



July 4 featured three political gatherings in the Siuslaw region, including a "Patriotic Flag Wave and Rally" at 10 a.m. at Highways 101 and 126 in Florence, a Black Lives Matter demonstration in Deadwood at 11 a.m. and a Black Lives Matter demonstration from 1 to 3 p.m. at Highways 101 and 126 in Florence.

PHOTO BY KATE HARNEDY

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FIREWORKS from page 1A

In addition, the majority of visitors throughout Florence followed state guidelines to wear protective face coverings when visiting Historic Old Town Florence, which again sported red, white and blue thanks to Florence Kiwanis Club's flag program, Old Town merchants and Florence Habitat for Humanity's Fourth of July Porch Parade.

DEADWOOD from page 1A

The day before, local children made signs in order to participate and engage with a greater national conversation about race and freedom.

FLAGS from page 1A

After about an hour, the group caravanned to Old Town Park, where more visitors and locals participated in patriot-themed games, conversation and signed various petitions. For more information, people can go to FlorenceRepublicans.com.

PROTEST from page 1A

of hate speech, the Fourth protest was peaceful. For more photos about the Deadwood and Florence Black Lives Matter demonstrations, visit photographer Kate Harnedy online at www.katephoto.com and on Facebook.

RESPONSE from page 1A

physical distancing is difficult, did not deter holiday visitors from patronizing local restaurants, motels and businesses by the thousands. All three elements of the city's emergency response teams were called on multiple occasions, mostly for minor issues.

However, there were some situations that were more serious, according to Florence Police Commander John Pitcher.

"It was a busy weekend for our 911 Center taking calls for Western Lane, Siuslaw Valley, Mapleton Fire, Swishome/Deadwood Fire and Florence Police," Pitcher said. "There were several accidents over the weekend in the area, along with several other medical calls. We normally get a lot of illegal fireworks calls, but looks like we had more than normal this year from both inside and outside of town."

Police logs for the weekend show that there were at least five reports of illegal fireworks and a report of shots fired on Munsel Creek Loop this weekend.

There were also multiple reports of disputes and disorderly conduct, with some individuals cited for public intoxication.

In addition, there were a number of vehicular incidents, including a hit-and-run accident.

"For our officers it was a little busy, and there were a lot of people in town," Pitcher said. "Officers responded to a range of calls — from suicidal subjects, hit and run, DUII,

warrant arrests and more."

Michael Schick, Fire and EMS Chief for the Western Lane Fire and EMS Authority also reported a busy weekend for both Siuslaw Valley and Western Lane crews over the weekend.

"It was an exceptionally busy holiday weekend for us. We responded to 54 combined incidents July 3 through July 5, with a peak of 24 incidents on the July 4," Schick said. "Fortunately, there were no fires of note, with only an illegal burn and a fire alarm requiring a fire-only response."

Some of the calls were more serious, including "high acuity medical calls ranging from a gunshot wound to a few ATV accidents," the chief said. "Of course, we had our typical lift assists and ALS transports. The cooperation among the Western Lane and Siuslaw Valley crews was outstanding."

Over the weekend, some calls received by the 911 dispatch had less to do with criminal activity but more with COVID-19. Primarily, callers were distressed by the number of visitors not wearing masks and the lack of physical distancing between shoppers, walkers and their pets and children.

"Dispatch continued to advise people calling in concerning the wearing of masks to contact the OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) number that was provided by the governor's office, as well as let them know the order does not apply to outdoor," Pitcher said.

For more information on OSHA guidance con-

cerning personal protective equipment, visit www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/. For information from Oregon Health Authority, visit govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19.

One of the main points Pitcher wanted to share with the community was the integration and professionalism shown by members of Florence's first responders over the holiday, which he characterized as an all-around team effort as they collec-

tively responded to almost 100 calls.

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