

# Fight:

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forums,” members of the fire district “disparaging health district ambulance crew in public” and “engaging in a public campaign to undermine the reputation” of Morrow County ambulance staff and the health district board.

The determination also shot down Hughes’ request because one of the “overriding reasons” for the request was about funding rather than public safety.

In spite of the health district’s determination, Boardman Fire has continued to respond to all calls.

Ken Browne, chair of the Boardman Fire Rescue District, fired back on Facebook.

“In Boardman Fire’s case, it is properly responding because it is a Quick Response Team agency. In March 2020, the Health District was taking over 7 minutes to respond to 911 emergency medical calls, when the accepted National average is 60 seconds. In an effort to provide quicker patient care (within the County’s ASA Plan) and to also be in alignment with the Governor’s COVID response State of Emergency, Boardman Fire requested their dispatch center, Morrow County Sheriff’s Office, to page us for all



Morrow County Health District participates in a Fourth of July parade in 2022 in Morrow County. The district and Boardman Fire Rescue District are fighting over who should respond to calls for ambulance service in Morrow County.

medical emergencies. The Sheriff’s dispatch center has been doing so since March 2020.”

Browne also stated while the Oregon Health Authority has approved the ASA Plan,

the county has yet to adopt it.

Browne then took a shot at Emily Roberts, CEO of Morrow County Health District.

“However, Since becoming CEO of the Health

District, Emily Roberts has been on a mission to keep Boardman Fire from doing what we have been trained and certified to do. It should also be noted that the EMS Advisory Committee is 80%

Health District employees,” according to Browne’s post.

Morrow County Health District spokesperson Scott Gallagher explained Hughes is not looking to partner with the health district but instead

take it over and the funding that goes with it.

According to health district meeting minutes of April 25, its 2022-23 budget is about \$14.6 million, and the district also was set to receive almost \$660,000 from Amazon, which operates several data centers in Morrow County at the Port of Morrow.

Boardman Fire not only ignores protocol when it jumps calls for ambulance service, according to Gallagher, it then bills the health district for the service.

Browne further stated in his post the health district has refused to partner with Boardman Fire, which remains “committed to providing the best possible patient care and outcomes to our community. We have been doing this, within the constraints of the county’s ASA Plan. We will continue to provide emergency services to our community while trying to bring forward a nationally adopted response model.”

The health district also stated it has attempted to “resolve this issue and develop a partnership with BRFD to enhance EMS services,” but those efforts have been unsuccessful. Still, the health district stated it is working within the ambulance service plan’s legal process “toward a reasonable, community-based resolution.”

# Football:

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As a staff, Hansell and his assistants have had to do their homework to understand the workings of the nine-man game.

At the snap of the ball, the team on offense has to have at least five players on the line of scrimmage. The remaining players are in the backfield.

“We are going to have to do things differently and adjust,” Hansell said. “In reality, we’re still playing

football and we are excited about that. We’re excited with the amount of student athletes that want to play football. One thing that is important is our family atmosphere. We won’t lose that.”

The TigerScots actually played nine-man football last year against Riverside, as did a few other teams.

“Our program will continue to grow whether it’s nine-man or 11-man,” Hansell said.

A small percentage (17%) of nine-man football games are played on a smaller field measuring 80 yards long

by 40 yards wide. A standard football field for NFL, college and high school is

the field will not change.

“The six-player and eight-player games are not played

field. Schools move up and down, and teams that want to play an 11-player game out of league need to have the facility.”

Nine-man football is not as popular as 11-man or 8-man, but seems to be a compromise for a few states.

In 2018, a count of schools nationwide which sponsored six/eight/nine-man football teams, found that just three states had nine-man football, with South Dakota leading the way with 76, while Minnesota had 63 and North Dakota 43.

Wyoming, which had nine-man football from

1989-94, brought back the nine-man game in 2020, with 12 teams.

Oregon will have 37 schools offering nine-man football. Of the 38 2A schools in Oregon, one has opted to play up at the 3A level rather than play nine-man ball.

“Any 2A school that wanted to play 11-man moved to 3A,” Welch said. The only one who opted to do that was Kennedy.”

The Trojans will move out of the Tri-River Conference and play football in the 3A Special District 2. The move is just for football.

