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Tips to keep porch pirates at bay

Track deliveries and arrange to have someone home when parcels arrive

By DAVIS CARBAUGH
The Observer

LA GRANDE — With the holidays inching closer, it is about time to start ordering gifts to exchange with loved ones and friends.

The New York Times estimated that roughly three billion packages were delivered during the holiday season last year. Online shopping provides a quick and easy way to pick out a gift for a family member or friend. However, with that influx of deliveries comes a common uptick in package theft across the country. While so-called porch pirates aren't a big problem in our area, local law enforcement recommends caution during this time of year.

"We see a scattered amount throughout the year, but it does uptick a bit in the holiday season,"



Hays La Grande Police Lt. Jason Hays said. "Fortunately it has not been a major issue here in La Grande."

Hays said that typical trends historically do not show a widespread group of individuals stealing packages, rather one suspect going on a spree. He stated that a suspect is less likely to attempt package theft if the porch is well lit or has obvious camera surveillance.

"It's a crime of opportunity," Hays said. "Prevention from it ever happening is the best tool."

Law enforcement recommends a variety of preventive measures.

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Davis Carbaugh/The Observer, File

Oregon's elite youth golfers compete at Buffalo Peak Golf Course in Union during the 91st Bob Norquist Oregon Junior Amateur tournament June 28-July 2, 2021. The Union golf course recently won the Oregon Golf Association award for facility of the year, an acknowledgment given to the best facility in the state.

Hard work pays off

Buffalo Peak Golf Course selected as top facility in Oregon

By DAVIS CARBAUGH
The Observer

UNION — A hidden gem is no longer hidden, as Buffalo Peak Golf Course is starting to turn heads around the state and in the golf community.

The Union golf course recently won the Oregon Golf Association award for facility of the year, an acknowledgment given to the best facility in the state. Buffalo Peak received the honor for its contributions to the game of golf, the community and the Oregon Golf Association. After being built 20 years ago and facing

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Donna Beverage/Contributed Photo

The staff at Buffalo Peak Golf Course — from left, Dana Londin, general manager, Ryan Melnychuk, director of membership and outreach, and Sean Christensen — pose with the Oregon Golf Association's award for golf facility of the year. The award is given for contributions to the game of golf, local communities or the Oregon Golf Association.

Union applies for \$2.2 million federal grant

City would use funds to upgrade backup power generation system

By DICK MASON
The Observer

UNION — The city of Union has applied for a \$2.2 million grant from the federal Community Development Block Grant Program to cover the cost of installing a backup power generation system.

Electricity created by the backup generator would be used during outages to operate the city's water system, allowing

Union residents to continue receiving water if their power ever goes out for an extended period.

"It would be a huge upgrade," said Union Mayor Leonard Flint.

Union City Administrator Doug Wiggins said that without a backup generator the city is reliant completely on the water in its reservoir when there is a power outage because electricity is needed to pump water from its two wells to its reservoir. Once the water is in its reservoir, which is in an enclosed tank near the top of a hill on the eastern edge of Union, it can be delivered to residents using gravity. The reservoir has a

capacity of close to 1 million gallons.

If there were an extended power outage, Union's water supply could last up to four days, depending upon the time of year and how much water was in its tank at the time of the outage, Wiggins said.

The city applied for the grant about a month ago, and Wiggins anticipates the federal government will notify Union on a decision in a month. Wiggins said that if Union is awarded the grant this year, the city would take bids from companies for the project in the winter. After awarding

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Dick Mason/The Observer

One of Union's two water storage tanks stands out against the skyline on the eastern side of town on Thursday, Oct. 28, 2021. The city has applied for a \$2.2 million grant to allow backup electricity to operate the city's water system during outages.

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THURSDAY DOWNTOWN BUILDINGS GET PRESERVATION GRANTS

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