

# WorkSource opens I.V. office to help displaced mill workers

**Judy Hoyle**

*IVN Contributing Writer*

When Rough and Ready Mill closed this spring, 77 mill workers were suddenly without jobs. That's when WorkSource Rogue Valley (WSRV), the regional center of the statewide public workforce system stepped in to help the displaced workers.

In April, the organization rented a satellite office at the I.V. Family Coalition and started to provide services three days a week.

As workers have transitioned into other jobs or training opportunities, office hours at the WSRV satellite office in Cave Junction have been reduced to one day a week, Tuesday. This office will be closed at the end of the year.

However, the WSRV office in Grants Pass will continue to provide a wide variety of services.

Cindy Manning is a WSRV Business and Employment Services representative, and Josh Morell, Trade Act navigator, are both still working with about 40 of the 77 displaced workers.

Manning is generally at the

Cave Junction site Tuesdays. Her office number is 541-244-3210.

Morell works specifically with the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program or Trade Act benefits. This program is for workers impacted by foreign competition. Morell's contact number is 541-200-4526.

The Trade Act Assistance Program provides longer term training options for impacted workers.

In a conference call interview last week, Morell said, "It could simply be by outsourcing, or when the company moves to another country."

First, the Department of Labor does an investigation. If the workers qualify, under the Trade Act rules, they could get paid tuition for up to 130 weeks of training. During that time, they may potentially receive unemployment benefits so they can pay their bills while going to school," he said.

Another training plan offers internships, where the employer becomes the instructor. Morell gave the examples of wastewater treatment certification, or backflow operation, where the worker needs

to be trained onsite.

There's also on-the-job training in which 50 percent of the worker's wage is reimbursed to the employer. This training option may also include remedial education and any tools that are required.

Those involved in learning a trade which requires an apprenticeship, like plumbers or electricians, may receive funding through this program.

If the worker is over 50 years old, Trade Act can also supplement the pay difference if they have to take a lower paying job. Additional benefits potentially include help with expenses for travel to another state for interviews and relocation after a job offer has been made.

Manning said, "If somebody hasn't had a chance to work with us, we're still maintaining office hours in Cave Junction on Tuesdays, and we'll still be available in Grants Pass other business days and after the first of the year."

She added, "If you're thinking about training, or need help with a job search, you need to contact us as soon as possible."

In addition to Trade Act

services, the WSRV center has another grant that will assist impacted workers with support service assistance during their training and job search. The grant is only available for another three to six months. Trade Act services do not have the same time limit.

Sherri Stratton, WSRV area manager whose office is located in Medford, said that anyone who is looking for work or even those who have jobs but want something different are welcome to seek help.

"Any customer can access services," she said. "Whenever there's a layoff, we work with the businesses to provide workforce information and services for the impacted employees. Some of those affected will qualify for general workforce services. This could be anyone from a youth to an older worker. But those who are impacted by layoffs where jobs are lost due to foreign competition qualify for additional services that the larger population does not."

Manning has continued to follow up with the people she's connected with from Rough and Ready, assisting with transportation expenses or other services.

"I also want to reach out to those individuals who may not have asked for assistance yet," she said.

Even when the displaced workers find employment, if they still need help, for example, offsetting costs while they're going through retraining, WSRV has a variety of resources and services available.

The Grants Pass office is located at 1569 NE F St. in the old Job Council office. The sign currently reads WorkSource Oregon, but will soon be changed to WorkSource Rogue Valley.

The trio listed a variety of new jobs or training that the Rough and Ready displaced workers have taken, including welding, emergency medical technician and web design training.

Others have accepted jobs in business management, or received training as diesel technicians, veterinary technicians and an apprenticeship to be an electrician.

For further information, visit the WorkSource Rogue Valley website at worksoucerogue.org. The "Job Seeker Resources" page offers additional online resources.

