News & Notes from Douglas County's Premier Event Center

2110 SW Frear St, Roseburg (541) 957-7010 douglasfairgrounds.com @douglascountyfair

From Spooky Nights to Christmas Lights

Well, howdy there, folks! It's your old pal Dougy, and if there's one thing I've learned after all these years, it's that Douglas County seasons sure know how to change! One minute, the leaves are turning gold and there's a nip in the air. The next, folks are thinking about Christmas lights, hot cocoa and handmade gifts.

Lucky for us, the Douglas County Fairgrounds has plenty happening between now and the holidays. So grab your jacket, lace up your boots and let old Dougy tell you what's coming down the trail!

🎃 Things Are Getting Spooky!

Fall wouldn't be fall without a little fright! Nightmares Haunted House is ready to give you a good scare. Just remember — when an old lumberjack tells you not to go into the woods after dark, you might want to listen! And if you prefer sparkle over spooky, the Diva Dancers – The Cabinet of Curiosities & Oddities will bring plenty of energy and excitement to the Fairgrounds.

🎣 Hook, Line & Sinker!

Calling all anglers! The Southern Oregon Fishing Expo is bringing fishing enthusiasts, gear and plenty of reasons to dream about the next big catch. I've spent plenty of time around the timber, but there's nothing quite like a quiet morning on the Umpqua.

🐕 Mush! Mush!

The PNW Regional Arctic Split Dog Show will bring plenty of four-legged fun, with conformation evaluations, educational workshops and performance demonstrations. Whether you're a dog lover or just enjoy watching talented dogs in action, there's plenty to see.

🏁 Start Your Engines!

The Roseburg Outlaw Cart Races are sure to bring plenty of fast-paced excitement. The engines rev, the wheels turn and things can get moving faster than Dougy when someone hollers that there's fresh coffee and donuts in the break room!

🍂 Fall Crafts & Good Neighboring

No Douglas County fall would be complete without the Fall Craft Fair. Handmade treasures, local makers and one-of-a-kind finds make this a favorite tradition — and supporting local crafters is something this old lumberjack is happy to get behind!

🎄 And Then Comes Christmas!

Now, I know what you're thinking... "Dougy, surely you're not talking about Christmas already?" Well, partner, when the 53rd Annual Christmas Craft Fair rolls around, it's time to bring out the holiday spirit! For more than five decades, families have enjoyed handmade treasures, unique gifts, decorations and goodies while supporting talented local vendors. And between you and me, handmade gifts are a whole lot more fun than anything you'll find in a big ol' box store!

🪓 From My Stump to Yours...

That's quite a lineup, folks! From haunted houses and fishing rods to dancing, dog teams, racing, fall crafts and Christmas traditions, the Douglas County Fairgrounds is staying busy as we head from autumn into winter.

— Dougy 🪓

Sign up to receive the ***Dougy Sez*** quarterly newsletter. Scan the QR code above or visit www.douglasfairgrounds.com.

A Message from Director Keith

*As we officially wrap up another wonderful **Douglas County Fair**, I want to say a huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who came out and made this year's Fair so special! From our exhibitors and volunteers to our vendors, sponsors, entertainers, and every family who walked through the gates — we truly appreciate you being part of it.*

We hope everyone has had a great start to the school year and is settling into the busy fall season!

While the Fair may be over, things do not slow down around here! There is always something happening at the Douglas County Fairgrounds, and we have plenty to look forward to.

*Coming up, we have our **Fall Craft Fair** the first weekend in November, followed by our **Christmas Craft Fair** December 4th–6th. We are also already booking holiday parties and gatherings, so if you are looking for a place to celebrate with your coworkers, family, or friends, now is a great time to get your date reserved!*

*The holiday season will be here before we know it, and we hope you take some time to enjoy it with the people who mean the most to you. From all of us at the Douglas County Fairgrounds, **we wish you a wonderful fall and a happy holiday season.***

We hope to see you out here soon!

