

KUMA-FM
QUARTERLY ISSUES / PROGRAMS LIST
2023 QUARTER 4

<p style="text-align: center;">10/9/23</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Law Enforcement</p>	<p>OREGON – The ballot measure that decriminalized individual possession of set amounts of narcotics was approved by the voters, but in at least one recent poll, 56 percent of those participating said it should be repealed. Law enforcement has said making possession a crime the same level as a traffic ticket does not give those with substance abuse disorders the incentive to get treatment. It is also cited as the reason behind an increase in thefts by those same sources. Now, Oregon State Senator Bill Hansell (R-Athena) says indications are the 2024 session of the Oregon Legislature will turn its eyes toward the measure in an attempt to fix it. Hansell would like to see it go deeper than a fix. “I think a lot of us feel that we need to send it back to the voters for another vote or just flat out repeal it,” he said. “I’m not sure tweaks are going to work, but we’ll see what happens.”</p> <p>Umatilla County Commissioner John Shafer agrees that the measure should be repealed. However, he said that the state lawmakers realize their political futures could hang on something being done. Legislators are reported to be discussing raising fentanyl possession to a criminal misdemeanor instead of a citation. He said disillusionment with Measure 110 is being felt throughout the state, not just in Eastern Oregon. “The legislators, especially on the Democrat side of the aisle, I think they’re going to have to do something or they’re going to find themselves unemployed,” he said.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Umatilla County Commissioner John Shafer</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">10/12/23</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Education</p>	<p>PENDLETON – Blue Mountain Community College President Mark Browning said the biggest hurdle the state’s community colleges face with state legislators is their refusal to realize that what might apply in Portland, doesn’t work in rural areas.</p> <p>“Rural has value,” he said. “We not only feed y’all, but were’ storing all your pictures from Instagram and the cloud out here, so let’s talk turkey.”</p> <p>Browning said the majority of Oregon’s community colleges are in rural areas and it’s time Salem realized the needs of those institutions.</p> <p>“Our students are very much part time,” he said. “They’re doing other things. They’re working. They have lives and their balancing school around that, so our operation needs to be different.”</p> <p>He said lawmakers need to learn to recognize and embrace the difference.</p> <p>“Let’s start looking at the strengths that we bring,” he said. “One size does not fit all. It just doesn’t.”</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Blue Mountain Community College President Mark Browning</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">10/18/23</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Law Enforcement</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Guns and shots fired</p> <p>UMATILLA COUNTY – Multiple shots fired incidents in Hermiston, Umatilla, and western Umatilla County have law enforcement officers stretched thin. To make matters worse, Umatilla County Sheriff Terry Rowan says the victims are uncooperative.</p> <p>“They likely know who is after them,” he said. “There may have been some other issue that stimulated the progression, but them participating in the investigation is unlikely.”</p> <p>Rowan said that it’s not that people in general are not talking to police.</p> <p>“You get multiple layers of information coming in on who may have done it, but when you don’t have a cooperative victim then the case doesn’t go anywhere,” he said.</p> <p>Hermiston Lt. Robert Guerrero said that HPD, the detective from the Umatilla Police Department, and detectives from the sheriff’s office have begun talking about the shots-fired incidents and how to best track them and stop them in their tracks.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Umatilla County Sheriff Terry Rowan</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">10/23/23</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Community</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mental health and homelessness</p> <p>PENDLETON – Pendleton City Manager Robb Corbett recently attended the League of Oregon Cities annual meeting. He said there were many good workshops offered, and the one dealing with behavioral health issues really resonated.</p> <p>“One of the biggest issues in Oregon for cities is homelessness,” he said. “Homelessness is tied to mental health and addiction. There are a lot of people that are homeless because they lost their home or lost their job, but a vast majority of the people out on the streets have mental health and addiction issues.”</p> <p>Corbett said it is incumbent upon the cities to meet the needs of those people, and talking with representatives from other cities helps.</p> <p>“We quickly find out that the challenges that we face in Pendleton as community elected officials and city managers are very common,” he said. “Then we have conversation on how best to deal with it and we bring back things that we want to try to incorporate into our city.”</p> <p>Corbett was not alone at the meeting. Council members McKennon McDonald, Carole Innes, and Linda Neuman also attended.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Pendleton City Manager Robb Corbett</p>

