



# UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

*Paul Anderes, Commissioner*  
*R. Matthew Scarfo, Commissioner*  
*Jake Seavert, Commissioner*

*Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer*

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1106 K. Avenue | La Grande, Oregon 97850

Phone: (541) 963-1001 | Fax (541) 963-1079

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Chair Nguyen, Vice Chair Diehl members of the Committee,

For the record, I am Union County Commissioner Paul Anderes. I am also a retired High School Agriculture teacher and FFA Advisor of 32 years. Twenty-Three of those years it was my honor to be the La Grande FFA Advisor. I have spent a lot of time at the Union County Fairgrounds.

Union County Fairgrounds is an integral part of our County. The use of this facility is not limited to one week in the summer of County Fair, with Youth Livestock and funnel cases. In addition to all of the annual County Fair, a partial list of events includes:

- Disaster Preparedness location
- Celebrate La Grande
- Grande Ronde Hospital employee appreciation event
- Eastern Oregon Music Festival
- Eastern Oregon Celtic Festival
- Eastern Oregon Beer Festival
- Horse Shows for all ages & abilities
- Eastern Oregon University Student social events and dances
- RV Camping – with direct access to Mount Emily Recreation Area (MERA)
- Peewee Livestock showing (along with over the hill livestock showmanship)
- Mutton Bustin’
- Youth Educational presentations
- Youth public speaking events
- Historical Society meetings & events
- Community benefit fundraisers
- Teen dances
- Talent Shows
- Boarding of livestock from Wildfires
- Solar power conference
- Grande Ronde Hospital Foundation summer events
- Holiday bazaars
- Truck shows
- Oktoberfest

- Youth arts events
- Motorcycle rallies
- Wildland fire camps
- Mass testing for Covid amid a large outbreak

As you can see, Union County Fairgrounds serves our community year-round.

As Commissioner we have increased funding for the fairgrounds in our budgets and through Federal Covid Relief grants. These amount to Band-Aids given escalating costs and the current cap on lottery proceeds supporting Fairgrounds.

I encourage you to move this bill forward and advocate for its funding through the Ways & Means process.

Thank you, Are there any questions?

**Paul M. Anderes**

Union County Commissioner

1106 K. Ave

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541-963-1001





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