-Ciera Keith, IMFG

Growing More than Projects: The Lasting Impact of 4-H

A message from Kelly Simonson, 4-H Youth Development, Outreach Program Coordinator with Oregon State Universoty - Douglas County Extension

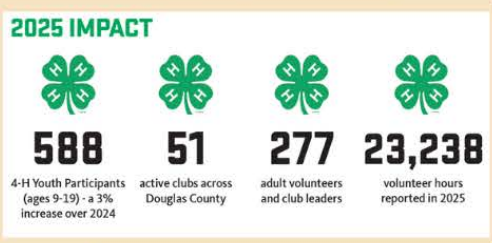
As we get ready to celebrate National 4-H Week, October 4–10, 2026, it is a good time to look beyond the clover, county fair and projects we associate with 4-H—and recognize what 4-H is really building in our communities.

4-H is preparing young people for life.
Since its beginnings in 1902, 4-H has used hands-on learning to help young people develop skills, confidence and meaningful connections. Today, Oregon 4-H reaches youth through clubs, workshops, camps, school programs, contests and countless other experiences. A young person may join 4-H to show an animal, learn to cook, train a dog, garden, sew, explore science or try something new. But what they gain goes far beyond the project. They learn to set goals, communicate, solve problems, make decisions, accept feedback, recover from mistakes and take responsibility. Most importantly, they learn that their ideas, their voices and their contributions matter.

Beyond Ready: Preparing for Life
The 4-H Beyond Ready approach recognizes that being ready isn't simply about having a résumé or knowing what career you want. Young people need the ability to adapt, communicate, collaborate, lead, solve problems and keep learning. A 4-H presentation builds communication skills. Teaching a younger member builds leadership. Caring for an animal teaches responsibility. Community service builds teamwork and civic engagement. Trying again after a setback builds resilience. The project is the vehicle. The skills are the destination.

Why 4-H Matters to Douglas County
Our local 4-H program brings together young people, families, volunteers, educators, businesses, agricultural producers and community organizations. These connections give youth opportunities to discover new interests, build confidence and see possibilities for their future. Volunteers also play a vital role. By sharing their time, knowledge and encouragement, they invest directly in the next generation—and when adults invest in young people, the entire community benefits. The impact of 4-H doesn't happen just during National 4-H Week. It happens throughout the year—in club meetings, barns, kitchens, workshops, classrooms and community events. It happens when a young person takes on a new responsibility, tries again after a mistake or discovers something they never knew they could do.
As Oregon State University Extension and Douglas County 4-H, we believe every young person deserves opportunities to learn by doing, discover their spark, build meaningful relationships and develop the skills they need for whatever comes next.

That is what 4-H has always done.
We're not just preparing young people to be ready. We're helping them become Beyond Ready—for school, work, life and the future of our community. Happy National 4-H Week! To learn more about local 4-H programs, visit **extension.oregonstate.edu/4h** or **facebook.com/4HDouglasCounty**, or contact Kelly Simonson at kelly.simonson@oregonstate.edu.



The holiday season is just around the corner, and that means it's time for one of Southern Oregon's favorite traditions — the **53rd Annual Christmas Craft Fair** at the Douglas County Fairgrounds!

Taking place **December 4–6, 2026**, the Christmas Craft Fair has been bringing local artisans, crafters, families and holiday shoppers together for more than five decades. What began in 1973 with about 50 vendors has grown into one of Douglas County's largest and most popular holiday events, featuring **more than 300 crafter booths**.

Visitors will find an incredible variety of handmade treasures, including clothing, home décor, holiday decorations, baked goods, soaps, wood crafts, artwork, metalwork and more. Commercially produced products are not permitted, keeping the focus on the creativity and craftsmanship of local and regional artisans. **Door prizes are also drawn every hour!**

For many vendors and shoppers, the Christmas Craft Fair has become a cherished family tradition — a place to find unique gifts, support local artisans and make holiday memories.

So grab your Christmas list and join us for a weekend of **handmade treasures, local craftsmanship and Christmas spirit!**

Check out the latest happenings at the Douglas County Fairgrounds
www.douglasfairgrounds.com

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Circus of Horror
Wednesday, October 7 6:00pm & 8:30pm
Exhibit Building
Tickets are $30 general admission for all ages
Tango Entertainment, LLC.