## PATROL . . .

Continued from A-7

### Friday, Dec. 2

\*A maroon 1992 Honda Accord valued at \$1,500 was reportedly stolen from the 200 block of S. Caves Avenue between 11 p.m., Dec. 1 and 7 a.m., Dec. 2. A report was filed for unauthorized use of a vehicle.

\*A mother had not been allowed to see her daughter for four weeks, so she wanted JCSO to pick up her child in the 1000 block of N. Old Stage Road. It was explained that this was a civil matter, and JCSO

was unable to intervene. She was advised to contact the courts for her options. Notes were forwarded to DHS.

### Outside the Valley

\*Twenty-one listings.

### Saturday, Dec. 3

\*A renter in the 2400 block of Reeves Creek Road felt violated when a property owner threatened to kick his butt if he did not leave. He claimed that his landlord entered his residence unannounced and without permission, so he was requesting a rental agreement and an eviction notice. The disabled fellow was advised to speak with his alliance

worker and the courts regarding his options.

\*Bungling burglars stole a Cobra .380 handgun from the 200 block of Ferris Lane at 11:51 a.m., but the thieves left their getaway car behind. The registered owner was notified, and reports were filed for recovered vehicle and burglary.

\*JCSO patrolled Lurline Lane at 1:24 p.m.

\*For once everything was fine in the 24500 block of Redwood Hwy. at 1:46 p.m.

\*A maniac threatened to shoot and kill a father in front of his four children in the 23400 block of Redwood Hwy. at 5:41 p.m. Their mother was advised of her options.

### Outside the Valley

\*Nine items.

### Sunday, Dec. 4

\*The guest of a tenant in the 200 block of Stevenson Street punched a hole in a door, then put

a piece of wood over the opening at 9:03 a.m. The incident will be reported to the insurance company.

\*Three armed and convicted felons were causing a disturbance in the 9200 block of Takilma Road at 9:12 a.m. They threatened to shoot the residents at that location if they did not leave. An agreement was made to allow the tenant to move in two days. The landlord was warned to not return for anything other than a lawful reason such as an eviction notice.

\*The tenant in the 9200 block of Takilma Road claimed that the landlord's nephew was threatening her with a firearm, but law enforcement did not observe any weapons. The renter was again advised of her options and the realities of her situation at 11:18 a.m.

\*A gal sustained injuries when she was assaulted at 25658 Redwood

Hwy. at 11:13 a.m. A report was filed for fourth-degree assault.

\*Canaguard Security reported an alarm triggered on the main door of a trim room in the 5000 block of Waldo Road at 11:48 a.m.

\*At 1:43 p.m. there were three men near the Dollar General Store at 25658 Redwood Hwy. One hoodlum wore a mask, and two were armed with pistols. Law enforcement personnel were unable to locate the shady characters.

\*The 911 operator could hear a couple arguing in the background during a call received at 5:56 p.m. from the 200 block of Honeybee Lane. The younger guy said everything was fine, they were not fighting, they were just cooking in the kitchen.

### Outside the Valley

\*Twenty incidents.

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**Art's Red Garter**  
Pool Tourney  
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**KARAOKE**  
Wednesdays @ 9 p.m.

**B WISHES**  
Friday, Dec. 9  
5:30 PM

from  
**Taylor's Country Store**

**Wild River HANDCRAFTED FOOD & ALE**  
DALE HOPPER  
Saturday night @ 6

Every Wednesday  
Open MIC Night  
6 - 8 p.m.

**J Barley**  
Fridays @ 6 p.m.

**KARAOKE**  
w/ Steve - OH  
Friday, Dec. 9 @ 9 p.m.

Saturday Pool Tourney @ 7  
Sundays - Free pool games

**Sportsman Tavern**

The **SPOT**  
Jammer's Hump Day Karaoke  
8 p.m.-midnight

open mic  
Thursdays w/ B @ 7 p.m.

**Ripple Effect**  
Friday, Dec. 9  
9 p.m. \$3

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