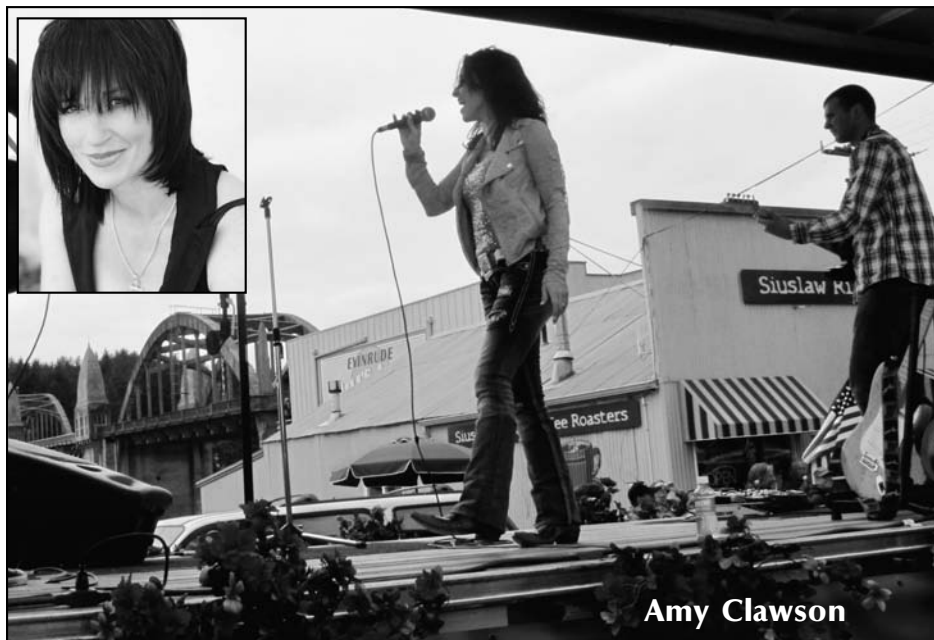


# Rock out with Amy Clawson, parade grand marshal

The Florence Area Chamber of Commerce announced that local recording artist Amy Clawson has been named grand marshal for this year's 108th Rhododendron Festival.

"With this year's theme of 'Let's Rock 'n' Rhody,' it was only fitting that our long-standing festival select 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.



Amy Clawson

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 Under-writer 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.

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.

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