



PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

While some Porch Parade participants will be in residential neighborhoods, businesses began decorating earlier in the week for Florence Habitat's Fourth of July Porch Parade. Winners will be announced Saturday, July 4, on KCST Coast Radio.

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holiday as a community while following health and safety protocols.

"We thought, 'We still need to do something,' you know? We couldn't come up with really any virtual ideas and the porch parade just kind of came together," Morgan said.

This year will be the first annual Fourth of July Porch Parade, where the Florence community is encouraged to show their spirit by decorating their porch, yard, window or fence in festive ways. Community members who registered for the events by Wednesday afternoon were entered into a decorating contest. On Friday, starting at 11 a.m., the celebration committee

will drive through the decorated neighborhoods and judge the participating homes and businesses.

"It's a social distancing event, but a way that we can still all show our community pride and pride for our country — and have some fun while bringing smiles to neighbors faces," Morgan said.

As of Wednesday afternoon, 20 people from several neighborhoods had registered to compete in the decorating contest. The most up-to-date virtual map of the decorated homes and businesses can be found at www.florencehabitat.org under the events page.

"This is kind of a rough time for a lot of people, so this is a way that you can social distance

but get out and still have some enjoyment," Morgan said. "I'm hoping that people will take their kids for a walk through the neighborhoods that are decorating or go for a drive around the neighborhoods."

For Morgan, the porch parade is a way to also give back to the community who has contributed time and money into Florence Habitat through volunteering and donations.

"(Fourth of July) is not something that we do as a fundraiser," Morgan said. "We do it just as a community celebration. It's our way of thanking the community, which is why it was really important to us to still have some sort of an event this year."

Local volunteer Dan Lofy will pull a decorated trailer through

the participating neighborhoods while the judges view the decorations on Friday. Morgan said to expect "patriotic music" to be playing as they travel around town.

As the Porch Parade is a competition, there will be prizes awarded to the top three best decorated porches, including gift certificates to Laurel Bay, Habitat ReStore and The Wren's Nest. Businesses who have entered the competition will also have the chance to win \$260 in advertising on KCST Coast Radio.

The winners of the competition will be announced on Saturday at 10 a.m. on KCST Coast Radio. People can also look for "a special sign or banner" which will be placed in the winners' yards after the judging is com-

plete. Morgan re-emphasized how this event not only allows the community to celebrate together while at a distance, but also allows Habitat to show its appreciation for the community volunteers who make its mission possible.

"We have a new slogan that Habitat is using and it's 'Home, Communities, Hope + You.' It's part of our mission statement," she said. "I think it really shows how our mission is also relying on volunteers and community participation. I personally love it."

For more information about Florence Habitat for Humanity, visit www.florencehabitat.org or stop by the Habitat ReStore, 2016 Highway 101.

'Evaluate before you celebrate' this weekend

As people prepare to celebrate the Fourth of July holiday with families, friends and loved ones, the Oregon Health Authority reminds all Oregonians to "evaluate before you celebrate."

COVID-19 cases are surging throughout Oregon since the state began its phased reopening. Recent modeling suggests the virus is continuing to spread rapidly in all age groups. COVID-19 is still in our communities, and each of us has a role to play in reducing its spread.

"We know people are tired of being cooped up at home and are eager to get out and enjoy the beautiful Oregon summer, but cases surged after Memorial Day," said Dean Sidelinger, M.D., state health officer and epidemiologist. "We don't want the same thing to happen over the Independence Day holiday."

"As we continue to gradually and safely reopen our state, we all need to consider the risks each activity presents, and how we can reduce the risk of infection and contain the spread of the virus."

Health officials urge people to remember that our phased reopening is not a return to business as usual. This means physical distancing, wearing face coverings, and frequent hand washing are still a regular part of our life.

Additionally, reduce the spread of COVID-19 by choosing to engage in "low risk" activities.

The safest choice this holiday is to celebrate at home. If you choose to celebrate in other ways, activities that take place outdoors, allow for enough room to maintain physical distancing and involve fewer people are lower risk than activities that take place indoors.

