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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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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. RE-MEMBER 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

