



PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS



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ban abortions and the lack of action by the Supreme Court," she said. Kent is a progressive activist who has been involved with organizing many previous public events, as well as all four of the preceding Florence Women's Marches.

"The March was held in advance of the Oct. 4 reconvening of the Supreme Court," Kent said. "We are calling on the Supreme Court to uphold the Roe vs. Wade ruling and to protect the rights and health of all U.S. women." During the local march, the gathered people of all genders eventually circled

back to Florence City Hall. Speakers were limited due to COVID concerns. According to the national Women's March organization, 120,000 people participated in the Oct. 2 event. "We were clear that we won't tolerate attacks on our reproductive freedom," the group posted.

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"Domestic violence is based upon one's attempt to control. The abuser has a need to have total control over their partner or family member," Teter continued. "Now, you add the uncertainties brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, you get the perfect storm for the abused."

According to Teter, domestic violence is the

number one cause of homelessness for women and children in the state of Oregon. In 2020, 477 individuals residing in the Florence area sought help escaping domestic violence. He added there are things people can do, including: speaking up when you see someone being abused; encouraging those who are abused to seek help; letting those abused know they do not

deserve such treatment; financially supporting agencies serving survivors of abuse; and seeking the assistance of professionals. "We are all affected by domestic violence," Teter said. "We all have an obligation to help one another. We all can make a difference." For more information on SOS and its services, call 541-997-2816 or go to [florencesos.org](http://florencesos.org).



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