

MOHAVE/ LA PAZ WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREA

# WORKFORCE NEWS



*One-Stop Career Coach Lynne Steiger shows off a gift from her "flock" of work readiness participants -Page 7*

## LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS ARE A VOICE FOR RURAL ARIZONA

**JOB CLUB PAGES 4-5**

**WHAT'S A REALITY STORE?  
YOUTH PAGE 6**

Three economic development leaders from Mohave and La Paz counties have been chosen to serve on the Rural Business Advisory Council, a group tasked with bringing in new businesses and job opportunities for rural Arizona.

Kingman's Bob Riley, Lake Havasu City's Gary Kellogg, and Parker's D.L. Wilson have each earned their places on the council, which will provide direct assistance to the newly formed Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA).

*Continued PAGE 3*

# Workforce Partners Update

ACA

**Arizona Commerce Authority** invites you to get information about their new structure on their website at [www.azcommerce.com](http://www.azcommerce.com).

HOUSING AUTHORITY

**Mohave County Housing Authority** will reopen the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing waiting list starting December 6 and continuing on the first and third Mondays of every month for those needing help with housing. Come into any Mohave County One-Stop to sign up.

AWC

**Arizona Western College** has now opened its Quartsite Learning Center in La Paz County. The learning center offers four degree programs and a variety of specialized certificates and distance learning courses.

**The One-Stop Career Center** has started the second phase of Energy Careers, a training program which prepares local residents for jobs in the renewable energy field. The program includes training at MCC and apprenticeships through Laron (page 7).

MCC

**A Mohave Community College** representative will now be at the Kingman One-Stop every Wednesday from 8AM to noon. Please visit for program and financial aid advising.

**The Kingman One-Stop** is also starting new workshops on resume building, beginning computer skills, online job searching, and others. Stop by the Kingman One-Stop location for more information or visit our website at [www.co.mohave.az.us/jobseeker](http://www.co.mohave.az.us/jobseeker).

LIBRARIES

**Mohave County Libraries** offer regular classes in areas ranging from computer basics to digital cameras. Check times and locations on their website at <http://mohavecountylibrary.info>.

## In Memory of Jerry Ambrose

During this year's Veterans Day parade in Kingman, spectators celebrated and honored the achievements of our armed forces. However, one of the area's most vocal supporters of veterans' rights was not in attendance. Constantine Gerald "Jerry" Ambrose passed away on Sunday, October 10 at the age of 72.

Ambrose, a 31-year veteran of the US Marine Corps who served two tours in Vietnam, was office manager at the Department of Economic Security, and served on MCC's governing board, VFW Post 3516, and Route 66 Rotary, among many others.

Mohave County Community Services Director Susie Parel-Duranceau said, "I've worked with him for many years. He was a true collaborator and a real champion for the community."

Among his many achievements, Ambrose helped create a local veteran coalition that aids homeless and disadvantaged vets. "Jerry has tried to start this for more than 16 years," said Gene Crego, head of the renamed Jerry Ambrose Veteran Council. "All his efforts have finally paid off."

One person well aware of these efforts is David Blythe, interim office manager of the Department of Economic Security. Blythe worked with Ambrose for 13 years, and views him as a "mentor and an excellent friend."

"He loved the area, and he loved being involved with the community," Blythe said. "He managed four offices and was active in many groups. It's hard to measure how much his passing will affect Mohave County."





**Bob Riley  
Kingman**



**Gary Kellog  
Lake Havasu City**



**D.L. Wilson  
Parker**

# LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS ARE A VOICE FOR RURAL ARIZONA

*Continued from page One*

The purpose of the advisory council is to assist the ACA in areas regarding rural business development and job creation. It was established to create and implement economic strategies that benefit all rural areas.

"I was surprised and pleased that we were all chosen," said Riley, director of economic development at the Kingman Airport Authority. "This opportunity is important for the area. I feel that the impact will really be felt a year or two down the road."

Riley admitted that many of ACA's "high-powered board members" are from the Phoenix and Tucson areas, so he understands that the rural committee must be vocal in addressing their concerns.

If you look at the group of people who make up the committee, everyone speaks up," said Kellogg, president of the Lake Havasu

**“ Through participation in a rural committee, we can voice our concerns in how our areas can compete in the global economy. —Bob Riley ”**

City Partnership for Economic Development. "So far, the group gets nicely."

The committee had their first meeting earlier this month, and plans to meet regularly.

