

MOHAVE/ LA PAZ WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREA

WORKFORCE NEWS



New apprentices take the tour at Laron with George Williams (left), apprenticeship program instructor.

Laron Apprentices Find Careers

"This was the best group we've ever selected. I truly think that these five will be successful and will graduate from the program. The selection process is key to a successful apprenticeship program and the One-Stop absolutely made that possible."

-Laron COO John Hansen

Five new machinist and millwright apprentices were hired full-time this month after a two-month screening and recruiting process at the Mohave County One-Stop Career Center. The five LARON apprentices are (from right) Emilio Gomez, Cory Nutt, alternate, Gerren Rucker, Robert Johnson, Michael Crawford, and Dan Kirby.

"This is the opportunity of a lifetime," said Kirby. "It's an opportunity to really go somewhere."

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Workforce Partners Update

WAVE-JTED

The WAVE JTED participated in recent STEM meetings held in both Mohave and La Paz counties to help improve opportunities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Career and Technical Education (CTE) student organizations are competing throughout the month of April in rigorous competitions involving everything from architecture to TV production.

HOUSING AUTHORITY

Mohave County Community Services' Neighborhood Stabilization Program NSP3 will begin in early May. Mohave County will be acquiring, rehabilitating and selling foreclosed homes in Kingman, Bullhead City and Lake Havasu City.

LIBRARIES

Mohave County Libraries opened a center for the visually impaired in Kingman. It includes a 3D texture mural and increased accommodations for young and adult readers with visual impairments.

MCC

Mohave Community College began registration for Summer and Fall 2011 classes on April 11. Summer classes begin June 6 and fall classes will start Aug. 22. Career, academic and financial aid advisors are available on all MCC campuses. Information about programs of study can be found online at www.mohave.edu/programs.

The One-Stop Career Center in Lake Havasu City has upgraded its facilities to better accommodate large groups of jobseekers. The expanded location now includes a new training room, a larger resource room and new equipment.

DES

Connie Hall; Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist

Connie Hall Connie Hall is the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist. She has been active throughout Mohave County as an advocate for veterans' rights, through both DES and the Jerry Ambrose Veterans' Council. The latter group recently helped bring the Vietnam Wall to Kingman, an event scheduled for later this year.

Since November, Connie has conducted job skill workshops for veterans. These workshops discuss computer skills, resumes, and social media. Here are a few pointers from her latest classes.

Use all your resources. Attend free workshops, use free sites and services, share information with other job seekers, and ask questions.

Network any chance you get, whether it be volunteering at a community event, attending community and chamber mixers, or volunteering with a non-profit organization.

Always have your resume available for interested employers. Save multiple copies, and make sure your resume is specific to the job that you're applying for. This means you might have to write more than one resume.

Never burn bridges. If you are turned down after an interview, use the opportunity to seek constructive feedback if the employer has time. You may want to see if there are other opportunities for employment.

For more information on DES workshops, call Connie at (928) 753-4333.



Laron Apprentices Find Careers

"Laron is constantly trying to bring new people in as well as educate their people on new equipment," said Bob Riley, director of economic development at the Kingman Airport Authority. "Out of the park, they're one of the most active companies in the workforce development program."

When Laron first announced this program, Human Resources Generalist Debbie Spath warned the public that it won't be an

easy process. "The apprenticeship program isn't for everyone," she said at the orientation. "It can be really hard work. What matters is that you wake up the next morning and say 'Bring it on.'"

The One-Stop worked closely with Laron during this process," said One-Stop Coordinator Mary Mendola. "After at least ten assessments and several interviews, we narrowed down over 100 applicants into 25 finalists and were able to offer Laron a folder of statistics and information about each person."

Even those applicants who were not chosen could still access the One-Stop's other services. "The runners-up were often placed into our new electrical and HVAC cohorts at MCC, referred to NUCOR, or enrolled in one of our other programs," Mendola said. "In addition, the One-Stop has entered all the participants' information into our database, so that other employers can easily find them."

Laron Apprenticeship Instructor George Williams (left) and Laron apprentice Emilio Gomez



"I will always be grateful for this career and this opportunity. I'll be happy here for the rest of my life." -Emilio Gomez

Laron apprentices Dan Kirby and Robert Johnson take the introductory tour at Laron



"This is the opportunity of a lifetime. It's an opportunity to really go somewhere." -Dan Kirby

The five finalists started their apprenticeships last month. "We've become a really close-knit group," Kirby said. "We went through the whole process together and now we're starting the job together. I think we all realize how lucky we are."

