

North Douglas HERALD

Dedicated to Our Readers & the Residents of North Douglas & South Lane Counties

Celebrating the 2023 Holiday Season



Christmas in Historic Downtown Oakland
City Updates from Mayor Bette Keehley on Page 4



Santa's sleigh on Exclusively Bridal's Float at the Drain City Light Parade.



Kids get to Meet with Santa and get a photo op at the Drain Civic Center



The City of Drain Tree Lighting Ceremony, compliments of the Chamber



The Gingerbread House building Contest inside the Drain Civic Center
Photos, courtesy Bonnie Pyles

North Douglas Fair Can the Fair Remain in Drain?

Story by Rusty Savage



The North Douglas County Fair is the longest running County fair in the state of Oregon. 2024 will be the 102nd continuous year. Not many people know that. Jim Beard from Drain does. Not that he's that old but he has been integrally involved for many years. It is with some concern and frustration that he says, though it has been held in Drain for all this time, it may have to move to another location.

Jim is a member of the North Douglas Fair Board and is intimately familiar with the complexities of operating in a small community with dwindling populations, visitors and resources. Over his years of participation, he says, the Board has learned to bend with the times and adjust the scope and extent of events and activities as well as thinking "outside the box" whenever possible.

It takes a lot of participation and volunteering to make the details hash into a cohesive and viable community extravaganza, suitable to make the fair a celebration worthwhile. It's a lot of effort and partners are needed in addition to volunteers and vendors. Partners the Fair has worked with in the past have been the cities of Yoncalla, Drain and Elkton among others. There are, basically, three communities in the North Douglas Fair realm of influence. Drain, where it has traditionally been held over the years, Yoncalla and Elkton. It's true that Elkton has a celebration with the Umpqua Days Festival and Yoncalla has an excellent Rodeo, but they do still continue to support the Fair.

The City of Drain has, in years past, been a major supporter but according to Board members including a former Board Chairperson, the support varies depending on the attitudes of the city officials in each term. Several members of the Fair Board have expressed that it is just the nature of the business to judge the tenor of those officials when bargaining for the city of Drain's participation.

And it is that state of contention that seems

Continued on Page 4

State of the City City of Sutherlin, Oregon



December 21, 2023 The City of Sutherlin, Oregon, is in the midst of a modern day renaissance. By definition, the word renaissance, which comes from the French, means rebirth. It teaches us the power of looking to the past for insights and inspiration in dealing with today's issues. This is a time of change, the growth of commerce and exploring ways to address current challenges.

In a recent statement from Jerry Gillham, City Manager, "the four projects that began in 2016-2018 and were truly transformational areas, include 1. Ford's

Pond Recreational Reserve, 2. The Central Park Splash Pad, 3. Central Avenue reconstruction and paving from Ford's Pond to the east side city limits, 4. The addition of the holiday lighting on Central Avenue. I use the word transformational because these have not only transformed our community image, but it also affected the attitude about ourselves and the motivation to improve the livability of our city. In response, we looked across the landscape of other cities' urban renewal efforts and sought to learn how best to implement

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The North Douglas Herald Newspaper is published once a month in Drain Oregon. The North Douglas Herald is owned and operated by Oregonians, published and printed in the State of Oregon. It is our mission to bring the news and information that our Readers will find pertinent, useful and with some insight to our common values and sensibilities.

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Free Papers can be found, upon availability, in all of the following town's and these fine establishments

Drain

Rays Food Place, 308 N 1st St
Country Cabin Coffee & Laundry, 438 W "B" Ave Hwy38
The Rose Bar, 413 Umpqua Hwy 38
Mildred Whipple Library, 205 W. "A" Ave
Drain Post Office, 228 W. "C" Ave

Yoncalla

Eagle Valley Supply, 2570 Eagle Valley Rd
Food Center & Deli, 2580 Eagle Valley Rd

Elkton

Arlene's Cafe & General Store 14858 State HWY 38
Elkton Station 14940 State HWY 38
Riverbanks Speedy Mart 32841 State HWY 38

Reedsport

TRMF Smokes, 1898 Winchester Ave. US-101
Don's Main Street Family Restaurant, 2115 US-101
Recreation Station, 1575 Winchester Ave US-101 S
Creative Mercantile, 392 Fir Ave
Lower Umpqua Library, 395 Winchester Ave.

Cottage Grove

Old Mill Farm Store, 327 South River Rd
Kwik Pik Market #2, 925 E Gibbs Ave
Daves Corner Market, 633 N 9th St
Dari Mart, 1200 E Main St
Cottage Market, 603 OR HWY-99
Medication Station, 1041 N Pacific HWY-99

Winchester Bay

Beck's Winchester Bay Market, 245 8th St
Pelican Market, 75298 Pacific Coast HWY US-101

Oakland

Bart's Oakland Market, 204 SE 1st St

Sutherlin

Kwik Pik Market & Deli, 551 W Central Ave
Smitty's Food Mart & Deli, 1367W Central Ave
Center Market, 1230 W Central Ave
Center Market #32, 206 E Central Ave
S-Mart, 333 E Central Ave
Central Food Mart, 1021 E Central Ave



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Editorial

2024. It's hard to believe that a new year has come and the old year is out. But you better believe it because time marches on, the old man retires and the new baby is born. I guess that is the metaphor. As hard as it might be to accept this passage of time, it is important to look to that future, but don't forget the past - we have to remember the lessons learned, the paths taken and the memories made, so that we can forge ahead with our hearts and minds intact and engaged. C'mon 2024, let's get busy.