11/3/23	Community	<p style="text-align: center;">Water pipeline Pipeline project moves forward</p> <p>UMATILLA COUNTY – The Columbia Development Authority broke ground Wednesday for the Central Pipeline Project which will carry water from the Columbia River to the land earmarked for development that used to comprise the Umatilla Chemical Weapons Depot.</p> <p>County Commissioner John Shafer, who has been working on the project since 2019, said help from the project came from regional members of the Oregon Legislature, but got a big boost thanks to the help of Sen. Elizabeth Steiner (D-Portland/Beaverton).</p> <p>“She actually delivered a \$6 million check to the project,” Shafer said. “When you have a project this size, you have to go to the state legislature, and you need champions for funding. She became a friend.”</p> <p>The groundbreaking symbolized having the funding in place. Shafer said the next step forward will be building a master plan. That plan is being worked out by the parties who make up the Columbia Development Authority and IRZ Engineering and Consulting of Hermiston. The CDA is made up of representatives from the ports of Umatilla and Morrow, the counties of the same, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and the Oregon National Guard.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Work on the pipeline is now underway as the irrigation season ended on Nov. 1. “They’re digging trenches right now and they’re putting pipe in the ground,” he said.</p> <p>The Columbia River water will run south with a drop-off point of the northeast corner of the depot for the city of Umatilla. It will then continue south to benefit the Westland Irrigation District. The rest of the water is going towards recharge.</p> <p>The project is using the water rights from both Umatilla and the Westland Irrigation District in addition to the county’s limited license to recharge the aquifer when it is not irrigation season.</p>	County Commissioner John Shafer
11/14/23	Community	<p style="text-align: center;">Drought</p> <p>PENDLETON – The Climate Prediction Center is forecasting classic El Nino conditions for the Pacific Northwest this winter.</p> <p>“They’re predicting that we’re going to have a warmer and drier winter than we generally do,” National Weather Service Hydrologist George Perry said. “That’s kind of consistent with the El Nino situation.”</p> <p>Under El Nino conditions, winter in the northwest is generally warmer and drier while the opposite is true of the southwestern United States. Perry said the center is calling for a 60 percent chance of above normal temperatures and a 33 to 40 percent chance of below normal precipitation.</p> <p>Meanwhile, there have been no significant changes to the drought monitor for Eastern Oregon and Southeastern Washington. Based on forecasts issued last week, the bulk of Umatilla and Morrow counties are experiencing a moderate drought while the southern portions of both are considered abnormally dry.</p> <p>In Washington, central Walla Walla County is in a severe drought, while the eastern and western ends are experiencing moderate drought conditions. The majority of Benton and Franklin counties as well as Columbia, Garfield, and Asotin are in a moderate drought.</p>	National Weather Service Hydrologist George Perry
11/16/23	Law Enforcement	<p style="text-align: center;">Decriminalizing narcotics</p> <p>HEPPNER – State Rep. Greg Smith (R-Heppner) said he believes that Measure 110 can be fixed by the Oregon Legislature, but cautions it won’t be a quick fix.</p> <p>“It’s not going to be easy because, at the end of the day, you have to have justice and at the same time what I’m asking for is an ounce of mercy,” he said. “Finding that balance between those who break the law and those who commit crimes against their neighbors, there does have to be justice. But we also do need to figure out how do we break the trend.”</p> <p>Smith said in the 2024 session he looks forward to working with both parties to try to break the cycle.</p> <p>“At the end of the day, there’s no doubt we need to be focused on that effort to assist our schools, assist our communities, and assist our businesses. That will be my priority in February.”</p> <p>SALEM – Meanwhile, Republican senators don’t want to wait until February. They sent a letter to Gov. Tina Kotek yesterday urging her to declare a state of emergency on Measure 110 and to convene a special session to address Oregon’s drug addiction crisis.</p> <p>“On average, three Oregonians die each day from an unintended drug overdose,” the letter states. “Since the implementation of Measure 110, all drug overdoses rose 61 percent and fentanyl overdoses rose nearly 600 percent.”</p>	State Rep. Greg Smith
11/22/23	Education	<p style="text-align: center;">Bar exams not required</p> <p>UMATILLA COUNTY – There will be a way to become a licensed attorney in Oregon without having to pass the bar exam starting in May 2024. The program is called the Supervised Practice Portfolio Examination. Umatilla County District Attorney Dan Primus said that his office is chronically understaffed and having more attorneys from which to choose could help with that problem.</p> <p>“It’s something that we will try to take advantage of,” he said. “We’re still going to have to find professionals that want to relocate to Eastern Oregon.”</p> <p>Currently, his office only has five attorneys, while it’s funded to have 10. Primus said it’s hard to recall a time during his 12 years in the office when it was fully staffed. He added that is a problem throughout rural Eastern Oregon.</p> <p>“Adding individuals to the pool of applicants would hopefully help rural Oregon with bringing in individuals to fill our needs,” he said.</p> <p>The state is experiencing a shortage of defense attorneys and is attempting to address that. Meanwhile, a quick look at the public defender agencies in Umatilla County shows there are far more than the five prosecuting attorneys in Primus’ office.</p>	Umatilla County District Attorney Dan Primus

