

# THE OBSERVER

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## Union County meets on Idaho border issue

Proponents of moving Oregon's border say commissioners need to do more for the effort

By **DICK MASON**  
The Observer

LA GRANDE — The Union County Board of Commissioners was asked on Wednesday, Feb. 9, to work harder to get

a dialogue started about the possibility of shifting the Idaho border to encompass most of Oregon and form the new state of Greater Idaho.

Mike McCarter, of La Pine, the leader of Move Oregon's Border, told the board of commissioners that its members should take steps to get more people talking about the proposal. He said that once this occurs it could help get the



McCarter

Oregon and Idaho legislatures to begin discussing the Greater Idaho issue.

"Until it gets in that arena we are not getting anywhere. There has got to be a process between the Idaho and Oregon legislatures," said McCarter, who appeared by Zoom.

Move Oregon's Border is a nonprofit that wants to transfer Oregon's southern and eastern counties into Idaho. Union County is required to discuss moving the borders following the passage of ballot measure

31-101 by Union County voters in 2020. The measure requires the commissioners to meet three times each year to discuss promoting Union County interests relating to Union County becoming part of Idaho.

McCarter said there is a need for the Greater Idaho movement because the needs of Eastern and Southern Oregon are overlooked by the state.

"Most legislators do not care at all about

See, **Border/Page A5**

## Fair board, county tackle sewage line project

By **DAVIS CARBAUGH**  
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Local entities are working toward acquiring funding for an essential project in Union County.

The Union County Fair Board and Union County Board of Commissioners are pushing to find funding for a project that would connect the sewage lines from the Union County Fairgrounds to the city of La Grande's system. After the septic system went out several years ago, the lack of working restrooms has become a crucial problem at the facility.

"We think it would be huge," Union County Fair Board member Deb Cornford said. "We would be able to have some bigger events. The board is very motivated to get the project underway."

The sewage project is at the top of the board's list of 17 priorities for the year. Without a sewage system in place, money spent on portable toilets for events has been a financial hindrance. The potential project involves two new functioning restrooms as well as running water at the fairgrounds.

"An option, maybe our only option, is tying into the city of La Grande's water system," Union County Commissioner Matt Scarfo said. "We really need that sewer project funded."

The fairgrounds' septic system went down several years ago, rendering

See, **Fair/Page A6**

## Friendship is the key

### Wallowa County couple of 71 years recalls decades together

By **BILL BRADSHAW**  
Wallowa County Chieftain



Bob and Shirley Crawford/  
Contributed Photo

Bob and Shirley Crawford, shown here on their wedding day, Jan. 25, 1951, graduated from Wallowa High School together and have lived in Enterprise since 1996.

ENTERPRISE — Friendship is the key to a long, successful marriage, say Bob and Shirley Crawford.

And they would know, having recently celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary.

"She's been my best friend since we first met," Bob said. "The definition of a friend is someone who knows you and still likes you."

Shirley had another key to success.

"I agree it's about being best friends, but also keep your sense of humor," she said. "It'll take you through a lot of things."

They both agree that having much in common also helps. They both enjoy the outdoors,

reading, camping, hiking and having hobbies. Shirley quilts and used to draw and paint. Bob likes woodworking, fishing and golf.

"We still do most of the things we've always done, but much more slowly," Shirley said.

#### First meeting

The pair met while attending Wallowa High School in the 1940s.

"I have to say that when I first noticed you early in the school year, you were wearing lipstick, a dress and high heels," Shirley said to her husband. "But all the other boys were, too."

"That was for our freshman initiation," Bob quickly

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Bob and Shirley Crawford look over an antique wood-fired cookstove in the kitchen of their Alder Slope home Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2022. The Crawfords have been married since Jan. 25, 1951.

Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

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#### WEATHER Full forecast on the back of B section

	<b>Tonight</b> 27 LOW Mainly clear		<b>Sunday</b> 42/33 Mostly sunny
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