Speaking of time and old men and such, it is to this editor's chagrin that I can make the big blunders on a few of the stories we are reporting. Misspellings, grammar and just plain typos are bad enough, but now I find that sometimes the problem is in the transport.

I would like to apologize to Bonnie Pyles for inadvertently giving her a new name. Bonnie is the owner of Exclusively Bridal and is a prominent activist and volunteer for many positions around Drain and is on the Drain Chamber of Commerce. Her name is not Ivy Bonnie Pyles, it's, of course, Bonnie Pyles. She has been a great contributor to the North Douglas Herald since we rolled out the first issue back in September. Bonnie texted us some wonderful pictures that we published last month and she gave some descriptions to accompany her photos. At the end she reminded us "I'm Bonnie Pyles".

Well I'm sure it has happened to you - Damn autocorrect! It came out Ivy on the text and I thought "How thoughtful, she has shared a little of herself", and so I made sure to add Ivy to front of all of her credits, thinking I'm pretty sharp.

Well after the newspaper comes out, I get a call and Bonnie says, "What makes you think my name is Ivy?" Uh oh! Well thankfully she is a good sport and has a great sense of humor, but the next time you see her, please don't call her Ivy. Thanks Bonnie I appreciate you.

And of course that wasn't the only boo boo I've made on these pages. But we are trying to improve our system and now have two proof reading stages., first after editing and a second time when all the pages are compiled. Thanks for all of you who put up with our little mishaps and blunders.

With the new year in front of us, I was looking at all of the plans and intentions that tend to take shape at the beginning of the year. Does your desire to make a new plan of action for the new year give you an expectation of change or renewal? New Years resolutions are notoriously short lived, at least that is the reputation, if not the expectation. Why is that? We don't have the fortitude or attitude to follow through with the shortcomings or misgivings we have spotlighted so clearly at the beginning of the year. Human nature. That is what we fight to overcome. Complaisance and defeat, that is the obstacle, so that we can follow our dreams and continue to step forward in faith and in perseverance. I know the odds aren't with us, but let's go ahead and make some resolutions and try again. Rome wasn't built in a day and we can pick up where we left off and forge on ahead and make some changes needed.

In my travels these last few months, I've had the pleasure of visiting the towns and cities across North Douglas and South Lane counties. I have visited many businesses and business owners as well as various city officials, and it strikes me



that some communities are thriving and vibrant with business and citizen activities and projects. We are all, pretty much in the same economic situation but there is a definite disparity in the flavor and hospitality across the municipalities.

Digging deeper into the successes of cities like Reedsport and Sutherlin, even small towns like Oakland and Yoncalla, I'm finding some common themes. First of all, I believe solid and positive leadership that is forward looking, is a definite anchor to meeting future goals. It's a cliché, thinking out of the box, but it is the best description of the mindset needed to figure out the tangled web of good living conditions verses the economic and cultural pitfalls obstructing us. Good leaders can do, not only this, but also lead and motivate people and groups of people towards civic action and community building.

The second notion that comes to mind, is the citizens and residents. The more that citizens are involved in the conversations of change and improvements, the larger and faster those changes and improvements will take place. The cities and towns that incorporate and promote their citizen groups and committees to find the needs and wants and wishes of their townfolk, benefit greatly from the insight and diversity and hard work. People do for their communities. Good city government does not work to consolidate the vision of the few, instead it will listen and learn and lead and work with those good folks who are the backbone of the community.

A third factor is business. Business needs to flourish if a community is going to prosper. There is a problem keeping good businesses in town if there isn't incentive for them to stay. The biggest incentive is profit. A business cannot survive without profit. It's a cycle we have seen in our region over and over. Populations dwindle and the businesses fail or move away and it spirals down. It is in the best interest of the cities and towns that they have a thriving business community. When business thrives, then employment goes up and with it, the economy. Business brings jobs and jobs bring people and people make communities.

Some examples of city programs that are really supporting business activities are the Oregon Main Street Program and Urban Renewal projects. I believe the vision and leadership of cities like Reedsport and Sutherlin, have leveraged an upward momentum that is working with great strides towards economic and resource improvement and reversing the blight and erosion in their towns.

Vision, Goals, Collaboration and Teamwork. If you see a need in your community, consider volunteering. If you find your city government is petty or out of step, consider running for office or find someone with character to support for office. Someone that has some vision and common goals of the community. Join a committee and let your voice be heard over the naysayers, the negative Nancy's and the Drama Queens. If you don't do it, who will?

Remember that citizens have the power to govern themselves and they do it best when they work together. This is the United States of America, be sure to use your awesome power of the VOTE, Not sparingly but with foresight and strength of character.

Happy New Year 2024
- Rusty Savage

Government

Know your local Representatives!

Drain

Mayor: **Erin Sparhawk**
Council Position #1: **Grant Vaughan**
Council Position #2: **Kevin VanPelt**
Council Position #3: **Katie Decker**
Council Position #4: **Aaron Lymath**
City Administrator: **Jeni Stevens**
City Council Meeting: 01/08/24 6pm

Yoncalla

Mayor: **Kathleen Wertz**
Councilors: **Dan Wagoner**
Gene Vroman
Harold Gilpin
Bryce Wertz
City Administrator: **Jennifer Bragg**
Council Meeting: 01/09/24, 6pm

Elkton

Mayor: **Daniel Burke**
Council President: **Joan Smith**
Council Members:
Kim Moore
Dan Shepherd
Sandra Galli
Public Works Supervisor: **Gary Trout**
Council Meeting: 01/11/24, 8:30am