For now, the board is taking things one issue at a time. "Arizona has received two million in economic development money aimed toward rural areas," said Wilson,

**“ It’s a nice opportunity to serve with someone like Bob (Riley). We have a great history and I know we have the same goals. —Gary Kellog ”**

who also serves as head of the La Paz Economic Development Corporation. "We are in the process of figuring out the best ways to use those funds. That is our most pressing issue so far."

Soon, the board will start providing more rural input in all kinds of development issues. "We hope to have a more consistent voice than the former Department of Commerce" Kellogg said. "They went through several directors in

quick succession. The ACA aims for more consistency."

In their next few meetings, the ACA will address issues regarding science and technology, small business, aerospace and defense, and green energy.

"Our roles are still being defined," Riley said. "Once we're up and functioning, they may change dramatically. We will always be focused on what's best for rural Arizona."

Perhaps the biggest benefit of this committee is the collaboration that it fosters. "This is a great opportunity for us to work closely and try to help the entire community," Kellogg said. "I'm in Havasu, Bob's in Kingman and D.L. is in Parker, but our primary goal is to find the projects that are the best fit for the entire region. It's not just each city looking out for itself."

**“ As the economy recovers, there will be real opportunities for our area. In La Paz and Mohave counties, we need to be proactive during our recovery. —D.L. Wilson ”**

# JOB CLUB



JOB CLUB • NETWORKING • JOB APPLICATION TIPS • RESUME TOOL

## QUESTION OF THE MONTH

### What is the most important thing you've learned about writing a resume?



#### MIKE SHEARER

When writing a resume, feel free to ask for help. The Job Club is a great tool for getting feedback.



#### CHERYL IRWIN

You have to feel positive about yourself. That will reflect in what you write.



#### ADRIENNE ANGELI

I've learned that a resume is your ticket to an interview. It's not everything, but it's a very important step. Write it and rewrite it.



#### SUSAN MCCURDY

Understand the different types: chronological, functional, etc. Use the best format for you and for the job.



#### SHARON ROBERTS

A good resume is specific to the job that you want. Employers want to see that you're interested in THEIR job, not ANY job.



#### SAMMY KUDER

A resume is the best way to sell yourself. Be specific. Don't be modest.



### Advice from the Experts: Judy Salsbery, Career Coach

If you have diverse skills or a long work history, a functional resume might be a good choice for you. Functional resumes focus on your skill set rather than listing your previous jobs.

- **Study** the job description.
- Make a list of all the skills employers **require**.
- Make a list of **your skills** that match what the employer needs
- **Research** the company and find out what they do.
- Ask friends and acquaintances **what they know** about the company.
- **Adjust** your relevant skills to reflect what you learned.

**Here's a bonus:** In doing all this research, you've helped yourself prepare for an interview!



LS • INTERVIEW COACHING • JOB CLUB!



**ONE-STOP  
CAREER CENTER  
SUCCESS STORY**

**Harry Laffoon IV** works full-time as a dental assistant while maintaining a full course load at Arizona Western College. "I admit that it can get pretty busy," he said, "but I'm working toward a degree in dentistry."



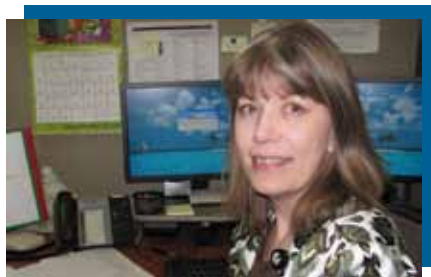
This has been a quick transition for Harry. With help from the La Paz County One-Stop, he got his GED, finished training, and entered employment in a matter of months. "Harry was very highly motivated and demonstrated a great deal of determination to achieve his goals," said One-Stop Program Manager Ramona Duran. "He felt like it was time for a change in his life and he made it happen."



One-Stop Career Centers have kicked off a second round of training funded by renewable energy employment training grants received earlier this year. Cohorts for a Residential Wiring Certificate and a Residential HVAC Certificate are being developed for MCC classes beginning January 18, 2011. Both solar and wind renewable energy projects have been announced for this area and are working through the complex process that will enable them to break ground. The One-Stops are focusing on training that can provide transferable skills that may qualify participants for these new jobs. A weatherization "boot camp" is under consideration for spring.

Interested? There might still be time to participate. Call Sherri Heidrich today at 753-0723 ext. 4079 to learn more!

