

MEETINGS

Women's Center will hold a Women's Coffee Hour today at 5 p.m. in the back room of Espresso Roma. For more information, call 346-4095.

MISCELLANEOUS

UWAH will show "The Wedding Banquet" today at 5 p.m. at 710 E. 14th Ave. #5. For more information call 686-3433.

Students for Choice will celebrate the 24th anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision at noon today in the Ben Linder Forum. For more information, call 346-0649.

Academic Advising and Stu-

dent Services will lead a Teacher Education Workshop at 3:30 p.m. today in 164 Oregon Hall. For more information, call 346-3211.

Career Center will offer a Career Center Services Orientation from 2 to 2:30 p.m. and a Campus Interview Program Orientation from 2:30 to 3 p.m. today in 12 Hendricks. Additionally, an Effective Interviewing Workshop will be held from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in 12 Hendricks, and a workshop on Finding a Job on the Internet will be from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in 144 Knight Library. Sign up for workshops in 244 Hendricks. For more information, call 346-3235.

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Councilors work to restructure

■ **COUNCIL:** Closing the Willakenzie Fire Station was found not to be a viable way to cut the city's budget

By Eric Collins
Community Reporter

In a work session designed for councilors to review and approve proposals to gain short-term cash savings Wednesday evening, city councilors found themselves struggling at the offset of the Measure 47 work plan.

"Restructuring will not occur with a \$10 million cut in the budget," said Councilor Tim Laue. "There are going to be many people upset with the cuts we make."

The council arranged a cash-saving fund due to the lower amount of property tax revenue that can be collected next year, as directed by Measure 47. The measure restricts property tax revenue to 1994-1995 levels or 1995-96 levels minus 10 percent, whichever is lower. Future tax increases are also limited to three percent.

While discussing proposed cuts in public safety, public works, planning and development, administrative services and library, recreation and cultural services, councilors voted

on the deletion of certain proposals they didn't agree with. Escaping the cuts were plans to close down a Willakenzie Fire Station, the elimination of ten hours of library operation and the closing of the Internet Center.

The closure of the fire station for two out of three days would have created an \$80,000 savings. However, councilors voted to delete the item from the cuts for several reasons.

"If we are periodically closing a station for a day shift, we are undermining our goals of using stations as safe havens and as places for quick medical attention," said Councilor Nancy Nathanson. Councilor Pat Farr said he didn't want the public to perceive the council as choosing items that would hurt the community the most, such as this proposed closure, because the community would lose confidence in the council. Council President Laurie Swanson-Gribkov said she was not prepared to vote on the closure in the Jan. 27 Council meeting. "We may have to face doing something like this, but this is not the right time to do it because it warrants more discussion," said Swanson-Gribkov.

The proposed elimination of summer playgrounds and wad-

ing pools, which 6,500 children used in 1996, prompted Councilor Bobby Lee to stress the need for the city to identify other agencies to hand off proposed cuts to.

"This is one of the last few free programs we offer citizens," said Councilor Swanson-Gribkov. "It comes back to impact the lowest economic class in the end."

Mayor Jim Torrey asked for identification of the community pools most used by at-risk children and information of possible volunteer assistance groups before he would make a decision. Councilors will wait on this item until their 1997-1998 goal session meeting in February.

City Councilors will decide on ratifying the rest of the proposed cuts at the January 27, City Council meeting.

Earlier in the work session, Ken Tollenaar was unanimously selected as the next Ward 5 city councilor.

Six citizens were also appointed to the Toxics Board, formed because of the passage of Measure 20-75. Advocating for the public's right to know are Mary O'Brien, Steve Johnson and Samuel Frear. Persons employed by businesses required to report under the measure are Donald Upson, Jeff Smith and Steve Morgan.

UO profs not chosen for toxics board

■ **CANDIDATES:** Board was created after the passage of Measure 20-75, which requires large companies to track their use of toxins

By Eric Collins
Community Reporter

One believed it was his civic duty, the other thought he could contribute his expertise, but two University professors applying for positions on the City of Eugene Toxics Board were not appointed Wednesday evening.

Bob Collin, associate professor in environmental studies, and Paul Engelking, professor of chemistry, had been interviewed by the City Council for one of the three positions offered as citizens with a record for advocating for the public's right to know. However, Mary O'Brien, Steve Johnson and Samuel Frear were appointed to the board.

Council President Mary Swanson-Gribkov said Engelking was found to be ineligible for the position and thus taken out of consideration because he lives outside of the urban-growth boundary. The council was given power to waive the residency requirement if it was in the best interest of the committee, but the requirement was not waived in this instance.

The board was created when Eugene citizens passed Measure 20-75, a measure requiring large companies to track their use of hazardous or toxic chemicals and report them to the public.

"Whoever is on the board is subject to the charter requirements, which is the enforcement of the right to know," said Collin in an interview prior to the appointments. "The debate should be on the strength of the enforcement, but not on the right to know."

The purpose of the board is to define a format for the filing of reports, agree on fees to be used to support the measure and decide on enforcement and penalties. Three members of the board must be employed by or act as agents for interests who will be affected by the measure. Three members must have demonstrated their advocacy for the public's right to know.

“

Every person has the right to know what is in the water and what is in the rain. This is a simple fundamental right.

— Bob Collin
Associate professor
in environmental studies

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Collin, a 3-year faculty member, felt it was his duty to get involved in community affairs.

"My experience is working with pilot programs," Collin said. "I [could have helped] the board get set up so that it's not arbitrary and so that it's not unconstitutional."

Collin, who has an emphasis in urban environmentalism, was indirectly involved with the passing of Measure 20-75. Several students from a class he taught called "Environmental Law for Citizens," worked on introducing the initiative.

Engelking can say even more. The physical chemistry professor provided members of the right-to-know initiative with a technical expertise in hazardous waste management as they drew up the document.

"I've seen the aftermath of a few industrial accidents," Engelking said. "Often lawyers for industrial companies will advise [companies] not to divulge any information not required by law. This measure works with lawyers and still gives citizens information."

Engelking's work with chemicals has given him a view of both sides of the story. He said after working with hazardous wastes at the University that he understands the amount of time and paperwork involved in the reporting of chemicals. Still, he said he believes in the standards of the measure.

Collin was straightforward in his analysis of the measure.

"Every person has the right to know what is in the water and what is in the rain," Collin said. "This is a simple fundamental right."

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