Oakland

Mayor: **Bette Keehley**
Counselor: **Jan Wier**
Counselor: **Kent Rochester**
Counselor: **Sky Ironplow**
Counselor: **Betty Tamm**
Council Meeting: 01/09/24 7pm

Sutherlin

Mayor: **Michelle Sumner**
Council President **Debbie Hamilton**
Councilor **Lisa Woods**
Councilor **Joe Grossman**
Councilor **Larry Whitaker**
Councilor **Shawn Smalley**
Councilor **Gary Dagle**
City Manager **Jerry Gillham**
Council Meeting: 01/08/24 7:15pm

Reedsport

Mayor: **Linda McCollum**
Council Position #1: **Rob Wright**
Council Position #2: **DeeDee Murphy**
Council Position #3: **Chuck Miller**
Council Position #4: **Allen Teitzel**
Council Position #5: **Rich Patten**
Council Position #6: **Debby Turner**
Council Meeting: 01/08/24 7:15pm

Cottage Grove

Mayor: **Candace Solesbee**
Councilor Ward 1: **Chalice Savage**
Councilor Ward 2: **Jon Stinnett**
Councilor Ward 3: **Dana Merryday**
Councilor Ward 4: **Greg Ervin**
Councilor: **Mike Fleck**
Councilor: **Alex Dreher**
Council Meeting: 01/08/24 - 7:00pm
01/22/24 - 7:00pm

County State & Federal

Douglas County Commissioners:
Tom Kress(Chair) **Tim Freeman**
Chris Boice **Jennifer Miller**
Lane County Commissioners:
Dist 1: **Ray Ceniga** Dist 2: **David Lovall**
Dist 3: **Laurie Trieger** Dist 4: **Pat Farr**
Dist 5: **Heather Buch**
Oregon House Representative:
District 02: **Virgle Osborne**
Oregon State Senator:
District 1: **David Brock Smith**

U.S. Senate Oregon:
Jeff Merkley
Ron Wyden
U.S House of Representatives:
District 4: **Val Hoyle**
Secretary of State:
LaVonne Griffin-Valade
Attorney General: **Ellen Rosenblum**
Governor: **Tina Kotek**
Vice-President: **Kamala Harris**
President: **Joe Biden**

It is important to know your representation in your State, Districts and Municipalities. REMEMBER it is vital to your freedoms to vote. If you would like to have your own towns municipal officers listed please send title & names only to citydesk@ndherald.com



Letters to the Editor

In the November issue of the North Douglas Herald, we printed a letter that had been read at the October 16th Drain Civic Center meeting by Cemetery Committee Chairperson Anne Campbell. It was in regard to the treatment by Drain's Mayor and City Council, towards the dissolving of the Civic Center and Cemetery Committees that dragged across four City Council meetings. This has caused some contention that has reverberated through the community, so at the start of the November Council meeting, Mayor Sparhawk read a statement that seemed to take issue with the criticisms and dispelled several points of Anne's statement. At the same time there was a contradiction to several points because the Mayor admitted "dissolve" was not the best word, even though it was used across many meetings and the resolution stated as such. Additionally, although every public speaker at each meeting was in favor of keeping the Committees, the Mayor claimed to privately had conversations with citizens who disagreed but wanted to avoid discontent with their neighbors. It seemed prudent to approach the Mayor and ask for clarification and explanation. Mayor Sparhawk responded with the very statement she gave at the November Council meeting and it was printed in the December issue, last month. The following are some of the letters I have received this month in regards to the Mayor's response.

- Rusty

Dear Editor,

I don't have much to say, except that the letter I wrote (and that you published) was one that I read at the October Civic Center committee meeting that took place after the October city council meeting where they voted to get rid of the city-sponsored civic center committee. They voted to dissolve the committee after chair, Candy Vickery, asked them to postpone the vote until they could have a work session with council (as the cemetery committee did), and work on a new ordinance/resolution (also as the cemetery committee did).

At the same meeting, they voted to accept the new resolution crafted by the cemetery committee after said work session, keeping that committee intact and sponsored by the city, with an updated vision and mission.

In my letter, I stated that Mayor Sparhawk lied about contacting Candy five times to tell her to request a work session. What I based this statement on, was the fact that a city councilor approached Candy after the council meeting and told her that the mayor relayed that fact, that she had contacted Candy five times. Candy said that she had not contacted her at all, and that she had been checking her phone and her email, as she was out of town on a personal matter. After I read that letter at the meeting, Mayor Sparhawk, who was present, stated that she told Candy, about five times in a casual conversation, after a council meeting to set up the work session. I was wrong about the interaction between the mayor and Candy. I was under the impression that Candy was contacted five separate times, not told approximately five times in one conversation that she should initiate the work session on her own.

It was also stated at this meeting by a resident of Drain and former city council person that she didn't believe that mentioning something in a casual conversation after a meeting was the same as a formal request for a committee chair to set up

a work session, and neither do I. When I asked the city council for a work session for the cemetery committee, council agreed, and the work session for the cemetery committee and council was all taken care of by the city manager. I wasn't told I had to set it all up as the committee chair like Candy was. The city manager contacted committee members and city council members with a selection of dates to choose from, then she set the date and time for the meeting, provided the agenda, and led the discussion.

I thought that the Civic Center committee deserved the same opportunity, which was the purpose of the letter I read at the meeting. The fact that the two committees were handled differently caused me to question if the city had another intention or planned use for the building. A couple of years ago, the previous city manager made a plan for city hall to move into the civic center temporarily (although there was no timeline or plan shared with the library or the community) and I was fearful that with the lack of transparency before, that this might be happening again. I am glad to hear Mayor Sparhawk state that they do not have a plan to use the building for something it was not intended for.

