

**MOHAVE/ LA PAZ WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREA**

# WORKFORCE NEWS



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Every month, representatives from the Mohave County One-Stop Career Centers and their many partner programs gather to share information.

The One-Stop Partner Meetings allow participants to share important updates, review employment training opportunities, and discuss current labor market information.

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# Workforce Partners Update

VETERANS

The newly formed **Jerry Ambrose Veterans' Council of Mohave County** has elected its officers and is recruiting new members. They have planned to bring the Vietnam Wall to Kingman in October. For more information, visit [www.ambrosevetcouncil.info](http://www.ambrosevetcouncil.info).

HOUSING AUTHORITY

**Mohave County Housing and Revitalization Department** received nearly \$2 million through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. With this money, they will acquire, rehabilitate, and sell properties that have been affected by recent foreclosures.

LIBRARIES

**Mohave County Libraries** expects to complete its expansion of the Bullhead City location later this year. They also offer two bookmobiles that travel throughout the county, one targeting outlying areas and one targeting senior centers and Head Start locations.

MCC

### **Mohave Community College**

has partnered with two Arizona universities to offer students four-year degree programs. In addition to its 90/30 program with NAU, MCC has established the new Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) with ASU. Information on both programs can be found at [www.mohave.edu](http://www.mohave.edu).

### **Mohave County One-Stop**

representatives are busy developing customized assessments for employers interested in hiring locally. Most recently, they designed separate tests that measure mechanical ability and data entry ability. Results are supplied to employers and kept on file to be used for other hiring projects. Those interested should contact Kenda Robinson at (928) 753-0723.

DES

## **Department of Economic Security Supervisor Sharon Diemer**



Sharon Diemer serves as supervisor for the Department of Economic Security in Lake Havasu City and Parker. Among their many duties, Sharon and her staff help clients prepare for work, complete unemployment claims, and find the best job matches. Here, she explains how DES works.

### **Who is your target client?**

We see a variety of clients from all ages and backgrounds. We see everyone from superintendents at construction sites to people with no job experience at all.

### **How does DES fit inside the One-Stop system?**

All the One-Stop locations offer similar services, but the Career Centers deal with clients on a more comprehensive and extended basis. DES is here for mostly immediate needs. For example, we deal with lots of people with unemployment claims. On the other hand, I often send clients to the other locations for training and workshops.

### **When is the best time to visit your offices?**

Afternoons are usually slower than mornings. The best days to visit are usually Thursday and Friday. However, every day here is different.

### **What advice would you tell the public?**

Don't give up. Come back as often as you can, and also visit our website at [www.arizonavirtualonestop.com](http://www.arizonavirtualonestop.com). Our listings change daily. This is a great place to find the latest job information.

# WORKFORCE PROFESSIONALS COME TOGETHER

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**"The way people get jobs has changed and our clients often need support from a variety of sources."**

—Workforce Development Manager Jen Miles

Since these meetings started over a year ago, they have become an increasingly important part of the One-Stop system. They are a forum that helps unify delivery of the workforce services to the public. "The way people get jobs has changed and our clients often need support from a variety of sources," said Workforce Development Manager Jen Miles. "The best way for us to serve the public is to foster communication and referrals among government, private sector, and educational entities."

## GOVERNMENT

Many of the partners invited to these meetings come from different government departments. For example, Program Representative Bennett Bratley attends on behalf of the Economic Development Department. He said, "Information passes through these meetings in two directions. It allows me to keep everyone up-to-date on economic development, and it helps me find out information from a variety of sources."

Similarly, the Housing Authority finds value in sharing information.

"A lot of people don't know the specifics of our programs. The more we spread the word, the easier it is to help our clients," Housing Specialist Jennifer Burch said.



**"I've made several worthwhile connections here. I'm glad to be a part of this process."**

Economic Development Representative Bennett Bratley

In addition, several representatives from the Department of Economic Security offices are invited to share their information. Office Supervisor David Blythe represents the Bullhead City and Kingman offices, and Veterans Specialist Connie Hall represents the veterans programs. They use the meetings as an opportunity to share information on the latest workshops and resources designed for their clients.



**"The One-Stop system includes a large number of offices and staff members all working together to serve the community."**

DES Office Supervisor David Blythe

## PRIVATE SECTOR

These representatives also meet with private sector agencies to co-manage and facilitate employment for their clients. While each provider uses different criteria, clients can and do overlap.

