

KWVN-FM
QUARTERLY ISSUES / PROGRAMS LIST
2023 QUARTER 3

<p style="text-align: center;">7/7/23</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Government</p>	<p>ECHO – Oregon Rep. Bobby Levy (R-Echo) is the newest member of the Oregon Global Warming Commission. She already sits on the House Climate, Energy, and Environment Committee and the Hanford Cleanup Board. She noticed an opening for a Republican on the commission and asked for the appointment. “I wanted to have a voice on what is going on in the global warming field, and that was my easiest way to do it,” she said.</p> <p>Levy said she has a lot to learn before her first quarterly meeting with the commission. “I actually am going to visit with some of the people that are on the board and get up to speed with what they’re doing, and I’ve been researching what’s been going on,” she said. “I have a lot to learn.”</p> <p>The commission tracks trends in greenhouse gas emissions, recommends ways to coordinate state and local efforts to reduce emissions, and works to prepare communities for the effects of climate change. The legislative members of the Oregon Global Warming Commission do not vote on the issues being considered.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Oregon Rep. Bobby Levy</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">7/10/23</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Community</p>	<p>UMATILLA COUNTY – The Columbia Development Authority is hosting a ribbon-cutting ceremony Wednesday at 10 a.m. to celebrate the former Umatilla Chemical Weapons Depot land being turned over to local control.</p> <p>The ribbon cutting will be followed with a free barbecue and a tour of the depot. It is being held at the former army depot which is now known as Camp Rees. The tour includes exploring an igloo in which chemical weapons were once stored, visiting the southern Oregon trail, and visiting the site of the 1944 igloo explosion.</p> <p>Those who want to attend should take t exit 177 for the Oregon National Guard Training Center, and drive under the railroad bridge to the guard gate for directions to the celebration.</p> <p>In addition to the training center, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation will be turning a large portion of the 9,511 acres into a wildlife sanctuary. The CDA is also made up of representatives from Umatilla and Morrow counties and the ports of Umatilla and Morrow, which will make a portion of the land available for economic development. Umatilla County Commissioner John Shafer said that people are already inquiring about the property. “It’s right in between I-82 and I-84,” he said. “It’s got rail service. It’s got the river right there and this time next year, we’ll have water there. It’s going to be a big deal.”</p> <p>More information is available at https://www.umadra.com/.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Umatilla Commissioner John Shafer</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">7/12/23</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Law Enforcement</p>	<p>HERMISTON – Police Chief Jason Edmiston knows that his department takes the biggest piece of the general fund pie. That’s typical of municipal budgets. He addressed the Hermiston City Council this week about the problems the current personnel shortages pose for his officers.</p> <p>The council is hearing from various departments that operate from the general fund about what their current status is. Edmiston’s turn was Monday night and he said many of his officers were on hand for the presentation, which lasted for about an hour.</p> <p>Edmiston said concern about livability and how it is impacted by a police staffing shortage was mentioned. “I reminded everyone in the audience that in November of 2020, I wrote an apology to the citizens for what would become a decline in livability due to the decriminalization of controlled substances,” Edmiston stated.</p> <p>He said the city’s police force is not keeping pace with the population growth in Hermiston. It is well below the FBI’s national average of 2.4 when it comes to officers per 1,000 population.</p> <p>“Looking at Boardman, they’re at 2.92 officers per thousand,” Edmiston said. “Umatilla is at 2.2. Pendleton is at 1.79 and Hermiston’s at 1.5.”</p> <p>He said the passage of Ballot Measure 110 and other actions taken by the state in the last few years has made it even harder to keep the peace.</p> <p>“There’s a much more aggressive clientele, if you will,” he said. “More officer assaults. More officer injuries. We’re an aging department so that contributes to the factors as well. We have some challenges in front of us. My biggest concern is retention and being able to hold onto what we have.”</p> <p>Edmiston said the department has and will continue to do its part to protect Hermiston, but it must also work to protect its employees from harm.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Police Chief Jason Edmiston</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">7/19/23</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Law Enforcement</p>	<p>UMATILLA COUNTY – Sheriff Terry Rowan and other plaintiffs in the federal suit against Oregon’s Ballot Measure 114 will appeal the ruling that the gun control law is constitutional. That was the finding released by Judge Karin Immergut of federal court in Portland.</p> <p>Rowan is confident that, as the plaintiffs in the federal suit follow the appeals path that leads to the Supreme Court, in a favorable verdict.</p> <p>“The only challenge there is time,” he said. “You can’t just rush those type of cases through to the Supreme Court.”</p> <p>The next step will be the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco. Meanwhile, there is a respite. The law which narrowly passed in November has been put on hold by a judge in Harney County. A group separate from the federal case is suing based on what it considers to be a violation of the Oregon Constitution. The trial is scheduled to begin in September.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sheriff Terry Rowan</p>

