

Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Above, Kurt Melville, of Cornerstone Farms, harvests wheat in a dryland field north of Enterprise on Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2021. Below, Kevin Melville welds a break on the header of his combine.

DROUGHT

Continued from Page BI

drought years, Butterfield said. He said the goal is 14%. The market pays a premium if the producer's crop is higher than 14% and docks the crop if it's under

"It all depends on what happens in the wheat world," he said.

It all comes down to the water farmers were able to get for their crops. Butterfield noted that's been a problem this year.

"We ran out of water to irrigate with, so that's another issue," he said. "We've been short of water all year. Now we're literally almost out of water. It was so cold this spring, the snow didn't melt and then when it did melt, it melted really fast."



Melville agreed the drought hurt them.

"We were short on irrigation water," he said. "We wished we'd had more."

Looking ahead

But farmers don't wallow in their misfortune of one year and are eager to move on.

"I hope next year's a lot better," Melville said. "Most people you talk to, they're glad this year's about done."

Dunham, with his six decades of experience, agreed.

"You keep plugging along and take it as it comes," he said. "You have to look to the future and can't look back."

BANK

Continued from Page B1

by Oct. 14.

"If you are unable to come in by that date, we will safely and securely move your box contents to our Island City store at 3106 Island Ave., and you will be able on to pick them up on Oct. 29," the website said.

The Adams Avenue branch opened in 2013, when it combined with the Sterling Bank branch at that location. The move was made after Umpqua Holdings, the Portland-based parent of Umpqua Bank, acquired Sterling Financial Corporation in a \$2 billion transaction.

Once the deal was complete, the newly combined banks began operating under the name of Umpqua Bank, according to a story in the Sept. 18, 2013, Observer.

Long banking legacy

If another bank does not replace the Umpqua

Davis Carbaugh/The Observer

Umpqua Bank at 1215 Adams Avenue is set to close Oct. 28. Customer accounts will be transferred to the Island City branch

branch at 1215 Adams Ave., a 135-year legacy of financial institutions at the site will end.

The site's banking story dates back to 1886 when La Grande National Bank opened there after constructing a new building. Twenty years later, the bank's one-story building was torn down and replaced by a larger twostory structure. La Grande First National Bank, later renamed La Grande First National Bank of Oregon, continued operating there through 1975, according to La Grande historian and author Bob Bull.

At that time, the site's building, then nearly 70

years old, was remodeled and the structure's second story was removed. The second story had housed many businesses offices, including those for attorneys, dentists and real estate agents, Bull said.

Pioneer Federal Savings and Loan moved in following the renovation, according to the book "La Grande 1885-1985" by Richard Hermens and John Turner. Pioneer Federal operated at 1215 Adams Ave. through at least 1990.

After Pioneer Federal, Sterling Bank operated at the site until 2013 when it combined with Umpqua Bank.



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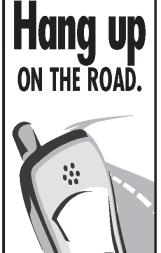
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