In a previous city council meeting, I expressed that while the building is owned by the city of Drain, it belongs to the community, who raised the funds for the building. It was specifically built to house a library and a community center. I hope going forward that the city understands that this isn't "just a building", as a council person called it. There is an annual grant from the estate of Mildred Whipple, administered by the Oregon Community Foundation, with the sole purpose to maintain the building, and I hope that the city is transparent and will share with the community how those funds are used to maintain and improve our Civic Center, and keep it as the jewel that it was intended to be

Thank you,

Anne Campbell

Dear Editor

In response to the letter read, and statement, by Mayor Sparhawk at the November Drain City Council Meeting, I would like to clarify several points made. I have served the City and community of Drain in many capacities over the last 45 years including a term on the city council. I know it is not always easy to find volunteers and that city government, done well, requires time and effort.

The Civic Center and Cemetery Committee's dissolution were handled poorly from the beginning. The committees were never approached with concerns, we were not informed that our committees were to be dissolved. No specific plans for a different committee or structure for the Civic Center was ever discussed in meetings or shared with the committees themselves. When we along with the public discovered that the two committees were to be on the agenda to be dissolved, many community members showed up to city council, submitted letters and testified. All comments were in favor of keeping the committees! The council members gave little or no response to citizens concerns during the meetings.

I was never contacted by the mayor. I approached her to ask what was going on after city council. She spoke with me at the end of the sidewalk. I never received an email, phone call or letter requesting a work session. When I spoke up formally during the final council meeting requesting postponement of the Second Reading / final vote I was listened to with no response, just given stone faced attention.

I agree with the mayor. We are all friends, neighbors, we all live, work and volunteer in this small town. While City Council has the final say in many situations it is important that community input be listened to and valued!

Respectfully,

Candy Vickery

Dear Editor,

In response to the Mayor's statement.

OK, let's just talk about the use of the word dissolve. She says in her statement that was unintentional, but in the four months of meetings, they never bothered to change that word. The City Council could have at any time, rewritten the statement so it didn't include the word dissolve, but they chose not to do that. Therefore, they really did mean dissolve. We have to go by the written word, not what they "really meant", but didn't actually say.

What about the statement "I lied about asking a chair to contact the city administrator about a work session". At the last Civic Center committee meeting (that should be recorded), the chair brought this up. Counselor Decker said to the chair that the mayor told her the chair had been contacted five times about setting up a work session and hadn't responded. Mayor Sparhawk spoke and said what really happened is that she had mentioned in one conversation five times that the chair should contact the city administrator.

Those are two very different things. Also, why did the Civic Center chair have to contact the city administrator to set up a work session question? The cemetery committee chair didn't have to do that. The city actually set up the work session without any contact from Anne. Why are the two committees being treated so differently? I wish I believe There's just so much that is wrong with that statement, but again, she seems to be able to just make whatever statements she wants without backing them up with any facts.

Also, I find it concerning that the mayor and city council seems to be prioritizing citizen comments made outside of public meeting (and the public hearing for the committees), rather than the comments made by citizens on public record. Not once was the 'in favor' side brought up during any of the public meetings.

Thank you.

Valarie Johns

Editor:

First let me begin by stating, the articles and reporting are impeccable, grossly factual well written and investigated. Now to the business at hand, the "Drain Mayor's Response"

A Reply.

[Within the first column first paragraph, the last Sentence:] "Lies, rumors, finger pointing, assigning blame, hateful words, all promote division and it needs to stop."

Bravo! Such words of conviction and command!, however. Having read the deliberations of the Continental Congress, the United States Constitution more times than I can recall, various States' constitutions, and, at no point in/of those readings was there any reference that Mayor Sparhawk has unambiguous authority to explicitly prohibit free speech of/by the citizenry. You Mayor and all other elected and or appointed, are held to a higher standard of professional responsibility.

Lies: You should heed the words you speak, Mayor given that the February 14th, 2022 Minutes reporting of the "illegal" January 18th, 2022 Executive Session(*I) meeting, is attested to and as being present at all times during that Executive Session by an applicant who is/was/still is grossly underqualified according to the City Charter Contracts for and in the hiring of city administrator that "Must possess a Bachelor's Degree and have government work experience" (Application).

Speaking directly to the appointment of a Civic Center Committee Member at the City's April 2022 council meeting: It has always been the policy, practice, procedure and protocol that the two committees can be appointed "at large" which has always meant within the Urban Growth Boundary. Yet it was represented that "at large" meant anybody which allowed another personal acquaintance to be appointed that lives outside the Urban Growth Boundary

[And in the First Column, Second Paragraph, First Sentence:] Civic Center Committee Meeting testimony of October 16th, 2023 contradicts your written words ("I indeed asked the chair to call and ask for a work session") when you openly admitted that conversation was after a city council meeting, that there were no calls to the Chair and further the Chair did ask for a work session but was ignored

I received this letter from Michael several months ago and shortly after hearing from him, he stopped by to chat about his cause in person. To say it is his cause was an understatement, passion is a more apt description of his dedication to this dilemma for so many veterans and especially combat veterans, who thought they were "serving for Citizenship". Mike's brother, originally from Mexico, joined the Army and went to Viet Nam under this promise. After serving the Army in Viet Nam, it only takes only the smallest of legal issues to wind up, as Mikes brother, deported, without benefits and discarded by the government and country he served.

