

93.7 KQFM

Issues for 4th Quarter 2023

Filed: Tuesday, January 2, 2024

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

- Hermiston Police Dept. and youth offender
- Hermiston Police Dept. expresses concern about distracted driving near emergencies
- Foster Care Needs Prompts Information Night
- Award For Umatilla County Sheriff Search & Rescue Program

The following programs aired on FM 93.7 KQFM during news programming throughout the day.

October 13

Hermiston Police Department and youth offenders

Yesterday morning at 10:30 the Hermiston Police Department wrote in a press release on social media they were responding to a number of calls involving people in mental crisis but also had to respond to a report of 2 15-year-old boys applying graffiti to a building at Newport Park. The two youths trying to flee on foot were taken into custody. Both were on probation and the HPD release said "The Umatilla County Juvenile Department agreed to lodge the juveniles as they hit the probation violation trifecta with their morning escapades." The conditions of probation said the two were not to associate with the other nor engage in criminal activities, including those associated with gang behavior. The press release continued to say "as in prior instances, parents of both were cited for failure to supervise a child."

October 17

Hermiston Police Department and distracted driving around crime and accident scenes.

The Hermiston Police are investigating high rate of speed as the cause of an early morning accident yesterday that took one life and injured two others. A 12:46 a.m. call

brought HPD to the 700 block of East Main Street. A single vehicle crash where the car left the roadway because it failed to navigate a turn. The HPD release on social media says the vehicle struck a tree, rolled onto its roof and caught fire. When police arrived all three in the car were ejected or removed. 22-year-old Jose Angel Padilla Canare - who is believed to be the driver - died in the crash. 19-year-old Santos Altamirano Lopez and 20-year-old Axel Flores Salas were taken to regional hospitals by life flight.

A separate social media press release from the Hermiston Police carried a frustrated tone. As detectives were responding to the scene “officers noticed several people taking photographs of the scene while driving by. We would like to remind everyone to be considerate of victims and families of those involved in such incidents before taking photos of crash or crime scenes, and especially before posting said photos on social media.”

October 24

Foster Care Information Night at Zeal Church

A number of organizations are inviting the community to gather at Zeal Church tonight to learn about the different ways foster care can be supported. (Jesus Rome Cut “The goal is to kind of bring awareness of what is going on in the foster system and also people might say, ‘hey, I might be interested in being a CASA or a foster parent and just kind of what is taking place.’”)

Jesus Rome helps coordinate CASA - the court appointed special advocates who are assigned foster children to help provide them a voice in court and the foster process. CASA and The Child Welfare Division of Oregon Department of Human Services are partnered with other agencies to host the informational event at 6:30 tonight in the church on East Hurlburt. (Karlee Wallace Cut – “We wanted to give the community a big picture of all the things you can do to help the foster care program because a lot of times people say, ‘I can’t foster, so I can’t do anything.’”).

DHS Resource Family Retention and Recruitment Champion Karlee Wallace says organizations will be explaining how to get involved or what they need through donations to serve the foster community. About 150 children are in foster care in this area at any given time.

November 8

November 7th off-year election results

A renewal of the 5-year local tax to support the Morrow County Health District is in a passing position by more than 300 votes of the over 2200 votes cast in Morrow County. It was the only issue on yesterday's ballot in Morrow County. That was one more thing to vote on than what was in front of voters in Umatilla County who went through the election ballot-less. Statewide voter turnout was just north of 29 percent.

December 20

Umatilla County Sheriff Terry Rowan's Search and Rescue Department are celebrated.

The Umatilla County Sheriff Terry Rowan celebrates his Search and Rescue Department and its coordinator at the state level. The Sheriff also explained how the state sheriff's association would make recommendations to the state legislature in February regarding changes to Measure 110 (voter approved decriminalization of user amounts of drugs) and Measure 114 (court-challenged gun safety measures).