

Rhododendrons to bloom at early flower show April 11-12

The Early Rhododendron Flower Show will take place April 11 and 12. The flower show, held each year by the Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society (ARS), takes place one month before the annual Rhododendron Festival Rhody Show, which takes place this year May 22-24.

Both flower shows are held at the Florence Events Center and are judged. The aim is to educate and introduce the public to as many varieties of rhododendrons as possible. The show is open to the public – without charge – as soon as judging is completed.

Either of the rhododendron flower shows is a great place to find what flowers would look great in your garden and view varieties of both rhododendrons and azaleas from around the world. The Siuslaw Chapter also has an outdoor plant sale during both shows. Many selections of rhododendrons and azaleas are available for a reasonable price.

Doors open at noon to the public on Saturday and remain open until 5 p.m. On Sunday, viewing will be available from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Community Health Fair will offer array of healthful vendors



Anyone who has ever wanted to talk to a variety of healthcare experts all in one place will get a chance at this year's annual Community Health Fair, April 16-19, at the Florence Events Center. More than 30 exhibitors will be on hand to offer products and services that promote a healthy lifestyle.

"Those looking for a new edge on living a healthy and more vibrant life will have the opportunity to explore the many exhibits, products, services and samples — and have a chance to win one of the many prizes given out throughout the afternoon," says Linda Lydick,

the event's coordinator.

The event is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, noon to 5 p.m. Friday, and continues Saturday from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., and wraps up Sunday, from 7:30 to 11 a.m. Afternoons feature several 30-minute presentations by health experts and include topics such as exercise, optimism, hearing loss oral health, and stories of personal journeys to improved health.

"Attendees can look forward to talking with experts like nutritionists, chiropractors, dentists, nurses, massage therapists and physical therapists," says Lydick. "People will learn

simple steps they can take to slow, stop and even reverse diabetes, heart disease and other conditions."

On Sunday, April 19, organizers will host a 5K fun run/walk. Registration begins at 7 a.m. and the event starts at 9 a.m. A portion of the \$20 entry fee will benefit Florence Food Share. Pre-registered participants receive a commemorative t-shirt and post-race refreshments. The run/walk will begin and end at the Florence Events Center.

For more information on the event, email Lydick at FlorenceHealthFair2014@gmail.com.

FACC to honor Florence area volunteers

The Florence Area Community Coalition (FACC) will host its annual celebration of volunteers in Florence April 15. This event gives organizations and individuals a chance to publicly thank and honor those people in their groups and lives who unselfishly volunteer their services in various capacities around the community. The cost is \$35 to reserve a table of eight, or \$5 for

an individual. All proceeds will go towards funding scholarships for Youth Volunteers of the Year. Awards will be presented during the volunteer celebration.

Program highlights of the afternoon will include recognition of all local volunteers, audience participation, door prizes and refreshments. Sponsors for this year's event are Peace Health

Medical Center, Siuslaw Outreach Services, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Lane County.

The event will be held Wednesday, April 15, from 2 to 4 p.m., at the Florence Event Center.

Groups are invited to bring their program materials to share. For more information, call the FACC at 541-902-8308.

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