

Rhody

from 1A

Perhaps Rhody Fest's biggest draw is the annual Grand Floral Parade that goes down Highway 101, through Bay Street and up Nopal Street in Old Town. The rhododendron parade is the second oldest floral parade in Oregon.

"We typically get more than 80 entries into the parade. ... I fully expect it to be really packed this year," Applebee said. "People are getting their second wind after the slow-down in the economy and we're having a lot more fun. It's a fun theme this year."

The chamber asked for community involvement in picking the festival's theme, "Rock 'n' Rhody." Then, local graphic designer Susan Johnson won the contest to create the logo

found on commemorative pins for sale around town.

Parade participants include bands, equestrian units, classic car clubs, military vehicle clubs, the Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue and the Rhododendron Court float, which will feature this year's King of the Coast and Queen Rhododendra as well as the rest of the court.

Applebee hopes for more parade entries by commercial businesses and nonprofits this year.

"I know we have one guy that has already submitted a pirate ship float. It's a cool float. There's a lot of talk about the float for the Rhododendron Court. It's going to (show) rock 'n' roll of some sort," he said.

Floats do not have to be built around the theme.

There will be judges around

the parade route to award winners in several categories. Florence mayor Joe Henry, the Rhododendron Court and the grand marshal also will bestow awards.

"We're really excited," Applebee said. "We like having the engagement of the community."

The chamber is accepting parade applications until May 8. Applications received after Friday, April 17, will be charged a \$15 entry fee.

The chamber also is accepting vendor applications until May 1. Booths for the two-day vendor fair start at \$250 for a 10-by-10-foot space.

For more information about Rhody Fest and to download vendor and float applications, go to www.florencechamber.com/chamber/108th-rhododendron-festival.

Fest

from 1A

someone like Amy Clawson as our grand marshal," stated Chamber Board President and Committee Chairman Brian Castleman. "With Amy's musical background as a cross-over artist, and our own 'local girl made good,' she's a great fit."

Clawson, a native of Arkansas, began her music career as a teenager in Nashville and has performed or recorded with legends such as Sawyer Brown, Exile and David Frizzell. She met her husband Darby in the industry,

and they moved back to his hometown of Florence in the mid-2000s.

"Florence is a very welcoming community and has made me feel like it's my hometown," Clawson said with a slight Arkansas accent. "I've enjoyed the privilege of performing a lot in Florence."

In addition to her music career, Clawson also stays busy working with Chamber Underwriter Three Rivers Casino Resort as a spokesperson and booking talent for one of the Casino's entertainment venues.

In 2009, she and her band Coltrane signed on with Bi-

Mart to be the Artist Ambassadors for their music festivals, Willamette Country Music Festival in Brownsville and Cape Blanco Country Music Festival on the south coast. Clawson also finds time to co-host a weekly country music radio program, "In a Nashville Minute," with country legend Pam Tillis.

"Partnering with Pam is dangerously fun," she admitted.

Clawson will lead the 108th Grand Floral Parade on Sunday, May 17, as it heads down Highway 101, and will make other appearances during the Rhody festivities.

Chief

from 1A

Reynolds and Henry presented Lamm with a photograph taken by Councilor Joshua Greene. Greene took the photo from an airplane flown by Sam Spayd, of Aero Legends.

"It's been a real unique experience having you come back to Florence and serve as our police chief for the last year and a half. ... We've been so thankful for everything you've done for our department," Reynolds said to Lamm.

"It's really been an honor to be back," Lamm said. "The success that we've had at the police department this last year has solely been due to the level of people you have in the police department there. They do a great job and I stand behind them 100 percent."

Lt. John Pitcher said, "I just

can't tell you how much you've meant to me and the department. I really appreciate you."

Lamm will remain chief until Turner or another replacement begins.

Turner recently notified Lane County officials that he plans to take the Florence police chief position.

"We expect to have a report from the investigator by the end of this week, April 10. We'll compile that, along with the pieces of the contract negotiation," Reynolds said.

