

The airport looks ahead at a busy summer

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant County Regional Airport will only need \$3.3 million of the \$6.25 million grant the airport applied for last year.

Airport Manager Haley Walker said the airport is saving the taxpayers money because the project bid from the construction contractor and the engineering consultants only came out to about half of what they originally asked for.

The \$6.25 million grant was secured through the federal Department of Transportation's Airport Improvement Program.

The large federal grant with no match required will allow the airport to "decouple" its two runways and make takeoffs and landings safer.

Walker said the construction of the project will take place this summer.

Runway 9/27, which runs roughly east-west, and Runway 17/35, which runs roughly north-south, crisscross near the south end of the airfield. Walker said it had been identified by the Federal Aviation Administration as a potential hazard.

"As a result of completing this project, we will be able to make future improvements at the airport such as widening taxiways," Walker said.

Additionally, the airport received

\$20,000 through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act to tackle maintenance projects, such as the purchase of a pod sweeper and improved fencing.

"The \$20,000 through the CARES Act was excellent news that doesn't have to come out of our current budget," she said.

Also, Walker said the north apron reconstruction project, repairs to the deteriorating apron, began on May 26.

"If I was to tell you what the number one thing that local airport users wanted from day one when I started four years ago, it would be that project so that's exciting news to get that taken care of," Walker said.

Meanwhile, Walker said, the environmental assessment project, which looks at the next several years of projects and getting the environmental clearance for those future projects will save time and money, starts this summer as well.

Walker said the grants and funding are a combination of both state and federal funding streams.

She said the total comes to roughly \$7 million.

"Yeah, it's kind of neat where I believe it's only gonna be about \$40,000 out of our airport budget for almost \$7 million," Walker said. "So I would definitely call that a good use of funds and leveraging of grants that are available."



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell

Grant County Regional Airport Manager Haley Walker addresses the Grant County Court May 27.

Laycock Creek Firewise Project released for public scoping

Blue Mountain Eagle

The 21-day scoping period for the Laycock Creek Firewise Project on the Malheur National Forest's Blue Mountain Ranger District will begin on Thursday, June 18, and end on Thursday, July 9.

Specific scoping comments will help the team determine if other actions are needed, explore alternative proposals, or identify concerns or gaps in information, according to a Forest Service press release.

The Laycock Creek Firewise Project proposes thinning (which may produce commercial products) and prescribed fire to reduce fuel loads on approximately 3,000 acres of National Forest System lands adjacent to private property to (1) minimize the spread of wildfires onto private property, (2) improve wildlife habitat and forage, and (3) restore overall forest resiliency to disturbances.

The scoping package, which contains maps and proposed activity descriptions, can be accessed on the Malheur National Forest website at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=58212>.

Written comments can be submitted to: Robert Foxworth, c/o Bethany Parke, Blue Mountain Ranger District, P.O. Box 909, John Day, OR 97845.

Electronic comments can be submitted to: comments: pacificnorthwest-malheur-blue-mountain@usda.gov.

For more information, contact Bethany Parker, NEPA planner, at 541-575-3031 or by email at bethany.parker@usda.gov.

Oregon lawmakers to meet in special session next week

Budget cuts don't make the agenda — yet — but police accountability is top of mind

By Peter Wong
Oregon Capital Bureau

Bills to tighten the accountability of police after the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis would lead a list of about two dozen action items proposed for a special session of the Oregon Legislature targeted for Wednesday, June 24.

Gov. Kate Brown called for a session Tuesday morning. The session will exclude talks of potential spending cuts in the current two-year state budget. Legislative budget subcommittees are just starting to look at

the cuts submitted by agencies, hearing from the public and coming up with their own proposals. Two of them have scheduled meetings for Wednesday, June 17.

Topping the list are bills dealing with police accountability, as proposed by the nine-member People of Color Caucus and supported by Brown and Democratic legislative leaders in the aftermath of street protests in Portland and other cities. Floyd died May 25.

One bill would bar a labor arbitrator from reducing discipline against a police officer if the employing agency con-

cluded there was misconduct on the officer's part. This bill has passed the Senate without dissent in 2019 and 2020, but failed to reach a vote in the House before the abrupt close of the 2020 session on March 5.

Others may prove to be more controversial. There are proposals to set up a state-wide database for police disciplinary cases, designate the attorney general instead of district attorneys to investigate police when use of force results in death or serious injuries, require police to report misbehavior by other police and outlaw the use of chokeholds, tear gas and other methods.

