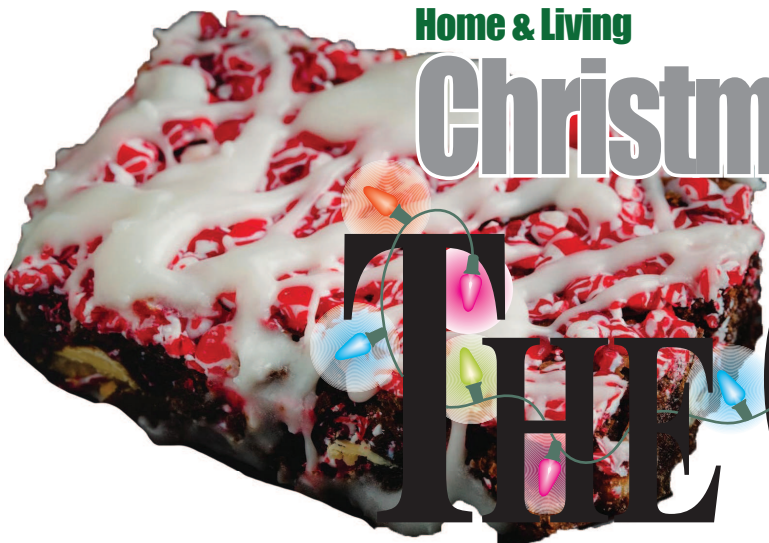




Home & Living

Christmas creations

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Good day to our valued subscriber David Hallmark of La Grande

Merry Christmas

Christmas Traditions

Another topsy-turvy Christmas

■ Union County family continues its long-standing tradition of having an upside-down Christmas tree

By Dick Mason
The Observer

SUMMERVILLE — The world of Rocky and Debbie Hudson again is upside down as Christmas Day approaches.

The Hudsons are continuing a family tradition of having an upside-down Christmas tree, it's tip a couple feet from the floor. This year's tree, a 10-foot white fir, is hanging from its base via a hook in the ceiling in their living room. It is the latest of nearly 25 topsy-turvy Christmas trees the Hudsons have annually displayed.

"We've had one each year since we built our house," Debbie Hudson said.

The Hudsons began the practice to protect the tree from their young children and dogs. Their children are now grown, but the Hudsons still have dogs, and the couple don't want their pets messing with the family tradition.

Floor space is another factor in hanging the Christmas tree upside down.

"It provides us with more room. We always have so many Christmas items in our living room," Hudson said.

The Christmas decor in the Hudsons' living room this season includes model snowmen, a miniature Christmas village and Christmas music boxes. First-time visitors often don't notice these items right away thanks to the upside-down tree.

"They say, 'What in the world?'" she said.

The process of setting up the topsy-turvy tree takes about eight hours. The time is needed not only

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Staff photo by Dick Mason



Staff photo by Dick Mason

Debbie Hudson of Summerville examines her family's upside-down Christmas tree Friday. The Hudsons have been hanging their Christmas trees for more than 20 years.

B2H review period goes on

■ Review of Boardman to Hemingway project remains unfinished after meeting

By Alex Castle
EO Media Group

PENDLETON — The next step in the controversial Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line project and its pursuit of state approval will have to wait at least another month.

The Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council finished just a quarter of its review process for the project's draft proposed order at its monthly meeting Thursday and Friday at the Red Lion Hotel in Pendleton, meaning the review period will continue at January's meeting in Hood River.

"This is a big and complex project," said Todd Cornett, the assistant director for the Oregon Department of Energy, who also served as council secretary. "But it's a really important part of the process for the council to be able to evaluate what's been done and ask questions."

Idaho Power, a Boise-based company, is leading the permitting aspect of the project, though PacificCorp and Bonneville Power

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Staff photo by Sabrina Thompson

Connected Professional Accountants partner Yvonne Roberts helps load cars Friday with food boxes the company sponsored to be delivered throughout Union County.

Holiday cheer spread via turkey dinner, gifts

By Sabrina Thompson
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Central Elementary School has partnered with La Grande's Connected Professional Accountants for the second year in a row to donate food boxes to 21 families for Christmas dinner.

The boxes, full of ingredients and stacks of gifts, were delivered to the families Friday along with a dose of Christmas cheer. Central Elementary school faculty, including principal Suzy Mayes, helped distribute the ingredients and presents.

"Families are extremely grateful," Mayes

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Nobody hurt in NP blaze

By Dick Mason
The Observer

NORTH POWDER — A fire Saturday afternoon in North Powder destroyed a one-story house but caused no injuries.

The blaze, which was reported at 12:50 p.m., started on the 200 block of Center Street in a shop attached to the house. Nobody was in the home at the time, according to La Grande Fire Department Capt. Robert Tib-

betts, who served as the incident commander for the blaze.

Tibbetts said the owner of the home was out of town and a caretaker was in charge of looking out for it.

No buildings around the home were endangered despite a significant wind. The wind was blowing out of the southeast toward the northwest and into an area with no structures nearby. Had the wind been blowing in

the opposite direction, Tibbetts said, two buildings would have been at greater risk.

A solid expanse of land between the fire and other buildings also reduced the likelihood of the blaze spreading to other structures.

"There was a good buffer," Tibbetts said.

At least 25 firefighters were at the fire. The firefighters were

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WEATHER Full forecast on the back of B section



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Tuesday
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Clouds and sun

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