

# Students running out of time for RCC scholarships

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*IVN Contributing Writer*

The Rogue Community College Foundation was established in 1980 to serve the needs of Rogue Community College (RCC) and its students. Since then the Foundation has grown to offer almost \$450,000 in scholarships in the 2016-2017 school year. In addition to scholarships the Foundation will provide about \$30,000 in special program and project funds to RCC faculty and staff.

In the same year there were 15 applicants from the Illinois Valley. Of the 15, three were awarded scholarships. This represents about 20 percent of the applications received from the

Illinois Valley which is the same average percentage of the overall 427 total applications received by the Foundation. Of that total, 244 scholarships were awarded. The average award is \$2,000 with the range typically running from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Some of the awards are one-time only and some can be for multiple semesters.

In the past, the primary reason for a student's application getting declined was the receipt of an incomplete application. The Foundation recently installed software that no longer allows this to happen. The second most common reason is the receipt of a weak essay on the application. Lisa Dunagan, scholarship coordinator for the Foundation, urges aspiring

winners to polish their essay skills. "RCC offers a great course on how to write essays for applications. It is a one credit course and costs \$104 plus fees. Taking the class really increases their chances of an award," she said.

The application process is still open and the Foundation would like to encourage students to take advantage of a system set up to make the process straightforward. "It's pretty easy. It shouldn't take too long and submitting just this one application on our website gives a student access to around 100 different scholarships," said Dunagan, "I would love to see more students from the Illinois Valley get funding to attend classes." This window closes after March 1, 2018.

The Foundation manages assets in excess of \$9 million and has many ways for potential supporters and donors to contribute to the Foundations fund including the "Be a Rogue Hero" program for RCC employees that enables them to pledge a regular amount and the "Presidents Circle" that is comprised of individuals and organizations that contributed \$1,000 or more to the Foundation over the past year. There are many other ways to donate to the Foundation to help support their efforts to provide scholarship funds to students including cash, securities, planned giving and gifts in kind, etc.

To apply or donate go to [www.foundation.roguecc.edu](http://www.foundation.roguecc.edu).

# 199 collision takes the life of local man

On Feb. 8, 2018 at approximately 3:30 p.m., the Oregon State Police responded to a three-vehicle crash on Highway 199, near milepost 25. The incident location is several miles north of Cave Junction, in Josephine County.

The preliminary investigation has determined that a green Chevy van, operated by 46 year old Joseph Pygman, of Medford, was southbound on Highway 199 and for an unknown reason, crossed into the northbound lane of travel, hitting a Honda SUV.

The vehicles collided head-on in the northbound lanes. The driver of the Honda 35 year old Paul Garcia Vidales of Josephine County, was flown to a trauma center where he were pronounced deceased. The driver of the Chevy van was transported by ground ambulance to TRCH with non-life threatening injuries.

A third vehicle, a white Mercedes, operated by 37 year old Sang Coa Tran, of Crescent City, ran into the back of the Chevy van after the head on collision occurred. The driver of the Mercedes was not injured.

The Oregon State Police was assisted by Illinois Valley Fire, AMR and the Oregon Department of Transportation.

# Building a digital defense against romance scams

Welcome to the Oregon FBI's Tech Tuesday segment. This week, building a digital defense against romance scams.

Valentine's Day can bring dreams of red roses and romantic dinners, but for those looking for love, this day can also bring a new round of angst and heartache. This sets up the perfect opportunity for fraudsters to play Cupid.

Anyone can fall victim to this scammer, but most commonly he is going to target women over 40 who are widowed, divorced or disabled. It usually starts with an innocent-enough-sounding contact online. He's likely been watching your social media accounts or gleaned info out of an online dating profile. Amazingly, he likes what you like -- whether that's books, music, sports or whatever. Over time, he starts communicating with you by email or text. He starts calling, and you have long conversations about your life, your future, your love.

And then comes the kicker -- he asks you for

money. It may take weeks or months to get to this point -- but just know that he needs the money desperately. He needs it to finish a job so he can come see you. He needs to buy a plane ticket. He is in the military and getting ready to retire or relocate, but he needs cash for moving expenses. Business partners are trying to steal his company, and he must hire a lawyer. There's always some urgent need -- and then another and another. He promises to pay you back soon, but he never does.

It's hard to give up on the love of your life and the future he promised you, but this fraudster won't stop until you do. So what are

some warning signs? Be wary if:

- \* He presses you to leave a dating website where you met to communicate solely through email or instant messaging.
- \* He sends you a photo that looks like a glamour shot out of a magazine.
- \* He professes love quickly and tries to isolate you from friends and family.
- \* He claims to be working and living far away -- whether that's on the other side of the country or overseas.
- \* Makes plans to visit you but then always has to cancel because of some emergency.
- \* He asks for money

or your help moving money.

And it's the money that's really at the heart of all this. If you are diving into an online relationship, the most important thing you should know is to never, ever send money to someone you met online. Likewise, never send compromising photos or videos with which he can later use to blackmail you. As added protection, only use dating websites with nationally-known reputations and make sure to research this new love's pictures and profile using online

search tools. You want to make sure he didn't spoof someone else's profile -- or be using the same pitch with multiple victims at once.

**Bottom line:** online dating can lead to life-long relationships, but make sure you go into virtual relationships with 2 feet firmly planted in reality.

If you have been victimized by an online scam, be sure to report it to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov) or call your local FBI office.

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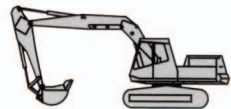
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