

June 15 set to OK RCC new budget

The Rogue Community College Budget Committee moved a step closer during its May 18 meeting to finalize the fiscal 2004-05 budget.

The panel approved the \$27.649 million general fund budget, with final adoption by the RCC Board of Education set for June 15.

The \$27.649 million is approximately \$547,000 higher than the proposed \$27.1 million budget the panel reviewed in April. That amount was described as essentially a "rollover budget" by Lynda Warren, dean of College Services.

The slight increase stems from projections for higher enrollment next year, which would produce more tuition and fees, Warren explained.

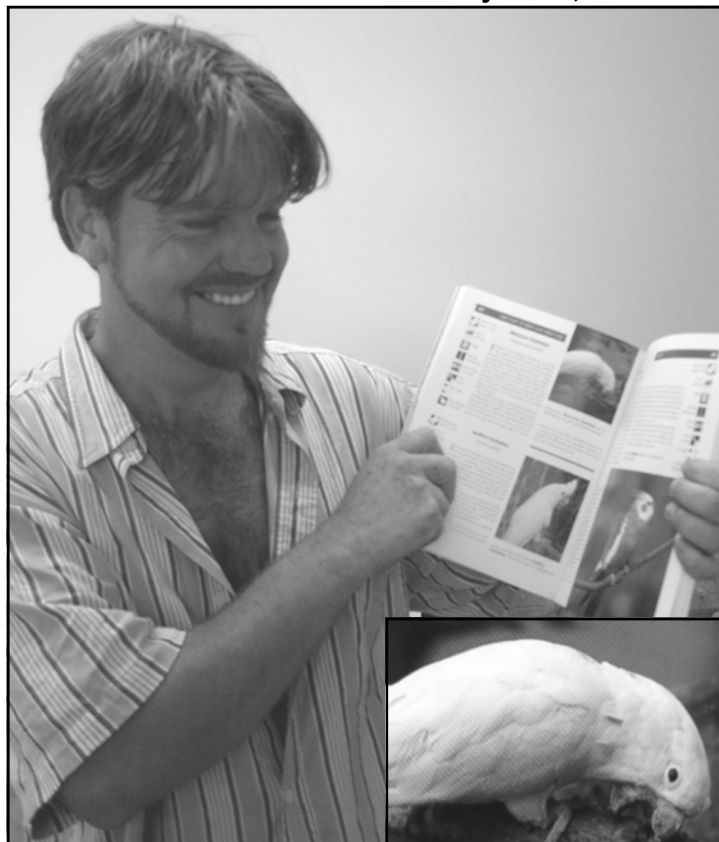
The additional revenue would be used to increase the contingency reserve from \$471,000 to \$801,000 and to cover costs of additional part-time instructors who may be needed to meet increased enrollment.

The budget committee also reaffirmed the commitment made in 2003 to hold fees and tuition level for two years. If the board of education adopts the 2004-05 budget as proposed, tuition will remain at \$59 for in-state students, \$71 for out-of-state students, and \$191 for international students. Fees also will remain fixed.

The board of education, which convened after the budget committee, accepted a \$10,000 grant from the city of Grants Pass for the Grants Pass Manufacturing Support Pilot Project through the Oregon Manufacturing Extension Partnership. The project will enable area businesses and manufacturers to acquire technical expertise needed to stay competitive with global economy.

The board also conducted a first reading of the panel's annual reorganization. If it receives final approval in June, Pat Huycke will serve as board chairman for 2004-05, taking the reins from Dr. David Trump. Sharon Davidson will be vice chairman.

I.V. Chamber presents 'Route 66' FREE country music concert in Jubilee Park on Thursday, June 17, 6:30 - 8 p.m.



David Packard looking for his cockatoo



'Max' missing; owner wants friend returned

"Max" the cockatoo is missing, and his human buddy suspects fowl play.

Greatly missing his feathered friend since around 7:30 p.m. on May 31 is David Packard, who recently relocated to Cave Junction from San Diego.

"Max," who's approximately 10, is a white male Moluccan cockatoo standing about a foot tall. He has a bright orange crest. He is friendly and has an amazing vocabulary.

"And he doesn't bite," said Packard.

The facts about the disappearance are sparse, but deputies of Josephine County Sheriff's Office are on the alert for the bird as a possible theft case.

"Here's what happened," said Packard. He went to Shop Smart for something, and left "Max" on a shopping cart handle near one entrance. It was not unusual for him to do so, Packard noted.

He was inside for less than five minutes. When he got outside again, "Max" was gone.

