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THE BUSY SEASON



USPS carrier Diane Barton grabs a bin of parcels while delivering the mail on her route Thursday in Hermiston.

Staff photos by E.J. Harris

Pendleton whiffs on \$25M for offramp

East Oregonian

An Eastern Oregon victory on Thursday was quickly followed by an Eastern Oregon defeat on Friday.

After the U.S. Department of Transportation announced it was awarding the Port of Morrow a \$19 million grant from its BUILD program, the city of Pendleton inquired with Oregon's federal delegation about the status of its \$25 million grant application, according to a city press release.

The word city officials got back is that grants for the Port of Morrow and Port of Coos would be the only allocations awarded to Oregon in the 2018 cycle.

The grant would have covered the project costs of realigning the Interstate 84 Exit 209 interchange to alleviate traffic in that area.

The city isn't ready to throw in the towel quite yet.

"I guarantee you that the city of Pendleton will apply again," Public Works Director Bob Patterson said in an interview.

Patterson said the city will try to mirror the effort of the Port of Morrow, which lost out on the federal grant last year before putting together a stronger application and winning on its second try.

The U.S. Department of Transportation is set to meet with city officials in January to discuss how their application can be improved.

Patterson said he wouldn't know how the city would approach the project if its grant application was rejected a second time, but the city and the Oregon Department of Transportation already have \$1 million committed toward plans for north side changes to the interchange.

The city also has a \$3 million grant pending with the U.S. Economic Development Administration to pay for the utility extension and build new hangars at the airport.

Patterson said the city recently addressed concerns from the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office on the project's potential impact and is now awaiting the administration's final decision.

U.S. Postal Service will make close to 16 billion deliveries between Thanksgiving, New Year's

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

They may not have elves or flying reindeer to help them out, but the nation's mail carriers still manage to deliver Christmas presents to millions of homes each year.

The U.S. Postal Service expects to deliver a total of 15 billion letters and 900 million packages during the holiday season, defined as Thanksgiving to New Year's Day.

Diane Barton, who delivers mail in Hermiston, is doing her part. Thursday afternoon she was winding through a set of cul-de-sacs on the east side of town, dispersing a truckload of boxes and envelopes. Mail carriers throughout the nation were delivering two days worth of mail Thursday after postal services were suspended



Diane Barton has been a mail carrier in Hermiston for the past 18 years.

Wednesday to honor former president George H.W. Bush.

Barton said the holiday season means longer hours and more chal-

lenging deliveries, but it's also fun to see how excited people are to see her this time of year, especially children.

"The volume of packages, of course, changes tremendously," she said.

Packages take longer to deliver than letters. They must be scanned with a hand-held device so that patrons who are tracking the package know it has arrived. Some small packages will fit in a mailbox, but in other cases the carrier must get out of their truck and walk up to the front door. Sometimes a signature is required, or the home's resident prefers the package is put someplace less conspicuous than the porch.

Barton said she often can't fit all of the packages for her route into her truck this time of year so she either has to return to the post office and reload or have another employee help with deliveries. To accommodate the holiday rush, between Thanksgiving and New Year's USPS hires extra employees, schedules its full-time employees for longer hours and offers Sunday deliveries in most major cities.

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WWII civilian aide, Grover honored with quilt of honor

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

Dorys Grover was a sophomore at Oregon State University when the Japanese dropped bombs on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

Grover's boyfriend at the time immediately enrolled in the armed forces as male students emptied out of Corvallis to join the war effort. Gro-

ver finished the semester and then returned to her hometown of Pendleton at the request of her father, who feared that the OSU campus was in the range of Japanese aircraft.

What she did next would eventually earn her an honorary quilt on Friday, the 77th anniversary of Pearl Harbor.

Grover, now 97, said she was surprised when Quilts of Honor decided to honor her.

"I didn't think I did that much," she said.

But although Grover never fought in a battle, she made her contributions felt.

Grover said everyone in Pendleton contributed to the war effort at the time, including her mother, who served soldiers at the Pendleton Air Base food through the USO.

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Pendleton author Dorys Grover received a Quilt of Honor on Friday at the Pendleton Air Museum. Grover worked as a civilian at the Pendleton Army Air Base during World War II.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

CHI St. Anthony Hospital

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