

KUMA-FM
QUARTERLY ISSUES / PROGRAMS LIST
2023 QUARTER 2

4/5/23	Community	<p>UMATILLA and MORROW COUNTIES – Community Counseling Solutions provided Crisis Intervention Team training to area law enforcement officers throughout the month of March. The training is designed to help officers how to react when faced with those with a mental illness or are in crisis. CCS Law Enforcement Liaison Ryan Lehnert said that the training improves the safety of everyone involved in crisis calls. "The focus of the training is to teach officers to slow down, find a way to relate, validate a person's state of mind, show compassion, and de-escalate persons in crisis," Lehnert wrote. "Officers are reminded to ask themselves how they would want their family or friends treated should they end up in crisis, suffering from mental illness or living with developmental disability." There were 24 officers who received 40 hours of instruction and engaged with role players portraying some form of crisis. The officers were from the Umatilla, Hermiston, Stanfield, Pendleton, and Umatilla Tribal police departments; the Umatilla County and Morrow County sheriff's offices; and Umatilla County Community Corrections. CCS also received help from agencies in presenting the training. Lehnert issued thanks to Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Institute, City County Insurance, Oregon State Police, Umatilla Tribal Police, Hermiston Police, Umatilla County Sheriff's Office, Umatilla County District Attorney's Office, and Pendleton Fire & Ambulance.</p>	CCS Law Enforcement Liaison Ryan Lehnert
4/7/23	Community	<p>UMATILLA COUNTY – The Umatilla County Board of Commissioners has expanded its criminal property ordinance. Commissioner John Shafer said the ordinance is a great way to make sure property owners who don't live in the area take responsibility for what is happening at their properties. "We've used that program successfully," Shafer said. "Rodeo City Inn was one of those that was cleaned up that way and it's getting ready to be revamped. It's worked." Shafer said more criminal activities were added to the list with this amendment. They include narcotics and alcohol violations, arson, and public indecency. "If we go to that residence enough times, then we can start saying to the property owner, 'We're going to come after you.'"</p>	Commissioner John Shafer
4/12/23	Education	<p>PENDLETON – The Pendleton School District's classified employees have a new three-year contract. Superintendent Kevin Headings said the agreement with the union improves salaries and offers excellent benefits. "Over the three-year life on the contract, there is going to be up to a 15 percent increase in hourly pay," he said. We upped the starting hourly wage up to about \$15 to make it a little more competitive with other businesses in the area. "He said the insurance benefits in the new contract are stellar. "There should be no monies coming out of pockets for insurance for our employees, which a lot of districts can't say," he said. He said the classified staff is the backbone of the district. "They keep our buildings clean," he said. "They keep our buildings running and functioning smoothly. They are a lot about the health and safety of our students. We want to give them the best we can."</p>	Superintendent Kevin Headings
4/27/23	Employment	<p>UMATILLA & MORROW – As far as jobs go, the damage done to employment by the pandemic is over for Umatilla and Morrow counties. Regional Economist Dallas Fridley with the Oregon Employment Department said the number of available jobs in February 2020 has finally been surpassed. "Umatilla County is now above its pre-pandemic employment level," Fridley said. "It's up by 190 jobs over that level so we can put the pandemic behind us, at least in terms of job count." The same is true for Morrow County. "Morrow County is well above its pre-pandemic employment level," he said. "It's gained 650 jobs seasonally adjusted for a gain of 12.8 percent." Unemployment in March also fell by three-tenths of a percent in both counties. It's 5.0 percent in Umatilla County, which is 23rd in the state. Morrow County ranks ninth among Oregon counties with a jobless rate of four percent.</p>	Fridley
5/1/23	Community	<p>PENDLETON – The Pendleton Budget Committee holds its first meeting bright and early Tuesday morning. "We have Tuesdays and Thursdays scheduled the first two weeks of May," City Manager Robb Corbett said. "We have our meetings at 7 a.m. in the basement of the Vert." The general fund for the budget totals \$21,476,198. The top three departments receiving funding are the police department, the fire department, and parks and recreation. Corbett says the police department is budgeted to add two new officers and the fire department will be able to hire three new paramedics. At the meeting tomorrow, the committee will elect its officers and hear the budget message from Corbett. As part of that message, he will report that the city is also committing itself to support the Fourth of July fireworks display. The complete meeting agenda including the budget and the Zoom link is at https://cityofpendletonor.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingSchedule.aspx?month=4. Just click on the Budget Committee meeting on the agenda for Tuesday.</p>	City Manager Robb Corbett
5/5/23		<p>UMATILLA COUNTY – Gov. Tina Kotek visited Umatilla County yesterday. One of the issues she zeroed in on was the housing shortage in the city of Pendleton and the plan to expand its urban growth boundary to allow more housing development. "I'm supportive of the urban growth boundary project that the city has underway," Kotek said. "I know we're still waiting to get final approval to do some of that, but I'm totally supportive of that." Kotek said that the state needs to add 36,000 housing units a year for the next decade in order to have enough housing. She thinks programs like the expansion of the urban growth boundary show imagination in reaching that accomplishment. "We will not have the communities we want if we don't have enough housing for everyone," she said. "That's low-income housing, workforce housing, getting people into home ownership. We need all of it so our communities can thrive. I'm really pleased with the work Pendleton is doing and I will be as supportive as I possibly can."</p>	Gov. Tina Kotek

