

1360 KOHU

Issues for 1st Quarter 2024

Filed: Tuesday, April 9, 2024

The following issues were identified as being of significant interest to the KOHU coverage area during the quarter:

- * Blue Mountain Community College prepares for Winter term and the legislative short session
- * Water pressure regulations changing the experience for Umatilla citizens on South Hill
- * Hermiston Education Foundation annual Dinner Auction
- * Hermiston Chief of Police on 2023 crime statistics
- * Legislative Check-ins from the local representatives who were in Salem
- * Morrow County Public Transit's fixed bus service: The Loop
- * A State Senate republican primary campaign

The following programs aired on 1360 KOHU during the Odds and Ends Program from 8-8:30 a.m.

January 3

BMCC President Mark Browning and Hermiston Director Stephanie Avila

Just a few days remained prior to the start of Blue Mountain Community College's winter term. The Director of the Hermiston Center Stephanie Avila highlighted a couple of registration events in Hermiston and Pendleton. President Mark Browning discussed the financial constraints the current system the state of Oregon uses for Community College funding and the conversation that the state's community colleges want to have with lawmakers during the February short session to remove caps.

January 5

Umatilla City Manager Dave Stockdale

The City of Umatilla had recently posted on social media about customers experiencing changing water pressure on South Hill. Stockdale explained that was part of an effort to regulate pressure that the state had flagged as too high in that portion of the city's water system. Stockdale said that they had received grant money to install regulators but some of the South Hill community was experiencing changing water pressure to lower levels because they previously had been getting more than the state recommended.

January 15

Hermiston Education Foundation

George Clough and Carol Nevin visited the Odds and Ends program representing the Hermiston Education Foundation to preview their annual dinner and auction on Feb. 3. The Beach and Beef event is the sole fundraiser annually for the Education Foundation that supports the Hermiston School District with scholarships and grants to classroom teachers. The dinner/auction needed items for the silent and live auction opportunities. The tickets were available at that time and would be up until the night of the event at the door of the Eastern Oregon Trade and Events Center.

January 23

Hermiston Chief of Police Jason Edmiston

Hermiston's Chief of Police Jason Edmiston on the Odds and Ends program highlighted the 2023 crime statistics report. The increase in crime and calls for service is tied to Measure 110 - legalization of user amounts of drugs in Oregon. Edmiston says that a primary driver of the crime statistics is larceny from retailers in Hermiston. He also explained that attempted murder would start showing up on the statistics as homicide because of changes created at the state level.

January 30

Heppner Republican State Representative Greg Smith

The longest-serving Republican Representative in Salem, Heppner's Greg Smith, joined the Odds and Ends program to preview the February Legislative Short Session. Smith is the co-Chair of the Joint Ways and Means Committee and he discussed his top priority was getting a state police trooper that serves Milton-Freewater full-time.

February 16

Athena State Senator Bill Hansell checks in from the short session in Salem

In the final weeks of Bill Hansell's time in Salem during a legislative session the State Senator updated the Odds and Ends program on activity in the Senate. The major topic of conversation was the movement of legislation to reverse voter-approved legalization of drugs in Oregon.

February 23

Morrow County Public Transit continues cautious roll out of fixed route bus service.

Pat Keeley with the Morrow County Public Transit Department joined the Odds and Ends program to update on the status of the fixed route bus service. They had drivers running empty buses on lines to figure out how long the various loops would take. They were hoping to start taking riders within the month.

March 6

Blue Mountain Community College President Mark Browning reflects on the legislative session

With the legislative session in Salem complete the president of the local community college on the Odds and Ends program to review the conversation that lawmakers had about higher education funding in the state and the impact to BMCC. Mark Browning said they need to continue to increase enrollment.

March 18

Echo State Representative Bobby Levy recaps the legislative session from home

The Echo Rep. described the legislative short session as trying and stressful. Bobby Levy felt like the majority party ran over the minority party throughout the session and she and her Republican colleagues had trouble getting traction for any of their issues. Levy did make some headway on a agricultural usage bill that was about canola in the valley but she argued had statewide implications.

March 26, 27, 28, 29

State Senate Seat 29 Republican Candidates roll through Hermiston

The four Republican candidates to Replace Bill Hansell each appeared for a full Odds and Ends conversation about their candidacy. Hermiston Mayor Dave Drotzmann on the 26th; Wallowa County Commissioner Todd Nash on the 27th; Enterprise resident Andy Huwe on the 28th; and former Morrow County Commissioner Jim Doherty on the 29th each sat down for a conversation about their campaign and goals if they are elected.