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Small power disruption has big impact at SVC

MV campus phones, Internet offline Wednesday

By RALPH SCHWARTZ

Staff Writer

An electrical problem early Wednesday morning took Skagit Valley College's phones and Internet offline, a college official said.

Some phone service was restored shortly before 1 p.m. Wednesday, but the Internet, including the college website, www.skagit.edu, remained down late in the afternoon.

Phone service wasn't fully available Wednesday afternoon.

"It's not fully functional yet, but we do have phone service in and out of the campus at this point," Dean of Technology, Library and eLearning Tom Bates said. "We are in the process of bringing the (computer) networks back up."

College employees had no access to the Internet or email, including internal communications, Director of College Advancement Carl Young said.

Bates said staff was working strictly on correcting the problem and hadn't diagnosed its cause as of Wednesday afternoon.

"It appears there was either a power surge or a power outage or a partial outage on the campus, which caused a cascade of events," Bates said.

A backup generator or a switch related to it may have failed, he said.

PSE spokeswoman Allison Stanford said a power disruption occurred in Skagit and Whatcom counties at 3:36 a.m. Wednesday. Relays automatically fixed the problem, so the broader power outage lasted only a few seconds.

Young advised people to try logging onto www.skagit.edu to find out whether systems were back online.



Frank Varga / Skagit Valley Herald

Jacob Hamiter of Mount Vernon studies Wednesday afternoon in the Norwood Cole Library at Skagit Valley College next to computer stations that have no Internet access.

The shows will go on at McIntyre

McIntyre Hall performances are still on for this week, despite telephone and Internet systems being down Wednesday at Skagit Valley College.

Patrons could not purchase tickets online or by phone, but McIntyre Executive Director Nida Tautvydas said tickets are available at the box office at the main entrance, noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and immediately before performances.

Tickets are still available for all performances this week.

All of the following shows are on for this week:

- Fidalgo Youth Symphony, 7 p.m. today
- Mount Vernon High School bands, 7 p.m. Friday
- Skagit Symphony Gala Concert, 7:30 p.m. Saturday. Reception at 6 p.m.