

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

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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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