Dear Editor,

My brother lives in Baja and runs an office that has been trying to get the Deported Veterans home for almost 20 years. He has tried all of the political processes of getting Congress to submit bills only to see them die on the vine from apathy. He is trying to initiate an old fashion letter drive. This is my letter sent to my President at his address. Any help to spread the word would be appreciated

-Michael

Dear Mr. President

I have your back. I voted for you.

I'm asking you to do your sworn oath duty to serve and protect our nation.

As Commander in Chief it is your responsibility to care for all those under your command who took the same oath to serve and protect.

You can find info and resources to protect from this type fraud at www.oregon.gov/ccb. OR call Oregon Consumer Hotline at 1-877-877-9392, open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Dear Editor,

Could you please let people know if they did not request a contractor, do not do business with them. Have you heard of "Gypsy Contractors"? They have been targeting older residents in our rural area. This last group went to a lot of houses in the area, including my home. Trying to sell us driveway paving cheap because they had leftovers

by city council. My Question to you Mayor: Is WHY you did not support Councilor Lymath & Decker during the July Council Meeting, when they both opted for the Civic Center Committee to have a work session?

Rumors: While the former city administrator had his faults, he was no thief nor ever included overtime hours in his fixed salary pay cheque as articulated by the current alleged city administrator to several community members and organizations.

Hateful Words: The Recall Papers against me instrumented by your close personal real estate friends were filled with lies, rumors, hateful words to assign blame and to promote division by using your position as Moderator on Facebook to promote the Recall.

(*I)Oregon Government Ethics Commission Complaints: 22-017XSM, 22-019XSM, 22-020XSM and those Stipulated Facts

Promotion of Division: By your own admission [in Column 1 Paragraph 2,] "numerous citizens that have spoken with some council members in favor of getting rid of these committees and see no reason they should be public officials... didn't speak publicly because they didn't want to start an argument with their friends and neighbors." Concealment is a form of "Lies" with intent to promote division by operating behind the scenes.

[Last Paragraph of the First Column:] "light discussion"? ! If it was such a light discussion WHY was the permission given to bring forth two public hearing items the following month. Is the phrase "light discussion" an "unintentional use" or a Lie, Rumor, or an attempt at misdirection.

[The whole Second Column:] If the word "dissolved" was an "unintentional use" then please explain WHY the word "dissolved" was not changed to something more palatable in the following 3 months Agenda Items. This is also a Lie because the Charter uses the word "dissolve" directed at Committees.

And in closing, such kind tender words if only the "don't have to agree" was not met with retaliation, lies, rumors, and hateful words.

Respectfully,

Jo A. Barker, a 62 year old elder, and Former City Councilperson

In our nation's history many who took the oath were not born here and served with honor.

Today there are thousands of soldiers, although not being born on our nation's soil, took the same oath, served Honorably, and have been banished from living and healthcare in the same country they served and bled for. Left behind because of paperwork and petty politics. Many have died waiting to return. Only when dead are they allowed back home.

End this travesty and injustice to our nation's warriors. Bring all Deported Veterans home. One stroke of your executive pen is all it takes to do your sworn duty.

Sincerely and losing patience

Michael T. Hinojosa

Drain, Oregon

from a big job. We told them NO, And I have other neighbors said same thing NO. But there are a lot of homes contacted, most said no but my neighbor was scammed.

If you drive hayhurst rd you will see some. I have sent your contact info to neighbor, don't know if she will contact you.

-Judy

City Desk

North Douglas Fair *Continued from Page 1*



to permeate the current administrations seemingly adversarial attitude towards the Fair Board's proposal to the City for the 2024 event. With derisive comments from the council and some name calling to boot, it seems that the support is fading and the only justification was a withering criticism of the comparisons to what the Fair used to be in years past and "What does the City get for all that".

Part of the problem for the Fair, besides resources being sought, is that more room is needed to make the kinds of adjustments and new activities needed to keep the Fairs appeal and enticement to fair goers. Trying to work with neighboring properties and integrating with the resources of the City seems to be a high hill at this time and has led to the loss of the needed property that was previously available.

It's interesting that the North Douglas Fair Board seems to be meeting the same treatment that other local citizen committees have recently endured, to the tune of a seemingly reducing their sway or eliminating or dissolving, depending on your interpretation, of these citizen groups. Meanwhile the consolidation of policies out of the purview of involved citizens continues with little

oversight. Historically, in it's heyday, Drain was a maze of groups of citizens and volunteers who made observations, considerations and proactively worked alongside City officials to make for a better and more vibrant place to live. Maybe it is just the slow turning wheel and better cooperation is forthcoming at some point but it's not so evident now.

Where would the Fair move to if it came to that. Maybe Yoncalla, who still supports the Fair and there may be some efforts underway to assess that possibility. It would be too bad to lose the Fair in Drain, it really is an important tradition and history. There is still some time to visit all the avenues that may become available but for now there is still some hope and faith. Hope that the tradition can live on and the faith that with hard work and some ingenuity, the Fair will persevere in some prominent form.

The next meeting of the North Douglas Fair Board is on Monday, January 15th at 6pm at the Church of Christ Annex. Meetings are open to the public. Volunteers and interested persons are welcomed and Jim says they would love to see more people attending. Support the North Douglas Fair, it's the only Fair we have and it's worth it.

Historic Oakland City

A Discussion with Mayor Bette Keehley



Here are a few updates from the City of Oakland. Oakland Oregon is a historic town in North Douglas County. The City of Oakland was founded in 1852 and incorporated in 1878. The City's 2 block downtown brick buildings were built between 1880 and 1890.

A small town of under 1000, Oakland feels the pressure of many small communities across Oregon. Shifting economic priorities and systems leaves many of them behind in this make or break society. Oakland has worked hard to overcome the hurdles and also make a vibrant, comfortable and safe community for it's citizens, while preserving it's history and presenting itself on display in pride.