KPOP Universe
Thursday, October 8 4:00pm & 6:30pm
Exhibit Building
Admission: Adults $30; Kids 12 and under $20
Tango Entertainment, LLC

H.O.P.E. Drug Court Graduation
Tuesday, October 13 5:15pm
Community Conference Hall - Cascade Room
Admission: FREE
Douglas County Circuit Court
Contact: (541) 957-2415

ATRIO Health Plans Membership Meeting
Thursday, October 15 & Friday, October 16
11:00 am & 2:00pm
Community Conference Hall
Admission: Free
Promoter: ATRIO Health Plans
Contact: (877) 672-8620 or www.atriohp.com

Roseburg Chamber Membership Forum/Luncheon
Monday, October 19 11:30am – 1:00pm
Monday, November 15 11:30am - 1:00pm
Monday, December 28 11:30am - 1:00pm
Community Conference Hall
Roseburg Chamber (541) 672-2648 ext. 30
www.roseburgareachamber.org

Diva Dancers Present the Cabinet of Curiosities & Oddities
Friday, October 23 & Saturday, October 24
Doors open at 6:30pm, Show at 7:00pm
Admission: $22 w/early bird pricing online @ www.amacroseburg.com. Tickets $27 day of show
VIP Tables Available, limited while supplies last
Umpqua Movement Arts Collaboration (UMAC)

Haunted House - Nightmares at Fairview Manor
Friday, October 23 & Saturday, October 24
Friday, October 30 & Saturday, October 31
7:00pm - 10:00pm
Grandstands
Admission: $15/adults; $10/children 12 and under
Info: www.roseburgfrightclub.org or (541) 784-8430

Southern Oregon Fishing Expo
Saturday, October 24 9:00am – 5:00pm
Admission: $5.00 or FREE with canned food donation.
Sponsor: Fly Fishing Veterans
Contact: Chris Benson (714) 488-4344

PNW Regional Arctic Spitz Dog Show
Saturday, October 24 9:30am – 5:00pm
Free Admission for the Public
Contact: Arctic Tails Spitz (435) 757-5694
Email: arctictailsspitz@gmail.com

Douglas County Livestock Annual Banquet
Saturday, November 7 5:00 – 10:00pm
Open to the public from 5pm-9pm
Info: Karsten (541) 733-0719

Fall Craft Fair
Saturday, November 7 10:00am – 6:00pm
Sunday, November 8 10:00am – 4:00pm
Douglas Hall
Admission: Canned Food Donation
Company Name: Umpqua Wildlife Rescue
Contact: Rhiannon (541) 679-6838

Gymnastics Meet Harvest Invitational
Saturday, November 14 8:00am – 8:00pm
Exhibit Building
Admission: $10 per person
Sponsor: Umpqua Valley Gymnatics
(541) 672-3534 or umpquavalleygymnastics.com

Christmas Craft Fair
Friday, December 4 10:00am – 8:00pm
Saturday, December 5 10:00am – 7:00pm
Sunday, December 6 10:00am – 4:00pm
Conference Hall, Douglas Hall, Exhibit Building
Admission: Adult 13+ $6 or $5 w/canned food donation
Child 12 & under FREE.
Friday Special: 5-8pm FREE w/canned food donation
Sponsor: Douglas County Fairgrounds (541) 957-7010

HORSE ARENA RIDES & EVENTS

Douglas County Agriculture Day
Wednesday, October 7

DC Mounted Posse 7:00pm-10:00pm
10/02 - River Arena
10/23, 11/06 & 11/20 - Pavillion Arena

Umpqua Valley Team Sorting
Saturday, October 3 11:00am – 6:00pm
Saturday, November 21 11:00am – 6:00pm
Pavillion Arena
Admission: Free for viewing
Umpqua Valley Team Penning
Contact: Kecia (541) 430-1741

Southern Oregon Gaming Organization (SOGO)
Gymkhana promoting speed events on horseback
Saturday, October 10 8:00am - 5:00pm
Saturday, November 14 8:00am - 5:00pm
Saturday, December 19 8:00am - 5:00pm
Admission: Free for spectators
Contact: Haley Cornilsen (541) 643-9201
www.facebook.com/groups/447435247442678/

Jim Leach Barrel Racing
Sunday, October 11 8:00am - 5:00pm
Sunday, November 15 8:00am - 5:00pm
Sunday, December 13 8:00am - 5:00pm
Pavillion Arena
Admission: Free for spectators
Jim Leach Horseshoeing Barrel Races
Contact: Terri Leach (541) 580-3683

OHSET Spooktacular
Saturday, October 24 8:00am - 5:00pm
Pavillion Arena
Admission: Free for spectators
Oregon High School Equestrian Team
Contact: Erica (541) 784-7959