5/9/23		<p>HERMISTON – Hermiston police officers were busy this past weekend, dealing with everything from a fatal crash to shots-fired incidents. An 82-year-old woman was killed when her truck rolled over her in an alley off Hurlburt Avenue. Officers reported the woman apparently started the vehicle and then got out to get a dog. She was pronounced deceased at the scene Saturday afternoon. Police Chief Jason Edmiston said there were three separate incidents of shots being fired in Hermiston. One was at 2 a.m. Saturday on the southwest part of town. The second came an hour later on the northwest side of town. The third report, also on the northwest part of town occurred Saturday at 11 p.m. In all cases there was property damage done, but no one was injured. Edmiston discussed crime statistics last night at the city's Public Safety Committee. He said that last weekend is running true to form. The city is experiencing a four percent increase in calls for service. A 20 percent increase in arrests, and a 14 percent increase in total crimes. "This is taking place despite being down two positions, soon to be three, with a supervisor recently making the choice to get out of law enforcement after nearly 22 years of service," he stated.</p>	Police Chief Jason Edmiston
5/22/23		<p>HERMISTON – When an 18-year-old male was assaulted in Hodge Park for allegedly refusing to buy drugs from five teenagers, four of the suspects, between the ages of 14 and 16, were arrested and booked into the juvenile facility in Walla Walla. A fifth suspect is being sought. Meanwhile, Hermiston police issued citations to parents for failing to supervise a minor. That law has been on the books for more than 20 years, with an average of about three citations a year, mainly due to graffiti. Police Chief Jason Edmiston said the four who were arrested last week created chaos in the police station. "This group of four acted like absolute animals with just nothing other than an entitled thug mentality," he said. Edmiston said one of the parents asked police to scare her child to stop the bad behavior. An officer decided to show her what they were up against by opening the door so she could hear what was going on behind the scenes. "The officer opened the door and let the mother listen to the absolute chaos that was going on – the screaming, the whistling, the laughing, the racial slurs," he said. We asked Edmiston if the suspects were displaying the type of behavior of being an organized gang. "This group obviously acted like a gang," he said. "A gang of thugs. But we're talking about more like just absolute anarchy-type behavior from this group. Not a care in the world." When Edmiston informed the public about the arrests and the citations for parents, there were plenty of comments on social media. Some of the comments were "How can parents be responsible for bad behavior when their child is at school?" Edmiston responded that this particular group of teens are "hardly ever" in school. The assault in the park was captured by surveillance cameras. The suspects are facing third-degree assault charges and Edmiston said there's a possibility that felony riot charges will be lodged since it was at least five against one. The 18 year old was injured but is expected to recover. He said the assault began when he refused to buy narcotics from the teens.</p>	Police Chief Jason Edmiston
6/7/23		<p>PENDLETON – Pendleton Police Chief Chuck Byram says asking something to report it when they notice something suspicious is paying dividends. He said that Friday night citizens reported a man who appeared to be under the influence of intoxicants, was going door to door on Southeast Seventh Street asking for blankets. A patrol officer responded and located the suspect, recognizing him to be the subject of an arrest warrant from his parole officer. John Gabriel Zuzel, 32, tried to run. "A foot pursuit ensued down in to the river," Byram said. "The individual jumped into the river and officers followed him and took him into custody." Byram said that people who decide to say something when they see something suspicious improves the quality of life in Pendleton. "That's one less person that we have to worry about committing crimes on our streets right now," Byram said. "I want to commend the public for not just ignoring it."</p>	Pendleton Police Chief Chuck Byram
6/14/23		<p>HERMISTON – Mayor David Drotzman has informed the Hermiston City Council that his seat will be up for grabs next year. Drotzman had already announced his candidacy for the Oregon State Senate, but wanted to go on record with city leaders that he will not seek reelection in 2024. "Mayor Drotzman has been around in that position now for over 10 years at this point," Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan said. "We've been very lucky to have a lot of stability." Drotzman will serve out his current term, which ends on Dec. 31, 2024. Morgan said the mayor wanted to go on record as serving his final term. "He wanted to make sure that he was clear about that so that people could begin to plan," Morgan said. "It's an important role and he wanted to make sure the folks had plenty of time to be thinking about it."</p>	Mayor David Drotzman
6/23/23		<p>UMATILLA COUNTY – Legislation designed to end Oregon's shortage of public defenders has now passed both houses and is awaiting the signature of Gov. Tina Kotek. Senate Bill 337 is designed to protect the right to legal representation, reduce caseloads, and bolster the public defender workforce according to its supporters. Umatilla County District Attorney Dan Primus said the shortage of public defenders is real in many parts of Oregon, but has not been experienced within his jurisdiction. "It feels as if we have the same numbers of public defenders we have always had, maybe even a little bit more," he said. Primus, who is president of the Oregon District Attorneys Association, sits on an advisory commission to address the crisis. He said it's an awkward feeling, because he, as a prosecutor, doesn't want to criticize the public defense system. "I serve in that role just mainly to give them input on how we do things if they have questions," he said. "It's not really to give feedback on how they should be running it." Oregon has a unique public defense system. Lawyers serving as defense attorneys are either from a law firm contracted by the state or those in private practice. This bill establishes the Oregon Public Defense Commission and puts it in the executive wing of government instead of the judicial wing. It also establishes a trial division under the commission that hires attorneys to work directly as public defenders for the state.</p>	Gov. Tina Kotek