

AIRPORT: Corbett has rosy view of the \$80.1 million budget for 2018-2019

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With increased business comes increased operational expenses and infrastructure needs, Corbett said, and whatever extra money from UAS revenue is going toward those factors.

“It’s going to be a while before we are going to pull money out of the airport by the wheelbarrow,” he said.

The airport is supposed to operate like the water or sewer fund, using the revenue it generates itself to sustain operations and maintenance.

But the city has long relied on interfund loans from the general fund and other internal sources to prop up the airport.

In addition to making a payment on the loan, Corbett said the city’s finance department would use the month of June to look into retroactively slashing the loan’s interest rate, which could dock more than \$1 million in interest off the ledger.

Although the overall airport fund is projected to fall from \$4.4 million in 2017-2018 to \$4.2 million in 2018-2019, revenue from total charges for services is expected to rise from \$974,550 to \$1.2 million, with UAS revenue a large part of the growth.

The airport will rely on the general fund to pay back

some of its debt, but Corbett said the airport’s decreased reliance on the general fund for operational costs (\$252,000 in 2017-2018 to \$130,000 in 2018-2019) is a sign that things are going in the right direction.

Paving the streets with pot dollars

Corbett used “status quo budget” to describe several funds, but had a rosy view of the \$80.1 million budget for 2018-2019.

“I am humbled to be the leader of such a great organization and have confidence this budget will further its goals,” he wrote in the budget’s introductory letter, highlighting achievements in the Pendleton Convention Center, the Pendleton Public Library, the facility department, among others.

Despite Corbett’s optimism, Councilor Scott Fairley suggested the city manager temper some of it with a more sobering fact.

“We’re putting (forth) a balanced budget and we’re doing the best with the resources we have, but we still are not adequately maintaining the facilities the city’s responsible for,” Fairley said. “I would like to see that reflected in the budget message.”

The city also has a backlog

“We are still not adequately maintaining the facilities the city’s responsible for.”

— Scott Fairley, Pendleton city councilor

in street maintenance, but the \$3.3 million streets fund will be aided by revenue from taxes on marijuana dispensary sales for the first time this upcoming fiscal year.

Carter, the finance director, said she’s prohibited from listing marijuana revenue in the budget, but there are clues to the amount the city is projecting.

Earlier this year, the council agreed to earmark 50 percent of marijuana revenue toward street repair and maintenance, which is reflected in a \$100,000 transfer from “other funds” to the street fund, suggesting the city is expecting \$200,000 from dispensaries in the next fiscal year.

While declining to provide an actual figure, Corbett said the marijuana revenue budget is less a definitive projection and more of a “bookmark” for expected revenue.

Although the council agreed to send half of all marijuana revenue to streets, Corbett said the city will likely keep the rest undesig-

nated, especially considering the expected rising cost of Oregon’s Public Employee Retirement System.

The proposed budget for 2018-2019 has flat funding in a lot of areas, but the building division’s projected revenues will see a 141 percent increase to \$474,650.

Corbett said the city under-projected revenues last year, with the city actually making \$338,000 instead of the expected \$196,900.

The city has now reset expectations following a strong year for building permits during the 2017 calendar year.

The budget committee will meet again on Thursday at 6 p.m. and May 10 at 7 a.m. The committee could also meet on May 8 and May 11 at 7 a.m. if necessary.

The committee will make a recommendation to the city council, which is scheduled to adopt the final budget on June 5.

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VOTERS: Tight timeline to gather 88,184 signatures to qualify for ballot

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24 hours of the theft or loss.

Last week, the draft ballot title for Initiative Petition 43, an “assault weapons” ban, was published. It says that the measure would criminalize possession and transfer of “assault

weapons” and “large-capacity magazines,” except for military and law enforcement purposes. The draft ballot title says that “Assault weapons include certain semi-automatic rifles or pistols with a detachable magazine; pistol or rifles with a fixed magazine holding more than 10 rounds of ammunition; certain semi-automatic shotguns.”

And the draft ballot title defines a large-capacity magazine as an “ammunition feeding device with capacity of more than ten rounds.”

The measure would go into effect Jan. 1, 2019.

Oregonians who already own those types of firearms and magazines would be required to undergo a background check and register them with the Oregon State Police if they wanted to keep them.

A group of interfaith and youth leaders are behind the measure, galvanized by the Feb. 14 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.

The Lift Every Voice Campaign, which is advocating for IP 43, held a signature-gathering training

at Augustana Lutheran Church in Northeast Portland Monday night. It wants to use an all-volunteer group rather than paying signature gatherers, says one of the sponsors of the petition, the Rev. W.J. Mark Knutson.

Members of the press, including the EO/Pamplin Capital Bureau, were asked to leave during the actual training, but were permitted to attend the opening and closing remarks.

