

93.7 KQFM

Issues for 1st Quarter 2023

Filed: Friday, April 7th, 2023

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

- City Government Changes in Boardman
- School Attendance Challenges
- Umatilla County loses state funding for free taxi programs
- Umatilla County Fair makes changes for registration

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

January 13 and 16

Information from press releases from the City of Boardman

Karen Pettigrew's hiring as the City Manager in Boardman required her to resign her position on the city council. The remaining city council voted to replace Pettigrew in a pro tem position to help fill the gap while they figured out what direction they were going to go. During the week the hired construction company broke ground on an expansion. The script on 1/16 read as follows:

Boardman City Hall broke ground last week on an expansion for new building department offices. The construction of the over 4-thousand square foot expansion will have its own entrance to the building and will include offices, a conference room, a public waiting room, and public restrooms. The city council voted in June of 2022 to do the expansion, funding it through already accumulated building department funds received from building permit fees. The plan is to have it open in exactly 365 days.

January 17

Local schools look for increased attendance in second semester

Second semester starts in Stanfield and the Morrow County School Districts today.

(beth burton seniors)

Stanfield Superintendent Beth Burton went into the year with a list of goals that included better attendance. That is still a work in progress and the progress is kept right in front of everybody in the secondary school with grade-by-grade attendance tracking posted in the halls

(beth burton data)

The posters also track the attendance rates of the staff.

Morrow County Superintendent Matt Combe says that the district is still pushing for better numbers too

(matt combe attendance).

Based on conversations across the area on the Odds and Ends program it is a consistent message. Some students still have some crunch time. In Echo the second quarter finishes up on Thursday. Hermiston and Umatilla families still have two weeks of crunch time before they close the books on semester 1.

February 10, 2023

Umatilla County Commissioner Dan Doran explains the loss of money from ODOT that impacts transportation in the county.

Umatilla County, according to County Commissioner Dan Doran, was looking for creative ways to backfill lost funding from the Oregon Department of Transportation. The cuts from the state level directly impacted the free taxi service programs that are subsidized in some of the communities in Umatilla County. The free service was utilized by the county's elderly population, the veteran population to get to VA services in Walla Walla, and other differently affected members of the communities who qualified for services through the taxi program. Often the services helped members of the community get to and from shopping centers and some medical appointments. Dorran said the cut from ODOT did catch the county and its planning department off guard. Their transportation manager, working in conjunction with Kayak Transportation, was looking for fixes that would help the county figure out how to continue the service in the most robust way possible. They didn't have an answer yet how they would.

March 10, 2023

Umatilla County Fair changes deadlines for Open Exhibits, Fair Parade entries and camping applications to the same day to streamline

Umatilla County Fair Manager announced that for 2023 the fair office would streamline the application deadlines for three main components of the county fair experience. The changes were needed to help new members of the fair board have enough time to plan and execute for the fair in the second week of August. The deadline for Open Class exhibits, entries in the Umatilla County Fair Kickoff Parade and applications for camping spots on the Eastern Oregon Trade and Events Center grounds during the fair would all be on the same day in June. In years past fair manager Angie McNally explained that the deadlines all fell on different days but that caused confusion.