"Attending the One-Stop meetings have been a great experience (for Arbor Jobs)," said Employment Specialist Sandra Albanez-Fullbright. "We may be from different programs, but, after all, our partnerships are to improve our community in Mohave County."



**"Meetings are good for getting fresh perspective on why we do what we do for a living."**

Arbor Jobs Employment Specialist Chris Dyer

Along with Arbor Jobs, representatives from organizations like SOS Staffing, Manpower, and Allied Forces often attend. They share employment trends and dialog about common workforce problems that affect the area.



**"The more we spread the word, the easier it is to help our clients."**

—Housing Specialist Jennifer Burch

"Our goal is to break down barriers," said Patty Lash, employment specialist at Exceptional Services. "Our relationship with the One-Stop is invaluable, because we don't offer the classes or resources that they offer."

## EDUCATORS

One-Stop Partner Meetings also serve as a forum for program representatives to learn about the latest training opportunities.

"It's very important for MCC to have representation at the One-Stop locations. We work closely with the One-Stops for many training programs," said Victoria Anthony, an MCC recruitment officer who visits the Kingman office once a week to answer enrollment questions.

The One-Stops often enroll clients in MCC programs, ranging from fast-track training to GED preparation to more advanced degrees. "It really depends on the client," said REPAC Specialist Donna Smith. "We enter (clients) into a variety of programs as long as it's a good fit for them and will lead toward meaningful employment."

What all these programs have in common is a desire to help their clients. Sometimes, the best way to do that is to help each other.



**"It's always important to communicate with our partners in as many venues as possible."**

Disabled Veterans Program Outreach Specialist Connie Hall

# JOB CLUB



JOB CLUB • NETWORKING • JOB APPLICATION TIPS • RESUME TOOL

## QUESTION OF THE MONTH

### What motivates you during this tough economy?



**WILLIAM MERRELL**

I'm motivated by my daughter and her positive attitude. She is my inspiration.



**CYNTHIA HENSON**

The desire to be of service



**JAMES WHITE**

It's important to keep going and never give up.



**JESSICA DEVANE**

My loved ones



**SPIKE HALSEY**

I know I can make a better life for myself. That's what motivates me.



**GERALD MILLER**

I like to work. It's an important part of my life and it keeps me on my toes.



### Advice from the Experts: Madelyn Shaffer, Resource Clerk

One-Stop Representative Madelyn Shaffer recognizes the obstacles many job seekers face when applying online. Here, she offers insights into the best ways to search for jobs.

**Where to apply:** Applicants can apply online via a job board (monster.com) or job search engine (Indeed, LinkUp), or they can apply directly at the company's web site. Job seekers may be required to register and build an employment profile.

**How to search:** If you are at a particular company web site, you will need to navigate the site for the application. Look for key words, such as "careers," "employment," or "job opportunities."

**What to prepare:** You will need to know when you worked and what you were paid. Have an up-to-date resume handy. Some sites let you upload or copy and paste your resume. Depending on the company, you may need to take an online pre-employment test. Take these tests seriously. The results will determine whether you are invited to interview.

**How to stay secure:** Remember your log-on and password for every site. Try not to reuse the same passwords. Do not share confidential information unless you know the company or site is legitimate.

**For more information,** please stop by your nearest One-Stop location. We can guide you through this process.



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### ONE-STOP CAREER CENTER SUCCESS STORY

**Norman Cilley** is a Bullhead City resident who is using One-Stop assistance to finish training as a residential electrician. "I'm part of a group of students who really want to be there and really want to learn," he said. "We're all interested in the training, and we're all interested in getting jobs." It's that attitude that helped him graduate with honors after his first round of classes. His wife has enjoyed similar success in the medical billing and coding program.



"It's important to put in that extra effort," he said. "There are plenty of different ages and backgrounds in these classes, but it's basically up to you. You have to earn it."

### ONE-STOP CAREER CENTER SUCCESS STORY



**Krista DiBlasi** is in the middle of a major career change. After years as a substitute teacher, Krista thought she would get a teaching degree and stay in the same field. When she found herself suddenly out of work, she was forced to reevaluate her life goals. Money was tight and a four-year education degree wasn't working out. Now, she's training to be a physical therapy assistant and she couldn't be happier. REPAC Consortium not only helped her start the program, they helped her realize a goal she didn't even know she had. "Without REPAC I wouldn't get to go to school," she said. "I might be working part-time, but it wouldn't be in a job that was right for me."