For more information on the One-Stop's business services, contact One-Stop Representative Kenda Robinson at (928) 753-0723.

Focus Group Discusses Workplace Skills

On March 9, business, industry and public sector representatives attended a focus group that set out to identify essential workplace skills. The findings will ultimately be reflected in performance assessments of these skills integrated throughout Arizona's Career and Technical Education programs.



The Mohave/La Paz Youth Council cohosted the event with the WAVE Joint Technical Education District (JTED). The forum took place in Lake Havasu City, and is part of a statewide effort. Sponsors included the Arizona State University (ASU) Workforce Education & Development Office and the Arizona Dept. of Education CTE Division.

"I've been looking for a bright light in this state and I've found it here," said Dr. Margaret Mangini of ASU. "This region has some of the best partnerships we've ever seen."

JOB CLUB



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QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What's the best advice you could give for a job interview?



JOHN GROSSMAN

Don't assume you automatically have the job, or that you don't. Don't make any assumptions.



FRED BATASTINI

Don't complain about your previous job.



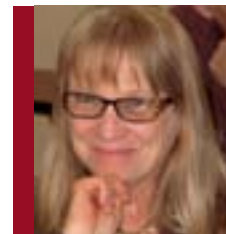
ANTHONY HOLDER

Don't focus on the money. If the first thing out of your mouth is about how much you want to get paid, you know you have a problem.



CAMEO BLAKE

Be enthusiastic. It's really important that they know you want to be there.



ANGELA BALLUFF

Don't come across as desperate. Don't beg.



STACY ARNOLD

Don't ramble and don't stammer. Answer all their questions in a clear, honest way.



LARRY ELKINS

Things will work out. If the interview goes badly, learn from your mistakes and do better next time. If it's meant to be, it will happen.



KAREN ALEXANDER

Be flexible. It might not be the job that you pictured in your mind, but it could still be a good fit for you.

Advice from the Experts: Kimberley Gissendanner, Dislocated Worker Employment and Training Specialist

Make sure you **verify** the time, date, and place of the interview.

Ask **questions** about the interview process. Is it an all-day event or just a couple of hours? What should you bring? Is it one-on-one or with a group?

Prepare for questions: Find a list of frequently asked questions online or at your local One-Stop. When answering interview questions, be confident and honest.

Always make **eye contact** and introduce yourself. Provide general information about yourself if asked.

Make sure you have a **positive body language**: Sit straight, do not fidget, look the employer in the eye, and remain calm.

Thank the employer for taking the time to interview you.



ONE-STOP CAREER CENTER SUCCESS STORY



Even though Davine Apuzzo no longer works in radio advertising, we will probably be hearing a lot more from her. A single mother of three, Davine spent a year looking for work before discovering the Dislocated Worker Program. With their funding support, she has enrolled in MCC's nursing program. She always wanted to work in health care, but she became particularly interested after dealing with her daughter's still-undiagnosed medical condition. "I couldn't wait around and watch my daughter deteriorate," she said. Instead, she used the experience to motivate her to finish her schooling. "I'm determined to get this degree," she said. "Not just for my family, but for me. I'll always be grateful to the Dislocated Worker Program for pushing me forward."



ONE-STOP CAREER CENTER SUCCESS STORY



Tim Lozoya came to the One-Stop expecting to get help with his resume. He left with the beginnings of a career. The Bullhead City resident is pursuing a degree in culinary arts at MCC. "I've always known that I was good at cooking, but I never thought to pursue it," he said. "Now I finally can."

The One-Stop helps pay for his books and tuition, and gives him one-on-one support as he continues his training. By next fall, he'll graduate from the program, getting one step closer toward owning his own restaurant. This isn't bad for someone whose work experience is limited to various construction jobs and some fast food positions. "The One-Stop has helped me with my career," he said. "I'm preparing for something that I like to do, not something that I have to do."

One-Stop Career Center Offers **CORE** Services to La Paz County



Every month, dozens of La Paz residents attend Community Outreach Resource Exchange (CORE) at the Parker One-Stop Career Center. CORE is a career and training fair that unites resource providers in one location.