**ONE-STOP  
CAREER CENTER  
SUCCESS STORY**



**Betty Nevin** is back to work as a medical biller after a long period of unemployment. Despite years of experience in the field, she couldn't find work. That's when the One-Stop came in. "I saw an ad in the newspaper and signed up for a medical billing and coding program," she said. "I was surprised by how well I did. The class definitely helped me get here." Above all else, Nevin learned to take some chances. "I was a little apprehensive about going back to school," she said, "but I'm very happy that I did. Don't be afraid to learn something new."

# COYOTE NEWS *find us on facebook*



**Devin Partain** attends GED preparation classes at the Kingman One-Stop. Like many other students throughout Mohave and La Paz counties, he is earning college credit while preparing for his high school equivalency. "I'm having a lot of fun," he said, "and I'm excited to take the test. I feel prepared."

**Rachel Belgium** is a junior at Mohave Accelerated Learning Center in Bullhead City who got her first work experience through the COYOTE program. "The experience of going out there and working was a big boost to my confidence," she said. "You learn so much more than in any classroom."



**Douglas Rule** keeps busy with school, football, and his first job. "The COYOTE program helped me realize what opportunities are out there," said the Lake Havasu City participant. "It opened a lot of doors."

**Gianna DeLeon** makes a living as a dialysis technician in Parker, and will soon start classes to become a pediatrician. Last year, the La Paz County One-Stop enrolled her in the COYOTE work readiness program and paid for her training to become a Certified Nursing Assistant. "I'm very grateful," she stated. "They helped me set my career goal and then accomplish it."



**The One-Stop Career Center Youth team** participated in the Reality Store held at White Cliffs Middle School. Kingman Youth got a reality check about how much things cost and how far your salary can take you.



Arizona Youth Partnership–Coalition for Successful Youth Development, Boys and Girls Club of Kingman, and the COYOTE Youth Program have partnered to host the first annual Dance Marathon. Under the guidance of these organizations, this event will be coordinated by students for students to raise awareness in the fight against underage drinking and the misuse of alcohol and drug substances.

For more information on Dance Marathon 2011 and opportunities to get involved, please call Hannah Sagisi at 928-753-0723.



# EMPLOYERS

## APPRENTICESHIPS

Laron and the One-Stop Career Center have partnered to recruit applicants for the Laron Apprenticeship Program. The company has announced they have six openings for their paid four-year millwright/machinist program. The orientation was held November 29 in Kingman. After the selection process, all apprenticeships will begin in early February. The first six months of the program will be WIA On The Job Training (OJT) supported, in part, by ARRA stimulus funds.



Machinists Jeffrey Edwards, Jeffrey McKowan, Mark Sexton and Paul Nicholson, and millwright William Kroenke graduated Laron's apprenticeship program as journeymen on October 31st, 2010. Picture courtesy of JC Amberlyn

## PRODUCTION JOBS

Since the One-Stop began assisting Cascades Tissue Group in its assessment and hiring, the company has assessed 155 candidates through the One-Stop Career Center and hired over 20 local workers. In October, they added seven more to that list. "We greatly appreciate all that the One-Stop does in helping us fill jobs from within the community, so it's a win-win all the way around," said Human Resources Manager Thomas Baynes.



