

1360 KOHU

Issues for 1st Quarter 2023

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

- Stanfield and Morrow County Schools Superintendents address low attendance
- DHS seeking foster families and people to support foster families
- Kayak Transportation and general public transportation growth in Umatilla County
- IMESD views on Education policies in legislative session

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

January 16, 2023

Stanfield SD Superintendent Beth Burton and Morrow County SD Superintendent Matt Combe discuss attendance issues

At the end of the first semester for both the Stanfield and Morrow County School District's the top leaders of those two districts discuss an issue with student attendance. Beth Burton and Matt Combe say that there are a few different contributing factors to lower attendance but the recovery from the pandemic has changed the focus on how students and parents view going to school. They say the attendance issue is very hard on students to recover from. But they also admit that part of the issue is that after COVID-19 any detection of illness is leading to students staying - or being kept - home.

January 20 and March 24

Karlee Wallace and guests from Oregon Department of Human Services

Karlee Wallace is in charge of foster family development in Umatilla County working through the Oregon Department of Human Services. During her two appearances during the quarter she has also brought a guest who is helping develop support non-profit organizations to help foster families. In the development of more foster families Wallace says part of the challenge is making sure that people who are considering becoming a foster family have those supports in place. One of the programs they are trying to develop is essentially a part-time foster program to allow foster families planned breaks for events.

February 17, 2023

Umatilla County Commissioner Dan Doran and Umatilla County Planning Department Transportation Manager Megan Davchevski

First the entire world learned that we've been saying Kayak Transportation wrong. It isn't like the water craft. It is KAY-ack with a hard "A" It has Native American roots and comes from the Umatilla Indian Reservation, since they are the manager of Kayak. But the real conversation was about the growth of Kayak and other public transportation offerings for Umatilla County and the region. Megan Davchevski explained that they are always looking for expansion and growth where it is appropriate. However one of the new concerns was a cut in funding from the Oregon Department of Transportation and the county at a loss for how to backfill the missing money. The cuts impacted the free taxi service programs that are used by some of the elderly and disadvantaged members of the county.

March 8, 2023

Intermountain Education Service District Superintendent Mark Mulvihill and Board Member Kelly Bissinger

At the two month mark of the legislative session in Salem - one third of the planning long session - Mark and Kelly joined the Odds and Ends program to discuss legislation that was being considered by law makers. The most prolonged conversation was about legislation that would create additional protections for special education students requiring that students were served through full school days. The concern cited by Mulvihill was the strain on a school system. Often students in special education are put on individual plans that call for shorter school days because the educators involved in developing that students plan decide that is the length that a student can handle before school becomes too much for them that day because of their special learning disability. The legislation would require full days for these students in spite of what the educator group decided worked best for the student.