

North Douglas HERALD

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

Ford's Pond Community Park Grand Opening Celebrating Sutherlin's Beautiful View & Amenities



On Friday, September 6, 2024, the long awaited and much anticipated day for the Grand Opening of Ford's Pond had arrived. The morning of, was quiet and still, as preparations began for the celebration. The pond silently reflected the wispy clouds that were floating overhead in the pale, blue sky. A light breeze belied the high temperatures that were expected, as they gently played the chimes, drifting across the playground and reverberating through the air. Scattered clusters of Black-eyed Susan bloomed, adding spots of bright yellow amongst the variegated greens, of the carefully planted vegetation. The flurry of set-up had begun, with the arrival of food trucks, folding chairs being placed under awnings, and tables laden with brochures. A crowd started to slowly gather, the low murmur of voices interspersed with the sound of children's laughter. Everyone was readying themselves for the cutting of the red ribbon, by Mayor Michelle

Sumner, that would signify, the park is now open. In April of this year, Ford's Pond Community Park marked its ten year anniversary, signifying its reclamation from the logging pond to the development of the place "Where Everyone Plays." Since 2014, the Friends of Ford's Pond, in a public/private partnership with the City of Sutherlin, have taken 202 acres on the west side of the city and created a haven for the community as well as a destination for visitors. "We envisioned Ford's Pond as a place for everyone to observe wildlife, exercise, connect, play or enjoy some quiet time. The design was guided by the park master plan which relied on extensive public outreach. We wanted the park design to be inclusive to all ages and abilities using the Universal Design principles, to have a unique playground, amenities and to create educational opportunities. The decision to only develop 5

Continued on Page 5

Unbeaten ND Warriors Rout Riddle Irish 90 - 6



Highlights, September 26th N.D. Warriors(90) vs Riddle Irish (6). North Douglas is unbeaten for the season at 4-0 and 3-0 in SDI. The Irish are 2-2 overall *Photos by North Douglas Boosters.*

Mason Hilbun of Yoncalla HS Completes his Summer Internship at Sutherlin's Great Northern Trailers

This summer, current Senior Mason Hilbun participated in an internship through Recruit Hippo at Great Northern Trailers in Sutherlin. Mason learned about the possibility of an internship/work experience when he attended an Industry Tour his sophomore year, but it was last year – as a junior – when his Careers teacher, Kristy Westbrook, and UCC Work Based Learning Coordinator Aaron Towne, presented him with the opportunity, that it became a reality. Mr. Towne worked with Mrs. Westbrook to guide Mason through the application and interview process where he was ultimately offered a 200-hour internship with the option of 100 additional hours.

During his internship, Mason learned landscape maintenance, introductory electrical work (wring brake lines and connections to junction boxes), and finish work like decking trailers and putting on tires. In addition to the physical skills learned, Mason also learned soft skills. His biggest take away was that having the skill gets you the job, but your perseverance and dedication is what keeps you there.

Mr. Town noted that "Mason exemplified all of the traits needed to be successful. He was so ambitious and has been working on getting this internship for two years. Once he solidified his position at Great Northern Trailers, he was punctual, committed, detail oriented, hardworking, honest, and humble. The owner of GNT told me that he would take 10 Mason's at his organization. That spoke volumes to his character and quality

of work. We are so proud of Mason and look forward to all the amazing things he accomplishes to come." At the end of his internship, Mason was recognized by Mr. Towne for his work ethic and gifted his own welding hood and jacket. Mr. Towne shared that Mason is a phenomenal young man and that it was an emotional day.

When asked what advice he had for kids looking into internships or going in to the workforce Hilbun said "Apply yourself. Don't be scared to get into the real world. Put in the effort, ask questions, and always know what you are doing. If you do that, you will set yourself up well."



Solar for the Drain Civic Center?

Story by Rusty Savage

The Answer Should Definitely be Yes!



There was recently a proposal to look at the feasibility of implementing a Solar Energy System Project for the Drain City Civic Center and Library. There are a variety of benefits and incentives as well to consider a project like this. First of all it would save countless thousands of dollars of electrical costs for the City and the Civic Center and Library. These costs are already a source of contention with the city administration and the ongoing efforts of the Center to identify and control cost and revenue there.

Additionally, there is an ongoing issue with costs of use vs the projection of needs and intended

expansion of community services the area deserves and is currently devoid of. Of primary concern is the need for an effective and equitable emergency shelter and resource center in times of disaster, extreme weather event or other emergencies that might disable or limit citizens abilities to access electricity, internet, warming or sheltering crises of many types. We all remember Ice-amegeddin earlier this year and most remember Snow-megeddin a few years back. There's the real prospects of natural or other accidental disasters negatively affecting daily lives and in this time of

Continued on Page 2