Counseling session set for employees displaced by Markum Inn fire

Fire destroyed the historic Markum Inn early Sunday, putting 23 full- and part-time employees out of work. (Mt. Angel Fire District)

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Clackamas Community College is offering help to the 23 employees who lost their jobs early Sunday when fire destroyed the historic Markum Inn.

Representatives of the college's Workforce Development Services will lead a counseling session Monday to make the employees aware of resources available to address immediate needs, educational support and additional services. The session is set for 10 a.m. to noon at the charred remains of the restaurant building, 36903 Highway 213 in Marquam.

A passing motorist reported the fire at 4:26 a.m., bringing firefighters from Monitor, Mount Angel, Silverton and Canby. Cause of the blaze, which caused extensive damage to the building, remains under investigation by the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office.

Over the years, the restaurant built a reputation for serving oversized portions of all-American classics in a homey atmosphere. The Double Jumbo MarKum Burger featured a one-pound beef patty.

Owners Connie and Michael Cummings told the Salem Statesman-Journal newspaper that they plan to reopen as soon as possible. They indicated they could start serving again soon by using the outdoor seating area, along with several grills, a refrigerator unit, a pole barn that was built to accommodate catering and a wedding tent.

The original building, erected on the site in 1895, was destroyed by fire in 1950. However, it was rebuilt and reopened in 1970.

Markum Inn employees seeking more information about the counseling session can call Linda Wood, Rapid Response coordinator, at 503-594-3114.

-- Rick Bella

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