Thomas Baynes  
Cascades Tissue Group

## Age Is an Asset, Experience a Benefit

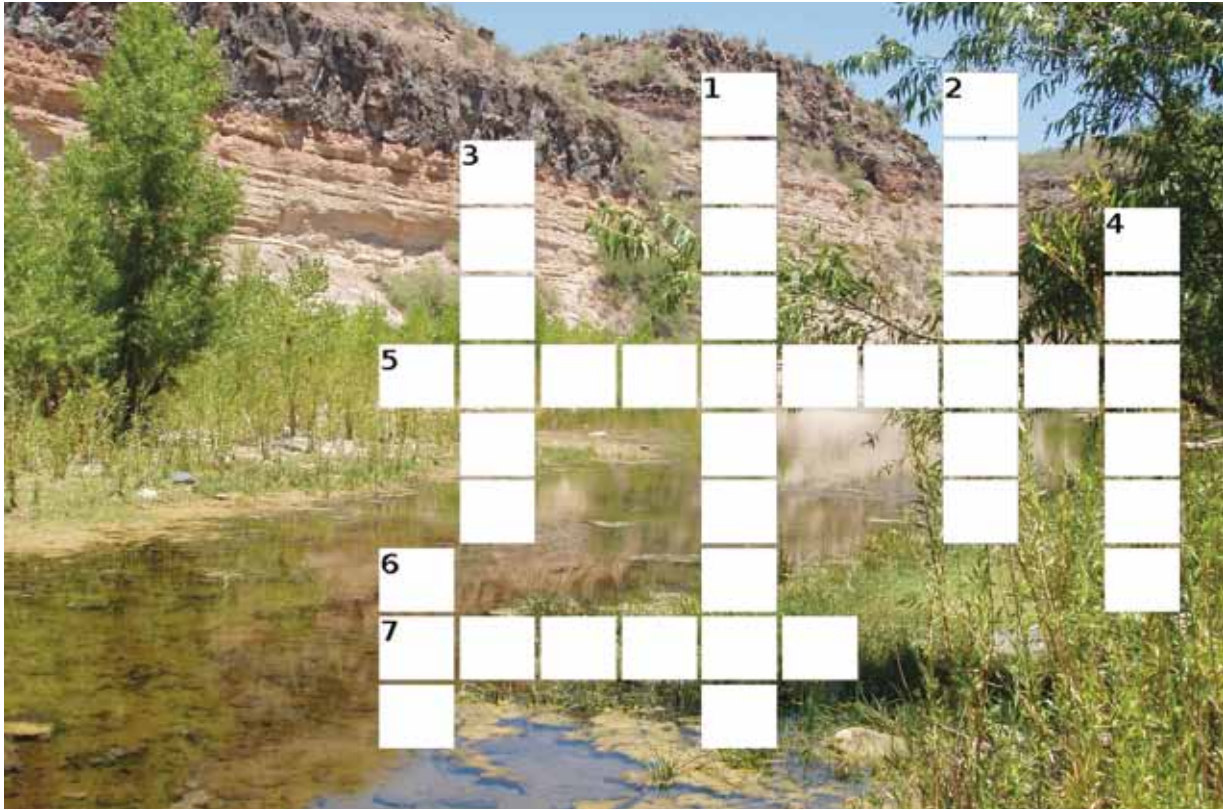
### Title V readies older workers for jobs

Throughout the week of November 15th, the One-Stop hosted a job readiness workshop for Title V participants. Workshop Facilitator Lynne Steiger focused on interview and application tactics for workers 55 and older. Twenty workers attended the classes and "brought a lot of excitement and enthusiasm," Steiger said.

"The classes were fast-paced and full of energy," said participant Judy Ellstrom. "It taught us how to recognize our best points and then sell them." The day after the workshop ended, Ellstrom attended a single interview and was hired right away.



Title V Participants (from left) Roy Ellstrom, Judy Ellstrom and Erlinda Anders take a break from their classes.



Burro Creek –photo by COYOTE media team, 2009

**ACROSS**

- 1. One type of resume, in contrast to chronological
- 2. Common name for our youth program; or a desert canine

**DOWN**

- 1. Location of newest branch of Arizona Western College
- 2. Branch of military in which Jerry Ambrose served
- 3. "The best way to sell yourself" to an employer
- 4. Parker resident, one of the newest members of ACA's rural committee (last name)
- 6. Acronym for the organization that recently replaced the Arizona Department of Commerce

## Mohave/La Paz One-Stop Career Centers

**KINGMAN** Mohave County Comprehensive Site 700 W. Beale Street **PHONE: 928-753-0723** FAX: 928-753-0776 TDD: 928-753-0726  
 Department of Economic Security 301 Pine Street, Kingman **PHONE: 928-753-4333**

**BULLHEAD CITY** 1355 Ramar Rd. Ste.3, Bullhead City **PHONE: 928-758-0702** FAX: 928-758-0737 TDD: 928-753-0726  
 Department of Economic Security 2601 S. Hwy. 95, Bullhead City **PHONE: 928-763-4154**

**LAKE HAVASU CITY** 12001 College Dr. Ste. 122, Lake Havasu City **PHONE: 928-453-0710** FAX: 928-453-0728 TDD: 928-753-0726  
 Department of Economic Security 228 London Bridge Road, Lake Havasu City **PHONE: 928-680-6005**

**PARKER** La Paz County Comprehensive Site 1113 Kofa Ave., Parker **PHONE: 928-669-9812** FAX: 928-669-6326  
 Department of Economic Security 1032 Hope Ave., Parker **PHONE: 928-669-6755**



A part of the Arizona Workforce Connection

[www.co.mohave.az.us/workforce](http://www.co.mohave.az.us/workforce)



*Mohave County One-Stop Career Center is an equal opportunity employer and provider of employment and training services. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to persons with disabilities.*