Mayor, Bette Keehley, has currently been the Mayor of Oakland since 2022 and was mayor for over 10 years from 2008 to 2020. Bette is a fierce advocate for her city and it's residents and interests.

Some of the most critical issues stem from the recent Archie Creek fire in 2020. Says the Mayor, "We continue to work closely with

FEMA to resolve problems that resulted from the Archie Creek Fire. The fire destroyed all vegetation on the watershed for Calapooya Creek, which is our sole raw water source. The impacts are far reaching in our water system and a several-pronged project is being worked to get us back to pre-fire status."

According to Bette, "The building that houses our City Hall, Public Library, Play School and Community Center is serviced by an elevator that makes access to all these locations possible for disabled and stair-challenged citizens. The elevator is aging quickly and in need of a software update. The entire project will cost approximately \$240,000. The city will continue to seek grant funding, but is also doing some "grass-roots" fund raising. This Christmas the Community Center on the 2nd floor of historic Washington School became a Winter Wonderland with Santa's Workshop, Santa, Candy Cane Railway with train rides for kids, Candy Cane

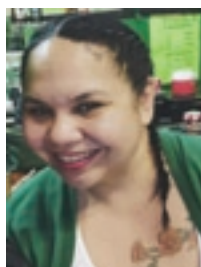
Continued on Page 6

Reedsport's Newest Business

Jacks Barber Shoppe moves from Drain

By Rusty Savage

Reedsport just grew one business larger with the addition of Jacks Barber Shoppe Co. Originally established in Drain Oregon in 2018, Jacks Barber Shoppe has been providing quality haircuts and beard services for over 5 years and has established a regional following.



The founder, Krystal, started the business with a vision to create a comfortable and relaxing environment for men to get their hair cut. Today, she continues to uphold that tradition and strives to exceed her clients' expectations.

Krystal Jacks opened Jacks Barber Shoppe in 2019. She had one goal, to show everyone in Oregon, how to cut Cali style. Also to give everyone an old school barber vibe. She has accomplished this by now being one of the best barbers in Oregon.



as being due to actions taken by some city officials targeting her and unfairly influencing her landlord with gossip and misinformation.

By Contrast, the city of Reedsport seems to welcome and even promote new businesses coming to their city. Jack's Barber Shoppe Co is moving into the old service station at 1199 Oregon Coast Highway (US101) and has plans to make some improvements and update the curb appeal, as well as a part of her "beautification" efforts.

The city of Reedsport is bringing out the welcome wagon to help with a Grand Opening celebration in February and Krystal looks forward to working with the Main Street Program to be a part of the revitalization efforts to improve the overall livability and vibrancy of her new community.

Jacks's Barber Shoppe Co offers a variety of services to help you look your best, including haircuts, beard trims, and hot towel shaves. "We use only the highest quality products and tools to ensure that you get the perfect look every time." Krystal has over 20 years of experience and is always up-to-date on the latest styles and trends. She says, "I am so glad to be able to provide my service to new clients and though I'll miss the many friends I have made here, I'm so looking forward to establishing my business in Reedsport and, everyone who knows me, knows that I'll be definitely doing it with style".



Krystal Jacks spent 5 years in Drain establishing herself as a savvy business owner and also spent her time being very active in the community there. She worked on many community activities and events both as a member of the Chamber of Commerce and as an involved citizen, she volunteered around the North Douglas community in a number of capacities and was active in many Holiday events. Donating her talents to worthy causes is very close to Krystal's heart. Free haircuts for Veterans, retirement homes and care facilities are a just a few of her causes that she donates her time and resources to. It is with much sadness that Jack's Barber Shoppe Co has decided to move on from her Drain location, because she has established many deep bonds with local folks who have come to count on her expertise and care. Many will be following her to her new location. Krystal cites the need to move to a new location



Jacks Barber Shoppe Co Float in the Drain City Christmas Light Parade

JACKS BARBER
EST. 2019
SHOPPE COMPANY

HOURS
Mon-Fri 10am - 6pm
Sat 10am - 1pm
1199 Oregon Coast Highway,
Reedsport, Oregon 97467, USA
209-470-6850 Jacksbarbershoppe@gmail.com

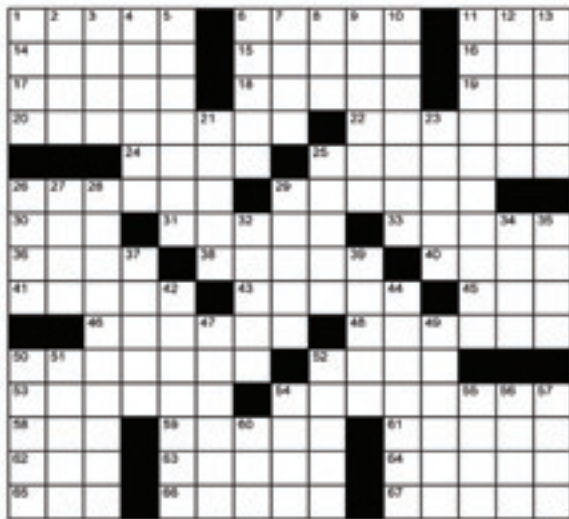
January 2024 Crossword Puzzle

Sponsored by Studio Tattoo

December Crossword Solution



- Across**
- Chocolate alternative
 - Venomous snake
 - "Goodfellas" fellas
 - Cocktail garnish
 - Hot spot
 - Indignation
 - Prince hit, "I Wanna Be Your ____"
 - Pick up the tab
 - Cook out
 - Kind of leather
 - More miffed
 - Pet name
 - In all respects
 - Take in
 - Dress down
 - Scrabble (down)
 - Aussie "bear"



