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(SD)-Sturgis Rally Ends With Just 2 Traffic Deaths

By: John Axtell Posted at: 08/11/2019 10:20 PM

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) - The 79th annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally is over and while we don't have attendance estimates yet from the South Dakota Dept of Transportation, figures from the Highway Patrol show it was safer than last year but with more police activity.

There were 4 traffic deaths at last year's Rally, but only 2 this year. 29-year old Brandon Anderson of Norman, OK, killed Monday when his bike missed a curve, and 59-year old Debra Milota of Omaha died Friday of injuries suffered Tues when her bike hit another.

There was a third, non-traffic related death. A 29-year old Omaha man, whose name has still not been released, was found dead in his RV on Tuesday, apparently a victim of carbon monoxide poisoning.

The Highway Patrol recorded 52 injury accidents, 4 fewer than last year, 41 non-injury accidents, 9 fewer than a year ago.

Arrests, citations, and warnings were all up from last year. There were 171 DUI arrests, 22 more than a year ago, 131 felony drug arrests for an increase of 54, and 213 misdemeanor drug arrests - up 38.

There were 1,336 total citations issued, 349 more than last year, with warnings up 340 at 4,094. Authorities seized 6 cars in drug cases compared to 7 a year ago.