<p>8/3/23</p>	<p>Community</p>	<p>PENDLETON – The state of Oregon has set dates over the next few years by which facilities that produce electricity with carbon as a byproduct must cease operations. Pendleton City Manager Robb Corbett says he learned at the recent convention of city managers that unless something is done, Oregon faces an extreme energy shortage.</p> <p>“We’re creating a shortage that is going to result in rolling blackouts like what we in Oregon have witnessed in other states – namely California,” he said.</p> <p>Corbett said he agrees that carbon emissions are harmful, and he sees nothing wrong with closing plants down, but one thing needs to be done before they close.</p> <p>“The simple solution is, let’s don’t eliminate the power production facilities that produce carbon until they’re replaced with a new green energy facility,” he said.</p> <p>Corbett said there won’t be enough power to keep up with demand when it is extremely hot or cold.</p> <p>“We’re going to go from a region of power surplus to power shortage,” he said.</p> <p>Corbett and other city managers are calling for the Oregon Legislature to fix what could be a catastrophe of its own making.</p>	<p>Pendleton City Manager Robb Corbett</p>
<p>8/9/23</p>	<p>Community</p>	<p>PENDLETON – The wet winter is a distant memory as months of dry weather have put the word ‘drought’ back in the vocabulary for the Columbia Basin. National Weather Service Meteorologist Camden Plunkett says that drought conditions are expanding across the Blue Mountain foothills in Oregon and Washington and into the basin.</p> <p>“Most of the region from the Tri-Cities over to the Walla Walla Valley and down to Pendleton is now designated as D1, that’s moderate drought; or D2, severe drought,” Plunkett said. “Most of the area is actually severe drought.”</p> <p>Plunkett says he’s seen both extremes. He has been with the weather service in Pendleton for three years, and 2021 and 2023 are among the driest on the spectrum. Then, there’s 2022, which was very wet.</p> <p>“2022 on the other hand was top 10, maybe even top five for Pendleton,” he said. “We haven’t had anything that is what you would call average for the past three years.”</p>	<p>National Weather Service Meteorologist Camden Plunkett</p>
<p>8/11/23</p>	<p>Government</p>	<p>UMATILLA COUNTY – Staff or the Oregon Department of Human Services Office of Resiliency and Emergency Management are going door-to-door in the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area asking residents if they can test their well water for nitrates. Umatilla County Public Health Director Joe Fiumara said the effort will continue for about six weeks.</p> <p>“The governor set a goal for the state to try to test every well that they can by the end of September, and there are a lot of wells out there,” Umatilla County Public Health Director Joe Fiumara said.</p> <p>He added that the canvassers will respect “No Trespassing” signs and that the testing is voluntary.</p> <p>“If you’re home when they knock, they’ll talk to you about what’s going on and – if you agree – they’ll collect a sample from you right then and there and take it to the lab on your behalf,” he said.</p> <p>If the well tests above 10 milligrams per liter of nitrates, the state will arrange for the delivery of potable water.</p>	<p>Umatilla County Public Health Director Joe Fiumara</p>
<p>8/18/23</p>	<p>Health</p>	<p>OREGON – The David Romprey Oregon Warmline is in trouble. The service provides peer counseling for people who are not in an immediate mental health crisis, but need someone to talk to who has personal experience with mental health disorders.</p> <p>The warmline was started by Community Counseling Solutions in 2005 to operate statewide. In 2020, the funding was \$600,000. That allowed the line to operate 15 hours a day, seven days a week. In 2022, the Oregon Health Authority increased the warmline to 24/7 operations with a bilingual service with funding of \$2.6 million.</p> <p>Warmline administrators say they were not made aware that the increase was from American Rescue Plan dollars, which were a one-time thing. OHA told CCS it was reducing the amount it was paying to \$1.1 million, which would mean layoffs and a cutback of services.</p> <p>Umatilla County Commissioner John Shafer is the liaison for CCS and Commissioner Cindy Timmons says when he heard of the problem, he immediately called OHA.</p> <p>“Basically, what he said was the optics for cutting funds for a governor priority doesn’t look very good,” Timmons said.</p> <p>“Forty-five minutes before they were going to start letting staff know their jobs were cut, the funding came through. They’ve just got six months’ worth of funding so they’re busy trying to find those extra dollars.”</p> <p>Timmons said an estimated 16,000 people use the warmline quarterly. It’s estimated that it saves the state an estimated \$6.3 million, circumventing police, fire, and health responses.</p> <p>The number for the Oregon Warmline is 800-698-2392.</p>	<p>Umatilla County Commissioner John Shafer & Commissioner Cindy Timmons</p>
