

Take a tour of lights in Union County

By Lisa Britton
Go! Magazine

LA GRANDE — Holiday light displays are popping up all over Union County, and on Saturday, Dec. 18, you can join a guided auto tour that includes entries in the annual holiday decorating contest sponsored by the Union County Chamber.

This is the third year for the contest. The idea for a guided caravan came about last year as a joint project of the Chamber and La Grande Main Street.

"We had a great turnout — probably 150 cars," said Suzannah Moore-Hemann, executive director of the Chamber, said of the 2020 tour socially distanced event. "So we decided to do it every year."

Those who want to join the "Guided Holiday Lights Tour Caravan" can line up at the Bi-Mart parking lot at 6:30 p.m. Saturday (enter from 20th Street). Organizers are encouraging everyone to bring toys and/or nonperish-

GUIDED HOLIDAY LIGHTS TOUR CARAVAN

Join a caravan to see entries in the Union County holiday lighting contest.

Saturday, Dec. 18

Line up at 6:30 p.m. in the La Grande Bi-Mart parking lot.

Tours start at 7 p.m.

This event is sponsored by the Union County Chamber and La Grande Main Street.

Maps of all contest entries can be found at www.visitunion-county.org, on the Chamber's social media sites, at the Chamber office (207 Depot St.) and at the caravan.

able food items to donate.

"We'll make sure it gets distributed," Moore-Hemann said.

Everyone is also welcome to decorate their own cars to add to the holiday spirit.

"We actually heard from residents that they loved seeing the caravan — it was like bringing the parade to them," she said.

There will be 10 lead cars this year, and each will leave Bi-Mart at 7 p.m.

Participants are welcome to stay on the tour as long as they want — there is no formal stopping time.

Although the tour will focus on La Grande and Island City, the Chamber publishes a map of all lighting entries in the county-wide contest. These maps can be found on the Chamber's social media sites, as well as at www.visitunioncounty.org, at the Chamber office (207 Depot St., La Grande) and at the caravan on Dec. 18.

Moore-Hemann said each year's lighting contest has drawn at least 100 entries — and sometimes more.

"I'm excited — we've had a really good response," she said.



Alex Wittwer/The Observer

The Union County Chamber and La Grande Main Street will lead a guided caravan tour on Saturday, Dec. 18, that includes entries in the holiday lighting contest.



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