The petition must get 88,184 valid signatures by July 6 to qualify for the ballot, according to the secretary of state’s office.

Knutson acknowledges the tight timeline for signature-gathering, and says his group wants to train thousands of volunteers around the state to gather the required signatures.

After considering comments on draft ballot titles for initiative petitions, the attorney general issues a certified ballot title and files it with the Elections Division.

If a registered voter is dissatisfied with the certified ballot title, he or she can petition the Oregon Supreme Court to review the ballot title.

In order to submit your comments, voters can email irrlistnotifier.sos.oregon.gov; fax 503-373-7414 and send them via mail to 255 Capitol Street NE, Suite 501, Salem, OR 97310.

WHEATRIDGE: DOE says facility must break ground by 2020, be operational by 2023

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Olsen said the money covered about a week’s worth of work from the law firm, but once the siting council decided Wheatridge did not have to include powerline placement in the plan, the county’s fight was finished. Commissioner George Murdock agreed. After that,

he said, there was no use pursuing the matter.

Much of the discussion concerning Wheatridge and those power lines took place in public meetings and public hearings.

But deciding to drop the matter did not.

Mabbott at that time told the commissioners the county would seek reimbursement

for the lawyer fees from the Oregon Department of Energy. Instead, Wheatridge will pay that tab.

Under the strategic investment plan the county and Wheatridge worked out in September 2017, the company will pay property taxes on the first \$25 million in real market value of the project, a community

service fee up to \$500,000 a year for 15 years, and local improvement payments of \$150,000 a year for 15 years. Wheatridge also has to cut a \$22,607 check to cover the county’s lawyer fees.

Olsen said none of that money comes in, however, until after the wind farm is operational.



Kim Hong-Ji/Pool Photo via AP
South Korean soldiers dismantle loudspeakers that set up for propaganda broadcasts near the zone separating the two Koreas in Paju, South Korea, Tuesday.

Propaganda loudspeakers dismantled at Korean border

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The rival Koreas dismantled huge loudspeakers used to blare Cold War-style propaganda across their tense border on Tuesday, as South Korea’s president asked the United Nations to observe the North’s planned closing of its nuclear test site.

The dismantling of dozens of loudspeakers was in line with an agreement on reconciliation by the leaders of the Koreas at their historic summit last Friday. It is still unclear if such measures can bring permanent peace because no major breakthrough in the North Korean nuclear standoff was produced at the summit.

South Korean soldiers disassembled loudspeakers in multiple front-line areas in the presence of journalists before pulling them away from the border, the Defense Ministry said.

A South Korea military officer said later Tuesday that North Korea had also begun taking down its propaganda loudspeakers earlier in the day. He requested anonymity, citing department rules.

Both Koreas had turned off the propaganda broadcasts

along the 154-mile-long border last week before the summit.

They had restarted their propaganda warfare in early 2016 when tensions rose sharply after North Korea’s fourth nuclear test. South Korea broadcast K-pop songs as well as criticism of the North’s abysmal human rights conditions, world news and weather forecasts. The North broadcast anti-South messages and praises of its own political system.

North Korea is extremely sensitive to any outside criticism of its system, and most of its 24 million people are not allowed access to foreign TV and radio programs. In 2014, North Korean soldiers opened fire after South Korean activists sent anti-North leaflets over the border with large balloons, prompting South Korea to return fire. There were no reports of casualties.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has suspended nuclear and missile tests and placed his nuclear program up for negotiation, but skepticism lingers about how serious his offer is and what disarmament steps he would eventually take.

Umatilla County Year of Wellness

First Quarter: April - June 2018

YOW MISSION

The Year of Wellness strives to increase community engagement at health related events and programs throughout the county in an effort to educate and promote healthy lifestyle choices that can be easily adapted by all county residents.

WIN A PRIZE!

Attend any YOW event to enter into a raffle to be chosen at the end of the quarter. The more events you attend the more chances you have to win!

1st Draw - \$200 Echo Bike & Board Gift Certificate, Pendleton

2nd & 3rd Draw - \$50 Scott’s Cycle & Sports Gift Certificate, Hermiston

MONTH’S THEMES

April Environmental Health
May Physical Health
June Nutrition

THIS QUARTER’S EVENTS

FREE Passport to Wellness Health Fair
April 14th • 9 AM - 2 PM
Pendleton Convention Center

Community Clean-Up Day
May 3 • 12 PM - 3 PM
Pilot Rock

Cinco de Mayo Celebration
May 5th & 6th
EOTEC, Hermiston

May Madness 3v3 Tournament
May 19th • Saturday
Downtown Pendleton

Landing Day
June 22nd & 23rd
Umatilla City

Farmers Market
First Friday of the month, Pendleton
Last Wednesday of the month, Milton-Freewater

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