## Kingman Grows Greener This Summer

Western Wind Energy Corporation has started construction on a 10.5 megawatt plant near Kingman. The 1100-acre project is slated for completion by June. "We have been eyeing this area for a long time," said Project Manager Mike Boyd. "Compared to California, Arizona has a considerably better environment for what we're trying to do."

The wind and solar project hopes to hire between 15 to 25 local workers, Boyd said, with plans for further expansion. "Not only are we hiring locally, but we rent building equipment from local companies, use local surveyors, and generally expect to positively impact the area."



Western Wind contracted with a private hiring firm, which is using Mohave County's Energy Careers Database to screen for potential workers, said Business Representative Mary Mendola.

"We're excited about the project," Boyd said. "Mohave County and its citizens have been extremely supportive as we move into the area."



**Sarah Belgum** works in the finance department for the City of Bullhead. She was originally hired after working for Human Resources as part of her COYOTE training. "I'm 19 years old and I have a 401(k)," she said. "How many people can say that?"

**Kendall Slack** is training to be a graphic designer for Static Management, an online marketing firm with employees throughout the country. It's a good fit for his skills and interests, and it lets him connect with clients from a variety of areas and specialties. "Mohave County helped me find more than just a job," he said. "They helped me find an invaluable learning opportunity that will benefit me for the rest of my life."



**David Corona, Jr.** is attending Scottsdale Community College thanks to several scholarships that he's received. The Parker native views his experience with COYOTE as the reason he's been so successful. "The classes taught me how to get a job," he said, "but they also taught me how to keep one."

**Kris Ellis** is a Kingman resident who is using One-Stop resources to get his GED. His enrollment is based on a partnership between the One-Stop, MCC, and the probation department. "These classes are giving me a lot of confidence," he said. "I finally got to put one of my essays up on the fridge."



## Summer Starts Early for Mohave COYOTES

**Youth representatives in Mohave County** are already preparing for this year's COYOTE summer program.

While COYOTE is a year-round program, its summer component offers eight weeks of work readiness training and job experience to those 14 to 21 years of age. The paid training opportunity helps participants learn life skills and develop leadership potential in a real job setting.

Applications for Lake Havasu City, Kingman, and Bullhead City will be available starting on Tuesday, February 1. They can be found at [www.co.mohave.az.us/workforce](http://www.co.mohave.az.us/workforce). For more information, call Hannah Sagisi at (928) 753-0723.

**The La Paz One-Stop** will begin outreach efforts in February. They plan to target businesses and organizations interested in sponsoring the program. "COYOTE is so successful because of the support we've received from the community," said One-Stop Director Lillian Miller. More information can be found at [www.co.la-paz.az.us](http://www.co.la-paz.az.us).

Youth Coordinator Hannah Sagisi meets with past and potential COYOTES while visiting Kingman area schools.



# EMPLOYERS

## NUCOR Testing for Job Pool

### Apprentices One Step Closer Thanks to One-Stop Career Centers



Out of over 100 hopefuls, the One-Stop has narrowed the field to 24 finalists and one alternate for the latest Laron apprenticeship program. Recruiters at Laron will interview each finalist to fill six positions.

Since their November orientation, the applicants have gone through a battery of tests. “We’ve given a series of educational, technical, and personal assessments,” said One-Stop Representative Kenda Robinson. The last assessment took place January 14 at Mohave Community College in Bullhead City.

“All this testing and interviewing is just part of the process,” said Laron hopeful Jim Kazense. “People need to focus on the end result: long term employment with a well-established company.”

Nucor Steel Kingman L.L.C. has begun another round of assessments for their job pool. Applicants have registered online and will take assessments through the One-Stop on February 4.

**“This is a great opportunity for the community and for us. We’re excited to further our relationship with the One-Stop and to meet all the applicants. These are individuals who have a great work ethic. They’re truly willing to learn.”**

**—Mary Dixon, Personnel Administrator (pictured above)**



### Title V Brings Generations Together

Thanks to the Title V program, workers 55 and older have found new jobs at Head Start centers throughout Mohave County.

The Western Arizona Council of Governments (WACOG) employs over a dozen Title V participants. “This partnership has been outstanding,” said Program Manager Roxanne Wells. “I work closely with (Title V Coordinator) Lynne Steiger to find the right workers for each area.” In addition to the Head Start centers, workers have been placed with Weatherization Services and Hands Up Foreclosure Prevention Services.

“The trick is to find the skills that the seniors already have and use them in new ways,” said Area Manager Joby Wigelsworth.

Wells, who oversees the Head Start centers, has seen many of the participants grow in their knowledge and skill base. “We’ve had seniors come in with no child care experience,” she said. “After a day, they don’t want to leave the classroom.”

