

# City Desk

## Officer of the Year Sutherlin PD honors Ashley Higgins



Story by Rusty Savage

Officer Ashley Higgins has been honored as Sutherlin's Officer of the Year Award at the 48th Annual Roseburg Optimist Respect for Law Enforcement Banquet.

In a statement from Police Chief Troy A. Mills, "I want to call attention to one officer that has stood out this last year not for a single isolated event, but a collective series of events that we believe make her our honoree and officer of the year."

Ashley has been an officer in Sutherlin since 2016. With an Associate Science Degree Umpqua Community College and an Intermediate Certificate in Law Enforcement. She is currently a Field Training Officer and Tasor instructor and has completed over 1340 hours of field related training.

Chief Mills called officer Higgins, "A very well rounded officer who continues to learn and excel."

# Yoncalla Beautification



The Yoncalla Beautification Project is winding down from the Christmas holiday and working to take down the lights from the Christmas holiday. The Christmas lighting project was a tremendous success in Yoncalla which brought out the holiday spirit in the community. The Yoncalla Beautification Project would like to thank all the businesses and the residents of Yoncalla for this great cooperation and success during the 2023 Christmas holiday. What a tremendous holiday spirit Yoncalla has for its community. The lights were put up between Jim Thorpe Lumber Products Inc. and Easy Pick Micro Shavings, located at the north and south entrances to the city of Yoncalla.

The Beautification Project is now working to put together the annual flower baskets around Yoncalla which are beautiful and which adds a wonderful and personal touch to the city of Yoncalla. It takes a lot of work to put the flower baskets together, which also comes with an expense to

establish the baskets and maintain them throughout the summer months. The flower baskets require watering normally on a daily basis to maintain their beauty. The Beautification Project is always looking for donations to help offset the cost of the flowers, and to maintain them. The large 16 inch pots cost about \$80.00 and the smaller 12 inch pots cost about \$25.00 to put together. Individuals wishing to make donations can do so in increments of any amount regardless of how large or small the donations are. The individuals making donations can specify which size pot they are contributing to and they will be listed as a sponsor of that size pot. All donations are greatly appreciated. Anyone interested in sponsoring a basket or making donations to the Beautiful Project can do so by mailing donations to: the Yoncalla Beautification Project, P. O. Box 936, Yoncalla, Oregon. 97499. The point of contact for these donations is: Doris Bartlett who can be contacted at: 541-315-0608.



## New Apt Complex

72 Units for Sutherlin

Story by Rusty Savage

Sutherlin OR — A 72-unit apartment complex is going up on 3.75 acres next to the Oak Hills Golf Club in Sutherlin. Construction has started on five, three story, buildings, on the plans submitted to the city. Two of the units will house 18 apartments and the other three will have 12 apartments each.

The complex will have 25 garages, 12-feet-by-24-feet each. Vehicle parking will accommodate 134 parking spots and another 72 spots for bicycles. Developers, Tim and Nikole Clark of Clark Property Management LLC, are local developers in Sutherlin.

This complex development is a timely endeavor to help with sutherlin's current housing situation. At an earlier council meeting, it was agreed to create a housing and homeless task force to come up with ideas, and some possible solutions. Said Sutherlin City Manager Jerry Gillham, "It's not just the homeless and it's not just low-income housing we're talking about, it's the totality of workforce housing". A housing development for middle-income workers would help those companies and bolster economic development in the community.

Pat Lynch, director of livability services for the city, said the current housing shortage is underscored by the miniscule vacancy rate of 1.5%. "There's nothing available," he said. "There are people moving here to find someplace to live and there's nothing.

Continued on page 6

**ELK CREEK GLASS**  
Glass Fusing & Blowing School

**Glass Fusing Workshops**  
Come and create your own unique fused glass art

**We are Booking Classes Now**  
[www.facebook.com/elkcreekglass](http://www.facebook.com/elkcreekglass)

**Glass Blowing Workshops**  
Experience the Magic of blowing glass

**(541) 621-6100**      **525 Main St, Elkton OR 97436**