

# RCC board holds fast for budget economy

Rogue Community College is holding the line to honor a commitment last year to maintain tuition and fees at current rates during the coming fiscal year.

Tuition will hold at \$59 for in-state students, \$71 for out-of-state students, and \$191 for international pupils if RCC directors approve the 2004-05 fiscal budget as proposed. Fees also would remain fixed.

Reviewed recently by the RCC Budget Committee, the proposed \$27.1 million budget is essentially "a rollover budget," said Lynda Warren, dean of College Services.

It includes the same personnel and service levels as in the current fiscal year, but with one exception: Two of four faculty positions unfilled after retirements during the 2002-03 year will be reinstated.

Personnel costs are based on the two-year agreements made last year with faculty and classified (non-teaching) associations. Materials and supplies "will rise only about 2 percent."

However, said Warren, "Holding the line will not come without some hard decisions." She noted that failure of Measure 30 in February forced a \$6.8 million reduction in state funding for community colleges.

And, she added, while part of the reduction will be offset by recent changes in the community college funding formula, RCC still would be faced with an \$800,000 lack.

To offset it, the college proposes using \$800,000 currently in a reserve fund to balance the budget.



**STATION PAINT PARTY** - Several Illinois Valley Fire District volunteers joined Chief Harry Rich; and Beth Beards, district administrative assistant, for a work party in the main station in Cave Junction on Saturday, April 24. The goal, which was reached, was to improve the office décor, as it needed a facelift. Although a new station is planned, it was decided to make the main office more attractive for customers and staff. And Rich (wearing nifty hat) found yet another use for 'Illinois Valley News.'

# Selma Center lease gains renewal

By SHANE WELSH  
Staff Writer

Selma Community and Education Center (SCEC) has been granted a new lease on life.

Three Rivers School District Board of Directors met on Wednesday evening, April 21 at Illinois Valley High School, along with more than 90 community members, to discuss and vote on several issues including a five-year renewal of its lease to the Selma center.

SCEC board members proposed that the district renew and amend the original lease to allow a 120-day response to match bids; should the property go up for sale in the future.

SCEC Chairman Mort Mondale presented a packet to the board which contained the county assessed market value of \$131,800 for the land, utilities, and well; excluding the building.

District board Chairman Dave Toler noted an older assessment of \$500,000 for the land and building.

District board member Bill BonVille responded saying, "Half-a-million

dollar estimate for that building, I think is unrealistic. It would be for sale the rest of your life, it would never get sold. Except for what the SCEC is doing with it (the building), it would probably be ready for bulldozing and the land sold as is."

**Directors urged to come up with a 'more realistic' price for the site.**

Community member Elaine Wood defended SCEC's assessment. "Part of the equation needs to be non-monetary," she said. "That school was part of the community before it was shut down. It brought people together and kept the community together."

"That needs to go into the equation, and you won't find an assessor that can do that."

Members of the SCEC board urged the district to consider establishing a "more realistic" estimate for the total value of the property, including the building.

"We just want you to know you have a buyer; if the price is right," said Bill Hunt, SCEC volunteer.

Since establishment of the center in Selma, volunteers have donated more than 6,000 hours at the building administering activities ranging from community breakfasts and dinners, to environmental education and community training.

Mondale reminded the district board that the gymnasium on the property

was constructed entirely through community funding and donations.

The district recommended that an assessment be performed soon at an estimated cost of \$6,500 to include a market appraisal with and without the gym; if possible.

"I certainly think the land is probably worth a little more than \$131,800, but we should have an assessment done to establish a correct figure," said Bon-Ville.

The school district board voted unanimously to extend the SCEC lease to five years, and allow 120 days to match bids; pending attorney approval.

# State aviation earns honor

Oregon Dept. of Aviation has received the annual Conference Award from the Federal Aviation Administration's Northwest Mountain Region.

An annual award usually presented by FAA staff to a selected Northwest Region public-use airport, this year's was unusual in that it was given a government agency.

The inscription reads, "For exemplary leadership in fostering innovative programs to plan and address the aviation needs of Oregon's airport system."

Oregon Dept. of Aviation manages a variety of programs that advocate for the growth, improvement and safe operation of the state's aviation system, the agency said. Situated in the Salem Airport, the department is a non-regulatory state agency that has a staff of 16 employees.



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