If Sheriff Turner joins the Florence Police Department, his position with the county will need to be filled.

Lane County is accepting applications for the position of county sheriff.

"Sheriff Turner has provided exceptional service to the residents of Lane County," said Lane County Administrator

Steve Mokrohisky. "As he prepares to take this next step, we are embarking on an open and public process to appoint a strong new leader to serve as Lane County sheriff."

On Tuesday, March 31, the Board of Commissioners directed county staff to begin accepting applications for the sheriff position.

The position closes on April 17 at 12 p.m.

Applicants who meet the minimum qualifications under state and county law will have an opportunity to address the Board of Commissioners at a public meeting on April 22.

The Board of Commissioners will select a sheriff to serve until the May 2016 election, at which time the voters will elect the sheriff.

For additional information about the Lane County sheriff position and to apply, go to www.lanecounty.org.

PUD

from 1A

"Growth started to taper off a bit with the economy, but now we're starting to see it pick back up. We think it's time to complete the project," Lovelin said.

"Anything that says fewer outages always gets people excited," Chandler said.

While the mild coastal winter meant fewer outages overall, Florence is nearing the capacity for the two CLPUD substations servicing the area.

Right now, the Florence Substation, located near Three Rivers Casino and Resort, and Heceta Beach Substation to the north of Florence provide service to the entire area. The third substation will form a loop with the other stations.

CLPUD estimates 9,000 people will be positively impacted.

"If the power goes out, like if a tree goes into a line ... the relay systems will automatically isolate the line. All you'll see is a blink of the lights, and there won't be an outage at all. All the customers served by all three substations will stay energized," Lovelin said.

"It will improve our reliability," Chandler added, referencing a "golden triangle" of businesses and residences that will benefit from the substation.

"The only reason we exist is for our customers. We don't have investors so it's all about the customers. When our customers aren't happy with us, we feel that very keenly," she said.

Reliability for current customers and expansion for new customers were a big part of the decision to begin the project now, according to Lovelin. Other benefits include upgrading and modernizing equipment and enhancing efficiency.

At the same time, CLPUD work crews from Florence, Reedsport and South Beach also are working on a new transmission line along Highway 101.

"We're working on the north part of town right now and we'll be working south. We're putting up new poles. Because of that, there's going to be work zones. We'll do it safely and try to minimize the inconvenience for the people driving through the area," Lovelin said.

Crews will work four 10-hour shifts a week, Monday through Thursday, installing 55 utility poles. They are projected to finish this fall.

A third project is the planned upgrade to the Heceta Beach Substation in 2016.

Although the crews work along the highway, Chandler said that they will not be working Thursday, May 14, during Rhody Days.

"They won't impede traffic as we know people are coming in droves," she said.

In fact, CLPUD has several entries into the Rhody Parade this year.

"We're going to be having an electric car in our entries, along with our bucket truck and our Tootsie Roll people. We've got

ten a couple of Teslas to come down. They're gorgeous," she added.

CLPUD coordinated closely with Florence and other utilities to work on the public rights of way.

Besides benefiting the city, the Port of Siuslaw will benefit as well.

"They are hopeful that it will support their economic developments," Chandler said.

Central Lincoln PUD can be reached in Florence at 966 Highway 101, by calling 541-997-3414 and by going to clpud.org.

Port manager donates to art project



COURTESY PHOTO

Bob Forsythe (far right) presents a personal check for \$5,000 to project steering committee members (from left) Jennifer French of Backstreet Gallery; Kelli Weese, City Recorder/Economic Development; Bettie Egerton, FRAA vice-president; Sharon Stiles, Lane Community College; Ron Hildenbrand, FRAA Board member/Public Art committee chairman; and Harlen Springer, FRAA president.

The Public Art Steering Committee recently announced that Bob Forsythe, Port Manager at the Port of Siuslaw, has made a personal donation of \$5,000 toward the purchase of the outdoor artwork that is planned for the western end of Port property.