- Choppers, so to speak
- Region
- Kind of wine
- Take a chance
- Drive away
- Miser's problem
- Sargasso, for one
- Modular home
- Passel of pups
- Workplace newbie
- Belinda Carlisle, once
- Legalese word
- Motorcycle escort
- Poetic palindrome
- Fluid build-up
- Skip a syllable
- Vintner's vessel
- Word repeated twice in a 1983 Bond film
- Twill fabric
- Picnic pest
- What's hot
- Pittsburgh product
- Down
- Hard-hearted
- Succulent plant
- Tear apart
- Cook too long
- Bad way to go
- In motion
- Mend socks
- Word on an invoice
- Beguile
- Machine gun sound
- Bahrain's region
- Bay window
- Drunken
- Shish ____
- Old-fashioned
- Coquettish woman
- Open, a little
- Drag
- Mike Brady was one
- Book jacket ad
- Pool problem
- Elder or alder
- Preside over
- Lofty nest
- Feudal slave
- Far from strict
- Go off-topic
- Ding site, maybe
- Bathroom furnishing
- Sorority letter
- Air again
- Prison profession
- Black cat, to some
- Nearly hopeless
- Drop-off point
- Rod's companion
- Cain raiser

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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
46° 30°	44° 30°	45° 31°	50° 30°	47° 30°	46° 31°	49° 31°
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
47° 30°	45° 29°	44° 30°	47° 31°	46° 31°	46° 32°	48° 35°
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
47° 36°	47° 36°	45° 38°	45° 38°	49° 37°	45° 38°	45° 35°
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
46° 35°	50° 32°	46° 32°	46° 31°	45° 32°	44° 31°	45° 38°
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
47° 38°	46° 40°	50° 38°	52° 35°	50° 39°	48° 40°	51° 40°

Great Food Live Music

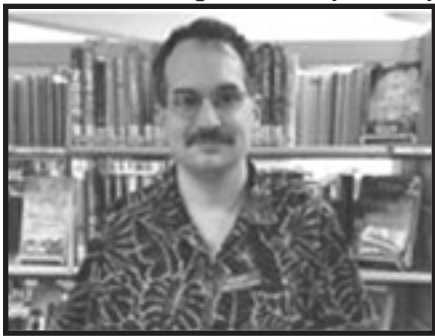
The Rose

BAR & RESTAURANT

413 Umpqua HWY38, Drain Oregon

Community Pages

Lower Umpqua Library District the Reedsport Library is Busy



Lower Umpqua Library District is continually incorporating new ideas into our collections. In addition to Pacific Northwest, Music CDs, Anime, and Classics, we recently started a World Languages section. Included are books, audiobooks, and DVDs. Materials are available in languages such as Spanish, Korean, Russian, and others. This section is still in its infancy but we anticipate its continued expansion. Spanish language magazines will become available soon. Any donations of materials in other languages would be appreciated.

Are you looking for a place to hold an event or gathering? Lower Umpqua Library District has a meeting room available. Visit or call the library to check availability. If you are a for profit event, we will charge \$30 for three hours, but meeting room use is otherwise free (although there is a \$50 refundable deposit in case of damage). We are happy to help promote your event by posting signs in the library and setting up a related book display.

The library collaborates with several community organizations to offer support and bring awareness of what is available in our district. The Reedsport K9 Shelter has a board where they post dogs available for adoption

There can be no doubt that the Winchester Dam will be removed. History will justify that its removal was necessary. Once the dam is gone and the private water ski lake drained, Douglas County, with wise and proper planning, will experience an economic boom that is much needed for a timber dependent economy.

Our migratory native fish will naturally repopulate in the North Umpqua River. Eventually the fishing season will be opened twelve months a year. This will result in jobs in guiding anglers, renting hotels rooms, boats and cars, goods and services as well as hospitality. All the makings of a more diversified economy.

There is another option as well-- creating a whitewater park just west of where the dam stands. It would be in conjunction with Amacher park. This could generate millions of dollars for Douglas county.

The removal of two dams and the installation of a two and one-half mile white water course on the Chattahoochee River in Columbus, Georgia created an economic boom resulting in increase demand for hotel rooms and related services. The revenue brought in by this project far exceeds the project's

and which have been adopted since we started this promotion. Also available are applications to adopt and a donation bucket. The Lower Umpqua Gem and Lapidary Society has a display at the library, which showcases their members' beautiful treasures. If you are interested in joining their group, they meet the second Tuesday of the month at 2:00 pm at the Winchester Bay Community Center. If you would like more information about these groups, come see us at the library and we will point you in the right direction.

There are currently two regularly scheduled programs at the library, a knit and crochet group and preschool story time. Additionally, we are looking for people who would be interested in starting a book club and we are open to ideas about how such a program might work. Please contact the library if you

cost. Furthermore, it was a culmination of genuine community effort involving scientists, engineers, bureaucrats and professional kayakers.

Closer to home, with the removal of the hazardous Colorado Dam, and the help of a coalition of community groups, Bend, Oregon was able to create a whitewater park along a section of the Deschutes River. As a conclusion of careful planning three distinct channels were created. One for floating and inner tubing. Another for whitewater enthusiasts and the third is a habitat channel for clear fish passage and habitat protection. Needless to say, the success of this project has enhanced and diversified Bend's economy along with providing meaningful jobs.