"In February, we had one of the best turn outs we've ever had. People from all over La Paz County showed up," said One-Stop Representative Ramona Duran.

CORE now offers "more schools, more information, and more resources," said Employment and Training Specialist Donna Smith. These resources include help with on-the-job training, classroom training, job search assistance, and any other services that help workers gain meaningful employment.

CORE is now in its third year, and there are plans to continue expanding the range of services. "The benefit of CORE is that we are able to serve the community all in one location," Duran said. "It really is a one stop shop."

For more information, call Duran at (928) 669-9812.

DANCE MARATHON 2011

High school students from Kingman danced the night away during a twelve-hour dance marathon in March. The fundraiser benefitted the AZYP Kingman—Coalition for Successful Youth Development, Boys and Girls Club of Kingman, and the COYOTE program. "The dance marathon is a community-wide event specifically designed for the youth to be able to plan and coordinate," explained Mohave County Youth Coordinator Hannah Arellano.



Noreen Frisch, executive director of the Boys and Girls Club of Kingman, shakes hands with members of dance crew Heavy Impact. Frisch (far right) helped facilitate several team-building activities with Arellano (second from right).



Kingman teens throw yarn in a symbolic representation of peer support. Every time the yarn is passed on, the participant says one way that she can help her peers. After a few rounds, each group has developed a "spider web" of peer support. "After a short time, you can see your web getting stronger and tighter," said Frisch, who led the activity.



To kick-start the dance marathon, AZYP hosted a town hall meeting at Kingman High School to discuss underage substance abuse. The youth participants were able to share stories and concerns in a safe environment. "It's not every day that you have the opportunity to talk openly about these issues," Tammany McDaniel (in blue) told the youth. McDaniel, AZYP Director of Community Initiatives, moderated the discussion.



Heavy Impact (front row) poses with KUSD Superintendent Roger Jacks, Councilwoman Janet Watson, Frisch, Arellano and other volunteers and supporters of the dance marathon.

During the marathon, participants changed costumes to match the music themes of each hour. At right, several dancers prepare for the early morning country-themed hour. "Dance Marathon is something new for the Kingman area," said Dakota Snider (far right). "I hope it continues next year."



All styles of dance were welcome on the dance floor "as long as you keep moving," said Arellano.



The Tints, a dance group from Kingman High School, poses for the cameras before the dancing starts. Like all participants, The Tints selected their team members before the event. Each group had to have at least one member on the dance floor at all times.



By seven in the morning, participants are finally able to stop dancing and celebrate a night well done.

EMPLOYERS



One-Stop Helps Recruit for Grand Canyon

Mohave County jobseekers gathered February 28 at the One-Stop Career Center in Kingman to learn about job opportunities at the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. Over thirty showed up and were able to ask questions and build connections with a representative from Xanterra, a company that operates several lodges at the national park. Xanterra is currently hiring for jobs in accounting, retail, transportation and other areas.

For more information, visit www.GrandCanyonLodges.com or www.facebook.com/GrandCanyonJobs.



Xanterra's El Tovar Resort, on the rim of the Grand Canyon



"The purpose of my trip is mainly about educating people. We have no shortage of job applications, but it's important to make these connections so that people understand what working at the Grand Canyon would entail."
Michael Lument, Xanterra South Rim, L.L.C. Staffing Manager

Green Energy Open House at Peach Springs



In April, Hualapai Valley Solar cohosted a green energy open house in conjunction with the Hualapai Planning Office. The purpose of the event was to tell the public about renewable energy projects they are developing with the Hualapai Nation. This includes a combination solar/wind plant on tribal land.

Other participants at the open house included the Mohave County One-Stop Career Center, Mohave Community College, the City of Kingman, and Western Arizona Power Administration.

One-Stop Digs Up a Golden Opportunity for La Paz Workers

American Bonanza Gold Corporation plans to reopen the Copperstone Gold Mine in La Paz County.



Copperstone expects to begin operations with 50 individuals, with potential to expand to more than 100, according to One-Stop Program Manager Ramona Duran. Duran has been compiling a waiting list for the last year, and has met with at least 50 applicants a day since Copperstone's announcement this month.

"This has been a long awaited event and we are elated to be a part of this process," said One-Stop Director Lillian Miller. "It is our goal to work with American Bonanza Gold Corporation human resource staff to assist any way we can."