12/6/23	Law Enforcement	<p style="text-align: center;">Vandalism Police seek rock thrower</p> <p>PENDLETON – There’s a serial rock thrower smashing glass in Pendleton. After taking three weeks to recover from hip replacement surgery, Chief Chuck Byram came back on the job and upon hearing the details of incidents over the last two weeks, assigned the issue to the property crimes detective.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Our patrol staff has been taking a significant number of cases regarding this and we’re looking through video surveillance footage to try to ascertain who the individual involved is,” Byram said.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Byram said investigators believe they know who the culprit is.</p> <p>“The level of proof that they need to make an arrest isn’t quite there yet, but they believe they know who it is,” Byram said. “If it is the person that they think it is, I will be highly disappointed. This is an individual we have worked time and time again with to try to get help and assistance.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The chief said the more evidence they can gather the better. He asks anyone who might have not reported window damage to call and report the details.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“It may or may not be related, but if we don’t know about it how can we determine it,” he said. “See something, say something, please.”</p>	Chief Chuck Byram
12/8/23	Law Enforcement	<p style="text-align: center;">Domestic violence</p> <p>PENDLETON – Law enforcement officers observe an uptick in cases of domestic violence during the holiday season. Pendleton Police Chief Chuck Byram says those are difficult cases to investigate.</p> <p>“It’s really hard for our officers to navigate that,” he said. “It’s also a dangerous situation for our officers to navigate and a dangerous situation for the people inside the dynamic because emotions run really high.”</p> <p>Byram pointed out that police are often looked at as intruders when an argument between loved ones become violent. “We have to investigate those things very thoroughly and it’s hard for our officers sometimes to step into the middle of a family dynamic like that,” he said.</p> <p>Byram said that officers with less experience are helped by more seasoned officers in those cases. One thing that is important to remember is that police are required by the state of Oregon to make an arrest if a suspect passes certain limits.</p> <p>“In Oregon, there’s a mandatory arrest statute,” he said. “If there are certain thresholds met during the course of a law enforcement, they shall arrest. Not ‘may,’ ‘shall.’ If they don’t, they’re violating their oath. It’s a very serious issue and it’s always a two-officer response.”</p>	Police Chief Chuck Byram
12/12/23	Community	<p style="text-align: center;">Cell towers</p> <p>WALLA WALLA – AT&T is suing the city of Walla Walla in federal court claiming the city violated the Telecommunications Act by denying a conditional-use permit for a cell tower on property owned by Blue Mountain Community Church at 928 Sturm Avenue.</p> <p>In the lawsuit, which was filed Dec. 1 in Richland, Washington, AT&T claims the city’s denial prevents the wireless company from providing necessary wireless services. It further contends that the city should have provided an alternate site if the area it proposed didn’t meet requirements.</p> <p>In September, after hearing from AT&T’s representative, city employees, and residents, the hearing examiner denied the project’s conditional-use permit for construction, operation and maintenance of a wireless telecommunications facility consisting of a 65-foot faux pine tree and accessory equipment. The city served notice of final decision on the application in November.</p> <p>City Attorney Tim Donaldson will be representing the city and said the city’s response will be filed by Tuesday, Dec. 26.</p>	City Attorney Tim Donaldson
12/20/23	Law Enforcement	<p style="text-align: center;">Overdose at clinic</p> <p>COLLEGE PLACE – Officers from the College Place Police Department, along with medics, were dispatched Friday afternoon to Comprehensive Healthcare’s adult residential treatment facility, also known as Waypoint, located at 1250 SE Commercial Drive, for a report of an employee suffering a drug overdose.</p> <p>Witnesses state that the 34-year-old woman from College Place was found collapsed and unresponsive on the bathroom floor. Medics attempted life saving measures on scene but were unsuccessful.</p> <p>An investigation by CPPD officers located drug paraphernalia and residue identified as fentanyl near the victim. CPPD encourages anyone struggling with addiction, especially fentanyl, to contact the Washington Recovery Help Line at 866-789-1511. Narcotic use, especially fentanyl, has resulted in several local deaths over the past year.</p>	Officers from the College Place Police Department