We need to transform our economy. A United Way study in May 2023 (www.unitedforall.org/oregon) revealed that fifty two percent of the households in Douglas County are economically challenged or live in poverty. Simply stated: we are the second poorest county in western Oregon. Improved fish runs and recreational whitewater tourism can generate additional dollars to help raise our county out of poverty. A more diversified economy will enable our children and grandchildren to find jobs in Douglas

County.

Today, big timber companies pay exponentially less in taxes than thirty years ago. Automation in the industry has resulted in an average loss of one thousand jobs per year statewide. Clearly, the future for jobs lies elsewhere. The times have changed since Winchester dam was built, 120 years ago. Due to an increase awareness of the harm caused by dams there is a serious movement to remove many of our needless and hazardous ones.

□ □ They have been removed on the Rogue River and the fish have rebounded. One has been removed on the Klamath River and three more are scheduled for removal next year which will result in a four hundred mile stretch of free flowing river. The result of follow up studies documenting the increase in the Klamath River's health once these dams are removed is eagerly anticipated.

The Winchester Dam serves only to create a private water ski lake for a select few property owners. Its removal can provide an opportunity to create a more variegated economy for the benefit of all of Douglas County. The time has arrived. Removed the Winchester Dam!

Historic Oakland

Continued from Page 5

Kitchen with treats for all and fantastic photo opportunities for everyone. This is the first year and it will be retuning next season."

These are ambitious undertakings but the city of Oakland focuses their efforts to make it a community, not just a place to live. Surrounded by meadows, mountains and the Calapooya creek, clean air and water abounds.

She went on to say, "We are really working hard on the big infrastructure project funded by FEMA and we continue to keep Oakland a showplace of neatness and green well-manicured parks."

Bette surely reflects the city pride and character of this historic and thriving community and her final statement was simply, "Thanks for the opportunity to share Oakland".

Sutherlin: State of the City

Continued from Page 1

our urban renewal program based upon those similar to Sutherlin and had achieved success. We were then able to ascertain a best practices model of formation and utilize the services of a firm to lead us through the legal requirements, financial implications and important collaborations necessary for success.

An Urban Renewal District was formed along with a task force in partnership with community organizations, the City Council, Sutherlin Downtown Development, Inc. and the Chamber of Commerce. The city also utilized the services of the Oregon Main Street Organization in facilitating a special workshop on how to establish a positive

economic climate in the community through beautification efforts in the downtown and in attracting new businesses. The result was a comprehensive Tax Increment Financing and Urban Renewal plan. The priorities were clear and concise, 1. Create economic prosperity, 2. Beautify the downtown, 3. Improve the quality of life for all of the citizens of Sutherlin.

The goals set were based on four areas of work including: 1. Creating jobs, 2. Eradicate blighted areas of town, 3. Create a vibrant downtown for businesses and livability, 4. Partner with the school district for a multi-use sports park.

A financial decision was made to kick start the projects with a loan from the city to the Urban Renewal District. Based on the recommendation of the Urban Renewal

Task Force, loan dollars were assigned to the downtown storefront grant program, parking improvements in the downtown, new business development, wetland credits, new economic development and attracting economic investment.

The current authorized projects are; 1. A Sports Park Facility, 2. Downtown development to stimulate economic investment, building restoration and location incentives. 3. An industrial park, 4. Development along the Central Avenue corridor to include multi-family housing.

The future for Sutherlin encompasses the establishment of partnerships, uniting resources, cleaning up impoverished neighborhoods, seeking and encouraging workforce housing development for current and future employees of local businesses,

making traffic safety improvements, attract commercial and retail business, the storefront grant program for the beautification of the downtown and developing partnerships for the construction of buildings on industrial lands. A gateway partnership is also proposed for an Umpqua Wine Interpretive Center.

The 'Jewel in the Crown' for the City of Sutherlin is the Ford's Pond Community Park. A reclaimed logging pond transformed into an urban oasis consisting of 202 acres. A wildlife preserve with three wetland habitats, a 2 mile paved walking path around the pond, an inclusive playground (to be completed in July of 2024), covered picnic shelters, fishing, boating and bird watching. This is a collaboration between the City of Sutherlin and the Friends of Ford's Pond to create a place "Where Everyone Plays."

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Drip Coffee	2.00 2.50 3.00	Root Beer Float	4.50	Cookie - Big	3.00
Hot Choco	3.00 3.75 4.75	Frappuccino	5.00 6.00	Cookie - Small	.75
Hot Tea	2.00 2.50 3.00	Blended Chai	5.50 6.00	Rice Crispy Treat	3.00
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541 836-2369
Sunday Service 10:30am

Gateway Family Fellowship
Church of the Nazarene
337 C Avenue
Sunday Sch 9:30am Worship 10:45am

Drain Church of Christ
2nd and D street
541-836-2315
SS 9:30am/Svc 10:30am/W&T 6pm

YONCALLA

Assembly of God
1008 Hayhurst Rd
541 849-2800
Sunday 10:30am Wednesday. 5:30pm

Church of Christ
225 Birch St
Sunday School 9:55am
Sunday Worship 10:45am

ELKTON

Elkton Bible Baptist Church
(541) 584-2808
420 2nd St
Sunday Worship 10am

Elkton Christian Church
344 3rd St.
elktonchristian@gmail.com
Bible study 9:45 Worship 10:45

If you would like to see your Church listed in the directory, please send email to: churchdirectory@ndherald.com. Or send US Mail to: ChurchDirectory North Douglas Herald PO Box 581 Drain OR 97435 Include: Name, address, phone & worship hours - 4 lines only.

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