

Clackamas sees some stimulus

By John Hurlburt

Recently, the waves of recession have been breaking on the shores of Clackamas College, drowning the school in a sea of uncertainty. Now nearly any outside aid is a blessing.

A new stimulus plan being passed by the state in order to build infrastructure and generate jobs in areas hit hardest by unemployment. The school is getting \$1.35 million to help pay for deferred maintenance projects on campus.

The \$1.35 million is going to be used by the college for a total of \$1 million going towards maintenance, necessary projects and repairs, according to Kirk Pearson, director of operations and campus services. Pearson sees the money as necessary for both students and the local community.

"By doing this work now, we can potentially prevent things from coming that might effect students," Pearson explained.

There are 11 different facilities on campus that are candidates for work to be done, with approximately 29 projects.

Among the most important undertakings

Repairing and upgrading some of the older mechanical systems such as heating and air conditioning to provide more reliable comfort to buildings on campus as well as create

energy savings.

- Revamping the electrical distribution system, a 40-year-old center where the power to the college is broken down and allocated to each building. The re-allocation of energy will create a more reliable power dispersion system, while at the same time ultimately save money by cutting down the amount of waste.

- The fire alarm system on campus will be upgraded, and the Lewelling building will have fire alarms added, a building which was previously not covered by an alarm system.

Aiding the Local Economy

The second objective of giving state money to Clackamas is to create jobs within the local community through these work projects.

According to Pearson, Clackamas will be giving the work to companies within the community, or to companies who have a lot of employees in the surrounding areas.

The school is looking for competitive bids in order to utilize the money to its fullest potential and has started to advertise the work in the Daily Journal of Commerce.

The task will begin once contractors have been chosen, which should be within the next couple of months, according to Pearson.

He believes this will help spark the economy and sees the value of giving out these jobs.

"Keeping people employed or putting them back to work is extremely important at this time," Pearson said adding, "We can't all go on unem-



John Shufelt/Clackamas Print

Bill Leach, dean of campus services, stands next to a transformer that has been on campus for more than 40 years. Leach says that the high voltage equipment has become a hazard. The replacement of the machine is one of the projects that the stimulus money will go toward.

ployment."

With the college buried up to its neck in the sands of debt for the upcoming years, it might seem counterproductive to be spending even more money on deferred projects. Courtney Wilton, vice president of college services, however, is taking a more carpe diem approach to shelling out the \$1.35 million required to match the state's money.

"It's an opportunity to get some stuff done that ultimately needs to be done and this time we get some money from the state," Courtney logically explained, adding that there will be a noticeable payback to the general fund with savings from some of the

projects.

As for where the money is coming from, Clackamas has some money set aside in capital reserves that have been allocated for projects already.

Federal Money

Aside from the state stimulus package, there is also Obama's federal stimulus package that is supposedly on its way, feeding the nation approximately \$53 billion in training and education. This money, however, has not been allotted yet.

Kathryn Dysart, communications director for the Oregon Community College Association, said that currently the state is analyzing where the money should be applied, meaning so

far nothing is set in stone about how much the college will get.

What is for sure, is that there will be an increase in the amount of money put into the Federal Pell Grant program, and that some of the money received by the Oregon will be used to offset the state's educational budget cuts.

Wilton isn't even 100 percent sure that the money is coming through to Clackamas, but says the college will know within a couple weeks if and how much money the college will be getting.

"It has the potential to alleviate the money problem," Wilton said with just a glimmer of hope.

Thought the mocha took too long before?

By Abby Neet

Clackamas Print

Due to loss in daily sales and big decreases in catering, Chartwells is making changes to adjust to the current economy. Chartwells had to lay off part-time employees and is closing the hours it is open.

There will be a breakfast menu in place of made-to-order dishes. Getting a little of everything in the buffet costs the buffet includes biscuits and gravy, scrambled eggs and waffles.

Chartwells manager Lizeth Ramos said, "The college cannot afford to be spending as much on catering."

Ramos said daily sales had been decreasing and Chartwells has seen a significant decrease. Chartwells made most of their money from catering, so the catering loss is affecting them the most.

Because of the contract Chartwells has with the college, they will not raise any prices. The contract ends in June. Ramos leaves the decision of whether to continue with Chartwells to the Clackamas next year will depend on how they do through the next few months.

Chartwells employee Nathan King said the employ-

ees who were laid off were the ones who had less knowledge regarding all parts of the job.

"I can pretty much do everything," King said. King is a full-time employee and needs to continue working to pay for school.

Having a buffet seems to be the right thing to do, to reduce the amount of help needed, according to King.

Another Chartwells employee, Patrick Neitzel, said Monday last week, "Most people were really happy with it. It went over really well and we sold out of almost everything."

Some students feel differently.

One dissatisfied customer was student Giuseppe Baffaro, who was disappointed that he would no longer be able to pick up a breakfast burrito after working out in the morning.

"It's a bummer," Baffaro said.

Mindy Brown, the adviser for ASG, said money for catering has been decreasing for some time due to budget constraints.

"The college came forward and asked that there not be food at meetings," Brown said.

David Holcomb, who is on the food committee, said all the catering the college does will continue to be done by Chartwells.

Holcomb also admits, "The

college is not spending catering dollars like they used to."

If they used to have dinner or lunch at meetings, they might cut costs by having cookies and coffee now, Holcomb believes.

Holcomb said he has heard every restaurant, save McDonald's and Burger King, is hurting.

"No one is immune to this," Holcomb said.

Holcomb believes Chartwells is doing the same thing as most students are, cutting costs to save money. Students are bringing lunch or eating breakfast at home. Students seem to be taking full advantage of the microwaves in the cafeteria, as a means to save

money, by bringing their own food.

"The quickest way to save money is to cut money spent on food, and that seems to be what everyone is doing."

Holcomb said the college will wait and see how the next month or two go for Chartwells, and will try and make the best choice for the college.

"Everyone seems to agree that some form of food services is positive for students and staff," said Holcomb.

Chartwells new hours are Monday thru Thursday 7 a.m. thru 4 p.m. and Friday 7 a.m. thru 2 p.m. Grill hours from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Jessica Foster/Clackamas Print

Lizeth Ramos, one of the remaining employees in Chartwells, rings up a student.

Intervision plays funky fresh

Larissa Figley

The Clackamas Print

Take some "funky nasty soul" combined with "beautiful and heart wrenching melodic pop," add some "pure and unadulterated sexiness" ending in a "state of Nirvana," and you get Intervision, a local band that is now nationally acclaimed. This musical description can be found on their MySpace page, which also provides show listings.

The Independent Music awards recently awarded Intervision with the R&B song of the year for their song "Live out Loud" off of their second album, Shades of Neptune. They received the award in January.

Intervision has been a band for six years and the group met right here at Clackamas in May of 2003. They are still made up of the original members.

Kit Walker, back up vocalist and pianist, explained that the awards, "are basically like the Grammys for artists that haven't been signed."

Paul Creighton, the lead vocalist, songwriter and student adviser at the college, explained, "The Independent Music Awards is judged by a group of musicians and producers including Susan Vega and Lisa Loeb."

Creighton said, "Winning this award and the fact that it is judged by musicians makes it a huge honor." It is validating because it's great to work hard and be recognized. They are, "currently investigating different publicity to spin the award to create a new showcase."