TIPS FOR A SAFE JULY 4

With many community fireworks events and other large gatherings already cancelled amid the pandemic, here are some extra tips for enjoying the holiday safely:

- Stay home if you're sick or if you have an underlying medical condition that puts you at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19.
- If you host a gathering, provide hand sanitizer or give people easy access to places where they can frequently wash their hands.
- Adjust your food offerings to avoid sharing utensils and offer individual servings. Don't share drinks.
- Thoroughly clean all frequently touched areas your guests have access to.
- Wear a mask if you cannot maintain six feet of physical distance.

People can make informed decisions that impact about not only our own health and protect the health of everyone around.

SENTENCE from page 1A

The homicide was first reported to the Florence Police Department (FPD) on March 2, 2019, when Anola Beth was found unresponsive in the home's garage.

Initially, Cooper stated that he had found Anola Beth there, which Cooper's girlfriend corroborated.

But as the investigation continued, his girlfriend recanted her story, stating that Cooper had actually bludgeoned his mother to death inside the home and moved the body to the garage. Cooper's girlfriend stated that she had helped him dispose of bloodied clothing in the woods.

The FPD investigation was assisted by Lane County Sheriff's Office and Oregon State Police's Forensic Division.

Cooper was arrested under the charge of murder and was initially lodged in the Florence City Jail before transference to the Lane County Jail.

This June, Cooper

pleaded guilty to second-degree murder, which is defined as an intentional killing that was not premeditated. In Oregon, it falls under Measure 11, which applies mandatory minimum prison sentences with no possibility for reduction in sentence.

Cooper will be eligible for parole in 25 years.

What's happening soon

Each Sunday
Florence Farmers Market Ordering Deadline
 Go to www.florencefarmersmarket.org/ to place order or go to sourcewhatsgood.com/
 Market pickup each Tuesday from 4 to 6 p.m.
 Kingwood Street in Old Town Florence

Now through July 15
Call for Art: 2021 Central Coast Connection Business Directory & Phone Book
 Presented by Pacific Publishing and Florence Regional Arts Alliance
www.fraaoregon.org/central-coast-entry-instructions.html

Now through July 15
Submit applications for Mapleton Continuing Education Scholarships
 Hosted by Mapleton Community Foundation and the Mapleton Lions Club
 Applications and info can be obtained from jayh6539@msn.com

Sign up now through July 31

Digital Vocal Workshop for Adults
 Presented by Wood Vocal Studio
 Three sessions: July 31, Aug. 1 and 7, with a Zoom performance on Aug. 8
 \$40 per student; Contact Jason Wood at 951-252-4119 or jasonbrettwood@gmail.com

Sign up now through Aug. 1
"Music in Motion" Online Summer Camp
 Presented by Jason Wood and Sheena Moore
 Camp intended for kids 5-8+
 \$40 per student; contact jasonbrettwood@gmail.com or sheenamoorevocals@gmail.com

July 3 to July 6
4th of July Porch Parade
 Hosted by Florence Habitat for Humanity
 Decorate your porch, lawn or window for a chance to win
 Maps available that week; free to enter florencehabitat.org

July 3
OPB Ice Cream Social (At a Distance)
 Noon to 4 p.m.; individual ice cream cups will be

brought to people's cars by OPB bankers Oregon Pacific Bank, 1365 Highway 101; cars should enter from 15th and Pine streets

July 4 — Independence Day
Patriotic Flag Wave and Rally
 10 a.m.; open to public
 Highways 101 and 126
FlorenceRepublicans.com; 541-579-2211

Deadwood Black Lives Matter Demonstration
 Organized by Deadwood children and families
 11 a.m.; open to public
 Deadwood Post Office Parking Lot

Patriotic Family Activities and Candidates
 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; open to public
 Old Town Park
FlorenceRepublicans.com; 541-579-2211

July 11
Save the Oregon Dunes Scotch broom removal
 10 a.m. to noon at the North Jetty
 Contact brian@eugene Cascades coast.org to attend and for further info

Submit your planned events to PressReleases@TheSiuslawNews.com



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Us TOO Florence
 Prostate Cancer Education Support on the Oregon Coast
www.ustooflorence.org
 • Tuesday Evening Group (2nd Tuesday) 5-7 p.m. - Ichiban Chinese/Japanese Restaurant
 • Urologist Dr. Bryan Melihaff attends.
 • Tuesday Lunch Group (3rd Tuesday) 12 noon - 1:00 p.m. - Ichiban Chinese/Japanese Restaurant
 • Urologist Dr. Roger McKimmy attends.
 Contact Bob for more information:
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