

VANDALISM from page 1A

Ultimately, responsibility for the removal of an abandoned vehicle depends on a number of factors, including the actual geographical location of the car, its legal ownership and the physical state of the vehicle.

Lane County Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer Carrie Carver explained that the agency is aware of the situation surrounding the vandalized Honda but, unfortunately, it is limited in the response it can take to remove the car.

Carver pointed out the abandoned vehicle was sitting on private property and unless it posed a public safety risk, the county needs permission from the property or vehicle owner to remove the abandoned vehicle.

Carver also stated that since there was no imminent danger being posed by the car at the time, the county has no plans to remove the vehicle.

The City of Florence also has no oversight responsibility for the vehicle or any authority to intervene in the matter.

Florence Police Commander John Pitcher reiterated some of Carver's points and said his department has no jurisdictional responsibility for the car.

At the request of Siuslaw News, in an effort to determine where that responsibility lies, employees at the City Planning Department checked on the ownership of the land adjacent to the turnout where the vehicle sits, leading to some degree of uncertainty as to the oversight responsibility for that specific location. However, the department provided the name of the property owner as James Head,

a Florence resident that lives in the Heceta Beach area.

During a phone conversation, Head told Siuslaw News he was surprised to learn of the issue on the boundary of his property and made it clear that he wanted the vehicle removed from

before now."

Head was provided with the contact information for the county employee responsible for the removal of abandoned vehicles and stated he would contact them immediately to remove the vehicle.

The spray-painted message of racial hate on a car was shocking to most residents who commented on Facebook, as well as those who contacted Siuslaw News in person

or over the phone. In fact, when a reporter arrived to photograph the obscenities by about 10 a.m., someone had already covered over the racist slogan with white paint.

One man, who asked not to be identified, had stopped by the vehicle and, after stating he was a mem-

ber of the close-knit veteran group "Band of Brothers," said, "This is not what we are about in Florence. I can't stand the fact that some idiots still believe this bulls--t. Many of us have sacrificed, for years of our lives, so that all Americans can live in peace. This is not going to stand in our town, not on our watch."

A different opinion was expressed by a passer-by in a large black pickup with an American flag displayed prominently in the back window. He shouted, "F--k you, ni--er lovers!" as he sped off.

Head said he was hopeful that police will initiate some type of inquiry to determine who might have tagged the vehicle with racist slurs.

"The offensiveness of what has been described to me makes me hope the police can find this person and charge them with something. This is just not right," Head said.

Going from 'Animal House' to God's House

It's the 40th anniversary of the movie "Animal House," a film about the changing times of the 1960s — when sociological, political, moral, and religious standards were all under question and being challenged.

"Shot in my hometown of Eugene, and in Cottage Grove, Ore., the movie is about as crass as a 'comedy' can get," said Scott Steward. "The movie showed society's conflicts through the lives of the most degenerate group of fraternity members imagin-

able, and the results they had on their college and community. Like many Eugeneans of the late 1970s, I had a couple of life-improving touchpoints with 'Animal House.'"

Steward, owner of Creative Wave Marketing Solutions and advisor to several Florence-area businesses and nonprofits, will present his journey and development of a belief system on Saturday, Aug. 11, at 11 a.m., at the Florence Seventh-day Adventist Church, 4445 Highway 101.

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