



Microelectronics
Technology Program
begins with Intel boost

Check it out on page 3



What member of the
faculty was Paul deLay's
childhood friend?

Check out the profile on Page 5



Cougars try for a
second NWAACC
Championship

Check out sports on Page 6

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ASG promotes voter registration, education

Many ballot measures threaten community college funds in Oregon

STEVE NIELSEN
News Editor

With 11 measures on the November ballot that will have some effect on state funding for community colleges, the Associated Student Government (ASG) is in the middle of a major drive to get Clackamas students out to vote.

Last week's festivities, including live performances by Paul deLay and his band, were part of "Rock the Vote," a nation-wide effort to bring young people together, educate them about local issues and encourage them to vote. In the last election, only eight percent of people 18-34 voted.

"Everyone 35 and older is making decisions for 92% of people 18-34," said ASG President Bryan Fuentez.

That amounts to one group of Americans deciding how another group will live their lives.

Anyone who hasn't registered yet has until Oct. 17 to drop by the ASG office (in the Community Center), to fill out a voter registration card. There will be a locked box at ASG in which to put completed ballots on or before Nov. 7.

ASG is also organizing "class raps" in an attempt to educate students about seven measures ASG feels will impact students most. Some of these measures could strip community colleges and Oregon services of literally billions in state funding.

Measure 91

Measure 91 would remove any limit on the amount of federal income tax Oregon residents may deduct from their state income tax liability.



MIKE POLLOCK / Clackamas Print

The Paul deLay Band plays in the courtyard for the "rock the vote" barbecue hosted by the Associated Student Government (ASG). Voter registration forms were available for students to register to vote.

At present, personal income taxpayers are allowed to deduct up to \$3,000. Most families now do not even reach the \$3,000 limit.

If 91 passes, it would allow individuals and corporations to deduct the full amount of their federal income tax from their Oregon income tax. This would mostly benefit families with a yearly income of \$50,000 and higher.

Most families under that level would end up paying more than they do now because Measure 91 would do away with the "kicker" refund check that they receive now.

If Measure 91 passes, the result would be a loss of almost a billion dollars a year from state revenue. Since community colleges get 53% of their funding from the state general fund, they would be devastated by this measure, according to Fuentez.

Measure 91 would also cut revenues to the general fund for other programs like K-12 education, transportation, public safety, healthcare, foster care, adoptive services, and

services for the disabled and elderly.

Oregon businesses would see the biggest tax cuts, with no limit on how much federal income tax they could deduct. But many Oregon businesses are against Measure 91.

"We believe the elimination of \$1.5 billion from the state's general fund will destabilize the state and damage the quality of life we enjoy," said Associated Oregon Industries, representing 19,000 Oregon businesses, in a written argument in opposition to the measure.

Measure 8

Measure 8 would also cut the general fund. It would limit state spending to 15% of Oregonians' personal income, as averaged over the previous two years. This measure would cut about the same amount from the general fund as would 91. Together they would take away almost three billion dollars from public services, including community colleges.

"If 91 and 8 pass, it will open the door

for tuition to rise," Fuentez stated.

Measure 9

Measure 9 looks least likely to financially impact the college. It states that "Notwithstanding any other law or rule, the instruction of behaviors relating to homosexuality and bisexuality shall not be presented in a public school in a manner which encourages, promotes or sanctions [gives one's consent to] such behaviors."

In other words, instructors could not say anything good about such behavior. It also provides that any community college in noncompliance "shall be subject to appropriate sanctions [economic measures], like withholding all or part of state funding..."

"It could tear our funding out from under us," Fuentez declared.

Many people feel this measure also raises the question of academic freedom and censorship, and its impact on college campuses.



Former CCC wrestler, silver medalist, comes to campus

STEVE NIELSEN
News Editor

Matt Lindland, 2000 Olympic silver medalist, and former wrestler at Clackamas, will speak and sign posters and autographs on campus Oct. 26, from noon to 1 p.m., in the Skyline Dining Room.

Lindland beat Manukyan of the Ukraine 7-4 to enter the Olympic semifinals and wrestle for the gold with Mourat Kardanov of Russia. Kardanov walked away with the gold

but Lindland brought the silver home to Oregon.

Lindland was recruited to Clackamas 12 years ago out of Gladstone High School, where he won the High School Greco-Roman championship, placed second in the Oregon State Athletic Association championships and won third in Freestyle at State.

"I recruited him because of his hip motion, mobility, and athletic ability," said Clackamas Coach Norm Bemey.

Where other people saw just a skinny kid, Bemey saw lots of potential even then.

"I feel really good I had any small part of helping him along in his career," he added.

Lindland red-shirted his first year on campus behind a returning all-American in his weight class. Later

Lindland beat that wrestler 10-1.

In 1989, Jim Jackson, who had coached Lindland when he was 16 at the USA Oregon wrestling club in Northeast Portland, took over as wrestling coach at Clackamas.

"He (Lindland) was very unorthodox. He didn't wrestle like other people, but it worked for him," remarked Jackson.

Both years that Lindland wrestled at Clackamas (89-90 and 90-91) he went to the National Junior College Athletic Association Championships. The first year, he missed placing by one match. One of Lindland's weak points was lifting weights. He hated lifting, but after that tournament he decided he would have to start lifting, and lifted religiously until the next year, when he returned to win the NJCAA championship.

See Lindland, page 6

Memorial planned for Rippey

Ruth Rippey, Clackamas financial aid accountant, died Saturday night at her home in Beavercreek. She was 53.

Rippey has been employed at Clackamas since 1986. She was active on the union negotiating team, and served for the past several years as a classified representative to the foundation board.

"She was very active as an advocate for students," said Mary Jo Jackson, director of student financial services. "She was very dedicated, and a great person; she'll be missed."

A memorial will be held this Saturday at noon at The Lower Highland Bible Church, 24353 Ridge Road in Beavercreek.

According to the Clackamas County Sheriff's office, a domestic disturbance call came in just after midnight Saturday, and officers were dispatched to the Rippey home.

"Our detectives and the deputy medical examiner conducted an investigation," said Deputy Angela Blanchard, public information officer for the Sheriff's office. "They spent quite a bit of time investigating the scene. The female subject was deceased upon our arrival; she had apparently shot herself."

When contacted by The Print on Monday, Deputy Medical Examiner Jeff Mayer confirmed the cause of death as suicide. Blanchard said that detectives from her office "were comfortable with that ruling."

News of her death shocked and upset co-workers and colleagues Monday morning, and a college counselor was brought in to help them cope with the loss.

Chippi Bello, scholarship coordinator at Clackamas, has worked with Rippey for several years. "Ruth has been here a long time," said Bello. "She was like a rock and she is going to be missed by a lot of students."

Bello is deeply affected by Rippey's passing.

"It's a big shock for me," she said. "She is the last person you would think to do something like that. I don't know what to say. It's hard to talk about it."

See Rippey, page 3

Former CCC wrestler Matt Lindland, right, wrestles for the USA at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.



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