



COURTESY PHOTO



PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

The Rhody Run and Rhody Poker Run were two events held to commemorate the 114th annual Rhododendron Festival, which was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the absence of many traditional events, people came to Florence over the weekend to enjoy the sunshine and experience a little of the City of Rhododendrons.



**RHODY from page 1A**

“This will help the non-profit community which has struggled financially during this past year.”

People came from out of town for the event, joining

local participants Rhody Cruisers and Florence Jeeps R Us.

“The event was intended to provide a little normality to our community on Rhody Days, and judging from the vintage cars that participated, several

from out of town, it was a success,” Cargill said.

Beyond the poker run, Bay Street and Historic Old Town Florence were packed to the brim with motorcycles, who have visited Florence for the Rhododendron Festival weekend since the 1970s.

Florence Area Chamber of Commerce, which sponsors the Rhododendron Festival, posted about the weekend on its Facebook page.

“We couldn’t do our annual Rhododendron Parade again this year, but

our faithful Ambassador Mike Bones kept up the tradition in a one-man Rhody Parade,” the post stated.

In addition, the iconic and colorful rhododendrons that inspired both the festival and the City of Florence’s tagline as the “City of Rhododendrons” have been bursting into bloom all over the region. This prompted the Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society to hold a plant sale at the Florence Municipal Airport last night.

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**Habitat to collect bottles, cans May 29**

Tired of standing in line to return those redeemable bottles and cans? Florence Habitat for Humanity will gladly take them off your hands as they continue to raise funds for a new delivery truck.

Florence Habitat is hosting its next bottle and can drive on Saturday, May 29, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is a social distancing, drive-thru event.

People can bring their redeemable bottles and cans they wish to donate to the Florence Habitat ReStore parking lot, 2016 Highway 101. Volunteers will be on hand to unload them from your vehicle.

If people are unable to make the event and would still like to donate, Florence Habitat collects deposit cans and bottles every day in our collection container located behind ReStore off Spruce Street.

For more information, contact Ivy at the Florence Habitat for Humanity Office at 541-902-9227 ext. 101 or visit Habitat online at [www.florencehabitat.org](http://www.florencehabitat.org).

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Made available through a generous grant from the Western Lane Community Foundation

**Questions? Call Suzanne at (541) 590-0779**

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