Mapleton on Saturday morning, followed by testing reserved for people in the Latinx community later that afternoon.

In total, 91 people were tested this weekend, resulting in one positive test.

Seventy-two people showed up for testing at Mapleton, while only 19 showed up for the Latinx testing.

"Mapleton exceeded our expectations, but we hoped the Latinx testing would have better turnout," said Jason Davis, Lane County's Health and Human Services public information officer.



JARED ANDERSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

More than 90 people within the Siuslaw Region were able to get tested for COVID-19 as part of Lane County's efforts to test rural areas.

However, those who missed testing can come again today, when LCPH will be doing testing between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at Florence Food Share, 2190 Spruce St.

"Our capacity per day is around 300 [tests] and we would ideally like to achieve that," Davis said. "It can be challenging for folks who live in rural areas to

See TESTING page 8A

Face coverings now required throughout Oregon

On Monday, Gov. Kate Brown announced that Oregonians statewide will be required to wear face coverings in indoor public spaces, beginning today, July 1.

The guidance applies to businesses and members of the public visiting indoor public spaces. Face covering requirements are already mandated in eight counties.

"From the beginning of the reopening process, I have said that reopening comes with the risk of seeing an increase in COVID-19 cases beyond our health systems' capacity to test, trace and isolate them," said Brown. "Over the last month, we have seen the disease spread at an alarming rate in both urban and rural counties. The upcoming July Fourth holiday weekend is a critical point for Oregon in this pandemic, and we can all make a difference.

"Modeling from the Oregon Health Authority shows that if we don't take further action to reduce the spread of the disease, our hospitals could be overwhelmed by new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations within weeks."

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NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY
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FLORENCE, OREGON

WEATHER



Cloudy leading to afternoon sun. High of 62 and a low of 45.
Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY



People protest spraying
INSIDE — A3

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Brewery honors First Responders
INSIDE — B

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