This donation, in combination with a grant from the

Western Lane Community Foundation, will provide the funding for this piece, which will depict a nautical theme.

A "call to artists" has been sent out, and a selection will be made by June 15. The plan is to have the artwork in place this fall.

The Public Art Steering Committee, which is a sub-

committee of the Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA), is currently working with the Florence City Council to form a permanent Public Art Committee to place public art in several locations around Florence. This is consistent with the City of Florence's work plan to improve the city's livability and quality of life.

LET'S GET HEALTHY, FLORENCE!

YOUR BETTER HEALTH STARTS APRIL 17-19!

AT THE FLORENCE EVENTS CENTER

MEET AND TALK WITH EXPERTS!

LOTS OF FREE INFORMATION!

- Women's health • Men's health
- Senior health • Kid's health
- Pet health



Friday, April 17, Noon-5 p.m.

DOZENS OF FUN EXHIBITS—FRIDAY ONLY! Get answers from more than 30 exhibitors offering valuable information on health-related services, products, and trends for women, men, seniors, kids...even pets! Lots of door prizes too! Free heart-healthy lunch provided by the Bridgewater Restaurant to first 100. Free CPR/AED training course for first 20 who sign up by e-mail: florenceorhealthfair@gmail.com.

Saturday, April 18, 1-6 p.m.

LOTS OF FREE SEMINARS—SATURDAY ONLY!

MEET THE EXPERTS!

Free heart-healthy lunch provided by the Florence Seventh-day Adventist Church for the first 100. Then choose from a wide variety of insightful 30-minute seminars beginning at 2:00 with relevant, easy-to-use tips for a healthy new you! Refreshments by Nature's Corner and Fresh Harvest Bakery.

Sunday, April 19, 9 a.m.

5K (3.1 mi.) FAMILY FUN RUN/WALK On-site registration begins at 7:30 a.m. Entry forms also at Coastal Fitness. Pre-registration required to receive commemorative t-shirt. \$20 adults, \$15 kids under 18. E-mail florenceorhealthfair@gmail.com. Portion of registration fee supports the Friends of Florence Cancer Van!

Friday Exhibitors:

Korando Dental Group
Dynamic Hearing Solutions
Osburn Veterinary Clinic
Florence Chapter Oregon Right to Life
SAPPSA 90by30
Studio Florence
Pro-Fit Clinic
New Horizons In-Home Care
Us Too Florence
Elderberry Square
Shorewood Retirement Residences
McKenzie Willamette Medical Center
CERT
Whiskey Creek Organics
Dreamscape Massage, LLC
Coastal Fitness
TOPS Take Off Pounds Sensibly
Waves Spa
Best For Hearing
Peace Harbor Medical Center
Peace Harbor Home Health & Hospice
Lane Blood Center
Sunshine Christian School
Florence Seventh-day Adventist Church
Fred Meyer

Saturday Seminars

Dr. Charles W. Korando, DDS, "Dental Hygiene and Pregnancy"
Joan Taber, Dietician, "Gluten Intolerance & Celiac Disease"
Lucas Stang, PA-C "Infectious Disease"
Dr. Gina Wilson, OB/GYN "Water for Life"
Frank Nulty, CERT Coordinator "Emergency Food Secrets for Your Survival Kit"
Karen Hazelwood, Certified Holistic Nutritionist "Nutrition for Health and Wellness"
Jim Archer, Running Enthusiast "Running, A Lifetime Practice"
Emmanuel Beaulieu, B.S., BC-HIS "Coping With Hearing Loss"
April Dumus, "Choosing Healthy Living by Refusing Addictive Substances"
Amy Tanikawa, "Reducing Child Abuse"

The 5th Annual Community Health Fair is presented by the **Florence Seventh-day Adventist Church** and underwritten by **The Korando Dental Group**.

City Lights Cinemas and Siuslaw News Presents

PLANETARY
12:00 & 6:30pm - April 22

Receive free admission to the Florence Green Fair on May 2 with your Planetary ticket!