For more information, call Miller or Duran at (928) 669-9812.

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: 928-854-0350

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

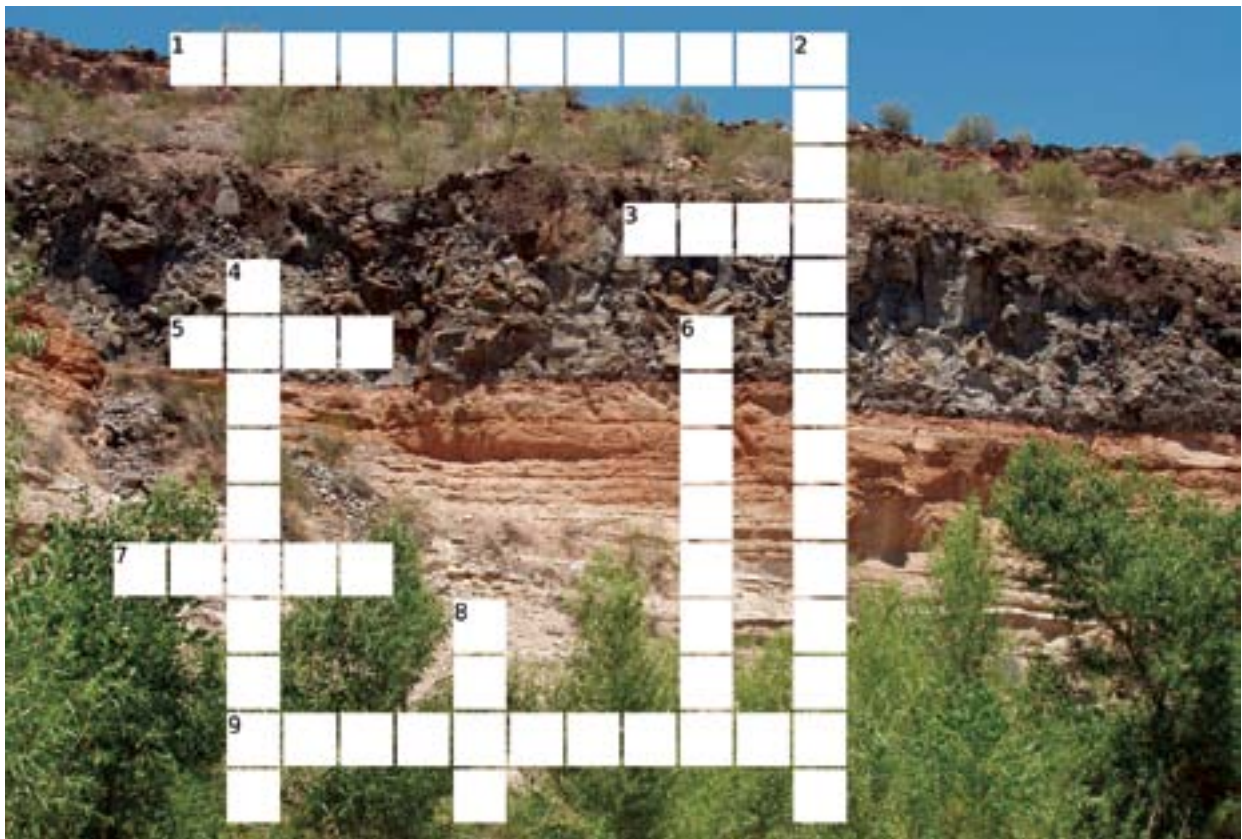


A part of the Arizona Workforce Connection

www.co.mohave.az.us/workforce



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.



Hualapai Mountains –photo by COYOTE media team, 2009

ACROSS

1. Three-dimensional art installation at the library's new visually impaired center (two words)
3. Parker's monthly career and training fair (acronym)
5. Number of new Laron apprentices
7. Company currently working with the One-Stop to offer apprenticeships
9. Dance troupe that performed during the dance marathon (two words)

DOWN

2. One-Stop location with a new training room (three words)
4. Laron apprenticeship position, in addition to machinist
6. Company hiring for positions in the Grand Canyon
8. Dance marathon sponsor, in addition to COYOTE and Boys and Girls Club of Kingman (acronym)