OHSET Club Ride (Club Members Only)
Monday, December 21 5:30pm - 9:30pm
Monday, December 28 5:30pm - 9:30pm
River Arena

MORE EVENTS & NOTICES

Roseburg Outlaw Kart Races
12:30pm – 9:00pm
River Arena
Pit Passes - $20
Seniors/Military - $18
(Non Driver 0-5) - $5
Contact: Michael Crisp (541) 580-2649
Info: www.facebook.com/RoseburgKartRacing?mibextid=LQQJ4d

Race Dates:
Saturday, October 31
Sunday, November 1
Saturday, November 7
Saturday, November 14
Friday, November 27
Saturday, November 28
Saturday, December 5
Saturday, December 12
Friday, January 1, 2027
Saturday, January 2, 2027

BUILDING & ARENA CLOSURES

Pavilion Arena Closed
October 5 thru October 8, 2026

River Arena Closed for Kart Races
October 24, 2026 – February 7, 2027

Pavillion Arena Closed
Thursday, November 5
Thursday, November 12
Thursday, November 19
7:00pm - 10:00pm

Pavillion Arena Closed
Friday, December 4 - Sunday, December 6

Fairgrounds Offices Closed
Thursday, November 26 - Thanksgiving
Friday, November 27
Friday, December 25 - Merry Christmas
Friday, January 1, 2027 - Happy New Year

Please note schedules are subject to change, please check the Douglas County Fairgrounds website for the latest event updates and times. www.douglasfairgrounds.com

DOUGLAS COUNTY FAIR BOARD & THE DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS - A GREAT PARTNERSHIP

Douglas County Commissioners Tom Kress, Chris Boice, and Tim Freeman, together with the volunteer Fair Board of Matt Hill, Brant Guido, Marc Heidt, Lisa Platt, and Tammy Rondeau, work closely with Fairgrounds staff to keep the Fairgrounds running year-round. The Commissioners provide governance and oversight, while the Fair Board handles events and operations. Their combined leadership and hands-on expertise supports agriculture, community events, and the local economy.

AN INSIDE LOOK AT KART RACING

🏁 **We're Off to the Races!**

Hold onto your hats, folks — it's going to be a **mud-flying, wheels-whirling, gears-grinding good time!** And no, we're not talking about your typical night at the races. We're talking **Karts with a "K" — and that K also stands for KIDS!**

The Douglas County Fairgrounds is proud to support youth and family activities, especially when those activities bring visitors — and valuable business — to our community's hotels, campgrounds, restaurants, grocery stores and auto parts shops.

The **Roseburg Outlaw Kart Racing (ROKR)** winter indoor youth racing series has been tearing around the dirt for more than 30 years. What started in the late 1980s with a handful of racing enthusiasts and a homemade dirt track inside the Fairgrounds' River Arena has grown into a beloved winter tradition.

Today, ROKR continues to call the same arena home, hosting **14–16 races each winter from November through February.** Each race weekend can bring 200–500 visitors to Douglas County. With classes for youth ages 5 through 18+, the series has become a family affair spanning generations. And these aren't your average go-karts! Outlaw Karts are miniature versions of the sprint cars you see on dirt tracks, complete with safety cages, five-point harnesses, wings and specialized racing components. Depending on the class and track, these little machines can reach some impressive speeds!

The sport offers young racers more than just the thrill of competition. It teaches **sportsmanship, confidence, responsibility and perseverance** — while giving families plenty of quality time together. Many young racers have gone on to compete in larger sprint car divisions, taking the lessons learned on the kart track with them.

Outlaw Kart Racing got its start in **Red Bluff, California, in the 1980s**, when local racers built homemade karts to keep racing during the off-season. What began as something to do during the winter eventually grew into a youth sport enjoyed by boys and girls across the Northwest and beyond.

While the karts, technology and safety standards have changed over the years, one thing hasn't changed: **the love of racing and the family camaraderie that comes with it.**

So, if you're looking for some fast-paced, family-friendly fun this winter, head to the **Douglas County Fairgrounds** and check out the ROKR racing action beginning **October 31, 2026, through January 30, 2027.**

Come watch these young racers put the pedal to the metal — and show us what they've got! For the racing schedule and more information, visit the **Roseburg Outlaw Kart Racing** Facebook page at facebook.com/RoseburgKartRacing.

See you at the track!