Even after the program ends, some seniors come back to volunteer. One participant, Beverly Forman (pictured), has been officially hired by a WACOG Head Start center in Kingman. “She’s a good fit,” Wells explained. “Her enthusiasm with the program really comes across.”



# 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** 2001 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.*

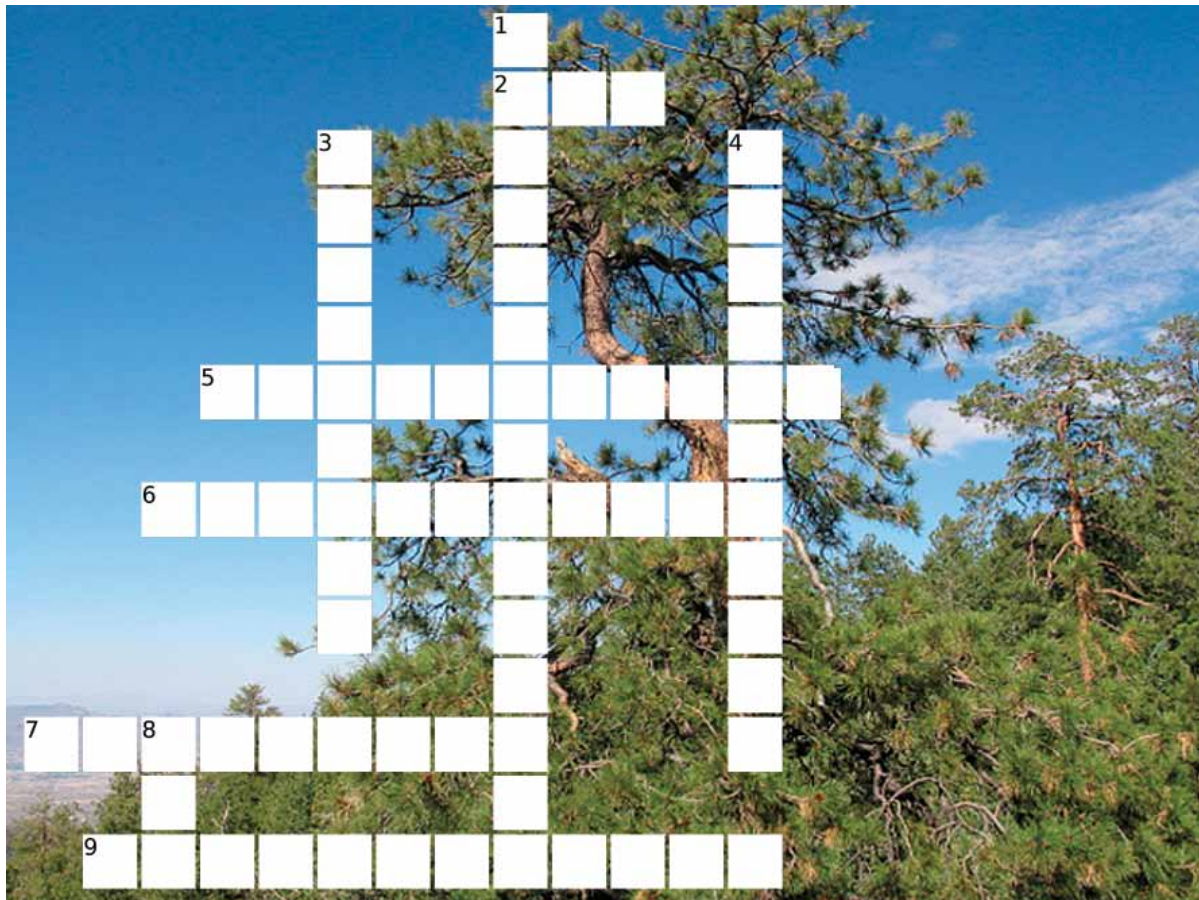


Photo by COYOTE media team, 2010

## ACROSS

2. State university that recently partnered with MCC (acronym)
5. Energy plant that recently broke ground in Kingman (2 words)
6. Former COYOTE who now works for the City of Bullhead (2 words)
7. Best time of day to visit the DES office
9. Housing issue addressed by recent grant

## DOWN

1. Monthly gatherings at the Kingman One-Stop (2 words)
3. Day care program that employs Title V participants (2 words)
4. Memorial that is set to visit Kingman in October (2 words)
8. Number of Bookmobiles in Mohave County