<p>9/6/23</p>	<p>Law Enforcement</p>	<p>PENDLETON – Pendleton police have arrested the man they believe robbed a convenience store in Umatilla. Police Chief Chuck Byram said that surveillance video shows the resemblance of Palekasala Taupau with the Umatilla robber. The suspect also committed crimes in Pendleton and La Grande on Friday, following the first incident. Byram said a woman had left her car running at Sinclair to make a quick trip into the store. Taupau is accused of stealing her red Dodge Durango.</p> <p>The suspect got away, but apparently made a stop in La Grande.</p> <p>“Her Durango’s in the wind,” Byram said. “Then, a couple of hours later, we learned that the city of La Grande had a red Dodge Durango was driving through a store parking lot and actually stole a cell phone from a lady.”</p> <p>It didn’t stop there.</p> <p>“Fast forward a couple of hours later back in Pendleton,” Byram said. “A lady sitting in the Catholic church parking lot, has an individual walk up to her open window, reach in, snatch her purse, and take off in a red Dodge Durango.”</p> <p>Byram said the Oregon State Police helped locate the vehicle and Lt. Tony Nelson took Taupau into custody at milepost 206 of Interstate 84.</p> <p>“A gun was taken out of the vehicle that was actually stolen out of western Washington,” Byram said. “Other jurisdictions from western Washington all the way to La Grande are going to want to talk t this individual.”</p> <p>Taupau, 21, is in Umatilla County Jail on a felony fugitive warrant. He is also charged with first-degree robbery and third-degree theft. His bail is set at \$250,000.</p>	<p>Police Chief Chuck Byram</p>

9/7/23	Education	<p>UMATILLA COUNTY – The Umatilla County Board of Commissioners has approved giving a grant of \$750,000 to Blue Mountain Community College to establish a workforce training program. Commissioner John Shafer said that American Rescue Plan Act funds will be used.</p> <p>“I’m excited for the partnership between us and BMCC,” Shafer said. “I expect great things from that one.”</p> <p>Shafer said that once BMCC presents a syllabus for the program to the county, the money will be distributed. “This award is to facilitate workforce development through Spanish to English proficiency educational opportunities,” Shafer said.</p>	Commissioner John Shafer
9/13/23	Community	<p>HERMISTON – The Hermiston City Council has approved changes to its camping ordinance as it relates to the homeless. Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan said the state of Oregon has allowed certain municipalities to issue certain requirements regarding the time, place, and manner for camping.</p> <p>“We’re not eliminating the ability for people to camp within the city, but we’re restricting when they can do it, where they can do it, and how they can do it,” Morgan said.</p> <p>Restrictions include no camping in a park that’s within 750 feet of an elementary, middle, or high school; no camping in structures, including portable toilets; not on playgrounds or parking lots; and allowing it only between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. It also replaces the term camping with the legally-required word “resting.”</p> <p>The Oregon Legislature allowed cities to have local ordinances regarding camping for the homeless, but only to restrict it – not to ban it completely. Morgan said that there will probably be tweaks made to the ordinance in the future.</p> <p>“Everything associated with managing the homeless situation is a challenge,” Morgan said. “Nobody is excited about it. I think the council felt that this iteration is the best step that we have at the present time. Just like we were amending the ordinance last night, there’s nothing to say that we can’t come back at the next council meeting and add amendments as well.”</p>	Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan
9/22/23	Community	<p>PENDLETON – The Pendleton City Council is considering toughening the time limit for cars parking in residential areas. Mayor John Turner said there have been instances of people taking advantage of the current 14-day limit on parking without the adjacent homeowners’ permission.</p> <p>“They would park kind of a junky car in a residential neighborhood,” he said. “It would get tagged after the homeowner protested. They’d wait 13 days of the 14 and then move it two or three blocks away.”</p> <p>The city of Pendleton modified RV parking a few months ago, but failed to address the parking ordinance. The change in the ordinance was written with the advice of Pendleton Police Chief Chuck Byram. It would make the vehicle owner responsible for the cost of towing at the rate of \$69.</p> <p>The council held a first reading of the change at its meeting earlier this week. A public hearing and vote will be scheduled for the Oct. 3 meeting.</p>	Mayor John Turner