Several proposed action items stem from Brown's

executive orders during the coronavirus pandemic, such as moratoriums on residential and commercial evictions, changes to public meeting requirements and shielding payments made under the federal coronavirus aid act.

Others are bills that were proposed but failed to advance in the 2020 session.

One of them would make technical changes in the commercial activity tax that Oregon lawmakers enacted in 2019. Business groups have urged a suspension of the tax for the first two quarters of 2020, but Brown has declined so far to do so. The Department of Revenue did defer payments by the smallest businesses subject to the tax to April 2021, and it will not

penalize businesses for late reports if they show good-faith efforts.

One bill would adjust deadlines for court cases, particularly for some crimes that are subject to speedy-trial requirements. The courts do not have the legal authority to change the deadlines, which were affected when courts curtailed operations during the pandemic.

Charles Boyle, spokesperson for the governor, said her office expected to make an announcement on special session early this week.

Once a session is underway, issues are not limited, but legislative leaders can control the flow of bills through the committee system.

WHICH KUBOTA IS FOR YOU?



NEW M8-191

- 190 Rated Engine HP¹, B6.7L Tier 4 Final, Stage V Engine
- K-Monitor Allows Complete Control of Tractor Functionality
- 148 Cubic Feet of Cabin Space • Standard Air Suspension Seat



NEW MX5400

- 55.5 Gross HP¹, 4-Cylinder Kubota Diesel Engine
- Available in 2WD or 4WD Models • Gear Drive Transmission
- Climate-Controlled, Factory-Installed Cab or ROPS



L2501HST

- 24.8 Gross HP¹, 3-Cylinder Kubota Diesel Engine
- 4WD • Hydrostatic Transmission (HST)
- Performance-Matched Implements Available



BX23S

- 21.6 Gross HP¹, 3-Cylinder Kubota Diesel Engine
- Fully Integrated Tractor/Loader/Backhoe
- Swift-Tach Loader System • Swift-Connect Backhoe



KX040-4

- 40.4 Gross HP¹, Kubota Diesel Engine
- Spacious Cab with Wider Entrance, Fully Flat Floor & Deluxe Suspension Seat • Hydraulic 6-in-1 Blade



SVL75-2

- 74.3 Gross HP¹, 4-Cylinder Turbocharged Kubota Diesel Engine
- Powerful Breakout Force • 360° Visibility in Cab
- High Ground Clearance

NO PAYMENTS FOR 90 DAYS
We're working to keep you working. Offer good until 6/30/20²

\$0 DOWN, 0% A.P.R. FINANCING FOR UP TO 84 MONTHS ON SELECT NEW KUBOTAS!¹



5629 SOUTH SIXTH ST.
KLAMATH FALLS, OR
541-882-8809

3290 S HIGHWAY 97
REDMOND, OR
541-548-6744

211 HIGHWAY 20 S
HINES, OR 97738
541-573-1322
541-589-3877

www.plattequipment.com



1. © Kubota Tractor Corporation, 2020. Offer valid for residents within states of CA, AZ, NV, UT, WY, ID, OR, MT and WA only. \$0 Down, 0% A.P.R. financing for up to 84 months on purchases of select new Kubota B, BX, L, L60 and LX Series equipment from participating dealers' in-stock inventory is available to qualified purchasers through Kubota Credit Corporation, U.S.A.; subject to credit approval. Some exceptions apply. Example: 84 monthly payments of \$11.90 per \$1,000 financed. Offer expires 6/30/20. Terms subject to change. This material is for descriptive purposes only. Kubota disclaims all representations and warranties, express or implied, or any liability from the use of this material. For complete warranty, disclaimer, safety, incentive offer and product information, consult your local Dealer or go to KubotaUSA.com. 2. © Kubota Tractor Corporation 2020. 0% APR financing on purchases of select new equipment from participating dealers' in-stock inventory is available to qualified purchasers through Kubota Credit Corporation, U.S.A.; subject to credit approval. Monthly terms may vary. Some exceptions apply. Offer expires 7/31/20. Contract term begins from the date of first payment which is due 90 days from the contract date. Example: Purchase made on 4/1/20, first monthly payment is due 7/1/20. 90 day no payment offer expires 6/30/20. Terms subject to change. This material is for descriptive purposes only. Kubota disclaims all representations and warranties, express or implied, or any liability from the use of this material. For complete warranty, disclaimer, safety, incentive offer and product information, consult your local Dealer or KubotaUSA.com. *For complete warranty, safety and product information, consult your local Kubota dealer and the product operator's manual. Power (HP/KW) and other specifications are based on various standards or recommended practices. K1278-24-144400-2