Some people at the deposit container machines told Packard that his little buddy had been picked up by a young, blond-haired woman, who said that she was going to place an ad to find the owner.

She drove away in a blue SUV, it was reported.

Since then, Packard has received no word about "Max," and has seen no ads seeking the bird's owner.

"I just want him back," said Packard. He's the son

of CJ residents Mark and Karen Boney. The bird is worth approximately \$2,000, he said.

Packard has lived with "Max" for the past two years, since a co-worker at the senior retirement home where they worked gave him the critter.

"She had to find a new place for him," said Packard, "as her husband told her it was either him or the bird."

During his work at the retirement center, "Max" often perched on Packard's shoulder while he worked with handicapped and Alzheimer's patients. They have a close friendship, and Packard misses him.

Plus he's worried about his welfare. "Max," like others of his breed, has the mentality of a 4- to 5-year-old child, and picks out his own fruits and vegetables for meals.

Packard and his family have been driving around the area trying to find "Max."

He will come to anyone who calls his name, as he can fly for short distances with his clipped wings.

His extensive vocabulary includes, "Love bird," and "come back." He also makes a whispering noise like several people talking, and he enjoys being petted like a cat.

Anyone with information about the bird's whereabouts can phone 592-3109.

A lot of people are hoping for a reunion of man and cockatoo.

Tell your friends you saw it in the 'I.V. Noose'

ODOT Road Projects map available

Want to know where and when you might encounter orange cones and work zones as you travel around Oregon this summer?

The Oregon Dept. of Transportation (ODOT) is distributing the Summer 2004 Road Projects Map so that motorists can plan ahead.

With 121 projects on the map, this is one of the busiest construction seasons in recent history, said ODOT. The increase is fueled in part by the Oregon Transportation Investment Act (OTIA).

The Oregon Legislature passed a series of funding packages that raise \$2.96 billion for highway and bridge construction work during the next several years. OTIA funding is contributing to 17 projects scheduled for this construction season.

"More road projects also means you're more likely to encounter a work zone," said ODOT. "When driving through a work zone, remember to slow down; be alert for changes to traffic patterns; and be aware of workers and equipment. In 2002, there

were 305 traffic crashes, five fatalities and 290 injuries related to traffic in work zones."

The construction map is a helpful guide for general information about construction activity. For current road conditions, including construction activity, motorists can log on to www.TripCheck.com or phone 511.

The map is available at several locations around the state, including offices of Driver and Motor Vehicle Services, truck stops, welcome centers and ODOT offices.

Excellent water year seen drying up

The chances of an excellent water year for Oregon agriculture have literally dried up the past couple of months as a warm, dry spring has replaced the wet, snowy winter across most of the state.

The end result is a summer of mixed results for irrigators depending on where they live and how much water they need.

"Water conditions for agriculture have been up and down this year, at best," said Jon Lea, hydrologist with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

"In January, we had a lot of rainfall around the state and some really good snow levels in the higher elevations. Right up to the first week of March, everything looked good. Then it sort of stopped."

The snow pack, so important for Oregon's 27 major irrigation reservoirs, peaked out a month earlier than normal. March usually brings with it a good amount of snow - up to 20 percent of Oregon's snowpack is developed during the month - but the weather turned warm and dry right through April, turning a potentially very good water year into one not so rosy.

"It's almost as if we didn't get 20 percent of our snowfall this year," said Lea. "By the end of March, we were already seeing snow melt even in the higher elevations. That's at least a month early."

Mountain snowpack is critical to healthy stream flows that end up in irrigation reservoirs around the state. Much of Oregon agriculture, especially east of

the Cascades, depends on a good supply of water provided by the reservoirs.

Whereas the 2003 water year started slow and ended strong following a wet and cool spring, this year got off to an impressive start. Statewide snowpack through February reached about 130 percent of average. Some locations

had precipitation 140 percent of average during the wet, cool, early winter in Oregon.

While many Oregonians enjoyed the nice weather in March, the lack of additional snow in the mountains did nothing to solidify the prospects of having plenty of water in the summer.

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OTHER HOURS BY APPOINTMENT

Church News

St. Patrick of the Forest Catholic Church
Celebrations during June will continue with the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ on Sunday, June 13.
Scripture readings from Paul and Luke contain passages related to breaking bread and distributing food. They are great stories that remind us of how the Lord provides for his people.

A folk singer is a person who gets rich singing about how wonderful it is to be poor.
- George Viola -

Everyone is ignorant, only on different subjects.
- Will Rogers -

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