*“WE ARE ALWAYS EXCITED TO PLAY FOOTBALL AND REPRESENT OUR FAMILIES, COMMUNITY AND OUR SCHOOL. WE’RE GOING TO GO OUT THERE AND CONTINUE TO COMPETE.”*

— Kenzie Hansell, Weston-McEwen football coach

100 yards long by 53½ yards wide.

Welch said that the size of

on a smaller field,” Welch said. “As of now, all games

will be played on a 100-yard



Alisha Lundgren, assistant deputy director of the Umatilla County Health Department, draws up doses of the COVID-19 vaccine Oct. 29, 2021, during a booster shot clinic at the Pendleton Convention Center. The Oregon Health Authority reported Umatilla County had the second highest COVID-19 case rate among Oregon counties as of July 20, 2022.

# COVID-19:

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OHA wastewater monitoring for SARS-CoV-2 viral concentration showed no change at Pendleton and sustained decrease at Hermiston this month. Pendleton was last sampled on July 11 and Hermiston on July 14.

Umatilla County’s COVID-19 vaccination rate of 60.4% of population aged 18 or older with at least one dose remains below the state median for 36 counties of about 69.5% and state mean average of 84.6%.

In Umatilla County, of people ages 18 and older 14,567 have received a booster dose. Those eligible to receive a booster dose but who haven’t yet numbered 18,260. Of those eligible 44.4% have received a booster.

For comparison, statewide 84.6% of those over 18 have been vaccinated and of those eligible 47.4% have been boosted, Goodnight reported.

The OHA urged Oregonians in the 21 counties with high COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations to mask up on Wednesday, July 20, warning the state’s hospital system is again under extreme strain.

“You still need to wear a mask in health care settings

**UMATILLA COUNTY COVID-19 VACCINATION STATS**

Umatilla County had a population of 80,075, according to the 2020 census. Of that number, 40,853 individuals have been vaccinated, equating to 60.4% of those 18 or older being vaccinated, as of July 18, according to the OHA. That breaks down by age group as follows:

- 5 months to 4 years:** 41.
- 5-11 years:** 1,149.
- 12-17 years:** 2,966.
- 18-19 years:** 1,240.
- 20-49 years:** 16,615.
- 50-64 years:** 8,859.
- 65+ years:** 9,983.

to keep everyone safe,” the OHA’s website read.

The OHA emphasized that data from Opera, Oregon’s COVID-19 disease surveillance system, are provisional and subject to change.

Both presumptive and confirmed cases make up the total. Presumptive cases are people without a positive diagnostic test but with symptoms like COVID-19 and close contact with a laboratory-confirmed case.

76<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL

# FEEL THE THUNDER!

## Chief Joseph Days RODEO

July 26 - 31, 2022

Four nights of PRCA rodeo plus six days of western entertainment in scenic Joseph, Oregon!

TUE	1:30pm	Bucking Horse Stampede — Main Street
WED	9:30am	Little Buckaroo Special Needs Rodeo
	2:00pm	Slack — Arena
	6:00pm	Rodeo Gates Open — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	7:00pm	PRCA RODEO — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	9:00pm	Family Fun at the Thunder Room — DJ
THUR	9:00am	Tough Enough to Wear Pink Walk
	9:00am	Steer Tripping, Three Rounds
	2:00pm	Slack — Arena
	6:00pm	Rodeo Gates Open — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	7:00pm	PRCA RODEO — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
		Tough Enough to Wear Pink — Wear Pink
	9:00pm	Fun at the Thunder Room after Rodeo — Stay Tuned!
FRI	10:00am	Chief Joseph Junior Parade — Main Street
	2:00pm	Slack — Arena
	6:00pm	Rodeo Gates Open — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	7:00pm	PRCA RODEO — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	9:00pm	All Teen Dance — Joseph Community Center
	9:30pm	Live Music and Dancing at Thunder Room — Whiskey Creek
SAT	10:00am	Grand Parade — Main Street
	2:30pm	Slack — Arena
	6:00pm	Rodeo Gates Open — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	7:00pm	PRCA RODEO — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	9:00pm	All Teen Dance — Joseph Community Center
	9:30pm	Live Music and Dancing at Thunder Room — Whiskey Creek
		After Rodeo — Cowboy Breakfast — Rodeo Grounds — til 3:00am
SUN	6:00am	Cowboy Breakfast — Rodeo Grounds — til 10:00am
	9:00am	Cowboy Church Service

To purchase tickets and for more information visit [www.chiefjosephdays.com](http://www.chiefjosephdays.com)