

93.7 KQFM

Issues for 2nd Quarter 2023

Filed: June 29, 2023

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

- High nitrates in home wells in Morrow and Umatilla County and the state response
- Vector Control flies to attack mosquitos
- Graduation of the Class of 2023 from local school districts
- Hat Rock Fire rips through north Umatilla County

The following programs aired on FM 93.7 KQFM during News Programming throughout the day on the station.

April 10, 2023

Concerns persist about groundwater in the Umatilla basin. Governor Tina Kotek, spurred by a number of different organizations is planning a trip to Umatilla and Morrow Counties to explore the critical groundwater situation. The following news story was built from a press release from the Governor's office:

In response to the ongoing groundwater contamination in the Lower Umatilla Basin, today Governor Tina Kotek reiterated her commitment to coordinating an inter-agency response that includes testing and treatment of affected wells, pursuing a contract with a local community-based organization to engage in this effort, and dedicating a project manager to support safe drinking water. This week, members of the Governor's Office were in Morrow and Umatilla counties touring impacted residential sites and meeting with community leaders, local elected leaders and public health officials in advance of the Governor visiting Umatilla and Morrow counties in the coming weeks.

May 24, 26, 30 2023

Vector Control Director Randy Girard

On the Memorial Day holiday Vector Control was able to fly their single prop plane to spray a wide swath of area between Irrigon and Umatilla and then into Power City. The previous week they had planned to spray by air but their plane had an issue that had to be fixed first. Director Randy Girard explained the aerial assault on the mosquitos usually was good for a week and a half and then they would have to assess if they needed to do it again. They were trapping and testing and looking to get ahead of West Nile Virus and partnering with North Morrow Vector Control for the large applications by airplane.

June 1 and 6, 2023

Hermiston, Umatilla, Stanfield, and Echo School graduation focus

In the days leading up to graduations for the Hermiston, Umatilla, Stanfield, and Echo School Districts new coverage centered on the Class of 2023. In each of the different districts this particular class dealt with COVID 19 taking them out of the classroom at the end of their freshman year and for most of their sophomore year. The general trends were districts were seeing a higher percentage of the students they had in the classroom graduating but a higher percentage of this class disappeared - presumably to online school - during their high school career. This group was also far less likely to be college bound than their predecessors.

June 13 - 15, 2023

The Hat Rock and Mount Hebron Fires

The Oregon State Fire Marshal mobilized six task forces to come to Umatilla County to help local crews battle the Hat Rock and Mount Hebron fires. Local breaking coverage included the initial start of the fire, subsequent highway closures and then spread. The high wind speeds and low visibility grounded aircraft battling the fire and pushed the fire quickly through sparsely populated areas but at the same time prompted evacuation warnings and the Umatilla County Sheriff's Search and Rescue going door-to-door to prepare people who lived in Juniper Canyon to be ready to evacuate. The initial fire was June 13 but the coverage and the fire battle would continue for about a week.